

STORM TAYKS GOLD

36th GSDCA National Show & Restricted Trial 2/3/4/May 2008, West Beach Adelaide SA

Gr Ch Vonpeta Taykall By Storm capped off an incredible 18 months for her owners/breeders Jane Pike & Peter Damarell by winning the Gold Medal [Bitches] at the recent GSDCA National held in Adelaide. With another SA dog Vimo Hopfenhalle [Imp Gmy], just 5 weeks out of Quarantine, winning the Gold Medal [Dogs] this year's National proved to be a golden bonanza for the host club German Shepherd Dog Club of Sth Australia. Vonpeta Knl had another two on the pegs apart from Storm: a mother /daughter combination Ch Vonpeta Avenue Tolder Ex 8, Ch Vonpeta Sheeza Mona Ex 9. Congratulations Jane & Peter and to Storm's handler Stephen Crozier. Well done.

This year's National attracted an entry of 159m [130 shown], 260f [192 shown]. The Conformation Judges were Herr Hans Peter Fetten, Vom Finkenschlag and Herr Leonhard Schweikert, aus Agrigento, and former SV Breed Warden. According to his resume Hans Peter Fetten who belongs to the Nth Rheinland SV region is a seasoned world traveller having judged throughout Europe, the USA, UK, Sth America, Scandinavia, Greece, Turkey and Australia. Herr Schweikert, a SV Judge for 25 years and very highly regarded throughout the GSD fraternity world-wide, has judged several times in Australia, the most recent being in 2006. Schweikert was the owner of the famous Quando Arminius, a dog that features in many Australian pedigrees through his son, Odin Tannenmeise.

The Adelaide National at West Beach has always been characterised by its lovely large well-grassed rings, plenty of room for parking and most of all, its fabulous canteen. This time round the weather was perfect. You could be forgiven for thinking that you were in Queensland, it was so mild. It was a complete change from last time when the interstateers literally froze when the southerlies blew all day.

Friday morning pre Show would have tested the patience of a saint as the Catalogues arrived very late and when they did arrive, the binding was poor and quite a large number had been incorrectly collated. Jan Strachan, the Show Secretary, took it all in her stride and by lunchtime a completely new set of catalogues replaced those distributed in the morning. A Herculean effort on Jan's part and worthy of a Gold Medal. Her team of hard workers also kept their cool under fire. Ladies, take a bow.

The Catalogue delay caused a late start but this was forgotten once the 39 Baby Puppy Bitches entered the ring in Catalogue order. Hans Peter Fetten worked this class and many owners were left wondering just how many times the older classes would be sent around the ring. The GSD baby classes do an Individual but to his credit Herr Fetten used half the ring for this purpose. While the BPB Individuals were being done, the 21 Baby Dogs were called into their ring. Herr Schweikert was very slick. The Baby Dog Individuals were finished by the time Peter Fetten did his call-up for the class gaiting exercise prior to placings on the pegs. For the Queenslanders it was a great win with the two Mike daughters being separated by the Cayos daughter: BPB1 Pallendon Tatiana [Mike Estherlager], BPB2 Sunhaze Nibblz [Cayos], BPB3 Jezlahn Regina [Mike Estherlager]. Don and Pauline Willis [Pallendon] had a great start to the National and for Liz Kruger [Jezlahn] it was well worth the trip down from Rockhampton. For John and Jeannette Carter [Vic] their new boy Bono was the highlight of the National for them. Actually John was home in Melbourne whelping their bitch who had a litter to Kwint just a couple of hours before Bruvic Terre De Troyes - Bono [Cayos] handled by Candy Baker was BPD1 followed by another two Cayos sons: Sabaranburg Esko BPD2 Andacht I Am Legend BPD3. Peter Fetten graded all the Baby Bitches as Very Promising but Herr Schweikert gave 18VP 3P.

The winning Minor PB was Meljenka Brandee Milk [Kwint], MPB 2 Kirchberg Acute Beauty [Syd Royal BOB Glenbala Wild Grande Finale], MPB3 Grundelhardt Makybe [Ray F]. Again Herr Fetten graded the whole Class of 30 as VP. The MPD class was much smaller [17 shown 15VP 2P]. The first two places went to NSW dogs with Qld a close third: MPD 1 Freevale Causin Chaos [Cayos], MPD 2 Schneeberg Fire Storm [Jose Cuervo] MPD3 Leishjaclyn Navel Dancer [Cayos]. For John Widejko it was the beginning of a good National and others noticed the restoration of the Leishjaclyn prefix to Paul Leishman & Jackie Hitchings Knl which had been showing under Nujaclyn for a number of years. The Junior Bitch Class was another large class 39 [35 VG 4G] The winner was another Cayos daughter Sunhaze Marshmello, JB2 Lashadas Butterfly Kisses [Utopian Dream] JB3Astasia Lorie [Cayos]. Peter Fetten commented that there were some very beautiful young bitches coming through which promised much for future breeding programmes. While he raved about the Junior Bitch Class, Herr Schweikert was not so fulsome in his praise of the Junior Dogs which apart from the first two placegetters, he considered to be a disappointing class. He pinged lack of strength, looseness and insufficient masculinity. Not everyone agreed with him.

