

The Barbados Kennel Club

All Breeds Championship Show – 21st March 2010

Judge: Mrs. Elizabeth Cartledge

It gave me immense pleasure to accept The Barbados Kennel Club's invitation to judge its March Championship Show. This was my 6th visit to this marvellous, friendly and hospitable island where everyone is smiling! There is such a relaxed atmosphere that any stress, worry and anxiety just disappear out of your system. This trip was the perfect cure after 5 hectic days at Crufts where it was all go with early starts and late evenings – here it was just the opposite: lazy mornings and early to bed, much better all round!

The show this time seemed to have shrunk a bit in numbers; perhaps a sign of the times as entries are dropping off in most countries. From earlier visits Boxers, Irish Setters, Dachshunds, Whippets and Akitas were good in numbers and quality and this time there were only 3 Boxers (which were still of decent type) and not many Akitas. Ridgebacks were the strongest breed this time and Rottweilers the most plentiful in numbers with one clear winner but generally speaking rather mixed in quality.

Irene Terry, who has come for the ride a second time, and I have had the Royal treatment from our date of arrival. Splendid hotel with amazing views and we've been wined and dined at some truly exotic and gracious places. So thank you one and all – Cecilia & Tommy Bentley, Gloria Cuke, Gillian Leach, Sue Leacock, Jutta & Tony Moore – you do know how to look after visitors. It may be quite a small show by UK standards but please keep this dog showing hobby going so that I may come back one more time when the time is right and before I am past my sell by date! It is probably my favourite place in the world and I really mean that.

The Best in Show line up was pleasing – one or two of the group winners were flagging and feeling the heat, quite understandably, but not so my ultimate winner, a super fit young Rottweiler male who wasn't even panting. He was absolutely true moving in all directions with plenty of reach and thrust. I liked everything about him and I didn't even find his undocked tail too offensive! A rock steady character, he did everything his handler asked, giving me that calm, tranquil look unique to the breed. Well proportioned, coat shining with well being, perfect body and condition he was certainly the dog on form today and fully deserved the top award. I was taken with the young Ridgeback who had won the hound group most convincingly. Has quality stamped all over him and at only 20 months he has not peaked yet. An easy agile mover, extremely fit and well muscled with excellent neck and shoulders, held his topline when gaitting. At the end of the day he started to get a little hot and tired but nevertheless he fitted comfortably into the RBIS position. I also liked the Miniature Schnauzer, a very showy quality dog with correct topline and ear carriage, well bodied and coated. He could not match the movement of the big boys. The yellow Labrador who headed the Gundog Group, was eager and willing to please but at nearly 8 he is not in his first flush of youth and had to give way to the younger finalists. The Terrier Group with just one single Bull Terrier was a bit disappointing and the only breed competing in the Toy Group was Papillons.

BULL TERRIERS – Limit D (1) – 1, CC, BOB & Terrier Group, **Harrison's Kingdom's Powers**, 18 months coloured, very fit and well muscled, lovely coat, adequate head, keen eyes, mouth could

be better but that is a problem in this breed, well handled, a little stubborn and reluctant on the move but by the end of the day he was trotting along quite happily. Strong body.

PALILLONS – Open D (2) – 1, CC, BOB & Toy Group, Blanchard's **Hothersall's Ares**, 3 years, attractive little dog who wasn't keen carrying his plume up when moving but did so standing. Pleasing head, good body, well proportioned and handled; 2, RCC & RBOB, Blanchard's **Kingshaven You're My Smiffy at Hothersall**, 2 ½ years, a bit bold in eye and carrying a bit too much weight for a dainty breed. Moved and showed quite well, good topline. Both 1 & 2 were clean and well presented. Open B (1) – 1, CC, Blanchard's **Hothersall's Athena**, litter sister to BOB dog and another who decided to carry her tail behind her and not up! Pretty girl, very feminine head and outlook, hare feet, good body and coat. Could be firmer in front movement.

GOLDEN RETRIEVERS – Minor Puppy D (1) – 1, BP, BOB & runner up Gundog Group, Ray's **Fenwood Louis Vuitton of Thatcher**, this 7 months dog pup made quite an impression finishing the day winning BPIS! Quality young man in the best of health, kind expression, dark eyes, well laid shoulders, good bone and body, well presented coat. To be really picky he moved a shade close behind but very together going round the ring especially for one so young. Full of potential.

