

IWAGS Sweepstakes Critique  
October 2010

I hope the “better late than never” excuse is still in effect for this critique? IWAGS has long been a special outing for me each October. The beautiful grounds and colorful season (not counting last year) make sharing a day with the “Gentle Giants” and their breeders and owners a staple in my calendar. Being asked to judge the Sweepstakes was a welcome opportunity to get my hands on a quality entry. (In 2005 I had to go inactive as an approved judge holding a position on the AKC staff dictated.)

The opening ceremony for this event is one of the most emotional attractions of any show I have attended. The Bag Pipes and the Color Guard leading in the Hounds is so moving on so many levels. The club and the committees put on a beautiful specialty. Dinner with the breed judge at a nice pub was enjoyable and educational.

My entry for the Sweepstakes had depth in both the younger classes and the veterans. My Best in Sweepstakes was # 36. (O’Lugh’s Tequila Sunrise) A youngster with long curves where one would want them, length of leg so nicely balanced with the proper length of back and when coupled with the requisite angulation fore and aft...showed well placed footfall in action.

BOS in Sweepstakes was # 45 ( Dun Myrica Lyre of Eagle) a handsome Lad... Very strong in head properties with a good reach of neck into well set shoulders. His movement just a strong.

The line-up for BIS was very representative and I was pleased with them all.

I have a personal reluctance to have to judge any Veterans competition as it becomes so emotional. There are so many worthy dogs deserving of recognition at this level. In my own small way I choose not to have to place them in my mind...I indicate the selections as “One A, One B, One C, & One D” because no Veteran should ever be anything but FIRST! I stole this technique from the Great Anne Roger Clark...who also hated to defeat a special entry of a certain age. But I digress...I did what was expected of me and again had a lineup of worthy contenders.

My Best in Veteran Sweepstakes was # ... ( Ch Starkeeper Glenamadda Realtan). What can I say but I guess I’m consistent? This was also my WB/BOW & BOS at a major IW event many years before. It is a testament to her that she still had such good form at eight plus years. Obviously I was still attracted to her elements of type and on the day she stepped out in a smooth stride still. In the Veteran classes sometimes the dog’s best for type let you down in action (understandably due to age), that was not the case this day.

BOS in Veterans was # ... (Ch. Claridon Anlon of Eagle) who, at close to eight, still carried himself well. His bone, angulation and key breed - specific characteristics were all still in place.