

Best In Show

So That is it...the 100th Crufts show is over and it maintained its reputation as being the Greatest Dog Show in the World – almost the Grand Dame of pedigree dog shows.

Adored by all who love dogs whether viewing on television, spectating, exhibiting, stewarding or judging, it maintains that Crufts aura which is unique. Despite all the pitfalls we hate of long walks, crowds of people, seemingly too many trade stands and the notorious upsets in form, it continues to bewitch and we return year after year.

It has to be every judge's dream to judge there and this year it was my good fortune to be the one chosen to select the best in show.

Terry thorn judged the Gundog Group named his Flat Coated Retriever Norduch Fl Inkwells Named Shadow (ATC) was his winner. This lovely black dog looked the part. Fills the eye in stance, so shapely, clean lined, lovely head eyes and that melting expression. He side gaits so well, gleamed in coat as though freshly gloss varnished and his tail never stops wagging. A breed never short of admirers and his performance could only gain a few more.

Joe Kirk from Ireland sent in the Beardie Ch. Hamble Huckleberry. I have judged him several times before, firstly at Crufts several years ago when he led a hugely competitive class for a bit then memorable gave up the ghost and dropped to third place as a result. Then I had him put forward as BD when I judged bitches and I jokingly said to my co-judge that Huck takes one look at me and throws in the towel, and that is what he did that day.. But finally, as a breed Club Ch show it was third

time lucky and he performed just long enough to convince me of his merit and he won the CC. Here he tried his best, was immaculately put down and tried really hard, moving so well and showing excellent balance in profile.

Int. Ch. And Im Great to be Back is the Newfoundland dog which has made such a huge impact on our show scene since his arrival here. Again flawlessly presented and his ebony black jacket truly sparkled under the brilliant lighting. A crowd pleaser with his handsome big black bear appeal, his enthusiastic, powerful stride when moving round with such gusto and his topline can't but draw admiration. Michael Quinney chose him, to lead a good group.

A very smartly dressed Marianne Nixon has the pleasure of judging a lovely Hound Group and she selected the Scottish owned Greyhound Hargreaves-Savage and Olson's Ch. Mistweave Making Waves. This young blue brindle is another not a stranger to the high spots and he too impressed though with this slow maturing breed he will look even better as he fills out. Again beyond criticism in muscularity and coat condition and he never put a foot wrong, doing everything his handler could have wanted. He is so clean in shape, no harsh angles, no exaggerations just a smooth flowing harmonious shape. His owners must be so proud of this win.

My good friend, the immaculate Liz Cartledge ran the rule over some excellent BOBs in the Utility Group and her first and second placed dog are both dogs which have won well under me. The runner up, the Apso Ch. Hazgaye Red Alert was my BIS winner at BUBA whilst winning black Standard Poodle Ch. Penling By Design at Namkia owned and handled by Mhari Aikman, was my Res. Overall puppy stakes winner at LKA when the Basenji Cidevant won. Then this black boy was an awful, self-willed handful, but today he pulled out all the stops and gave a five star performance of a mature male of his breed. He has and arrogance in his carriage, I so well angulated, really motored round the ring with all the style you could wish for.

Stacked he is short backed, big ribbed, the tightest of feet and his coat was immaculately prepared and shaped.

The Welsh wizard Bryn Cadogan had some lovely terrier to go over and his choice was the Kerry Blue Ron Ramsey's Ch Torum's Tunde Bayou, brother (later litter) to Scarf Michael. Prepared and handled by Geoff Corish he deserved the applause he received as he too never put a foot wrong, looked and behaved like a star both when in stance and on the move. Like the Newfie he has that presence on the move, which draw admiration. I thought him to be outstanding in the line up and was a most deserved reserve BIS winner.

The winner came from the Toy Group, judged by everyone's friend, Betty Flavell who opted for Bert Easdon and Philip Martin's renowned top winning Pekingese dog Ch Yakee A Dangerous Liaison. It is the world's worst kept secret that I am a fan of this super star. I last saw him when he won the Toy Group under me here last year before winning reserve BIS to the Standard Poodle 'King'. Here it was Danny's big chance and he never put a foot wrong. He is such a superb example of this very difficult breed and for me his I the best Pekingese I have had the pleasure of going over. In superb coat and with the tail held back the big ribcage is obvious as is the neat waist and the lovely short, level back. His head proportions and its shape are perfection and with his black mask and those soul searching eyes which look so regal and calm, he wins me over every time. His presentation could not have been improved on, and what about the performance on the move. He covered every inch he was asked to, retaining that exquisite scissor action and dignified roll so desired in the breed. His third successive group here and very few of the thousands of dogs I have judged could have given me more pleasure to give the final accolade of best in show at Crufts.

A classic show and a classic dog to win the Supreme award. I could not have been happier. It was a memory to treasure.

Albert Wight

Our Dogs – 14th March 2003

Domino plays the game...

