

MARINA WHITE'S JUNIOR HANDLER COMPETITION REPORT

I enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Malta on the 4-5th November for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Malta Canine Society. Frank Borg and his team of hard working committee had put on an excellent show and gala event. The organisation was superb and the team had thought of every little detail to make it a memorable, comfortable and relaxing occasion for exhibitors, guests, judges and of course, the dogs. I was treated to superb hospitality, as appears to be customary, from this Society and I won't forget this experience for a very long time so many thanks to Frank and his team.

It was my great pleasure to be asked to judge the junior handling class. The islanders should be so proud to have such passionate and polite junior handlers who all have such promise to be future stars in this hobby.

1st Mariah Manicaro. Beautifully dressed in a smart royal blue skirt suit, she is a very natural handler with excellent skills. She showed her very strong Dobermann to advantage and had him under control at all times, her teeth presentation was clear and gentle, performing her triangle and up and down accurately and using all the ring. She gaited her dog at the correct speed and demonstrated very competent level of lead work. I was very impressed with her whole performance including the swap with the Pharaoh which she showed very well and in the style of the breed, being gentle and kind and talking to her dog.

2nd Milena Scicluna, very close up to 1 and I love Milena's warm and friendly attitude and is also very kind and gentle with her Siberian Husky. Dressed in a pale yellow skirt suit that completed the dog's coat colour. She is a very sympathetic handler with natural flair. She cooed well with the Chinese Crested as a swap dog. She changed hands unnecessarily on the second corner of her triangle with her Siberian Husky and I felt she could work a little harder on free-standing side on in the correct position. But a star of the future. Well done!

3rd Keira O'Leary. Another smartly dressed handler although I think her trousers could be more tight fitting as they flapper around on the move. She worked seamlessly with her Pharaoh who traditionally can be rather tricky to handle. She looked completely at ease in the ring, gaited the dog at the correct speed and blended into the background nicely, showing her dog off and to advantage. She performed her pattern work precisely and was aware of my position. Just felt she lacked experience with her swap dog, Cavalier King Charles as she could've tried to free stand it in the final presentation rather than stack. Good luck!

4th Tristan Galea, super smartly dressed and has a quiet demeanour about him. Very polite and listened to my instructions. Just needs more time and practise to build confidence in performing in the ring with his Chinese Crested but was so delighted to see him win the group later in the day with his dog.

5th Aaliyah Cauchi, perfectly dressed for the occasion in a hot pink trouser suit. She looked like she was having fun with her dog performing and walked at the correct pace. She struggled a little with the change of dog as he needed more firm handling but I'm sure with more experience of handling other breeds, this will improve.

Marina White - Judge

