

## The Malta Canine Society's April 2025 Championship Show. Judge's Report.

Many thanks to the officers and committee of the Society for the opportunity to return to Malta and judge again after 15 years. It was refreshing to see the camaraderie around the ringside and everyone enjoying themselves. There were some good dogs to exam and some close calls at times. Also, some talented youngster showing as well, which is always a healthy sign of how things may develop. It was good to see that there was a social side to the show afterwards and as always good to talk about dogs.

### Toys:

**Best In Group:** S.Bonett's Pomeranian, **Kimmilove Avatar Tulkun**. So typical of the breed with a lovely foxy head and expression good ear set and carriage. Coat in full bloom and with that typical character on the move full of self confidence. Nice size and dainty with compact body.

**Reserve Best Toy:** Lara Delceppo's Maltese, **Ch. Ivy Of Leara White Star**. In full coat with a super level topline and correct tail carriage. Correct proud head carriage on the move. Coat in beautiful condition and well presented. Lovely to watch move, free flowing.

**Best Junior Toy:** Lara Delceppo's Maltese, **Ch. Ivy Of Leara White Star**. (Res. Best Junior In Show) - **(Repeat)**

**Reserve Best Toy Junior:** Harold Gerada's Long Coat Chihuahua, **Golden Paws Teddy**. Alert and intelligent, positive swift movement up and down. Correct apple doomed head, with defined stop and large eye. Muzzle well proportioned to skull. Arched neck and well proportioned body.

**Best Puppy Toy:** Harold Gerada's Smooth Coat Chihuahua, **Rushbear Of Dreams Kennel**. (Res.BPIS). Loved the attitude of this one, even at such a young age. Didn't put a foot out of place on the move and just stood there going look at me. Good apple doomed head and round eye. Body proportions were correct, good depth of brisket and spring of rib. Tail set on high and carried over the back on the move.

**Reserve Best Puppy Toy:** Maryanne Vella's Pomeranian, **Thai Silk Mr Sugar Donut**. Pretty youngster in good double coat, with a harsh texture. Good foxy head and alert expression erect ear well set on the head. Brisk and free movement.

### Gundogs:

**Best Gundog:** Bernardette Borg Golden Retriever, **Sh.Ch. Golden Aurora A Star Is Born**.well proportioned body with a good spring of rib and well back with a strong loin. Good one and feet, straight forearm and a good bend of stifle, and well conditioned. Could see this on the move with some drank purpose. Good coat and colour. Pleasing head and kind expression. Moved with some drive.

**Reserve Best Gundog:** Jonathan Cross' Cocker Spaniel, **Sh.Ch. Crosstree Ruby**. A well made cockery bitch, shown in super order with correct silky blak coat texture. Well balanced head with a gentle eye. Well set ear with good length of ear. Clean neck and well placed shoulder, good level topline, with a well sprung rib and strong loin. Well made rear construction and good bend of stifle. Moved with her tail wagging.

**Best Gundog Junior:** Eric & Ben Camilleri/Borg Golden Retriever, **Golden Aurora For The Love Of Zack**. A raw youngster with everything in the right place just needs to mature and grow a coat. Moved well keeping a good topline in profile. Good bone and feet. Well set tail and happy.

**Reserve Best Gundog Junior:** Larry Shoemake's Labrador Retriever, **Sevda Di Casa Lopresti**. Pleasing head and ear, clean front with good bone. Feet could be tighter. Well bodied with a good spring of rib. Coat in good order with correct double coat. Correct otter tail. Moved well enough.

**Best Puppy Gundog:** Joseph Spiteri's English Springer Spaniel, **Sieger's Same Old Song**. Whilst a raw baby, plenty of substance and well balanced. Well marked colouring, correct silky texture just needs to grow some furnishing now. Moved well and the handler knows how to get the best out of his charge. Balanced head with good eye and well set ear. Clean neck into well laid shoulders and straight forearm with good bone and feet. Well bodied into a well made rear with good bend of stifle and well let down.

**Reserve Best Puppy Gundog:** Anton Agius' American Cocker Spaniel, **Scandelicious Witney**. Pretty head bitch with a well defined stop. Well rounded skull with correct ear set low, just in line with the eye. Good thin leathers. Clean neck flowing in to the correct topline. Well made rear with a good bend of stifle. Move well both ways. Well presented and good clean silky coat.

