

The Pennine and Scottish French Bulldog Association Open Show, Saturday the 26th of July 2025.

Firstly, grateful thanks to the committee for the invite to judge their show, and a big thank you to the exhibitors for a really nice show of support with a high numerical entry. Thanks also to my two stewards for keeping the ring running ultra smooth, we got there eventually!

I have loved your breed and held a keen interest in it for over 30 years, and having the opportunity to assess them was my pleasure.

I'm not usually given to preamble in critiques, but I felt that there were a few observations that I made whilst judging that would be worthwhile sharing. Firstly, no dog was unsound. All dogs were presented in excellent physical condition. Temperaments across the board were excellent. It is evident to see how much progress breeders have made with issues pertaining to BOAS. Nares have greatly improved. There was no laboured breathing, and considering the heat this was great. Generally speaking, I found the breed to be in a very healthy state.

A couple of observations I made that I feel need drawing attention to were mainly pasterns and rear action. Pasterns in a French Bulldog are not supposed to appear 'down' or 'weak'. Neither are they supposed to be upright like a terrier. However, the breed standard is quite specific in so much as that it says, "Feet small, compact, and placed in continuation of line of leg, with absolutely sound pasterns."

If the dog looks down in pastern or excessively short in leg, then generally speaking, it is incorrect in that area as the feet are not in the line of leg. The reason that I've put this in this critique is because upon speaking with others involved with the breed, there appears to be some disparity with regard to this issue, and it is an important one as generally if pasterns are wrong then the rest of the front assembly suffers, as do feet and movement.

There shouldn't really be any difference of opinion on this issue.

Secondly, its rear action. Although no dogs moved unsoundly, there were a few that have what I would term as an excessive 'roll' in the rear quarters when in motion. This also is incorrect. At the most, a Frenchie should have a slight bounce given the narrower hindquarters than the front, but there is no roll present like a Pekingese or a Bulldog or even a Pug, and the hocks should not turn in or out, either static or in motion.

BABY PUPPY BITCH. 1. SMITH Membully Aim To Teeze Ellouab. What a delightful baby to start the day. Brindle, lustrous in coat, and all of a piece even at this age. Compact and balanced throughout. Excellent bone and substance, correct in pasterns with neat little feet. Shoulder assembly very good. Top line correctly roached with ideal tail set. Rear angulation spot on, matching the front. Neck of correct length and thick with a slight

arch. Head is feminine. Eyes well-placed, round, dark, and an excellent expression. Ears are set bang on and really good for size, shape and carriage. Correct in top skull. Domed in forehead. Nose placement correct. Muzzle has width and correct for depth with correct layback. Cheeks well-developed, and she has strength of underjaw. Bite correct. She moved very well both ends. Sound as a bell and a happy temperament. A really nice prospect with a fantastic temperament, and will look forward to seeing how she comes on.

MINOR PUPPY DOG. 1.FOLEY Eclair Cerrera De Elka Gyvybes Zyme for Leyanda (Imp LTU) Really tidy brindle dog. Very well balanced in outline, compact, short in loin, very well-ribbed. Shoulder well laid, upper arm good, length of leg good, good in pastern, feet good. Top line correct, underline correct, rear angulation good. Moves freely and easily in all directions. Hocks nice and short. Eye and expression excellent. Top skull good. Ears carried correctly and good for size. Correct layback. Nose placement good. Bite and dentition good. Another one with excellent temperament, shown and handled very well. Preferred head of the winner of the class.

CUNDS Chelmbull Olijah Top Gun. Pied baby with a lot of promise. Body coming on really well. Compact, short, well-balanced, excellent width and depth of chest

Lovely bone and substance. Very good in pastern and feet. Rear angulation great, with really nice development of second thigh. Hocks are short and strong. Neck of correct length. He has evident forechest. Not quite the head at this stage of the first place, but I'm sure it'll come with time. Eye and expression okay. Has correct lay back. Ears good for size and shape and set. He too moved very well, especially for a baby, true coming and going and very nice in profile. Another with an excellent temperament. Will look forward to seeing how they both come on.

