

### **Howard Ogden's Report**

So honoured to have been invited to fulfil the role of judging 3 Groups plus BIS at this glorious celebration of the Malta Canine Society's half Century along with my UK colleagues Stuart Milner and Ronnie Irving, Ronnie representing in addition the Royal Kennel Club, he having been an unstinting past Chairman, and you even imported the brilliant Crufts commentator Marina White whose attention to detail was as phenomenal as her support for the Junior handling. Your enthusiasm all day was infectious, with an afternoon siesta from 13.30, when 28 degrees so as to cool off the 175 dogs, culminating in the finals that we pre-judged at 18.30 before the unrivalled Anniversary Dinner of 170 guests with its brilliant montage of those past years & acknowledged senior-years guests who had been founder members & dedicated themselves to the Society over those decades. The National Lottery sponsors were represented together with Oasy dog food and the relevant Government Minister, Dr Alicia Bugeja Said. President Frankie Borg made a special watch piece presentation to Secretary Frank Borg (no relation but turns out Borg in Malta is the equivalent of Smith in the UK!) and what a great team the Committee, of just 5, made ensuring all ran to time & that we Brits understood the process. Totally unforgettable experience & here's to the Centenary!

#### **TERRIER GROUP:**

**Best:** J.Galea's Kerry Blue Terrier, Kebulak La Robe (Res BIS) just turned 6yrs; cracking b. so beautifully constructed & coated who performed to the max the more I asked of her; great to go over; keen expression; took it all up a notch when she opened up on the move, displaying Terrier "attitude" & so sound with rear drive; evidently UK bred, I now see, & present to witness her success in the final awards. Congratulations.

**Reserve:** Davies' Welsh Terrier, Eng.Ch. Perrisblue The Equalizer; 3yrs d; one I have admired before, back home, & still in great form; so beautifully refined with the cleanest of lines both in head & body; so well made & another with "attitude" turned out immaculately in a well textured jacket.

#### **TERRIER JUNIOR GROUP:**

**Best:** J.Calascione's WHWT, Burn The Hell Whisper Dusk; Polish bred d of just 13m; filled the eye with his breed type & conformation that was all confirmed "hands on"; well pigmented; so well balanced with spot on tailset & carriage; harsh, immaculate, jacket; so positive on the move; will be making his presence felt for sure.

**Reserve:** J.Attard's Jack Russell Terrier, Aretuza Calliope; 14m b; also Polish bred; quite a character; prettiest of heads; gd shape now ready to grow on a little & to firm at elbow; dead level with gd tail carriage, rear drive & confidence; shown to advantage in ex jacket.

#### **TERRIER PUPPY GROUP:**

**Best:** Galeas' Welsh Terrier, Perrisblu Regret (3rd BPIS); no regrets here with this "knock 'em dead" 7m b of such a textbook shape & the keenest of eyes who moved so true & could not be denied BB in the breed; delighted she took the eye of Terrier expert Ronnie Irving to take her place in the BPIS competition where she was unfazed by the masses.

#### **TOY GROUP:**

**Best:** M.Galea's Chinese Crested, Ch. Genius Zakhar; 2.5yrs d I presume imported of "Miniatura Club" breeding; superb breed type; beautifully bodied & conditioned Hairless with a lovely headpiece and, once in stride, was immaculate in carriage on the move; he benefitted from a skilled young handler; should be pressing for top allbreed awards next season & , had there been such an award, would have been my BIS4 2.

**Reserve:** C.Galea's Pug, Ch. Gabra CK Unstoppable Louie; 2yrs homebred fawn d; excels in breed type, pure & simple, where he ticks so many breed specific boxes; plenty of work in his head with ex features; cobby bodied; soft coated; gd tail carriage & punched along with desired roll

**TOY JUNIOR GROUP:**

**Best:** E.Gauci's Pug, Bruno (Res BJIS); 13m fawn d who stood away for the all too rare features of an arched neck at one end, a double tail curl at the other & some length of leg; not at all bad inbetween either as he is developing well & will appeal to those who similarly value these aspects; moved out so well & delighted he took the eye of Stuart Milner later, when only beaten by the BIS Whippet

**Reserve:** E.Bugeja's Pomeranian, Sette Stelle Arrow; homebred 13m d of ex breed type & deportment; typical in face; well bodied in barrel rib; gd tail carriage & jacket; typical breed character now ready to develop on

**TOY PUPPY GROUP:**

**Best:** S.Bonett's Pomeranian, Dan-Star-Kom Setlla Pena; Russian bred 5m b who blew me, and others, away with her self- assurance and ideal breed type & proportions both in head & body; scarily accurate in her footfall already as she needed to be to satisfy Ronnie Irving to take the BPIS award to rapturous applause. A new star was born here today.

