***For the attention of the Show Reports team***

**THE MIDLAND & WEST of ENGLAND GREAT DANE CLUB**

**OPEN SHOW, Sundy 5th FEBRUARY**

**BIS show report: Geoff Duffield**

My very grateful thanks to the committee of the Midland & West of England Great Dane Club for the invitation to judge BIS at their extremely well run show where the entry of 91 were scheduled in their respective colour classes. David Simpson judged the fawns and brindles while Mick Gordon ran the rule over the blues, blacks, harlequins and mantles. They are to be congratulated on the wonderful exhibits they sent through. Considering the committee was short on numbers, they put on a wonderful show with particular thanks to show manager Mandy Bithell for her superb, unflustered control of event plus the way she looked after me. The bacon butty was superb! The lovely Lissa Wood was my steward and couldn’t have worked harder. Thank you.

I had a few varieties to judge before the main event of the day, starting with **Special Veteran Dog** (3) 1 Seddon’s Ch Tenaya Comanche War Lord, magnificent fawn of six and a bit years of obvious quality, mirrored by his excellent movement. All male, super outline, exceptionally good overall conformation. Particularly liked his head, balanced, good ears, lovely dark eye, intelligent alert expression, very good neck, well arched, excellent forelegs and feet, good depth of chest, good loin, very good rear, turn of stifle, excellent thigh muscles, very sound boy with attitude, excellent temperament. BVIS; 2 Black’s Bandwar Happy As Larry JW ShCM, impressive homebred harlequin of good make and shape, very pleasing head, good dark eye and expression, in hardy condition, good front and forelegs, good rear, well muscled thigh, very good mover, sound, lovely temperament; 3 Robinson’s Preveli Manos, fawn. **Special Veteran Bitch** (2, 1a) 1 Burton’s Dornoir Wyrd at Elbarevol, harlequin of six years, very feminine, sets herself up well, pleasing personality, clean head, sweet eye and expression, good ears and skull, strong muzzle, good depth of chest, good topline, moved well. **Special Brace** (2) 1Robinson’s nice matching pair of fawns, moved out well together. Both sound, good temperaments. Best Brace. 2 Burton’s harlequins. Both sound, good temperaments.

**BIS.** Now to the business end of affairs with 13 Danes, best dog and bitch from each colour, plus the Best Veteran, all lined up to present a lovely spectacle. After moving them over the extended length after the rings had been opened up, they all, especially the older ones, looked confident, happy and free moving as they could now open up and get into their stride. Being well aware that people within the breed think that all rounders can only see as far as the fawns, I gave special care to all colours. I am not colour conscious as in my breeds, collies and shelties, I have all three colours, one being merles, so I had no difficulty in assessing the harlequins. But it has to be said, the fawns, on the day were exceptionally good. And my principal winners were fawn brother and sister. I was well happy to award BIS to Chapell’s Selmalda The Journey JW, homebred from champion parents, himself on two CCs so not belong before he joins the upper house. Not only a good sound masculine dog but full of attitude and ring presence. Didn’t need a lot of handling, stands naturally with dignity, setting himself up with well arched neck carrying his head so proudly. Head so clean and balanced, excellent skull, ears, muzzle and underjaw, lovely forechest, good depth of brisket, perfectly straight forelegs, strong pastern, excellent feet, very good topline and strong in loin, good tailset, very good turn of stifle, strong well muscled thighs, good hocks, best mover by far. Stunning creature. BIS; RBIS was awarded to Dyson’s Ch Selmalda Journey To Melody at Samdice, litter sister and again top quality. Like her sibling, sets herself up quite naturally with that same dignified head on well arched neck. Beautifully balanced head, lovely ears, good dark eye emitting totally feminine yet intelligent expression. Same remarks apply to her very correct conformation, pleasure to watch on the move. RBIS & BOS. The challenge for BPIS was interesting, five on parade of which three had been given BOS in their respective colours. One of these, Scott’s Daneworth Legacy, had gone best dog in mantles, I thought he stood out. Homebred out of the famed Ch Cismeralda von Tir Na Nogh at Daneworth WW15, was following in the footsteps of his mother who I am told gained BIS at this same show four years ago. This ten-month pup is such an impressive boy. All dogs have faults but this boy has less that most and will surely develop into an outstanding adult. Such lovely shape, terrific bone and substance, impressive quality head on well arched neck into good shoulder, good chest and depth of brisket, terrific forelegs, good topline, strong in loin, good turn of stifle, excellent thigh muscles for age, strong straight hocks, moves with such freedom and animation. His strongpoint for appeal, however, is his lovely head, beautiful eye, masculine but intelligent expression, ever alert, full of ring presence, lovely temperament, so very sound. For the award of BPIS I found Tempest’s homebred harlequin, Adoreadane Just The Ticket, BB in breed, very attractive and outgoing. Very well handled to get the best out of her, appreciated the extra length of ring to gait on a loose lead and cover the ground such good drive. Very much lives up to her name, such lovely head for her ten months, balance, clean, good skull, ears, muzzle, beautiful eye and feminine expression, another who sets herself up well, lovely temperament, very sound. BVIS was Seddon’s Ch Yenaya Comanche War Lord. **Geoff Duffield.**