Midland and Northern Counties French Bulldog Club Open Show

Saturday 21st September 2024

Thank you to the committee and members for inviting me to judge this lovely Open show which turned out to be quite a bit warmer than we all expected.

I also thank all the fantastic exhibitors for such a great entry, I was very humbled.

The outside rings were superb with plenty of space to move, unfortunately it became very hot around midday and most of the dogs were suffering as I and others were.

To be totally honest it was hard to assess the dogs as the heat got stronger as they were panting quite heavily by this time, although all of them are to be commended for their tolerance of the heat, none were struggling to breathe and I for one was proud to see how much we are showing that not all French Bulldogs have breathing problems... if only we could convince some of the public and ironically with the RKC’s decision to return the vet check, that well-bred frenchies do exist. For the majority of the bitch judging, we retired to inside a fairly cool hall but I think the long day and heat had already taken its toll and again some of my decisions may have reflected that.

I did find quite a few frenchies with light eyes, this gives a harsh expression which I feel is alien to our breed.

Recently the updated version of the standard has been released with wording about the topline ‘Strong back with gentle rise over the loin, rounding off over the croup’. This is a frenchie characteristic and part of what sets them apart from most other breeds, but I saw some straight backs and tails that sat ‘on top’ at the finish line and the ‘rounding off’ should not come from the withers... But having said that overall, the quality of dogs I found was refreshing...and, on another day, perhaps on a slightly cooler one, places would have changed.

**Baby puppies**...how can you choose! Just a bucket full of cuteness. All that entered were in a different stage of development. It was so lovely to see such nice puppies coming through and my choice was purely on maturity on the day.

**BPD** 3 (2)

Wildman and Davis Wildax Tickety Boo. Very promising 5-month-old fawn chunk of a pup and typical of a pup of this age. He already has a strong masculine head, expressive dark eyes, well-padded muzzle, good fill under the eyes and well-placed ear set that he used well. Strong neck and correct shoulder placement. Very deep forechest and strong width to brisket. Nice tight feet. Good rise over loin and low tailset. Moderate angulations to rear. It was a little hard to assess his movement as he was a little reluctant to move and kept dropping to the ground, but when he did it was sound. I’m sure he will do well when he grows into his adult skin.

**BPB** 4(2)1st Stidwells Beaufrogz Thats My Girl 4 month old brindle sweetheart. Lovely shape for one so young. Her head is square with nose placed correctly. Good fill around appealing round dark eyes with wide jaw and sufficient upturn at this stage. Lovely square front and straight legs leading to lovely feet. Body cobby and well filled, good topline and rear substance. This young lady played about a bit on the move but I saw enough to place her first. I look forward to watching her progress.

2nd Wildman & Davis’s Wildax Rowendale Butterbean. And does this name suit her. 5-month-old feminine litter sister to my baby puppy winner and the same comments apply but at this stage is a little longer cast. Moved steadily and loosely as any pup of this age does..

3rd Huckers Bevanray Asparagus

**MPD** 3 (0)

1st Williams Jafrak Sugar Ray for Gwynsel. Well grown 6-month-old fawn pup of substance. Strong masculine head that is developing well. Good padded muzzle and sweep of lower jaw. Alert nicely set ears. Well-developed forechest and width of brisket, good cut up. Correct angles front and back and decent topline with a lovely obvious tail. Played up on the move but settled enough the second time for him to take this spot.

2nd Masse & Steneker’s Volkoff D’Iskandar 6 month old pied. Not so mature as one. Nice square head, good nose placement with wide nostrils between correct round eyes. Well-padded muzzle with a distinct stop and snout without being overdone. He has depth and width of brisket and well filled front. Good topline, cut up and front and rear angulation. This boy is a little tall in the leg at this stage but I preferred his rear movement to 3rd.

3rd Cole’s Myntie Pure Magic

**PD** 5 (0)

1st Bonsall’s Bestfrenchie Pirat at Muggshotts 9-month-old well grown pied. Correct head piece in that it is masculine, square with well-padded muzzle and moderate uplift of the lower wide jaw. Lovely round dark eye and well-set ears that are alert at all times. His has a typical cobby profile with width and depth of front and brisket. Solid straight front and well-placed shoulders. Sufficient thick set neck, strong topline with correct rise over loin and tailset. Moderate cut up. Correct rear angles. Moved well, although I would have liked to have seen tighter feet. BPD

2 nd Membury’s Membully Razzle Dazzle JW 11-month-old mature fawn with strong masculine head. Dark eye with good padding to wide muzzle. Correct shape and uplift of lower jaw. Correctly set alert ears. Straight front on substantial legs, nice width and depth of brisket and cut up. Good angulation front and rear. Moved well.

