

My impressions of the Sighthound show Bergen on 10 April, 2011.

It was such a pleasant surprise to be invited for the first Bergen & Omegn Myndeklubb's Sighthound show. Since I had never been in Norway before, the more exciting it was for me to judge Sighthounds in your beautiful country.

A very warm welcome was prepared for me the day I arrived. After being picked up at the Airport and brought to my hotel, I was taken along by your charming Club president Vigdis Kaas for a guided tour through the lovely city of Bergen.

Furthermore I would like to congratulate the committee and members of the Club who were involved in organizing this first Bergen Sighthound show. Everything went smooth without any disturbances. The food, freshly prepared in the kitchen was delicious. The large table with the prizes was well filled. A lot of these prizes made and offered by your Club secretary. What a nice gesture. My ring-steward and -secretary were experienced and capable assistants, who made the 'job' light and agreeable.

The show was held in a Sports-hall with plenty of space for a nice large ring. The floor of the ring was covered with carpets, which is to every exhibit's advantage when judging movement.

I was pleased with the large number of entries and I thank the exhibitors who appreciated my opinion.

My overall impression of the dogs was very positive. That should not come as a surprise since I gave 56 out of 74 dogs present (7 puppies excluded) the qualification Excellent. Even the ones that got Very Good had in most cases excellent breed type but were either not finished in their development or had to steady in their movement. Almost all of them were well handled and had very pleasing breed temperament. They were presented in clean and good condition. Coats were well taken care of, especially the Afghans, beautiful long fine coats on the body, soft and silky on the heads. Teeth (pre-molars and molars) were not always clean but nails were generally well looked after.

For Best in Show puppy I chose the Whippet Sunodeni's Aurora. A lovely 8 months old fawn and white female pup, already nicely developed and balanced in body structure with free flowing movement. Second and third were respectively the 5 months old Afghan pup Pramyia Cheer For Me and the 6 months old Irish Wolfhound pup Paloma Faith O'marksbay. To compare these pups is difficult and perhaps not entirely fair. We all know that it takes much longer for the Afghan pup and certainly the Irish Wolfhound to develop in their overall structure and movement than the smaller Whippet.

My Best in Show Veteran was the almost 9 year old dark brindle Greyhound male Int. Nord. Uch VWW-10 Rantalaukan Mesikammen. A stunning well balanced strong and elegant male that did not show his age on the move. Second was the 11 year old Whippet female Inavans Apprehend Me Not, a nice sized elegant bitch in lovely condition with easy movement and therefore a credit to her owner.

Finally my four Best in Show placements. Actually all my breed winners could have been placed in this class. They all had the temperament, appearance and show quality, so my decisions were made on details.

Best in Show no. 1 was the two-and-a-half year old red fawn Champion bitch N Se Uch Courtborne Sinaxs Antilla. A Saluki very close to the standard with that light, flowing and smooth movement. Very professionally handled, showing that she could accelerate easy and effortless from one speed into the next.

Best in Show no. 2 was the 15 months old wheaten fawn Irish Wolfhound male Ballygran's Fion Fleetwind McMagnum. When this strong masculine, but still elegant dog with great size entered the ring the first time, he showed that very appealing 'commanding appearance'. After nearly a whole day of waiting he did not lose this attitude. Again he entered the Best in Show ring with the same commanding appearance. Quite a handful for his handler but he presented that breed typical active and easy movement with high neck and head carriage.

Best in Show no. 3 the two-and-a-half year old red fawn Greyhound Champion dog Jet's Fire'n Brimstone. A super elegant but still strong and well muscled male with generous proportions. His well angulated quarters gave him the ability to move with plenty of drive and reach. His strongest asset for me was that he had a nice curve over his strong loins and that he kept it on the move.

Best in Show no. 4 the two-and-a-half year old brindle and white Whippet male Siprex Bendik, a quality dog of excellent size and breed-type winning BOB in the breed with the largest entry. Well done! Overall balance with flowing lines and a super movement from all sides. For perfection I would have liked to see a bit more spring in pastern.

My congratulations to all these Winners.

Again a big Thank You to the secretary Anne Mette Mikkelsen and her committee for this invitation. Also for the beautiful vase with engraved Whippet-heads and the big Easter-egg with all the goodies, which has a prominent place in the living-room now with Easter. All these presents specially made by hand by Anne Mette.

Your judge,  
Wim Wiersma