

## World News - Albert Wight in Barbados

# Barbados Kennel Club Ch Show



**IT WAS a joy to be invited to return to judge on this tropical paradise for the third time and never more so than this year after such a long, hard winter.**

The morning I left to fly out, it was minus three and my car was completely frosted over. When I stepped out of the plane in Bridgetown, it was 28 degrees !!!

The Barbadians who run the Kennel Club there are such an enthusiastic group and they genuinely struggle to keep their hobby alive. However, despite their best efforts the number of entries has been falling for a several years and whilst they once boasted 110 regularly, that number has now dropped to the mid seventies. On the positive side, when the exhibits are good they are really excellent and could win here.

Before listing the Group winners, I would just like to comment that importing is very expensive and it was sad to learn that not all exporters from the UK have been fair and just in the quality of the dogs they have sent to the island – and that at a not inconsiderable purchase price. When you add the freighting charges importing becomes very costly indeed. There was more than one instance where I saw such an import which was little more than pet quality and had health problems which meant it was unsuitable to breed from, let alone show. So if you get an enquiry for a show puppy, please make sure it is worthy to uphold the British reputation for fairness.

My Terrier Group winner was a young Staffordshire Bull Terrier of just 10 months, Cobbybull Mr Dexter is still a puppy but this light red shows promise. Good size and well boned, correct mouth, well shaped head which needs to develop a bit yet but that should come with maturity. His backline is clean, excellent hindquarters and he was in spotless condition. He moved out soundly. Runner up to him was a most attractive Bull terrier Ch Kingdom's Power which I liked in most respects and he was in spanking condition. A great character, so well bodied and muscled. He just failed to satisfy me in one vital aspect which allowed the Staffie to pip him.

The Toy Group was won by the Papillon Ch Kingshaven Wonderman at Hothersall. Other than wishing he was less compact in outline, I liked him a lot. This b/w is a lovely type, excellent head, eyes and ears, correct mouth, ultra sound on the move and he was immaculate in coat. He is the desired height and has finely boned legs which added to his elegance. He was followed by a sweet headed Australian Silky. Lovely size, very good head, eyes could be a fraction darker for me but they are good size and shape. Her coat texture

is good but the colours were a bit bleached as she has obviously spent a fair amount of time enjoying the sunshine.

Gundogs were topped by a rather smart Golden Retriever, owned by Mrs Jean Ray, Fenwood Louis Vuitton of Thatchers is such a promising youngster of just 19 months. Must appeal for his stunning outline and good construction. His shape flows from the nape of his neck to his hocks in the sweetest of flowing lines. I loved his head, eyes so dark and expressive and that tail never stops wagging merrily. A Champion in the making. Runner up to him in the Group was a yellow Labrador Sh Ch Linthwaite Centaurus of Zinzara. A real extrovert so very full of himself and in the hardest of conditions with a sparkling jacket. I liked his head, the kindness of his expression, his strong neck and well sprung ribcage. Whilst he would benefit from more bend of stifle, he acquitted himself well on the move, if a little too proud of his tail!

Although numerically small, the Hound Group had some quality exhibits. Topping the Group was an exciting prospect in the Rhodesian Ridgeback Crownridge Red Regent. Just 18 months old this one is so beautifully put together, never stands incorrectly and his profile action is so fluent and even striding, that one could watch him for ages. Looks regal in stance, stunning head and expression, scoring in length and strength in muzzle, long, clean neck and so well ribbed. Tight in front, spotless in jacket and he just looks like a star. Will become a big winner in the island, I'm sure. G2 went to his litter sister – my notes on her were brief – “totally



Crownridge Red Regent

feminine package, power with beauty, spotless coat and condition, graceful and far reaching gait, another Champion?” Why gild the lily further!

The Utility Group brought forth one of the stars of the show for me. The UK imported Shiba Inu Calicelesti The One N'Only At Massima was attending his first ever show! He just sailed into the ring, won the CC, BOB, the Group then Best In Show over some classy



Calicelesti The One N'Only At Massima

opposition. He is blessed with a gorgeous head, the most stunning eyes and an expression which can't help but make you smile. Devoid of exaggeration in construction anywhere and in immaculate coat. Loose leaved, he drifted around the ring with all the arrogance and confidence of youth. Of course he was also BPIS.

He was followed by a very smart min schnauzer from our own Risepark Kennel. Ch Risepark Pretty Smart Guy is a lovely sized p/s, fairly compact, extremely good head, eyes, expression, neat ears and correct ribbing. His harsh coat was so well prepared and his side action is balanced.

The strongest group numerically was the Working Group (which combines our Pastoral Group) and it had some of the best dogs of the day. Topping the lot and going onto Res. Best In Show was a beautiful Doberman bitch Funky Frieda Wot A Thriller. This quite beautiful example of a classy dobe bitch was a recent French import and she was another attending her first ever dog show. And her owner did not know how to handle a show dog so the bitch was handled by a young lady who coped very well with a job which was clearly new to her. This bitch has amply weighted bone, is a wonderful shape, has substance yet elegance and her head, eyes and expression were exactly what I love to see in this special breed. I just imagined what she would do in this



Funky Frieda Wot A Thriller

country with one of our many brilliant breed handlers. Her action was as sound on the out and back that I can recall and her side action was light, balanced and denoted power. I just hope she is shown again! To win this group she had to beat a lovely young dark brindle male Bullmastiff in Treone Dark Sultan. Just 14 months old but would win here, easily. The make, shape, outstanding profile and his amazing action were a joy to see. I see he is sired by a UK import Ch Braeaaron Wallace at Ardhub who is a son of Ch Ferdhu Hudson. I loved his head, such balance between skull and muzzle, stunning eyes the firmest of backlines and he is blessed with good angles both ends. Another big winner in the making. And what a clever handler he has.

The show over, we had a pleasant “meet the judge” evening the following day which was quite illuminating in many aspects. The evening after that we enjoyed an excellent repast at the DOTY dinner. That contest had been won by my Rottweiler BOB the UK imported Ch. Juffther Dream Lover whilst the award for Best Locally Bred DOTY was my hound group winning Ridgeback.

The hospitality of the Barbadians is so generous and there are too many people to thank individually. Just let me say that if you get the chance to go there, accept the appointment and simply enjoy one of life's great experiences.