

**Judge's Critique**  
**Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Championship Show 2020**  
**Held 24.09.2021**  
**Judge – Mrs Bev Hanna**

My thanks to the SCWT Club of GB for pursuing opportunities and venues to host this postponed 2020 Club Championship Show. It has not come without its difficulties. Hugely indebted to Birmingham National Show Society who very last moment were able to offer a splendid ring in which to hold the show and giving the Wheatens plenty of room to move out. Being held on a weekday perhaps may have affected entry numbers but I was still blessed with a high number of quality exhibits. To both my able stewards Graham Dowdy and Karen Francis, it was a long day for you both as you were showing at the National in the morning, so thank you for sticking it out!

Having not judged the breed for four years and as a breed specialist I make the following observations.

At a Club show we often see less experienced handlers and dogs and as a Club show, and that currently many handlers and dogs are 'exhibition rusty', I took this into consideration. I was pleased with the overall quality in structure. In particular the bitches excelled and therefore no surprise that my BIS & RBIS came from the bitch line up although a numerically larger entry than the males. However, in both sexes, some exhibits are starting to become too short in back/body which changes the proportions to leg length, thereby changing the overall balance and picture of the dog and in hind assembly in being somewhat over angulated, which in turn creates excessive and flashy hind movement. This is certainly eye catching but is not in keeping with the breed standard which asks for a moderate terrier, not exaggerated in any way.

As a breed, I do feel we are losing the typical coat of the breed. I was pleased to see less of the black/grey neck 'cape' that is somewhat endemic particularly in the heavy coated types and so spoils the overall look. It is rare now to find a true Wheaten coat that holds both a clear colour, sheen, softness and silkiness along with an open loose curl or wave and that has been left a long enough length on the body (not legs) to correctly flow when moving, being abundant as oppose to being thick, plush and/or dense. This is such a shame when the coat is so specifically indicated in the breed name. However, my top winners did present jackets of good examples but many are becoming very dense and plush which would render them unfit for function, especially in the wet climate of the native country of origin.

The docking ban came into force over 14 years ago. Excessively curled tails, tails touching or curling across the topline are not typical or described in the breed standard. These are now starting to appear in the breed with some regularity which suggests an easily passed on undesirable trait which I hope breeders will start working towards moving away from as the fault does detract from the overall pleasing picture an exhibit may present.

It was easy to award my BIS as she demonstrated so many features of the breed standard, moderation, balance, type, correct coat & size, well muscled and moved well on the occasions she obliged her handler.

Thank you to all exhibitors for sharing your dogs with me and giving me such a special day of judging my own breed.

### Sp Vintage Dog (10 + years) (1)

#### 1. CH JANEYJIMJAMS JENSON JW SHCM – BVIS

Previously awarded this male his 21st CC and he now holds the breed record. At 11 years old is wearing his years well. Excels in type. Coat of good colour and in fantastic condition. His outline is so well balanced and moderate. Lovely masculine head, eye colour and shape. Nice length of neck. Easy mover with reach and drive. Such quality always deserves consideration for the top awards but was just a little lack lustre in the challenge but thoroughly deserved his Best Veteran in Show.

### Junior Dog (1)

#### 1. SILKCROFT GAME CHANGER - RCC

14m old boy of nice size. Masculine. Good skull, bite and eye. Small, well set ears. Elegant neck running into well laid shoulders. Deep chest. Just needs to body up a bit more in ribs but this will come. Good angulations at both ends without excess. Soft enough coat without being over dense of a nice hue. Would prefer less curl in his tail. A fluid mover with good cadence and drive, along with his size, secured him the RCC.

### Special Yearling Dog (1)

#### 1. HOUSE OF SOFTY INDUS (Imp Swe)

Upstanding masculine male with good headpiece and strength in muzzle. Good ribs and loin. Well boned. Good eye colour and pigment. Pleasing neck into well laid shoulders. Presented a balanced outline and angles. Ok for size. Nice enough coat with a gentle wave. Enough reach and drive. Just a bit close moving behind today.

### Post Graduate Dog (1)

#### 1. EBLANAHALLS TECKLE ISH AT RAISINGSANDS

Native type male sporting correct coat with wave, sheen and colour. Smaller size but presented a very masculine head, big teeth. Ears a little high set. Alert, Terrier expression. Great pigmentation. Very well muscled throughout. Short coupled. Adequate angulations. Would like more length of leg to balance the picture. He was rather unsettled today and giving his handler a hard time which affected his performance on the movement front.

### Limit Dog (2)

#### 1. EBLANAHALLS SILKBEARD AT RAISINGSANDS - CC, BOS

4 year old all male, upstanding and masculine. Strong muzzle. Up to size but balanced all round. Well ribbed. Strong loin and hindquarters. Balanced angles. Nice neck. Deep chest. Good for bone. Moved out very well with reach and drive and holding topline. The picture is finished with a pleasant soft coat with nice colour and wave and topped off with great ring presence. He was on form today.

