

The Malta Canine Society - February 2015 Championship Show

After a false start last winter, it was a great pleasure to return to the lovely island of Malta for the Winter Championship Show. My sincere thanks go to all of the Officers and Committee of the Malta C.S. for the kindness and hospitality that was extended to me during my stay. I was genuinely impressed with the overall quality of the dogs and the standards of handling and presentation. I was delighted with my line-up for both Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show.

Best in Show, from a strong Hound Group was the Afghan Hound, Carabott's Gold'N Copper Diamonds For Men. **Reserve BIS** the Alaskan Malamute, Xuereb's Ch. Ivram We Will Rock You.

Best Puppy in Show was the exciting young Saluki, Mercieca's Baribal's Idris and **Reserve** to him was the Pointer, Weimpoint No Sympathy For Fools.

Best Junior in Show, the workmanlike GSP, Spagnol's High High Santa Claus and **reserve** to him the delightful Pomeranian, Bonett's Danstal Kom Perry Gold.

Best Veteran in Show was the super Keeshond, Gatt & Mifsud's Samkees Keys of Heaven.

Utility Group:

Winner, Gatt & Mifsud's Samkees Keys of Heaven. Keeshond. Smart masculine dog with good length of leg, well proportioned head, flat skull dark neat ears and well shaped eye. Good body proportions with adequate depth of brisket straight-backed with high set well curled tale. Excellent coat. Very attractive on the move with a brisk sound action. Presented and shown to best advantage.

Group 2, Caruana's Mooncry Scorpion Deadly Touch. Akita. Handsome well-made dog of good type and balance. Large skull well set ears and smallish eye. Good moderate front angulation, good depth of chest and strong muscular hindquarters.

Utility Puppy Group:

Winner, Sciberras' Deniro Ice Lynx. Boston Terrier. Boston Terrier. Ultra smart, clean flat skull free from wrinkle, nicely finished muzzle, well set eyes, small neat ears. Nicely crested neck, good forehead, short back with good depth and adequate spring of rib. Neat feet, moved out well with an easy fluid action.

Group 2, Borg's Reason to Love Incipita Vita. Japanese Shiba inu. Very typical, still very much a puppy, good ears, dark expressive eye, some forechest, well ribbed with adequate depth of chest. High set well carried tail, very light and easy on the move.

Utility Junior Group:

Winner, Buttigieg's Noble Von Tüfelhohle. Bulldog. Fawn and white masculine dog grand head, good sized skull, well-positioned nose with large open nostrils, high set ears. Strong thick neck, well rounded brisket, good breadth and depth of chest, short back with slightly lighter hindquarters. Very typical movement. Low set, mobile tail of adequate length.

Group 2, Zerafa's Caramellna Nima of Sablo Diablo. Tibetan Terrier. Smart quite typical youngster, good head and expression, good forehand - legs quite straight good pasterns and very typical larger feet, fairly compact body with good tail set and adequate spring of rib. Moved out well with some drive from the rear. A delightful character.

Hound Group:

Winner, Carabott's Gold'N Copper Diamonds For Men. Afghan Hound. really handsome exciting dog with lots of quality, very dignified and aloof, good length of skull, dark well shaped eye, excellent neck and shoulders with very proud head carriage. Good depth of chest, broad loin with prominent hipbones. Large feet. Very typical ringed tail. On the move he is very stylish and sound. Beautifully presented coat. He shows to best advantage.

Group 2, Hili & Rathmell's Yogi Bear Dos Sete Moinhos. Basset Hound. A really good quality dog who was unlucky to meet the Afghan. Strong and workmanlike, not exaggerated in anyway. Pleasing head clean eye. Very good forehand with adequate bone, good depth of chest and well rounded rib. Good stern. Strong, well muscled hindquarters. Very typical sound driving action

Hound Puppy Group:

Winner, Mercieca's Baribal's Idris. Saluki. Very typical head with good neck, decent forehand, strong slightly sloping pasterns. Good body, moderate hind angulation and tail of good length. Lovely fluid easy action on the move and shows extremely well for such a youngster. In the challenge for BPIS my eye was drawn back to him several times and despite his youth I felt he was a well deserved winner.

Group 2, Hili's Abydachs Summer Night Fling. Dachshund L/H. Very typical, beautifully balanced and very pleasing to handle. Good head and expression, very good forehand good bone. Moderate length of back with good muscle and short, strong loin. Strong, well muscled hindquarters. Excellent topline. Sound and typical on the move with some drive from the rear.

Hound Junior Group:

Winner, Galea's Pedrogarcia Del Borghino. Saluki. Smooth dog of very good type and balance, good length of head, long well muscled neck, well ribbed with good length of loin. Moderate hind angulation, low set tale, moved with a sound effortless action.

Working Group:

Winner, Xuereb's Ch. Ivram We Will Rock You. Alasakan Malamute. Masculine and strong with good length of back, excellent bone, small neat ears, good head and expression, well set eyes. Good depth of chest, typical topline with good strong loin. Moderate hind angulation, fairly short from hock to heel, good tail set. Pleasing on the move with a very typical powerful action.

Group 2, Borg's Cane Guardiano Ghost rider. Bull Mastiff. A really smart well-made and typical Bullmastiff. Excellent head, large skull, good nose placement.

Nicely finished muzzle. Good breath and depth of chest. Short backed and well ribbed. Strong, powerful hindquarters. Pleasing feet. Sound and true on the move.

