

CHANNEL ISLAND DOG OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.
16TH. FEBRUARY 2019.

Well Jersey in February, need to take warm coats! However spring had raised its head and the weather was like early May, warm and sunny.

I arrived early, (from Manchester, as flights from Leeds/Bradford don't start until April), but this gave me time to walk on near deserted beaches, viewing the glorious landscape. At dinner I was warmly met by the chairman of the Jersey KC, Dr. Margaret Bayes MBE, who I have previously been in the company of at past appointments judging here. A really lovely lady, committed to the dog scene and Jersey. Also present was the judge of C.I. Obedience Dog of the year, Neville Uden and C.I. Agility & Jumping Dog of the year judge, local man, Roger Bailey. So a relaxed evening with excellent food was enjoyed.

The competition consists of best puppy, brace, veteran, puppy & dog of the year. The entrants come from having won, their respective Groups at shows in Jersey & Guernsey, throughout the previous year. So a maximum of 14 exhibits would come forward to the ultimate final of each category, as I was to select two from each Group.

Saturday arrived and we, the judges, were taken to the agricultural centre, which is a fabulous venue, for a variety of events. Margaret was already in attendance, busying away, along with show manager, the super Stephen Laffoley-Edwards, so good to be in his company once more. After coffee in the dining room, where wonderful absorbing, paintings of the agricultural show, are displayed on the walls, it was off to start the judging. I was introduced to The Bailiff of Jersey, Sir William Bailhache who together with members of his family had attended the event; such is the Jersey Dog Show scene.

I was in the main hall and started with the selection of puppies from each group. From the toy group, I choose a Pomeranian, Thelbern My Time to Shine & Chihuahua -L/C, Dancing Beauty. This youngster just looked back at me and demanded to win, not only the puppy group but ultimately, C.I. puppy of the year. She was so balanced, sound and carriage on the move and presented in immaculate condition and coat. Also in this Group I selected the Chi, Dancing Beauty. Who again displayed soundness and held her typical shape on the move. Pastoral group, I chose, the Rough Collie Barrenclough Band of Gold & Shetland Sheepdog, Mohnesee Noir Magic, both in good order and presenting a typical picture. Next, from the Utility group, the winning pair, were Tibetan Terrier, Waterley Moneypenny, she pushed the winner all the way, such was her quality and free true movement, feel she will go far and was res C.I. BPIS. The Lhasa Apso, Petwalk Crème De La Crème, was the first of many super exhibit from this kennel to come forward. Typical and immaculate. I was impressed by the Gundog Group puppies and had a tough time choosing the two, Cocker Spaniel, Lyntonwold La Voce Celeste & the ESS, Petranella Jersey Lily Avec Tiroen, both fit and well put together going with attitude. As there were no Working or Terrier puppies the final Group was the Hound Group, coming forward, Whippet, Crosscop For Your Love of Petwalk & Min Smooth Dac, Oniasid Melisandre Ygritte, super character both, the Dac had a touch of puppy fat, the Whippet never put a foot wrong with smooth shapely lines.

It was time now to move to the Channel Island Dog of the Year, Group shortlist. The toy 's - Pom, Thelburn The Red Monarch & Australian Silky, Brookemur Chasing Pavements at Petwalk. The Pastoral- Border Collie, Lesnuages Hermes & Border Collie, Tonkory Running Order. The Utility – STD Poodle, Jsy CH. Chalkwell Who's That Girl at Meantmore PD'H. & Lhasa Apso, Multi CH. & Jsy Ch. Petwalk Irresistible. The Gundog- Clumber Spaniel, Suelynnda Diamonds R' Forever at Francief. Hound's- Whippet, Alamayn Equinox Cassidy at Kipipiriking. & Jsy CH. Pipijays Spirit in the Sky for Petwalk. Working- Leo, Lionscourt Fortissimo Dejerri & Rottweiler, Bottlierskop Scarlwt Emerald. The Terrier's- Irish Terrier, Int CH. Brazan Amber Pageant. & Cesky, Gayteckels Bottoms Up.

Before the final, we moved to the C.I. Breed Dog of the Year, Brace of the Year. Each of these brace were very worthy of being here and were as good as any brace class, I have had the pleasure to judge, well done. However put Mr. & Mrs. Kuzca's Irish Terriers, in harness and they would outshine many pairs in the horse world, such was their uniformity and shadowing action. They were of lovely type and went with positive alert action. Res best went to Messrs. Ozanne & Smith's Cocker Spaniels, busy, cobby and beautifully prepared; they went round with typical wagging tails. C.I. Breed Dog of the Year, Veteran of the Year. This was a close run decision, with the Whippet. Jsy CH. Pipijays Spirit in the sky for Petwalk, snatching the top spot. She certainly did not look her age. Super fit and muscled with flowing lines. Appealed for size and balance, with foot fall that was exacting with ease of ground cover. Now to the highlight of the year for the Jersey & Guernsey folk and the ultimate top award. The 14 dogs lined up made me proud, as each deserved to be here. I finally shortlisted the Pom, Border Collie-L. Hermes, Lhasa apso, Whippet, Rottweiler, Irish Terrier & Cocker Spaniel. After moving these round together it came down to the super Cocker, Northquest Taylor Betts, Handled so well by Joe Betts owned by Joe and his wife. This gorgeous blue bitch, just never gave up. She has a balanced head with dark expressive eye; Filled muzzle housing well placed white teeth. Clean neck balance of angles, which allow reach and drive, retaining her topline. She has big ribs, and cobby body. A real sweetheart. I was told later that she qualified for this event, under top all-rounder Derek Smith. Res, K & G Clark's, Rottweiler, rather surprised me, as in the first round she was messing about and went through on her quality, not really her performance. However she had got her act together here and really put on a show. Her proportions and bloom made for an eye-catching animal. Hard muscle and perfect body weight added to the appeal and her smooth action with reach and drive, confirmed her place.

The evening show dinner was a wonderful occasion with beautiful silver cups presented to the winners by Sir William.

Thank you to all for a truly memorable occasion.
Patsy Hollings.