

Malta Canine Society – Eukanuba National Championship Show – 6th & 7th June 2015

This was my first visit to the wonderful island of Malta. They Malta CS held their first Eukanuba National Championship back to back evening shows, where my co-judge Margaret Wildman. I judged half the show each evening, and I judged BIS on the Saturday and Margaret on the Sunday.

Frank Borg and his team had worked hard to put on a good show, with sponsorship from Eukanuba. Held outdoors at a football stadium, the facilities were excellent.

I thought presentation was very good, almost all had clean, well groomed coats. Some more attention could be paid to cleaning teeth, and some could have been in harder condition.

Malta runs a 6 group system, and interestingly only 1 dog won their adult group on both days. On the Saturday evening I started with Hounds. Sadly neither of the Pharaohs entered were present. The group was won by a super Basset Hound, owned by A.Hili & D.Rathmell, Yogi Bear dos Sete Moinhos. He is very well put together, moved just as a Basset should, correct amount of furnishings, masculine in head, well ribbed back and a perfect topline that never faltered once. I would think he could win anywhere in the world. Runner up was a v good Afghan, Ch Gold 'n' Coppers Diamonds for Men. He has a masculine head, correct body proportions, and v stylish on the move with a springy gait that covers plenty of ground. Best of the puppies was the most delightful baby Whippet, Dew Princess Diana. So very well made, with correct angulation, she moves so well, certainly one I would be happy to have at home, interestingly I understand her pedigree combines Skyborne, Rivarco and Adagio. Best of the Hound Juniors was a smooth Saluki, Pedrogarcia del Borghino, very graceful, good head, well angulated and correct in topline, he still needs to develop and firm up in front.

Gundogs next and they were probably the weakest group in terms of depth of quality I thought, with fairly small numbers as well. The group winner, by a very comfortable margin was a Bracco Italiano, SH Ch Ciclone. Liked his head, correct planes. He has a long elastic stride,, correct topline and is accurate enough up and back. Runner up and best puppy was a Portuguese Pointer, Porthugese Malta Kennels Max, square in outline, well proportioned head, has a good length stride, just needs to firm up in front as yet.

Best of the Juniors here was a Pointer, Weimpoint No Sympathy for Fools, who moved well and had a v ttpical head with a curvy outline.

Finally the Toys, where I had the strongest group of my 6. I thought there were 4 v serious contenders for a group place. Those that could have easily won on another day were the S/C Chi, Cragarnat Steward Little, full of character, and the Peke, Klerkshof Solitaire, who has a lovely shape to her head, super body and v sound. These 2 juniors battled it out for the junior group, where the Peke came out on top.

I thought the Pugs were probably the strongest breed of the day, and the group runner up was a Pug, Gabra CK Dendrum Orchid, so v sound, square in outline, high set tail, liked her head with large, expressive eye. The group winner was a Pom, Danstar Kom Perry Gold. Gorgeous face. Short back, super body and as sound as they come. Correct texture coat and such an attentive show girl. She was a real contender for the top spot, but decided to lift her tail in the final run.

Topping the Toy puppies was another Peke, Klerkshop Craker Jack. He has lovely eyes with a super expression. Liked his width of chest, well sprung ribs, so v good on the move and does he pick up heavy !

So for BIS I had the Basset, Bracco and Pom, and from Margaret,s ring a Keeshond, Scottie and Siberian Husky.

The victor was the Basset, he pulled out all the stops, moved so well with that perfect topline and full of Basset type.

RBIS was V.Gatt's Keeshond, Samkees Purrrsonal Love. She has the most lovely head, moderate and balanced in Angulation, correct proportions, well set tail, correct coat texture and moved v well.

The Keeshond was a puppy, and so went BPIS, followed home by the Whippet, her movement and sheer quality were all that I could wish for.

Best Junior in show was an Am Staff, Gang- Staff Cross Punch Ku, feminine but full of strength, she moved so v well holding a firm topline. Runner up was a French Bulldog, Novizala Black Bull, v compact, expressive eyes, good on the move with correct topline. Interestingly the following day these were Margaret's top 2 juniors, with the Frenchie edging the Am Staff.

Sunday evening and I started with the Utility breeds. Here the Keeshond from Saturday took the group and puppy group. Runner up in the group was a Boston Terrier, Am Ch For Ever's a Walk to Remember, at what I am told was his first show in Malta. Masc and full of personality. Liked his head, compact in body, good topline and moved very well.

Next came the Terriers, and here my winner was an Irish Terrier, Ch AM GCH Kells Touch of Fleet Street. He has a lovely head, well set ears, eyes full of character. Correct outline, well constructed, harsh jacket and so v good on the move. Runner up was the junior Am Staff I had liked the day before. Best puppy went to a Wire Fox Terrier, who did her best to throw the group away by playing the puppy on the move. Mastini DI Rihana I Am Bonnie, is full of class, super head, short backed, and when she went properly a good mover.

The working group produced the biggest numbers and Boxers, Rotts and German Shepherds were particularly competitive.

The group went to a Boxer, CH Highcrest Out of the Blues, owner by the Highcrest kennel of Ramon Bonello, who pretty much did a clean sweep in the breed, their dogs combined excellent type, clean outlines stood and good movement. She is a lovely b, feminine yet strong. V good head, crested neck, good front, hard topline and a well made rear. The puppy group also went to a Boxer, Eros del Laya con Bullen, who was sired by my best dog, Ch Surfstone Tropical Storm (owned by Ramon Bonello). He has such a sharp, Clark outline, v well made, good head and moved soundly.

Runner up in the group was a GSD, Kassieger Firenz. Super type and proportions, she is feminine but strong. Correct neck. Well laid shoulder, correct angulation front and rear, well ribbed back, parallel out and back and went round with a long, easy stride holding her topline. Best Junior in the Working group was a strong and powerful Rottweiler, Vom Hausse Valgibs Ace. Masculine all through, good head, well proportioned, a bit of a handful on the move but sound.

2 evenings with lots of good dogs to judge, great sportsmanship and good company, a very enjoyable first visit to Malta.

Jeff Horswell.