**Mr M. Gordon [Rustibee]**

5 Windsor Terrace

Whitley Bay,

Northumberland,

NE26-2NS

0191- 2809177

rustibee@tiscali.co.uk

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Dear Sir or Madam,

**The Midland & West of England Great Dane Colour Format Open Show**

**Sunday 5th February 2017.**

I was very pleased to be invited by the committee to judge at this show and thank those exhibitors who sought my opinion of their dogs. Overall I felt rear movement has improved since last time I judged the breed, I had some issues with front movement but I was very pleased with my winners. Also please remember that although size is important to this breed overall balance of both heads and bodies gives this breed its look of strength, elegance and flowing movement.

 **Blue**

Puppy dog (3) 2.

**1st & BP Walton’s Ravendane Rock Or Bust**11 months old, Good bone and substance, Masculine head, good width, with soft dark well shaped eyes, padded muzzle and good rise of skull to well-placed ears. Clean neck into correct shoulder placement, front developing well, straight with strong flat bone, upright pasterns and tight feet, well sprung ribs and decent tuckup good rear angulation, second thigh developing well. Moved well.

**2nd Southgate’s Bombardier Boy Via Leamap.** 8/.5 months old, another puppy with decent size and substance, strong neck, straight front sound bone upright pasterns and tight feet. Chest developing with good spring of ribs, correct top line and tail set. Rear quarters muscling up well, showing good second thigh well let down hocks. Not quite together yet, movement okay.

PostGrad Dog (1).

**1st Kingsley’s Cwmgwyn Pwyll for Dainoak.** Strong looking balanced male with nice blocky head well-padded muzzle, good overall width and rise of skull, well placed ear carriage of good size. Well arched neck to sound shoulders and front assembly, deep chest and well sprung ribs, muscled loin, correct top line and tailset; good tuckup to adequate rear quarters moved well.

**2nd Pepper’s Saracen Arch Deacon.** Larger male not quite the head and front of one, strong neck, sound bone and tight feet, deep chest and well sprung and laid back ribs. Muscled loin to developed rear quarters showing good second thigh and well let down hocks. Presented in very good condition.

Open Dog (1).

**1st BD, Price’s, Leamap Chivas Regal JW.** Larger male balanced in both head and body in outline, of good size and bone, lovely clean masculine head, good rise of skull, nice shaped dark eyes, well padded muzzle. Clean strong neck, correct shoulder placement, straight front with nice sound bone upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest & well sprung and laid back ribs, good tuckup, level topline, bang on tail set, excellent rear angulation. Flowing movement around the ring, well presented and handled, kept on his toes to show himself off throughout.

JuniorBitch (2).

**1st& BB Harrison’s, Jasnettdanes Misty Morning.** Lovely Feminine head with dark expressive eyes, broad open nostrils, good width and length of muzzle nice rise of skull to ears of correct size and placement Clean well arched neck to correct shoulder placement and front assembly, sound bone upright pasterns and tight feet, chest developing nicely correct spring and layback of ribs. Top line and tailset correct to well muscled rear quarters showing good second thigh and let down hocks. Moved with drive and elegance well presented and handled.

**2nd Kingsley’s, Unmistakably Vom Romersee (imp.Deu)** Nice feminine bitch head not quite as balanced as one. Good front assembly with strong flat bone and tight feet. Well sprung ribs good tuckup.topline and tailset okay, rear quarters developing good muscle and second thigh. Moved okay.

PostGrad Bitch (2)1.

**1st Park’s Rayjen Aces High JW,** Balance in both head and body, lovely clean feminine head, dark expressive eyes, smooth rise of skull to well placed ears of good size. Clean strong neck, well laid back shoulders, strong straight front with sound bone and tight feet. Deep chest, well sprung ribs to muscled loin correct rear quarters muscled and with good length of second thigh. Moved very well.

Open Bitch(1).

**1st Price’s, Leamap Iron Maiden JW.** Another quality bitch showing good overall balance in outline. Feminine clean head with expressive eyes, wide, open nostrils well padded muzzle of good depth and width, nice flat skull, well placed ears of good size ad shape. Muscular arched neck to correct shoulder placement, straight front showing sound flat bone, upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest good tuckup, correct topline and tailset strong rear quarters moved with drive.

 **Harlequin.**

Puppy dog (3).

**1st Henshall’s Calchas Xoset** 7 months old, Large balanced male with plenty of substance, Masculine head good width and depth, dark eyes, well padded muzzle with good rise of clean skull to well-placed ears. Well arched neck into correct shoulder placement, front assembly developing well, straight with strong flat bone, upright pasterns and tight feet, sprung ribswell laid back and decent tuckup Correct rear angulation, muscle and second thigh developing well. Moved well for handler.

**2nd Kingsley’s Dainoak Invictus** 7months old, not quit the size and balance of one, padded muzzle of good depth, correct eye shape, smooth rise of skull to ears of good size and placement. Arched neck to strong straight front with good bone, upright pasterns and tight feet. Chest and ribs developing well, correct top line and tailset. Rear quarters developing good muscle and length of second thigh. Moved okay.

