

The Malta Canine Society Double Championship Show 1st & 2nd June 2019

It gave me great pleasure to return to Malta to judge at this Double Championship Show held at the Monte Kristo Estates. I last judged the Society’s Show in December 2004 when the show was held inside and I remember it well for the happy atmosphere and the Christmas music playing in the background of the venue. Thanks must go to the Secretary Frank Borg and his Committee for their kind invitation and warm welcome, thanks also to the exhibitors for the sporting manner in which they accepted my awards. The show was held on the two evenings with judging starting at 6pm because of the heat during the day and finishing in the early hours of the morning. This allowed me plenty of sightseeing and relaxation during the days in the lovely city of Valletta. On the Saturday I judged the Utility, Gundog, Toy Groups and Best in Show and my co judge Mr Jeff Luscott judged the Working, Hound Group and Terrier Group. On the Sunday we reversed I judged the Hound, Terrier and Working Groups and my co judge the Toy, Utility, Gundogs Group and Best in Show. We also judged the Junior Handling on separate evenings as this gave the juniors points with the winner representing Malta at Crufts next year. A final thanks must go to Frank Borg and his Committee for their excellent hospitality during my stay on this lovely island.

Day 1

Best in Show was Hili & Rathmell’s Basset Hound, Int.Port. Ch. Apple Jack Dos Sete Moinhos, a top quality bitch who has lots of breed type. Balanced and no way exaggerated. Well-proportioned head with domed skull, correct amount of stop, good muzzle and clean eyes. Ears well set long and lobular. Muscular neck into well assembled front. Good rib and length of body. Well-developed rear and well set tail of good length. Good coat and condition, with small amount of loose skin wrinkling. Has very good substance and stands on good feet. Moved with clean active stride holding a lovely outline.

Reserve Best In Show was Xuereb’s Retriever (Golden), Boston Perfect Forever, a good head piece, eye and expression, well placed ears and good neck into well assembled front. Liked the depth and length of rib, well angled rear and tail well set. Height to length was well proportioned, front leg well under and good fore chest. Was presented in good coat and condition. Covered the ground with good positive stride holding a firm and balanced picture.

Utility Group 1 was topped by Ciappara’s Miniature Schnauzer, Spirited Away Nero Shakotan For Taxi, head of good length and width of skull. Correct stop and good eye. Well placed ears and moderate neck, Well-built body, compact and good ribs. Well-developed rear and was presented in good harsh coat Moved freely holding a balanced and smart outline. – BPIS.

Utility Group 2 was Gatt’s Keeshond, Samkees Gold Digga – Well-proportioned wedge head with dark eye, good ears. Moderate neck into compact body with good rib, well set tail Presented in good harsh coat. Tail well set and carried correctly. Another quality exhibit of good breed type and should continue to do well. – Best Junior In Show.

Utility Puppy Group 1 Miniature Schnauzer As previous.

Utility Puppy Group 2 was won by Caruana’s Japanese Shiba Inu, Crystal. Correct head shape, good width skull and well developed cheeks. Good eye and well placed ears. Moderate neck and well laid shoulder. Good rib, set of tail and has good bone and feet. Presented in good coat and condition. Moved with good energetic action.

Utility Junior Group 1 Keeshond As previous

Utility Junior Group 2 was Schembri’s Akita, Ray Of Sunrise On Pearl River – Good size exhibit who portrayed power but not overdone. Good flat skull and good muzzle with well-placed ears which

were not too large. Muscular neck into well assembled front, straight legs and good feet. Good depth, strong loin and well set tail. Moved with free steady gait holding a balanced shape.

Gundog Group 1 Retriever (Golden) As previous.

Gundog Group 2 was Spagnol’s Pointer, Sh.Ch.Theasoft Zaniah, good skull, stop and muzzle. Good eye shape and well placed ears of good length. Clean neck and well placed shoulder. Good bone, feet and depth of body, well angled rear and tail well set. A balanced flowing exhibit who was presented in good condition and covered ground with purpose.