PUPPY DOG. 1 and BPIS. TIMMS. Olijah Going In Deep. Fantastic quality brindle. Catches your eye as soon as he walks in the ring and holds it. Ring presence excellent. Temperament excellent. In profile, he flows from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail. Compact in body, short in loin and although he is immature in rib, they are carried well back and time is on his side. He has a correct gentle roach with excellent tail set. Exceptionally sound in front and rear. His neck is ideal for length, and he has fantastic bone and substance throughout. Ideal leg length and he is spot on in pastern and foot. Hocks are short and strong. His head is masculine without coarseness. Very good eye and expression. Nose placement correct. Bite and dentition good. His cheeks are well-developed, and his top skull and forehead are correct. Ears are set where they should be, and they are carried correctly at all times. His head shows real promise, and although immature, I'm pretty sure will finish really well. On the move is where this dog excels. His rear action was the best of the day. No weakness in hocks. No roll behind. He is a strong, active mover that covers the ground with ease. Front gait compliments the rear, being straight and true with no convergence, and in profile he holds his shape

very well. He is as sound as a bell, has a ton of promise, he is quite the showman and is for sure one to watch. Pushed hard for top honours, his day will come.

SAUNBY Kianspucci Dark Storm TAF. Another promising young brindle male. Typey in head, typey in outline. Not quite as compact as the winner, being slightly longer in loin. Bone and substance correct. Very good for pastern and feet. Neck ideal for length. Head is masculine and typical all through. Perhaps not the eye and expression of the winner, but his eyes are dark. Ears excellent, very well-placed, carried correctly, and he uses them all the time. His quality of bone and substance is great. On the move, he is sound, although slightly close behind. Excellent temperament, excellent condition. Another promising youngster.

JUNIOR DOG. 1. COLE Myntie Pure Magic. Masculine in outlook, fairly well balanced in outline. Head is strong. Eye and expression okay. Nose placement good. Excellent ear set and carriage. Ears ideal for shape. Cheeks well developed. Underjaw good. Layback good. Bite and dentition fine. For me, he has just slightly too much wrinkle on top skull. Neck good for length, muscular and thick. Front is very sound. Shoulder angulation and upper arm are decent. Excellent bone to his forelegs. Pastern's good, feet good. Very well ribbed. A wee bit long in loin, but not unduly so. Topline correct. Tail is evident, but set slightly high. Rear angulation okay. He moved well and is sound. Very good temperament, and presented in excellent condition, his brindle coat shone in the hot sun. 2. SMITH AND PRATT Khanin Nudge Nudge Wink Wink. Another masculine brindle. Compact and balanced in outline. He too is very well made throughout. Excellent bone and substance. Head is strong. Ear set, size, shape and carriage all excellent. Pushed the first place hard, but wasn't quite as free on the move. Fantastic temperament and very good condition.

YEARLING DOG. 1. SMITH Membully Razzmatazz at Elouab JW. Neat, compact, very well-balanced brindle dog of beautiful breed type. Head is excellent. Eye and expression particularly good. Ears very good. Top skull correct. Forehead slightly domed. Cheeks well developed. Bite and dentition good, with really nice width of underjaw. Flews correct for thickness, and he is clean in lip. Layback is ideal. Neck thick and well arched. Front assembly very good. Bone and substance good. Pasterns and feet good. Top line correct. Body is compact. Under line correct. Tail set good. Would prefer a bit more bend of stifle. Short hocks. He moves freely and easily, and was in excellent health and condition. 2. BANKS Leyenda Mr Tumble. Fawn dog. Very well made all through. Lovely quality bone and substance. Slightly longer in loin, but not unduly so to make him unbalanced. Rear angulation is excellent. Hock's fantastic. He is very well-ribbed. Top line is correct, and his tail set is correct. His shoulder and upper arm are good. Legs are straight and of correct length. Pasterns and feet tidy. His neck is of good length. He moved okay when he decided to bother himself, but he was a really nice example of

soundness. Head is masculine with lots to like, but preferred the headtype of the first place. Two nice dogs.

POST GRADUATE DOG. 1 DAVIS. Bandit King of Hammerbarn. Brindle. Nice for size, really well balanced all through, compact, well-angulated front and rear. Head has quality, eye and expression good, nose placement correct, muzzle good, ears well-set and carried correctly, neck of good length. His rear angulation is spot on. Top line correct, tail set correct, underline good, enough bone and substance. Feet and pasterns tidy. Very sound mover out and back, and keeps his shape well in profile. Very good temperament and presented in good condition. 2. ROSS Franstelgo's Low Rider. Another really nice brindle dog with lots of breed-specific quality and typical features, who was a bit infuriating. Lovely, lovely head. Excellent eye and expression, great ears, top skull good, lay back good, nose placement very good. Neck is of good length, front assembly excellent, lovely quality bone, slightly down in pastern. Top line correct, underline good. Rear angulation compliments the front. He moved well in profile and coming, but he was a wee bit untidy going and this cost him the class. Two really nice dogs.

