

The Malta Canine Society – February 2024 Championship Show – Judge’s report.

My third time in Malta and I would like to thank the Committee for their Invitation and the hospitality given to me through out my stay. The Show is very well run by a hardworking Committee. The Exhibitors are very enthusiastic and supportive to other handlers, quite unusual in the present day but so nice to see. We all like to win but it is quite refreshing when things aren't taken too seriously and people enjoy their dogs and can let their hair down win or lose.

Junior Handler:

Two excellent young handlers and both put up a very good performance, I just felt that the winner managed to get more out of the other's dog on changeover. It's never easy when handling somebody else's dog especially when it is also a different Breed. Well done to both.

1st: **Keira O’Leary.**

2nd. **Zoe Loughborough**

Utility Group:

Best In Group: S.Bonett’s French Bulldog, **Ant-Bon AJ Lee.** Very smart, with an excellent head and eye, good pigmentation lovely bone, with well laid shoulders and correct top line. Enough angulation to the rear and is very positive on the move out and back. Looks particularly good in profile. Would prefer a slightly tighter foot.

Reserve: K.Caruana’s Japanese Shiba Inu, **Cristal.** Well made and bang on for size and balance, lovely shape to eye and excellent colour used ears to advantage to give the desired expression. Good reach in front and sufficient drive going away.

Utility Junior Group:

Best In Group: S.Bonett’s French Bulldog, **Ant-Bon AJ Lee.** (Repeat)

Reserve: B.Borg’s Japanese Shiba Inu, **Damyashi Bushi.** I felt was up to size but that said is very balanced, good front bone and feet, deep body and excellent top line maintained on the move.

Utility Puppy Group:

Best In Group: N.Spiteri’s Poodle (Toy), **Esmeralda-N Della Baia Blu.** Ultra smart with so much to like, refined head good leathers clean neck and shoulder, has enough bone and first rate shoulders. Correct top line for the breed and overall body is well made. She was at first a little apprehensive on the move but when got going moved out well. Very promising.

Reserve: K.Mifsud’s Chow Chow, **Olim De Milo.** Only a baby, but put up a very good performance here, beautiful head and expression, good use of ears when settled, good mouth and pigment, well off for bone and body is compact and well made. She looked great on the stack and put up a good performance on the move which was correct for this breed

Hound Group:

Best In Group: W.Chetcuti’s Wippet, **Ch. Frontrunners The Look.** Gorgeous bitch of high quality refined head excellent pigment, first rate shoulders and clean neck, deep well made body with good ribbing, topline is excellent as are her quarters. Positive action with good reach in front and drive behind.

Reserve Best Hound: J.Attards, Dachshund (Min Smooth), **White Dei Willmandachs.** I liked this smooth and she was unlucky to meet the above winner. She handles so well, feminine head and excellent pigmentation. Great forechest, has good reach and excellent drive going away. First rate angulation to the rear.

Hound Junior Group:

Best: O.Manicaró’s Beagle, **Manicaró Olympia Emily**. Alone in the Group, but well made, good head and expression with a well made muscular body, my only criticism would be that I would have liked a little more leg to balance the body.

Hound Puppy Group:

Best: W.Ellul Bonici’s Pharaoh Hound. **Palelli Pina**. Smart youngster developing along correct lines, scored for size and balance, just needs time to drop into themselves to complete the picture. A little overawed by the surroundings consequently could have been more settled on the move.

Working Group:

Best In Group: R.Galea’s Boxer, **Ch.Brynhafod Sweet Pea. (BIS)**. This bitch took my eye in the Breed, and she got better everytime she was shown, I loved her body which is deep muscular and well ribbed. She has a great front and feet, lovely neck and shoulders. First rate top line and strong well muscled quarters. Her head is balanced strong yet feminine and she has a good mouth and underjaw. Being so well made she can’t move badly and she didn’t, I just loved her. Best In Show.

Reserve: D.Grixti’s Siberian Husky, **Ch. Ayuka’s Angel Of Distruction**. Another good one, nice head and pigment mobile ears used to enhance expression. Scored for forehead, maintained a firm top line on the move which showed good reach in front and drive behind.

Working Junior Group:

Best: S.Sultana’s Alaskan Malamute, **Aysha Del Biagio (Res BJIS)**. Strong well made, put down in lovely condition and expertly handled to show of his virtues, excellent balance to head and body lovely eyes and good ear set. His body is strong and he is well ribbed up. He maintains a correct top line both stacked and on the move which is powerful and fluid.

Reserve: Tanti & Bonello’s Rottweiler, **Mick Doohan Vom Hause Niveksue**. Well made Rott rather at the in between stage in development so still a little raw. That said shows a lot of promise, loved the head and expression in particular. Great bone though front could be a little tighter. Looked good on the move great outline.

Working Puppy Group:

Best: E.Micallef’s Rottweiler, **House Of Tirova Tina**. Very well made, excellent balance and substance, lovely head and eye strong neck and front assembly. Body is deep and well made great on the stack and to handle and has good reach in front and drive behind. Bright future I believe.

Reserve: O.Manicaró’s Border Collie, **Manicaró Paddington Bear**. Smart youngster scored in front assembly as has good shoulders, clean neck and a well made body. Enough angulation behind and moved correctl for the breed.

