

It's a Foreign Affair again for the Welsh

CH BAGHDAD Foreign Affair of Lokhandar triumphed again this year at the Welsh Kennel Club Top Dog event, repeating his win of 2003, and hot on the heels of winning the South Wales Open Shows DOTY

This event has been going for 16 years now, and the Top Puppy event joined some four years later making this the 12th such award and the both the event and the quality of the exhibits has gone from strength to strength.

It was particularly good to see vulnerable breeds represented. The Skye Terrier, Perrylands Ambassador qualified for both the Top Puppy and the Top Dog competition and the ETT, Bullypins Blaize.

As always the competition has two judges and this year they were Mrs Isobell Dyke and Mr Bryn Cadogan, both of whom are serving officers on the South Wales Kennel Association and have a wealth of judging both here and abroad between them. Mr Cadogan judges the Terrier and Utility Groups, and Mrs Dyke judges the hound group and they have both had pedigree dogs since the 1960s.

The draw was made by Tegwyn Jones and Mervyn Evans as to which dogs would be judges in Heat A and which in Heat B, and then the judges picked their envelopes which revealed Mrs Dyke would be judge A and Mr Cadogan judge B.

Ifor Williams was the steward who ushered the dogs into the ring for the knock-out contest and Tegwyn Jones was the ring steward. The commentator was Mr Graham Hill, who is usually assisted by his wife and Co-Secretary Ann, however, due to a family bereavement Ann was unable to attend so Graham was assisted this year by Carol Williams, Ifor's wife.

Mrs Dyke judged the dogs very thoroughly and sympathetically; by the semi final stage the Estrela Mountain Dog Karabas Likande Lamenna Letta At Sturtmoor (a NL import) challenged the Papillon Temelora Sun Dancer at Hollrexia (they were born within 12 days of

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each other); and it was the Papillon who went through to the heat final. The Sturtmoor kennel also had the Tibetan Terrier, Am Ch Atisha Eternal Flame At Sturtmoor ShCM (USA import) in the second of Mrs Dyke's semi finals but he lost out to the Pug Tsuselela Mission Possible Via Tilheralf.

The Papillon and the Pug were brought in again and each moved one more time and Mrs Dyke put through the Pug for the Top Puppy Final.

Judge B was therefore Mr Cadogan and he too was very thorough and gentle, which always appreciated by exhibitors. His knock out competition left him with a semi-final which consisted of the Pomeranian, Ch Veltuds Conspiracy against the Pointer Ridanflight Rockhampton, whose litter sister Ridanflight Rangiora had also qualified for the event. It was the Pomeranian who went through for the heat final and the other two semi-finalists were the ETT Bullypins Blaize who triumphed over her kennel-mate, the toy Poodle Ch Valetta Super Affair (this young poodle had also qualified for both the Puppy and Top Dog events).

The Pomeranian came back in as did the ETT and after moving each one again the winner of heat B was the Pomeranian Ch Veltuds



● Top Dog with judges



● WKC Top Dog runner up with judges



● Top Puppy Challenge



● Pedigree's Phil Davies, Warren Bradley and WKC sub committee member Stan Roberts

● Runner Up Top Puppy with the 2 judges



● WKC Top Dog 2007



● Denys Simpson addressing a happy party



● WKC Top Dog receives a Patsi Ann image from Mervyn Evans



● WKC Top Puppy with judges and Phil Davies from Pedigree



● WKC Top Dog 07 on the move



● Birds eye view of the dinner dance

Conspiracy.

This was the first time we had an all toy affair for both Heat A and Heat B finals so our two judges had the two toy finalists brought in again. Mr Cadogan went over the Pomeranian and Mrs Dyke examined the Pug and after they conferred they agreed that the WKC Top Puppy 2007 was to be Ch Veltuds Conspiracy. This dog was bred by the well known partnership of Powell and Medcalf and co-owned with Mrs Samuels. The honours were decided and the judges presented Mrs Samuels with the lovely piece of crystal which had kindly been donated by Mr Doug Mackenzie, as well as the sack of food kindly donated by Pedigree Masterfoods.

