

**The Malta Canine Society – February 2023 Championship Show.**

It was an honour and pleasure for me to judge the two day 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary Championship Show, to say I am happy with the depth of quality present is an understatement, The BIS Line-up was as good as I have seen anywhere in the World. The depth of quality was certainly in the Boxers with not one bad one present.

**BEST IN SHOW** went to J.Galea's World Class W/F/Terrier, on top form, Eng.Ch.Travella Secret Asset bred in the UK by Mr Bill Brown-Cole, how shocked was I to be told later he was my Three Counties BIS Winner back in the UK I also gave him the Champion Stakes over the 4 Days at Leeds need I say more only he was presented and handled to perfection.

**Reserve Best In Show** was a top-class Boxer male, owned by C.Cilla, Mejeric Made You Look, bred in the UK by Ms Bagnall, so impressed me, striking profile, love the head neck and balance, correct angulation back and front, and his movement so pleased me, I might add he was handled and shown to perfectly.

**Best Puppy In Show** was a Stunner of a Whippet, D&C. Sciberras' DeNiro Hold Me Closer, I predict this male will make a name for himself, Shoots Quality and breed type the most lovely head neck, he has all the right curves and foot perfect on the move, absolutely top class a truly beautiful baby.

**Best Junior In Show** was a lovely Boxer and this was a strong Group, M.Ellul's Lanfrese Tangelo, this male bred in the UK by M. Griffiths, well no wonder he appealed to my eye from a kennel whose stock I so admire, let a top class youngster go this time, everything I look for in a Boxer and movement even to impress my eye.

**Best Veteran In Show** was another Boxer, R.Galea's CH Roylark Red Baron, 8 year old and on top form looked like the Champion he his, gosh he could move covered the ground with little effort, top class.

**Junior Handler:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Mariah Manicaro, three great handlers and you could swop them around and it would not be wrong. Just felt on the day the winner coped better with the large dog that was a bit excitable, but all three girls showed excellent handling skills.

**Utility Group:**

**Best:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ebejer's Akita, Doctor Love Centurion Gladiator, Quality male, powerful, super head strong neck the best of fronts and ex bone and feet, tight elbows with deep chest, such a correct profile strong powerful action, shown to perfection.

**Reserve:** E.Gauci's French Bulldog, Fun French Kingdom Ilay pushing the winner all the way, moved like a champion, typical head expression. Coby super body, and looked what she was, class.

**Utility Junior Group:**

**Best:** E.Meli's Chow Chow, Black Witch ex quality, liked the head dark eye super pigmentation of tongue and roof of mouth. strong heck, clean front ex bone and feet, short backed and a quality jacket. Typical Chow movement.

**Utility Puppy Group:**

**Best:** V.Zammit's French Bulldog, Vanluna Daisy. Oh, such a quality baby, typical expression. cobby ex body shape, strong correctly angulated back end, and a lovely free easy sound action, showing huge promise, one I really liked, sure to have a future.

**Hound Group:**

**Best:** Such a strong Group filled with quality BOB Winners, Group 1<sup>st</sup> the stunning Min Wire Dachshund owned by P.Camilleri, Wanhelsing Del Wanhelsing, instantly caught my eye so impressive on the move the correct head carriage super neck and firm top-line, full of confidence and self-importance, I thought him a lovely example of the breed and his handler got everything out of him ,they worked so well together.

**Reserve:** a classy Saluki. K.Galea's Ch.Gabra Ck Alexander Helios, could swap this pair around and you would still be correct, class quality and a stunning profile sums him up perfectly. On top form and of course that movement would appeal to my eye.

**Hound Junior Group:**

**Best:** M.Sammut's Basset Hound, Vezuki Yaroslava, instantly caught my eye looked so impressive on the stack, excellent breed type shouts quality, lovely head ex bite, strong neck, the correct front assembly, strong back-line , plenty of substance, and showing a clean pair of heels on the move, showing huge promise and she is sure to continue to impress.

**Reserve:** L. Micallef's Beagle, Isoria Harly Davidson homebred male of ex size and balance, masculine head type, correct bite, the best of necks and front, correct top-line and strong backend, lovely ground covering action. looked lovely in profile.

**Hound Puppy Group:**

**Best:** D&C.Sciberras' Whippet, De Niro Hold Me Closer (**Best Puppy In Show**)

**Reserve:** A.Hili's Basset Hound, Gavin G Dos Sete Moinhos male of quality. impressive stood and again free easy action, head appealed ex bite, the best of bodies and developing along the right lines. Shows promise.

**Working Group:**

**Best:** Big group spoiled for choice, 1<sup>st</sup> & **RBIS** that top lass Boxer, Mejeric Made You Look.

**Reserve:** A.Avekse's Samoyed, Smiling Miracle Luxury Future, lovely girl with all the qualities of the breed, feminine head & expression and pigmentation. Balanced profile and easy true action, superbly presented and handled. Here I must say I really liked a 6-month-old Fawn Great Dane, everything going for him at this stage in his development! typical Dane puppy in the final awards he had had enough and played the fool on the move. When he gets his act together he will do well, great potential.

**Working Junior Group:**

**Best:** M.Ellul Debono's Boxer, Lanfrese Tangelo (**Best Junior In Show**)

**Reserve:** K.Caruana's Newfoundland, Himera Cora Neos L-Iriope Narkissol white & black girl of quality, much to like, excellent head good pigment dark eye good bite, strong neck plenty of bone for her sex, deep brisket and tight elbows. Strong top-line and super rear. In A1 form and a solid sound mover. So well shown if a little full of herself, not an easy bitch to handle.