3rd Smiths Membully Razzmataz at Ellouab

**JD** 4 (2)

1st McGroartys’ Casblaks Maxi Jazz Ardub. 14-month-old brindle of substance. A lovely head and expression with round dark eyes. Well filled muzzle and nose placement and wide underjaw, has width to skull with neat correctly placed alert ears. Nice depth of forefront and spring of rib, front legs set wide apart and strong boned. Good arched neck.Correct topline, moderate rear angulation and well-muscled. This dog gave a pleasing outline and moved well when he had his nose off the ground!

2nd Ross & Marrs Franstelgo’s Low Rider. 15-month-old short coupled brindle. Another nice masculine dog. Pleasing head piece, broad lower jaw, well-padded muzzle, moderate stop and wrinkling. Well placed ears. Strong neck and good topline ending with a lovely tail. Correct shoulder placement and moderate rear angles. Just lost out on movement today.

**YD** 5 (0)

1st Roach’s Roalice Major Mouse. Another top draw brindle dog. He has a lovely square head, wide well-defined muzzle and lower jaw, good fill under dark round eyes, good nostrils in a well-placed nose. Skull flat with a domed forehead and correctly placed ears. Sound square front and depth of forechest with spring of rib and nice shoulder placement. Arched strong neck leading to correct topline, tailset and moderately rear angles with good muscle. Moved true fore and aft and in profile. Very close call for a top spot.

2nd Morisons Xandene Knew You Were Magic. Fawn dog with Balanced square masculine head with correct padded muzzle moderate upturn and width of underjaw, nice stop to well-placed nose and good fill under nicely rounded eyes. Good ear carriage and shape. Strong neck into topline with an evident tail placed correctly. Deep chest and spring of rib and strong loin. I liked this boys free and flowing movement but preferred the front assembly of 1st.

3rd Suhareve & Cruttenden Bankholt Indian Summer At Avermayz.

**PGD** 2 (0)

Smiths Membully Razzmataz at Ellouab 11-month brindle dog. Another young dog with a masculine square head. Dark eyes, good muzzle padding, sufficient upturn of wide lower jaw. Straight front with strong pasterns, good depth of chest and nice spring of rib leading to a correct topline. Nice shoulder placement and moderate rear angulation. Moved well.

2nd Vearncombe & Hales’ Ruption Knightcott Back to Black. Larger brindle with pleasing head, nice dark eyes, open nostrils, well-padded muzzle and nose placement. Sufficient upturn and width of lower jaw. Nicely set ears. Front forechest has moderate depth and width to brisket. Nice angulated rear quarters. Moved very well. Preferred topline of first.

**MLD** 3 (0)

1st Membury’s Bullhawk Gift of God at Membully Fawn Dog of substance. Another dog with a good square head, stop and well-padded muzzle, round eyes that I would have liked to have seen darker, and nicely placed ears. Well boned with a straight front. He has an arched neck and good depth and width of brisket. Nice front and rear angles and topline ok with an evident tail and cut up. Moved with ease.

2nd Kellys Casemates Criterion Brindle shown in good condition... Good masculine head with, nicely placed nose piece, round dark eyes, good upturn and wide bottom jaw. His ear placement is used to advantage. He has a straight front and strong pasterns with good feet. Moved ok when he behaved himself! Just preferred the slightly more substance of one.

3rd Hunts Xandene Its a Kinda Magic at Balistix.

**LD**  3 (0)

1st Brooks Serenant Maverick. A substantial brindle in superb condition. His has a balanced square head, with a well-padded muzzle, broad lower jaw, nicely placed nose and round dark eyes with well-placed ears that he used continually. He has a strong arched neck leading to topline with a gentle rise of loin. Good square front with strong pasterns, tight feet and substantial depth and width to brisket. Front and rear angles are correct. He has a free-flowing movement. He was in a very close contest for top honours but to nitpick I preferred the shorter loin of my winners.

2nd Forsythes Chivasregal Innes of Islay Ardhub. Another boy with substance but in a fawn coat. Again, square head, well-padded muzzle, good lower jaw, well placed ears. I would have preferred a darker eye though. He has a nice square front, depth and width of forechest and brisket. Correct topline with a good length of tail. Front and rear angles correct. Moved well.

3rd Huckers Bevanray Terrypendry JW

This next class was full of quality dogs and I had my work cut out when placing.

