

It was a real pleasure for Pauline and I to judge the Malta Canine Society's Championship show thirteen years after Pauline and I first visited in 2010. The Society's Committee lead by Secretary Frank Borg organise an excellent show and both the level of support their shows receive, coupled with the overall quality of the dogs make judging the show both an honour and a privilege. Very many thanks from both Pauline and myself for the invitation and the manner in which we were hosted during our stay.

Junior Handling

Pauline Luxmoore-Ball writes - 'It was an honour to be invited to judge the Junior Handling in Malta. The winner today will accrue points to represent Malta at Crufts in 2024.

I would like to say to all of the junior handlers that they are a credit to Malta. I have judged junior handling in several countries around the world and the standard in Malta was excellent.

Junior Handler: Milena Scicluna

This handler impressed me with her technical skills and super friendly, and polite personality.

Everything she asked her dog to do was executed at the highest level and this was very impressive considering she was relatively small in stature and was handling a larger breed as her 'swap dog' . She knew exactly where to place the dog's feet and she was always focussed on ensuring the dog looked right.

She was one of the best to 'change hands' moving seamlessly around her dog and was able to calm her swap dog very quickly.

A really super young handler who has a very bright future. She understands the dog and her own limitations and she always works to get the best out of their 'pairing'.

Excellent performance in this class and I look forward to watching her progress in the future.

Pauline Luxmoore-Ball - Judge

Terrier Group:

Best: J.Galea's Kerry Blue Terrier DANDY BLACK & BLUE NIKO AT KEBULAK - One of two high quality examples of the Breed exhibited with the other exhibit having to withdraw on the day. This three year old male was presented and handled to advantage and was a picture of soundness on the move. Excellent balance and angulation front and rear and was a worthy candidate in the BIS line up.

Reserve: J.Galea's Wire Fox Terrier DINGLI GEN RECONNAISSANCE - This eight month old puppy bitch really took the eye on the move with her excellent reach and drive. Feminine head, good reach of neck and level top line she was very well handled and presented and went on to be the BPIS. An excellent prospect.

Terrier Junior Group:

Best: M.Cassar's Bull Terrier, SIDE BLAIRE BREAKING BAD - A strong and outgoing young male who was shown in good hard condition. Typical head and expression he was absolutely sound on the move and will mature to advantage.

Terrier Puppy Group:

Best: J.Galea's Wirer Fox, DINGLI GEN RECONNAISSANCE (**BPIS**)

Reserve: K.Tanti's Jack Russell Terrier: AIKIWA CATLEYA - Seven month old puppy who shows great potential. Well angulated front and rear she covered plenty of ground on the move and was balanced throughout. Nice prospect.

Working Group

Best: K.Baldacchino Caruana's Samoyed, Ch. SAMSPRING THE WATER MAN - A very impressive two year old male shown in full coat and in excellent condition. Arguably top of the range in height he cut an impressive figure on the move with his reach and drive and was another worthy contender for BIS. Excellent head with the classic Breed 'smile' - he will I am sure have a very successful future.

Reserve: R.Galea's Boxer, BRYNHAFOD SWEET PEA - This is undoubtedly a top quality youngster and at thirteen months old it is important that she does not look like the finished article. Classic 'Boxer' head and expression with good underjaw and clean eyes. Well set ears and good reach of neck. Square in profile with a strong top line. On the move she was absolutely sound but still a little 'loose' which you would expect at this age. Covered plenty of ground in profile. Well handled and presented and an excellent prospect. **Best Junior in Show.**

Working Junior Group:

Best: R.Galea's Boxer, BRYNHAFOD SWEET PEA (**BJIS**)

Reserve: L.Psaila's GSD, KANT DI CASA FALCONE - I very much liked this young male, a standard fitting head, well set ears, good shoulders and displayed plenty of reach and drive on the move. Moved with a parallel gait on the out and back and he is showing a lot of potential at this young age.

Working Puppy Group:

Best: S.Sultana's Alaskan Malamute, AYSHA DEL BIAGIO - This is very much a 'baby' at this stage and it is also good that she appears to be so. Plenty of leg length so important in this working breed she has a feminine head and expression good overall balance and was well and sympathetically handled and presented

Reserve: Tanti & Bonello's Rottweiler, MICK DOOHAN VOM HAUSE NIVEKSUE - Seven month old male puppy, shown in excellent condition and shows great potential for the future. Masculine yet 'puppy' head, good reach of neck and showed good overall balance. Parallel and ground covering gait with time will mature to advantage.

Gundog Group:

Best: G.Caesar's GSP, DANSTE CAESER (**Best In Show**) - An excellent example of the Breed, perfectly balanced, short backed and with correct angulation front and rear. Masculine yet at 18 months old relatively immature head with the softest of expression, good eye, correct reach of neck set on powerful shoulders. Strong top line and absolutely sound on the move with a parallel and ground covering gait. Shown in excellent 'hard' condition. A worthy Best in Show winner.

