

**MALTA CANINE SOCIETY & MALTESE NATIONAL CANINE FEDERATION JOINT  
DOUBLE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017.**

What great hospitality Gordon & Jan Rual and I were afforded, the whole weekend at these well run shows. Super sportsmanship prevailed throughout the shows, coupled with many quality dogs and professional handling. Frank Borg and, side kick Frankie Borg (no relation), headed a hard working team. The shows were held in the evening (thank goodness, due to the heat) and whilst the finish was late, we didn't feel tired, such was the hospitality and quality of the event. I, certainly did not feel anything could be improved, so a huge thank you to Frank and his team. On the first day, the show was organized by the Malta Canine Society, where I did the Terrier, Working and Hound breeds and relative groups plus the handling classes, whilst Gordon judged the remaining 3 groups (working and pastoral are still in one group in Malta), and the finals. On day 2, the show was organized by The Maltese National Canine Federation. It was a Crufts qualifier, and I and Gordon switched breeds and groups, and it was my turn to do the Best In Show and finals.

**Day One: The Malta Canine Society Eukanuba National**

**Best Junior Handler**, was Riona Manicaro. This youngster, should affinity with her charges and if I glanced back, I found her reassuring her dog at all times. Proficient and using the ring correctly, she worked at the correct pace with her dogs at all times. Turned out her sister Mariah was second. Lovely handlers.

**Children Class.** Four really promising handlers. 1<sup>st</sup>. did just a good job. He was calm and competent, working his dog well.

**Terrier Group:** I.Calleja & J.Schembri's WFT, Travella Sneak Preview. She was everything one could ask for in a wire. Long head with dark eye and spirited expression. Compact and well bodied and hard as iron. Presentation of her wire coat was impeccable. Her balanced typical outline never faulted. She is positive and true in action with her excellent set tail used to display her terrier attitude. Pleased to see her going Best In Show later on under Gordon Rual and again under me on the second day.

**Terrier Junior Group:** A.Mallia's Staff.Bull Terrier, Devil's Delight Over Neterex.Staffordshire Bull Terrier. This strong bitch had a super head with full cheeks, correct ear. Good legs and bone with well-developed body, muscular quarters. She went well and a lovely Terrier.

**Terrier Puppy Group:** D.Busutil's American Staffordshire, Golden Pride Staffs Four Jackie TMT. Think this well made girl of grand masculine size and shape should finish at the top. She displayed a most lovely, confident character. Presentation of body and coat was spot on.

**Working Group:** P.Mallia's Rottweiler, Rick Vom Hause Niveksue. Strong and powerful with strong topline. Nothing overdone. Absolutely sound. Loved him, just not working as well with the different handler, in the best in show ring. However his masculine power and type deem him impressive therefore pushing the showy young dog all the way in the finals.

**Working Junior Group:** O.Manicaro's, Manicaro Cunning Faith. I was really taken with this super Border Collie. Just 1 year old and could be no other breed .immaculate condition and handling .She is s good to go over and on the move her demeanour is typical of the breed ,with her lower head and tail carriage. Should have a lovely future.

**Working Puppy Group:** G.Mansueto's Boxer, Taranut Caravaggio. super athletic youngster. Working all the time with handler.head is clean with broad muzzle with lip fitting correctly. Has dark expressive eye. Arch to dry neckline through good lay of shoulder and depth and width to brisket. Straight front well boned legs. Short back and ribs sprung and leading to short muscled Lori. Strong hocks. Performed with power and deportment. Very closely followed by the Alaskan Malamute whom I have to mention as he gave the winner a good run for the top spot, R&C Farrugia's Alaskan Malamute. Rivendell Mals The Return Of The Prodigy. Upstanding with

plenty of Bone for size. Powerful head, yet not overdone to lose balance. Strength in muzzle. Neck, strong, of length to provide carriage. Has body proportions and firmness to topline. Filled muscular hindquarters. Firm hocks giving impulsion and drive. Easy flowing mover. Turned out well in grand coat.

**Hound Group:** J.Attard's Pharaoh Hound, Jataburu Sand Dog Oscar. Only 10 months old but what a clean masculine hound, which never put a foot wrong, even on day 2. He showed exuberance and alert shapely outline. Dry head with super eye and ear. Elegance of muscular arched neckline. A quality youngster with ring presence beyond his years. He therefore also took best puppy in group.

