

**BIS CH BLACKDALE CAROUSEL
FOX TERRIER WIRE**

EUROPEAN WINNER SHOW



The panel of judges was a very typical one for an FCI title show. There are always FCI meetings in connection with the shows and so the representatives of the various kennel clubs are there anyway. Many of them are judges. Now most of the judges didn't have to work very hard, in some cases just half an hour a day, because in many rings there was only a very moderate amount of dogs. Surely the trade stand holders didn't make much profit, and many of them had removed their things and closed on the third day.

Although Ireland is known for its rainy weather, the show had luck and the sun was shining all the time. However, it was not too hot either, so it was pleasant for the dogs. It was also nice for the exhibitors and visitors when it was not too crowded anywhere, no long queues for toilets or food and drink. Although it was not a huge show by Scandinavian measures, it must have been a big task for the IKC. No time schedules were

published, and it was, once again, difficult to get the results and there was no pre-information available. The press room was just a room with not much equipment. The easygoing Irish spirit and sense of humour compensated for the shortcomings, though.

On the first day five Groups were judged, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10, on the second day only two, Groups 1 and 2 and so the third day consisted of Groups 7, 8 and 9. Then there was also the show for the Irish breeds organised by the English Kennel Club, by English rules and Breed Standards. This show was a qualifying one for Crufts, too, and its finals were held in connection with the EW show finals.

There were a lot of finals, as in every Group best puppy, best junior dog, best junior bitch, best breeder, best brace and then the "normal" best in group. One has to wonder if it is necessary to have so many final competitions. It took quite a long time to finish all these. Is it really wise to have for example puppies in the big shows at all? It may well be too much for a very young dog. And if a junior can be BOB, is it necessary to have a separate competition for them, certainly not each sex separately. It is also difficult to understand the meaning of the brace competition, especially if you only need three dogs in a Breeder's Group like in most countries.

The BIS judge was the President of the IKC, Sean Delmar who is a popular judge also in Scandinavia. His choice for the top spot was no surprise, it was the Wire Fox Terrier Ch Blackdale Carousel, who is bred by his fellow Irishman, Harry O'Donoghue. Mr O'Donoghue is one of the most famous and long-time Fox Terrier breeders in the world and a widely travelled judge himself. He told us that he had this bitch growing in his kennels, untrimmed and shaggy, until one day he thought that maybe it was worth seeing what there was under all that hair. So he trimmed the bitch and realised that this one may be worth something. He sold her to a well-known and successful handler Andrew Goodsell in England, and now she is just going from one win to another,

having won many times Group finals and even BIS in England. Harry O'Donoghue himself was showing a dog of his own, who became BOS, but he certainly was not disappointed at all.

Second in the BIS line-up was the American Akita Ch Melodor Burn the Witch, owned and bred by Chris MacLean in England, but has been shown extremely successfully around Europe by the Italian handler Fabrizio Manni, who was again handling her. Third was the British-bred Pekingese Ch Brenntoy Cleopatra, who lives in France, and fourth the Afghan Hound, Ch Polo's Cosmic Fire, also from France. The other Group winners were the American-bred Australian Shepherd Ch Propwash Snooker, the Boxer Ch Winuwuk Lust at First Sight from UK, remembered for his Group win at Crufts earlier this year, the Wire-haired Rabbit Dachshund Pretty Woman del Gotcha from Italy, the Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Tangaer Magique from UK, the Red & White Irish Setter Tullamore Ted, also from UK, and Flat-coated Retriever Almanza Your Wish is My Command, who lives now in UK but the dog was born in Sweden and the owner is Norwegian.

The World Show this year will be held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in October. At least it is easy to go there from all parts of Europe, so it will surely be the biggest FCI event of the year.

The FCI European Winner Show was held at Dublin in Ireland. The Irish Kennel Club has taken a bold step to join the FCI and make a clear break from its "big brother", England. That means they have changed into the FCI Group system, grading and Breed Standards. The IKC was convinced that the rigid regulation about bringing dogs into the country would be loosened before the show, but unfortunately it didn't happen. So for the rest of the Europeans it was very complicated and expensive to bring dogs to the island, because in practice you first have to go to England and then take the ferry to Ireland. Of course therefore one has to do all the paperwork to bring the dogs to England. Surely they expected more dogs from England, but the British exhibitors are not particularly interested in the FCI titles, especially when the show is happening under FCI rules, judged by FCI judges who do it according to the FCI Breed Standards.

IKC has a showground of its own near the airport, which is a great achievement for a relatively small club. Actually all the other Kennel Clubs should follow their example! However, the show was not held there but in a large sport and exhibition centre. There were several breed club Specialty shows held in connection with the EW show, and those took place at the IKC showground.

A little less than 4000 dogs must have been a disappointment for the IKC, not to talk about the economical setback. It is a big show for Ireland, but in most breeds there was not much competition, at least not what we are used to in the FCI title shows. Surprisingly enough, the numerically biggest breed was the Dogue de Bordeaux with 96 entries. So the Dogues outnumbered for example such usually most popular breeds like Golden Retrievers (79) and Labradors (65). In Southern Europe they usually have a lot of Amstuffs, but now there were only 15 of them, same amount as English Springer Spaniels, although we in Scandinavia may well have hundreds of those. Or 13 Border Terriers, 11 Longhaired Dachshunds, 13 Westies, only one Norwich Terrier and so on.



TULLAMORE TED
Red & White Irish Setter



ALMANZA YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND
Flat-coated Retriever