OPEN D (3,2) – 1, RCC, **Field's Thatchers Storm Cloud**, 4 years, honest dog but would like more quality in head, willing showman, good depth of body, excellent bone, moved and showed ok. Not standing very well in front, shoulders could have more lay back. Minor Puppy B (1) – 1, RCC, Ray's **Amirene Midsummer Dream of Thatcher**, 7 ½ months shapely puppy, at the moment looks a shade long in loin, good bone, legs and feet, feminine head, kind eyes, moved reasonably well, sympathetically handled. Tail looked a bit depressed on the move. Open B (1) – 1, CC, RBOB, Ray's **Sh.Ch. Thatchers Storm in a Teacup C.D.**, 4 years, rather out of coat but she has nothing to hide, easy mover, at one with her handler, good topline, attractive head, expressive eyes, intelligent expression, well conditioned.

LABRADORS – Open D (2) – 1, CC, BOB & Gundog Group. Leacock's **Sh.Ch. Benatone Secret Mission of Theberton**, nearly 8 years, typy yellow, barrels ribs, good bone, nails need attention, typical head, kind expression, short coupled and moved quite well, steady showman, well proportioned; 2, RCC, RBOB, Gray-Marshall's **Linthwaite Centaurus of Zinzara**, will be 3 in May this yellow, clean and well presented but looking a bit rangy, pleasing head, firm body, clean coat but not a lot of it, in hard condition, well handled.

FLAT COATS – Open B (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Greenidge's **Sh.Ch. Ballyriver Tweed In Paradise C.D.** Just 2, charming but I'd like a little more of her and a shade more bone. Well conditioned, no mistaking for anything but a bitch in head and general outlook. Not in full coat. Bit loose in front action.

BEAGLES – Open B (2) – 1, CC & BOB. Gilkes' **Kinola's Cleo**, black blanketed tri of 2, good type and size, fit and well conditioned, excellent coat, good head. Feeling the heat a bit so not putting all in when moving, sympathetically handled; 2, Gilkes' **Ch. Kinola's Calista**, litter sister to 1st and most of the same remarks apply. I preferred Cleo's head but a close decision, RRCC & RBOB.

RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS – Minor Puppy D (2) – 1, BP, RCC, Hamilton-Outcalt's **Crownridge Red Regent**, just 6 months, well grown puppy with excellent feet, good bone. Head needs to develop at present, slightly overshot, hopefully this will right itself. Looking rather gangly so obviously needs to drop in body and grow into himself. Really stepped up the pace when moving and went with plenty of drive. Fit and sound. 2, Hamilton-Outcalt's **Crownridge Red Romeo**, litter brother of 1st, needs ring training in order to progress. Typical head, dark eyes, in good condition, showed well in spasms. Slightly lame in front. Open D (1) – 1, CC, BOB, Hound Group & RBIS,

Atkinson's **Ballyriver Milton**, 20 months, impressed from the outset, athletic young hound in super form and muscle tone. I was interested to see in the catalogue that he is out of Ch. Sonstral Christmas Eve at Kazval, a bitch I have raved about and put up in England. Small world! Has a very bright future ahead – very classy! Minor Puppy B – (2,1) – 1, Hamilton-Outcalt's **Crownridge Red Red**, litter mate to the 2 MP boys, feminine puppy, not going quite true in front. Dark expressive eyes, well proportioned, good coat and condition. Should grow into a nice bitch. Limit B (1) – 1, CC, RBOB, Atkinson's **Rottzridge Celtic Princess**, 20 months, another eye catcher of good quality and type, lovely head, fit and well conditioned, relaxed showgirl and mover although could have put a little more effort into her performance. Slight tendency to slackness in topline when going around the ring. Open B (1) – 1, RCC, Hamilton-Outcalt's **Ch. Broani Chiku at Crownridge C.D.**, 3 years, well schooled showgirl, mum of the minor puppies so clearly not just a pretty face. Quality head, good coat and condition. Failed in topline standing and moving, well handled, moved ok.

AKITAS – Novice D (1) – 1, Knight & Hope's **Paul Bear**, 2 years, clean coat but carrying a little extra weight, not 100% in front standing, moved ok. Showmanship could be more animated. Limit D (1) – 1, RCC, Jones' **Free Lance**, 3 years, lean and fit with good muscle tone, a bit long in muzzle and failed in expression, good body and quarters, reasonable side gait, well handled. Open D – 1, CC & BOB, Spencer's **Ch. Barindi Superstar**, 6 years, excellent type, most typical head, eyes and ear set, well fitting coat, splendid bone, held his topline on the go round. Rather tired in front movement. A little past his prime but still the best Akita today. Open B (1) 1, CC & RBOB – Taylor's **Ch. Topaz Taboo**, 5 ½ years, lovely coat, feminine head, clean and well presented, moved ok. Standing a little flat on her front feet. Half sister to BOB.

