

**THE MALTESE NATIONAL CANINE FEDERATION
DECEMBER 2010 CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW - JUDGE'S REPORT**

I would like to thank the Committee of the Malta National Canine Federation for inviting me to judge their annual Championship show this December. Both Pauline, my partner, and I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of our visit and thank you for the friendliness and good humour throughout.

The show itself was extremely well administered and was staged in a very good venue. I would like to thank Frank Borg junior, and Fabianne Chetcuti for acting as my stewards for the two day event.

In general I was pleased with the quality of my entry and virtually without exception found good examples of the 44 breeds represented in my group line ups. Several of the BOB's were in fact of puppy age which illustrates the potential for quality in the future.

If I may comment on the handling which was in general of good quality but occasionally spoilt by a tendency to 'over bait' the exhibits, which is a particular difficulty when checking 'bites'. In addition I would really encourage exhibitors not to carry bait in one hand whilst trying to move the dog. This will almost always result in the dog lifting its 'front end' on the move as the dog looks at, and seeks the attention of, the handler. It is not necessary. With one small exception the temperaments were excellent, the exception being 'stress' rather than anything else. Presentation was 'top quality'.

Hound Group

1st and BIS and BPIS Hili's Danadri Blue Sensation (Basset Hound)

This puppy shows all the potential for the future, and was my overall BIS. He had well set leathers, correct 'plane' angles through the skull, nice lozenge shaped eye, and a good mouth. A good 'keel', and great angulation front and rear with a strong top line. Well set tail which was carried to advantage on the move. His movement was ground covering and easy, with the drive from behind exactly complementing his forward reach. He could have gone on forever. He has some 'filling out' to do but I am confident he will attain much success in the future. Very well handled.

2nd Mercieca's Ch Chebec Flawless Diamond (Whippet)

A super example of the Breed this two and a half year old was unlucky to come up against 1. Balanced throughout he exhibited superb movement, a combination of balance, grace and power. A nice standard fitting head giving a clean cut appearance. Good well knuckled up feet and shown in good muscle and general condition. In profile he has an excellent reach of neck and a strong top line running into a well angled croup. Will win on many other occasions.

Hound Puppy Group.

1st Hili's Danadari Blue Sensation - Basset Hound

2nd Hili's Abydachs Summer Sun - Dachshund (Long Haired)

A super puppy male, long and low in stature well muscled and absolutely sound on the move. Masculine standard fitting head with a dark eye. Well set ears. Good reach of neck, nice well laid shoulders, strong top line, good croup, and excellent rear angulation. Shown in good coat and condition.

Utility Group

1st Pellegrini's Ch Nyakabully Ada - French Bulldog

A comfortable winner of the group this exhibit won a strong breed representation.

Compact and sturdy in structure well muscled and shown in good condition. Large strong head well in proportion with well cushioned lips and well opened nostrils. Moderate, dark eyes with a keen expression. Well set ears. Strong neck set on powerful shoulders and a muscular body. Excellent positive movement which was free flowing. Nice 'fit' feet.

2nd Navarro's Made in Spain - Miniature Schnauzer

Good strong head, correct muzzle and nice furnishings. Good mouth with tight fitting lips. Well set 'neat' ears. Excellent angulation front and rear with a 'smooth' well muscled body. Effortless movement which was completely sound and 'easy'. Good 'fit' feet.

Utility Puppy Group

1st Azzopardi's Brocaris Calvin Klein - French Bulldog

A lovely 'baby' puppy male. Immature head but should be a handsome chap in time. Very positive easy movement covering a lot of ground. He meets the standard in every way and I hope this clean cut puppy continues to develop and deliver on the promise he currently shows.

2nd Fenech's Elonas Princess Lolita - Bulldog

This puppy bitch could well have taken BOB but she clearly lacks the maturity of her Ch kennel mate. She was

not exaggerated in any way and her movement was sound and ground covering. Super feminine balanced head with loose but not excessive skin. Muzzle short but prominent with nostrils large broad and black. Good strong jaws with a correct bite. Dark eyes and high set ears, giving rise to a charming expression. Very powerful well set shoulders, well sprung ribs and powerful rear. I would have preferred slightly 'tighter' feet.

Terrier Group

1st Fenech's Ch Realstrong Bulls Black Flames - Bull Terrier

Well presented two and a half year old bitch with real presence. Strong and muscular throughout and very positive on the move. A long and strong head but not coarse, feminine in expression. Deep set eyes which were obliquely set. Good mouth with clean tight fitting lips. Excellent reach of neck well held top line, well angled shoulders with good straight legs. Well sprung ribs. Perfectly parallel hind legs and well muscled thighs. Good 'fit' feet.

2nd Grech's Bonnie Fenella Christmas Cracker - West Highland White Terrier

A one year old bitch full off 'vim and vigour'! She still lacks maturity but her general structure and balanced gives her excellent movement and a real sense of presence. Strongly built but not coarse, very much a young 'miss'. Very alert expression with well set ears. Long neck set on good sloping shoulders with a strong muscular body.

