

**BORDER COLLIE CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
**OPEN SHOW 12 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**SPECIAL AWARDS CLASSES**

I'd like to thank the Border Collie Club of Great Britain for inviting me to judge the Special Awards Classes at their November Breed Open Show. As a judge in training, it is a perfect opportunity to put hands on a good number of dogs and to practice and enhance judging skills. I am most grateful to Pete Simmons, my very able steward and mentor who was so supportive, giving valuable and much appreciated advice on judging technique.

Last but not least, my thanks go to all who entered under me, as these classes are purely for 'fun' with no real benefit to the exhibitors - so thank you very much, I really appreciate it.

**Special Award Junior Dog/Bitch (5,2)**

This was a class of puppies with 1st and 2nd from the same litter, sired by 2nd in Open.

1st Oliver's **Tambuzi The Heat Is On** 9 mths b/w bitch. Dark girl with a feminine head. Scissor bite, good pigmentation, oval eyes and semi-erect ears. Good length of neck leading onto well laid back shoulders. Legs parallel from the front and rear. Sloping croup, tail carried low on the move. She moved out well with good reach and drive keeping a level topline.

2nd Woodrow & Oliver's **Tambuzi Ride The Storm** 9 mths b/w dog masculine pup with correct scissor bite, lovely oval eyes. Good width of chest, parallel front, sloping pasterns. Low onset of tail, carried well on the move. Not quite the reach and drive of 1.

3rd Lee & Ratcliffe's **Arrodare Wild Card** 7 mths blue/white bitch made a good picture on the stand with excellent height to length ratio. Feminine head with soft expression. Good dense coat, good neck, I would have preferred more angulation in the shoulder as movement was not as free-flowing as I would like.

**Special Award Post Graduate Dog/Bitch (8,0)**

1st Fawcett's **Laceway Deja Vu** 2 yr 10 mths blue merle bitch. This girl made her handler work very hard but credit where it's due, she out-moved the opposition displaying excellent reach and drive, with head held low whilst on the move. Perfect scissor bite, eye colour complimenting coat colouring, ears semi-erect with good arched neck and well laid back shoulders. Front and rear aspects showed parallel legs, athletic build, she was full of character that I like to see in a border collie.

2nd Knight's **Wizalnd Put A Sock In It** 2 yr 1 mth b/w dog with good head proportions and a distinct stop but did not show me his ears today! Good pigmentation, strong neck and well sprung ribcage. Gorgeous double coat, good height to length ratio. Sloping croup and well set tail carried low on the move. Lovely free standing presentation by his handler.

3rd Jone's **Starside Unsurpassable at Sianworth** 3 yr 9 mths sable dog who initially would not settle to be gone over, being distracted by a dog and handler it knew in the ring, but on a second attempt stood beautifully to be gone over. Attractive colouring in coat with matching eye colour and pigmentation. Finer in bone than 1 and 2, but sound in movement coming and going with lovely low head on side gait. Long well furnished tail with attractive upward swirl at the end, carried low on the move.

**Special Award Open Dog/Bitch (10,3)**

I was spoilt for choice in this class with a difficult decision between 1st and 2nd. It came down to splitting hairs. Both boys in tip top condition, both moving out with excellent reach and drive, both with masculine features, neither overdone.

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1st Fawcett's **Laceway Don't Stop Me Now** 2 yr 10 mth b/w dog, Interesting to note that this boy is the litter mate to winner of Post Grad. Such a balanced dog, of ideal size and substance. He has a strong masculine head, with semi erect ears and dark oval eyes. Well arched muscular neck, well sprung ribs and laid back shoulders. Level topline to sloping croup with tail carried low on the move. Parallel legs fore and aft, well let down hocks and good turn of stifle, displays an impressive outline on the stand, combined with typical breed movement, low head with good reach and drive, his movement was effortless. Very attentive to his handler who got the best out of him. His keenness and alertness won him the class.

2nd Oliver's **Simmovon Shockwave at Tambuzi JW** 2 yr 5 mth b/w dog, a really close call for first place, and I was later to learn that he went Best Dog in the Open show. A darker dog than 1 presenting an impressive picture on the stand. Balanced head with skull and foreface of equal proportions, distinct stop. Sensitive semi-erect ears, good shaped dark oval eyes, lovely matching dark pigmentation. Strong neck and parallel front legs complimented by well turned stifles and well let down hocks. Effortless movement away and back, free flowing side gait. On another day he could easily have been my winner.

3rd Lee & Ratcliffe's **Arrodare Rebel With A Cause JW** 3 yr old b/w bitch so unlucky to meet two very impressive boys in the same class as she is a quality bitch with feminine head, sensitive ears, presented in full coat. Strong pasterns and oval feet, firm topline held on the move, covering the ground with graceful free-flowing movement.

**Judge VALERIE HAWKER** (Taytinja)