



Best in Show
Sligrachan Primroze



Runner Up
Elzmer Almost An Angel

Each year, there are several events that set themselves apart as significant in the canine calendar. One of these has been traditionally The Western Classic, now known as the Western Classic weekend due to its change from one prestigious event to two shows over a four day long weekend (and might I add, this is one very long weekend if you are down there every night. The weekend incorporated the twenty fourth 'Classic' show along with the City Farmers Obedience Challenge, the City Farmers Western Classic Agility Trial, the Pedigree Western Classic Obedience Trial and the City Farmers Western Classic Agility Teams event. The international panel hailed from South Africa, Canada, Japan and Ireland and all had judged in Australia previously, if not in Perth as well. Michael Leonard (Ireland) having previously judged a Classic show in the past few years, had enjoyed the occasion immensely.

The entry this year closely matched that of its predecessor and this is an indication that exhibitors still support the format although increasingly we are hearing complaints about turning up for this marathon event after a working week and heading back to work, sometimes only a few hours after coming home from the show. The event however was run with such precision that there seemed to be little of this endless lingering and waiting for the groups to finish. The organisers and especially the stewards, certainly should be congratulated for the expert management of the whole event. As for the

weather, it was superb. On some previous occasions, exhibitors have turned up for the show having travelled through the hottest part of the afternoon with temperatures somewhere around 40 degrees but this year the mild conditions saw many rugged up in polar fleece and jackets soon after the sun went down. A treat for the locals is always found in the visiting stall keepers, especially the now regular commuter in Nancy Prouse (Kachinka Shih Tzus Victoria) who brought a variety of goodies for purchase. The fabulous jewellery display that Nancy had brought with her was very popular. Figurines, mugs, plates and some soft breed replicas made up the balance of the displays.

Best in Show in the first event, the Pedigree Advance Western Classic, judged by Tomio Fujihata of Japan, was Watson's Beagle bitch, Sligrachan Primroze. Runner Up went to Van den Elzen's Cavalier, Elzmer Almost An Angel. Class in show winners included the Old English, Shellbears Satin Roses for Best Baby, another working dog in the Border Collie, Winpara Pure Desire for Best Minor Puppy, the Australian Silky Terrier, Rosedale Easter Parade as Best Puppy, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Stafflyte Lord O Thering as Best Junior, Best Intermediate to the Runner Up In Show, Best Australian Bred to the Best In Show, and Best Open to the Norfolk Terrier, Ch Nanfan Calanus (Imp UK)

Not to confuse the shows, the next event, the Pedigree Breeder Formula Western Classic had General Specials judged by Virginia Lyne of Canada. Mrs Lyne chose Chippindale's Lowchen Ch Chinaroad Flying Colours as her Best In Show with Runner Up to that same Norfolk winning Open In Show at the previous event. In fact, it was the only Norfolk in the show. Baby went to the Pembroke Corgi, Westend Fait Accompli, Minor In Show to the Siberian, Jentol Tina's Town Flirt, Puppy to Friday's Fox terrier, Miro Linda Fair Dinkum, Junior to the Saluki, Taejaan Lordo Th Rings, Intermediate to the previous show's Runner Up In Show, the Cavalier, Australian Bred to another Toy in the Pomeranian, Ch Amorea Stylish Charmer and Open to our Best in Show winner.

The sponsors, Pedigree provided the bulk of the prize pool as is traditional for this event. City Farmers also contributed with a rosette and trophy for Runner Up In Show while individual breed donations ranged from a perpetual shield or trophy to sashes. The CAWA provided a cash and sash for group awards.

The highlight of this show has always been the atmosphere generated by having so many dogs on the grounds at one time, the fact that it is a long weekend, the international panel and the time of the year. A balmy summer evening under the stars encourages everyone to relax, enjoy a picnic dinner and take in the action in the various rings. The sight from the balcony was something to behold with all the conformation rings running at once and the bottom arena dedicated to obedience and agility competitions. The future of the event seems assured as long as it has the exhibitors support. The numbers have been consistently down on that second show but not enough at this stage to set organisers to worrying. Some people simply are not prepared to commit themselves financially as well as physically to this four day programme. But there are others who wouldn't miss it for the world; part of the 'package' here is the ability to look back and say that you did indeed turn up and get up in time for work as well. Of course, so many exhibitors plan their month around this event, saving RDO's or asking for annual leave. It's one of those events that as a West Australian, you just have to enter. Now don't ask me which is THE Western Classic show because I haven't been able to answer that question for the past three years. The two shows now seem to have equal merit, so congratulations to all the winners, it was a great weekend.

KERRIE MANSELL

Western Classic Weekend 2003



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Ch Chinaroad Flying Colours



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