**Working Puppy Group:**

**Best:** E.Ambrogio's Great Dane, Teoddread Scooby-Doode La Guilde Des Nephilims, I must say I really liked this 6-month-old Fawn Great Dane, everything going for him at this stage in his development ! typical Dane puppy in the final awards he had had enough and played the fool on the move. When he gets his act together he will do well great potential

**Reserve:** S.Sultana's Alaskan Malamute, Aysha Del Biagio quality girl. nice type and correct profile. good head eye and ears set, clean front, good bone. tight elbows. Easy action covers the ground with little effort.

**Terrier Group:**

**Best:** J.Galea's Wire Fox Terrier, Eng.Ch. Travella Secret Asset Stand out winner the Wire Fox Terrier. **(Best In Show)**

**Reserve** was the quality Smooth Fox Terrier, V.Fenech's Agria Black Magic, looked lovely stacked and totally sound easy action.

**Terrier Junior Group:**

**Best:** M.Cassar's Bull Terrier, Side Blaire Breaking Bad, male of quality, looks his sex, good eye super strong bite, pleasing body and easy free movement.

**Reserve:** W.Grech's WHWT, Zenith Of Rockwell Pixel male of quality, a couple of bad mouths in this breed, pleasing head, short back, easy action and a lovely texture to that coat.

**Terrier Puppy Group:**

**Best:** K.Tanti's Jack Russell Terrier, Aikiwa Catleya fabulous on the table but he was not playing ball today. did not want to move, if he had then things could quite well have been different with the in show awards one I would be happy to own. when he decides showing is not that bad there will be no stopping him, presentation world class.

**Reserve:** N.Scicluna's WHWT, Rain Harbour Queen Lilibet Of Windsor, homebred out of two champions, lacks the quality I look for.

**Gundog Group:**

**Best:** the most lovely English Setter owned by G.Borg, Sh.Ch.Fairray Go Go Girl, Wow just loved this bitch and if there had been a BIS 3 it would have been hers, pleased me from head to tail end, and looked a picture on the move. In superb condition so light on her feet absolutely top class.

**Reserve:** K.Baldacchino Caruana's Blue Roan Cocker, Haradwater Girl On Fire, huge promise with this high-quality youngster who was also runner up best Junior in Show, feminine head ex bite, lovely neck, and straight front super body qualities and such a smart mover, the presentation and handling skills of her young handler I so admired, a future in front for this girl shouts quality at you.

**Gundog Junior Group:**

**Best:** K.Baldacchino Caruana's Cocker Spaniel, Haradwater Girl On Fire **(Res. Gundog Group, Res.Best Junior In Show).**

**Reserve:** D.Attard's Golden Retriever, Golden Aurora Seventh Heaven, liked this youngster very much, lovely profile, head appealed in ex form, moving true back and front.

**Gundog Puppy Group:**

**Best:** Z.Sinkovic's Lagotto Romagnolo, Kan Trace Destined For Rain Harbour, loved this Lagotto baby, huge promise. with everything going for her at this stage of her development.

**Reserve:** C.Spiteri's Golden Retriever, Fernflower Bosko, dog of quality showing promise, typical profile, masculine head expression, movement very light on his feet, covering the ground with little effort.

**Toy Group:**

**Best:** 1<sup>st</sup> Bonett's Pomeranian. Ch. Ta Bonett Pom Potte, out of two Champions and looked it, all quality Masculine, self-confidence and typical ex movement and in super jacket presentation perfect in full bloom. He was hard pressed in the breed because I also rated the 2nd in open such a hard decision.

**Reserve:** C.Galea's Pug, Ch. Gabra CK Unstoppable Louie, Pug pushing the winner all the way smart fawn ( homebred ) ,looks quality and balanced , masculine head and expression, excellent body qualities cobby and so good moving. top class.

**Toy Junior Group:**

**Best:** M.Vella's Pomeranian, Thai Silk Serenade, bitch, there was some quality present today in this breed! And this girl no exception, lovely quality breed type, size and overall balance, excellent coat and moved very well.

**Toy Puppy Group:**

**Best:** E.Bugeja's fabulous baby Pom, Sette Stelle Arrow, Wow, what attitude and confidence this baby had , at this stage I would not change a thing, all quality and such a bright future in front of him. **(Reserve BPIS)**

**Reserve:** C.Tabone's Yorkshire Terrier, Safi Charms My Charm Kai homebred male I also gave BOB showing huge promise, excellent head rock hard top-line never once losing it on the move. coat colour coming in, super presentation, the more I looked the more he appealed, champion bred and one certainly to be proud of.

**Best Veteran In Show:**

R.Galea's Boxer, Ch. Roylark Red Baron

**Best Any Variety Locally Bred:**

E.Meli's Pomeranian, Eli Imperial Star Dynamite

**Best In Show:** Eng.Ch. Travella Secret Asset (Wire Fox Terrier)

**Reserve Best In Show:** Mejeric Made You Look (Boxer)

**Best Junior In Show:** Lanfrese Tangelo (Boxer)

**Reserve Best Junior In Show:** Haradwater Girl On Fire (Spaniel (Cocker)

**Best Puppy In Show:** De Niro Hold Me Closer (Whippet)

**Reserve Best Puppy In Show:** Sette Stelle Arrow (Pomeranian)

Barrie Croft