**OD.** 6 (2)

1st Bonsall & Odendaal Ch Muggshotts Whiz Bang Wilber. A dog that I have admired since a puppy. He is shown in superb condition and his very dark brindle coat shines. He is cobby and sound and produces a pleasing balanced outline. He has a beautiful square head, with expressive dark eyes, well placed nose on sufficient stop, well-padded cheeks, and has good fill under the eye with not too much wrinkling around his domed forehead, as well as a gentle uplift of a wide bottom jaw. He has a super front, square with well filled brisket and depth of fore chest, good shoulder angulation, sufficient tuck up and tight feet. He has a strong neck leading to a correct topline, well-muscled rear quarters in both first and second thigh and correct moderate rear angles. His movement for me was a joy, sound and full of purpose, which I have witnessed many times watching him from around the ringside, and although I would have liked to have seen him use his ears more, I could not deny him Best Dog and BIS.

2nd. Bryants Ch Archness the Audacity JW. Compact cobby brindle who always gives it his all for his owner. Beautifully expressive balanced square head piece, with round dark eyes, correct nose placement and sufficient stop, well-padded muzzle with good upsweep, good ear placement that he used to advantage. He has lovely depth of forechest and brisket leading to correct shoulder placement and straight front. His neck is strong to a good topline with the correct rise over the loin leading to low tail set. I would have liked to have seen more angulation to his rear but preferred his cobbyness to 3rd. Moved well.

3rd Pearce’s Ch Bullhawk Cease’N Desist

**VD** 3 (2)

1st Timms Ch Eastonite Maui JW ShCM OSW 7-year-old fawn. You can see why this boy takes the eye as he free flows around the ring with enthusiasm, and shows well. Although he is a little tall in leg for me, he has substance with a square front, width of rib and an ok topline with an evident tail and tight feet. He has a good square head, nice muzzle, well placed nose and eyes and nicely set ears that he uses to advantage.

**SpOD Pied**  0

**SPOD Brindle** 1(0)

1st Morisons Rozeldogue Knew It Was You Xandene. Sound compact dog with a good head, square, nice lip placement and upsweep of lower jaw, well filled muzzle and nose placed right and with open nostrils, Good dark round eyes. Not too much wrinkling to forehead and well-placed ears that he used well. Good arched neck to ok topline and an evident tail, well cut up at loin. Square front with sufficient depth of forechest and spring of rib, although I would like to see a little more substance. Correct shoulder placement and moderate rear angulation with good musculature. Moved well.

**SpOD Fawn** 2 (0)

1st Petralias’ LUX Ch/Bel Ch/NLD Ch Rozeldogue God of Thunder BEL/RSM/INT JCH This fawn dog was Reserve in Open dog class and unfortunately although he wasn't struggling to breathe it was evident the heat was taking its toll. But in a class of quality dogs, he held his own and could quite easily have taken top spot. He suits his kennel name and spookily I thought at the time he was a typical Thor. His musculature all round was all male from his shoulders, to his firm square front to his rear quarters. He has a very masculine head, square, wide well-padded muzzle, broad lower jaw and good bite, a nose placed correctly and well-placed ears that he also used well. Strong neck to a good topline with good tail. He has depth of chest and spring of rib, with good tuckup and tight feet. He moved ok despite the heat, but he had a very light eyes which for me spoiled his otherwise super head.

2nd Morisons Xandene All Thats Magic. Another that was feeling the heat today. Another nice masculine head, good mouth and lip placement. Nose well placed. Eyes of correct shape and good earset between flat skull. He has depth of forechest and good spring of rib, with ok topline and a good tail, he has moderate rear angles and although he is just a tad longer in loin it helps him with his free movement. Preferred the front assembly o

**MPB** 4 (2)

1st Smith & Watts Rischale Esmeralda just under 9 months lovely compact brindle pup. Good feminine head as one would expect at this age, and lovely soft expression, strong underjaw and muzzle with nice upturn of lower jaw. Darkish round eyes set correctly. Well placed alert ears. She has a square front and tight feet with depth and width of rib, ok topline and tailset. Good front and rear angles and moved freely as only pups of this age do.

2nd Rankins Wildax Pocket Rocket NAF TAF just 6 months brindle pup that is slighter in build than 1 and is a bit leggy at present but she has time on her side. Her head is in the developing stage at the moment but overall, it is on the right track. She has lovely dark eyes and her ears were alert at all times and she has the sweetest of expressions. She has good layback and upturn with good nostrils to nose but again it all needs to mature. Neck of medium length to a good topline and tail set. Straight front with ok feet. Correct front and rear angles. Moved well.