Reserve: H.Gerada's Golden Retriever, OVER DREAMS QUEL CHE E STATO E STATO - One of a number of 'quality' Golden Retrievers on the day this 18 month old male was a strong representative for the Breed. Good head, correct skull and muzzle proportions, good reach of neck and powerful shoulders. Excellent ground covering gait and shown in good condition.

Gundog Junior Group:

Best: D.Attard's Golden Retriever, GOLDEN AURORA SEVENTH HEAVEN (**RES BJIS**) - Another very nice youngster with a good future, balanced throughout and absolutely sound on the move. Shown in good coat and condition and very well handled and presented.

Reserve: K.Baldacchino Caruana's Cocker Spaniel, HARADWATER GIRL ON FIRE - Very smart youngster with good head and expression, correct eye, well set ears, and moved to advantage with an easy ground covering gait. Very nice prospect.

Gundog Puppy Group:

Best: N.Scicluna's Lagotto Romagnolo, KAN TRACE DARK CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE - An absolute delight this youngster at six months old really caught the eye with her excellent angulation and her good reach and drive on the move. A very nice prospect.

Reserve: C.Spiteri's Golden Retriever, FERNFLOWER BOSKO - Another of the excellent Golden Retrievers on the day this young male has excellent angulation, and consequently covers plenty of ground with his long parallel gait. In time he will 'tighten up' and his head will of course mature.

Toy Group:

Best: S.Bonett's Pomeranian, Ch. TA BONETT POM POTTE (**Res BIS**) - A very well handled and presented Pomeranian who was shown to advantage. A classic head and facial expression, keen alert eyes, well set ears, and the overall shape and structure created a memorable image. Easy efficient gait. Well deserved RBIS.

Reserve: S.Micallef's Papillon, Ch. XERAC DE APPLE - This exhibit would have also graced the BIS line up. Shown in superb condition and very well handled and presented. Good head and expression well angulated and moved with an absolutely sound gait.

Toy Junior Group:

Best: M.Vella's Pomeranian, THAI SILK SERENADE - Another quality Pomeranian youngster with a good future. Again shown to advantage, good head and expression and absolutely sound throughout.

Toy Puppy Group:

Best: C.Cauchy's C.K.C.S, GANANU JADE (**Res BPIS**) - Just a year old this youngster is an excellent example of the Breed with a good muzzle, correct skull, well set clean eyes, nice reach of neck but really excelled on the move with both a parallel and ground covering gait. Excellent prospect.

Reserve: S.Bonett's Pomeranian, TA BONETT POM VICTORIA - Not quite the coat and condition on the day but nevertheless a nice prospect and well handled and presented.

Hound Group:

Best: P.Camilleri's Dachshund (Miniature Wire Haired) WANHELING DEL WANHELING - Typical head and expression with good proportions, excellent shoulder and good turn of stifle, correct overall proportions and absolutely moved with impressive reach and drive. A worthy contender for BIS.

Reserve: O.Manicaró's Basenji, Ch. MANICARO AARON - One of two good examples of the Breed on the day with this six year showing all the excellent qualities necessary to take BOB. Good overall balance, correct head, strong top line, good tail set and absolutely sound on the move.

Hound Puppy Group:

Best: K.Chetcuti's Beagle, NORTH RIDGE MANGO ROYALE - Nice puppy dog, still with plenty of opportunity to develop but possesses good balance and angulation with the correct tail set and carriage. Nice prospect.

Reserve: D&C.Sciberras' Whippet, DE NIRO HOLD ME CLOSER - Nice young male, good head, well set ears, correct reach of neck, correct overall proportions and moved with a light footed ground covering gait.

Utility Group:

Best: M.Aquilina's Miniature Poodle, Ch. LOVE ME DO-N DELLA BAIA BLUE - Very well handled and presented exhibit who covered the ground with a quick light footed gait. Another who deserved her position in the BIS line up.

Reserve: V.Zammit's French Bulldog, VANLUNA DAISY - Although a puppy this bitch deserved her success on the day. She has all the qualities required of the Breed, a good muzzle nice under jaw and a correct rise of her top line to the buttocks. Moved with a sound ground covering gait. nice prospect.

Utility Junior Group:

Best: E.Meli's Chow Chow, BLACK WITCH - A well proportioned bitch who has good shoulder and moved to advantage. Correct overall balance.

Utility Puppy Group:

Best: V.Zammit's French Bulldog, VANLUNA DAISY

Reserve: K.Mifsud's Chow Chow, MILO KING ROYALE - A 'baby' puppy who coped with her surroundings admirably on the day. Immersed in a huge puppy coat she possesses good balance and angulation and hopefully will develop to meet her potential.

Best A/V Locally Bred: Grixti?Zammit's Siberian Husky, Ch. BANELORD LAVA FLOWING CREST - Good head and expression, nice shoulder and covered the ground with good reach and drive.

Best Veteran in Show: G.Mansueto's Boxer, Ch. VANDENROB TRAIL BLAZER - An impressive male shown in good hard condition. Strong masculine head, balanced in profile and covered the ground with a parallel ground covering gait. Very well handled and presented.

Simon Luxmoore – Judge