

Breed Critique by Mr Howard Ogden

Such an honour to have been invited to judge the breed competition (there being inclusive Agility & Obedience competition Finals being judged too) in order to declare The Channel Islands Dog Of The Year 2024 as hosted by The Kennel Club Of Jersey courtesy of its seemingly untiring Vice Chairman Christine Marett and her "hands on" team with the most sporting & enthusiastic exhibitors who gave us an absolute celebration of the very best of our dog game.

The KCJ Patron and most senior Jersey judicial figure, The Bailiff, Sir Timothy Le Cocq arranged his day so as to both lend his personal support & to be able to present the major trophies and although his fellow Patron, His Excellency Vice Admiral Jeremy Kyd CBE, was committed elsewhere he gifted such generous sponsorship.

This celebration continued into the evening with the "posh" Gala Dinner and its mix of formal awards to the top winning Channel Island dogs in all these disciplines throughout '24, as well as today, with impromptu wee speeches, gaffes, cheering & laughter that set the scene plus a hugely sponsored raffle & auction running into many, many £100s.

There was also the local Jersey-v- Guernsey rivalry (and I daren't reveal THAT outcome!) and much evidence of involvement & success by the younger generation upon which the future of the dog game is so dependent whether as breeders, handlers, administrators or as upcoming judges keenly looking to be mentored in all these aspects.

Good on you Kennel Club of Jersey!

The day had started with the judging of Puppy and Adult semi-finals, across all seven Groups, followed by Junior Handling; Brace of the Year; Veteran of the Year and culminating in the major Finals of Puppy of the Year and Dog of the Year. There were a few qualified to compete in both.

Puppy Semi-Finals:

Two exhibits per Group, subject to discretion, were to be selected in no particular order so as to progress to the Final and varied in age from 8m to 2yrs depending on when, and at what then age, they had qualified throughout 2024.

TERRIER (3 exhibits)

Kukza's Irish Terrier Amberville No One Like You; 2yrs b of classic breed type with a quality head & an ex structure so as to move true with her smart outline & tail carriage; harshest of immaculate rich red jackets; looks the part & got a special cheer at the evening Dinner when, in all innocence, announced as "Amberville No One Likes You"!

Marett's Cesky Terrier Foxprims Marble Arch Avec Gaytectels; 17m b of an ex type & a developing maturity; quality head with length; elegant neck; correct, slightly rising, backline; well angulated; suitably clipped coat; a skilled young handler took charge & this b happily responded with a brisk, parallel, driving action.

UTILITY (2)

Rault's Shih Tzu Santosha King Of The Lions; 17m d of a type in keeping with this highly regarded & consistent breeding; expressive "chrysanthemum" head; ex conformation, angulation & carriage; quality coat so v well presented & moved with style & drive to great effect.

Walker's Lhasa Apso Cha Cha Cha Dreamed A Dream With Petwalk(Imp, Pol); 8m b of a fabulous type & shape; prettiest of heads with ex features; had that exciting "raw" youthfulness ready to develop on & was such a "diva" so as to test even this most skilled & experienced handler!

GUNDOG (6)

Cox's Irish Setter Tiroen The Sky's The Limit; 20m b built on such elegant lines with a lovely headpiece & looks to have emerged well from that awkward teenage stage; her ex structure enabled her to move with such an easy, true & flowing style to both take the eye & give every likelihood of her being back challenging in the Adult Final come Feb '26.

Symphorien's Pointer De Las Navazuelas Emilia Avec Rienmour (Imp Esp); 9m b of great potential with her classic breed type, so as to look at you just right, plus her ex angles & conformation; when co- operating she gave us flashes of that most specific Pointer action & style that was truly exciting; surely a wise acquisition.

HOUND (3)

Officer's Whippet Eeri Thanks For The Dance; 19m brindle b of such symmetry & so beautifully maturing on the v best of bodylines so that your hands just flowed over her; excelled in head & eye; excelled in her muscular frame & textbook backline; certainly sound but suspected she would much prefer the chance to be moving with the freedom of being outdoors & should certainly be one to watch out for this summer.

Symphorien's Min S/h Dachshund Crosscop Back To Black Avec Rienmour; 16m b/t; not the v best of heads, through her relatively short muzzle, but of v gd body proportions & clearance; ex backend, as against her front, to drive her forward off firm hocks & displayed a fearless character & a joyous attitude to make you smile.

WORKING (2)

Germain's Leonberger Simden Broadway Your Song; rising 18m d who was so typy & masculine w/o a hint of coarseness; well boned, well bodied & well coated; strong & sound mover albeit, as a typical teenage lad, he was keen for us to note he was somewhat proud of his tail!