LIMIT DOG. 1 and BIS BROOKS Serenant Maverick. Two and a half year old brindle and white dog. Lovely for type. Overall balance is excellent, and he is sound throughout. Head masculine without coarseness. Eye and expression really nice and he looks at you just right. Nose placement good. Nares healthy. Bite and dentition correct. Ears on the top of his skull, correct for shape and size, and he uses them constantly. Neck ideal for length and thickness. Front assembly is sound. Shoulder and upper arm complimentary. Bone and substance in his straight front right down to his correct pasterns and neat feet. Top line is good. Roach evident without excess. Tail set correctly. Rear angulation in harmony with the front. His ribbing is excellent. To be critical, he could be slightly shorter in loin, but he is as yet very young and I'm sure maturity will be very kind. His movement coming, going, and in profile is exemplary. He holds his shape totally, whether static or in motion, and his reach and drive are spot on. He was presented in excellent fit condition, has a fantastic temperament, and he is an excellent example of breed type and soundness. Happy to award him Best in Show.

OPEN DOG. 1 and RBIS. HICKIN and RANKIN CH Chelmbull Spaceman. Most attractive, fully matured dog at the height of his powers. Compact in shape, typical in outline, he is altogether a very nice package. Head, eye expression is good. Ear set correct. Ears carried well. Eye and expression good. Bite and dentition excellent. Neck ideal for length and thickness. Front assembly very good. Very well boned forelegs. Pasterns correct and neat, with tidy feet. Very well-ribbed. Top line correct. Loin short. Rear angulation good. He moves exceptionally well both ends, and is particularly good in profile. He is a born showman and looks the part. In motion he was clean and positive, particularly in rear movement. Excellent temperament and showmanship. Reserve Best in Show. 2. ROACH CH. Roalice Major Mouse. Another infuriating dog. Lovely for type, particularly

in head. Front assembly excellent. Feet and pasterns very good. Ribbing, top line, underline, tail set, rear angulation, all good. Slightly longer in loin. A really typical example with lots to like. Although he moved soundly, he just was not happy with the surface today, and unfortunately that cost him the class. Excellent temperament and presented in lovely nick. A dog with real quality.

VETERAN DOG. 1 and BVIS BRYANT Kingfriend Mr Godwin JW. Impresses for type and masculinity. All of a piece and in fine fettle for his age. Head is glorious. Eye and expression excellent. Ears fab. Nose placement correct and his expression as a result is so correct. Neck is thick. Front assembly is good. Typical in outline. Body is compact and well-made all through. Excellent ribbing. Loin short enough. His rear angulation is adequate. He is as sound as a bell on the move and still keen to please his handler. In fine fettle and a super example of the breed.

SPECIAL OPEN PIED DOG. 1. THORNTON Zimblistic Spooky Charm Delightbull. Twelve months old and nicely balanced all through, particularly good for top line and underline. Head is masculine and typical. Ears I would like slightly higher set, but they are very good for size and shape. His front assembly is very good. Shoulder, upper arm correct. Bone and substance correct. Feet good. Has width and depth of chest. He is compact in body. Tail is set where it should be, and his rear angle complements his front. Moves soundly. He was in spanking condition with hard musculature, and his well marked coat was lovely. Excellent temperament.

SPECIAL OPEN FAWN DOG 1. Leyenda Mr Tumble. See previous.

SPECIAL OPEN BRINDLE DOG. 1. DAVIS Bandit King of Hammer Barn. see previous

THORNTON Zimblistic Elgon. Lovely brindle puppy. Typey and sound throughout. Really liked his development in head. Good eye and expression. Nose placement good. Ears good. Chin evident and clean in flew. Layback correct. Neck, front assembly, forelegs and pasterns all good. Top line is correct. His ribbing is good, and his loin is compact. His rear angle is adequate, and although slightly untidy on the move, he is sound. Endearing temperament and presented in very good condition. Has promise.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH. 1 PLOMIMSKA, Bestfrenchie Berta. Six and a half-month-old dark brindle and white bitch. Thought her quite lovely. Head maturing on the right lines, excellent ears, eye, and expression, good width and depth of muzzle. Layback coming. Neck good for length and thick. Her bone and substance is excellent. Her body is compact and well-balanced all through. Topline is correct. Her underline is correct. Her rear angulation is adequate, and she has excellent width of second thigh, even at this stage. Tail is set correctly. Her coat is short and fine in texture, and she moved soundly in all directions. She holds her shape well static and in motion, and she is a puppy with promise, excellent temperament, and well-handled, pushed the BPIS winner hard. 2. POULSON Aldhammill's Mademoiselle at Patchdown. Six-and-a-half-month-old puppy.