**PB** 5 (1)

1st Coles Membully Bedazzled with Myntie. And almost 12-month-old fawn girlie with the sweetest of expression. Nice Square feminine head, with good muzzle width and upturn. Dark round eyes, domed forehead with gentle wrinkling when alert, she used her well-placed ears beautifully. Well filled front on sturdy leg and pasterns and tight feet. Good depth and width of brisket. Moderate arched neck leading to good topline and tailset. Correct shoulder placement and ok rear angulation and nice cut up. Her movement is strong and free and for this I gave her BPIS.

2nd Hanslows Jiankang Aphrodite. 9 ½ month old brindle bitch. Another lovely pup with a good square head. Sufficient wide to muzzle, good upturn and wide lower jaw. Round dark eye and correct nose placement. Ears set at the right angle and she has gentle wrinkling when alert. Nice straight front and moderate rear angulation. Ok topline with evident tail. Just preferred movement of 1.

3rd Hendrys Castleallen Rising Star

**JB** 2 (0)

1st Roachs Roalice Mega Mouse. Another lovely quality compact brindle girl of 17 months. Very feminine square head with a super dark round eyes and gentle expression. Well domed forehead with gentle wrinkling and with her correctly placed ears made a picture. Correct arched neck leading to correct shoulder placement, straight front, tight feet. She has depth of forechest and lovely spring of rib. Her topline is ok and she has a correctly placed tail. She moved well.

2nd Taylors Chareve’s West End Girl. 12-month brindle. A little rangier than my winner. But she has round dark eyes, good upturn of lower jaw, well-padded muzzle, and correct ear set. Arched neck leading to straight front with correct shoulder angulation and tight feet. Ok topline with a good tail. Moderate angle to rear. Moved well.

**YB** 4 (1)

1st Roach’s Roalice Maxi Mouse. Smaller compact bitch of 17 months. Another quality brindle girl who made my final decision harder. She was definitely considered for one of the top places. She has a super feminine balanced head with a sweet expression, dark round eyes, padded muzzle with firm upturn to lower jaw. Correctly placed nose with rise to domed forehead and well-placed ears. She has the correct topline with gentle rise over loin to tailset, depth of forechest, good spring of rib to short loin and cut up. Her front and rear angulation is correct. She moved the best in this class.

2nd Kays Bestfrenchie Becky Another nice brindle girl 23 months. A little leggier than 1, but she has a nice square head, padded muzzle, well placed nose, dark eye, and well set ears that she used well. Good square front depth of forechest and spring of rib. Nice arched neck leading to good topline. Evident tail. Good front and rear angles and cutup. Just needs to tighten up her rear movement.

3rd Carrans Silver Shadow

**PGB** 5 (2)

1st Roach’s Roalice Maxi Mouse as before in Yearling.

2nd Membury’s Membully Maybe My Time Brindle bitch A nice feminine head, with good nose placement, well-padded muzzle but a little narrower than first, dark eyes with good expression and good ear carriage, well arched neck leading to correct topline. Nice depth and width of brisket. Good angles front and rear. Moved ok.

3rd Vearncombe Ruption Knightcott Back to Black.

**MLB** 3 (1)

1st Hickins Boule and Onuba Dreamgirl (Imp Esp) Another nice bitch when viewed in profile and doesn’t disappoint. Nice balanced head, dark eyes, well-padded muzzle, good upsweep of lower jaw, good rise to forehead and well-placed ears. She has a good arched neck to a decent topline and tailset, well filled straight front and spring of rib. Her shoulders have correct angulation and her rear is moderately angled. She moved well. She held her own in the... which in my opinion, was a strong line-up .

2nd Eskretts Katakia’s Light the Way. A larger brindle bitch with a good feminine square head, lovely dark round eyes, correct well-padded muzzle and upsweep of wide lower jaw. She uses her correctly placed ears well. Nice arched neck leading to correct shoulder angulation. Good depth and width of rib. Good cut up. Ok topline. I would have liked to have seen tighter pasterns, but moved ok.

**LB** 10 (2)

1st Cheesman’s Theapaul Lady Magic. A sweet very feminine fawn bitch of quality. Although on the smaller side she typifies breed type and is well balanced for her size, she has the sweetest square head of pure femininity, round dark eyes, good layback with the required upturn of chin and wide bottom jaw. Super domed head with fine wrinkling and well-padded muzzle. Nice arched neck leading to good shoulder placement. Well filled forechest and width of brisket, short loin and a lovely topline, with gentle rise over the loin and low tailset. Moderate angle and muscle to the rear. She moved steady and true. It was a very close decision between my best bitch and this girl but I just preferred my winner's rear action today. Nevertheless, a very worthy RBB.