BOSTON TERRIERS – Open B (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Scott's **Ch. Wildax Romantic Rosetti of Sprea**, 18 months, delightful head and expression, smart little mover, sassy showgirl, glossy coat, very fit. Started to feel the heat later on and did not give her best in the group.

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER – Open D (1) – 1, CC, BOB & Utility Group, Anderson's **Ch. Risepark Pretty Smart Guy at Jamrock**, 3 years, eye catching dog in good coat and form, showed with keen interest. Very well handled and turned out, quality head, excellent ear carriage. Movement could be better – great outline when stacked. Open B(1) – 1, CC & RBOB, Anderson's **Risepark High Hopes at Jamrock**, 17 months, not quite as relaxed as her kennel mate, certainly had a will of her own when moving – so far and then no further! Good outline and depth of body, well muscled hindquarters, moved wee behind. Neat head, well bodied. A very nice pair of Miniature Schnauzers.

BOUVIERS – Limit (1) – 1, CC & RBOB, Kirton's **Calliope Rupert**, 4 years, rather lazy attitude but it was extremely hot for a heavy coated dog. Typical head, good body. Coat presentation and handling could be better. Hindquarters could be stronger but gaited ok once he found his speed. Limit B – (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Ashby's **Calliope Rita**, litter sister to Rupert and a bit more enthusiastic about it all. Good head and expression, ample bone, good body and depth, decent stride and held her topline, well proportioned.

DOBERMANNS – Novice D (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Waterman's **Brandy Wine Aries**, 5 ½ years b/t, needs to carry a little more weight to advantage, has that touch of elegance but today he was feeling the heat, good length of head, expressive eyes, excellent reach of neck, firm topline, movement ok. Limit D – 1, RCC, Haynes' **Market Hill Musketeer**, 18 months brown, excellent depth of body, masculine head, moving rather wide in front and failed in feet. Good coat and condition.

BULLMASIFFS – Puppy D (3) – Three litter brothers competing here. 1, Jemmott's **Silver Sands**, 9 months, attractive head, well balanced height to length, good body and condition, steady mover. Feet a little splayed. Best Locally Bred Puppy in Show; 2, Jemmott's **Mister Big**, needs to develop and strengthen in hindquarters and hind movement, fit and healthy, dark eyes, well handled: 3,

Jemmott's **Mister Amazon**, brindle of much lighter build, not making the most of himself standing. Failed in head qualities. Very hot and not moving at all well. Junior D (2,1) – 1, Gibson's **Fortesque Bargunner**, 13 months brindle with masculine head and outlook, strong neck, good bone and substance, clean silhouette standing, needs to improve in movement all round. Maiden D (1) 1, Jones' **Prince Caspian**, 19 months fawn, handsome youngster, typical head, well conditioned, excellent coat and body, steady character, good neck and topline. Not moving quite true in front. Open D (2) – 1, CC & RBOB, Ashby's **Flanders Commorawy Wood at Zahara Bulls**, 3 years, red, decent dog, at times a little slack in topline when posed but this was not evident when he moved. Pleasing head, fit and well muscled, good coat, in excellent form; 2, RCC, Evelyn's **Ch. Braeaaron Wallace at Ardhub to Hothersall**, 3 years, brindle, light eyes detract from expression, a little overdone in head for me, short coupled but carrying too much weight, excellent bone and depth of body, well handled. A bit lethargic today and falls away over the croup. Open B (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Evelyn's **Ardhub Strike a Pose at Hothersall**, 2 ½ years red, easily the best Bullmastiff in today's entry. Quality bitch of good type and overall balance. I liked her head and expression, muscular neck, well placed shoulders, firm body and quarters, well handled and presented, typical mover.

DOGUES DE BORDEAUX – Limit D (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Taylor's **Monifa Prince Jabari**, 2 ½ years, good head, massive bone, muscular neck, handler made the most of his charge and gave him good outline standing. Needs to strengthen in movement – it was much too hot for this breed to perform today. Open D (2) – 1, RCC, White's **Wolfram Beezeleub Von Boldheart at Richelle**, 4 ½ years, surprisingly agile on the move but not holding his topline today, well proportioned head, good body and condition, well handled; 2, **Ince's Daliton Koda**, 2 ½ years, rather nervous and not used to being handled. Masculine head, well bodied and coated. Failed badly in movement. Open B (1) – 1, CC & RBOB, White's **Boldheart's Flash Fire at Richelle**, only 21 months, fit and active but needs to fully mature. Good overall proportions, feminine head, clean and well presented, handled to advantage. Bit tired on the move but who could blame her in this heat.

