

Malta Canine Society Show – October 2002
Show Report - Judge Mrs. Rita Morgan

This society held a championship show at the Naxxar Trade School on the above dates which was an excellent indoor venue especially as it rained both days. On arrival one had to be most impressed with the professional presentation of the show by the committee, the carpet & ring fencing so nice. Special mention by me has to go to the small stool for the young handlers to stand on to show their dogs as the table was too high, lovely idea, also the large array of trophies, rosettes & specials making a lovely display. This was a special invitation for me as I had never been to Malta my husband George being stationed in 1956 for the Suez crisis so it was a special visit to both of us, plus we were able to meet with his cardio thoracic surgeon who has returned to Malta, he must be a great asset to the island. To the President & Committee we would both like to thank you for your wonderful hospitality we had a most enjoyable visit needless to say the weather was ideal, Carmen " Thank You " for your thoughtfulness we felt very special at the airport. I would like to thank all the exhibitors for accepting my placings so sportingly, being so well dressed & majority of dogs in nice condition.

Mr. Ray. Borg, was my steward for both days, he could not be more caring & helpful made my days even more enjoyable. Overall the quality of the breeds were high with strong competition, free exercise must be difficult for the larger breeds so little space, condition has to be admired a lot. Special mention has to go to a lovely Rough Collie who would have challenged well if I could have been able to examine it, unfortunately it just hated being inside, outside it was perfect. Then we had a new dog to the island namely a 10 month Saluki that really was very nice, again it just would not show at all it was a great disappointment to me & the handler who was so good You do wonder what happens in transit with these dogs, unfortunately we cannot explain to them about flying, it must be very frightening to them, all the strange people & the noise of the aircraft. The quarantine kennels are most satisfactory I have visited & the owners can have so much access to build up a rapport straight away.

Best in Show Hill's Basset Hound Ch Switherland Sensation at Haven Lemon & white 5 yrs a well deserved honour he just took my eye such short legs muscular & strong beautiful head & expression good body & topline ribs well rounded. On the move his action was so free & positive with good reach & excellent tail carriage.

Reserve Best in Show Aquilina's Shih Tzu Diamonds Live Forever 19mths locally bred from Pekoe & Metadale breeding Gold & White beautifully presented & well proportioned with an alert expression. Broad head, round eye darkest of pigment well made body good coat texture very sound on the move.

Best Puppy in Show Siberian Husky Agius Penny Charmer I I mths lovely bitch exhibitor's handling could have been better. Had a nice fox like appearance with good ear set, temperament very gentle. Body medium in size well muscled, double coat texture excellent on the move & tail carried gracefully over back.

Reserve Best Puppy in Show Micallef s Chinese Crested Doucai's The Prince of Wales at Loveland (very aptly named) 9mths from 'Varallo' breeding . Hairless lovely skin texture & a lovely size , nice to see such a good export. Head graceful with cheeks nicely chiselled, erect ears well set just needs to strengthen but only a baby. Good body, level topline with nice socks & featherings., tail set good with plume, promising exhibit, movement very sound.

Best Toy Borg's Pekingese Livanda Micklee Jenaldi 5yrs easy winner of this group moved well but not so well for the finals, it was a very hot day & this dog has a huge coat & could do with a little less to produce the desired shape of this breed, I even wondered if it was tripping over some coat. To examine this is a lovely dog large head & nice eye good body big bone & ribcage.

Best Gundog Spagnol's German Shorthaired Pointer Hahaj Maximus 2yrs Very graceful looking animal with clean lines nice body deep ribcage strong hindquarters moved well with good reach just did not do all of this for the final, certainly was considered.

Best Working Orsini's Rottweiler Llaremeth Star Striker 18mths Powerful looking dog with a lovely nature nothing over exaggerated nice head strong neck, body broad, deep with a roomy chest. Hindquarters strong moved freely with purpose & powerfulness nicely muscled.

Best Terrier Mifsud's Sabrina The only terrier entered., in fact this is a local breed of Fox Terrier. Black & White looks like a cross between a Jack Russell & Smooth Fox Terrier, nice little dog just finer all over & a nice character. Unfortunately the owner could not speak English.

JUNIOR HANDLING.

Very important in Malta & it was a real delight to judge. This is on a points system for the year & the overall winner will come to Cruft's to compete in the International Junior Handler competition. All six competitors were very good & even when having change of breeds, so they had to work hard so did I.

1st. David Mercieca, I understand we will see this young man at Cruft's. Showing a Whippet, very attentive to his dog at all times, just keeping an eye on me. We had no fancy shapes to do, all I asked he did exactly & quietly giving commands to his dog lead tidily held. David was neatly dressed never overshadowed his dog & was very polite.

2nd . Shawn Camilleri Showing a Cocker Spaniel. Very close to 1st also a very good handler was just not so slick.

3rd. Nicholas Borg. Showing a Cocker Spaniel. This young man is just waiting in the wings to come to a top spot.

Children's Class.

This must be mentioned this is the future, the winner of the girls was Stephanie Nwakoma a very good handler who hopefully we will see in the future closely followed by a young lady that I do not have the name of, however showed a Rough Collie very expertly had a very pretty outfit & lovely long dark hair. The boys have Andre Agius & Aaron Borg to challenge for the future for top spot. Monday evening we spent at the Malta Canine Society's Club House with members, it was a very relaxed evening as usual lots of dog talk naturally they are very eager for any knowledge on our favourite subject.

Judge Rita Morgan.