

*Poniżej znajdziecie Państwo uwagi pani Sandry Seward, która sędziowała na XVII Ogólnopolskiej Wystawie Kuców Szetlandzkich. Ponieważ żadne tłumaczenie nie odda w pełni wręcz entuzjastycznego tonu tych uwag, prezentujemy oryginał:*

On the 24th September we went to the National Show of Shetland Ponies at the Riding Club at Wolica near Kalisz for the judging of foals, youngstock class, mini mares, standard mares and stallions/geldings classes.

Before the judging of the above I passed two of the three stallions forward for licensing. The third pony needs to mature a little more. One of the stallions was a standard Shetland and I was very impressed with his vitality, masculinity, movement and type. The other smaller stallion was of good type and excellent mover, younger but should be very useful.

The show itself was excellently run: stables had been organised for the exhibitors that needed them, all very carefully labelled so that the breeders had their ponies next door to each other.

There were assessment sheets which I filled out for each pony. To assess manners/temperament there was an agility course of several different types of obstacles; the pony had to stand on a polythene sheet for a short period of time while I assessed the animal; then onto a triangle where it walked and trotted so I could observe how straight it moved in both paces. Next was the beginning of the agility course starting with a serpentine, next coming to a halt and being asked to walk backwards without refusing; then a small jump, a water tray was next and finally a pole was suspended with strips of plastic which they had to go through. As well as helping with assessing manners/temperament of the Shetland it showed how good the individual exhibitor was at handling their pony. The foals were not asked to complete this course but did all stand on the polythene sheet and walk and trot the triangle.

There were several children exhibiting their ponies which is excellent as it would show that the future of the Shetland Ponies will continue in their hands in years to come. Everything was done to help them where necessary and it was so good to see real enjoyment and enthusiasm on their faces.

The Foals and Youngstock class was an excellent class with an extremely good foal standing third called Candy Pony Susumelle owned by Andrzej Waloszczyk; the pony above it Ozzy v. den Oorthoek owned by Anna Rakus, and first place was won by Atmosfera Szaza owned by Magdalena Miazek a strong skewbald with plenty of bone and movement.

The Mini Mare class was an extremely strong class; the first three were of an exceptional standard, some of the best mini mares I have seen for a long time. They encompassed femininity with type, movement and good confirmation. First prize was Krystelle v. 't Terp owned by Paweł Gajak, second Lareina Happynisch v.d. Toom owned by Beata Ryszewska Pokraśniewicz and third Hailey v.d. Odrada owned by Paweł Getka. The

whole class was really of a very good standard and is a credit to their Polish breeders and owners.

The Standard Mare class was next with an exceptional standard of Shetland mares. It was good to see a line-up of really good well proportioned mares. The movement throughout the class was very good, well shown by their owners; indeed the second mare was shown expertly by a young girl who did an exceptional show with the pony not putting a foot wrong in it's show. The winner of the class was Rydzyny Emma Elbano owned by Mateusz Drobnik a well boned, well proportioned, feminine mare; second was Klara z Doruchowa owned by Tomasz Szlachta and third Hippocampus Secunda owned by Teresa Korpecka; second and third really good types, fourth was a lovely brood mare (her foal was the highest foal in the youngstock and foal class) who just looked a little tired on the day but she is a super mare.

The Stallion and Gelding class was next which was won by a skewbald stallion Edern Solomon owned by Justyna Łyczyszyńska – he moved very well and has plenty of bone and lots of masculine vitality; a really strong type of stallion. Second was the grey stallion which I had passed for licensing earlier in the day; very strong type, good mover, named Paprotka Grano owned by Przemysław Chojnacki; third Felino v.d. Kasteeldijk owned by Ewa Waloszczyk, again a good type and good mover. One or two of this class were a little immature but will improve with time.

It can be seen from the above comments that awarding “Best in Show” was not going to be an easy task. The standard of the Shetland Ponies in the show was exceptional and it took a good deal of thought and contemplation before I came to a decision – the “Best in Show” award went to the Standard Mare Rydzny Emma Elbano owned by Mateusz Drobnik a very worthy winner, an exceptional mare.

We were then treated to a driving presentation by Tomasz Szlachta with his two Shetlands Zaleśna Szlachta Karmen and Klara z Doruchowa which was truly brilliant. He was helped by several younger members who vastly enjoyed themselves. The ponies went around all the obstacles without putting a foot wrong showing how versatile and clever these ponies can be and how they can be enjoyed by all.

There was a fantastic Fancy Dress Display next which included exhibitors from throughout the day and lots of family members, with the ponies all dressed in all different types of costumes and certainly seemed to join in the general fun and winding down of the show. Well done to the organisers and exhibitors, you are doing a brilliant job.

Sandra Seward

SPSB International Judge