Working Puppy Group:

Winner, Borg's Chaljur Nightfall Champs Asher. Bull Mastiff. Fawn of really good type and balance, excellent head and lovely expression, good finish to muzzle, adequate depth of brisket, strong bone, good feet. Excellent topline, strong broad loin. Moved very well. Very promising.

Group 2, Manicaró's Allymoon Fortune and Rocky Glory. Border Collie. A lovely typical youngster, good head and expression, good muzzle to skull balance with good breadth of skull. Well boned. Well laid shoulders. Good depth of chest. Very typical on the move with pleasing head carriage, she looks as though she could do a good days work. Very well handled and presented by a young lady.

Working Junior Group:

Winner, Musketeers' Vom Hause Valgibs Ace. Rottweiler. . Masculine with good skull, pleasing eye and calm intelligent expression. Well boned with good depth and breadth of chest and decent spring of rib. Moves out well keeping his good topline with some drive from the rear.

Group 2, Bonello's Highcrest Out of the Blues. Boxer. Pleasing head, clean neck, good shoulders, adequate depth of chest, well ribbed with high withers. Good underline. Strong, well muscled hindquarters. Moved soundly with some drive from the rear.

Terrier Group:

Winner, Cassar's Electra Eos Tanagros. Bull Terrier. Very well-balanced with a lovely temperament so typical of the breed. Good head which is completely filled. Good eye. Excellent forehand with good bone and decent feet. Good spring of rib, excellent backline, good breath of chest. Moves out well in a very typical fashion.

Group 2, Mallia's Neterex Checkmate. SBT. Typical head with broad skull, strong cheek muscles, well-placed ears. Strong muscular neck. Well laid shoulder. Very typical body with good deep brisket and well sprung ribs.

Terrier Puppy Group:

Winner, Mallia's Neterex Dolce Vita. SBT. Smart well-made and showing to good advantage. Good breadth of chest. Decent bone. Firm topline. Moved soundly with some ease.

Group 2, Agius' Gilascrum Over The Rainbow. Bull Terrier. Handsome and typical in most respects. Good head. Well-balanced and with good body proportions. Unfortunately a little reluctant to walk inside the hall but was much better when I took him outside.

Gundog Group:

Winner, Spagnol's Isoria Justin. Pointer. A lovely orange and white bitch of good type and balance. Excellent head and expression, good length of neck, clean

well laid shoulders, adequate depth of brisket. Short coupled. Strong loin. Muscular well angulated hindquarters. Moved out very well with a very typical driving kind action, used her tail well.

Group 2, Spagnol's High High Santa Claus. GSP. One of the best moving dogs shown under me. Masculine and strongly made, he certainly looks capable of doing a days work. Lovely neck and shoulders, good bone and feet, well bodied with good depth of chest and good length of rib. Strong well muscled hindquarters, excellent topline and tailset.

Gundog Puppy Group:

Winner, Micallef's Weimpoint No Sympathy For Fools. Lemon and white pointer very promising and typical with a really lovely head and expression. Good neck and shoulders. Pleasing forehand with decent bone and good feet, strong well muscled hindquarters with good turn of stifle. Very good on the move with a typical breed action.

Group 2, Cross's Crosstree Hope. Cocker Spaniel. Very well-balanced, compactly made with good head and gentle expression, clean neck and shoulders, strong well ribbed body with short strong loin and muscular well rounded hindquarters. Short from hock to heel. Good coat texture. Most promising.

Gundog Junior Group:

Winner, Spagnol's High High Santa Claus. GSP.

Group 2, Galea's Dingli Gem Spider. Bracco Italiano. A lovely dog of some quality and excellent type. Good head planes. Moderate neck. Well laid shoulders. Good breadth and depth of chest. Good spring of rib. Pleasing hindquarters. Very typical outline on the move with good head carriage and some drive from the rear.

Toy Group:

Winner, Sant Fournier's Kansai Little Big Man. Pekingese. Really smart dog with good head flat skull good forehand nicely cushioned muzzle. Thick heavily boned forelegs. Good elbows. Broad chest. Very typical body shape. Sound on the move. Shown in good coat which did not mask his body shape with good furnishings. A lovely exhibit.

Group 2, Bonett's Danstal Kom Perry Gold. Pomeranian. Lovely head and expression, small neat ears, good forehand, finely boned, well barrelled, excellent topline and tale set. Strong well muscled hindquarters, very keen and attentive showman. Presented and moves to best advantage.

Toy Puppy Group:

Winner, Fenech's Mimi Dog doll Jamiroquas. Chinese Crested. Very good head and ears, long graceful neck, decent forehand, medium length body with good depth of chest, well set tail. Moves well with both reach and drive. Clear fine skin. Lovely character.

Group 2, Joyce's Cragarnat Scarlet Night. S/C Chihuahua. Good skull, well set ears, excellent mouth. Saucy with good body and strong well muscled hindquarters. Couldn't quite match the Crested puppy on the move but should have a good future when mature.

Toy Junior Group:

Winner, Bonett's Danstal Kom Perry Gold. Pomeranian.

Group 2, Galea's Par Excellence Topgun. Pug. Good skull, lovely expressive dark and neat ears, well cushioned muzzle. Cobby with good breath of chest, well ribbed and strong firm topline, good twist. Pleasing coat. Moves out well.

Junior Handler:

1. Kimberley Sciberras. A very polished and mature performance from Kimberley, kept her attention on her charge at all times and listened to and followed my instructions. A kind and sympathetic handler.
2. Ella Norton.
3. Alaina Norton.

Judge: Tom Mather.