

The Neapolitan Mastiff Club, 5th Breed Open Show 12.04.08.

Absolutely fantastic event, the highlight of our Mastino year and without a shadow of doubt, an annual event that attracts more Mastino enthusiasts than any other event in the UK.

The Neapolitan Mastiff Club wishes to thank sincerely, everyone who helped to make this event as magnificent as the previous 4, all those without whom, there would be no show: All Staff at Coseley Leisure Centre & School, Including, Manager Dave Cowern, Leisure Centre Assistants young Dave, as I call him ! Lorraine and even younger Justin !!.

Our Judge Giuseppe Alessandra, who flew in, all the way from Italia, just for us. Pamela & Robert Jeans-Brown and Kathy & Wayne South, for accommodating our Judge so well during his stay, and their assistance with the running of the show on the day. Our Stewards Angela Dunkley and Kim Lathaen for ensuring that proceedings in the ring ran like clockwork.

All exhibitors who entered their Mastini under our Judge and / or made donations toward Rosettes and / or toward Welfare. All exhibitors and their Mastini who attended and exhibited on the day, Team Mastino you did yourselves proud!.

All invited Guests, all Mastino enthusiasts, all visitors, all spectators. Royal Canin for show sponsorship. Steve Cox for Venue cost. Kev Berry for his BIS, Judge & Welfare gift.

Everyone who donated Trophies and / or Raffle prizes. The Bucknall Family and the Cox Family for their invaluable support. Neapolitan Mastiff Welfare Coordinator / Administrator, Jackie Bunn and Daughter Rae, with a little star called BluBelle who stole everybody's hearts. The Speight's for their catering skills and for keeping the refreshments flowing all day. And last but by no means least, All Officers and Committee of The Neapolitan Mastiff Club, who mucked-in-together to make it all happen. Big pat on the back everyone, without you, it just wouldn't happen.

The show opened just after 10.00 and even so early, the sports hall seemed packed. Steve Greenwood kicked proceedings off with some ringcraft for anyone who wanted to participate, and when I looked up from my desk and saw the amount of Mastini in the ring, I had to chuckle to myself as I think Steve was expecting a 15 minute session !!

Our Not For Competition Class followed, and Mike Evans & Mandy Johnson had done a brilliant job of writing a little intro about the Import, the Welfare and the 4 & 5 month old Mastini, participating in this class. Each entrant was walked around the ring whilst Mike read their intro and Mandy presented each with a complimentary rosette to commemorate their participation.

At just after 11.00, Vice President, Wayne South, officially opened TNMC 5th Breed Open Show, with an introduction to our World renowned Judge Dr. Arch. Giuseppe Alessandra. Canine enthusiast since 1956, has been Judging for over 45 years, one of the few Italian Judges to have been appointed to Judge at the World Championships on 7 separate occasions and, bestowed with the honour of Judging Best In Show in 1990. Since 1993 Giuseppe has been President of Associazione Tecnica Internazion'ale Mastino Napoletano, A.T.I.MA.NA. Giuseppe is considered a Noted Authority on the Neapolitan Mastiff, and we felt privileged, not only that Giuseppe had accepted our invitation to Judge our Open Show, but for the opportunity to meet Giuseppe Alessandra and spend time in his company.

Giuseppe, who was already in the ring as he had shown a keen interest in the NFC class, proceeded with his Judging appointment with all the flair and panache one would expect from an Italian connoisseur. As we are aware, our overseas Judges are not what we would deem 'hands-on' and other than checking teeth and bite, do not really go over dogs in the hands-on manner of our British Judges.

Giuseppe's eyes, began with profile and type, checked over the skull, wrinkles, ear set, neck down to the shoulders, down to pasterns and feet, along the body and onto top line and round to the rear end and movement. Movement, all Giuseppe's assessments of construction were taking place as he watched the dogs move, up and down, round and round, Giuseppe was watching top lines, shoulders and rear angulation, looking for typical movement and the strength and soundness required, for overall balance and good movement.

At 1.00, Giuseppe had completed his assessments of the Dogs, and had selected, to much applause, his Best Dog, Reserve Best Dog and Best Puppy Dog, and then retired with our party of Guests, for a well earned lunch. At 2.00, it was the turn of the Bitches and again

Giuseppe adopted exactly the same procedure throughout and at 4.00, again to much applause, Giuseppe had selected his Best Bitch, Reserve Best Bitch and Best Puppy Bitch. The head to head which followed, as always, was very nerve racking affair for all concerned, Best Dog and Best Bitch, exhibitors and Judge alike, just the 5 of them in one ring with one decision to be made, and this occasion was no different.