Again, lots of promise and she too is well balanced throughout. She is compact in outline. Her ribbing is coming. Her loin is short. Her angles match both ends, and she is very sound. Head and eye and expression, all good. Ears are lovely for size and shape, but i'd like them slightly higher set. She's sound on the move, just not as coordinated as the first place. Two lovely babies with a good future.

PUPPY BITCH. 1. PLOMINSKA Bestfrenchie Berta. See previous. 2. TIMMS Olijah Coming For You. Lovely quality baby with loads to like. Soundly made throughout. Everything where it should be. Immature in head and needs time, but its all there. Good eye and expression, nose placement correct, ears very good. Top line, underline all correct. Front assembly sound, rear angulation good. She moved well, if slightly erratically at times, but she is a baby and has real promise.

JUNIOR BITCH. 1 and RBB. CUND, CUND and WILKINSON Chelmbull Forget Me Not. Really tidy example. Substance and femininity combined. Head, eye, and expression is excellent. Ears really good for size and shape, and she uses them at all times. Neck good for length and thickness. Front assembly is very good. Her bone and substance ideal for her size. Feet and pasterns good. She is compact in outline with correct topline and tail set. Ribbing very good. Loin is short. Moderately angled behind, and this drove her on the move. Sound from all angles, and she holds her shape really well. Handled the heat with ease. Very willing showgirl, sound and balanced and typey. 2. GREENALL Princess Z Naszej Bajki at Manolta (import POL) Another really nice brindle that pushed the first all the way. Was splitting hairs between them. Just preferred the rear angle on the first place. She too has a beautiful head, eye, and expression. Her front assembly is also excellent. Plenty of bone and substance for her size. Her ribbing is good. Her top line spot on. Under line good. She too moves well, covering the ground with ease. Nitpicking, and thought the two of them were really worthy examples.

YEARLING BITCH. 1. COLE Membully Bedazzled with Myntie JW. Fawn with black mask. Some lovely qualities in head. Eye and expression good, ears excellent for size and shape. Muzzle has width and depth. Correct for layback. Her pigmentation is lovely. Neck is good for length and thickness. Shoulder assembly is good. Her chest has width and depth and is well filled. Her front could be straighter, and her pasterns could be stronger. Bodywise she is well-ribbed, slightly long in loin. Her top line is correct. Her rear angulation is moderate, and she moves fluidly if slightly untidy in front. In profile, very good. Presented in excellent condition. Bone and substance fab, and she has an excellent temperament.

POST GRADUATE BITCH. 1. ROSS Franstelgo's No Action. Neat and tidy bitch, smaller in size and all of a piece. Bone and substance a plenty. Head is effeminate and very pretty. Eye and expression lovely. Nose placement is correct. Lay back ideal. Forehead is correctly domed. Top skull clean. Ears are good for size and shape. Body is compact. Excellent ribbing, short in loin. Rear angle commensurate with her front. Lovely bone to

her forelegs, strong pasterns and tidy feet. She moved very soundly, coming and going, and was a picture in profile. She is a lovely type. Liked her a lot. 2. COX Princess Warrior Mulan at Halloxwishes. Brindle and white bitch. Sound and active. Head pretty. Eye and expression good. Nose placement correct. Ears good. Bite and dentition good. Neck correct for length. Shoulder assembly good. Her bone and substance is commensurate with her size. She is good in pastern and feet. She could be more compact in body. Her rear angulation is moderate, and she moves soundly and fluidly, covering the ground with ease. Presented in very good condition.

LIMIT BITCH. 1, BROOKS Serenant Iron Butterfly. Brindle bitch. Nicely balanced throughout and presents a typical outline both static and on the move. Head is feminine with strength enough to be typical. Eye expression is good. Muzzle to skull ratio is good. Bite correct. Dentition good. Ears are excellent for size and shape, however I would like them slightly higher set. Neck ideal for length and thickness. Shoulder and upper arm is good. She is well boned, and her feet are tidy. Her top line is correct. She is well ribbed. Under line is correct. She could be slightly shorter in loin. Her tail set is good. Rear angulation moderate, and she moves exceptionally well, coming, going, and in profile. Presented in really nice condition and a willing show girl. 2. KAY Bestfrenchie Becky. Another brindle and white. Typical in outline. Short, compact, well balanced all through. Head type is good. Ears correct for size and shape, although could be slightly higher set. Top line excellent. Gentle roach leading to a low tail set. Her rear angulation could use just a bit more bend of stifle. Hocks are short. Forelegs well boned. Pastern's okay. Chest well filled and deep. Static she presents a tidy outline. On the move, she was a little unsettled today.