#### 2. JANEYJIMJAMS JEM DEVLIN

2.5yrs old male sporting a dark coloured coat which was soft but not quite the texture quality of 1. Similarly masculine as 1. Another well ribbed, good angles and good front. Close decision to split these two but preferred the strong ground cover of movement of 1.

### Open Dog (5)

#### 1. CALVENACE THOR

Real working Native type. At 7 years old is in his prime. Ok for size. Well boned and muscled. Another masculine and strong head and muzzle. Good pigment. Correct coat with nice hue of colour with excellent silkiness and required sheen, presented in a natural length to show off his beautiful loose curl. My notes say - if you've got it, flaunt it! One of the clowns of the day showing his Wheaten humour and happy outgoing nature. Bit ring rusty but moved out with reach and drive when settled. Nice angulation and lay back. He had balanced proportions all in keeping with required moderation. Just lacking in a couple of departments which prevented consideration for top honours.

#### 2. AM/CAN CH SILKCROFT FREEZE FRAME JW JWW18 Jun Bel Ch (Re import)

3 year old upstanding male with good masculine head, good eye and colour. Alert expression, neat set ears. Good front, spring of rib and depth of chest. For me I would prefer more length in the body to balance with his leg length to create a more moderate profile. As a result a little over angulated in the rear but does move out well with reach and drive, if a little flashy. Straight mover away and back. Coat lacks wave and not the texture quality of 1.

#### 3. FLAXELA LIVING LEGEND OF GWENDONYDD

Up to size 5 year old who presents an overall balanced profile. Masculine head with good stop. Would prefer a smaller ear. Another with reachy neck into well laid shoulder. Good tailset and topline. Good for hind angulation. Well muscled and plenty behind the tail. Moved well with reach and drive. Coat matured well for age with wave and sheen.

### Champion Dog (1)

#### 1. CH SNOWMEADOW SAULS SYMPHONY TO GAVLEASH .

4 year old male of pleasing size with good skull and strong muzzle. Excellent bite. Hazel eye and neat ears. Enough neck running into well laid shoulder. Good for spring of rib and chest depth, topline and tail set. A little longer in the body for ideal balance. Moderate angles front and rear. Moved straight away and back. Moved ok around ring. Finished with a soft coat of good colour but a little dense and lacking wave for his age.

### Special Veteran Bitch (7-9 years) (2/1 abs)

#### 1. KANJULEY SCARLET O'HARA.

This bitch presented with a good bite with large teeth. So good to see. Fabulous pigment and strong skull and jaw. Balanced through neck into well laid shoulders. Perhaps a little round in rib. Good hind angulation. Well muscled. She stands with a great topline but just tends to lose it on the move. Moved fluidly with good reach and drive.

### Special Vintage Bitch (10+ years) (1)

#### 1. KANJULEY SCARLET AND GOLD.

What a fabulous Golden Oldie! 12 year old with perfect scissor bite and the most enormous teeth. In such great condition and so well muscled. What a credit to her owner. Strong in skull but feminine . Nice neck and good shoulders. Well bodied, nice ribs and strong in loin. Good for bone. Moved so well for her age with reach and drive and fluidity. I hope she enjoyed her day out.

### Minor Puppy Bitch (4/2 abs)

#### 1. EBLANAHALLS GOLD LIMERENCE.

Nice for size. Petite and feminine. Hope she grows on a bit more. Balanced outline with a square profile. Moves and carries herself well. Nice coat which shows promise. Well handled.

2. DENZILLY I PUT A SPELL ON YOU.

Slightly larger bitch. Moves out well with good hind drive but a bit loose in front at present. Square profile. Good for bone. A little round in ribs but otherwise nice proportions. Good tailset. Has promise but would benefit from a haircut to show off her outline.

Puppy Bitch (3)

1. CALVENACE SUPER TROUPER - BPIS

2. MANAWYDDAN BIZZY LIZZY

Spoilt for choice with these two lovely puppy bitches. Both feminine and good for size. Coats at the puppy stage so a bit fluffy and dense but will change as they mature. Both moved out well and stood with balanced, square profile. Just preferred the overall movement and hind action, body maturity and eye colour of 1.

3. KILLESBIN MANORHAMILTON.

Native type with typical coat development stage with promise of a correct adult coat. Good for size and a nice overall shape. Has much to like about her. Good bite. Moved out ok but had lost some confidence in the ring and so giving her handler a hard time. Keep persevering!

Junior Bitch (2)

1. BONNEY ABIQUA WILD DESERT WHISPERS (IMP USA)

Lovely size, shape and make. Feminine with a balanced profile. Balanced skull with correct coloured eye. Good length of neck into well laid shoulders. Excellent topline and good set on. Good through body and ribs. Strong loin. Coat is soft if a little plush and has a lovely hue of honey gold clear colour. A little over angulated from my ideal but moves out well with reach and drive. A quality girl who has much promise.

