



The photographers were given ten minutes to go into the ring and take pictures, which was very much appreciated.

Before the BIS final, there was the traditional ceremony of handing the FCI flag over to the organisers of the next World Show. Next year the dog people of the world will meet in Germany, at Dortmund, where several important big shows have already taken place.

The BIS judge, Martin v d Weijer, is one of the two existing allrounder judges of the Netherlands. This was said to be his farewell task, and if so, it really is a grand way to retire. He is originally a Terrier man, who only in the later years widened his judging appointments to include other breeds as well.

The BIS-line-up was really most international. Only Sweden had managed to get two dogs into the BIS ring, the stylish Irish Terrier and the very happy tail-wagging Flatcoated Retriever. Both of them come from long-established famous breeders who are used to big wins, Gertrud Hagström of the Merrymac fame and Ragnhild Ulin, whose team of the Almanza Flatcoats also won the Breeder's Groups. Actually Norway's contribution was not only the Poodle, because the breeder of the magnificent St Bernard, Britt Halvorsen, who lives in Belgium, is originally Norwegian. Her St Bernards have raised attention both in Scandinavia and on the Continent. The Puli from Denmark completed the strong Scandinavian proportion. Her owner Bodil Rüz has had some other successful Pulis before, this one is imported from the native country of the breed, Hungary.

Hungary has often managed to get some dogs into the big finals, this time also the Shorthaired German Pointer came from there. His owner-breeder Istvan Nagy is, in fact, the President of the Hungarian Kennel Club. This particular dog is seventh generation of his own breeding.

Although there are many high-quality breeders in the Netherlands, this time only the Dachshund represented the host country. His owner-breeders, the Zijl family, is very well known in the breed. The PBGV from UK belongs to the absolute cream of the British Isles, and his win certainly should encourage more British top dogs to come to the World Shows in the future. His many achievements include winning the Champion of Champions contest this year. It was nice, that there were two dogs from another Continent, the Basenji from USA and the Deerhound from Canada, both of them very showy and presented to perfection, like one could expect.



Strange afterword

After the World Show, some very mysterious news was published. Outside of the RAI centre there was found the body of a dead Yorkshire Terrier, in a cage, hidden in the bushes. It is not known yet whether the dog had taken part in the show or not, or what was the cause of his death or even from which country he came. The body was sent to post-mortem, and because the dog was tattooed, it most likely is possible to find out his identity and owner. If the dog died during travelling, why was the body abandoned there? And why the cage, too? One does not expect that an exhibitor would forget his dog! Hopefully we will hear some answers, but the whole thing sounds very odd.

