

2010 MAJOR TROPHY SHOW – 5th FEBRUARY 2011.

JUDGES REPORT – CAROL LARKIN

Having waited fourteen years for my name to be drawn out of the hat, and having kept away from all Bull Terrier classes for the previous year, I had hoped and expected to have had a revelation, when it came to seeing and judging the dogs before me. Alas, it was not to be. I thought the organisation of the show was first class, but it was sad to see empty seats at the ringside, and so many of them. Was it because they were too expensive or did the dogs not enthrall their audience? Even the ringside tables were not all taken up. Perhaps we should go back to only seats around the ring and then maybe the crowd will be at least three deep. As it was, there was no atmosphere, no excitement. Sad!

As for the dogs, I was delighted to see Ch Dajan Skies The Limit at Sandawana – the only entrant in the Imported Dog Class. For an eight year old dog he looked terrific. Still that lovely, classical, smooth head with a good downface and still with a good bite. I nominated him to go forward for Best Head. A well placed eye (something lacking in so many). Nicely arched neck and well laid shoulders, leading to a super topline (not the usual South African hammock). Good tail placement, carried horizontally! Lovely strong bone, and thank heavens, neat, tidy feet. Decent hindquarters with a good second thigh. His movement was a little close behind, but I did enjoy going over him, something I have never had the pleasure of doing before. He became the Best Imported Bull Terrier over only one bitch entrant.

The Under Two Year Dog I did not have to judge, for which I was thankful. This was an unanimous win for No. 3, Erazijo Iron Man - a red dog from the Western Cape. Six entered and one absent.

Dogs Over Two Years: David Thompson and I were called on to judge. There was a good entry, marred by absentees - 16 entered and 7 absent. I was sorry not to have seen the third Lubjan brother there. He is the only one I had previously judged and it would have been interesting to see three such different dogs in the ring. The outcome was between the two brothers present. My vote went to No. 17, Ch. Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen. I particularly liked his short back. He has a very masculine head, strong and well filled. Perhaps he could do with a little more arc, but he has a strong underjaw and a correct bite. It is a powerful head - there is no doubt he is a male and he does have a beautifully placed eye with that varminty expression which I love. Strong, muscular neck and well laid shoulder, straight front and the tightest of feet. Well sprung ribs, neat tuck-up, well placed tail and nicely muscled back end.

I very much liked the brother, No. 16, Ch. Lubjan Le Patron of Niroux - a totally different dog, very much more elegant (in fact a little long in back). Again a lovely head, with good downface and width under the eyes. I nominated him for Best Head. He is well made and moves well. Perhaps I just prefer a thuggy dog, and as I wrote in my notes: "Do I care? They are both out of a bitch I bred - a grandfather to grand-daughter mating that I was never before able to do".

On the referee, Johan du Toit's decision No 17 won.

I also noticed and liked a tri-coloured dog, No. 10, Brilows Bezzaz Blitz of Joruma. He was helped by his good markings, making his neck look very elegant. He stood over a lot of ground and perhaps was a little long cast – nevertheless, one that took my eye.

Best Coloured Dog: 4 entered. I judged this with Johan de Toit. My preference was for the tri-coloured dog I mentioned above. I liked his make and shape, he has a lovely bend of stifle and better markings. A masculine dog, but elegant, perhaps a little on the leg, but that I like.

My co-judge preferred No.3 - the red dog, Erazijo Iron Man. I thought he was a good colour and he moved adequately, but I found him too kind in eye, something from which so many coloureds suffer.

No.3 Erazijo Iron Man was the winner on a referee's decision by David Thompson.

Bitches Under Two Years: 9 entered, all present. David Thompson and I were once more the lucky judges. I really liked this class and it is promising to see these young things. When it came down to the nitty-gritty we both liked the same two animals, or at least, I did. I gave my vote to No. 27, Crownjul Ruby Tuesday, because of her lovely downface and piercing eye. She also is an elegant animal, with good forechest, deep brisket and good tuck-up. Well sprung ribs, and she had lovely hind angulation. Her very feminine head has fill and downface and a correct bite leading to an elegant neck. Super straight front, gun-barrel you might say, and neat feet. She never stopped showing and she moved well.

Her opposition was No. 25, Bellators Bells are Ringing of Lubjan, who gives the impression that she is smaller. She is certainly shorter on the leg, but she moves very well. She too has a good profile and a well placed eye. At present she lacks a tuck-up - perhaps a false pregnancy - she was not the only one suffering. Her topline is good and she has a nicely angulated hindquarter, could do with more second thigh. Another that I liked - again an elegant, feminine creature, No. 29, Glengowan Queenalexandra of Kingstonia, unhappily had totally lost her tuck-up and in fact looked as if she too was suffering from a false pregnancy.

Over Two Years Bitches: 6 entered - 6 present. Johan du Toit and I were called upon to judge this class and we were unanimous in our winner, No. 34, Ch. Jococla Pink Freedom - a white bitch with an attractive head and a good eye, a misplaced canine, but she could carry this fault. Well laid shoulder, nicely muscled neck, good topline and well angulated hindquarters. She moved adequately.

Coloured Bitches: 5 entered - 5 present. I was called on to referee this class. I gave it to No. 26, Chrismarnic Manta. I preferred her make and shape. She moved so well and she is a good, strong red.

Dog of the Year: We were unanimous that youth would have its day, therefore Ch. Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen beat a previous winner in Ch.Dajan Skies the Limit at Sandawana.

Bitch of the Year: Elegance personified, was the winner, Crownjul Ruby Tuesday.

Supreme Bull Terrier of South Africa: Once again, a unanimous decision of the three judges, that thuggy dog that shows so well! I wish a few more handlers would copy Jannie Lubbe, instead of moving their dogs' feet with their feet! And holding their dogs' tails and then not even horizontal, which the standard calls for! If only they would stand in front of their dogs, instead of trying to hold them together, and making judges walk miles around them.

Oh, well I have had my say, and I am happy with the dog that won, Ch. Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen. Well done!

Carol Larkin - Judge