



shown in the breeder's name.

There has been discussion in Europe about disabled judges in recent times. I don't know what the French people think about this topic, but one of the French judges, an elderly gentleman judging Newfoundlands, was in the wheelchair. The big dogs, known to be stable in temperament, didn't seem to be bothered, but one just wonders if the judge was really able to reach down to feel the dog's legs and feet for example.

One could also wonder, if the BOB winners, who enter the "ring of honour", have to be deaf or stuffed with sedatives, because the music was VERY loud, and fanfares were blown just behind the winner's stands, when the winners had been announced. How much carnage and noise the dogs are supposed to tolerate? It might be spectacular to have the feeling of Las Vegas, but does that actually belong to the dog shows? Travelling, the crowds and halls and the show itself is enough stress for the dogs, is it really necessary to do everything to frighten them? When the three placed ones of group 2 for example were standing on the stands, and the brass band in their decorative red jackets blew the fanfare, just next to the Fila Brasileiro, the dog really panicked and the horde of photographers with their flashlights didn't make him feel any better. If a Fila of all breeds feels himself uncomfortable, how the breeds with less courageous fame are supposed to behave?

#### The black horse wins

As one could expect, the panel of judges consisted of many French names and mainly the "same old faces" remembered from many previous FCI title shows. The BIS judge was Mr. Uwe Fischer, the President of the German Kennel Club and the chief of the organisation of next World Show. Many of Europe's most famous showdogs were present, including the BIS winners of the two last World Shows. Both of them, the Newfoundland from Porto and the Standard Poodle who won at Amsterdam, managed to win their groups. There were certainly many who would have bet one of these will win this show, too.

The Newfoundland Int Ch Atwater Crazy Diamond Borgoleonardo is obviously living in Italy now with his co-owner. Italy had the strongest team in the BIS final, five group winners. In addition to the Newfoundland,

also the Herding Group winner, Australian Shepherd Ch Propwash Spectacular Bid came from Italy, he is an American import. Also the Dachshund Group winner, the Longhaired Standard Dachshund Ch Houbert del Fico d'India is Italian, and so is the best of the Sighthounds, the Whippet Ch Rivarco Gazelle. The Pointing Gundog Group winner, the Gordon Setter Sh Ch Caballus Ebonie Adonis is a real cosmopolitan. He was born in Finland out of Australian (Triseter) parents, and is owned by an Italian. Lately he has been staying in UK and is said to be the first foreign Gordon to gain the Sh Ch title. He also won there BIS at the breed club speciality show.

Only one of the group winners was a French dog, the black & white American Cocker Very Vigie She's Black'nd Blue. One came from the Netherlands, the Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen (although this is a French breed!) Ch Optimiste van Tumtum's Viciendjes, one from Belgium, the Chow Chow Ch Ventureboy van Mansjoerije, one from the Czech Republic, the Kerry Blue Terrier Gaeltacht Iosac Advaith and one from Norway, the famous white Standard Poodle Int Ch Topscore Contradiction.

The task of the judge was certainly not easy, as it never is. Uwe Fischer is a very experienced judge, and although he must have been aware of the great reputation of some of the dogs, he is able to make his own mind. When the Poodle was called first in, to go to the third place on the winner's stand and then the Newfoundland to be second, everybody was holding his breath. Who is going to be the ultimate winner? In the spotlights the so far totally unknown Kerry Blue became the hottest news in the European dog scene. However, one can say that the apple has not fallen far from the tree. He is a son of Int Ch Torum's Stormin Norman, who has been one of the top dogs in Finland, winning among other things BIS at the Nordic Winner Show last year, and his uncle Ch Torum's Scarf Michael is certainly a well-known name in the British and American dog world. This three-year-old dog is born in Finland, but owned by the Czech lady Eva Neduchalova, who handled the dog herself. Eva and her Kerry Blue were obviously not used to be in center of the flashlights, and were not prepared to win. But they were doing fine! It is not necessary to hire professional handlers or dress up, you only need a good dog who can naturally move and stand. It is not necessary either that the dog is a cool show machine, if he can still handle the new situations. It is delightful to see that there is life in the dog, especially a Terrier and he reacts to strange things, like barks at the TV-cameras. It feels good that there really are judges who are not fooled by the flashy performance or outfits of some handlers, and who are really judging dogs, not handlers!

- This is a damned good Kerry Blue, said Uwe Fischer afterwards. - It was obvious to me, that it would be the question of choice between these three. It is so seldom nowadays you see a Kerry Blue of correct size, he is not too big, and the colour is unusually beautiful, too.

The FCI flag for the next year's European Winner Show was handed over to the President of the Slovakian Kennel Club, Mr. Stefan Stefik, by the President of the French Kennel Club Mr. Renaud Buche and the FCI President Mr. Hans Müller. The European Winner Show will be held next year at Bratislava, the capitol of Slovakia, while the World Show will be hosted by Germany, with Uwe Fischer in the chair.



Group 6 judge Medard Rinquet, France

1. Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen Optimiste van Tumtum's Viciendjes, o. Frans Huikeshoven, Netherlands,
2. Rhodesian Ridgeback Milady, o. O & A Petrovy, Russia
3. Basset Hound Bobass Sunshine, o. Bodil Bossen, Denmark



Group 7 judge Hans Lehtinen, Finland

1. Gordon Setter Caballus Ebonie Adonis, o. Michele Ivaldi, Italy
2. Bracco Italiano Rivana del Monte Alago, o. Gianpaolo Poggio, Italy
3. Staby Jurre v d Kraay Heide, o. Harrie Venner, the Netherlands



Group 8 judge Barbara Müller, Switzerland

1. Am. Cocker Spaniel Very Vigie She's Black'nd Blue, o. Ludivine Suchet, France
2. Labrador Retriever Amber, o. Franco Barberi, Italy
3. English Cocker Spaniel Harmodius Double Joy, o. Cristina Sanz Soler, Spain



Group 9 judge Andreas Schemel, Austria

1. Standard Poodle Topscore Contradiction, o. Stein Glenna, Norway,
2. Pekingese Sstanja The First Step to Dratsun, o. M Gracheva, Russia,
3. Maltese CinecittaBreveincontro, o. Elisabeth & Axel Axelson, Sweden



Group 10 judge Guy Mansencal, France

1. Whippet Rivarco Gazelle, o. Gaetano Turrini, Italy,
2. Borzoi Paloma de Pinedo, o. Pinedo-Miralles, France,
3. Saluki El Hamrah Farraar, o. Minea Collan, Finland