Terrier Puppy Group

1st Agius' Esprit De Corps The Joker - Bull Terrier RBPIS

A very nice seven month old puppy bitch. Well handled and presented this is a youngster with an excellent future. She has all the puppy 'fun' attributes of a Bull Terrier and was keen and alert. Standard fitting yet immature head, strong long neck set on powerful forequarters. Excellent balance throughout, well set tail and good carriage on the move. Easy light footed gait. Was unlucky to come up against the Basset Hound for BPIS.

2nd Bonett's Clealy King - Fox Terrier

A nice puppy dog with much potential. Balanced throughout, tight body, well set shoulders plenty of drive on the move. Good head, well set eyes, nice muzzle and correct bite. Nice yet immature furnishings at this stage.

Working (including Pastoral breeds) Group

1st Soboleva's Hillberry Royal Affair - Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)

A simply lovely example of the Breed. A 20 month old bitch who is maturing nicely and possesses a foxy feminine head with an alert, keen and sharp expression. Well set 'pricked' ears. She was 'all business' with excellent angulation front and rear she just flew round the ring covering plenty of ground. Nice feet, she was shown in excellent coat and condition.

2nd Bonello's Surfstone Tropical Storm - Boxer

This was an eight month old male full of quality. For a youngster he worked hard all day but just started to fade towards the end. Of medium size and square in build he had a lovely head which was perfectly in proportion to the body. His skull was 'clean' with a broad and deep muzzle with wide nostrils, and nicely padded cheeks.

He had a well developed chest and balanced angulation front and rear. His movement was strong and powerful, absolutely true throughout. He has great potential.

Working puppy Group

1st Bonello's Surfstone Tropical Storm - Boxer

2nd Cassar's Casjo Call Me BoB - German Shepherd Dog

Seven months old male who moved to good effect. Very immature which is understandable in a slow maturing breed, but he has good angulation, a smooth effortless gait, and could work all day. He had a 'clean' head with well set ears. Shown in good coat and condition.

Gundog Group

1st Micallef's Isoria Haley - Pointer RBIS

21 month old bitch who would still be moving immaculately now if required! I absolutely loved this bitch and not only did she play her part all day she was handled and presented superbly.

She has a well defined stop, well set eyes, high set leathers, and a correct mouth. She has a well arched neck, well laid shoulders, good depth of brisket and nice chest cavity. Her rear was strong with a good turn of stifle. On the move she just cruised in an effortless fashion, minimal foot lift defined the efficiency of the gait.

2nd Borg's Sh Ch Canyonn Classic Dreams At Framod - Spaniel (Cocker)

Super near nine year old veteran. Despite his years he showed as if a pup and was still completely sound on the move. Structurally he was well balanced and compact with a 'hardness' of condition. His head is 'mature' yet standard fitting, good length of neck to good sloping shoulders. Still plenty of strength and muscularity about his rear, and possesses good feet.

Gundog Puppy Group

1st Pell's Tweedsmuir Mahal - Spaniel (Clumber)

At seven months old this bitch is a very good prospect. As good a puppy of this breed as I have seen, and she excelled on the move. Whilst she had a strong head it was undoubtedly feminine, with clean eyes large ears, and a good mouth with powerful jaws. Excellent length of neck, strong shoulders well held top line and plenty of drive from well muscled well angulated hindquarters. Moved with power and purpose. Shown in good coat and condition.

2nd Chetcuti's Gaurich Dixie - Pointer

Seven month old bitch who has plenty of promise but will take time to fully mature. She is still very much a baby but has a lovely 'puppy' head which is standard fitting in all respects, and structurally at this stage she is hard to fault with an easy ground covering gait.

Toy Group

1st Attard and Borg's Tal-Bidnija Tonjo Tommy Hill Figure It Out - Pug

From a large and in the main quality entry of Pugs this two year old male took BOB and the Group. He was hard in condition without any exaggeration and could move all day. he has a good head with a clearly defined yet short muzzle, and a keen dark eye. Good strong neck, set on powerful shoulders. Strong top line with good, well angulated hindquarters. Easy on the move he covered plenty of ground and possessed the typical but 'role' when viewed from behind.

2nd Sant Fournier's Ch Livanda Giovanni - Pekingese

Plenty of dog under this wonderful coat. This chap was the 'mover' of the Breed with a good degree of 'get up and go' and absolute soundness. Nice head with a broad skull and a short nose with large well defined nostrils, and good pigmentation. Large clear and well set eyes. Structurally well balanced and strong throughout and rather out moved and manoeuvred his competition.

Toy Puppy Group

1st Spiteri's Deandra Querida-Rey - Pug

A stunning baby puppy bitch who for me was 'perfection' in miniature. As I said earlier in my report it is dangerous to be too effusive over one so young for fear of setting expectations too high, but I thought her delightful. certainly she moved with great ease and was going as well at the end of the day as at the start. Great potential and very well handled and presented on what must have been her debut show.

2nd Micallef's Isoria Farfett Ain't She Sweet Nougat. - Papillon

The sole example of the Breed at the show but what a nice one! Just six months old this girl was another who moved to great effect not just in covering the ground with a quick effective gait but also as the perfect 'show off'! She has great potential for the future.

Thank you once again for inviting me to judge your show.

Simon Luxmoore