This was an interesting day judging one half of the breed for the first time in several years. With relatively low numbers it does not seem right to make sweeping comments on how the breed is right now, suffice to say, I didn’t think that overall the heads were great, movement is roughly OK and condition and presentation leave a bit to be desired. There is no excuse for a dog with long nails and it terms of presentation, don’t be surprised when the dog moves when you don’t have it standing in a straight line. Come and ask by all means, but when you practise, have someone take pics of you and the dog from behind and above and you will see what I mean. My thanks go to the club, you have very obviously got a major job on your hands, and to the exhibitors without who there would be no show. Another judge can be easily found, exhibitors are harder to come by.

VD (8,7)1. Joyce’s JOLLYJONS LAST ONE STANDING. This is a big chap, who at 12 years old looks like he had the makings back in the day. His head is still well in evidence and whilst the rest of him shows the ravages of time (we consoled each other) he is a smart chap and it was my honour to run my hands over him. For BV he ran up against Ciara and gave best to a breed legend.

MPD (5,1)1. Laup’s WAYWARDSTAFF OBSESSION DARK THOUGHT. This is a smart puppy who I liked a lot. He has a lovely clean head with a dark eye, neat ears and a good mouth. He has a straight front with good bone and neat feet, a compact body and good hindquarters. His topline is good and he was presented well and in good condition. He moved along nicely and I am sure he has a bright future.2. Parroneau’s WAYWARDSTAFF ORIGINAL DARK SPELL. It occurred to me at the time this might be brother too the winner and it is. He is very similar to the winner, who beats this chap at the moment on having a broader front, but the winner does not move quite as well behind as this one. Most of the same things apply, I would prefer a smidge more bone, but not a lot between them and I shall watch them with interest.3. Prioville’s DIAMOND CHASE JET SET. This is a strong headed chap. I would prefer a smidge more length of muzzle. He is a very compact, with a short back and close coupling. He has a decent waist on him, he moved OK and like 1 and 2 he has excellent pigment.4. Johnson’s ELLCHANSHA HOTSHOT.

PD (6,1)1. Hirst & Bibby’s TARAIEL SOULJA BOY, this is a really nice dog. He has a lovely head, with a dark eye and neat ears, he is very well put together with a lovely topline and he moves well. He has good bone and good feet, a touch of class and has every chance of following the kennel trail to the top. Very smart dog.2. Rhodes and Pritchard’s TARAIEL REAPER AT TERACOTA. Similar but slightly bigger version of his litter brother who was first. He also has a good clean head, his brother has a slightly better front in my view, but this one has all the similar virtues. His condition is excellent and he moves well. Not a lot between them and will be an interesting watch going forward.3. WAYWARDSTAFF OBSESSION DARK THOUGHT. Showing his age in this class, but he will give these and others a hard time in due course.4. Murray’s CINFEL MELODIES TAILOR.

JD (8)1. Desmond’s CH ELITEBULLS CHALLENGER. High class dog who won this class with plenty to spare. He is big enough but is a really good dog. He has a clean head with enough muzzle strength, width and depth, clean lip, dark eye, neat ears, and a good expression. He has a strong neck, a straight front and when allowed to stand himself, feet and pasterns that are correct and go in the right place. He has good bone. His topline is good, he has rib and a waist. His hindquarters are good with enough bend of stifle and let down and he moves well. He can’t compete with the CC winner for type as a virtue in my view, but he is a high class dog who is a well worthy champion and one I would have been proud to have bred. Congratulations. RCC.2. Wilson’s NORTHSTAFF NOTORIUS. This is another smart dog but one who has it all on trying to cope with the winner. He has a decent head, but not so clean as the first, he has a well boned front and neat feet, his body is good and compact and his backend is good. He moves well and is a dog who will always be there or thereabouts. Competing against such as the winner is a hard row to hoe, but some fine tuning on the condition and presentation may get you there. Good dog.3. Rydlova’s Albert II Eilatan. This is a smart dog who is nothing like as matured as the first two. He has a good head but a cleaner lip would help. He has a dark eye and near ears. His front is OK and his body is good. His back end is good. Ok for condition and moves better behind than in front.4. Laup’s NA LA RACE DANN KER SALOAZY.

YD (4)1. Boyle’s KARGONSTAFFS KATANA, this is smart big chap. He is well up to size but he could pad about in my house. He has a very nice head, an excellent neck, a good front and bone with good feet, he has a well proportioned body, good hindquarters and he moves well enough. He is in good condition, this is an object example in making the most of what you have. 2. Lahadova’s JOY MAB CYNTAF FRANSIMO BOHEMIA, this is a nice all round dog who was the best mover behind in this class. He has a decent head that a stronger muzzle and neater ears would improve, but he has a dark eye and his expression is fine. He has a good front, a body of correct proportions and his condition is OK. Working on his feet would be a very good idea.3. Parroneau’s LETS GET READY TO RUMBLE BERSERKER, I liked this somewhat unruly chap. He has a good head and expression, but would prefer it a little cleaner. He has a good front and bone and his feet are OK. His body is good and he has a decent backend. If he gets his act together he can do rather better than he did today.4. Boekman-Van Maele’s FRISIAN STAFFS INFERNO.ND (1)1. Third in junior. Stood out in this class.