PostGrad Dog (3).

**1st Hugill’s Shalrace The Meastro.** Balanced with strong masculine features, clean blocky head with dark expressive eyes, deep level well-padded muzzle, wide open nostrils clean rise of skull to well placed ear carriage of good size. Strong arched neck to sound shoulders and front assembly, deep chest and well sprung ribs, level top line to correct tailset; good tuckup to muscular rear angulation and second thigh moved well..

**2nd Bollons, Daysue Born Ready.** Taller more elegant not quite the heavy bone and substance of one. Nicely balanced masculine head with wide open nostrils, good width and depth of muzzle correct ear size and shape. Well arched neck to well set shoulders and straight front, tight feet. Good tuckup, top line and tailset, rear quarters and second thigh okay. Well handled, moved with elegant stride.

Open Dog (2).

**1st BD, Henshall’s Willobee Wiseman.** Larger well balanced in outline of good type and sound bone, lovely clean masculine head, large open nostrils,wide and deep blocky muzzle of good length and rise of skull, nice shaped dark eyes, correct ears size and placement. Clean well arched neck, well laid back shoulder placement, straight front with nice flat bone upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest & well sprung ribs, good tuckup, level topline, muscled loin and bang on tail set, very good rear angulation. Moved with drive around the ring, well presented and showed himself off throughout.

**2nd Shadbolt’s Akura Final Frontier,** Another nice dog, masculine head quite balanced with open nostrils and correct width and depth of muzzle eyes of good shape and size. Arched neck to correct shoulder placement and straight front assembly, flat bone and tight feet. Deep. Chest and well sprung ribs muscled rear quarters let down hocks moved well.

Puppy Bitch (2).

**1st& BB&BP, Tempest’s, Adoreadane Just The Ticket,** 10 months old, excellent bitch of sound bone with substance, good overall balance in head and body, clean feminine blocky head with width and depth and length to her muzzle. Clear rise of skull to deep expressive eyes and correct ear size and placement.elegant well arched neck to well laid back shoulders strong straight front upright pasterns and tight cat feet. Deep chest, well sprung ribs with good layback, top line and tailset spot on to developing muscular rear quarters with good length on second thigh and let down hocks This bitch move around the ring with drive and flowing movement, nice to see her short listed for BPIS.

**2nd Henshall’s, Calcas Xanado,** 7months old, A lovely female from this very typie Kennel, a close runner to one with very similar attributes. I preferred the head of one who was also a little better put together in movement this time. This was a lovely class and I wish both puppies well in the future.

PostGrad Bitch (4)1.

**1st Taylor’s, Alsphuzazz ecosystem Electra for Daneheart.** A balance feminine head, broad and deep in muzzle with open nostrils, clean skull with correct eye and ear placements. Strong arched neck to level topline and high tailset. Straight front with sound flat bone and tight feet, deep chest with correct spring of ribs muscular loin and well muscle rear quarters and second thigh. Moved well for her handler presented in good condition.

2nd Allan’s, Moira Delta Velorum Von Dramadanes. Smaller than one but good overall balanc, lovely feminine head with well set expressive eyes clean rise of skull, strong neck to straight front and tight feet, not quite the chest of one sling of ribs okay and good tuckup. Muscled rear quarters and showing good second thigh. Handled and presented well.

Open Bitch(4).

**1st Henshall’s, Calchas Wincy Willis,** Another typie Bitch from this Kennels, lovely feminine hea, balanced with good blocky muzzle of correct symmetry, clean rise of skull, nice shaped expressive eyes, well place ears of good sized used well to give alert expression. Strong arched neck to well laid back shoulders and correct front assembly, upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest with well sprung ribs and muscled loin. Level topline with correct tailset, rear quarters strong well muscled with correct angulation and defined second thigh. Move with drive around the ring.

**2nd Kelleway’s, Jeamluk’s Dannie of Clunton.** Another lovely bitch that looks balanced in outline, feminine head with good breadth and depth with wide open nostrils clean rise of skull to correct ear placement, muscular neck to laid back shoulder placement strong straight front upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest decent tuckup with muscled loin, tailset high. Rear quarters well developed with correct angulation and good second thigh. Presented in good condition, preferred the head and movement of one.

 **Black**

Puppy dog (3) 1.

**1st Lamborghini Von Der Kieselbachquelle(imp DEU)** Strong masculine head, with good overall balance, wide, open nostrils, good depth and width of muzzle. Correct ear carriage of good size, well arched neck, straight front with nice flat bone upright pasterns and tight feet. Chest developing well and ribs well sprung, topline and tailset correct. Rear quarters showing good muscular definition with correct angulation and length of second thigh moved well for his handler and presented in very good condition.

