

2010 MAJOR TROPHY SHOW – 5th FEBRUARY 2011.

JUDGES REPORT – DAVID THOMPSON

It was a great pleasure to judge the 2010 Major Trophy Show and my thanks to the MTS Organising Committee. The show was well organised and the venue well prepared and professionally laid out.

I was disappointed with the overall quality of our Bull Terriers and the show certainly highlighted our lack of depth in really good Bull Terriers with only a small number of good specimens being exhibited.

I have noticed for some time that we have a tendency in South Africa to favour Bull Terriers that lean more to the bull type. This has resulted in a number of our better specimens being slightly dumpy and short on the leg. Overall we are lacking in height and range. By this I do not mean that substance and heavy bone are not important, but rather that a great Bull Terrier requires the height and range which, when balanced with bone, substance and correct conformation, results in the ideal middle of the road specimen, which is greatly lacking in Southern Africa.

A pleasing factor was that there were really no bad mouths and with the exception of some minor canine problems, I found all the mouths to be acceptable.

IMPORTED DOGS:

Judged by Johan du Toit and Carol Larkin. There was only one exhibit, No. 1, Ch Dajan Skies The Limit at Sandawana. It is a pity that our other imported dogs either did not qualify or were not exhibited.

DOGS UNDER TWO YEARS

Judged by Johan du Toit and me. My placings in this class were as follows:

No. 3 Erazijo Iron Man. He is a very well balanced red dog with lovely conformation and quality. He has a strong, well turned head which could be slightly deeper and wider. He moved well both ways and was my clear winner. My second and third choices were very close, being between No. 6, Ch Ipon Take A Hike of Carradice and No. 7, Shodan Chilly Pepper.

No. 6 was rather unruly and did not show to best advantage, which was a pity. He is a nicely proportioned dog with a strong head, good lay back of shoulder and with fairly good movement both ways.

My third choice, No. 7, is a well balanced red dog with good overall proportions. I found him to be a bit low to the ground and would have preferred him to have more height and range.

Johan and I agreed on the winner, No. 3 Erazijo Iron Man.

DOGS OVER TWO YEARS

Judged by Carol Larkin and me.

To me this class was the highlight of the trophies.

My winner was No. 16, Ch Lubjan Le Patron of Niroux. This is a dog of great quality and he was my choice not only in this class, but would also have been my overall choice at the trophies. He has the height and range, balanced with power and substance and topped with quality and elegance. He has a lovely head and superb body shape and conformation. The only detracting factor was the mismark on his back at the base of his tail, but notwithstanding that, was to me a clear winner.

My second choice was No. 17, Ch Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen. I found him to be slightly dumpy but his overall soundness and conformation is exceptional. He has a strong and deep head. His movement is good both ways and he has great power and heavy bone.

My third choice was between No. 19, Ch Morningside Denzel So Sweet and No. 14, Ch Ipon Ned Kelly of Carradice. This was a close decision, with my vote eventually going to Denzil, whom I found to be somewhat overweight. He is a lovely dog with excellent make and shape and moves like a dream. His head, while strong and deep, lacks slightly in profile. I would have liked to have seen more of his make and shape and he could have been a few kilos lighter.

Ned Kelly, is a very well shaped and nicely balanced dog. He has a good head and nice conformation. His movement was fair both coming and going.

Carol preferred my second placed dog and Johan refereed. I was out-voted and the winner of this class was Ch Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen.

COLOURED DOG CLASS

This class was judged by Johan du Toit and Carol Larkin.

I was the referee and was called in to choose between No. 3, Erazijo Iron Man and No. 10, Brilows Bezzaz Blitz of Joruma.

I found No. 10 to be lacking in condition and substance. This was a pity because he does have very good make and shape and also the height and range of a middle of the road type. He has a good head with lovely small well placed eyes. On the day though he was not showing the necessary substance and power to balance the whole. His movement was fair coming and going, but lacking in power and drive.

My selection and the winner of this class was No. 3, Erazijo Iron Man.

IMPORTED BITCH CLASS

Judged by Johan and me.

There was only one exhibit No. 24, Ch Westbul Xavierra of Franjan. She is a nicely made bitch with a good head. Her overall make and shape is good and she moved fairly well both ways.

BITCHES UNDER TWO YEARS

Judged by Carol and me.

There were a number of very promising young bitches in this class and I was hard pressed to pick my winner.

