

**Day 1 – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Judge - Report Nick Gourley**

What a special weekend judging at The Malta Canine Society's back-to-back Championship Shows. I would like to thank the Committee for the invitation and for your generous hospitality in particular Secretary Frank Borg. The show was very well organised and exhibitors supported with some beautiful dogs across all the groups.

**Junior Handler:**

Mariah Manicaro - Headed a class of four talented young handlers. Immaculately dressed, Mariah has a very special partnership with her border collie which is obvious for all to see. I admired her natural, unexaggerated handling with the dog always at centre stage. I loved how she talked to her dog throughout; this was especially beneficial when we swapped dogs and put her new charge immediately at ease. Some much so that her new dog was foot perfect. I am sure Mariah is already a much sought after handler and will undoubtedly enjoy ongoing success in our sport.

**Terrier Group:**

**Best:** J. Galea's Kerry Blue Terrier -Dandy Black & Blue Niko at Kebulak (BIS) - What a beautiful upstanding Terrier with great ring presence; so alert both stood and on the move. Stunning long, lean head with powerful jaw and dark eye with keen expression. Long neck with slight arch into well laid shoulders. Short-coupled and strong, level top line. Moved with real drive and sound away and back. In fit, muscular condition with a plush, soft, silky clean coat. Expertly handled and presented to full advantage.

**Reserve:** J.Galea's Wire Fox Terrier - Travella Secret Asset - Another alert Terrier handled to get the very best out of him. He has a glorious head and expression with a small dark round eye and neat perfectly dropped ears. Strong jaw. Elegant neck. Short in back and deep in brisket. Tail set and carried perfectly. Coat thick, dense and wirey; presented to perfection. A fit agile Terrier who moved with drive.

**Terrier Junior Group:**

**Best:** M. Cassar's Bull Terrier - Side Blaire Breaking Bad - Powerful Bull Terrier of good bone presented in fit condition. Egg-shaped head of correct proportions with fabulous small triangular eye. Ears set high and used well. Strong neck into well laid shoulders. Good depth of brisket and ribs well sprung. Moved with drive and parallel away and back.

**Terrier Puppy Group:** A close decision with these two puppies both showing great potential and with many a battle ahead I am sure.

**Best:** J. Attard's Jack Russell Terrier - Aretuza Calliope - Aretuza Calliope. What a show-off and such a typical Jack personality. Sturdy and compact. Correct balance to head and ears dropped neatly. Dark almond eyes with good pigmentation. Well-proportioned body being just longer than height at withers. Easily spanned. Moved accurately with high set tail to balance.

**Reserve:** J. Galea's Wire Fox Terrier -Katsumi From Michel - Alert and one his toes at all times. Makes a very typical outline stood and very elegant. Long lean head and strong jaw. Small round eye and neat well-set ears dropped perfectly. Coat developed well for age and presented in very good condition. Moved with drive and with accurate foot fall.

**Working Group:**

**Best:** O. Manicaro's Border Collie - Sh.Ch. Manicaro Macey - A picture of health with a coat in full bloom and shown in immaculate condition. Such a pretty head and gentle expression. Makes a real balance picture stood and on the move. Height at withers just less than length of body. Holds her top line well at all times. Dense top coat with slight mane and well-furnished tail. Moved with great freedom and effortless rhythm with accurate foot fall. Delighted to see her take RBIS later.

**Reserve:** D. Grixti's Siberian Husky -Banelord Set Me On Fire - One of my favourite dogs of the show. A young bitch on top form and very professionally handled to get the very best out of her. She already has great ring presence and gives the impression of a 'willing worker'. Such a fabulous fox-like head of just the right proportions. Almond eyes. Ears set high and of ideal size. Loved the slight arch to her neck. Level top line held at all times. Moved swiftly with reach and drive; so light on her foot and so sound. Holds her top line well and tail set low with full brush. Double coat well developed for her age.

**Working Junior Group:**

**Best:** G. Mansueto's Boxer -Limubox Wicked Fantasy (BJIS) - An impressive youngster just about to leave Junior and more than ready to take on the more mature adults. My BOB winner in the breed and later BJIS so appealed to my co-judge too. Loved his head and expression. So well made and cannot stand wrong. Makes a typical silhouette; squarely built with a powerful neck and slight slope to his level top line. Moved with real drive from his strong hocks and parallel away and back.