Crufts 2003 was another opportunity for the anti-Breed Specific legislation organisation DominoDogs to try and inform the dog owning public of the threat to many breeds in many countries, increasingly affecting British tourists and service families as well as the local dog owners.

Having been initially formed to oppose the spread of Germany's anti-dog laws across the European Community in 2000, Domino has unfortunately been called on increasingly to assist dog owners in countries around the world as media and politicians respond to incidents of dog attacks with immediate calls for breed bans.

Dave Levy, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club's KC liaison Officer managed the Domino stand over the four days of the show and was delighted with the positive response from the public – which included many overseas visitors – who called in at the stand.

"With grateful thanks to the volunteers from the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club (Gary, Bunny and Steve) I went along on Wednesday evening to set up the Stand. We have a number of new messages to impart to the thousands who would be attending Crufts 2003:

"Communication, Communication, Communication" – Domino is all about warning dog owners of the threat to their own dog if Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is not stopped.

"Education, Education, Education" – Veterinary research from all over the world consistently demonstrates that the way a dog is raised and trained is far more significant than breed type as a cause of dog attacks.

"Politician, Politician, Politician" – You can help to stop the nonsense of Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) by writing to YOUR political representative and tell them why Breed Specific Legislation has not worked, does not work, will not work".

AWARE

The public seemed more aware than ever of the threat to dogs although recent developments in New Zealand (where a TV 'personality' is actually urging the public to stand anybody walking an unmuzzled dog), Luxembourg and Norway were new to many. There was plenty of support voiced and many people left messages of support in the Domino book."

Dave Levy added: "In many respects it is unfortunate that DominoDogs still has a role to play in trying to inform the public, media and politicians about the scientific but the message remains "Which county will be the next to suffer?" and "Which breed will be the next to fall?"

Please keep watching www.dominodogs.org for continuing updates on what YOU can do to help protect dogs from the insidious spread of counter-productive Breed Specific Legislation."

From the Dog Papers.....

DOG WORLD March 14.

THREE BOBS MISS THE GROUP

The dogs who missed out were the Papillon from the US, Am Ch Cadaga Civil Action, owned by Linda Sohn and K Ozeki, handled by John Oulton; the Malinois, Sabrefield Raring To Go CDex, owned and handled by Tom Davis; and the Alaskan Malamute from Italy, It Ch Rainbow Maker del Bragio.

The Papillons were judged by Pamela Cross Stern who had been told to start at 8.30am instead of 9.15am due to the number of dogs – 247. But she was told the time change had not been put in the dog papers in time (DW printed it in the March 7 issue), so the later time had to be stuck to.

Mrs Cross Stern judged all day, stopping at lunch for only a six-minute break. Nevertheless, at the end it was too late for the winner to enter the group.

Mr Oulton, who had travelled to Crufts from Connecticut, and the dog's owners, who came from the US and Japan, were bitterly disappointed.

Mrs Cross Stern, who had judged a large entry of Rottweilers the day before, said she was 'absolutely

disgusted' by what had happened. "And furious," she said. "I never remember being so angry – I threatened to give up judging."

Tom Davis' dog was judged by Gerry Hughes. "I am very disappointed but I was more disappointed for the judge," he said. "It wasn't her fault, there was just such a big entry and she was under tremendous pressure.

"The KC appointed two judges for different varieties, one for the Tervueren, and another one for Groenendaels, Laekenois and Malinois. I assumed that there would be two rings, but there was only one, which rather defeated the purpose."

Mr Davis was disconcerted to see the group being judged on the internal TV screen while waiting to see who had won BOB.

A spokesman for Crufts called the matter 'unfortunate': "All Crufts judges are provided in advance with order of judging schedules that outline both the estimated commencement and completion of judging," he said. "They are further informed that if they do experience difficulties with adhering to their timings they should inform the Crufts stewards' office who will intervene and do everything in their power to ensure that breeds are fully represented in the group ring.

"We will be investigating this matter to see whether this procedure took place with regard to these relevant breeds and, if considered necessary, an announcement will be made in due course."

Dog World, April 4 2003

Jean Lanning to Judge BIS at Crufts '05

Jean Lanning is to judge BIS at Crufts in 2005.

Miss Lanning, who had her first open show appointment at Tunbridge Wells CS open Show in 1951, has been involved with dogs all her life. Her mother, Hilda, took out the Clausentum affix in 1944, and she and her daughter bred and owned a number of Great Dame Champions, the best known probably the important sires Ch Gergus of C.

Miss Lanning has bred and owned a number of other breeds, and first awarded CCs in Dames in 1957.

She has done the working, utility and hound groups at Crufts and has judged extensively abroad.

She has written several books on Danes, and was long involved with Southampton CA, running its one and only ch show in 1965.

She is a member of the Kennel Club General Committee and has served on several sub-committees. She is currently passed to award CCs in 69 breeds: 18 Hounds, 4 Gundogs, 3 Terriers, 12 Utility, 11 Working, 17 Pastoral and 4 Toys.