

Norwegian Elkhound Notes October 20th 2024

Sophie Dangerfield has arranged a Midlands Christmas walk at Ashby de La Zouch on Sat Dec 7th at 11.00. She said "Hi all, it's that time of year again...our Midlands Christmas Elkie walk is upon us!

We've opted for Calke Abbey again as this has been really popular the last couple of years as it's a lovely walk mixed with a nice festive atmosphere with the Christmas markets on etc. A slight change for this year. We will meet at Calke Explore as we think this will be less busy. As you head down the driveway into Calke Abbey, you will see a sign pointing to the right for Calke Explore – please park there!

We will do the same walk as normal but rather than battle the cafe at the end (unless you want to of course!), there are picnic benches here and we thought it would be nice for everyone to bring something sweet and/or savoury so we can all dig in! I'll set up a WhatsApp group nearer the time for people attending so we can coordinate food/drink. For anyone who then wants to explore the Christmas markets can do so. As always, Christmas attire welcomed but optional! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1253290978997848>".

I hope that this weekend everyone who travelled to the NHS CH Show managed the journey safely with a dangerous storm forecast. I know that the judge very sensibly drove up on Friday and was staying until Monday to try to avoid it. However, news from the show on the day said there were sunny skies. Lancashire woke to strong winds and rain so it must have missed the Borders.

It was of course the 50th Anniversary of NEAS Show and a time for many of the older exhibitors to remember all the lovely people who used to exhibit at and run the shows. There used to be a large thriving group of Elkhound breeders and exhibitors in Scotland and it was always a delight to spend the weekend up there for the show. I won't try to name names because I would certainly miss some out but I must just mention Dr Arthur and Margaret Sneed (Opinan). Arthur was Convenor of the Scottish Kennel Club

The judge was Jill Cowper who told me "It was way back in the sixties when I gave my first CCs up here so it's very special to me. I gave up judging a couple of years ago but after persuading, I agreed to do this so it is my swan song" Jill has only missed one of the NEAS shows during the pandemic.

Her BCC winner, BOB and Best in Show was Simmonds and Mott's Ch/AmCh Kamgaard Klementina who was sired by one of my favourite dogs of all time, Ch Windy Cove Norgren Wild Pride by Am Ch Kamgaard Kintyre. The DCC and BOS went to Treena Maun's Ch Bowerhinto Bassanio. Res DCC was Mrs T and Mr P Jolley's Seasara Iceman with RBCC going to Gray's Grasilva Silver Vine who also won Best Veteran Bitch. Veteran Dog and Best Veteran went to Tress's Grasilva Little Rock avec Gilkaro JW.

Best Puppy and Best PD was Benner's Barbelka Devilishly Divine with Tyson's Bowerhinton Bright Flame at Starceylon winning Puppy Bitch. Beth Benner is suffering from a dreadful painful scald so I'm sure everyone wishes her well and quick healing.

Meanwhile Brian Middleton remains in hospital. He is out of ICU and on a normal ward. He's had 3 operations to flush out his knee and now they have left it open and he has a machine attached to it to, as Linda said, "Get rid of the gunk" We have all been worried sick Brian so make sure you do as you're told and get rid of this as soon as possible. I'm getting messages every day from numerous people asking how you are.

There's just one Open show report. Barbara Barganska went to Tredegar Open show on 19th Oct where BOB was Alys, (Cealdstan Ancestral Voices of Barbelka) then Hound Group 3. BPIB was Ziva, (Barbelka Dauntless Spirit) then Hound Puppy Group 3. She was also 2nd AV Hound pup (to the Pup Grp winner), and 3rd Puppy Bitch Stakes. Judge was: Mrs A Keepence-Keyte .

Finally, I'm pleased to report that editorship of the Club Website and the Facebook Group has now been transferred to Wendy Sharman and Vanessa Mc Hugh who have already updated the membership and standing order forms with the new prices and have put the Breed Notes back on the website. Both are extremely busy right now but there will be updates soon. Thank you, Britt, for all your work on the website over the years.

Diana Hudson (norderhove@gmail.com)

I just received an initial report on her judging from Jill Cowper after I'd posted my notes so I'm adding it to the end rather than waiting another week.

NEAS 50th Anniversary Ch Show

It was a great honour to be asked to judge the 50th Anniversary Ch Show for the NEAS and I was very appreciative of the lovely entry received. Thank you.

Our breed on the whole has a few variations in type, which I suppose is inevitable when we are bloodline crossing with imported dogs. We must however be aware of certain faults which are present, if you can, study in life, both the parents and grandparents. The Elkhound, first and foremost must be a square compact dog of medium size. In the equine world we would compare to the Welsh Cob, compact, stocky and strong but very athletic. When the Elkhound reaches full maturity, do not allow your dog to 'over mature' and become heavy and course. Far better to be a lighter weight than too heavy, as this shows up in heavy and unsound movement, and carrying weight, hunting over several days, would be too strenuous. On the flip side, the lighter constructed Elkhounds lacked bone. 'Ten to two' placed feet and narrow fronts indicate incorrect upper arm, so this also needs attention when choosing a match for your bloodline. I saw one or two large open feet, not good for a hound that needs to cover rough terrain, this also needs to be watched when breeding, as it is a necessary requirement to have a tight, medium foot of oval shape. Head shape and markings on the whole were pleasing, ears on some were slightly larger than I like, but this is icing on the cake and should not detract from the correct square bodily construction required in the Elkhound. All temperaments were excellent although I would recommend

more hands on by the exhibitors, as some did not wish to be handled, or their mouths to be inspected.

I was very pleased with the overall type we had on show today and generally in the UK, but never stop striving for that perfect Elkhound. I was particularly impressed by my winners.

Individual comments will be published next week.

Jill E Cowper

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