Rudd & Channing-Rudd's Leonberger Bedeburn Gan Canny; "wey aye", this 9m d did indeed "gan canny" on behalf of his Geordie breeder; lovely headed chap outstanding for breed type, conformation & carriage whether static or on the move; a real prospect so worth campaigning & I can envisage him having the potential to be stating his claim back here for Of The Year '25.

TOY (3)

Walker's Chinese Crested Petwalk Naked Attraction; a "goosebumps" 16m b with absolutely nothing worth changing & having the best of heads, structure, skin & enviable carriage; shown & conditioned to win as she will again & again not just in her breed but potentially in the Group & beyond.

Mcfarlane's Chinese Crested Pufflepaws Phools Prophecy; 10m powder puff d of a gd overall, typical, make & shape who was understandably less "finished", not least in coat that will benefit from more summertime weather; shown to get the best performance from him.

PASTORAL (3)

Boxall's Samoyed Valentino Boschi Vecchi; rising 7m d who filled my eye on sight that was confirmed "hands on"; essence of breed type, structure & with an early maturity that enhances him; handsome headed; great pigment; so balanced; correctly coated; gave me goosebumps when he moved; another you could therefore be seeing back here for Of The Year '25; good luck & enjoy making the most of him meantime.

Brache's Finnish Lapphund JSY CH Elbereth Oreokeksi At Lappiness; 21m d who is totally to the credit of his hugely successful breeder; such breed specific type with a glorious head; outstanding in conformation, in body & in coat; moved so consistently well & was shown & conditioned to advantage so as to hold his own in the Adult Final too.

Adult Semi-Finals:

TERRIER (7)

Marett's Cesky Terrier Gayteckels Bottoms Up; 8yrs b in such great form; expressive, relatively triangular, blunt head with rectangular body; functional strong jaw & muscled rear; well boned; ex coat with silky sheen; carried herself well with such positive drive.

Kukza's Irish Terrier Amberville No One Like You; still looking & going so well as to justify qualifying for both Finals.

UTILITY (5) Arguably the "hottest" of the semi-finals.

Le Moignan's Tibetan Terrier Waterley Honey Rider At Fideletchan; what better way for this b/w b to celebrate her bang-on 2yrs birthday? Having had the advantage of the late Ken (Araki) Sinclair as my longtime mentor, I couldn't believe my eyes when this b flowed into the ring with such ease, balance & squareness; so correct in head & conformation; stood well down on breed specific pads; best of immaculate coats & demonstrated true reach, drive & carriage on the move; her leading breeders should be so proud & deserve all credit for parting with her, albeit even they may need to look to their laurels should she be brought over to be campaigned in the UK!!

Walker & Journeaux's Lhasa Apso JSY CH Petwalk Inspirational; rising 4yrs gold b & the absolute definition of breed type & structure with nothing you would seek to change; great head features; enviable neck & forehead; beautifully bodied & proportioned, benefitting

from her maturity; superbly coated with masterful presentation; soundly balanced mover, albeit I do favour breed specific Lhasa jauntiness as against Shih Tzu drive.

GUNDOG (5)

Cox's English Springer Spaniel Tiroen To Have And To Hold; 2yrs 4m b of an enviable type that I now see reflects on her outstanding Sh Ch Trimere sire; no mistaking her sex through her clean, expressive, head; ex bodylines; specific ESS action & carriage plus such accuracy as she readily covered the ground; her sporting owner, who showed such a strong team of gundogs, readily acknowledged she can still develop on to advantage.

White's Cocker Spaniel JSY CH Granrose Blue Topaz; 3yrs blue roan b so worthy of her title & congrats are due to this breeder/exhibitor for the consistency of her homebred stock; glorious headpiece & so well constructed; needs no more condition; great muscled backend; ex tail carriage with a merry action; immaculately turned out in such ideal coat & feathering; particularly loved her gait as she circuited.

HOUND (2)

Hannigan, Whitehead, Selby & Maloret's Afghan Hound Zobear Here's Drama; just turned 2yrs black b who could not be overlooked with her eye-filling style & stature of high order & do believe I awarded her Oz sire RBIS allbreeds at Blackpool '23; Ch imported dam from Europe too that reflects clever homework & investment to the credit of this multi-ownership; such refinement in head with long foreface; classy neck & angles; short in loin; has depth; correct in croup & tuck-up; ringed, lowset, tail with ex carriage; moved as on air with a light, springy, gait & proud head carriage; young enough to still settle in front to advantage; beautiful fine coat so immaculately presented.