**2nd Bollon’s, Bandwar for Aces High.** Not quit the balanced outline of one yet, masculine head and eyes of correct shape and size, balanced in fore face with open nostrils, ears placement good shape and size, strong neck, straight front with sound bone and tight feet, ribs well sprung. Topline and tailset okay, rear quarters developing well showing good second thigh movement needs a little more time.

PostGrad Dog (1).

**1st Pepper’s, Danemoor Black Watche for Saracwen**, clean masculine head of balanced and correct length of muzzle. with nice dark eyes, , correct rise of skull, well placed ear carriage of good size. Muscular arched neck to sound shoulders and front assembly, deep chest and well sprung ribs, level top line to correct tailset; good tuckup to balanced rear angulation and length of second thigh moved well.

Open Dog (1).

**1st BD, Harrison’s, Leamap Strongbow at Jasnettdanes**, Larger male of sound bone and plenty of substance, balanced in outline, lovely clean masculine head, correct muzzle to skull ratio, broad open nostrils, well padded muzzle of balanced width and depth, good rise of skull, nice shaped dark eyes. Clean well arched neck, good shoulder placement, straight front, upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest & well sprung ribs, good tuckup, level topline, muscular loin bang on tail set, excellent rear angulation.driving movement around the ring, well presented.

Puppy Bitch(3)1.

**1st Bates’s, Danemoor Black Betty,** Promising bitch sound and of good size. Feminine head, with expressive eyes, well placed ears giving an alert expression. Strong arched neck and correct shoulders, straight front with sound bone and upright pasterns. Nice spring of ribs and tuckup. Rear quarters developing well showing good length of second thigh, well let down hocks. Moved well for her age.

**2nd Sheil’s Sihr Strawberry Moon.** Bitch of good size, substance and sound bone. Not the head of one, wide open nostrils, well padded muzzle, correct ear placement of good size and shape, arched neck to decent shoulders and straight front, level top line with high tailset. Rear quarters muscled developing well. Very lively for her handler moved okay when settled.

JuniorBitch (1).

**1st, BB& BP Black’s Bandwar Taylor Made.** Smaller bitch well balanced head and body all in proportion. Pretty Feminine head with good breadth and depth of muzzle, with wide, open nostrils, clean rise of skull to nice shaped expressive eyes, correct ear carriage shape and size. Elegant, strong, well arched neck to well laid back shoulders, tight straight front with sound flat bone upright pasterns and tight feet. Chest and ribs developing well to good tuckup. Level top line and bang on tailset, rear quarters muscling up well and showing good second thigh and well letdown hocks. Moved with drive.

PostGrad Bitch (1)

**1st Taylor's Black Dawn Glory.** Feminine head, well padded muzzle, broad open nostrils, nice shaped eyes and clean skull. Strong arched neck, straight front assembly with sound flat bone, upright pasterns and tight feet. Well sprung ribs and good tuckup. Muscular rear quarters with defined second thigh. Moved okay.

Open Bitch(1).

**1st Pepper’s Leamap Black Caviar at Sarawen.** Larger balanced bitch with nice feminine head of good breadth and depth, broad open nostrils, clean rise of skull to well shaped eyes, ears carried high and well shaped. Strong arched neck to laid back shoulders straight front assembly with sound bone upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest well sprung ribs muscled loin. Bang on tailset, rear quarters muscled and showing defined second thigh. Well handled presented in good condition.

 **Mantle**

Junior dog (3) 2.

**1st BD, BP & BPIS. Pearson’s Daneworth Legacy.**10 months old,Larger well proportioned balanced male. Masculine head, wide and open nostrils. Muzzle well padded, broad with proportional depth clean rise of skull to correct eyes and ears used well to give alert expression. Muscular arched neck to well laid back shoulders, strong straight front assembly with sound bone, upright pasterns and tight catlike feet. Deep chest developing well with good spring of ribs. Level top line and bang on tail set. Rear quarters muscular, showing defined second thigh and well letdown hocks. A confident male who moved with plenty of reach and drive throughout. Well handled and presented, well done.

JuniorBitch (1).

**1st Walton’s Tamzdane Bohemian Raspbery at Ravendane.** 8months old. bitch of good size and substance, nice feminine head, open nostrils clean rise of skull, well shaped expressive eyes and correct ear carriage. Well arched neck to good layback of shoulders, strIght front with sound bone and upright pasterns. Deep chest developing well with good spring of ribs. Top line and tailset okay, rear quarters developing, muscular and showing defined second thigh. Moved well when settled down.

Open Bitch(1).

**1st & BB. Tempest’s Adoreadane Make Your Marc.**  lovely feminine head, clean, balanced with expressive eyes and ear carriage, well arched neck to correct shoulder placement, straight front with sound flat bone, upright pasterns and tight feet. Deep chest with well sprung and laid back ribs. Correct top line and tailset, rear quarters well muscled and defined second thigh. Moved with ease, presented in excellent condition.

 **Mick Gordon (Judge)**