

# Morgan Horse



Assoc. of Australia

## **ANMS 2018 – Photo Show Judge’s Comments**

### A SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS- 2018 MHAA PHOTO SHOW

To All Participants,

It has been an interesting experience to serve as judge for this year’s show. In my career with Morgan Horses, I’ve used photography extensively with a broad spectrum of age groups of Morgans primarily for marketing and promotional purposes. Navigating the Dropbox format for this assignment, however, was new and challenging for me. I have tried to follow the Judges Guidelines to the best of my ability and interpretation. Additionally, I have applied my diagnosis of breed type and conformation as a student of The American Morgan Horse Judging Standards qualified by my 40 plus years as an equine stockman and judge, with a Morgan focus.

In general, all of the horses entered appeared to be in good condition and they were presented with adherence to photo guideline criteria. Though I would personally never purchase a horse without evaluating it “in person,” the show format and each participant’s attempt at compliance to the process, gave me good material to judge. That said, it would be only prudent to put in the disclaimer that “shadows can always distort reality.”

While I would never suggest each and every exhibitor will agree with my findings, hopefully my comments on Champions and Supreme(s) will provide a little insight on my opinion. (Note: while apparently not included, I have placed a Reserve Supreme Champion in both Pure and Part Bred categories. My apologies if this addition is a dilution of the distinction.)

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the MHHA for the honor of officiating this year’s show. To each participant, I congratulate you on the obvious passion you have for your horses that is reflected in the imagery and transmits over the internet.

Sincerely,

Steve Davis

## **PURE MORGAN GELDING**

**CHAMPION 20      Belvue Phoenix**

**RESERVE      62      Crossmatch Regal Edition**

**Comments: My Champion gelding, entry # 20 exhibits classic, traditional Morgan type. He appears to be conformationally correct, with excellent proportions and symmetry. ( \*note- image 20.4.jpg is my favorite of the show)**

**The Reserve Champion, entry #62 also exhibits Morgan compactness and beauty, as observed in his broad-side image, but he lacks the breadth and substance of the Champion.**

## **PURE MORGAN MARE**

**CHAMPION 22      Blue Gum Bonneville**

**RESERVE      36      Mt Tawonga Belinda**

**Comments: My Champion Pure Morgan Mare, Entry 22 is, in my opinion, the most refined, feminine individual of her division. She appears to be very correct conformationally and exudes quality. While not appearing to be a tall individual, her proportions are within the breed standard, and overall, her femininity is the defining attribute in my selection. (Note: image 22.4.jpg depicts outstanding cleanliness of throat attachment and shoulder angulation).**

**Entry #36, my Reserve Champion Pure Morgan Mare (with the obvious handicap of one eye) has the next best combination of symmetry and correctness. (Note: our United States Equestrian Federation allows for horses to compete in shows with “the complete loss of sight in one eye, with the exception of the Eventing Division.”) She, too, has a high degree of breed type with slightly less femininity than my Champion.**

## **PURE MORGAN STALLION**

**CHAMPION 48      Crystanby Aqarian**

**Entry 48, the only mature “entire” entry is the obvious Champion Stallion. This structurally well conformed individual has an over-all refinement with an apparent well-defined wither, excellent length of croup and good tail set. He has a large, kind eye and strong jowl, perhaps belying an over-all lack of masculinity at his present stage of maturity. I suspect that he will be a very handsome, masculine horse with advancing age.**

## **SUPREME PURE MORGAN**

1. 22 Blue Gum Bonneville
2. 48 Crystanby Aqarian

My Supreme Pure Morgan, is

Entry # 22. In addition to the outstanding beauty, refinement and femininity already stated in the “comments” justifying her selection as Champion Mare, she exhibits the most similarity to the Morgans of my “sphere.”

As stated, I take the liberty of placing a Reserve Champion Supreme Morgan, Entry 48. Presumably this stallion is being used for breeding, and hopefully he’s passing along the merits that I enumerated in the Champion Pure Stallion “Comments.”

## **PURE MORGAN Foal/Weanling/Yearling**

**CHAMPION 21 Wildu Niamh**

**RESERVE 55 Tui’s Fantastical**

My Pure Morgan F/W/Y Champion, # 21, is an outstanding individual. Her conformation looks to be very correct as a developing youngster and her beauty, refinement and quality are feminine Morgan.

The Reserve Champion, #55, appears to be a refined, proportional suckling colt. At this stage of growth, he exhibits a slight splay-footed limb deviation in the frontal view, which may very well correct itself with sternal development, and/or corrective management.

## **PART MORGAN GELDING**

**CHAMPION 37 Tandarra Millennium**

**RESERVE 41 Burnbank Bravo**

Comments: My Champion Part Morgan Gelding #37, is a well conformed, pretty horse that exhibits a high degree of his Morgan heritage- a compact body frame, and upright posture.

The Reserve Champion #41 also appears to be a correctly conformed horse, exhibiting more

‘sport horse’ characteristics (lower framed) than my Champion, but a quality individual nonetheless.

## **PART MORGAN MARE**

**CHAMPION 43      Now in Love**

**RESERVE 13    MCM Jindabyne**

**Comments: My Champion Part Bred Mare Entry 43, like all of my selections, appears to stand square and correct, displaying quality conformation. To me, her symmetry and femininity are the defining characteristics of her Morgan heritage.**

**The Reserve Champion P.B.Mare, Entry #13, exhibits the classic Morgan up-headedness, while exhibiting slightly less quality, femininity, and body-balance (drawn up in the flank, or 'wasp-waisted') as the Champion.**

## **SUPREME PART MORGAN (From Champion Gelding and Champion Mare)**

**1. 43    Now in Love**

**2. 37    Tandarra Millennium**

**Comments: The merits of Entry 43 described in the Champion P.B. Mare category, stand for her selection as Supreme Part Morgan.**

**Again, I take the liberty of adding Entry 37 in Reserve, based on my appraisal of the phenotypic expression of his Morgan characteristics. (up-headedness, and compactness).**

## **PART MORGAN Foal/Weanling/Yearling (INCLUDE CLASS P20, P25)**

**CHAMPION 11      Weemala Zodiac**

**RESERVE 44      Challa Gold Rush**

**Comments: The Champion Part Morgan F/W/Y Entry 11, is perhaps the most interesting animal in the show from my perspective. His extreme length of neck, while in proportion to body, is quite 'exotic,' nonetheless. He appears to be lacking angulation in the front pastern area at this stage of his development, but his over-all symmetry place him at the top of this division.**

**The Reserve Champion, Entry 44 is a pretty filly, exhibiting considerable Morgan characteristics. As do many youngsters, she appears to be higher in the hips than the wither, at this early age, which will hopefully 'level up' with development.**