

Malta Canine Society, Championship Show, 4th & 5th February 2017.

It was a great pleasure to be invited to judge again on the beautiful island of Malta this time for the Malta Canine Society. Frank Borg and his hard working team had everything running efficiently over the two days of the show which was well attended and was even covered by the local TV Station on the first day. There was some top class dogs on show which only added to making the appointment a most enjoyable experience.

Best In Show– Calleja & Schembri's WFT, Ch & Eng.Ch.Mastini Di Rihana Goes To Casino. Quality exhibit who was on top of his game to take BIS in an excellent line up. Cracking head, good length, well set ears and the best of expressions. Lovely front standing on good legs and feet, very clean over his neck and shoulders, short backed and strong powerful hindquarters. Soundest of movers and put down to perfection which just enhanced the overall picture.

Res. Best In Show– Gatt's Keeshond, Samkees Purrsonal Love. Pushed the BIS winner all the way. Beautifully balanced, short backed and with that compact appearance the standard asks for. Best of heads, small ears and a lovely dark eye. Pleasing reach of neck set in well placed shoulders, excellent depth of chest, well sprung ribs and well muscled quarters. Another who was presented in super coat and condition. Sound positive mover.

Best Puppy In Show – Galea's Pug, Gabra CK Danger Zone. Such confidence and attitude for a youngster and I am sure he will have a very bright future. So typical throughout, square and cobby with a good head and a pleasing eye and expression. Straight front, well developed body for his age with a good spring of rib, level topline and well bent stifles. Moved soundly with great purpose.

Res.BPIS – Mercieca's Whippet, Chebec Georgia On My Mind. Such an elegant pretty young lady of good size but still has the strength and substance to complete the picture. Head of good length with well set ears and the best of expressions. Stands on good legs and feet, lovely depth of chest, correct topline and tailset and well rounded hindquarters. Sound on the move.

Best Junior In Show – Mifsud's Basset Hound, Morning Dew Sweepers Cindirella. Winner of the Hound Group and another top class exhibit who when fully mature will be a force to be reckoned with. Quality throughout with excellent bone and substance but has that active appearance the standard asks for. Best of heads, good length of body, firm back and powerful quarters. Very sound both fore and aft.

Res. Best Junior In Show – Cuschieri's Gordon Setter, Lofty Ontario Black. Well developed young man who is so beautifully balanced for his age, stylish and with great strength throughout. Best of heads, good reach of neck, well placed shoulders, level topline that he held on the move and broad muscular hindquarters. Moved soundly on a free and easy stride.

Best Veteran In Show – Farrugia's Alaskan Malamute, Ch.& Am.Ch.Palemoon's Rivendell Fire Starter. Winner of the Working Group who put in a top class performance in the BIS line up. Powerfully built throughout with a very typical appearance. Head of great strength with a

lovely eye and expression. Best of front assemblies, excellent legs and feet, firm body and strong well muscled loins. Soundest of movers with great reach and drive.

BIS AV Locally Bred – Manicaro’s GSD, Manicaro Dux. Very taken with this soundly built exhibit who was presented in top notch condition and was such a sound free flowing mover. Balanced head with a pleasing eye and intelligent expression, strong neck set in well placed shoulders, firm well muscled back and well angulated quarters.

Utility Group.

Best In Group – Keeshond, RBIS.

Res. Best In Group – Sciberras’s Boston Terrier, Deniro Cosmic Encounter. Smart youngster of good make and shape and well balanced throughout. Pleasing head with a very typical appearance, dark eye and alert expression. Well developed body, excellent depth of chest, short backed and good width of hindquarters. Moved soundly.

Best Puppy In Group – Gatt’s Keeshond, Samkees Arrow To The Heart. Lovely puppy who shows much promise. Very well developed for her age with the best of heads and a lovely eye and expression. Pleasing front assembly standing on good legs and feet. Compact body, good tailset and carriage and well rounded quarters. Soundest of movers.

Res. Best Puppy In Group – Busuttill’s French Bulldog, Matkat Bulls Amber. Pleasing sort with that sturdy and compact appearance the standard asks for. Good head shape, correct ears, set high and well carried. Strong neck, cobby body with well sprung ribs and good strength of loin for her age. Pleasing hindquarters, moved well once she settled.

