

Malta Canine Society Show –December 2004

Show Report - Judge Mr. Tom H. Johnston

It was my first visit to Malta to judge at the Trade Fair Grounds, Naxxar and it turned out to be a most pleasant experience. The show is usually held over two days but because the hall was not available on both days, it was held on one day. Lots of spectators visited the show as in the next hall a Christmas Fair took place but the downside was that Christmas carols came over the loud speakers all afternoon. The show had a very friendly atmosphere and the sportsmanship of the exhibitors excellent to each other and myself.

I started off in the morning with junior handlers who all put up a worthy performance. This competition is very keen as the winners of the year compete at Crufts each year. My winner was Shawn Camilleri who had picked a different exhibit to handle in the Basenji, however he prevailed and his handling skills came to the fore to take best junior handler.

My first group the Gundogs was won by Vella's Black Cocker Spaniel - Moralis Ebony Star by Sh. Ch Lynwater Lord of the Dance. A nicely balanced dog, with dark eye, strong neck, good bone and topline who moved well. Reserve in the group was Hill's Pointer - Sh ch Freebreeze Rerefind at Crookrise at Danadri by Lynwater Atlantic Crossing of Crookrise. A lovely feminine bitch with good faced appearance and expression. Good reach of neck and well sprung ribs, would have preferred more depth of brisket, good smooth action covering the ground.

The Gundog Group Puppy winner was Borg's black Cocker Spaniel - Dazlin Double Dealer. Nice puppy to go over, with balanced head with good depth of muzzle, dark eye, moderate reach of neck, compact body, good boned legs, excellent coat, moved well. Reserve was Micallef's Pointer - Isoria Eros. A nicely balanced puppy with good reach of neck, balanced head, nice bone, good depth of brisket, and turn of stifle, needs to tighten up in feet, moved well.

The Toy Group was won by Scerr's Pug - Notting Hill Fan Idole. This dog won from an excellent entry of 14. A good round headed dog with short muzzle and good wrinkle, dark eye, good expression, neat ears, crested strong neck, strong legs, well ribbed body, nice curl to tail, good gait. Runner up was Sant Fournier's Pekinese Ch Kansai a Dangerous Boy. A balance dog with good head, nice and flat between ears, lovely eyes, strong neck, good bone, short body, lovely rolling gait, excellent coat.

Best Puppy in the Toy Group was Vella's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel - Dermickleover Tombeau. A happy dog puppy with balanced head, large dark eye, moderate reach of neck, nice topline, who moved well when settled. Reserve Bagshaw's Yorkshire Terrier - Ghawder Just William. A very active little mover with balanced head, dark eye, and neat ears with Ok topline for stage of development.

The Utility Group winner was Aquilina's black Toy Poodle dog Eng Ch Aedan Double Dare by Micador Micro Machine (S& V Godfrey, UK). Excellent dog who took the ring to his own when he entered, well balanced and elegant, good head, dark eye, good length of neck and depth of chest, short back, well developed thighs, tight feet, dense coat of harsh texture, could not fault his

movement. Runner up was Gatt's Keeshond - Neradmik Cassanova by Ch Neradmik Luciano at Baiodoro (J Sharp-Bale, UK). Another first class dog with well proportioned head, good muzzle, dark eye, small erect ears which I wish he could use better at some times, moderate reach of neck, short compact body, good hindquarters, excellent active movement, good coat.

The puppy group winner was Sciberras' Boston Terrier - Boger Ud My Ra's Pajo by Int Nord Uch NZ Ch Rahnee Dhao's Starmaker (Marit Sunde, Norway). Exciting dog who took BOB, fine coated, compact square skulled, short muzzle, good depth and width of chest, neat feet, active little dog full of life. Reserve was Aquilina - Borg's Shih Tzu - Nurmah Nights in White Satin. A lovely feminine bitch with good expression, nicely balanced, she was very active in movement and having lots of fun.