My choice was between No. 25, Bellators Bells Are Ringing of Lubjan and No. 27, Crownjul Ruby Tuesday, and this was a very close decision.

No. 25 has superb bone and substance and a well filled very strong head. She could do with a bit more height and range but is a well balanced bitch with very good movement both ways. Ruby Tuesday, on the other hand, has superb make and shape and a lovely strong, smooth head. She had adequate height and range, but is lacking in bone and substance. She is a beautiful bitch, but needs to body up a lot. My choice was Bells Are Ringing with Ruby Tuesday a very close second.

My third choice was between No. 32, Stelron Hurricane Hanna and No. 29, Glengowan Queenalexandra of Kingstonia.

No. 32 is a shapely bitch with good conformation. She has a strong head, good balance and moved fairly well both ways. She could use her ears more. I felt that she certainly was one to keep an eye on. She was my third choice.

Queen Alexsandra is a tall, well made bitch with good make and shape. I found her to be lacking in strength of head. Her head is long and well curved but needs more depth and width. She had good body shape and moved well both ways. A quality bitch that could improve with maturity.

Carol preferred my second choice and Johan agreed with Carol. I was out-voted and the winner was No. 27, Crownjul Ruby Tuesday.

BITCHES OVER TWO YEARS

Judged by Johan and Carol.

The winner was No. 34 Ch Jococla Pink Freedom.

COLOURED BITCH CLASS

Judged by Johan and me.

My choice was between No. 35, Ch Kunjuri Fire Dancer of Bellakarma and No. 26, Chrismarnic Manta.

I found Fire Dancer to be a perfectly balanced bitch. While not all that big, her proportions are superb and she had lovely overall quality and ring presence. She moved well both ways. She has a well turned head that could be slightly stronger and deeper but for her overall size it is in balance.

No. 26 is a well made red bitch. She has a strong, well turned head and moves well both ways.

My choice went to Fire Dancer as I felt that her overall conformation gave her the edge. Johan disagreed with me and chose my second pick.

Carol agreed with Johan and the winner of this class was No. 26, Chrismarnic Manta.

Then we came to the final rounds.

DOG OF THE YEAR

Judged by Carol and me.

It was between No. 17 Ch Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen and No. 3 Erazijo Iron Man.

My decision went to No. 17 on his stronger head, greater power and substance, balanced by his exceptional soundness.

Carol agreed and the dog of the year was Ch Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen.

BITCH OF THE YEAR

Judged by Johan and Carol.

The younger bitch had a clear advantage in that the older bitch was not in top show condition with a very sagging underline.

The Bitch of the Year was Crownjul Ruby Tuesday.

SUPREME BULL TERRIER OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The grand finale was choosing the winner between the Dog and Bitch of the Year.

All three of us judged the final and my choice was No. 17 Ch Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen.

With all things considered, this was a clear decision. Ruby Tuesday, while she has tremendous quality, was lacking in bone and substance and needs a lot more maturity. The dog's overall balance between power, conformation and substance made him a clear winner.

My co-judges agreed and the Southern African Supreme Bull Terrier was No. 17, Ch Lubjan Monchou of Rhizen.

COLOURED BULL TERRIER OF THE YEAR

Judged by Johan and me.

This was between No. 3, Erazijo Iron Man and No. 26, Chrismarnic Manta.

My choice went to the dog No. 3 on his overall quality and balance. I felt that he was a clear winner.

Johan agreed and so the Coloured Bull Terrier of the Year was Erazijo Iron Man.

BEST IMPORTED BULL TERRIER OF THE YEAR

This was judged by Carol and me.

My choice went to No. 1, Ch Dajan Skies The Limit at Sandawana. This dog, while nearly 8 years old, is still in great shape and carries tremendous quality.

I would have loved to have judged him in his prime.

The winner was No 1, Ch Dajan Skies The Limit at Sandawana.

BEST HEAD

Judged by Johan and Carol.

The winner was No 1, Ch Dajan Skies The Limit at Sandawana.

This dog has a beautiful head with length, strength and depth, and with tremendous fill.

BEST MOVER

Judged by Johan and me.

My choice was No. 27, Crownjul Ruby Tuesday. She moved very squarely both coming and going. I would have liked her to be moved more slowly but I chose her for her very powerful, free flowing movement.

Johan preferred No. 25 Bellators Bells Are Ringing of Lubjan and she is a very good mover too.

Carol agreed with Johan and the best mover went to Bellators Bells Are **Ringing** of Lubjan.

David Thompson - Judge