

Malta Canine Society show – November 2004

Show report - Judge David Smith JP

It was indeed an honour to be invited to judge at the Malta Canine Society Championship Show. From start to finish the pleasure was all mine. Although not great in numbers the Maltese take their dog showing very seriously and the standard of handling, of all age groups, was high. Firstly I must thank my very hospitable hosts and secondly I must thank my steward who was so able both in the ring and when acting as a tour guide. Saturday afternoon started with the junior handlers and they in the main were an exceptional bunch of talented youngsters. However Shaun Camilleri performed superbly both with his own dog a Whippet and a troublesome Labrador. Well done and it turned out that he will represent Malta at this coming Crufts, good luck.

My first group was the Toy group, won by Micallef's Chinese Crested, Ch. Doucai's The Prince of Wales at Loveland. A stallion of lovely proportions. With great showmanship and style he moved round the ring, unfortunately did not give off his best when it came to his. Runner-up was a splendid Pekingese, Sant Fournier's, Ch. Kansai a dangerous boy. Teeming in quality and wearing the best of coats.

The puppy group was headed by the Pug, Hayman's, Fawny Dawn Dwarf Bashful. I just fell in love with this boy, showed his socks off every time he came into the ring. Great work in the head and an equally impressive body, could not resist him. Reserve was the elegant Yorkshire Terrier, Bagshaw's Ghawdex Just William. Clean head with lovely size ears. Finest of bone but still strutted around like he could take-on the world.

Next came the Gundog group. Headed by the most stylish of movers, a Pointer. Xuereb's Crookrise Seil. Not surprised it came from this kennel. The cleanest of outlines and hardest of muscular condition. I could not take my eyes off her, what a star she is.

Runner-up came the Cocker Spaniel, Borg's, Sh Sh Sobraine Samraan At Framod. Beautifully presented and in such lovely condition and although a veteran, easily mixed it with the youngsters. The puppy group was won by another Cocker Spaniel, Borg's, Dazlin Double Dealer. A lovely young black, who stood alone in this group but still a worthy winner. Again great presentation and the handler got the very best out of him.

Sunday morning started with the Hounds, the winner was the Irish Wolfhound, Casha's, Ch Galway Bay of Nutstown. This youngster was not just impressive in size but quality too. Typical head piece, well boned and muscled throughout the body and was surprisingly fleet of foot on the move. Runner-up was a delightful Whippet, Mercieca's, Aurora Ruby Tuesday at Chebec. This stunning fawn and white was superbly presented by a young handler of great talent. Typical Sighthound with all the credentials one would look for. Flowing lines with real power in the hindquarters. The puppy group was won by the same young Whippet and runner-up went to the Basenji, Camilleri's, Jaswyn Corinth. This animal was a joy to go over but in the hands of its very young handler, was very disappointing on the move. In the puppy group was handled by someone else and the difference was evident for all to see, if only!

Following on was the utility group. This was headed by the boston terrier, apap's ch. Antrix quick silva. Super head on the mature male and used his ears well too. Well built through the body and a real showman on the move.

Runner-up was the stylish toy poodle, aquilina's, eng. Ch. Aedan double dare. Presentation of the highest order, from his stunning head piece to the graceful and powerful hindquarters. The puppy group winner was the shih tzu, aquilina and borg's, nurmah dark side of the moon. Won this easily as he was so well put together and after a little time settling used his well constructed body to good effect on the move.

Runner-up was the french bulldog, vella's, oziag emerald envy. Just 4 months old and a real baby. Next came the working group, real depth of quality here and some large entries to go over in the breed classes. The group was probably the strongest in depth too as you would expect. Winner was the gsd, farrugia's, ch. Romainville nicoli. A striking young male at his peak. Lovely expressive head and gentle expression. Clean topline and powerful quarters. Moved with power and strength. Runner-up was a superb samoyed, gatt's, roybridge silva nemesis. Correct wedge head, strong neck and shoulders. Deep and cobby body and in lovely coat. Moved with a typical gait. Super to watch. Puppy group was won by the siberian husky, zahra's, ankaly n northerndancer. Could not resist this beautifully made boy. Size and proportions were excellent, really full of himself. On the move he was a picture.

Runner-up was an equally impressive boxer. Galea's, woodstock johnny bravo. Muscular head with powerful jaw, yet melting eyes. Clean body lines and depth in the chest. Power and grace on the move.

Only two bull terriers entered and the best of breed therefore won the group. Mizzi's, aesir the sky god. Powerfully built boy, just what you need in this breed. Classy head, with good down face. Strong muscular development through the body and an exceptionally good mover. Was a strong contender for final honours.

Bis went to the smart and sassy boston terrier, who never gave up showing. Reserve was the clean flowing pointer. Bpis had to go to the excellent mischeivious pug, who stole my heart on the day and reserve went to the siberian husky who i could not resist. A fabulous show, made up of dedicated dog people. Many thanks for the privilage of judging.

David Smith jp