

THE MALTA CANINE SOCIETY – Saturday & Sunday 4th & 5th June 2016

Such a clever idea to have a two day show held in the evening in a football ground on astro-turf! So ideal for dogs, judges and exhibitors alike.

My co-judge Mark Coccozza and I had a wonderful time, superb hospitality, extra special hotel, lovely weather and some really good dogs.

I did Hounds, Gundogs & Toys and Best in Show on the first day. My choice for **Best in Show** was V.Gatt's Ch. Neradmik Late Night Love. This Keeshond was right at the top of her game, such a beautiful head, eye and ears, so well made with a neck and beautiful outline, absolutely sound on the move and shown in full bloom and presented to perfection. She also won BIS on day 2 under Mark Coccozza, a credit to the breed.

For **Reserve Best In Show** I chose the Wire Fox Terrier, Calleja & Schembri's Mastini Di Rihana Goes To casino, very smart and showy dog in lovely condition, well presented jacket, shown hard and fit, handled well, just could not match the Keeshond on the move.

Best Puppy In Show was the delightful Jack Russell Terrier, Royal Di San Ruffano Jack Osimo, owned by J.Attard, a little heart stealer this one, could have taken him home, such character and showmanship, lovely size, so well put together and so sound, only six months old, I'm sure a star in the making.

Reserve Best Puppy In Show was the red and white Basenji, Honra Itapuca owned by O.Manicaro. Outstanding on the move with such reach and drive, pleasing in head, could just have a touch more wrinkle, lovely to go over, sound and in lovely condition.

Best Junior in Show was the quality brindle whippet, Dew Princess Diana, owned by D&C.Sciberras, so elegant and feminine and such a correct outline, she presented a picture of quality.

Reserve Best Junior in Show was Schembri's Bracco Italiano, Dama Dei Colli Orientali, lovely example of the breed, so pleasing to go over, so well balanced, very active mover.

Hound Group: 1st the Whippet, Dew Princess Diana and Reserve the Basenji, Honra Itapuca (see above).

Hound Puppy Group: 1st: Basenji, Honra Itapuca, Reserve was Mifsud's Basset Hound, Morning Dew Sweepers Cinderella, this Basset is only a baby and just learning to show and move properly, full of quality and a sound one.

Hound Junior Group: 1st: Whippet, Dew Princess Diana. Reserve was Mifsud/Zammit's Basset Hound, Quantas Napoca Tequila, red/white basset, again lovely quality and in beautiful condition, liked her a lot too.

Gundog Group: 1st: Bracco Italiano, Dama Dei Colli Orientali. Reserve was Chetcuti's American Cocker, Felicia Hardy, very nice black with a pretty head, lovely coat and a good outline, could just make a little more of herself on the move.

Gundog Puppy Group: 1st: Luliucci's Zaylah Di Casa Biagini, very well made chocolate Labrador, such a good outline, shown in lovely condition, liked her head but would just preferred a shade darker eye. Reserve was Hili/Rathmell's buff American Cocker, Very Vigie L'Hypnotic.

Gundog Junior Group: 1st: Bracco Italiano - Dama Dei Colli Orientali, Reserve: American Cocker Felicia Hardy.

Toy Group: 1st was Fenech's Mimi Dog Doll Jamiroquas, a lovely Chinese Crested, beautifully shown and handled, loved his head, balance and movement, really looked like a little pony. Reserve was Mangion's Long Coat Chihuahua, Te Chi Chi Alilaw Pepe, this black & cream was quite lovely, good headpiece, lovely outline, sound and showy and in lovely condition, handler must learn to free-stand him, I'm sure he can.

Toy Puppy Group: 1st: Long Coat Chihuahua - Te Chi Chi Alilaw Pepe, Reserve was Joyce's Cragarnat Mad Spike, smooth coat Chihuahua which I also liked a lot. Quality in head, lovely body and a decent mover. Could use his tail a little more.