Gundog Puppy Group 1 was Chetcuti’s Retriever (Golden), Ta Susina For The Love Of Benji, lovely quality youngster of good type. Liked the head shape and expression, good neck into well-proportioned body. Good rib, bone and well set tail. A most promising youngster who was presented in first class condition and moved free with good front action. Lots of promise

Gundog Puppy Group 2 was Cuschieri’s Pointer, Dingli Gem Valentijno, a youngster of good type who has lots of breed qualities to appreciate, good bone, legs and feet. Liked the flowing lines and length of rib, still needs to fill in the frame a touch more in time. Active free mover when settled. Lots to like.

Gundog Junior Group 1 was Chetcuti’s Spaniel (American Cocker), Barkun King Of Diamonds Max. Balanced head, good eyes looking forward and well placed ear, correct topline, good rib, compact and well set tail. Presented in good coat and moved with positive action.

Gundog Junior Group 2 Loughborough’s Retriever (Labrador), Loughlab AJ Maverich. Masculine head and well placed ears of good size. Clean neck and good width and depth. Barrel rib and strong loin, well set tail of good size. Presented in good condition, moved well.

Toy Group 1 was Galea’s Pug, Montes Auri Treisy Fan-Fan Favori - Head of good size, round and with good ears. Strong neck and compact body, strong legs and good feet. Tail well set and presented in very good condition. Moved with very good action holding a balanced picture – Reserve Best Junior In Show.

Toy Group 2 was Bonett’s Pomeranian, Ch. Jivenchy La Peregina Iz Vestiandii – Good head and ears, liked the expression, short back, good bone and liked the overall shape. Presented in good coat and moved with a brisk action.

Toy Puppy Group 1 was Sammut’s Pomeranian, Parparellu Happy Sweet Princess Girl. Another good foxy head with good ears and eye, well placed ears, good bone, feet and compact body. Well set and in good coat. Brisk movement over the ground, had good ring presence. – Res BPIS.

Toy Puppy Group 2 was Meli’s Maltese, Enigma By Golden Blanc. A baby of good type with nice eye and expression. Good length to height ratio, well presented in good coat but not quite the finished picture yet. Moved with active stride.

Toy Junior Group 1. Pug As previous

Toy Junior Group 2. Cuschieri’s Italian Greyhound, Angelo Celesti Black Bayard. Good length skull with nice eye and expression. Good ears and clean neck. Elegant and of good type. A balanced youngster who moved with correct action, shows much promise.

Best Veteran In Show was Galea’s Pug Ch. Gabra CK Dendrum Orchid. Lovely type, size and overall shape. Good round head and has good eye. Strong neck, compact body, good bone and was in very good condition. Good free gait and could have kept going all day.

Best Puppy in Show was Ciappara’s Miniature Schnauzer, Spirited Away Nero Shakotan For Taxirol
Reserve Best Puppy in Show Sammut’s Pomeranian, Parparellu Happy Sweet Princess Girl

Best Junior in Show Gatt’s Keeshond, Samkees Gold Digga.

Reserve Junior in Show Galea’s Pug, Montes Auri Treisy Fan-Fan Favori..

Day 2

Junior Handler My winner was Paula Cuschieri – A very considerate and attentive handler who worked well with her exhibit. Focused on the job in hand and did not over handle, just did what was needed to get the best from the dog. Did everything asked in a very professional manner.

2nd place was Mariah Manicaro – Another very good handler who worked well with the exhibit. Took great care and attention on what was required to show the dog off to its best. Very close to the top spot.

Hound Group 1 Hili & Rathmell’s Basset Hound, Int.Port. Ch. Apple Jack Dos Sete Moinhos.