The Hound Group winner was Casha's Irish Wolfhound CH. Galaway Bay of Nutstown by Rossa of Nutstown . An excellent dog from the Irish kennel of J Kelly. A very sound dog , in terrific hard condition, head in balance with body, strong muscular neck, good bone and depth of chest, muscular thighs, gait was active but with that lovely stride, was a very close decision for BIS. Runner up in the group was the Whippet Mercieca's Carousel Rover's Return at Chebec. A balanced dog with lean skull, lovely expression, neat ears, nice arch to neck, straight forelegs, good depth of chest, OK width across thighs, neat feet, pleasing movement covering the ground with ease.

The Puppy Group winner was won by a very feminine Beagle just out of quarantine the day before and from the kennel of T & A Anderson (UK). This baby never put a foot wrong and took everything in her stride. This was Borg's Rossmaithe Pirouette by Ch. Rossmaithe Black Velvet. She was compact, sturdy, had a lovely feminine head, good muzzle, dark eye, nice reach of neck, round bone, balanced body, good depth and topline, well bent stifles, neat feet, nice reach in front movement with good rear drive. Reserve was Camilleri's Basenji - Jaswyn Corinth by Jasmin Hermes at Kamera out of Bulldosas Northern Light at Jaswyn bred by Varley, Thomson & Lee (UK). A lovely elegant dog, very smart head, lovely pointed hooded ears, good wrinkle, OK reach of neck with crest, nice topline, rather down on his feet and weak in hindquarters, needs more roadwork to tighten up in these areas, rather unsettled on the table, good forward movement, nice extension but rather close behind at this stage, excellent coat, a lovely balanced dog.

The Working Group winner was Hill's German Shepherd Dog - Ch Valtix DJ by Ch Schuttons Shadow at Valtix. This dog came from an excellent entry of 22 dogs. A mature dog with nicely balanced head with good muzzle, dark eyes, uses ears well, strong neck, good ratio to body, nice depth of chest, strong hindquarters, good reach in forequarters with plenty of drive following behind. Runner up was Sciberras' Rottweiler - Ch Fantasia Ginger Bread Man bred by Liz Dunhill (UK). An excellent mature dog with good head, dark eye, neat ears, good strong muscular neck, good straight muscular bone, excellent depth of chest and topline, good muscled thighs, good strong positive movement my only complaint is that his feet could be better.

Th Working group puppy winner was Ciantar's Samoyed - Samanjo Spring Dream. A lovely bitch, so feminine, balanced head, good shaped dark eye, nice rounded ears, good length of body, reasonable muscle to hindquarters for age, lovely coat texture, pure white, moved freely with good drive. Runner up was Joyce's St Bernard - Serropellauro Carlotta by Abramo Del Soccorso (G Franchino, Italy). A very graceful and balanced bitch puppy with good head, short muzzle, dark eye, muscular neck, good bone and depth of chest, who moved with that lovely gait.

The Terrier Group winner was Mizzi's Bull Terrier - Aesix the Sky God by Neverland the Sky Master (Preary & Brown UK). A nicely balanced dog with good dark triangular eye, neat well placed ears, correct bite, good muscular neck, good width to chest, short back, pleasing topline, moved well. The runner up was my Puppy Group winner Polidano's Staffordshire Bull Terrier-Fearles Guru of Manitou by Ringmaster Tommy Gunn (Jardan Zolt, Hungary). It was nice to see three puppies being shown the only other exhibitor was in the adult bitch class. The three puppies came from Hungary. A balanced dog puppy with dark eye, short neck, OK depth of chest, neat feet, needs to practise more on the move but then settled OK.

Runner up in the puppy group was Bellizzi's Bull Terrier - Mizzibull's Born in Love. A dog puppy with a balanced head, dark triangular eye, nice ears when he uses them, neat feet, rather lethargic on the move, at a different stage of development and needs to drop in chest as he looks a bit leggy.

For my Best in Show I had six excellent representative dogs. It was a difficult choice but BIS was the toy poodle and Reserve the Irish Wolfhound.

Best Puppy in Show going to the Beagle and Reserve the Samoyed.

Tom H. Johnston