

Malta Canine Society – Championship Show – 16th & 17th April 2016

“Blazing a Trail in Sunny Malta”

The Malta Canine Society held its spring all breed Ch Show on Saturday and Sunday 16-17 April 2016 at the St Benedict College, Kirkop, a very pleasant and adequate venue which provided cool facilities for the exhibits and exhibitors as temperatures outside were in the mid 20's.

This was my third trip to Malta and I can honestly say I was not disappointed. The organisation was superb; no stone is left unturned by Chief Organiser Mr Frank Borg along with his fellow helpers ensuring everything ran smoothly and to time. The Society received an above average entry so congratulations to them for that. The atmosphere ringside on both days was pleasing with generous applause being received at all times even to the extent of all exhibitors congratulating each other on their placings.

The quality in breeds continue to be very healthy in Malta with many breeds being both strong in quality and from the numbers I saw over the two days many could easily compete anywhere at top level, in fact some already have!

There was a magnificent display of rosettes provided by Birdbrook Proprietor Mr Charles Allen of Lincoln accompanied by the Society's glittering trophies! The ring was fully carpeted with plenty of room for the larger breeds to show their paces.

DAY 1

Day one started at a leisurely time of 3 pm. The **junior handlers** were up first and the eventual winner was **Miss Elona Fenech handling her SFT**. This was a young male and he was most successfully kept under control by his young pilot Elona, displaying such confident control at all times even though her charge may have had other ideas! May I just say all the other handlers showed true professionalism and displayed such good skills. Another day another result! The standard of the Junior Handlers in Malta is as usual superb and always causes much soul searching to choose a winner; not easy I can assure you. This is not an assignment for the faint hearted, places will change I'm sure!

First Group of the day was the **Toy Group** several BoB's were to be considered but the group was claim by the **Pug Ch Gabra Ck Denrum Orchid**, owned by K & C Galea. Charming character with so many good breed points. Liked his attitude, never gave up showing and covered the ground with effortless ease. No disgrace in the BIS line up!

Toy Group 2 went to the **S/C Chihuahua, Unique Passion Hypnotic Faith**, owned by Mario Casser she also went Best Junior in Group. Great attitude, quality exhibit, excellent balance throughout and was so sound!

Toy Puppy Group followed and this was won by the **Maltese, Safi Charms Amy**, owned by Lara Delceppo. She was also BoB. Very promising youngster with quality to spare. Lovely in eye and expression with a correct outline. Moved out with positive attitude and was well presented.

Toy Puppy Group 2 went to the **Italian Greyhound, Questioni Di Feeling Dei Raggi Di Luna** owned by J. Galea. Delightful character with bags of quality, just needs to gain a little more confidence. One for the future.

Toy Junior Group 1 went to the **S/C Chihuahua, Unique Passion Hypnotic Faith**, owned by Mario Cassar

Toy Junior Group 2 went to the **Yorkshire Terrier, Safi Charms Wow Byoux**, owned by Charmaine Tabone. Youngster of merit with plenty to admire, sweet eye and expression, well placed ears, correct in general outline. Moved out true with plenty of character.

After a short break judging commenced with the **Gundog Group**.

From the BoB's for me there was a stand-out winner of this **Group** and that was the **Pointer Chesterhope Kavallier Malti**, owned by Duncan Busuttill; as his breeding would suggest an exhibit of high quality. Classic in head which has correct balance, super in eye, lovely profile on the stack and he was presented in excellent order. Pushed hard on day two in the final line up, and pleased to hear he won his class at Crufts this year.

Gundog Group 2 went to the exciting young **American Cocker, Very Vigie L'Hypnotic**, owned by Hili & Rathmell. All quality puppy with an eye-catching profile. Super balance in head, excellent neck, top line and tail set good with a well angulated rear. Again another with bright prospects!

Gundog Puppy Group, American Cocker, Very Vigie L'Hypnotic

Gundog Puppy Group 2 went to the **Labrador, Dora**, owned by Emmanuel Grech. Only 5 months but shows such quality throughout. Excellent body proportions with good bone and feet. Another one for the future.