There was a break of a couple of hours for spectators to stretch their legs, have something to eat and for the puppies to leave and the dogs to be prepared. There were more spectators this year which contributed well to the atmosphere of the event.

At 4.15 pm the draw was made for the Top Dog competition and the contest started at 4.30 with the judges and committee having changed into evening wear...and very smart they looked too. The envelopes were again selected and this time Heat A judge was Mr Cadogan and Mrs Dyke was Judge B.

Heat A semi-finals saw the Tibetan Terrier, Ch Aivlys Black Bonnie at Leashkan against the

Hungarian Puli Catsun Corduroy and it was the TT which went through, and the other semi-final for Mr Cadogan was between the white Toy Poodle Ch Valetta Endless Affair (whose son had reached the puppy semi-final) the Newfoundland Ch Sheridal Nerissa of Alphabear JW ShCM and the Irish Wolfhound Ch Rynchanon One Wild Knight at Nightwing JW. Each dog moved again and the Newfie went through to Heat A final. Mr Cadogan moved them again and the winner of Heat A was Mr & Mrs Hobbs Ch Sheridal Nerissa of Alphabear JW ShCM who had been runner-up WKC Top Puppy 2006.

Mrs Dyke took centre stage for Heat B and after going over some super dogs in her knock-out competition she too was left with quality semi-finalists. Mr & Mrs Rees had qualified two Welsh Springers but it was Musique Executive Decision who was the one to reach the semi final and she went through over Mrs Parry's Lancashire Heeler Ch Plaisance Ipenema with Gwynsais. The second semi-final was between the Saluki Ch Baghdad Foreign Affair, the Welsh Terrier Aman Showtime bred and handled

by Mr Warren Bradley and co-owned with the late Mrs Jull, the third semi-finalist being Mr & Mrs Hitt's Shih Tzu Socorro Feel Me Touch Me At Miracey. The Saluki went through to the Heat B final and it was he who went on to win the Heat B Final.

It was good to see Warren Bradley looking so well after being out of the ring so much this year.

The two finalists were then brought in for each of the judges, Mrs Dyke going over the Newfoundland and Mr Cadogan putting the Saluki through its paces and again they conferred.

The decision was made Ch Baghdad Foreign Affair of Lokhandar was to carry the title WKC Top Dog 2007 and Ch Sheridal Nerissa of Alphabear JW ShCM was Reserve, repeating her Puppy place of last year.

The winner was presented with a super Patsi Ann Standard Image and again Pedigree had generously donated sacks of food for the winners.

The crowd gave the exhibits, handlers and judges the applause they deserved. It was good to see the sportsmanship in the ring between the exhibitors; it makes an event so much more enjoyable. The decisions were made, awards given and the photographs taken and the room was quickly cleared and set up for the evening Dinner and Dance.

This event is one which should never be missed; it is warm and friendly and turns a good day into a super weekend. The Commodore Hotel staff are hospitable and caring, nothing seems too much trouble which is a refreshing change in this day and age.

Pre-dinner drinks were served and the dinner was at 8 pm. There was a minutes silence in memory of

Ron Clifford's wife Peggy, who passed away this year and was held in the highest regard by all who knew her.

The dinner was delicious and almost without exception the dishes went back to the kitchen having been eaten clean and the vegetarian option was equally as good.

WKC Chairman Denys Simpson rose and thanked Mervyn Evans and his wife Pat and their daughter Bethany for all their hard work in organising the event and gaining sponsorship. Thanks also went to the rest of the Contest Sub Committee Tegwyn Jones and Ifor Williams and not forgetting the efforts of Stan Roberts. Thanks also went to the sponsors including Our Dogs and the many people who contributed to the huge raffle.

With the speeches done, it was waste no time for the disco and people danced and socialised in a wonderful atmosphere until the small hours.

Congratulations to the winners, Runners Up, Committee and Sub-Committee on a very enjoyable weekend, I really look forward to next year.