GD (2)1. Pocknell’s ASHSTOCK HIGHLAND WARRIOR AT BLUNOOSA, here was a trip down memory lane for me, a lot of years ago this chap could have been a Barbarossa puppy, he has his stamp all over him. Happy days. The dog has a decent head, more underjaw would be a plus, he has a good expression with decent ears. His front is good as are his feet, he is well boned. He has a good neck, a well proportioned body and a decent backend, he moves well enough and just about copes with his handler. Given a chance, I think the dog will get the handler up to speed.2. Corti’s BIGGLEWICH BILLY NO MATES, this dog is a beautiful colour, he is OK in the head with excellent pigment and a dark eye, he is well off for bone, but could use neater feet. He is ok in the body and in decent nick, he is a nice dog.

PG (10,1)1. Preston’s TILLCARR FIRE STARTER, this is a good all round dog, he isn’t starting any fires just yet, but it could not be ruled out as he progresses. He has all the essentials and with maturity who knows. He has a good head with dark eyes and neat ears, he has a chin, a good neck and is well put together. He needs a bit more rib but this could come. He still hints at youth, some time and hardening off may make enough of a change to have him competing at the very sharp end. His topline and movement are fine and he has plenty of potential. Good luck, he is a smart dog.2. Shipp & Hammond’s HAMMYSTAFF HANKY PANKY WITH IDYLLICSTAFF JW, this is a rather different chap, he is well forward, he is in very good condition and puts his best foot forward. He has a decent head, excellent pigment and his front is OK. He has a strong neck, a good body and a decent backend. He moves well enough and on a good day could not be ruled out of the very highest spots.3. Laup’s NA LA RACE DANN KER SALAOZY. This is a strongly built dog all round, he was 4th in an earlier class. He has plenty of everything, but I really liked his face. He has good bone, good body, moved OK. He is a well respectable dog.4. Le Roujic’s L’BOY WARRIORS RED SKINS.

ML (2)1. Axe’s HARLEYS CHOICE, this is a compact dog, he has a pretty good head, dark eyes and neat ears, I would prefer a cleaner lip. He has a good front and feet, a well muscled neck, short back, he is close coupled and has decent hindquarters. He moves OK and is a well respectable dog.2. Prioville’s TEMPTATIONSTAFF BUBBATRONIC, this is a very different kettle of fish. I preferred his head as it is a smidge cleaner, but one beats him from the neck backwards by being shorter and more compact. This guy moves well, but I preferred the movement on 1.

LD (7,2)1. Murray & Fawkes ANTRELLEDA SQUADRON LEADER, this is a stripey typy and it is the great virtue of type that carried him home, he really has type as a virtue, I think from the day the standard was written right up to today any breed lover can look at this chap and know he is a Stafford. Sensational colour, good attitude, gun barrel front, terrific bone, strong, very clean head, compact body. I would prefer a bit more bend of stifle, but hey ho, whats perfect. He has good feet, he is in good condition, and for me he is a proper, proper Stafford. I sorely wish there were more like him. CC and BOS.2. Lee’s MOLRU THROWING SHAPES, this is a dog I have always liked, some get a bit agitated about his tail carriage, but I take the view if that’s the best you can manage he is a hell of a dog, and he pretty much is. A much more modern style of dog who has a lovely head, a good front, a good body and a good backend, he moves well enough, but couldn’t compete with the type of the winner. For me this chap could be another Molru Ch. He is not far away from the top.3. Rees’ EDGEWORTH ARTURO, this dog has a good head which is clean and with dark eyes and neat ears, his front is good and he has a good body. His hindquarters are also good, his condition is up to the mark. For me he needs half an inch to balance. I might try free standing him and getting him right up on his toes.4. Hzibolka’s BLAZEN STAFFS ENCHANTED SNOWFLAKE.

OD (9)1. Laup’s PL CH JOLI KAF DU DOMAINE D’ISHTAR. I liked this chap a lot. He has a lovely head on him along with a very good expression, he has a well boned front with good feet but needs more width. He has a good body and hindquarters and moved well. I think he could do with a smidge more weight on him, but he had come a very long way!2. McClelland’s CH ROCHLAWIE BEHOLD THE HOUR, this is a dog I like a lot, BUT, he was off the pace today, not in as good a nick as I have seen him before and not giving of his best. He has a good clean head, he is very sound and he moves well, BUT, nobody is giving it away at this level and he needs to be on top form as does everybody else when it comes to the tickly bit. He is a smart dog.3. Lahadova’s DANNY G FRANSIMO BOHEMIA, this dog is very close to being a real good one. He has a very good head that is very clean, he has just about enough bone, but not very good feet, he has a good body and very good hindquarters. He was the best mover behind all day long. This dog has got better and better with age.4. Marshallsay’s FERGUSTAFF JACK FROST SH CM.