Best Junior In Group – Boston Terrier, Res.BIG.

Res.BJIG – Borg’s Dalmatian, Mondo Dalmata Fairytale. Good size and built on clean lines. Balanced outlook with good bone and substance throughout but shows no sign of coarseness. Pleasing front, very clean over the neck and shoulders, good depth of chest with plenty of heartroom, firm topline and a good bend of stifle. Moved soundly.

Hound Group

Best In Group – Bassett Hound, BJIS.

Res. Best In Group – Whippet, Res.BPIS.

Best Puppy In Group – Whippet, Res.BIG & Res.BPIS.

Res. Best Puppy In Group – Manicaro’s Beagle, Alotorius Old Glory Just Go With It. Very typical throughout. Still very much a baby but well made with a quality appearance and another with a very promising future. Lovely head with the best of expressions, scores in neck and shoulders, well developed body, firm topline and a good tailset. Sound on the move with good reach and drive.

Best Junior In Group – Basset Hound, BIG & BJIS.

Res.BJIG – Blundell & Borg’s Basenji, Nasediye Etera True Devotion. Youngster of good balance with that alert and aristocratic outlook that is so typical of the breed. Good head shape with a lovely dark eye. Strong neck set in well placed shoulders, short level back and well made quarters. Moved soundly on a free and easy stride.

Working Group

Strongest Group with strength in depth. Shortlisted four, Alaskan Malamute, Boxer, Bullmastiff and Siberian Husky.

Best In Group – Alaskan Malamute, BVIS.

Res. Best In Group – Borg’s Bullmastiff, Rauxa Del Gorg Negre. Pushed the winner all the way. Powerfully built throughout with excellent strength and substance but so sound and active on the move with such a positive action. Best of heads with a good dark eye. Strong muscular neck, straight front, good depth of chest and excellent hindquarters with well developed second thighs.

Best Puppy In Group – Galea’s Boxer, Beauimres Bitter Sweet. Really fell for this baby. So beautifully balanced for her age and if she continues on these lines will be a force to be reckoned with when fully mature. Lovely head and expression, clean neck set in well placed shoulders, squarely built with a level topline and well rounded quarters. Once she got into her stride moved soundly with reach and drive.

Res. Best Puppy In Group – Farrugia’s Alaskan Malamute, Rivendell Mals The Return Of The Progeny. Another lovely puppy who shows much promise for the future. Excellent bone and substance for his age, compact and has the attitude and character to complete the picture. Good head and eye, straight front, best of legs and feet, pleasing depth of chest and strong hindquarters. Very sound on the move.

Best Junior In Group – Debono’s Bernese Mountain Dog, Benjamin Buttons. Strongly made throughout with a sturdy and workmanlike appearance. Pleasing head and expression, well made front assembly, good depth of chest and the best of hindquarters with a good bend of stifle. Moved well with a very positive action.

Res. Best Junior In Group – Borg’s Bullmastiff, Cane Guardiano Mr Boombastic. Pleasing sort with excellent strength and substance for his age. Very typical in head with a good eye and expression. Strong well boned legs, good feet, pleasing depth of chest, well ribbed and a good width of quarters. Once he settled and got his act together had a very positive action.

Terrier Group

Best In Group – Wire Fox Terrier, BIS.

Res. Best In Group – Cassar’s Bull Terrier, Ch.Electra Eos Tanagros. Very well balanced throughout with the spirit and character one expects from the breed. Good size, lovely head with the darkest of eyes and well set ears. Muscular neck set in well placed shoulders, great

strength of body, short backed and well rounded hindquarters. Moved soundly on a free and easy stride.

Best Puppy In Group – Bondin’s WHWT, Zenith Of Rockwell Effect. Lovely make and shape and put down on the day in first class order. Best of heads, good strength of jaw, dark eye and an alert expression. Very clean over the neck and shoulders, short compact body, level topline that he keeps on the move and well angulated quarters. Soundest of movers.