### **Terriers:**

**Best Terrier:** Johann Schembri's Lakeland Terrier, **Ch. Under Pressure Fox House**. (Reserve BIS) a quality example of this breed, absolutely in top order, not a hair out of place. Well balanced head into a good strong neck into well laid shoulders. Good spring of rib and ice short loin, super rear construction with a good bend of stifle and short hock. Not sure the handler got the most out of this boy today. Seemed a little lack lustre for BIS.

**Reserve Best Terrier:** Natasha Scicluna's WHWT, **Rain Harbour Queen Lilibet Of Windsor**. Good chrysanthemum head and erect ear, mature body and in full gleaming white coat. Good spring of rib and a clean forehead, moved freely in front. Well set on tail, just lost her topline at times.

**Best Terrier Junior:** Neville Carabott's Norwich Terrier, **Elysium Mons Kyivstarlight**. Up to size but well balanced. Good head and ear with a keen and alert expression and attitude on the move. Need to be a bit braver with the presentation. Good mover both ways.

**Best Puppy Terrier:** James Galea's Airedale Terrier, **Rockridge JP Sora**. a nice youngster with good bone and feet, clean forehead into a powerful neck and good lay of shoulder. Strong topline and tail well set on. Good long head with equal proportions. Keen expression and well set ears. Good almond eye. Ideally I'd like a little more rear angulation. Tidy flat work and coat in really good harsh condition. Be a little braver with the furnishing, more doesn't always mean best.

**Reserve Best Puppy Terrier:** Jonathan Attard's Jack Russell Terrier, **Tal-Kraws Nala**, pretty girl, well presented. Correct body proportions and moved well both ways. Good harsh coat. Pretty head and expression, very feminine.

### **Working:**

**Best Working:** Matthew Powell's Border Collie, **Silvercliffs An Affair To Remember**. Lovely to watch on the move, very light footed. Good clear colour. Well balanced head with correct ear and placement. Kind eye. Good body proportions and well ribbed back, good coat condition. Correct tail set and carriage. Good bone and feet.

**Reserve Best Working:** Diane Grixti's Siberian Husky, **Ch. Ayuka's Angel Of Distruction**. Good head peace with correct set ear and used them to advantage. Good length of body to height well ribbed back and strong loin, well made rear and move away with drive. Good bone and feet, would like a slightly better lay of shoulder.

**Best Working Junior:** Matthew Powell's Border Collie, **Silvercliffs An Affair To Remember**. (BJS) - (Repeat)

**Reserve Best Working Junior:** Waylan Fenech's Rottweiler, **Quantum Vom Hause Niveksue**. Correct markings and in good hard condition with a shine to the coat. A little strong in head for my liking but will no doubt change over time. Good bone and feet with correct body proportions, strong topline and well ribbed and good loin. Well made behind with good angulation.

**Best Puppy Working:** Kathleen & Philip Baldacchino Caruana's Samoyed, **Original Dark Knight Orleansnow**. A pretty puppy with that typical Samie expression and alert ear using them to advantage. Well bodied for his age. Good coat and condition and correct texture. Good one and feet, depth of brisket and spring of rib. Moved well behind.

**Reserve Best Puppy Working:** Brian Fenech's Boxer, **Brynhafod Johnny Bravo**. In good coat and condition. Well balanced with straight forearm and well bone and well arched feet. Good depth of brisket and spring of rib with forechest. Level topline and well set tail. Moved well enough both ways.

### Hounds:

**Best Hound:** K&C Galea's Saluki, Ch. Gabra CK **Alexander Helios**. So typical of the breed with that aloof expression. Elegance personified on the move with graceful lines going round the ring. Flowing lines through his neck and shoulder to his rear end. Good depth of brisket with slight tuck up with strong loin, into a well made rear construction.

**Reserve Best Hound:** Odette Manicaro's Beagle, **Ch. Manicaro Olly**. At his prime, compact and well bodied. Good head and ear with a kind eye with a typical expression. Good bone and feet. Moved well both ways.

**Best Hound Junior:** Eman Spagnol's Basenji, **Princess Nora Chloe**. Super head with correct wrinkling on the head. Clean cheek and correct skull proportions with well set hooded ear. Crest to the neck into a good shoulder and forearm. Correct bone and feet brisket to the elbow. Slight tuck up, level topline with well set tail with a good tight curl to it. Nice moderate rear construction and covered the ground well in profile movement.