However the first two dogs were outstanding and in Schweikert's opinion in a class of their own. The winner was Kwint son Kardin Kruger and Lepps Dorf Loui Armstrong [Cayos] was JD2. Freevale Sweet Lachlan was JD3. There were 16 VG 6G.

By the end of the first day, the outstanding sire was definitely Cayos. His progeny dominated the pegs in every Class. What were the Judges looking for? Black & red dogs with black eyes, good masking, strong bones and free far reaching movement. Hans Peter Fetten was most appreciative of the Junior Handlers and made a point of congratulating and praising them for their effort and sportsmanship in the ring. It was quite noticeable that he moved the junior handlers up through the classes even on to the pegs.

The President's Dinner was held on the Friday evening at the Westward Ho Golf Club opposite the Adelaide Shores Holiday Village which was very handy for most interstate people. No parking problems. From all accounts it was an enjoyable evening.

Saturday saw the welcome appearance of the Xpresso Mobile Coffee ladies. With a very full programme scheduled a prompt start was imperative. The Sires Progeny groups entered the ring at 8.30 am to be assessed and critiqued by the NBC Chairperson Joylene Neddermeyer and the Judges sub-committee Chairperson Robyn Knuckey. It was a chilly morning so the SV Judges used their commonsense and took themselves into the ring where it was warm and sunny instead of remaining in the very cool ringside Judges tent.

As the various Sire groups were being critiqued the two men formed their own opinions as to the pre-potency of each Sire. In Group 1 there were 15 Sires Progeny Groups and in Group 2 there were the larger groups of Kwint, Cayos and Gigolo Progeny. The Sires in Group 1 were Ravdansens Orvar, Ray Fichtenslag, Unox Aducht, Orpheus Karauterwiese, Gagarin Bad Boll, Iccara Undercover Agent, Karlos Werther Muhle, Astasia Heico, Igor Pallas Athene, Nilson Wildsteiger Land, Uras Trafalga, Sannjesa Crusty Demon, Aimsway Abacus.

The value of the Sires Progeny Parade is being able to see what each Sire produces and what faults need to be avoided. The largest group was that of Cayos Noriswand. Not since Iwan Lechtal has there been such a large number of progeny presented at a National. Cayos is definitely the top producing Sire in the country. What a loss we have with the demise of Gigolo Elzmundungsraum. He was a local Sire but he has left a wonderful legacy in his progeny. Hopefully this will be able to be utilised to its full potential. When the current Australian Sieger Ch Sannjesa Crusty Demon led in his group the two Judges paid close attention to the critiquing and assessment of his progeny.

The Sires Progeny parade was followed by the Breeders Groups. Each breeder may enter as many teams as they wish but each team must have a minimum of 5 animals from at least two sires and 2 dams. Sundaneka from NSW were the first team in followed by Astasia Knl [Qld] and Andacht [NSW]. The local kennels were prominent: Bruangie, Gilarisha, Vonpeta, Grundelhardt and Vondoussa. It was Andrew's dream to present a kennel group at the Adelaide National and Mel Lloyd fulfilled this dream by presenting the first Vondoussa Knl group to the applause of the crowd. The winning Breeders Group came from WA: Lashadas Knl presented a stunning group with a high degree of difficulty and deserved to win. Their winning Group included two class winners and 3 placegetters: PD1, ID 1&2, PB9, JB2. They had the advantage of Alan Adam's expertise [Spellbinda] in forming the final composition of the group to illustrate consistency of type.

The Restricted Obedience trial with Mrs Val Bonney [Qld] UDX/UD, Mr Brian Fielder [SA]CDX & Mr Michael Vigor [SA] CD/CCD using just the one ring commenced at 9.00 am and finished under lights in the dark. This was probably the biggest puzzle of the National as the three judges waited their turn to use the only ring set aside for Obedience. According to those who did watch the trial, the standard was not as good as they had hoped and the results certainly reflected this. 34 dogs competed with a total of 6 qualifying scores. The only Excellent Medallion was OC Delaforce Hocus Pocus UD ET 191pts in CDX. Congratulations to Fred Lumsden and Hokey. The top score in CD was Aldahoven Cristel Clear 186pts handled by E Bernhardt. Fran Farley did brilliantly in CCD with her boy Skippy Iniff Travelling Man [Quosh] 99/100. Fran was the last person in the ring and trialed under lights. The Winner of Winners was held the next day between OC Delaforce Hocus Pocus & Aldahoven Cristel Clear with the Gold Medal going to the latter. Hokey being used to Drop on Recall came unstuck in the straight Novice Recall which was a big pity as she had worked brilliantly in the heeling exercise and had to be content with the Silver Medal.

Congratulations to both handlers and their dogs.



Gold Medal Dog

Vimo vd Hopfenhalle [imp Gmy]

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Gold Medal Bitch

Gr Ch Vonpeta Taykall by Storm

