

Malta Canine Society Show – 21/22th April 2007

Show Report - Judge: Geoff Duffield.

Malta Canine Society Championship Show April 21st/22nd 2007

The Malta Canine Society held its Spring 2007 Championship Show at the very spacious and well laid-out Cottonera Sports Complex over the weekend of April 21/22 where I had the privilege and pleasure to be invited out to judge over 200 dogs of high quality, many of them imports, particularly from the UK. There were also some exceptionally good handlers, one a former overall Crufts Junior Handler winner, and another a finalist. To Frank Borg and his cheerful committee, my grateful thanks, particularly for the most enjoyable Monday evening spent at the Maltese National Canine Federation Club at the Hamrun headquarters. The lager was lovely!

Saturday saw the Toy and Gundog groups strut their stuff where three of the four principal overall winners emerged. The Toy Group went to a most appealing fawn pug, Demis and Claudienne Scerri's Italian import, Ch Notthinghill Fan Idole (bred by P Belleli, Gio.Do.Gio Kiwi – Lavinia), rising five years & successful from a lovely entry of 21, beating the BB, Ch Diamonds & Sapphires Lola. The breed Standard calls for 'multum in parvo', or 'much in little', which aptly describes this showy dog whose head, eye and expression, good ring presence, plus true movement, saw him beat some quality BOB winners. Reserve Best In Group went to a most appealing S/c Chihuahua, Stephen Young's Ch/Int Ch Widogi Rocket Man, bred in the UK by J.Fraser (Ch Dachida's Johnnie Angel ex Widogi Myosotis), 6yrs old, born showman, extremely well constructed, quality head, super expression, bags of attitude, super temperament, terrific drive from the rear. Other winners included the CKCS, Der Mickleover Black Diamond, L/c Chihuahua, Ch Taxibixi Zucchero, Papillon, Ch Inkie's Dare To Be A Dreamer (Danish Imp) and Yorkie, Largate Dream Lover (UK, Ch Ozmillion Elation ex Largate Diamond Queen). Best Puppy also went to a Pug, Charmaine Delia's Exkas Vin Diesel, home-bred from Ch parents, RBPIG, Harry & Marianne Vella's CKCP, Der Mickleover Black Diamond, handled by Raymond Buttigieg.

The Gundog Group also went to a breed with the highest entry, Pointers, where I selected for BOB Dr J Galea's lemon & white dog Pipeway Monty, bred in the UK by E Parson (Pipeway Holy Whizz ex Pipeway Frosted Diamond), nearly three years old and expertly handled by Edwin Micallef. The dog, made up on the day, has a terrific front, good shoulder, lovely straight legs, tight feet, good hocks, a pleasure to watch moving. Lovely eye and soft expression, qualities that earned him BOB over the bitch, ShCh Freebreeze Rarefind at Crookrise, also bred in the UK by Mrs M Nelis. RBIG went to a superb German S/h Pointer, the same owner's Odelot El Primero and expertly handled by Adrian Hili. Ten months old, beautifully marked, looked good from all angles, powerful looking even for a pup, in hardy condition, lovely head properties, alert expression, almost arrogant, good legs, tight feet, well muscled thighs, easy mover, good reach, sound as a pound. The GSHP then went BPIG, reserve going to a most delightful, Cocker, George Cross's Moralis Fashion Doll, home-bred black, nine months, stylish, beautifully presented, quality head, appealing eye & expression, most sound on the move. Sunday was divided into morning & afternoon sessions, Hounds and Utility in the earlier part, and from the former, Sue Spiteri's Beagle, Ch Framod Grand Slam at Nivek, bred by N.Borg (Dialynne Elixir ex Ch Rossmath Pirouette at Framod) and expertly handled by Kevin Tanti, presented in the best of order, quality head, delightful eye & expression, ideal size, Lovely temperament & attitude, looked good from all angles, very good rear construction, moved with purpose. RBIG was the very striking Irish Wolfhound, Mr & Mrs Spiridione Casha's Ch Cinders of Nutstown (bred by J Kelly in Ireland, Rossa Of Nutstown ex Ebony Dear of Nutstown), admirably handled by daughter Saoirse to beat kennelmate Ch Cinders Of Nutstown (same breeder) for BOB. Elegant despite his size, turned out in the best of order, in good coat of correct texture, pleasing head properties, good overall conformation, effortless mover. Among the other BOB's was the Saluki, Ch Anisah Tariq Ziyad at Chebec, bred in the UK by Mrs L Shaw (Anisah Zafir ex Linda's Lady), the Whippet, Ch Nevedith Geefa Geepee at Florka, bred in the UK by Editha Newton (Ch Nevedith Ayfa Aze ex Nevedith Wotta Willow), and the Basset, Ch Switherland Royal Ruler at Danadri, another from the UK, bred by P Freer (Kortebin Return Of The King To Switherland ex Switherland Touch Of Class). Puppy Group winner was the Whippet, A Chetcuti's brindle Whippet, Dana. Whippets were the only hound breed with puppies but this bitch merited the award, well developed bitch, well presented and true on the move.