Giuseppe awarded Best In Show to his Best Bitch, and requested his Res Best Bitch back into the ring, to select Reserve Best In Show from his Best Dog & Res Best Bitch, which ultimately Giuseppe awarded to his Res Best Bitch, awarding Best Opposite Sex to his Best Dog. And by the amount of cheers, a truly agreeable decision to all and a truly momentous moment for all concerned.

At 4.30, the Chairman, Steve Cox, wound down proceedings with The Clubs sincere thanks to our Judge, stewards, and supporters without whom our shows would not be possible. Steve presented Giuseppe with gifts and mementoes of his time with TNMC, and Giuseppe responded with a few words of his own. Expressing his gratitude to us all for a wonderful weekend and the opportunity of experiencing for himself, the quality of Mastino stock we possess in the UK. Giuseppe did add that he felt from the Mastini presented to him on the day, that the quality of the Bitches surpassed that of the Dogs but that, this was not a criticism, more an observation as having sound, typy bitches would indeed be an asset to our gene pool.

Also presented by Vice President, Wayne South, The Carlin Trophy, to Top Winning Neapolitan Mastiff Dog & Bitch 2007, Cox's Rayvonley Lion & Speight's Dalnarck Bell. And, The Firecracker Cup, to our Crufts Best Of Breed Winner 2008, Speight's Dalnarck Bell. All in All, another truly fantastic Breed Open Show, and once again, truly fantastic support from all our enthusiasts. The Neapolitan Mastiff Club, sincerely thanks everyone whose support, through which ever avenue, ensures the continued success of our events. Thank You All.

Massive Congratulations to Kim Slater & Matti Mafi, for achieving: BEST IN SHOW with Dalnarck Beau, Reserve Best Dog with Sancho De Azzurra, and Best Veteran (Bless her 11 year old cottons!!) with Caleenos Venetia. I bet there was a major celebration in their household on Saturday and Sunday and Monday !!. Congratulations also to... Rick & Anita Bailey for achieving: Reserve Best In Show with Dalnarck Bambi. George Zadeh for achieving: Best Opposite Sex with Faynad Insostuible. Mike Evans & Mandy Johnson for achieving: Best Puppy In Show with Rayvonley Roman at Makaevo. And Steve Cox for achieving Reserve Best Puppy In Show with Rayvonley Tonino.

Congratulations to All our exhibitors and their Mastini, as said, you all truly did yourselves proud on the day, well done to each and everyone.

Critiques - Dr. Arch. Giuseppe Alessandra.

Class 1 – Veteran Dog / Bitch (4,2):

1st & BV - Slater & Mafi's Caleenos Venetia: 11 year old bitch, really a record for a Neapolitan Mastiff, excellent construction, good bone, even today she has a good top line. Muzzle a little short but broad, very good reach of neck. Alas her age shows in her movement. She must have been a really beautiful girl in her youth.

2nd – Cox's Faynad Dalia of Rayvonley: 7 year old, excellent condition and size, muzzle could be a little stronger, excellent expression and good wrinkle, excellent reach of neck. Upper arm a little short, correct solid top line. Still moves well. Bone perhaps a little light.

Class 2 – Minor Puppy Dog (1):

1st – Clewer's Mostroneo's Alberto: Lack of type, overshot bite, muzzle a little long, lack of wrinkle. Excellent ear carriage, good reach of neck. Bone is lacking, pasterns okay, lack of chest. Top line rather roach and this affects movement. Tail too thin and too long. Not a typical Neapolitan Mastiff.

Class 3 – Puppy Dog (5,2):

1st & BPD & RBPIS – Cox's Rayvonley Tonino: Good size and bone, correct dentition. Head already good size, good wrinkle, satisfactory ears. Pasterns need tightening, chest good for size, good top line, movement a little loose.

2nd – Luff's Masaniello Dello Stradone Vesuviano: 9 months, good size but light in bone, Correct bite, enough wrinkle, muzzle a little long, lacks chest, lacks rear angulation, top line good.

3rd – Clewer's Mostroneo Alberto.

Class 4 – Junior Dog (4,1):

1st & RBD – Slater & Mafi's Sancho De Azzurra: 16 months, excellent size, good type. Good square skull, good ears, good reach of neck. Shoulders not really solid yet. Good pasterns, enough chest. Overall construction a little too square, good top line, adequate rear angulation, good movement. Should do well in the future.

2nd – Evan's Dalnarck Ercole at Makaevo: 14 months, good size for age but light bone. Nice head and expression, muzzle square enough. Correct teeth, good ears and neck, pasterns alright, chest good for age, good top line, enough rear angulation, moves well.

3rd – Clewer's Mostroneo Alberto.

Class 5 – Post Graduate Dog (3,2):

1st - Luff's Treloarneo Shubutu Boldheart: 21/2 year old, adequate size, nice head, correct bite, good wrinkles and reach of neck. Ear set a little low and heavy, pasterns okay, chest lacks volume, top line weak. Rear quarters do not balance with rest of dog, rather weak in angulation and these account for movement.