Gundog Junior Group 1 went to the **Pointer, Jeancly Ice**, owned by Gordon Formosa. Handsome individual with a classic head of correct balance and proportions. Good angles in front with a firm topline, stood on correct bone with tight feet. Moved out positively and well presented.

Gundog Junior Group 2 went to the **American Cocker, Felicia Hardy**, black, owned by Walter Chetcuti. Feminine in head with good eye and expression, reachy in neck, solid in body with a well angulated rear. Presented in good coat and condition.

DAY 2

A much earlier start of 9.00am starting off with the **Utility Group**.

Again a lovely **Group** with plenty to admire won by the charming **Toy Poodle, Nurmah Black Tie Racer**, owned by Mario Aquilina. Presentation was flawless, showmanship superb, typical "poodle" all through and was so close up in the Best in Show line up!

Utility Group 2 went to the **French Bulldog, Vianac Pasha**, owned by Patrick Pellegrini. So full of breed type and character and so sound. Went on to win the **Utility Puppy Group**.

Utility Puppy Group 2 went to the **Boston Terrier, Deniro Cosmic Encounter**, owned by D & C Sciberras. Charming character, full of breed type, correct in general outline and very sound.

Utility Junior Group 1 went to the **Toy Poodle, Nurmah Black Tie Racer**, owned by Mario Aquilina.

Utility Junior Group 2 went to the **Keeshond, Samkees Purrsonal Love**, owned by Victor Gatt. Typical in head and expression with clearly defined 'spectacles'. Good in body with plenty of rib, well set tail and stood on quality bone with correct feet. Presented in excellent coat.

The **Hound Group** followed and this was won by the totally charming **Smooth Saluki, Pedrogarcia Del Borghino**, owned by K & C Galea. More about this exhibit in my **final Best in Show Critique**.

Hound Group 2 went to the young **Basset, Quantas Napola Tequila**, owned by Zammit & Mifsud. See **Best Puppy in Show report**.

Hound Puppy Group went to the **Basset, Quantas Napola Tequila**, owned by Zammit & Mifsud.

Hound Puppy Group 2 went to the **Saluki, Proenzaschoucer Del Borghino**, owned by K & C Galea. Full of breed type with bags of quality. Super in outline and so sound. Presented in excellent order, close up to the Basset!

Hound Junior Group 1 went to the **Afghan, Gold N' Copper Love Potion**, owned by Keely Carabott. No denying this exhibit has quality. Super in outline, finally decided to put her best foot forward, just being a typical Afghan!

Hound Junior Group 2 went to the **Whippet, Dew Princess Diana**, owned by D & C Sciberras. Feminine exhibit throughout with correct head, eye and expression. Good in topline leading to a well angulated rear. Standing on feminine bone with well knuckled feet. One Whippet here today that is of the desired correct size!

One hour for lunch then judging resumed at 2.00 p.m. with the **Working Group**. In Malta Working and Pastoral is still one Group, so no time to waste here!

Winner of the **Working Group** was the **Boxer, Vandenrob Trail Blazer**, owned by Glen Mansueto see **Best in Show report**.

Working Group 2 was the **GSD, Manicaro Bailey** owned by Odette Manicaro. So typey all through being middle of the road. Excels in head and general outline, with correct bone and feet. Sound on the out and back and has a breath taking outline on the go around. She was responding well to her young handler. Presented in excellent order!

Working Puppy Group GSD Manicaro Bailey, owned by Odette Manicaro.

Working Puppy Group 2 went to the **Australian Shepherd, Edenisle Leia Organa**, owned by L & D Mifsud. Quality exhibit with plenty of promise. Still a little immature but does have all the right ingredients. Moved out with true purpose and was well presented.

Working Junior Group 1 went to the **Boxer, Vandenrob Trail Blazer**, owned by Glen Mansueto

Working Junior Group 2 went to the **Siberian Husky, Return to Innocence Legend of the Spirit**, owned by Diane Cassar. Yet another youngster with so much to admire. Feminine well- proportioned head with well place mobile ears, neck flows into a clean shoulder with a firm top line, good croup and tail set. Stands on correct bone with good feet, presented in good coat and moved out soundly covering the ground with effortless easy strides.