Res. Best Puppy In Group – Busuttill’s American Staffordshire, Golden Pride Staffs Four Jackie TMT. Very much a baby. Good head shape, dark eye and keen expression, pleasing front and a well developed body for her age. Good width of quarters with well bent stifles. Sound once she got into her stride.

Best Junior In Group – Pace’s American Staffordshire, Du La Vallet Blue Alaia. Strongly made throughout but shows no sign of coarseness. Pleasing head with good strength of muzzle, excellent depth of chest, well sprung ribs and well muscled hindquarters. Positive on the move. Just need to firm up in topline to complete the picture.

Toy Group

Best In Group – Bonett’s Long Coat Chihuahua, Caetano Blackrottmar. Small and compact with attitude and spirit. Well rounded head, dark eye and the best of expressions. Excellent front assembly, deep brisket, well sprung ribs, level back and a good bend of stifle. Well set tail and presented in good coat on the day. Soundest of movers with excellent reach and drive and that brisk forceful action which is so typical of the breed.

Res. Best In Group – Bonnici’s Pom, Dikaia Staia Vanessa. Beautifully made throughout and pushed the winner all the way. Compact appearance, active and alert and in full coat which just completed the picture. Typical in head with that foxy appearance, neat small ears and a bright and expressive eye. Good layback of shoulder, short backed, well ribbed and pleasing quarters. Moved soundly with a very free moving action.

Best Puppy In Group – Pug, BPIS.

Res. Best Puppy In Group – Delia’s Smooth Coat Chihuahua, Exkas Ariel Of The Ocean. Very promising puppy and another with such confidence for her age. Good head shape, typical eye and expression. Best of fronts, pleasing topline, excellent depth, well sprung ribs and nicely angulated hindquarters. Good tailset and carriage and moved out well with a very positive action.

Best Junior In Group – Higgans Hansford’s CKCS, Bersun Daisy. Put down in first class order and well balanced throughout. Very pleasing head and eye, straight front, well developed body with a good spring of rib, firm topline, correct tailset and carriage and well bent stifles. Soundest of movers with good reach and drive.

Res. Best Junior In Group – Delia’s Pug, Acterhalen Xtra God’s Gifted. Well made youngster of good breed type. Good head shape with the best of expressions and small neat ears of

good shape. Well made front with a good width of chest, well sprung ribs and nicely rounded hindquarters with a good bend of stifle. Moved well.

Gundog Group

Best In Group – Cuschieri's Pointer, Sh.Ch.Highpoint Carpe Diem. Lovely bitch built on clean and flowing lines and presents such a balanced outlook. Beautiful head and expression, well set ears with fine leathers, very clean over the neck and shoulders, best of legs with correct oval bone, firm body and strong well muscled quarters. Moved as one with her young handler on a free and easy stride, sound throughout.

Res. Best In Group – Gordon Setter, **Reserve Best Junior In Show.**

Best Puppy In Group – Busuttil's Pointer, Berseydale Joyful Anthem. Only 7 months but a stunning puppy of excellent type and so well built throughout. If she continues to mature on these lines will definitely be a star of the future. Classic head, best of fronts standing on good legs and feet, well developed body for her age, nicely angulated hindquarters and well let down hocks. A very sound and positive mover.

Res. Best Puppy In Group – Formosa & Spagnol's GSP, Ha Haj Bellissima. Not as forward as the winner but another very promising puppy of excellent breed type. Good size with lovely bone and substance for age but shows no sign of coarseness. Pleasing head, good reach of neck set in well placed shoulders, short backed, good spring of rib and well rounded quarters. Moved soundly once she settled.

Best Junior In Group – Gordon Setter, Res.BIG & Res.BJIS.

Junior Handler

Three excellent young handlers that bodes well for the future. A very close decision between these three young ladies.

1 Kimberley Sciberras Scott. A very accomplished handler with a very sympathetic approach who always had her dog at one with her but was very aware at all times of the instructions of the judge. Either stacking or free standing her dog she presented it to advantage to the judge and moved at the right pace with both dogs she had to handle in the class. Was later told that Kimberley would be representing Malta in the Junior Handling Finals at Crufts, I wish her all the best.

2 Paolo Cuschieri.

3 Riona Manicaro.

David Shields (Judge)