**Reserve Best Junior Hound:** Chris Cachia's Whippet, **Suntach He Is**. Pleasing head and expression, nice to see one with some underjaw. Well set rose ear and balanced head proportions. Clean forehead with correct oval bone and hare foot. Correct ribbing and tuck up and matching topline. Well made behind with good ear angulation, standing over the ground.

**Best Puppy Hound:** Jonathan Attard's Miniature Smooth Dachshund, **A Capella Klara Difino**. Pleasing head and expression, good neck and a good forechest. Well ribbed and good loin. Moved well enough.

**Reserve Best Puppy Hound:** Ricky Vassallo's Miniature Long Haired Dachshund, **Esme Hisroyalmajesty**. Similar type not quite the body and substance or movement of the mini smooth.

### Utility:

**Best Utility:** Desmar Bonello's Boston Terrier, **Makie Tobie** (BIS). Super expressive head, compactly built body, correct short-tailed, well-balanced dog, brindle and correctly marked with white. Graceful carriage on the move and well conditioned with some muscle tone. Good coat and gleam to it. Well bodied with a good moderate rear construction. Positive movement both ways. Fill the eye for type and free flowing movement.

**Reserve Best Utility:** Brian Borg's Japanese Shiba Inu, **Ch. Damyoshi Bushi**. Typey with a broad flat skull, with cheeks well developed. A defined stop with slight furrow. Black nose. With a nice small pricked ear. Clean forehead with correct bone and cat like feet. Firm topline and well set on tail with tight curl to it. Moderate rear angulation. Moved freely in side gait.

**Best Junior Utility:** Nakita Spiteri's Shih Tzu, **Sweet Sensations Endless Love**. feminine throughout. Exquisite head, well rounded skull, large round eyes of good colour, short square muzzle, wide open nostrils, excellent pigmentation. Nicely arched neck and well laid shoulders, excellent ribbing, good depth and breadth to chest, good tail set on high and carried in a curve well over the back to balance outline. Moving true both fore and aft.

**Reserve Best Utility Junior:** Eman Gauci's French Bulldog, **Ta' Skonju Trixie**. Typey bitch with a well balanced head, square head with flat skull and correctly set ear. Well defined stop and plenty of cheek. With open nostrils. Muscular body with deep rounded rib and correct brisket with good cut up. Rounded croup and correct tail. Moved away well. Correct coat and good colour.

**Best Puppy Utility:** Desmar Bonello's Boston Terrier, **Makie Tobie** (BPIS) **REPEAT**

**Reserve Best Puppy Utility:** Nakita Spiteri's Standard Poodle, **Prestigious Best Blackmistress Of The Dark**. A good example of the breed, in super condition and presentation. Good long head and skull, with some chiselling under the eye, nice dark almond eye and black nose. Elegant and balanced on the move. Good spring of rib with short loin and a well made rear, with a good bend stifle. Really drove off from the rear on the move.

**Best Veteran In Show:** Zammit & Grixti's Siberian Husky, **Ch. Banelord Rag Doll**. looking well for his age. Covered the ground with ease with a typical Sib gait. A well balanced head with a kind expression and well set alert ear. Well boned with straight forearm, good strong topline with correct spring of rib and some heart room. Well let down behind and in hard condition. Correct double coat in super condition and presentation.

**Best A/V Locally Bred:** Odette Manicaro's Basenji, **Ch. Manicaro Aaron**. Super masculine head and expression with a good wrinkle on the skull. Well set hooded ear. Clean front with good bone and a bit of give in the pastern. Into correct feet. Correct depth of brisket and well sprung rib, slight tuck up. Moderate rear angulation and well muscled. Tight tail well set on.

**Best In Show:** Boston Terrier, Makie Tobie

**Reserve Best In Show:** Lakeland Terrier, Ch. Under Pressure Fox House.

**Best Junior In Show:** Border Collie, Silvercliffs An Affair To Remember.

**Reserve Best Junior In Show:** Maltese, Ch. Ivy Of Leara White Star

**Best Puppy In Show:** Boston Terrier, Makie Tobie

**Reserve Best Puppy In Show:** Smooth Coat Chihuahua, Rushbear Of Dreams Kennel

*Julien Barney,*

*Judge.*