

The British Scene



Well with Crufts out of the way for another year, the show scene begins in earnest. Being early in the year for the UK our weather can be anything but predictable. So it is at this time of the year we have four of our Group shows. Kicking off first is the UK Toydog Championship show. As always held at a permanent showground in the Midlands area and a venue used by a great many societies, you couldn't call it pristine but it is 'usable'. This is the only Toydog Group championship show in the UK and so the entry is always a huge one. BIS judge this year was Austrian Andreas Schemel who now resides in the UK. His choice for BIS was Tony Allcock's Japanese Chin Ch Jenan Figaro Sleepy hollow. Tony is a world champion crown green bowler, not the ten pin variety. Reserve BIS was the Yorkshire Terrier from Spain Spanish Ch Estugos Versace owned by Sergio Amien and Hugo Ibanez. Group 3 was another from overseas and was the Smooth Coat Chihuahua Ch Gibeltarik Happy Go Lucky. This was the dog who won this year's Toy Group at Crufts, owned by Jose Reuenas and handled by Lawrence Llamas from Gibraltar. Group 4 was the Papillon Ch Bodebi Rhythm Is A Dancer.

The very next weekend and the very same venue was The National Terrier. Like Montgomery County, no-one wants to miss this show, well certainly if you are a Terrier person. It's amazing when you have two different Groups how the atmospheres can be quite different. Terrier people are down to earth no nonsense people and passionate about their breeds. I was honored to judge Norfolks and out of a super entry it was AmCh Cause For Celebration who came out on top. Owned by Pam Beale, Stephanie Ingram, Beth Sweigart and Elizabeth Matell, who of course bred his mother the famous 'Coco', handled by the 'Welsh Wizard', Peter Green of course. In Dandies it was BOB for Ch/CanCh Glahms Royal Canadian, owned by Glen Tinsley and breeder Mike Macbeth from Canada. Unusual in Staffordshire Bull Terriers for us to see an import but going all the way to BOB was AustGrCh Koendidda Umrung.

Judging BIS was one of out top all round judges and one with a very famous Terrier background, Mrs Ferelith Somerfield. Her mothers' Oudenarde kennel of Cairns and Irish Terriers is famous worldwide and so it was appropriate that she judged this great show. And the top spot went to the red Norwich Ch Ragus Rings True, another from a very famous kennel and I was particularly pleased as he was my BOB winner from Crufts this year. This win was to set him on a great run, but more of that later. In Runner-up spot was another big winning dog in the wheaten Lakeland Ch Louville Red Prince. Twice last year he had been a general championship BIS winner and it has been some time since this has been done by this breed. Group 3rd was Andrew Goodsell's Wire FT Ch Blackdale Carousel, bred of course by Harry

O'Donoghue in Ireland and coming from a long line of Blackdale champions. Co-incidentally in Group 4 was another from Ireland, Philip O'Brien's Kerry Blue Edbrios Amadeus, this was his second CC, the day after he won at the club show and so gained his UK title.

From the Midlands area the next week it was up to Scotland for the Hound Association of Scotland Ch show. Last year they had glorious weather, sadly this year it was the complete reverse and rain and cold hit everyone, so most breeds were judged under canvas. It was another BOB for the tri Basenji Ch/AmCh Klassics Million Dollar Baby at Tokaji, this bitch is so lovely to watch on the move, she just glides. It was a Finnish import who topped the Afghan Hound entry, Finn/IrishCh Shadowfax Stepnoi Veter owned by the Shaverneva/Doudko/Rohodes partnership. And in Whippets it was Ch/AustCh Pepperone Solid Gold who was BOB and obviously a well traveled young man.

BIS went to the Rhodesian Ridgeback Ch Sonstraal Christmas Eve at Kazval with the Saluki Ch Nefisa Bushrah of Sarul in second, the Crufts Group winning Elkhound for 2006 in third, Ch/Irish Ch Kestos ISpy at Graythor has 29 CCs too In 4th place was the Borzoi Stubbylee Jazz Diva.

