

Show report THE FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB OF ENGLAND Championship show 19th of april 2015-04-24 Judge Dr Goran Bodegard Sweden

I highly appreciated this assignment which indeed is something special - One of the oldest breed clubs in the world and very rarely earlier having invited a foreign judge! I had a very nice time and am very grateful for the generous hospitality and in depth conversation and dialogue with Mrs Penny Rankine-Parsons over the issues of health and soundness – a subject that is of special importance and interest to me since I am entrusted with the chairmanship for the NKU BSI program (Breed Specific Instructions regarding pedigree dogs). I am very impressed by what is being done for the Frenchies in England and the firmly established cooperation with the Cambridge University regarding the problems for the brachycephalic breeds. I see all positive potential for a future co work between the Nordic initiatives and what is developing in the UK!

I have a very warm heart for French Bulldogs – from my early in life close relation to this breed. It is easy for me to love Frenchies and that at the same time can corrupt the strict liking asked for from a judge. – One of the main characteristics is the temperament and mentality - I am not personally so sure that I should label the personality a “Clown’s” since that to me is an individual who is more appealing for attention by being comical than in the way a French bulldog is behaving – intelligently and positively and very actively counteracting an depressed outlook on life. This mental character is to me one of the sound reasons for this breed having thrived and survived in spite of quite a few difficulties created by the anatomy and physiology. A more sad and pensive character had not managed a brachycephaly with such happiness as the French Bulldog (and there are breeds which are definitely both autistic and pensive - some of the Asian sighthounds for instance and they usually do not make intimate love bonds with Frenchies although the bulldogs are eager to invite even them to a friendship) Never mind - this is however extremely important to me when judging Frenchies and at the show with its great entry I only had one or two who did not convince me of them being happy with the genetic makeup that they were offered by the nature (and breeders!) I think that the positive nature of this breed surely attracts and influences the human beings who like to live with them - My impression is that French bulldog people are nice and less “neurotically” sophisticated than some other “breed people”. This indeed was noticeable at the show – which was dominated by a very friendly atmosphere .Thanks for that! I had the best support from my two stewards and also a great chance to meet and speak with one of the world’s leading breeder Signor Alfonso Ferrer who was invited to judge the special classes and I realized I had made one of his dogs BSI at a Spanish special a couple of years ago.

I had a line up of most respected and sophisticated people watching over what I was doing - and was convinced by the applauding ...which however of course always can be understood as a sign of traditional British politeness.

French Bulldog is not an easy breed to judge! - you have to be aware of how the combination of breed typical details is put together and can integrate with basic adequate soundness challenged by the brachycephaly. I was definitely not disturbed by a lot of unsound breathing or eye problems! You must have far succeeded well in the breeding with attention to this – certainly there are

some dogs which produce some noises of pharyngeal origin but very few had to compensate by open mouth breathing or showed signs of not putting up with a couple of rounds round the ring. Very few had very pinched nostrils and in fact I did not in many cases penalise otherwise good specimen due to lacking breathing soundness by not placing them adequately to their general quality.

Since we yet do not have any precise tools for tracing various parts of the brachycephalic syndrome and by gene test support the breeding we are left with the old good hands on - I mean simply that we (judges and breeders) shall be able to find the dogs which combine as excellent a type as possible together with basic soundness and health. . This is actually good since we do not have any scientific reasons to really disqualify unsoundness unless it obviously inflicts on the life and wellness of our animals. The great wealth of breeder's empirical knowledge must be very well respected and asked for. I think the structure made up by you in the UK is the best way to materialize the problems and thus to avoid them (or at least avoid doubling up on them)

