

## The Malta Canine Society – September Championship Show

Judge Critique – Mr. Tony Allcock OBE

Day 1 – Saturday 18th September 2021

I would like to thank everyone concerned for the invitation to judge at The Malta Canine Society Double Championship Dog Show. I thoroughly enjoyed judging some lovely dogs. Congratulations to all the exhibitors for the sporting manner demonstrated to each other in the ring. This was truly great to see.

Thank you to my ring stewards and especially to Frank Borg for making sure that my weekend was so enjoyable.

I hope to see you all again in the future. Good luck everyone!

### **Junior Handler:**

1st: Milena Scicluna, 2nd. Riona Manicaro, 3rd. Mariah Manicaro

I was delighted by the excellent standard of handling from three very talented young handlers. The reverse triangle just determined the placements but the decision between 1 – 3 was indeed very close. Congratulations.

**Terrier Group:** J.Schembri's Lakeland Terrier, Eng.Ch. Saredon Enigma, Such a smart package. Keen expression in an extremely balanced head. Perfect ear setting and dark eyes giving that fearless look. Clean front, well laid shoulders, excellent reach of neck. Strong topline, shortcoupled body and tail well set on. Harsh, dense coat. Movement was precise and accurate and I was totally amazed (and privileged) to learn after the show he possessed such an impressive show record - I was not surprised. Delighted to award him BIS on Sunday.

**Reserve:** D.Valle's Wire Fox Terrier: Funfair Foxhouse. Super for structure and size having strength and correct bone. Head beautifully proportioned, eyes keen and expressive. Small correctly placed ears. Strong jaws; perfect dentition. Short back, secure topline. Tail well set on. Neat feet. Movement was straight and parallel. Great showman.

**Terrier Puppy Group:** J.Attard's Jack Russell Terrier, Tracian Breeze Spartacus Devon Jack. Nicely proportioned. Typical head. Steady mover and shown to advantage.

**Working Group:** GF.Mansueto's Boxer, Ch.Vandenrob Trail Blazer. Loved the overall balance and head qualities. Not the largest, but in the breed class he stood away for shape and conformation. Purposeful, accurate, mover.

**Reserve:** E.Manicaro's GSD, Von Der Kuncizzjoni Balko. Super for breed type. Not overdone in any way. Steady mover on the walk and then when going around covered the ground with ease. Excellent hindquarters which was good to see.

**Working Junior Group:** J.Abela's Alaskan Malamute, Starring-Maat Torpok. Well presented and handled. Heavyish bone and substance. Powerful head and jaws. Solid mover.

**Reserve:** E.Ambrogio's Siberian Husky, Rouse At Blanche. Impressive mover and beautifully balanced throughout. Shown to advantage. Optimum coat texture.

**Working Puppy Group:** D.Grixti's Siberian Husky, Banelord Portgas D Ace. One of two types judged at this show. This one I particularly liked for lightness of feet and deportment. Head of correct proportions, powerful arched neck and well laid shoulders. Movement was smooth and effortless.

**Reserve:** Sammut & Formosa's Bullmastiff, Samforyosa Slot Of A Gun. Strong and powerful. Large skull giving a square appearance and great finish. Dark eyes. Powerful forequarters. OK backline and excellent temperament.

**Hound Group:** O.Manicaró's Basenji, Ch. Manicaró Aaron. This Basenji was breathtaking on the move. Superbly handled and presented. Optimum show dog, never putting a foot wrong. Stood alert at all times demonstrating a level back, spot on tail tail. Slight arched neck and well proportioned head. Clearly represented the aristocratic dog for which they are likened. Presented in superb condition.

**Best In Show**

**Reserve:** K.Galea's Saluki, Gabra CK Alexander Helios. I make no apology for asking this great example of the breed to move more than once. Moved with grace and dignity and very accurate with it too! Presents a super profile and handled to perfection.

**Hound Junior Group:** O.Manicaró's Beagle, Manicaró Luna. A promising younger. Nicely balanced. Good for head, neck, backline and tail setting. Blanced bone and substance. Really accurate on the move.

**Hound Puppy Group:** J.Zammit's Beagle, North Risge One For The Heart. Another very promising youngster. Excels in head qualities, neck and front assembly. True accurate mover. Should do very well.

**Reserve:** R.Bonello's Min Smooth Dachshund. Staier's Beautiful Princess. Loved her style! Beautifully constructed. Clean front, secure level back line. In excellent condition. Impressive head and dentition.

**Best Veteran Terrier/Working/Hound:** L.Psaila's GSD, Odino Vom Funkenspiel. Wow! A great dog. Supberb head, neck and shoulders. Unexaggerated backline. Strong and sturdy without coarseness. Careful mover on the walk and certainly covered the ground with ease when going around. Hard to tell this dog was a Veteran. I was really impressed and delighted to see him awarded **(BVIS)**

**Tony Allcock OBE (Judge)**