

The Maltese National Canine Federation Annual Championship dog show held in the Cottonera sports complex on the 10th & 11th December 2011. Report by Peter Bailey, judge.

Four days in lovely Malta has to be one of the best ways to spend a long week end in December, we had 25 degrees of perfect weather, a wonderful hotel with first class food, and we had a great time. All the group winners, the runners up in group and the Best puppies were to a very pleasing high standard of their breeds. The show was held over two days, with some 200 dogs entered, day one started in mid afternoon with the toy and gundog groups.

Toy group winner was the Pomeranian dog, Mythical Break N News, very good with a great ring presence his coat and presentation was quite lovely. I was told later he was bred in Canada and a recent import. The runner up was a Griffon Bruxellois, Chocolate Kiss Van Griffondor a red rough coated male with a great head and expression, coat with correct texture, he handled and moved well I loved him. Best puppy was the Pug Deandra Dyyname,a lovely sound bitch, this breed was well represented at the show some 22 on show all very pleasing.

Gundog group winner & the Reserve Best in Show was a classical black Cocker Spaniel male not showing any sign of age, Sh Ch. Canyonn Classic Dreams at Framod, a dog with great style, a good head, lovely out line both standing and on the move, he was in perfect condition, this win made him the automatic Best Veteran in Show, a great gundog. The runner up was a young puppy bitch also best puppy in group she was the Bracco Italiano Polcevera Praga, I loved the colouring on this bitch her head is correct lovely temperament she moved with a great front extension and rear drive quite, an outstanding example.

Day two was split into a morning show, with an extended lunch break then as day one a mid afternoon session. I started with the Utility group and found the group winner and best puppy in group from the Boston Terrier class, he was a brindle and white dog, Deniro Flawless, a lovely breed type wit a perfect head eyes and ears quite lovely he moved well a lovely temperament, I later had no hesitation in awarding him Best Puppy in show he is wonderful. The runner up was the Bulldog, Elonas King of Clover, a male with a good head, skull large in circumference, eyes and ears correct, great body shape with the best of forequarters he moved well.

Hound Group winner was a young Afghan Hound male, Polos Kabin T Sensation a 12 month old cream coloured with a great ring presence. He moved well covering the ring with a lovely style, his body shape is good level back powerful hindquarters, he has a great head and expression, coat still developing, again a dog imported from Canada ,I liked him a lot. The runner up was a Beagle, from Italy, a male Champion Beagle Di Fonte Posca, a good dog with perfect balance in great condition he has a correct breed type head good make and shape handled and moved well, I had two first class hounds here. The Best Puppy in group and later the reserve best puppy in show was the Dachshund Wire Haired, Bassjoy Take a Chance on Me,

Following a wonderful lunch break on the harbour front in Valletta, I recommenced with the working group, and here I found the Best in Show winner, an Alaskan Malamute Champion Ivramwoodland Stars And Stripes, a heavily boned powerfully built dog with the best of heads, broad and powerful great temperament, body shape legs and feet coat condition, tail set and movement all to a high breed type requirement a great sled dog I loved him, Runner up was a Siberian Husky bitch, Banelord A Touch Of Gold, she was lovely. Best puppy was again a Malamute, Ivram Wooland Licence to Kill.

The Terrier group winner was a WHWT. Bitch Bonnie Fenella Vanilla Ice she was lovely to handle presented well coat correct texture head with eyes and ears giving me the required expression pleased she moved well, runner up was a Stafford shire bull terrier Dazmarnic Double Trouble, best puppy in group was a Bull Terrier Ta Deguara Rhea.

This was a quite outstanding show all the exhibitors were very sporting the ring side for the best in show event was crowded, we had a wonderful time and wish to thank the Society for their kind hospitality.

Judge Peter Bailey.