The most obvious problem in general was the very diminutive or non existing tails - As long as we do not surely understand a link between tail defects and disturbances in the spinal neuro-channel I think it is wise to stay with the British standard formulation which is not ranking this as a disqualifying of highly undesirable trait although The Breed Watch Booklet points out no less than four tail issues. There is a hind leg action which I am inclined to think of as being related to a less well developed ending of the spine - we call this a "jazzing" action and to me (being a paediatrician) there is a little touch of cerebral palsy to this although not in any way influencing the action viewed from side. You can also see this in some of the dogs with exaggerations in shortness of coupling and hind legs a bit under . On the whole there were very few dogs showing exaggerations in shortness in their proportions (but on the contrary there were some which are too generous in length although at the same time being very sound little animals)- I have the opinion that the fawn Frenchies are better tail wise than brindles and pied? – may be due to more tails in the genetic background in the genes that was added from another source(?). I am old enough to very well remember the bitter fights once when the fawns was knocking at the door and the discussion about unwanted influence from related cousin breeds and so on. The fawns as I see them usually create a bit of a different general picture where you find a bit more sturdiness and bone than in the brindles with the more classical outlines.

I used a ring technique that I was taught by Annie Clark USA some decades ago – placing the dogs while judging the class for a preliminary line up – that method makes use of the fact that the human memory works in a retrospect way so the dogs seen are in the active memory field while going over the present dog - this is not very often practiced in UK but I find that effective particularly when you give the top contenders a second comparison before finishing.

Class 1 Minor Puppy Dog (8 entries 2 absentees)

1 Small's Merimna's Better Than Words - A very pleasing masculine fawn puppy with attractive adequate breadth in head and body - a trifle on the long side but then also great in action and had very nice balance of angulations between front and rear. Very nice character and tail.

2 Penning & Thomas' Eastonite Domino Dandy - A pied very attractive guy with excellent frame and supporting so well on all the four legs - a trifle longer in muzzle than winner and a little weak in pastern - excellent hind legs moved well

3 Magri, Arrowsmith & Pellegrini's Rozamie Jewel of Patrial - A brindle male puppy with classical outlines and excellent proportions. Very pleasing face. A bit short in breast bone making rear ribs a bit short not quite the bone of the two above which he is shorter than however.

Class 2 Puppy Dog (7 entries 2 absentees)

1 Drummond's Renuar Financial Times (Imp) This is a puppy of star quality! Fawn with great expression and lines and proportions . Just the right shortness of body and very sound in fore and aft quarters and moving very nicely presenting himself with style and the right kind of head carriage on excellent neck. Particularly nice height of legs to size and depth of body. Gained Best Dog puppy and Best Puppy of Breed

2 Penning & Thomas' Eastonite Domino Dandy repeat from Minor puppy

3 Smith's Lacoral Pukka Pye - Brindle, he was VHC class above - a bit lighter in all but very nice size and conformation of head - Ears a bit wide in carriage - Needs stronger pastern and front feet but very nice construction in hindquarter.

Class 3 Junior dog (7 entries three absentees) A little disappointed by the number - Junior classes at Championship shows in England usually are big and great.

1 Smith's Tuskaya Akvarel Darian De Trevil Belicose (Imp) A very attractive dark brindle short dog supporting himself so well on his legs creating a very balanced impression. Masculine head and excellent face. A bit short in rear ribs but excellent front and hindquarters and the whole picture is very pleasing. Has a correct tail.

2 Smith, Smith & Pratt's Jafrak Persuade Me at Khanin - Strong masculine a bit longer fawn dog. Excellent head and face and ears. Sound in body and ribcage and tail. Moved very well

3 Hines & Aschard's Simon De La Village Iz Palevyh Buldogov Rycolah - Short brindle male junior with classical proportions. Could be a bit darker in eye. Well built in body

but a little too steep in croup and a bit under himself in rear making hind action a little short making him lose to above.

Class 4 Yearling dog (8 entries 3 absentees)

1 Pleasance' Hard Rock Anima Mea at Katakia - A dog of excellent size and short typical proportions. Correct head and ears. Well balanced angulations in front and rear and moved well - a little noisy in breathing but not at all bothered.

