

**The Otterhound Club**  
**Open Show 7 April 2024**  
**Bitches**

Very many thanks to the Committee of this friendly club for inviting me to judge bitches at their open show, it was an honour and a privilege to get hands on these beautiful hounds. Many thanks also to my steward who coped admirably with the weather – we judged outside and the wind and rain made for an exciting day, and did unfortunately upset one or two of the younger dogs. The exhibitors were all very supportive of each other which made for a lovely day, thank you.

**Puppy (3,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> BPB & BPIS Tangye's Olphae Faithful Black & tan 6½ month old youngster giving her handler a really hard time today but absolutely enjoying her day out. Feminine girl with a lovely head and correct length to well set ears. Nice long neck into well laid shoulders and good return of upper arm. Good for bone and nicely webbed feet. Nice depth of chest for one so young but needing more width all through which I'm sure will come with time and maturity. Moderately angulated hindquarters. Would prefer a slightly lower tail carriage. Moved straight to and fro and very nicely in profile, showing freedom in her paces when she had a mind to!

2<sup>nd</sup> Fitzherbert Stewart's Olphae Fleur with Ottateck Another black & tan youngster built on longer lines than 1 and still very much a baby. Nicely proportioned head with good dark eyes and well set ears. She also had a good depth of chest for her age and is good for bone. Well sprung ribs carried well back into a short loin. Well set and carried tail. A lovely girl needing to fill out and muscle up all of which will come with time. She was a little weak in the hocks moving away and close back but looked very nice in profile.

3<sup>rd</sup> Porter's Ottaryx Wicket The most mature of the 3 puppies but wasn't happy today having apparently just come out of season, so I couldn't really get hands on her. I hope she settles and enjoys her showing again soon.

**Junior (1,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lewis & Wheatley's Olphae Ember Black and tan girl not entirely sure of herself today but a lovely girl with quality and type. Super, well proportioned head, with a good expression, correct length ears and correct bite. Long neck into well laid shoulders with good return of upper arm, setting her elbows well under and close to her ribcage. Excellent width to chest with good fill in and excellent bone. Well sprung ribs leading to moderately angulated hindquarters. Good tail set and carriage. Moved well away, very slightly elbows out coming but very nicely in profile.

**Post Graduate (1,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lewis' Olphae Darby Lovely, typey 3 year old girl with excellent shoulders and upper arm. Well boned straight front with good pasterns and large feet with good webbing. Well ribbed back under a level topline and short loin. Nice rough oily coat. Moderately angulated hindquarters. Moved ok to and fro. Best shambling walk of the day springing into lovely trot in profile showing free active paces when she was ready.

**Limit (2,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> BB & BIS Lewis' Olphae Orlaith (AI) Quality, feminine but strong, black and tan girl with super type. Clean, nicely domed head with wide nostrils. Dark eye with excellent pigment to

eye rims and lovely expression. Well set ears of good length with lovely fold rolling inwards. Correct bite. Long neck into super lay of shoulders and good return of upper arm, setting her elbows well under and close to her well sprung, deep ribs. Straight front with good bone and spring to her pasterns and large, webbed feet. Good depth of chest with excellent fill in and well ribbed back. Nice level topline with a broad back and short, strong loin. Scored in her rough, broken coat. Moderate hindquarters used well on the move. Moved straight out and back and in profile, sprung into a superb long-striding, active trot. Very pleased to award her Best Bitch, and BIS in agreement with my co-judge, when she out moved an outstanding Champion Dog in good form.

Open (4,2)

1<sup>st</sup> & RBB Scott & Lerego's Teckelgarth Zsa Zsa Mature, feminine and typey black & tan girl almost a veteran and still looking good. Nicely domed and proportioned head, well set eyes with good expression. Good length to ears. Well angulated front and very clean through the shoulders. Good depth to well sprung ribs and nice fill in. Large, webbed feet. Good coat. Converged out and back and moved ok in profile, would just like a little more freedom to her paces to complete the picture.

2<sup>nd</sup> Porter's Ottaryx Quinevere Feminine black & tan bitch 5½ yrs old built on shorter lines than 1. Would just prefer a little more strength to her. Clean head with distinct occiput and nice expression. Correct bite. Good length and set to her ears. Level topline leading to moderate hindquarters and tail reaching to her hocks. A little untidy on the move to and fro today but showed some nice paces in profile.

Best Bitch: Olphae Orlaith (AI)

Reserve Best Bitch: Teckelgarth Zsa Zsa

Best Puppy Bitch: Olphae Faithful

Best In Show: Olphae Orlaith (AI)

Reserve Best In Show: Ch Olphae Charman

Best Puppy In Show: Olphae Faithful