Walker's Whippet Silkridge Jean Genie For Petwalk; rising 2yrs 3m b & another where I now see I have awarded top honours to her sire; ultra feminine; cleanly cheeked in head with expressive eye & ear; ex neck & backline, with depth, to give symmetry & balance that showed on the move where her gait was so easily, & consistently, produced.

WORKING (6)

Brouard's Alaskan Malamute JSY CH Orsamal's Pepe Le Peew; 6.5yrs d in the full bloom of maturity & so handsome headed; such a powerhouse with heavy bone & that functionally thick guard coat to fend off the cold; balanced, moderate, angulation; correct backline; deep; but you had to be there to see him move, in order to believe it, as it was so easily produced & so rhythmic, waving his plume tail; all credit is due to this exhibitor (from some island or other) for having qualified one of the strongest teams of the day.

Coldwell's Newfoundland CH Zentaur This Is Jam Hot (AI) ShCM; 6.5yrs brown Newfoundland b from this most consistent UK breeder; research for this critique confirms that I judged & merely placed her as a Minor Puppy; "wow " she has surely developed on to maximum advantage & represented optimum breed type, breed conformation & specific breed movement; in superb coat & in such muscled condition; such a worthy Ch & of an age to be up there challenging too for Veteran Of The Year '25 I would reckon.

TOY (3)

Symphorien's Pug Rienmour Gully Gauche; 3.5yrs fawn d; loved him on sight & in such fit condition; super headed with outstanding healthy, open, facial features; has a neck; he's soundly built, well boned & cobby bodied with a tight twist; moved typically off a firm hock & with that unmistakable Pug character; well worth campaigning.

Walker's Chinese Crested Solino's The Entertainer For Petwalk (Imp Hun); 2.5yrs d & have to give this exh credit for remaining silent when I commented, on going over this d, that you'd swear him to be the sire of his outstanding b puppy; I see now that indeed he was; absolutely the same breed type, breed features, breed structure & healthy skin; has passed on his sound flowing movement & carriage; what a wise acquisition looking capable of top winning in his own right yet even more valuable as a dad!

PASTORAL (5)

Brache's Finish Lapphund JSY CH Elbereth Oreokeksi At Lappiness; readily back in the Adult frame, looking & moving the part.

Yabsley's Belgian Shepherd Dog (Tervueren) CH Domburg New Demand; just turned 4yrs d out of a Ch dam; certainly possessed the "wow" factor, combining strength with elegance; long, clean, head with parallels & ex eye/ear; arch to neck enabled a proud head carriage; square & deep; double coated with ruff; moderately angulated so as to be entirely unexaggerated as he gaited with such a brisk, light action; absolutely on top of his game & a credit to all concerned.

JUNIOR HANDLING

6-11YRS

1. Everlynn Stewart-Smith; she may have been at the lower end of the age range but my goodness she was good! Totally in control of her Papillon that she set up correctly on the table & moved alongside at the perfect pace as well as watching where "the judge" may have moved to & adjusting accordingly; the cheer raised the roof when declared overall Winner.

2. Sophia Maloret; the bessie mate of Everlynn & the bessie mate of the judge seeing as she brought in a red rough Griffon d that was clearly a shrewd move; Sophia worked so hard at getting the v best performance she could from him & she has such natural empathy; congrats.

12-16YRS

1. Tahlia Rault; more towards the upper end of this age range with the challenge of a heavy coated adult Shih Tzu; 100% professional; ensured that it was her charge that was centre stage so as to be self-effacing herself; Tahlia is what the future of the dog game is all about. Reserve Winner.

BRACE OF THE YEAR (13)

Winner: Brouard's Alaskan Malamute

Reserve: Walker's Chinese Crested

VETERAN OF THE YEAR (15)

Winner: Brouard's Alaskan Malamute CH/JSY CH Sutarka Coco Chanel At Orsamals; remarkable 7yrs dam of the ultimate Reserve Dog Of The Year & you could see where he gets his gd looks from given her large, strong, muzzle plus her powerful, functional, build with moderate angulation so as to move apparently tirelessly with both rhythm & powerful drive; felt privileged to have met her.

Marett's Cesky Terrier Gaytectels Bottoms Up; earned a second look as she continued to fill the eye & move so well since qualifying for the Adult Final & another to have proved herself, being the dam of a JSY CH.

PUPPY OF THE YEAR FINAL

Winner: Samoyed

Reserve: Chinese Crested

DOG OF THE YEAR FINAL

Winner: Tibetan Terrier

Reserve: Alaskan Malamute

Howard Ogden (Judge)

15.2.2024