Class 6 – Limit Dog (3,3).

Class 7 – Open Dog (5,2):

1st & BD & BOS – Zadeh's Faynad Insostuibile: Good type and size, very masculine head, correct bite, good ears and neck. Nice wrinkle, correct in front, excellent bone, excellent body proportions, good top line, sufficient rear angulation. Very typical movement.

2nd – Cox's Rayvonley Lion: Good type and size but not in good condition today. Muzzle a little short but square. Good wrinkle, sufficient ears, correct teeth, good neck, correct front, just a little light in body. Excellent mover.

3rd – Cullens Dalnarck Drago.

Class 8 – Minor Puppy Bitch (6,3):

1st – McGonigal's Morgana Dello Stradone Vesuviano: Good size, feminine, sufficient wrinkle, correct bite, good neck, correct front, nice body proportions, good top line, enough angulation, good mover.

2nd – Barratt & Bell's Tannick Cyan: Good size, just a little long in face, eyes too open, not correct wrinkle, good ears and neck, correct front, strong body, good top line, strong enough rear quarters, good mover.

3rd – Cox's Rayvonley Uno.

Class 9 – Puppy Bitch (7,4):

1st & BPB & BPIS – Evans's Rayvonley Roman at Makaevo: 10 months, strong bitch, excellent size, nice head, good bone, ears reasonably well carried, good bite, good neck, shoulders quite solid, nice body proportions, good top line, good angulation and movement.

2nd – Barratt & Bell's Tannick Cyan: Good size, just a little long in face, eyes too open, not correct wrinkle, good ears and neck, correct front, strong body, good top line, strong enough rear quarters, good mover.

3rd – Preston's Rayvonley Cariad.

Class 10 – Junior Bitch (5,2):

1st – Greenwood & Lloyd's Dalnarck Electra: 14 months, good size, excellent condition, nice head proportions, enough wrinkle, very nice expression, good ears and neck, correct in front and body, strong top line, good mover.

2nd – Bailey's Dalnarck Enigma: 14 months, good size and type but not in good condition, too light at breast. Correct bite, good wrinkle, ears okay, good neck. Strong and correct in front, just a little light in body, good top line, good mover.

3rd – McGonigle's Peppina Dello Stradone Vesuviano.

Class 11 – Post Graduate Bitch (9,3):

1st & BB & BIS – Slater & Mafi's Dalnarck Beau: Excellent 2 year old, excellent type, size and bone, strong face, correct bite, good wrinkle, very nice expression, good ears and neck, strong and correct in front and body, good top line, tail, angulation and movement.

2nd – Cox's Mirtisca Del Bengashe of Rayvonley: Good size and type, good wrinkle, a little too much haw perhaps, good ears and neck, not correct in front, feet too weak, nice body proportions, good top line, adequate strength in rear, good mover.

3rd – Berry's Drosdelnoch's Ice Queen.

Res – Platts Vallino Evanescence.

Vhc – Dovey's Gitta VD Hestokamp.

Class 12 – Limit Bitch (3,1):

1st – Berry's Drosdelnoch's Lady Jade: Good size, just adequate bite, good expression, good skull, adequate ears, good neck, correct front, good proportions in body, sufficiently strong top line, good mover.

2nd – McGuigan's Lesall Dark n Sharp at Hieronymus: 5 years, adequate type, excellent condition, good coat, head proportions not correct, stop and wrinkle not correct, ears not well set, good neck, light boned in front but body adequate. Good top line, correct rear angulation, adequate movement, excellent temperament and shown in excellent condition and very sympathetically.

Class 13 – Open Bitch (4):

1st & RBB & RBIS – Bailey's Dalnarck Bambi: 2 ½ year old, excellent type, size and coat. Strong and feminine, excellent head proportions, nice expression, correct ears and neck, strong and correct in front, nice body proportions, good top line and rear angulation, good mover.

2nd – Platts Dalnarck Druda via Vallino: 3 ½ year old, good size, strong bone, just a little masculine in head, correct teeth, not very clean wrinkle, adequate ears, good neck, correct in front, strong body, sufficient top line, good rear angulation, good mover.

3rd – Speight's Dalnarck Bell.

Res – McGuigan's Lesall Dark n Sharp at Hieronymus.

Class 14 – Brace (5,1):

1st & Best Brace – Bailey's Dalnarck Bambi / Dalnarck Enigma: Very homogeneous type, size and condition. Moved well. Excellent pair of Neapolitan Mastiffs.

2nd – Platts Dalnarck Druda via Vallino / Vallino Evanescence: Excellent type but not necessarily homogeneous, male not as typey. Excellent movement.

Giuseppe Alessandra