To the Utility, and from a very good quality entry, the French Bulldog took the group – Harry and Maryanne Vella's Ch Glenlee Cherokee, nearly three, lovely ears, most delightful eye & expression, very fit as emphasised in

movement, well boned, solid body in hardy condition, lovely temperament and attitude. He took BOB over Ch Oziag Star Sapphire. RBIG was awarded to a super smart Boston Terrier, Dennis & Cressida Sciberras' Int.Ch.Pol/Gr/Lux/Siger/Ch Bogerudmyra's Pajo, bred by Marit Sunde in Norway (Int.Nord.Uch.NL B Ch Rahnee Dhao's Starmaker ex Carissima Bala Ville). Among the other BOB's were the impressive Bulldog, Ch/Slov.Ch Macm Johnny (Brazilian imp), the Keeshond, Ch Neradmik Cassanova, bred in the UK by Jean Sharp-Bale (Ch Neradmik Luciano At Baiodora, owned by Mike & Carol Morgan, ex Ch Neradmik Pillow Talk), and the Toy Poodle, Mario Aquilina's expertly groomed Nurmah Pride And Prejudice. And it was this delightful 11 month,

home-bred dog who won the Puppy Group, a complete show-off who never put a paw out of place. He is by Eng Ch Aedan Double Dare ex Nurmah Masquerade, obviously gaining his quality from that illustrious sire whose record speak volumes. RBPIG went to the Frenchie, Chris Aquilina's Brocaris Carlito, homebred and from the same kennel as the BB.

After a lovely meal in a local restaurant (no wine for me!) the afternoon session started with the Terrier group, judged by Gwen Beaden and reported elsewhere in this feature.

The Working Group brought about the finale (there is no divide with Pastoral in Malta) and indeed, the quality in depth made for a lot of hard work. There were excellent entries in Boxers, GSD's, Rottweilers, two of those breeds providing the principal winners, the Group going to the Rott, Tim and Dawn Rathmell's Ch Llarameth Just Magic, handled by Edwin Micallef to top spot. Homebred (Abuklea Tumbling Dice JW ex Llaremth First Strike), rising three years, built like the proverbial brick outhouse, stood immovable for all he was worth. Expertly handled, he never put a foot wrong, stood as proud as Punch, very good shoulder, ideal length, strong well-boned legs, super thigh muscle, pleasure to watch on the move. Reserve went to the very smart Boxer, Ray Galea & Vince Zammit's f/w Boxer, Woodstock Yoko's Nine Dream who beat his kennelmate Ch Woodstock Johnny Bravo. Homebred (Ch Sibet Sergeant Pepper – Gasoline Dolly Lolita), she has, at 14 months, a wonderful future in front of her – just oozes quality. Very well handled, super muscle & condition, quality head, eye & expression, totally feminine & so easy & sound on the move. Among the other BOB's were the Rough Collie, Mr G Farrugia Scicluna's Brooklynson Simba, 17months s/w bred by Steve & Alison Barrett in the UK (Ch Brooklynson Bogarte ex Brooklynson Love In Fashion), a well presented male of substance & shape, pleasing head properties, balanced, good eye & expression & sound on the move; the Dobe, Ch Nevada Dawn Elsa III at Chebec; the GSD, Filohil Return Of DJ, owned by F Hili who completed the breed double with Ch Salray Lenka at Filohil from a competitive entry, both handled by Edwin Micallef; the Samoyed, V Gatt's Ch Roybridge Silva Nemesis, bred by Bridget Enticott in the UK (Ch Pykra Spring Bear at Roybridge ex Ch Roybridge Snow Madonna), and the Siberian Husky, Mr D Zahra's Italian import, Ch Globetrotter who beat the same owner's other Italian import Ch Ankalyn Northern Dancer for BOB. The Puppy Group went to a most impressive Alaskan Malamute, Leslie Farrugia's homebred Landwood Winter Magic Nebrask, faultlessly groomed and expertly shown by Shawn Camilleri, a well coated dog of instant appeal – couldn't take my eyes of him ran kennelmake Landwood King Of The Show close for BOB.

The BIS line-up was most rewarding after two days' judging, the six group winners still full of energy and put down to the enth degree. From the Toys, the Pug: Ch Notthinghill Fan Idole; Gundogs, the Pointer: Ch Pipeway Monty; Hounds, the Beagle: Ch Framod Grand Slam at Nivek; Utility, the French Bulldog, Ch Glenlee Cherokee; Terriers, the Bull Terrier, Ch Aesir The Sky God; Working, the Rott: Ch Llarameth Just Magic. After due consideration, I was happy to award BIS to the delightful Pug, Demis & Claudienne Scerri's Ch Notthinghill Fan Idole and RBIS to the Pointer, Dr J Galea's Pipeway Monty, handled by Edwin Micallef who had to relinquish showing the Rottweiler, still giving his all under a substitute handler. BPIS brought the show to its conclusion. The six were – Toys, the Pug: Exkas Vin Diesel; Gundog, the GSHP: Odelot El Primero; Hounds, the Whippet: Dana; Utility, the Toy Poodle: Nurmah Pride And Prejudice; Terrier, the Staffie: Bordpol Brindle Boy and Working, Alaskan Malamute: Landwood Winter Magic Nebrask. The Toy Poodle couldn't be denied – Mario Aquilina's Nurmah Pride And Prejudice, still strutting his stuff, so full of arrogance, so charming. RBPIS went to the Malamute, fighting for second spot with the very appealing but now flagging GSHP who had to bend the knee to Leslie Farrugia's Landwood Winger Magic Nebrask, handled by Shawn Camilleri.

Geoff Duffield. - Judge