



SZILVÁSVÁRAD - THE DOG SHOW FOR THE LIPPIZANER HORSE

(left) Supreme BIS Szilvasvarad OES Bugaboo Big Puff Daddy with judge Elke Peper (Germany), bred by Johnson and Shields (USA), owned by Johnson, Shields (USA) & Davor Javor (CRO). Renowned canine judge Lisbeth Mach is also showing her horse handling ability.



(above) Szilvászvárad: Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen and other judges with the winners including (centre) BIS Day 2, the Saluki Abu Baqr's Daftardari (left) BIS 2 the Bearded Collie Show Must Go On de Chester (right and below) BIS 3, the Airedale Terrier Rus Kornels Zvezdnaya Koroleva (Russia)



When Jan and I set off from Australia for our judging trip to Szilvászvárad in Hungary, we never dreamed that we were to be a part of and witnesses to such a unique, wonderfully organised and spectacular show.

After arriving in Vienna, we caught the very fast train down to Budapest where we were met by the parents of our hosts, Judit Papp-Korózs and her husband András Korózs, who, along with András's brother Gabor and his wife Tímea, are the main organisers of the show.

In the 2-hour drive to our hotel in Szilvászvárad, we passed through some very old villages and their quaint houses with some beautiful flowering tamarisks lining the roads and irises and lilacs in abundance. It was nice to come into springtime instead of winter at home!

Szilvasvarad is a small village near the Bukkt Mountains in Hungary, and is the home of the spectacular Lippizaner horses, the oldest ceremonial-horse breed of Europe, and it is here that they are bred and trained for their worldwide work. We were able to visit the horse museum and even got to ride around Szilvászvárad in a carriage drawn by two magnificent horses.

There are several areas, and a very large group of stables for the mares and their young ones, which includes a large pavilion of historic carriages and carts, some of which are still used. The stallions are housed on the other side of the village with the museum and detailed history of the breed. We were fortunate to be taken to a field as well where there were many mares grazing with their young ones. This was a special occasion as these famous horses, which are a "must see" attraction in Vienna were here during the season closure in Vienna.



At our hotel in Szilvászvárad, we were met by András and Judit and they took us to the site where the shows were to be held over the next 3 days. It was incredible to see the amount of work that had been done to make such a spectacular setting for the shows in the foothills of the mountains. We were looking forward in great anticipation to our judging the following day.

Over 40 judges were arriving from many countries around the world, and with dogs entered from 27 countries and boasting a who's who in specialist judges, it was no wonder there was such a great entry - the best ever for this show.

A Lippizaner horse is the prize for Supreme BIS, which is what makes this show so unique! There are two separate CACIB international shows held over the Whit weekend on the Saturday and Sunday, with the two BIS winners from each day competing for the Supreme BIS on the second day. On the third day there are a great number of Specialty shows, including Europe's world renowned Interra Show for Terriers.

On the first day, Ken had the honour of judging his own breed, Airedale Terriers. With an entry of approximately 40, he had some excellent Airedales; BOB going to a stunning Russian bitch, Rus Kornels Zvezdnaya Koroleva. Judy Averis (Saredon Kennel, UK) also chose this bitch for her BOB on the second day and this beautiful bitch went on to BIG (Jan Braithwaite-Campbell) and BIS 3rd (Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen, Finland).

Ken also judged Lakelands, Welsh, Soft Coated Wheaten and Australian Silky Terriers. Jan judged some Toy breeds on the first day, including Pekes, Pugs, Chinese Crested, Chihuahuas etc and a Veteran in Show class - choosing a very classy Irish Setter.

On the second day, Jan was pleased to be judging her breed, Fox Terriers, and was delighted with the entry and high quality of both Smooths and Wires. It was interesting to judge the newly recognised breed in Europe, Jack Russells, and to meet some very dedicated breeders from Italy who had imported dogs from Australia. Jan also judged several other Terrier breeds.



Ken was very pleased with his entry of over 50 American Staffordshire Terriers on the second day and found great quality in the entry; BOB was a Croatian bred bitch and the best dog was from Holland. It was very interesting speaking to breeders from several countries and to have some very informative talks over the weekend with David DeRío of Goldrush Kennels in the US. David was to judge American Staffordshire Terriers at the Interra show and it was pleasing to see that he agreed with Ken's choice of best dog. Ken also judged PuppyIS on the second day, with the Czech owned Bearded Collie, Firstprizebears Dillon taking the honours.

The finale of the shows was really something to see!

The BIS judge was Elke Peper (Germany) who entered the judging ring on a carriage drawn by four magnificent Lippizaner horses. The ring was just large enough for several figure eights - one could feel the breath of the horses as they turned at the edge of the ring before the final circuit - then they halted in the centre of the ring, allowing Elke to step down from the carriage. It is something you never forget.



Ch Sunrise Blaze of Glamorgans

The first day's BIS was a Bobtail (Old English Sheepdog) and the second day's BIS was a beautiful fawn Saluki. Both were competing for Supreme BIS, with the Old English Sheepdog, Bugaboo Big Puff Daddy (USA) taking it out.

In case anyone is wondering about the BIS prize, reportedly the dog's owners in America want to keep the Lippizaner horse, so some major arrangements need to be made to export the horse over there by ship.



Szilvászvárad: BOB Irish Terrier and American Staffordshire Terrier

INTERRA SHOW.

On the third day at the Interra show, we had the thrill to see a Smooth Fox Terrier bitch we exported to András Korózs and Judit Papp-Korózs, Hungarian and Romanian Junior Champion Optimo Ozzie Spirit (Sprite), win BOB under Harry O'Donoghue (Blackdale Wire Fox Terriers, Ireland). Sprite was withdrawn from the IS awards as Jan was one of the General Specials judges. BIS at the Interra show was a Kerry Blue Terrier.

A very big congratulations to the four organisers of this most memorable event; President András Korózs and his wife Judit Papp-Korózs, brother Gabor Korózs and his wife Tímea.

We recommend you visit Hungary for the next Szilvászvárad show in two years time. This year we had an Australian onlooker in Carmyn Kingston who really enjoyed her days watching the shows after completing judging assignments elsewhere in Europe.

BREED ASSESSMENT AND EARTHDOGS.

After the excitement of Szilvászvárad we had a few days touring around Hungary visiting the famous thermal springs, which Jan thoroughly enjoyed. We were then invited to a breed assessment day just out of Budapest where the owners brought their dogs to be assessed to see if they were suitable for breeding.

(For rest of article see actual magazine)