

English Setter Association Championship Show, 19th April 2026

Dogs

What an honour to be invited to judge dogs at this prestigious show. I have not watched the breed for some time so most of the dogs were new to me. Some general observations – I was concerned with poor front movement and some heads were heavier than I liked. On the plus side there were no 'iffy' bites and tail carriage has improved since I last judged the breed. Temperaments were excellent and all the dogs were happy and confident to be handled. I appreciated the sporting way you accepted my decisions and a big thank you to my efficient stewards. I was thrilled when my co-judge agreed for my best dog and best puppy to go BIS and BP.

Minor Puppy (1)

1 & BPIS Williams' Bornehouse Dream Away. Such a promising 7 month baby. I loved his head, dark eyes and gentle expression. Pleasing front, legs and feet. Well-balanced body and topline. Firm, well-muscled hindquarters. Moved very well with a happy tail action. Plenty of body and coat for age. Very promising. I see I have awarded his sire and dam a CC in the past. Best Puppy Dog and with agreement from my co-judge Best Puppy in Show. A lovely start for his first show.

Puppy (5,2)

1. Howarth's Samelen Enchanto at Moorbrook. 9 months orange boy. Well grown for age. Super neck and outline. Good body and coat. Needs to tighten in front and as yet is not as co-ordinated as minor puppy.

2. Lawson's Summerseve Cezanne. 9 months tri. More collected than winner but preferred head of 1, and his front needs to tighten. Shown in good body and coat and moved well with a good tail action.

3. Stephenson's Bondgate Classical Drama

Veteran (3)

1. Wilson's Ir Sh Ch Ravensett Giovanni. 8 year orange. I liked his head and front. Strong hindquarters which gave him a powerful driving action. Shown in good body and coat. Certainly doesn't look his age.

2. Johnston's Wansleydale Beguiled of Loonbrae. 7 year old tri. Excels in bone, balanced body and topline. His head is heavier than winner and preferred front of 1. Presented a finished picture with good coat presentation and ring presence.

3. Lawson's Wansleydale Dorian Gray JW ShCEx OSW

Junior (4)

1. Pitts and Normansell's Larrenie Heartthrob. Mature tri, well-off for bone, hgreat body and coat. I liked his head and dark expressive eye. Pleasing front assembly, well ribbed body. Moved holding his topline with a wagging tail. When settled moved soundly.

2.Sayer's Droveborough Blue Moon. 12 month blue, not as mature as winner. I liked his head and eye. Pleasing outline and moved well holding his topline. Just needs time. I liked him a lot.

3.Taylor's Kanietter Goldmandine

Yearling (5)

1.Szal's Goldbirch Northern Jazz. 19 month blue. Won here on his outline. Super head and coat. Very flashy dog, still a bit rangy but moved well and enjoying his day. Presentation A1, should have a bright future.

2.Neath's Albadora total Madness. Heavier type to winner and giving his handler a hard time. Very mature in body and coat. Preferred outline and movement of winner.

3.Wilson's Sharnyx Reyncloud at Lucanix

Novice (4)

1.Larrenie Heartthrob (1st in junior)

2.Droveborough Blue Moon (2nd in Junior)

3.Summerseve Cezanne (2nd in Puppy)

Graduate (6,1)

1.Hendry's Illexset Sunny Disposition. A lovely class to judge, headed by this 4 year old tri. Typy boy I liked a lot. Pleasing head and eye, excellent front, legs and feet. Good topline and tail set. Moved very well both ways. Shown in good coat and well presented. Carrying enough weight for me.

2.Stead's Ravensett Illusionist of Settavista. Dark blue of super type. Loved his head and balanced body. Excellent topline, very stylish dog shown in good body and coat. Close up to 1 but preferred movement of winner.

3.Pearson's Bournehouse Augustus at Yessandl

Post Graduate (3)

1.Stewart and Quenby's Tattersett Stolen Silver. 3 1/2 yr old blue of super type and quality. Beautiful head, good front and shoulders. Moved well, may be a little proud of his tail on occasions. I liked him a lot and feel he should hit the top spot.

2.Stronach's Mariglen Escape to Victory. Lots to like about this blue boy. Clean, masculine head, dark eyes. Balanced body, good topline. Moved with drive. Just not as finished in coat as winner.

3.Ciaputa's Ravensett Cote D'Azur

Mid Limit (5)

1.Danks, Littlechild and Littlechild's Ravensett Just An Illusion with Alolfrana JW. 21/2 yr old orange who handled as well as he looks. Excellent conformation, the best of legs and feet. Masculine head with a good neck and shoulder placement. Shown in A1 condition and presentation. His movement won him the day. CC and on agreement with my co-judge Best In Show. I understand this is his second and on his present form his 3rd won't be far away.

2.Pearce's Westonfields French Runner. Handsome blue boy. Lots to like about him, good bone, body and coat. Moved well. Unlucky to meet the orange.

3. Derry's Hawklawn Hazzard County at Balvenie JW

Limit (2)

1.Osman's Bournehouse Sirocco over Marissolo JW ShCEx OSW. Tri, excels in bone, conformation with a balanced topline. Shown in full coat, moved well with correct tail carriage.

2.Williams' Richecca Midwinter. Another quality tri. Gorgeous head and expression. Moved well but his coat let him down today.

Open (9,2)

1 and RCC Pitts and Normansell's Sh Ch Larrenie Heartstopper. I have always admired this orange boy from the ringside and I gave his dam a CC a while ago. Very satisfying dog to handle, gorgeous head and front assembly. Beautifully balanced with a good topline. Moved well both ways. I thought he would be my CC winner but the other orange outmoved him today.

2.Darley's Severnsett Gold Sovereign. Another top class orange boy. Excels in bone, strong well-muscled hindquarters which gave him strong movement. Shown in lovely coat, well presented. I liked him a lot but thought he was longer cast than winner

3.Williams' Bournehouse Gamekeeper completed a trio of top class orange dogs.

Special Beginners (4,1)

1.Stead's Ravensett Illusionist of Settavista. (2nd in Graduate)

2.Williams' Wansfell Keep Me Close 2 year orange boy. Pleasing head and dark eyes. This boy needs to mature and fill his ribcage out. Roadwork may help to tighten his front feet, just needs time.

3.Griffiths' Tawnymeade Moonshine

Judge: Glenis Williams