**Hound Junior Group.** O.Manicaro's Beagle, Alotorius Old Glory Just Go With It. Super little bitch. All hound with the sweetest head, flowing neck with body and firm topline to bang on tail. Happy girl who showed it when moving.

**Hound Puppy Group:** J.Attard's Pharaoh Hound.Jataburu Sand Dog Oscar, he just performed better and better each time he came in the ring and never lost his typical, clean outline. BPIS.& res BIS.

### **Day Two: The Maltese National Canine Federation – Crufts Qualifier**

**Toy Group** winner. S.Micallef's Papillon, Really Classy De Apple. What a smart puppy. Classic outline. Good head, with pleasing ear set and use to enhance his look. Very sound little chap in lovely coat and body. BPIG.

**Toy Junior Group.** K&C.Galea's Pug, Gabra CK Danger Zone. Pug. Compact, with good proportions. Big round head, Well-fitting round eye. Short blunt muzzle. Really w **Toy Puppy Group:** S.Micallef's Papillon. Smarty never stopped displaying virtues and won the adult Group.

**Utility Group** winner. P.Pellegrini's French Bulldog, CH. Vianac Pasha. 2 year old, shapely, with balance. Lovely head well-fitting eye. Correct fore skull and muzzle, giving typical side profile. Quality bone and strength in front with big ribs. Correct hind and muscled quarters. Free, typical gait.

**Utility Junior Group.** G.Pace's Akita, Rolex Of Wolfpoint. Well-proportioned with correct leg to depth ratio. Flat skull Small, triangular ear set to enhance expression from dark almond eye. Tapering foreface with moulded muzzle and width to jaw. Reach of strong neck. Quality bone down to arched feet. Moderate angulation both ends, makes for true foot fall. In super coat and has decent action

**Utility Puppy Group.** V.Gatt's Keeshond. Neradmik Cupid Love. When I read the name, I recognised the affix. A great breeder, who obviously makes sure great ones go abroad. Immaculate presentation and working avidly with handler. Really top class exhibit, who pushed the winner to the wire. Will stand on the podium many times throughout his career.

**Gundog Group winner.** N.Xuereb's Golden Retriever, Too Good To Be truth Sun Of my heart. This junior bitch has such a beautiful head and pigmentation. Well boned tight feet. Good ribbing to short strong loin. Tail straight off back and lashing flanks. Positive easy action with true foot fall. In full bloom. Best Gundog Junior.

**Gundog Junior Group:** Golden Retriever

**Gundog Toy Group:** J.Galea's Spanish WaterDog. Zorrasso Gosh I'm Gorgeous. Beautifully sound and typical in balance. Worked so well with quiet proficient handler. Correct coat.

**BVIS.** A.Mallia's Staff. Bull Terrier, CH. Dazmarnic Maltese Falcon. Certainly did not look his age, in prime condition and, clean masculine with balance throughout. He is sound, good head full cheeks. Good width and depth in front. Went so well.

**Best Locally Bred. O.Manicaro's,** Manicaro Cunning Faith. I was really taken with this super Border Collie. Just 1 year old and could be no other breed. Immaculate condition and handling.

She is so good to go over and on the move her demeanour is typical of the breed, with her lower head and tail carriage. Should have a lovely future.

I judged the finals on the second day and could not get past the first day's **Best In Show** winner, put through by Gordon Rual, I.Calleja & J.Schembri's WFT, Travella Sneak Preview, whom I also gave the group to on the first day.

**Reserve Best In Show** was J.Attard's super Pharaoh Hound, Jataburu Sand Dog Oscar. He therefore also took best puppy in show.

**Best Junior in Show.** J.Borg's Bullmastiff. Cane Guardiano Mr Boombastic. Powerhouse of a dog, even at this age, yet he has agility and suppleness. Nothing about him is weak or out of proportion. He is symmetrical and stands on good legs and feet. Hard and fit with good coat. Lovely youngster, who fought hard to win in this grand line up. Impressive and in great form.

**Best Puppy In Show** out of a cracking line up of super youngsters was J.Attard's Pharaoh Hound, Jataburu Sand Dog Oscar,

*Judge ,Patsy Hollings.*