OPEN BITCH. 1 and BEST OPP. SMITH CH. Rischale Henrietta at Ellouab. Beautifully mature bitch of outstanding breed type and quality. Head type is excellent. Eye and expression beautiful. Muzzle to skull ratio spot on. Layback correct. Top skull ideal. Domed in the forehead. Ears are beautiful for size and shape. Neck ideal for length and thickness. Front assembly, is very good. Width and depth to chest. Bone and substance commensurate for her size. Could be slightly more up on her pasterns. Behind the neck, her body is really well made. Excellent ribbing, short in the loin. Top line is ideal. Tail set correct. Under line correct. I would prefer slightly more bend of stifle. She has meaty thighs and good width of second thigh. Her hocks are short and strong. On the move, she is fluid and typical. Clean in front. Good in profile. I would like slightly stronger rear action. She is sound as a bell and in spanking condition, and she pushed hard in the challenge. I was happy to award her best bitch. An excellent example of breed type. 2. BRYANT CH. Archness The Dramallama JW. Many of the same remarks apply to this, and she too is exceptionally nice in head. Fantastic neck. Front assembly is good. She's well boned all through. Her body shape is typical. Rear angle okay. Top line correct with a low tail set. High-quality bitch with loads to like. Just preferred the compactness of loin of the winner. Two really very nice bitches.

SPECIAL OPEN PIED BITCH. 1. HENDRY Castleallen Rising Star IKC. Lovely feminine little bitch with a lot of quality. Very good in skull, very good in muzzle with correct lay back. Eye and expression is excellent. Ears ideal for size and shape and set well. Bone and substance to suit her size. Neat feet, good pasterns. Pigmentation good. Ribbing excellent. Short in the loin. Topline gently roached. Tail set low. Rear angulation matches her front. She moves soundly and well, covering the ground with ease. Good temperament. Well handled and presented in fab nick.

SPECIAL OPEN FAWN BITCH. 1. BRYANT Archness The Vivacious. Really tidy example with lots to like. Substantial throughout. Head is lovely. Eye and expression excellent. Muzzle has width and depth. Healthy nostrils. Ideal lay back. Forehead domed. Top skull good, although could be slightly drier. Ears are excellent for size and shape and when she was interested, they they are set correctly. Neck thick and good for length. Lay of shoulder very good. Good return of upper arm. Bone is excellent. Pasterns could be slightly stronger. Feet good. Ribbing good. Top line excellent. Loin nicely compact. Rear angulation spot on with good strong hocks. Tail set correct. Coat of correct texture. She moved well coming and going, and in profile. Shows well for handler and showed no sign of any kind of issue with the heat which by thos time was oppressive. Sound and typical. 2. JORDAN Rowan Paws Love Me Like You Do. Smaller bitch, packed with substance. Compact and balanced throughout. Front has real width and depth. Excellent bone. Quality head and among the best ears of the day. Eye and expression okay. Eyes could be slightly darker. Muzzle has enough width for balance. Her top line is correct and her tail set is good. She moved okay, just not as tidily as the winner of the class. Two nice bitches.

SPECIAL OPEN BRINDLE BITCH. 1. JONES Ravendane Olive Oil over Redolauz. Quite taken with this bitch. Beautifully compact in shape. Her outline is typical all through. Quality head. Ears good. Lay back spot on. Neck clean and correct for length and thickness. Front assembly is good. Tidy in pasterns and feet. She's nice and short in loin. Top line correct. Tail set good. Underline good. Would like slightly more turn of stifle in the rear. She moved cleanly and fluidly. Liked her a lot.

THORNTON Zimblistic Chelia. At the end of the day, still animated, still interested, still endearing. Very much a baby. Immature in head, but from what is there, it should come really nicely. Body is balanced, particularly good for lay of shoulder. Neck correct. Bone and substance very good. Rear angle matches her front. She moves fluidly and she's as sound as a bell. Presented in great condition, her brinde coat shone in the sun. Fab temperament.

Gerry McCallum