Reserve Best Hound was Mdercieca’s Whippet, Ch. Chebec Georgia On MY Mind.. Good length head with correct ears, good eye shape and colour. Long neck into muscular well placed shoulders, good depth, straight legs, and well knuckled feet. Well angled rear and tail of good length. Good short coat and moved with steady gait getting rear legs well under and holding a balanced elegant outline.

Hound Puppy Group 1: Hili’s Long Haired Dachshund, Danadri Hurricane Golden Boot. Balanced conical shaped head with good ears, eye and expression. Good length and topline and well set tail. Good legs and feet and was presented in good coat. Moved with good rear and front action. Lots to like and in lovely condition. Still has the best to come.

Hound Puppy Group 2 was Vigar’s Basenji, Akuj – Well-proportioned head with good flat skull. Well placed ears and good eye. Strong neck and well laid shoulder, straight legs, good feet and firm in outline. High set tail and in very good condition. Liked the type, balance and overall outline. Moved with good gait and has a promising future too.

Hound Junior Group 1 was Borg’s Pharaoh Hound, Freund Vom Mir Cleopatra. A medium sized exhibit who had lots of breed qualities. Noble in appearance and had good head shape, eye and ears well placed. Clean neck, good rib, loin, well set tail and moved well when settled.

Terrier Group 1: Cassar’s Bull Terrier, Unique Passion Casper - Strongly built with masculine head of good length, good eye, ears, and muscular neck. Good rib, loin and well developed rear. Liked the overall quality and type. Active free gait and had lots of ring presence. Presented in very good condition.

Terrier Group 2 Scicluna’s WHWT, Ch.Rain Harbour Ruffo - Good head and furnishings, dark eye and clean neck, good bone, body was compact and good ribs. Strong loin and good tail set and carriage. Good harsh coat and moved with good steady gait. Balanced and holds a quality picture.

Terrier Puppy Group 1 was Vella’s SBT, Neterex Gates Of Heaven - Broad skull with good ears and eye. Muscular neck and well laid shoulder, straight bone and good feet. Liked the body shape and topline and was in very good condition. Good tail and moved steady over the ground.

Winner of the Working Group was Farrugia’s Alaskan Malamute, Ch.Rivendell Mals The Return Of The Prodigy. Masculine head, broad skull but not coarse. Good ears, eye and expression, strong neck into well-built front and good rib. Strong loin and well set tail. Good coarse coat and moved with free positive gait. Balanced quality exhibit both standing and when covering ground.

Reserve Best Working was Ambrogio & Cassar’s Siberian Husky, Banelord Skeleton Ghost. Medium sized and had well-proportioned head with good triangular ears. Moderate neck into well laid shoulder, good length body and well developed rear. Well placed tail with good furnishings. Moved smoothly over the ground and was presented in good coat of good texture.

Working Puppy Group 1 was Zammit & Grixti’s Siberian Husky, Banelord Lava Flowing Crest. A quality youngster with good head shape and well placed ears of good shape. Good bone, feet and length of body. Well placed tail with good carriage on the move, smooth and light on covering the ground. Most promising youngster. Presented in good coat and condition.

Working Puppy Group 2 was Galea’s GSD, Momer Vom Funken Spiel- Head of good size to body. Good breadth of skull, clean with good muzzle. Well placed ears and good dark eye. Good length neck and well-proportioned body, holds nice outline and has well developed rear. Liked the type, size and overall picture. Presented in good coat. Moved with free gait.

Working Junior Group 1 Ambrogio’s Siberian Husky, Merrick Gummy Bear. Liked the type, shape and overall quality. Good head piece and ears, Straight legs, good feet and has good tail. Moved freely and lightly over the ground. Presented in good coat.

Working Junior Group 2 was Vella’s Boxer, Naxos Della Gens Clodia. Strong and masculine, Balanced with good head piece, ears and eye, clean strong neck. Liked the body depth and rib. Well-developed rear and moved with good stride. In very good body condition.

Tom H Johnston (Judge)