**Reserve:** R. Xuereb's Dobermann - Questo Maximus Dobgrace - Just out of puppy, presented in hard, muscular condition. Handler did well to control this powerful youngster. His coat was gleaming like wet coal showing the definition of his muscles. Has well balanced angulation to his fore and hind quarters. Makes a typical outline stood with strength to his underjaw, powerful neck and slight slope to top line. Tail set high. Just not quite as settled on the move as the winner.

**Working Puppy Group:**

**Best:** D. Grixti's Siberian Husky - Banelord Set Me On Fire – (See Reserve Working Group winner above).

**Reserve:** N. Ambrogio's Great Dane -Teoddread Scooby-Doode La Guilde Des Nephilims - A very promising 8 month old Dane with everything at this stage in the right place. Very typical head proportions with good depth to muzzle and strength to underjaw. Deep set clean eyes. Triangular ears of correct size and set high. Loved his long well arched neck into well laid shoulders. Elbows right under body and chest well developed for age. Shows strength of hock when drives away and parallel. In profile he holds his top line, tail carried low and majestic head carriage. Has a great rapport with his handler.

**Hound Group:**

**Best:** K. Galea's Saluki - Ch. Proenzaschouler Del Borghino - The most regal of Saluki's and certainly belies her Veteran years. Could win anywhere in the world. Refined and elegant with her distance gaze and long narrow head. Her well feathered high set ears and a beautiful beck. Cannot stand wrong and must be a joy to handle. On the move she just floats around the ring hold her head high, her tail low and with such accurate footfall. My BVIS winner on Day 2.

**Reserve:** O. Manicaro's Basenji - Ohvitaro Itapuca - A sound Basenji who also impressed as much stood as she did on the move. Super head with typical wrinkle and expression with nice small slightly bonneted high set ears. Dark eyes obliquely set and jaw strong. Crest if neck into well laid shoulders. Short level back and deep brisket. In hard fit condition and shows good muscle tone. Really catches your eye on the move holding her head high and with her top line, tight curl and such accurate footfall.

**Hound Puppy Group:**

**Best:** O.Manicaro's Beagle, Manicaro Olly (BPIS) - This one could have come back to the UK. Was my Best of Breed winner despite being only 5 months old and his litter sister was Best Bitch too from an entry of 11. A very happy puppy with such a biddable temperament. Beautiful head with moderate dome and slight peak. Defined stop equidistant from nose to back of skull. Broad nose and wide nostril. Typical mild, gentle Beagle expression. Long neck with slight arch. Short coupled with level back and tail held at vertical. Sound away and back with super neat, tight feet. Makes a great overall shape with a free effortless gait. Later BIS under my co-judge and was still on great form by the end of Day 2 to become my BPIS winner too.

**Reserve:** W. Chetcuti's Whippet - Frontrunner's The Look - Frontrunner's The Look. Promising young Whippet who instantly caught my eye for her overall make and shape. Beautiful head and expression with typical gentle eyes. Neat rose ears. Long elegant neck with slight arch. Liked her length of rib cage and definite loin with required slight rise over to low set tail. Moved with drive from well let down hocks and has well angulated forequarters to reach well forward to balance. Super short coat and in very good naturally muscled condition.

*Nick Gourley - Judge*

### **Day 1 – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Judge Report - Patsy Hollings**

Always a pleasure to judge in your beautiful country and Frank Borg is the ultimate host, thank you. The venue was so good with plenty of room for the dogs, how clever to have found such a great space.

A great atmosphere prevailed, Nick and I were in tune and we both had lovely dogs.

#### **Utility Group:**

**Best:** C & G Camilleri's French Bulldog - SSSR Only The Lonely (Res.BIS, Res.BJIS). This young Frenchie male was so well balanced and in perfect body. He has a typical head and outlook with good use of his bat ears. Cobby in body, easy action and personality which upped his performance.

**Reserve:** M. Aquilina's Min Poodle, Curly Brown-M Della Baia Blu. Black male, just two years. He pleased in head with dark eyes with that sparkle. Has neck and short body. He was well turned out in decent coat. Of correct texture. Handler took him just at the correct pace.

#### **Utility Junior Group:**

**Best:** C&G. Camilleri's French Bulldog SSSR Only The Lonely. (See Utility Group winner above).

**Reserve:** E. Meli's Chow Chow, Black Witch. Good eye, strength in muzzle with correct bite and colouration of mouth. Small ear. He has balance of outline. Not finished in body or coat at present.

#### **Utility Puppy Group:**

**Best:** M. Aquilina's Min.Poodle, Curly Brown-M Della Baia Blu. (See Reserve Utility Group winner above).

**Reserve:** K. Mifsud's Chow Chow - Milo. Pleasing type and handled gently. He is still, very much, the puppy and not always concentrating.

