

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL COLLIE CLUB OPEN SHOW 16th February 2014.

Smooth Collies.

Smooth Collie Veteran. (1e:1a)

Smooth Collie Puppy (3)

1) Benton's OAKSTELLE VENUS DE MILO. 7 months old today and heading a wonderful puppy class who all turned out to be siblings! Glamorous Blue merle bitch of scintillating colour giving her an eye catching appearance. She needs time to develop slightly more definition in head profile but she has the clean gently tapering lines of a true wedge and she has a super flat skull. I would like a tad more length of chin. Ears are well placed and used giving an intelligent, alert expression. Absolutely bang on for bone and substance and so well bodied. Front legs are straight and well covered with good pasterns and finished off with well padded tight feet. Excellent length of arched neck into good withers, nice layback of shoulder. She needs time to develop a touch more forechest but I am confident that she will. Strong level back with correct hind angulation creating that slight rise over the loin. Long tail. For me she has a 'star quality' that draws my eye and I can forgive her obvious lack of maturity, because she is pure delight to my senses, she pushed her mother hard! **Best Smooth Puppy and RSB.**

2) Glover's OAKSTELLE INDI ROCK AT STORMSETT.

3) Benton and Wood's OAKESTELLE VIVALDI. **BEST SMOOTH MALE.**

Smooth Collie Junior. (1)

1) Benton's OAKSTELLE SEBASTIAN BACH. Tricolour dog of just 7 months and in fact I see he is yet another puppy from the same litter as the three in the previous class! He has a wonderful chin and lip line and nice clean cheeks, but the bridge of his nose is a touch wavy. This could improve when the muzzle fills (with maturity). He is a very well constructed puppy with a nice width of second thigh conveying his excellent hind angulation. Good bone, strong flexible pasterns. He was very enthusiastic on the move which made him difficult to assess, but his overall balance gave him **RBSD.**

Smooth Collie Post graduate (1)

1) Kennedy's RYCOMB DEB'N AIR. 2.5 year old sable male with good size and substance. Loved the finish of chin on this lad and flat skull, good stop. All providing an excellent head profile. Kind intelligent eye and expression. Nice ears. Good bone. I hope that his body drops a little more into his frame as he continues to mature and because of this I found him to be a little unbalanced in outline, which showed on the move. Having said this he is light on his feet.

Smooth Collie Limit (1e:1a)

Smooth Collie Open (2e:2a)

Smooth Collie Open Bitch (2:1a)

1) Benton's ALOPEX MARIONETTE OF OAKSTELLE. Well known 5 year old Blue Merle bitch of fabulous colour, dam of the winning quartet of puppies and I am sure her owner must be very proud of her

accomplishments in the whelping box. I would like her a little bit bigger all over but she is well balanced with good bone and substance for her size, and she is very feminine. She has an excellent stop and ultra flat skull that combined with her good muzzle produce very clean and correct parallel head planes. Keen workmanlike attitude, she looks intelligent and willing to please and this reflects in her expression. On the move she is collected and effortless. Today she took BOB on her maturity in head and her mature confident disposition, but I believe that eventually some of her children will outshine her. BEST SMOOTH BITCH, BOB and BIS. Well done!

Extra critique:

Benton and Wood's **OAKSTELLE VIVALDI**. This young man was placed third in his puppy class behind his two litter sisters but when judging the challenge for best smooth male I remembered how much I had liked him, so asked for him to return to the ring as he was in fact unbeaten by any male. During his puppy class he had insisted on tucking his hind legs underneath him which lost him the look of overall balance and harmony I find essential, but as there was so much to like about this young fella, I wanted to give him a second chance. In the challenge for Best Male he pulled out all the stops and stretched himself out to show off his true shape. He has such an excellent width to his second thigh and I just knew he was hiding his outstanding angulation in the earlier class. He actually has the best head in the litter at this present time but his hind construction and well muscled thighs are what really impressed me on such a young male and that super long tail. In the challenge he was up against his litter brother and a much older more mature dog, but he won **Best Male** with something to spare.

Judge:

Angela Harvey