

SABTC CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

4TH JUNE 2011

JUDGES REPORT

By Gary Evangelides

It was an honour to judge this show and I thank the SABTC and all the exhibitors for a super entry of 45 and 41 present on the day.

Overall the Bull Terriers were of a higher standard than when I judged a year ago, but we still have a serious shoulder problem. I cannot see this situation improving because there are very few dogs that can help to correct it. The withers are somewhere in the neck area instead of at the onset of the back and upper arms are far too short, hence the flat chests which we now have in abundance. This affects the front movement and I would say that 95% of the dogs toed in to some degree when moving towards me.

“Shoulders should be firmly attached to the dog’s body, and the shoulder blades should be well laid back; that is to say, that a line drawn from the front and bottom of the shoulder blade to the top and back of it should point up over the middle of the dog’s back and not directly upwards only just behind its head.” (McGuffin & Co by Raymond Oppenheimer 1964) This is where the term, layback of shoulder, comes from. It should lie backwards, lengthening the neck, and not upwards, shortening it.

The other problem is that there are very few dogs with tuck-up (the underline is just as important as the topline) the ribs should be carried well back to form the under line. Many of the dogs have sausage shaped bodies.

Also I found that some of the bitches, especially the Minor Puppies, were very light in bone.

My BIS, Best Head and Best Substance winner was Ch Lubjan Le Patron of Niroux - an outstanding heavyweight dog with a perfect head in every aspect, great substance and bone, with very good movement both ways. Yes, he has a mismark at the root of his tail - a superficial fault. For the uninformed, one of the invitees to the Trophy Show in the UK this year was an outstanding white bitch with an ugly long black mismark on her neck. Mismarks on white is not a disqualification.

Res BIS: Ipon Lumina of Carradice - A white bitch with tremendous turn of head, good substance and very good bend of stifle; her movement was very good behind but difficult to assess from the front as she kept crabbing when moving towards me. She was beaten by the dog on his better shaped & filled head when viewed from the front.

CC Dog & Best Mover: Narciano Ice-T is a compact, well balanced dog with very good substance for his size. He has a good head that lacked just a little more fill immediately below the eyes. His balance and good movement gave him the ticket.

RCC Dog, Morningside Primo Imani of Elru, is another very well balanced dog with good head and substance, excellent topline and good movement. Unfortunately his handler had her hands full trying to show him as he was not interested.

RCC Bitch, Leotrace Breathlessmohoney, is a very good bitch that pushed hard for the CC. Good head, very well balanced, very good substance and good movement. This bitch had the better body lines that I liked a lot, but was just pipped at the post by the CC winner's better head.

Best Puppy, Stelron Outlaw Legend, was a 10 month old white male with good head, very good substance and bone, and very good movement both ways. He does have some black ticking in his coat, but this should go when he changes coat in summer.

To end, I would just like to mention the dress code when showing at Championship Shows. Jeans and shorts are not acceptable at Championship Shows. At less formal open shows this is okay. Maybe clubs should mention this in their schedules.