2. CALVENACE GOIN COURTIN.

Native type, nice for size and moderate bitch. Nice neck and shoulders. Moved out well once warmed up and settled. Slightly wide in front. Excellent coat. Scores in eye colour and pigment. Good for bone. Good strength to skull.

Special Yearling Bitch (1)

1. HOUSE OF SOFTY INDI JANEYJIMJAMS (IMP SWE).

This feminine bitch stands balanced and presented with a pleasant coat with warm colour. Reachy neck into well laid shoulders. Balanced angles behind. Strong but feminine skull. Would prefer a smaller ear. Level topline held on the move. Positive mover. Good tailset. Plenty of body.

Graduate Bitch (2)

1. MANAWYDDAN CHASIN RAINBOWS.

2. SILVERLUKA SUPERSTITION AT RAISINGSANDS

A super pair of bitches but I didn't have two first place cards! It was a hard call to split and could be the other way round another day. Despite a Native and a heavy coat type they both carried quality jackets with sheen, clear colour and correct texture. Both of lovely make and shape, nice balance and angles. Both well muscled and moved out well. I preferred the coat quality and body maturity of 1 but she is marginally older.

### Mid Limit Bitch (2)

#### 1. GLENDOWAN GOLDEN BRANDY

Native type with correct coat and colour. Good for size and well balanced with moderate angles all round. Good for bone and muscle. Balanced cadence with reach and drive. Good skull and strong muzzle. Correct eye colour and great pigment. Strong loin.

#### 2. DENZILLY RASPBERRY BERET

Larger size to winner but stood square and balanced with moderate angles and feminine. Nice lay back. Good skull and muzzle. Enough neck. Well ribbed. Quality coat with pleasing colour and wave and sheen. She was a little wide in coming towards me and close behind moving away today.

### Limit Bitch (4)

A lovely class of quality exhibits.

#### 1. KANJULEY SCARLET ROSE - CC, BIS

Native Irish type, moderate bitch of correct size carrying the most correct of jackets, beautiful sheen and wave with a warm hue of colour. At 5 years old she is in her prime, balanced, square profile. Strength in head and muzzle without coarseness, excellent bite and big teeth. Great ear-set. Good front assembly and layback. Good thought ribs and body. Well boned and muscled. She was a fluid, easy mover when she was listening to her handler. A beautiful, correct Wheaten, who just filled my eye. BCC, BIS

#### 2. KEEVASDREAM WHITE LINEN JW

So much to like about this bitch. Stands four square with balance. A little longer than 1 through ribs and loin. Good for bone. Acceptable angles. Nice expression and length of neck. Good topline and tailset. Another fluid mover with reach and drive. The picture completed with a lovely coloured coat but just lacking the quality in texture of 1.

#### 3. SILKCROFT NEVER MISS A BEAT

Another well constructed bitch who had great reach and drive on the move. Enough bone. Nice skull proportions. Enough neck. Nice layback. At 2.5 years her coat still has some maturing to do in the texture department but has a warm Wheaten colour. For me, she is a tad short through the body in profile to her leg length.

### Open Bitch (7)

Another class of superb quality bitches that could all change places another day.

#### 1. DAISYMAES TUMBLING DICE - RCC, RBIS.

A lovely sized and feminine bitch standing four square and balanced. Good through skull with neat ears giving her a terrier expression. Lovely length of neck that flowed into well laid shoulders. Good through rib and short loin giving her balanced body to leg proportion. Good topline and tailset. Nicely angled both ends. She moved out steadily with reach and drive. Sporting a golden hue of clear colour with required wave. Just quite not the coat texture today to match the bitch challenge winner.

#### 2. SNOWMEADOW SUZY SIXPENCE

Another super quality bitch with everything in the right place. Liked her great skull and strong jaw. Typical Wheaten expression and lovely eye. Plenty of neck running into well laid shoulders. Good bone. Deep chest. Plenty of substance and muscle especially through hindquarters. Moved out well once she had warmed up. Sympathetically trimmed to show off her gorgeous coat with the most beautiful colour and curls. A very close decision.

3. JANEYJIMJAMS JOLENE AT KEEVASDREAM

Another pleasing bitch that presents a great profile. Good length of neck into well balanced front assembly. Good through ribs and body. Well muscled. A little finer in build. A lovely coat with great texture and colour. Moved out very well with good reach and drive - just going away was a tad close behind. A quality girl.

Brace (3, 1 abs)

1. EBLANAHALLS SILKBEARD AT RAISINGSANDS/SILVERLUKA SUPERSTITION AT RAISINGSANDS  
Similar matching pair that moved out together evenly and in unison with each other.

2. HOUSE OF SOFTY INDUS (IMP SWE) /HOUSE OF SOFTY INDI JANEYJIMJAMS (IMP SWE)  
Another well matching pair that moved out well together. Just preferred the overall type and unison of 1.