

JUDGES REPORT
GRIQUALAND BULL TERRIER CLUB - 2ND OPEN SHOW, 6TH NOVEMBER 2010
Judge: Andre Strydom (Sunduza Bull Terriers)

Thank you all for a wonderful opportunity to go over your Bull Terriers at such an early stage of your Club's existence. The 19 dogs present, of which the large majority were of good quality with a number of excellent dogs and especially a fairly large number of promising, quality young bitches present, more than satisfied my belief that Kimberley and surrounds was once more ripe for the establishment of a Bull Terrier Club. The enthusiasm of your large number of very keen and enthusiastic members and exhibitors who not only attended the show, but also the workshop afterwards, was more than enough proof to me that a Club in the Northern Cape is more than justified. The dedication of your Committee and leadership to your cause and the excellent organisation of the Show did not go unnoticed and I congratulate you all with your large pool of quality human and canine material. I wish the rest of South Africa's clubs had a similar large pool of such willing and quality enthusiasts from which to select our committees. I specifically refrain from mentioning any names because all of you, right from your Chairman through to the alphabetical end of your membership list appeared to me to be of the very best in our South African Bull Terrier community.

My report is just a general appreciation of the stock shown under me, as I obviously have no detailed results because of the fact that it was an Open Show without a catalogue with the names of exhibitors and exhibits.

The Best in Show dog, Riaan Sadie of De Aar's Ch. Lubjan le Patron of Niroux, is well-known to me and I regard him as one of Southern Africa's very best. He is very neatly put together from nose to tail as well as from the top of his outstanding head to the tips of his catlike toes. He is an animal of intense quality and elegance, yet of plenty of power, heavy round bone and masculinity – to me very close to the ideal middle-of-the-road type. He was in top, hard, muscular condition with plenty of spring of rib and substance without being overweight or exaggerated in any way. His body and fine, sleek and smooth muscle tone was a joy to behold. Le Patron or "Iggies" as he is known, doesn't really have any mentionable faults. Of course, like all the best Bull Terriers he can be a little better here or there but nothing serious, least of all the red blemish in his tight, course white coat just above the root of his tail. That is simply a superficial fault that can be easily bred out provided white bitches that go to him have ancestors at least three generations back in their pedigrees genetically free of any similar body spots. Such bitches should also have a history of perfect scissors bites with correct canines and strong ears behind them. Iggies does not show any mouth fault or soft ears at all – in fact his bite and his ears are among his virtues - but these faults are not too far back in his pedigree not to occur in his progeny if his "wives" carry the same weaknesses in their backgrounds. I know very well that he is producing fine young stock and there were one or two of his progeny that were among the best at the show.

A daughter of his, Basie Botma's young junior, Balinco Bella-Luca, won Reserve Best in Show and best bitch, without me knowing who she was at the time. I have subsequently heard that I have something to do with her as her dam comes from my bloodline.

The second best dog in the show was Niroux Rogue Assassin of Balinco, that was still very young and could give Le Patron uphill in the show ring when more mature. A third dog that impressed me very much was a thuggish heavy-weight tri-colour, Ipon Duque of Carradice, who was by far the best coloured dog in the show, and could have done even better without his reverse scissors bite. A fourth dog that deserves to be mentioned is a white champion, Highlawn Marcus Aurelius, well handled by Phia Bold. His long head and strong muzzle impressed me as well as his upstanding, tall elegance. These are the four dogs that caught my eye and I have no doubt that they will all produce the goods if used correctly to their best advantage.

I was also shown a young tri-colour dog puppy by Juanita van der Berg after the show and at subsequent shows in Gauteng that may turn into something good if he keeps developing the way he appears to promise.

But what really excited me at the show, was the large crop of excellent young bitches you have in Griqualand. Apart from Balinco Bella-Luca, there were two sisters bred by Walter Bold, a youngster, Zarah, owned by Candice Tolmay, a good mover owned by the Van der Bergs, and a number of other good ones whose names and owners I unfortunately don't know or remember too well.

Riaan Sadie also showed a champion bitch, who could easily have won under me in her younger days. She is now a matron, but still out of the top drawer.

With a host of bitches like that and with the stud dogs you have at your disposal right in your own area, I can see only a bright future for the GBTC and its very keen members. If you continue to work together as you are doing now, you could have a highly positive and very definite influence on the future of our Breed in South Africa.

I noticed a positive and strong influence of the Carradice and Ipon bloodlines in your dogs which will stand you in good stead in future.

Another encouraging feature is the wide distribution of your members to all corners of the Northern Cape and the long distances you are prepared to travel to shows. Please don't let the economic climate and fuel prices influence your enthusiasm. I hear of plans to even hold Open Shows as far afield as Upington, which augurs well for the future of the GBTC. It may be good if you could club together to travel to shows around the country in increasing numbers. My heart is also warmed by the number of Northern Cape enthusiasts who contact me for advice, guidance and Bull Terrier literature. Your sponsors also impress me with their presence and guidance, and I'm sure the GBTC will easily qualify in September to hold your first Championship Show in 2012. I know you have a highly experienced, fair, honest and knowledgeable judge for your Qualifying Show in the Western Province Bull Terrier Club Chairman, James Mollentze.

I'm happy to report that the Griqualand Bull Terrier Club is vitally alive and that its existence is fully justified and secure in the hands of fine Bull Terrier people of the highest integrity and quality.

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