ROTTWEILERS - Puppy D (1) – 1, BP, Waterman's **Kemrorocks Kabul**, 11 months, failed in head and expression, well bodied puppy in good form, well proportioned, clean coat, moved with a purpose. Needs time. Maiden D (1) – 1, Phillips' **Elthor Dark Donner of Greenwood**, 2 years, I liked his head and expression, lovely eyes, full of intelligence, clean necked, firm body, excellent coat. Lacked coordination on the move. Limit D (2,1) – 1, RCC, Alleyne's **Guni the Heat Is On**, 3 years, good topline and quarters, plenty of power on the move, when he chose to settle, keen intelligent expression, good feet, well conditioned. Open D (1) – 1, CC, BOB, Working Group & Best in Show, Welch's **Juffther Dream Lover**. 2 years, good looking young male who stole the show for me. Never put a foot wrong or broke his stride when gaitting. Beautifully fit, spotlessly clean, good head, bone, body, legs and feet, held his firm topline at all times, showed with style and looked the part. At just 2 years old he will get even better, so will make the going hot in the showring for some time to come! Minor Puppy B (3,1) – 1, RCC, Welch's **Elthor Dark Jene**, 9 months, head needs to improve but scored in topline when moving, fit and well conditioned, steady showgirl; 2, Howell's **Elthor Dark Jasmin**, better head than her litter sister but topline not ready yet, moved quite well, strong body, good coat. Junior B (1) – 1, Howell's **Kemrorocks Kashmir**, 11 months, nice shape but I did not care for her head at all. Fit strong body, clean coat. Throwing her front legs about when moving. Limit B (1) -1, CC, Alleyne's **Elthor Dark Etta**, 2 years, handler could have got a bit more out of her standing and moving. Adequate head, excellent condition, good bone and body, steady personality. A bit extravagant in front action.

GERMAN SHEPHERDS – Numbers have dropped dramatically in this breed. Puppy D (1) – 1, RCC, Johnson's **Shotaans Mojo**, 9 months, at the legs and wings stage and needed to settle into

proper gaiting pattern, attractive head, alert expression, lean and fit, good outline but hindquarters need to strengthen as he moved and stood cow hocked. Needs time to mature and will end up a decent GSD. Novice D (1) – 1, CC & BOB, Johnson's **Danaman Pure Temptation**, nearly 2, lovely head, good bone and overall conformation, handled to best advantage, well proportioned, firm backline, very together with his handler when gaiting, excellent coast and conditions. I considered him for runner up in the Working Group but on the last run off he dropped a gear and didn't have the animation of the Boxer so had to pay the penalty.

BOXERS - This breed used to be so strong in numbers – today there were just 3 but they were of good type. Limit D (1) – 1, RCC, RBOB, **Wilson's Worthington Wish Me Luck**, son of my BOB, 21 months deer red/white, well constructed youngster in good form, very fit, bit long in foreface, excellent bone, happy showman, good depth of body, moved ok. Open D (1) – 1, CC & BOB, runner up in Working Group, Wilson's **Stillwell's Prince of Fire**, you would not believe this r/w is 7 years old! Happy and willing to show off, great character, typical male head, full of expression, good topline, depth of body and bone, looked well in side movement, just a shade close going away. Good muscle tone, very fit. Excellent coat. Best Locally Bred Dog in Show. Open B (1) – 1, CC, Leach's **Ch. Seefeld Sea Goddess of Worthington**, 4 ½ years r/w, typy with lovely silhouette standing, but lacked animation and showmanship, when moving. Good reach of neck, feminine head, lovely coat, well conditioned and handled. Dam of RCC winner – pity she can't be made to enjoy the show ring!

VETERAN (2) – 1, Bentley's **Ch. Dialynne Messenger**, 8 ½ years tri Beagle dog, still very fit and sound, bit reluctant to get his tail going in the heat, quality head, soft expression, held his topline on the move, well bodied, excellent coat; 2, Blandford's **Sh.Ch. Hothersall Mavolio CDX**, Golden Retriever of 7, all quality head, kindest of eyes, coat not in its best, not standing very well in front, willing to move and show whenever asked.

That's about it, folks – thank you for so graciously accepting my placings throughout the day. Remember the one you take home is the best one whatever the judge may think!

LIZ CARTLEDGE