

PERTH ROYAL

What a change for the Perth Royal; we actually had the judges nominated in the schedule! It has become somewhat of a topic of amusement in recent years when it comes to judges. We had endured a period where the judges selected just never made it. So you just entered the show and waited to see who might be judging. Father and son, Horazio and Sergio Pizzorno from Uruguay presided over this year's event, Horazio having judged in Perth some six years ago.

As for the weather, until the last day, what could be said? It was perfect. The last day, Group Seven and General Specials was something else. Torrential rain, hail, thunderstorms and howling winds, dominated the news headlines and by the afternoon when the final judging was about to start, we had the gale warnings and advice to batten down. In fact, by six o'clock when exhibitors were allowed to leave, the officials at RAS had decided that it was not safe to allow the public (anyone that is who would brave the weather) to come through the gates at all. Instead of continuing into the night, the Royal Show 2002 was over.

Now to the show itself. Over 1600 dogs were entered in conformation classes. On top of this, were the obedience and agility. The judging kicked off with part of the Utility Group on the Saturday, the remainder being judged four days later. It is becoming a bone of contention for Group Six exhibitors that the Group is often split due to numbers. At least with the Royal, there is the expectation that it will be divided between the two judges. As for coming back for a second day, then if one gets through, a subsequent day for specials, well, that's where some grumbles start to emanate. Although, having said that, the Thompsons spent more than half of the week at the show and I am sure there were not too many complaints. Phil won Best In Group Six with the Akita (Crux Stand N Deliver) and Ruth took Kruger (Grand Ch Chaleur Acclaim To Fame), the Golden Retriever through for the same award in Group Three. Runner Up in the Utility Group was Reiner's Bernese Mountain Dog, Ch Zanzebern Intrepid Bear.

Working Dogs followed on the Sunday; once again, the group split between the two judges. Mr Pizzorno senior judged group specials, selecting the Border Collie, Grand Ch Borderfame Mr Magic, sent through by his son, for Best Exhibit. Runner Up came from his own part of the group, the Australian Shepherd, Grand Ch Sasin Bravo Storm Cloud (iid), an all American bred bitch.

The Gundogs turned out next, on the Monday public holiday. There were a couple of breeds the judges had never examined before, including the Irish Red and White Setter. However, it was the Labrador Retrievers that really took the eye of the Pizzornos. Three of the seven classes including Veteran were Labradors. In fact Best Baby and Puppy were also awarded

to this breed. Best in Group, as we all know, went to Ruth Thompson's Golden Retriever with Runner Up going to Lockwood's Pointer, Ch Bluewyn Grace and Pride. Talk about 'repeat offenders' when Horazio was here last time, he had also given Best In Group to the same Goldie and a Pointer which the Lockwoods had bred and owned in partnership with Maree Burrell went Runner Up. Absent from the Royal this year was Kath Williams (Katydid) who had been suffering a fairly serious virus, missing the opportunity to exhibit her four German Shorthaired Pointers as well as a more recent interest, the Alpacas. Kath was still happy however with her memories of the GSP National, where dogs she owned or had bred had fared quite respectably amongst the strong WA contingent.

The Toy judging on the following day resulted in a group win for the Berwick's young Bichon, Ch Dupanache Merlins Magic. Runner Up was awarded to the stunning parti Peke, Aristic Party Tyme owned by Helen Gray of Shelanu Kennels.

When it came to the Hound Group, popular breeds for group awards were the Beagles and the Whippets, each being awarded two classes in Group; consistent breed strengths also seen in awards at other shows throughout the year. Best In Group in fact went to one of these two breed's representatives in Natalie Dille's Whippet bitch, Ch Tancri's Blonde Over Blue. Runner Up went to a Basenji, Grand Ch Hazhart Klassic Legend.

Apart from Best Open and Veteran both going to the Airedales, selection in the Terriers was varied. Ida Homer's imported Airedale, Ch Serendipity Blow Your Horn (Imp USA) went on to get the Best In Group, whilst Runner Up went to the Staffordshire, Ch Taureg Murphys Law.

The final day when all turned foul and the heavens opened, saw Non Sporting Group start a little early to allow for General Specials to follow. Taking the group, much to the delight and surprise of the Henleys as owners, was the Dalmatian, Ch Lorgary His Lordship. Sylvenus Kennels' Intermediate bitch Toy Poodle, Sylvenus Set To Sizzle handled by Clare Kelly went Runner Up.

Specials day has traditionally seen a huge gathering of exhibitors and the public to await the final decisions but the inclement weather with warnings of worse to come as the day progressed, certainly kept onlookers to a reduced number. There could be no waiting in the sunshine around the ring where members of the public have habitually congregated as the showers came across in waves interspersed with fine patches. Horazio Pizzorno showed himself as a seasoned adjudicator at such events by playing to the crowd and orchestrating applause as the dogs were moved for the final cut. And yes, it was worth having to come back to the Royal, yet again, when Phil Thompson handled the Akita to its Best In Show win. Runner Up went to Helena Fitzgerald's homebred Border Collie, Grand Ch Borderfame Mr Magic. Baby In Show was awarded to one of those popular Labs, Cowper and Kay's Celebration Diggers Ego whilst Puppy In Show was the Chow Chow, Maney's Kuteaz Midnight Shadow. It was a Gundogs turn again when the Gooding's Cocker Spaniel, Yunbeai Summer Loving won the Junior class, with Intermediate in Show going to the Berwick's Bichon; winner of the Toy Group. The State bred class was our Best In Show winner while the Border, as Runner Up In Show was also the Best Open.

Finally the Veterans had their turn and from a fairly strong line up, Sergio Pizzorno chose the lovely little Miniature Smooth Dachshund, Cross' Ch Uneetoile Munchkin.

Both judges obviously enjoyed their assignments and whilst you can never please everyone, most comments at ringside referred to the pleasant ring manner displayed by each of them.

After a long week, it would have been quite forgivable if these gentlemen declined the invitation to attend the Canine Fundraisers Winners and Losers night but graciously they turned up amidst the storm, smiling and quietly chatting with exhibitors. Horazio had a few words to say to those in attendance, recalling his last visit and generally reiterating that he enjoyed his assignment. He spoke of the hospitality and professionalism of the handlers, reminding exhibitors that this was a return visit. He finished on a light note, recalling the thing he most remembered about Perth was all the pretty young ladies. Let's hope he doesn't remember that weather.



**BEST IN SHOW
CRUX STAND N DELIVER**



**RUNNER UP
GRAND CH BORDERFAME MR MAGIC**

REPORT BY KERRIE MANSELL

PHOTOS BY ROB SHAW