**Reserve:** L.Mifsud Mizzi's Lowchen, Gwahir's Thea Of Eden; 9m Lowchen b & I note is Finnish bred where the breed is so strong; such a promising breed representative; equally gd in head type & body shape; v well bodied; ex tail carriage; quality coat for such a baby; should make her presence felt next show season.

**WORKING GROUP:**

**Best:** R&C.Farrugia's Alaskan Malamute, Rivendell Mals I'm A Star Boy; homebred 7yrs d; so handsome & powerfully built being neither too compact nor too short on the leg; firm back with slight slope from shoulder to croup; strong moving with rhythm & "waving" tail plume.

**Reserve:** G.Mansueto's Boxer, Ch. Vandenrob Trail Blazer; 8yrs Veteran d bred in the UK who headed a notable entry of 15 in the breed that came up with the biggest class of the day, namely 4 in OD; such an appealing head not overdone in any respect; scored in his sharp outline & body proportions; supremely fit & muscled that showed on the move with that enviable "snatch" of the hock.

**WORKING JUNIOR GROUP:**

**Best:** N.Ambrogio's Great Dane, Teoddread Scooby-Doode La Guilde Des Nephilims; French bred 14 m d of undeniable breed type & ex conformation who took BOB; striking outline & a real future prospect just needing to be "reeled in" so as to be less erratic in rear action; has plenty of time ahead of him.

**Reserve:** Tanti & Bonello's Rottweiler, Mick Doohan Vom Hause Niveksue; homebred 14m d who also took BOB; ex head features; strongly bodied & assertive on the move; well boned; carries himself with some style & expect him to develop on to advantage.

**WORKING PUPPY GROUP:**

**Best:** C&K Cilia's Boxer, Cilemm Look At Me; homebred d of just 4m; how I wish this was permitted in the UK as he exuded confidence & assurance; ex headpiece; sharpest of outlines; moved securely; so you all saw him here, raw, for the first time but will surely be seeing him again as he matures up the ranks.

**Reserve:** R.Xuereb's Dobermann, Tuwos Nera Bella Nostra; 6m b bred in Ireland & at the other end of the spectrum as already significantly built beyond her youth; lacks nothing in her clean head & secure conformation; will just benefit from fining down a little 3.

**BEST VETERAN WORKING:** R&C.Farrugia's Alaskan Malamute, Rivendell Mals I'm A Star Boy; see critique above.

**BEST A/V LOCALLY BRED WORKING:** Zammit & Grixti's Siberian Husky, Ch. Banelord Lava Flowing Crest; rising 5yrs homebred b who was also BOB; excels in head; excels in structure; struck me as entirely functional as she flowed along with utmost ease.

**BEST IN SHOW:** W.Chetcuti's Whippet, Front Runner's The Look; Danish bred b of 16m; gorgeous, clean head, such symmetry; such flowing bodylines; covered the ground both stood & with such ease on the move with low to ground reach & drive; unanimously the dog of the day, earning a standing ovation; Dog of Malta next?!

**Reserve BIS:** J.Galea's Kerry Blue Terrier, Kebulak La Robe; see earlier critique 3 rd BIS: H.Azzopardi's Standard Poodle, Ch. Nord Forest Mustang; striking white Russian bred d of 6.5yrs sent through, as was the Whippet, by Stuart Milner; masculine headed; so gd to go over; so well constructed; dense pigment; moved with such accuracy; crisply coated; immaculate turn out & handled to win & has plenty more winning ahead of him not least as hi Veteran era approaches.

*Howard Ogden (Judge)*