Finally was the **Terrier Group**. This was won by the **SBT, Ch Neterex Checkmate**, owned by Alex Mallia. Mature individual of good merit. Classic in head with correct balance. Good strength in jaw with well-defined cheek pieces. Powerful in neck with excellent muscle tone throughout. Put is best foot forward to claim this group. A worthy winner indeed!

Terrier Group 2 went to the charming **Jack Russell Terrier, Royal Di San Ruffino Jack Osmio**, owned by J Attard. What a character, still not six months but a sure crowd pleaser. Excellent for breed type. Pleasing on the eye when stacked, just needs a little confidence on the move. However he was well presented and well handled. One I'm sure with time will attract more admirers.

Terrier Puppy Group winner **Jack Russell Terrier, Royal Di San Ruffino Jack Osmio**

Puppy Group 2 went to the **American Staffordshire Terrier, Du La Vallet Blue Alaia**, owned by J Pace. Has plenty to admire, full of breed type but does need more time to mature and settle down on the move.

Terrier Junior Group 1 (0)

Terrier Junior Group 2 (0)

And so to **Best in Show**. My six finalists gave me somewhat of a dilemma; where am I going to go for my ultimate winner. After they all had their chance to stake their claim my eyes were drawn to the young **Boxer** male **Vandenrob Trail Blazer**. Still only a junior but what quality, what character, he had to be good to come out on top here!

On inspection his head qualities are so correct with a clean skull and square muzzle with super intelligent eye, super in neck which has a stunning arch leading to a correct front assembly. His forelegs are parallel with the best of feet. His overall outline on the stack is simply breath taking. His top line and tail are correct finishing off with a well angulated rear. Whilst I am aware that he still needs time to complete the picture; with maturity this will happen. At times he proved to be a little coltish but his young talented owner kept a cool head and triumphed. Judging by the ringside reaction I guess he had plenty of admirers, I'm confident we will hear more of this exhibit. Good luck to his owner for the future. Congratulations!

Reserve Best in Show went to the **Smooth Saluki, Pedrogarcia Del Borghino**. Quality to spare on this charming exhibit, so attractive and most appealing. Scores with his stunning head qualities which has correct balance with dark expressive eyes, excellent neck flowing into a clean shoulder. Plenty in rib with good width in back. He is well ribbed which is well let down to his elbows and carried well back. He has good strength in his croup finishing off with strong well angled hocks. His movement was flawless displaying excellent reach and drive. Presented in very good muscle tone and his coat was gleaming. Absolutely no disgrace here being running up. A privilege to have judged!

Equally the competition for **Best Puppy in Show** was hotly contested. The final nod going to the **French Bulldog, Vianac Pasha**. What a charmer, so full of character and confidence putting on a flawless performance. Correct in head which has the correct proportions in skull, muzzle and upper jaw. Super expressive eyes all finished off with typical well placed "bat ears". Correct in front assembly with a good neck. Plenty of rib with the desired top line and underline. Her bone is of good quality with neat compact feet. It was her flawless movement that won her the day so sound on the out and back whilst holding a pleasing outline on the go around. She was presented in excellent condition and never gave up showing. Congratulations. After completion of judging her owner reminded me that back in 2010 I gave him the Utility Group and Best in Show with another one of his French Bulldogs. Very satisfying indeed!

Reserve Best Puppy in Show went to the equally charming **Basset Hound, Quantas Napola Tequila**. Instant attraction to this quality exhibit. On inspection she possesses an ultra-feminine head which has correct planes, good in eye with a calm expression. Good dentition with large open nostrils, correct in tail set with good folds. Neck and front assembly is good, plenty in rib which are well rounded. Elbows are well tucked in and she stands on excellent bone with well-padded feet. In profile she gives off such a pleasing picture and shows positive free flowing strides on the move. Presentation was excellent, should continue to develop into a real exciting prospect for the future!

Best Junior in Show went to the Boxer, **Vandenrob Trail Blazer**

Reserve Best Junior in show went to the Toy Poodle, **Nurmah Black Tie Ralen**,

JUDGE: Martin Sanders