Toy Junior Group: 1st: Delceppo's Safi Charms Amy, lovely Maltese with a super coat and presentation, pretty head, good topline, active mover. Reserve was Cassar's Smooth Chihuahua, Unique Passion Hypnotic Faith, very nice type with a super body and in lovely condition, liked her head, could just put a little more into her showing.

On **Day 2**, I swapped groups with Mark Coccozza and I judged the Utility, Terrier and Working Breeds.

Best in **Utility Group** was the outstanding Keeshond, V'Gatt's Ch. Neradmik Late Night Love, my previous day BIS. Reserve was Sciberras' quality Boston Terrier, Deniro Ice Queen. Liked her very much too, trained to show off her qualities. Lovely head, well bodied, could just be a bit more accurate coming towards.

Utility Puppy Group: 1st – Sciberras' Deniro Cosmic Encounter, such an extrovert Boston, always on his toes, pleasing in head and ears, good neck, lovely body and outline, just needs to tighten a little in front. Reserve was Borg's baby Dalmatian, Mondo Dalmata Fairytale, so well decorated, so well made and shown in gleaming condition, just a little tired by now.

Utility Junior Group: 1st was Caruana's Mooncry Sparkling Champagne Crystal, very well made Akita, pleasing in head, eye and ears, good bone and in lovely coat, went well. Reserve was Pellegrini's Vianac Pasha, liked the head on this French Bulldog, lovely body and ribbing, could just be that bit taller on leg and steadier behind.

Terrier Group: 1st: Calleja/Schembri's Mastini Di Rihana Goes To Casino, my previous day Res BIS, Reserve was Attard's Jack Russell, Royal Di San Ruffino Jack Osimo.

Terrier Puppy Group: 1st - Attard's Jack Russell, Royal Di San Ruffino Jack Osimo. Reserve was Fenech's Smooth Fox Terrier, Karmgrav Nico, very smart dog, so pleasing in head, good neck and set on, lovely coat and condition.

Working Group: 1st – Bonello's Boxer, Berwynfra Stare If You Dare, tall, elegant brindle bitch, lovely head and kind eye, reachy neck, short back, good quarters, lovely bone and feet, could be that bit more together on the move. Reserve was Grixti's GSD, Kassieger Firenz, big enough but so well put together, good bone and lovely feet, would like a little less coat, so very sound out and back, spectacular going around, well pigmented too.

Working Puppy Group: 1st: Mifsud's Edenisle Leaia Organa, very pretty coloured and marked Australian Shepherd, so well balanced in outline, decent mover, just needs to develop in head. Reserve was Falzon's Grixal Fuzzy. Well grown GSD with super bone and feet, lovely head, well shaped, super condition, just needs to firm up behind.

Working Junior Group: 1st: Manicaro's quality GSD, Manicaro Bailey, lovely head, super shape and has such good balance, shown in hard fit condition, a little unsettled behind which cost her BOB under me but fabulous going around. Reserve was Galea's Roylark Red Baron, lovely red/white boxer, super front, bone and feet, such a pleasing head, short backed and a decent mover, could lose a little weight to advantage.

Junior Handling: There were 8 handlers, all young ladies, they did a good job and were sympathetic to their dogs, one or two struggled with a change of dog or breed. My winners were: 1st. Kimberley Sciberras Scott; 2nd: Elona Fenech and 3rd Paola Cuschieri. WII done to all of them.

I must mention the **Maltese Hunting Dog**, classified for the first time at a Championship Dog Show, locally known as Kelb Tal-Kacca Ta' Malta, lovely gundogs. 10 were entered on the 1st day with 3 absent, Mark and I were honoured to be the first to judge them. My best of breed was Bugeja's red/white dog Hutch which I considered a lovely example of this old breed. I was disappointed he didn't come back for Day 2 for Mark to judge him.

Derek Smith

Judge.