2nd Bryants Archness the Dramallama JW. A lovely cobby brindle bitch of substance. Stronger in head than first but still feminine. Good square head with a lovely expression, domed forehead with fine wrinkling and ears that were set correctly and she used at all times. Strong well-padded muzzle with sufficient upturn and strong jaw. Round dark eyes. Nice straight front with plenty of depth and width to forequarters. Arched neck to correct topline leading to adequate rear angles. Moved well. Close decision again for 1st place.

3rd Brook’s Serenant Iron Butterfly

**OB.** 7 (4)1st Membury & Pearces’s Ch Bullhawk Egg’s Citing At Membully.This bitch for me was the best mover of this class. She is slightly longer in loin which affords her the effortless movement she produces. True coming and going and in profile, keeping her topline together. She has the required square feminine head, and she gave me a quizzical eye and dared me to ignore her. She has a gentle sweep of a wide jaw, good wrinkling, defined stop with well-placed nose and good padding to muzzle. She used her well placed ears to advantage. She has correct shoulder angles, deep fore chest and width of rib, absolutely the correct topline and good cut up. She has moderate angulation to rear and muscled quarters. She was up against some lovely bitches today but due to her movement I could not deny her Best Bitch, BOS and RBIS.

2nd Ayriss’s Lady Rebellion at Boulevaya. This brindle girl is always shown in tip top condition and as usual her coat shone. Overall, this is a balanced bitch who has steady movement. Her head is correct with many of the attributes of the breed standard, well placed and correct ear placement that she used at all times. Dark eye, good padding to muzzle. Not too much wrinkling when alert. Well arched clean neck to correct front angles, deep forechest and width of brisket. Good rear angles. I just preferred the topline of my winner.

3rd. Plominska & Kil Bestfrenchie Aniela

**VB** 5 (1)

1st Roach’s Ch Roalice ini Mouse ShCM. What a cracking fawn girl this one is, who took far too long to become a champion, a girl I have admired since she was a youngster. 10 ½ years young and still shows the youngsters how to do it. She has a loveliest of heads strong but feminine, square with broad well-padded muzzle, correct nose set, round dark eyes, wide lower jaw with just the right amount of turn-up, topped with well-placed ears that are constantly in use. She is small and compact with a cobby body, well-filled forechest, straight front, her pasterns are still strong and lead to tight feet. Correct shoulder and rear angulation, Good depth and width of brisket topped by the correct topline. But I can’t help smile when she moves, she still has it and knows it. Free and flowing. BVIS and could still take the top spot!

2nd Cheesemans Theapaul Indian Summer. Another smart compact 7 year old brindle. Lovely square head with good padded muzzle, good upturn of lower jaw, dark round expressive eyes, good nose placement, broad skull with correct ear placement. Finer than my winner but nevertheless still has the depth and width of forechest and brisket, straight front and good pasterns and tight feet. Good topline and true shoulder and rear angulation placement. Moved well but the older lady just topped her.

3rd Plominska & Kil Lulu Lucynka Z Lipkowego Rancza (Imp Pol)

**SpOB Pied**. 2 (1)

1st Hendrys’ Castleallen Rising Star (IKC) Nice little 9 month girlie. She has a good profile, short but not too short cobby body. She has a square well filled front and nice spring of rib, moderately arched neck and lovely topline, rising over the loin to good tailset. Good angles front and rear. She has a strong but feminine head, well-padded muzzle that could be a little wider, good upsweep of lower jaw, round eyes and well-placed ears. I am sure she will tighten up on the move as she matures.

SpOB Brindle. 2 (1)

1st Roach’s Roalice Mega Mouse. As Before in Junior

**SpOB Fawn** 2 (0)

1st Bryants Archness the Vivacious. Another lovely cobby girl. She has a feminine square head, dark well placed round eyes and good padding to muzzle, gentle upturn to a broad lower jaw and well-placed ears that she uses well. She is deep in forechest and has ample spring of rib, square straight front with correct shoulder placement. Good neck leading to the correct topline with rise over loin and low tailset to moderate rear angles. She moved well. I do feel that maybe she is a tad overzealous in her eating habits..

2nd Currans’ Silver Shadow. Pretty girl that was more rangy than 1st Ok head with nice round eyes and expression. Well placed nose on good padded muzzle and upturn of lower jaw. Used her ears correctly. Moderate arched neck to correct shoulder placement, straight front and tight feet. Moved well.

Jean Pratt (Judge)