Terrier Group:

Best: J.Schembri’s Lakeland Terrier, **Under Pressure Foxhouse. (Res.BIS)**. First rate Lakeland put down to the minute strong head dark eye and excellent mouth. Great front for bone and feet, excellent shoulders, neck and top line. Body is deep and well ribbed up with super overall balance, good coat texture and excellent quarters. Moved out smartly.

Reserve Best Terrier: P.Davis Welsh Terrier, **Perrisblu The Equilizer**. Very smart with excellent outline scored in head and eye, not quite the finish in presentation of the winner but again a very good mover.

Terrier Junior Group:

Best: N.Scicluna’s WHWT, **Rain Harbour Queen Lilibet Of Windsor**. Alone in the Group but full of breed type, correct harsh coat which could have been a little better presented which would have improved the overall outline, ok on the move.

Terrier Puppy Group:

Best: P.Davis Welsh Terrier, **Perrisblu Regret**. I liked this youngster for size and balance, feminine head with a lovely expression clean neck and shoulder, developing well and I am sure she has a bright future when fully mature.

Reserve: D.Bonello’s Jack Russell Terrier, **Billy Vom Hause Niveksue**. Smart one looked good when settled and got the act together, rather at the in between stage at the moment so not easy to asses but when she settled proved to be a very sound mover out and back.

Gundog Group:

Best: D.Busuttil’s Pointer, **Sh.Ch. Chesterhope Lady Lagertha**. Top class bitch of high order who didn’t disappoint in any department, not overdone particularly on the move which was typical and unexagerated. Lovely head and eye excellent front with good bone and feet. Correct lay of shoulder and firm top line with just enough angulation behind, first rate mover.

Reserve: A.Muscat’s Labrador Retriever, **Sh.Ch. Pearl Di Casa Lopresti**. (BJIS). Another good one for size and balance, first rate front and good layback of shoulder, bang on for size and body properties, happy disposition as never stopped showing. Good reach and sufficient drive going away a very nice youngster.

Gundog Junior Group:

Best: A.Muscat’s Labrador Retriever, **Sh.Ch. Pearl Di Casa Lopresti**. (Repeat)

Reserve: N.Scicluna’s Lagotto Romagnolo, **Kan Trace Dark Chocolate Truffle**. Very promising just right for substance and overall balance, nice head, eye and pigment, looks good on the stack and when settled moved well out and back.

Gundog Puppy Group:

Best: J.Galea’s Spanish Water Dog, **Dingligem Loveable Lucy. (ResBPIS)**. This youngster was a little overawed at first but when settled put up a great performance, handles well and is full of breed type, gorgeous head and expression, good for bone clean neck and shoulder. Well ribbed up with good overall balance, just enough angulation and moved better each time asked and gained confidence. Deserved her wins today.

Reserve: D.Busuttil’s Pointer, **Berseydale Full House**. Only a baby and again a little overawed by the proceedings, but once settled looked a picture when stacked and put up a good show on the move, just needs to develop has plenty of time.

Toy Group:

Best: S.Bonett’s Pomeranian, **Dan-Star-Kom Stella Pena. (BPIS)**. What a little gem, absolutely full of themselves showed like a veteran gorgeous head and eye well placed and used ears. Bang on for size, good bone and nice angulation front and rear. Good set on of tail and first rate coat. Lovely on the move particularly going away.

Reserve: M.Farrugia’s CKCS, **Honey Love Me**. Smart Cavalier, scored in head and overall balance, good shoulders and not overdone anywhere, when settled showed it could move with drive and precision.

Toy Junior Group:

Best: M.Farrugia’s CKCS, **Honey Love Me.** (Repeat)

Reserve: E.Gauci’s Pug, **Stella Seasolaris.** Good looking on the stack, handles well and is strong right through with the substance desired in the breed, Excellent pigmentation and good mouth with correct balance to head. Good mover looks good in profile.

Toy Puppy Group:

Best: S.Bonett’s Pomeranian, **Dan-Star-Kom Stella Pena.** (Repeat)

Reserve: D.Mifsud’s Pekingese, **Stefaniya Roman Nadezhdoy.** Took time to settle but when she did she proved what a good mover she is, lovely head and eye and picks up heavy, has good bone and nice angulation both ends. Just needs to get her act together.

Best Veteran In Show: K.Galea’s Saluki, **Ch. Proenzaschouler Del Borghino.** Lovely Saluki showing the correct flowing lines, liked the head and expression and overall balance here, lovely outline and can certainly move, looks capable of doing the job bred for.

Best Any Variety Locally Bred: Zammit & Grixti’s Siberian Husky, **Banelord Heaven Sent.** Good overall balance though would have liked a little more leg, good head and shoulders with adequate angulation fore and aft, steady free mover.

Best Puppy In Show: S.Bonett’s Pomeranian, **Dan-Star-Kom Stella Pena**

Reserve Best Puppy In Show: J.Galea’s Spanish Water Dog, **Dingligem Loveable Lucy.**

Best Junior In Show: A.Muscat’s Labrador Retriever, **Sh.Ch. Pearl Di Casa Lopresti**

Reserve Best Junior In Show: S.Sultana’s Alaskan Malamute, **Aysha Del Biagio**

Best In Show: R.Galea’s Boxer, **Ch.Brynhafod Sweet Pea.**

Reserve Best In Show: J.Schembri’s Lakeland Terrier, **Under Pressure Foxhouse.**

Ernie Paterson.

Judge