

The Guernsey Kennel Club Members Show Sunday, 28th February 2010.

Report by Peter Bailey on the Non-Sporting breeds, Best in Show & Best Puppy in Show.

To be invited to judge by this Kennel Club is not only a pleasure but a great honour. This was our third visit to Guernsey and all was first class. The hospitality was quite wonderful. Mrs Chris Bligh and her team organised a very good show and with quality exhibits to judge, the whole event and week end was outstanding.

The show was split into Sporting & Non-Sporting. I judged the Non-Sporting & Best in Show and my co judge for the Sporting breeds was Mrs Carole Wood.

Starting with the Pastoral breeds, Shetland Sheep dogs, Best of Breed was a very sound up standing blue merle male, Armitage's, Rainway Ocean Wave. I thought a very good breed standard, he has a good head with the required balanced muzzle stop, back skull lovely eye shape and colour, best of ear set used well, great body shape, coat in perfect condition, good tail set and carriage. A very good breed example. He was Group 2 later in the day. 2nd place was a very pretty tri colour bitch Poidevin's, Sundark Salce. In lovely bloom, coat condition was perfect, head is correct, lovely temperament, moved well. I had two good examples here to start my day.

German Shepherd Dog. 3 classes to judge and I was very pleased to do so and say at the outset, the GSDs on show are the type that I personally wish to see and judge. My winners were as follows,

Best of Breed, the Pastoral Group winner and later the Reserve Best in Show, was Lawrence's male Penwartha Apache Arrow Pdh. A fantastic example, his head is lovely giving me the required look from good almond shape eyes, lovely ear set, his body make and shape pleased. No roaching, great angulations, rear quarters and hocks are first class, tail long and bushy. A great dog to handle with the best of temperaments, movement was outstanding. Thank you for bringing him.

Other GSD winners were the bitch Dechslin Uschi and the puppy male Penwartha Inca Warrior. He was also Best Puppy in the Pastoral Group.

The Border Collie winner was a pleasing 3 year old bitch Casebow's Patois Holly. A black & white with a nice temperament, moved well. Didn't use her ears to advantage but she was all in all a pleasing make and shape and in very good condition.

AVNPC class winners were Gamblin's Belgian Shepherd Dog Laekenois, bitch. Liked this one when she settled. Her coat was the correct texture, head and expression are good. When she settled her movement was sound and true. A very good Bearded Collie, Martel's Vilmorin Silhouette bitch. A brown with the required beard, lovely balanced size, height to back length ratio correct. I particularly liked her eye colouring. A very sound Pembroke Corgi tri colour, male, Le Page's Langmar Bright Star Amongst Thelepees.

Then followed the AV Classes with a selection of the previous dogs and bitches standing.

From the Utility Group I found my eventual Best in Show winner, the Lhasa Apso. A quite fabulous golden male he was. Walker's Kutani Codebreaker for Zanamop. He is outstandingly good in perfect coat and condition, presentation was excellent. Best of heads with good dark medium oval eyes, ears are pendant and heavily feathered. He has a very good make and shape, his movement was free and jaunty, a great dog.

Other outstanding exhibits in this Group were two good sound Tibetan Terriers, Morgan's dog Araki Vice Versa, a black and white, very good to handle, lovely on the move and a bitch, Martel's Araki Rumour Hasit. A lovely coat condition and colouring, black and white, head was very pretty with a most appealing expression.

I had a great Shih Tzu male at 7 years, hard to believe. Coat was lovely, head perfect. I had no hesitation to award him Best Veteran in Show.

From the Toy Group I selected the Papillion, male, as the Group winner. He was Morgan's Serenegrade Hot Toddy. A good sound dog, lovely ear featherings, nice to handle, temperament first class. His movement won him the Group over a good Pomeranian, Bennett's Thelbern Monsieur Le Blanc. A lovely headed dog, correct balance throughout, coat was fantastic. I could not get him to move as I would have liked. The Yorkshire Terrier Windsor's Davonne's Stylish Impact, lovely male coat was in perfect condition, a lovely steel blue, head most appealing, great temperament, movement was good.

The Working Group was not well represented in quantity. I only had 3 Boxers and 1 Rottweiler to judge, but the quality was good. The brindle and white Boxer bitch won the Group. She was Bayes's Docrema Mystic Meg. I liked this 4 year old bitch. This is a head breed and this bitch has it all, lovely muzzle with the correct rise of skull, eyes are lovely, all about her make and shape pleased. Very sound on the move and she has a lovely temperament. Other boxers were young male same owner, Docrema Champagne Charlie and a quite outstanding veteran bitch, Jsy Champion Docrema Millionaire PdH.

My Rottweiler exhibit was Clark's Saintlythans Scarlett, a good breed type with a pleasing head. Body make and shape are good. She moved well, was a little reluctant but let me handle her, a worthy winner of Best of Breed.

So to Best in Show. The 7 standing were all to a very, very good standard of their breed.

On a final run of Best in Show, it had to be the outstanding Lhasa Apso, the GSD who is quite wonderful in Reserve spot and for Best Puppy in Show, I selected the Whippet bitch Walker's Petwalk Simply WKD, a lovely example. I leave to the breed judge to expand on her virtues.

The whole week end was fantastic, a great show, exhibitors very sporting, the hospitality was wonderful. This Kennel Club is lovely. We were quite sorry to leave this lovely Island thank you one and all.

Peter Bailey Judge.