

## **The Malta Canine Society - September 2022 Double Evening Championship Shows**

This was my fourth invitation to judge for Malta Canine Society. This year's event was a two day evening double Championship Show. I now am proud of the fact that I hold the title of most capped judge from the UK to officiate here.

The show was sponsored by Eukanuba and supported by Birdbrook Rosettes and was a Crufts qualifier for 2023.

The venue was the spectacular Mcast Institute. Judging began at around 5 pm and went on until midnight all under floodlight with the surface completely covered by astro turf. I guess this could be described as the Maltese version of "Split". My co judge was Mr Jim Richardson of the well-known Kennel of Darrochonna Golden Retrievers.

Overall, as usual here in Malta there was plenty of quality throughout the breeds to choose from and of course at the helm was Mr Frank Borg who orchestrated his committee with such precision which enabled the event to run like clockwork. It goes to say hospitality was second to none

**writes Martin Sanders.**

### **DAY 1 – SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

On day one I was responsible for the Junior Handlers along with the Terrier Group, Working Group and Hound Group.

#### **Junior Handling**

The standard of handling in Malta by the juniors is extremely high and I know how serious this competition is taken. There was three present for me to assess. All three were outstanding and professional; no one giving each other an inch. They will I am sure change places on other occasions, I just wished that I had three red cards. However, I placed these talented handler in this order. Congratulations to all of you!

1<sup>st</sup> Mariah Manicaro

2<sup>nd</sup> Milena Scilluna

3<sup>rd</sup> Keira O'Leary

#### **Terrier Group**

**Group 1:** V.Ambrosone's, Alb.Ch.Aikiwa Omega, Jack Russell. High quality exhibit with such ring presence. Correct for size and overall balance. Feminine in head which has good balance. Dark in eye with excellent dentition. Neck just flows into a well laid shoulder. Ribbing is carried well back. Firm in loin with level top line which leads to a well set tail. Her bone had quality with neat compact feet. On the out and back she displayed correct foot falls whilst holding an eye catching profile on the go around. Presented in stunning condition and handled to perfection. Pleased to award her **Group 1** and delighted to watch her take overall **Best in Show** under Mr Jim Richardson!

**Terrier Group 2:** G. Pregadio's, Sigmund Freud, SBT. Another high quality exhibit who is well put together all through. Classic in head shape with well-defined cheeks. Correct in eye with excellent dentition. Good strength in neck with correct front assembly. Ribbing is ok with a level top line. He stands on correct bone with neat compact feet. Another that covered the ground with ease and his coat was just gleaming.

### **Terrier Puppy Group**

Only one present but deserved this award.

W. Grech's, Zenith of Rockwell Pixel, WHWT. Handsome individual of good merit. Correct balance in head with dark eye and correct dentition. Neat small well placed ears. Plenty in neck with compact body. Solid in top line which leads to a well set tail. Bone and feet ok. Moved out soundly and was well presented.

### **Working Group**

**Group 1:** G. Mansueto's, Glenman Candy Girl, Boxer. Quality exhibit with so much to admire. Presents an eye catching outline which is compact and square with correct proportions and is well muscled throughout. Strong crested neck flowing into a good shoulder with sloping top line. Plenty in fore chest with correct tuck up. Head qualities are pleasing with correct padded muzzle with dark eye and correct lip placement. Covered the ground with a free flowing action and was presented in excellent muscle tone.

**Group 2:** Sammut & Formosa's, Moonlight Bullshadow Big Ali Samforyosa, Bullmastiff. Only a junior but is so eye catching with a huge ring presence. Strong square head which has good proportions which is enhanced with a clear eye and expression all topped off with neat well placed ears. Powerful in neck with a clean front assembly. Fore legs are parallel with plenty in fore chest. Ribbing is carried well back to a firm loin. Level in top line which leads to a good croup and tail set. His bone has good strength with neat compact feet. On the move he displayed power and strength. More to come later on!

### **Working Junior Group**

**Group 1:** Sammut & Formosa's, Moonlight, Bullshadow Big Ali Samforyosa, Bullmastiff.

**Group 2:** O.Manicaró's, Manicaró Macey, Border Collie. Attractive exhibit who appeals for overall breed type. Head, eye and expression all correct. Plenty in neck, level in top line. Good group and tail set. Moved out soundly on the out and back whilst holding a pleasing profile on the go around and was presented in stunning coat and condition.

### **Working Puppy Group**

**Group 1:** R.Galea's, Brynhafod Sweet Pea, Boxer. A real charmer this one with so much to admire. The most appealing head, expressive dark eye, good width in muzzle with open nostrils and correct lip placement. Correct crest in neck with a well laid shoulder. Compact in body with sloping top line. She stands on quality bone with neat compact feet. For one so young she displayed accurate foot falls on the out and back whilst holding an eye catching profile on the go around. Should have a bright future!

**Working Puppy Group 2:** J. Cutajar's, Von Alomir Mondo, GSD. Handsome individual of good merit. Medium in size, correct proportions in head with well placed mobile ears. Excellent dentition, plenty in neck with correct front assembly. Overall body proportions display correct balance. Stands on good bone with ok pasterns. Top line leads to a good croup and tail set displaying correct foot falls on the out and back whilst holding a pleasing side gate on the go around.

### **Hound Group**

**Group 1:** O.Manicaró's, Ohvitaro Itapuca , Basenji. Has so much to admire all though. Elegant with correct leg length to body ratio. Super in head, eye and expression. Plenty of wrinkle on forehead all topped off with neat well placed ears which she used to good advantage at all times. Good crest in neck which leads to a short back with a desired high set tail with good tight curl. She has plenty in her rear with desired shelf. Bone has quality with good feet. Put her best foot forward on the out and back whilst holding an eye catching profile on the go around. Handled well to gain maximum output and was presented in good order.

**Group 2:** K.Galea's, Ch Gabra Ck Alexander Helios, Saluki. Yet another top draw exhibit with so much to admire. Quality in head which has good balance. Keen in eye with melting expression. Ears are well placed with fringes. Neck flows into a well laid shoulder. Ribbing is carried well back with prominent hip bones. His rear is well angulated finished off with strong parallel hocks. He stands on excellent bone with neat well knuckled feet. Whilst on the move he displayed an eye catching profile on the go around and was presented in gleaming coat and condition. Close up to the Basenji.

### **Hound Junior Group**

**Group 1:** O.Manicaró's, Ohvitaro Itapuca, Basenji

**Group 2:** C. Axisa's, Mila Di Torrimpietra, Beagle. Attractive individual of good merit. Feminine in head with melting eye and expression. Plenty in fore chest with ample ribbing. Bone has quality with compact feet. Another that moved out soundly displaying accurate foot falls on the out and back and was presented in good order.

*Martin Sanders (Judge).*