

The Maltese National Canine Federation 2013 Annual Championship Show

I had been looking forward for some time to my first visit to the island of Malta and to judging The Maltese National Canine Federation's Annual Championship Dog Show on 9th & 10th November at the Cottonera Sports Complex. This proved an ideal venue for a dog show with a huge carpeted ring. The weather was warm and sunny, which was a welcome change from home and the dogs of good quality which made for many close decisions. My first class of the day however was the Junior Handling, which was won by a very competent Kimberley Sciberras Scott. She moved her charges at the correct speed, kept her lines straight and was precise and efficient in setting up her exhibits.

The Terrier Group was won by the Bull Terrier who was also the Best Junior in Group. Electra Eos Tanagros, an 18 month coloured bitch immediately impressed for her superb head, which was well filled and had a great eye and expression and strong jaw. Her neck was strong, chest of correct width, and her body deep and well ribbed. She was well muscled throughout and her angulation was balanced so she moved really well. Just needs to firm a little in topline which should come with maturity. Runner up was the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Ch Dazmarnic Maltese Falcon a very fit strongly built and typical 5year old dog. Well made and with a good outline and movement. Best Puppy was also a Staffordshire Bull Terrier Neterex Coloured By Picasso. A 5 month old son of the BOB winner and has many of his qualities. Movement bit uncoordinated as yet.

The Working Group went to the Boxer who won through from the top entry of the day. Ch Surfstone Tropical Storm is a 3year brindle white with a good outline and proportions. Has good head qualities, good neck and depth of chest, well filled front, short back and well angulated quarters. A nice free mover with good drive from the rear. Runner up was the young Alaskan Malamute dog Ivram We Will Rock You. He was also the Best Puppy in this group. At 10 months he still has some maturing to do but he has the size, substance and quality to do a lot more winning. He is well proportioned with a good length of leg and a good depth of chest for his age. His back is strong and tail correct and well carried. He strode out well on the move and was handled to get the best from him. Best Junior in Group went to Boxer bitch Rexinara Arabella. A tall red bitch with good bone, clean front and very good movement.

The Gundog Group was won by a very handsome Bracco Italiano, Ciclone. He presented a super outline, has a noble head with supple leathers and a strong, well muscled deep body. Liked his good front and typical rear. Excelled on the move where he reached out well in front and used his rear to good effect showed powerful drive behind. Runner up went to the Pointer bitch Sh Ch Isoria Haley. She is a good make and shape with a correct front with straight well boned legs, good topline and tail set. Moved well covering plenty ground. There were no gundog puppies entered but Best Junior in Group was the Pointer Jewel Del Galazzo. Bitch of medium size who moved well in profile.

The Toy Group winner was the Pug Em Sue Rose Euphoria. A bitch of quality with a good square body and high set tail. Liked her head, good nose with open nostrils, strong neck, good front and feet. Carries a nice soft coat and moved well with typical rolling gait. Runner up was the Yorkshire Terrier bitch Bluestaryorky Secret Love. She has a good head, and neck, level topline and a super coat which was beautifully presented and a good colour. Held her topline well on the move. Best Toy Puppy was the Pug Deandra Strawberry Cake. A vivacious and sound moving baby.

The Hound Group was won by the Whippet Absolute Mann Full of You. Just 9 months old but super for type and a very graceful mover who held her outline at all times. Very feminine in head with a flowing topline and good legs and feet. Liked her good forehead construction and is well let down behind. Moved very well with good low reach in front and drive behind covering the ground with ease. She was also Best Puppy in Group. Reserve to her was the elegant Basenji Ch Tokaji Alabama Moon. A 3 year old dog. I see from the catalogue he was bred in England and out of a successful litter several of which I have judged in the UK. He has much to commend him, a good length of leg, short back, deep brisket and he moved with the typical swinging gait required of the breed. Best Junior Hound was the Beagle Niko Von Hause Niveksue. I liked this young dog very much. Has a lovely head and soft expression, good body, legs and feet and moved soundly with good head and tail carriage.

The Utility Group was won by the Keeshond bitch Ch & Eng.Ch. Neradmik Late Night Love. I note she was bred in England by Jean Sharp-Bale and although competing in a good group, I thought she stood away from the rest today. She was looking superb, carrying a full coat of correct colour which was perfectly presented. She has a lovely head with desired spectacles, a well sprung rib cage, compact body and high set tail. Her movement was brisk and true and she showed really well. Runner up was the French Bulldog Ch Nyakabully Amber. A smart little bitch with good head, mouth and correct ears. Compact in build with nice width at the shoulder and rise over the loin she moved freely and was sound out and back. Carried a lovely smooth fine coat.

Best Puppy in Group was the Shih Tsu Nurmah Singing the Blues. A 7 months gold and white with an attractive head, good neck and firm level topline. Could have made more of herself on the move but was presented in good coat and condition. Best Junior in Group went to the Japanese Shiba Inu Mizuumi Goshinyou Kensha. Good for type with a nice head and very good eye and expression. Good topline and tail, correct coat and moving well.

I was very pleased with the six Group winners who made a lovely line up. After moving all once more, my choice for Best in Show was the Utility Group winning Keeshond, Ch & Eng.Ch. Neradmik Late Night Love. Following closely on her heels into Reserve Best In Show was the Gundog Group winner Bracco Italiano ,Ciclone. Best Puppy in Show went to the Alaskan Malamute Ivram We Will Rock You and Runner up Best Puppy in Show to the Whippet Absolute Mann Full of You.

Best Junior in Show was the Beagle Niko Von Hause Niveksue.

Best Veteran in Show was the Boston Terrier Ch/IntPol/Gr/Lux Ch WW-06 Bogerudmyra's Pajo.

Best Locally Bred in Show was the GSD Dingli Gem Jake.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Borg and his committee for their hospitality during my stay and the exhibitors who sportingly accepted my decisions. It was a pleasure to judge at such a friendly show full of enthusiastic dog people.

Anne Macdonald
Judge