Last Group show of the month was the Working & Pastoral Breeds of Wales Ch show, really a two Group show but of course in years gone by it was just one. The show is held in what must be one of the prettiest parts of Wales. The venue is the permanent site for the Royal Welsh Show and so the permanent buildings are very useful in bad weather. The show obviously has two Groups and so the winners of both come together at the end for the top spot. There was no stopping this year's Crufts Group winning and Reserve BIS winning Samoyed and she went all the way to BIS here Lisa Bobowski's Ch Vandream Imperial Hermioni by Berezniki. Second to her in her Group was the American bred Pyrenean Ch/AmCh Rivergroves Murphy Goode. Third was the Bearded Collie Malandex Xcallibur and Group 4th was the Swedish Pembroke Corgi Siggins Doffa, who I gather is a natural bobtail. Winner of the Working Group was the Siberian Husky who gained her title on the day, Kynights Bewitched. second to the brindle Boxer male Ch Walkon Made N'Issue. Group 3rd the Alaskan Malamute Chayo Forget Me Not and in 4th the Portuguese Water Dog in traditional trim Gemson Justin at Grandway.

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Pamplona & Sealaw Showdogs

Aussie judge @ WORLD SHOW

Michael Camac has the honour of being the only Australian judging at the World Show in Sweden this month. His assignments at time of writing are:

Friday
Chihuahua Long coat males & Best of Breed 84

Saturday
Intermediate bitch class -
Staffordshire Bull Terriers 23
Australian silky terriers 47 + 2

Sunday
Pomeranian Dog Junior class 14
Shiba Dogs 41
Siberian Husky Dogs 37

The complete programme is found at

July 3, Thursday - <http://kennet.skk.se/download/wds/pdf/pm/WDSpmThursdayEN.pdf>

July 4, Friday - <http://kennet.skk.se/download/wds/pdf/pm/WDSpmFridayEN.pdf>

July 5, Saturday - <http://kennet.skk.se/download/wds/pdf/pm/WDSpmSaturdayEN.pdf>

July 6, Sunday - <http://kennet.skk.se/download/wds/pdf/pm/WDSpmSundayEN.pdf>

Not-so-Snowy Dogs

Alaskan Malamutes in Victoria enjoy sledding – without snow!



Ian Luke (left) with Mo & Sam



The Alaskan Malamute Club of Victoria (AMCV) has 16 sledding events scheduled for 2008, no snow required.

"Due to the lack of snow and access to snow, we mainly run on dirt. Our 'sleds' are modified bicycles," says Ian Luke, President

of the AMCV. "The fact we run on dirt makes the sport very accessible to anyone with a medium sized dog."

While talk of sledding calls to mind images of Malamutes and Huskies, Mr Luke says any dog can participate in the sport and all types of dogs are welcome at their events. "We've had Australian Cattle Dogs, and all types of crossbred dogs compete in sledding," said Mr Luke. "We also hold weight pulling events, and we've had all sorts try out that sport, including Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Cattle Dogs, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Bull Mastiffs and other similar types of dog. We have backpacking events as well. Anyone is welcome to join us for any of these activities. There is quite a large sledding community in Victoria in which all types are raced. Hounds and other gundog breeds being quite popular because they are so fast."

The AMCV offers a Working Dog Programme in which Certificates can be earned for:

- - Sledding
- - Working Team Dog
- - Working Lead Dog
- - Working Weight Pull Dog
- - Working Pack Dog



Backpacking, great fun & fitness

Do you think your dog would enjoy sledding, weight pulling or backpacking?

Visit the Alaskan Malamute Club's website at www.users.bigpond.com/amcv/ for more information about these sports and upcoming events and to contact the club.

Bodyguard and mate for Kiwi soldiers



Kiwi troops in Afghanistan have been bowled over in more ways than one by a handsome dog who has become mascot, guard and pet at one of their patrol bases.

Gunner has won the hearts of soldiers operating out of Nayak, about four hours' drive west of the main Kiwi base in Bamian.

Major Syd Dewes, who returned last week after six months in Afghanistan, said Gunner was big, tough, and not for pampering.

He was nothing like the Afghan hounds that New Zealanders would recognise – there's no such thing as pedigree in Afghanistan. He is like a cross between a German shepherd and a husky.

"This dog was born for the snow and the sheer joy on his face when snow arrived – it was a sight to see." If the snow was piled he would dive into burrows made for him but most of the time he would just sleep on it regardless of the temperatures, which regularly got down to minus 30 degrees celsius, Major Dewes said. He would use his kennel only when it rained.

Gunner was a great guard dog, who would kick up a fuss if anybody came around the base, and would snap at the ankles of strangers.

But he was also a real character. "He gets so excited to have you around that it makes going back to the base a pleasure.

"Whenever we had been away from the patrol base for a few days, upon our return he would be like a child seeing his dad return home."

Gunner was so big and heavy that the unwary would be knocked over by him.

Major Dewes said Gunner was a pup when he was given by local businessman Mohammad Amin two years ago.

Major Dewes is sending over some worm and flea tablets to make sure the new troops at the base continue to look after Gunner.