#### **Gundog Group:**

**Best:** C. Spiteri Golden Retriever - Fernflower Bosko (BPIS) This might be still only a puppy, but he just oozes quality, balance and type. Handled so well. He has impulsion and ground cover with correct outline and tail carriage. I feel he is in for an exciting future, as not only these attributes he has personality plus.

**Reserve:** D. Busuttill's Pointer, Sh.Ch. Chesterhope Lady Lagartha. Really liked this bitch, her outline is a series of curves with firmness. Super head piece, clean neck, flows through to well set tail and width to rump. Noticing her Affix, I can see why she appealed so much.

#### **Gundog Junior Group:**

**Best:** D.Attard's Golden Retriever – Golden Aurora Seventh Heaven. Rather at that 'teenage stage', but handler got him to work to present a sound, masculine picture. Tail should come down, as he gains maturity in his head. Presented in lovely body and coat.

#### **Gundog Puppy Group:**

**Best:** C. Spiteri Golden Retriever - Fernflower Bosko. (See Gundog Group winner above).

**Reserve:** M. Powell English Setter - Dingli Gem Elegy For The Arctic he need to fill in rib, but he has decent bone and construction. Would prefer more moulding of head, but not picking. Has good tail set and wags it all the time to display his friendly happy personality.

**Toy Group:**

**Best:** C. Galea's Pug - Ch. Gabra CK Unstoppable Louie. Cobby, well covered and muscular. He stands absolutely soundly displaying his type , with decorum .he was responsive to his experienced handler. head is masculine and in balance throughout. Has positive foot fall and typical gait.

**Reserve:** S. Bonett's Pomeranian - Ch. Ta Bonett Pom Potte – Another strong contender for the Group - pressed winner till the end, foxy head with lovely expression, typical movement, presented in pristine coat condition.

**Toy Junior Group:**

**Best:** N. Spiteri's Yorkshire Terrier - Camparis Noa Noa. The glossy, straight, immaculately prepared coat tops a small well made frame. Small head, with little ears giving attentive outlook. Dark clean eyes with a confident spark. Back it absolutely level, standing and moving. Very smart.

**Reserve:** C.Cauchy's C.K.C.S - Gananu Jade, pressed hard for the top spot here, typical head, with correct proportions, well-handled and presented in good condition.

**Toy Puppy Group:**

**Best:** E.Gauci's Pug – Bruno This young dog, has a fit cobby body. Presents a solid, well covered shape. Has carriage and soundness moving. A really sound dog, who turned it on, when moving.

**Reserve:** H. Gerada Smooth Chihuahua - Crimar Bellina Joslin. She is such a baby, at, I believe her first show, but what confidence and poise, not troubled by anything. I feel she has so much potential, as she is balanced and displays type throughout. I loved her, a proper little gem.

**Best AV Locally Bred** O. Manicaro's Basenji - Ch. Manicaro Aaron. This mature male has a dry tapering head, with dark obliquely set eye, that look through one. Ears not big and erect, has arch to neck. Straight fore legs, lay of shoulder and near elbow. Short level back. Has width and muscle behind. Lively action with tail carriage.

**Best Veteran In Show:** K.Galea's Saluki – Ch. Proenzaschouler Del Borghino. 8 Years and presented in excellent body that shows shape and symmetry, still. Has a smooth, true action with deportment. Handled to advantage and presented in excellent condition and silky coat.

**Best Puppy In Show:** Golden Retriever -Fernflower Bosko. (See Gundog Group winner above).

**Reserve Best Puppy In Show:** Beagle - Manicaro Olly. Well what a charmer this one is. Gorgeous head, clean neck line through solid body, to high set and carriage of tail. In beautiful condition and handled with calm professionalism to enhance the picture. Just lovely.

**Best Junior In Show:** Boxer - Limubox Wicked Fantasy. He was fit, well boned, clean in outline and muscular throughout, as much as I admired the Frenchie, he just seemed a touch weary here and the Boxer took it away to win.

**Reserve Best Junior In Show:** French Bulldog - Sssr Only The Lonely. (See Utility Group winner above).

**Best In Show:** Kerry Blue Terrier - Dandy Black & Blue Niko At Kebulak. Quietly handled and turned out in immaculate order. A real terrier, who kept his outline and demanded to win. His unobtrusive handler and him in prime order and went with him, never put a foot wrong.

**Reserve Best In Show:** French Bulldog - Sssr Only The Lonely. (See Utility Group winner above).

*Patsy Hollings - Judge*