2 Marshall's Rozelogue Top Notch - A brindle with nice development of strength and body is nicely short. Ears could be placed and carried a bit better. Could be a bit stronger in pastern and have some more angulations in rear. Excellent ribcage and tail.

3 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Cote St Jacques - Masculine a trifle big but very soundly constructed fawn dog. A bit generous in face wrinkles. Excellent front and rear construction and moving very well. Has quality

Class 5 Post Graduate dog (5 entries 1 absentee)

1 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Bergerac - Fawn dog of sound construction with pleasing compactness and excellent proportions Very pleasing size and shape of head with correct details (ears) . Could have a little more roach. Excellent in action and in general a pleasing male.

2 Mathews' Bodof Dance Master - A masculine dog that could show a bit more attitude and activity in action Excellent bone – a bit toeing out in front but rear correct and nice. Excelling in substance correctly developed and placed. A trifle long.

3 Mackie's Bullesque Matador Bear Bam - Short and neat in the general picture . A little shorter in muzzle is wished. Excellent bone. Movements a little ungenerous in length of step and thus a bit hurried. Needs a bit more fore chest

Class 6 Mid Limit Dog (6 entries 1 absentee)

1 Eskrett's Risethor Sweeney Todd Sh.CM - A very pleasing brindle male with beautiful outlines. Very nice size and shape of head with correct details. Has a pleasing bone and substance in balance. Moves very nicely with breed type.

2 Pleasance' Eastonite Rocafella of Katakia JW - Masculine strongly built pied with excellent volume - a little noisy in breathing but no distress. Masculine shape and idea of head with correct ears. A little light in eye – A bit too broad in front and not as smart in general lines as winner

3 Wallace's Rycolah Hemlock - Fawn dog with masculine nice head could be a little darker in eye. Needs a little better lay back of front assembly and is rather straight in hindquarter Excellent shape of brisket and moving very well.

Class 7 Limit dog (11 entries 0 abs)

A very pleasing class with some great dogs –

1 Cassidy's Frustyle Trend in Style for Chinaskys (Imp) - A very nicely sized pied dog with correct and nice proportions between legs body and length. Very nice set of neck and carriage of head which is very pleasing. A little over done in roach of top line Excellent ribcage and moving very well and with breed type.

2 Poulson's Brandoux Valentinoux at Patchdown JW - A masculine sturdy fawn dog very soundly built with correct and well constructed front and rear - a trifle long in loin. Excels in well developed and placed substance. Pleasing and breed typical movement.

3 Davis' Breaksdale Teddy Edwards Rowendale - Well balanced in proportions and outlines - like a little more concentration of muzzle. Excellent neck and front and fore chest - A bit short in length of ribcage correct hindquarter and tail - nice breed type in sound action.

Open dog (10 entries 3 absentees) Interesting and "generous class" where classical types as well as more modern designs were represented.

1 Conway & Chapman's Norcairn Gorgeous George JW Sh.CM - A very macho fawn dog with a lot of presence in excellent balance and may be a little much of generosity but excelling in substance and bone in correct balance creating neat lines – Excellent condition – very nice front and feet and very pleasing action of great breed type. Excellent tail. – This dog became my Dog CC winner but not at all without a lot of challenge - He also become Best opposite Sex

2 Friend's Am Ch Kingfriend Mr Chow - A brindle quality dog of classical proportions and outlines with excellent head and expression and that kind of French "noblesse" which is very special. A little lighter in bone than winner and not quite his action and tail. Very attractive front and fore chest. A strong contender for the CC.

3 Drummond's Ch Renuar New War Bonnet Glenlee (Imp) - Nice masculine dog with excellent breadth in body but a little wide in elbow.Very pleasing top line . A bit modern in length of muzzle. Moves very well.

Class 9 Veteran Dog (3 entries 2 absentees)

1 Hall's Risethor Rumbaba - This is a quality fawn dog who is very correct in proportions and details – Excellent top line – The right substance and bone and a very nice size and carriage of head. Moved very well - He is so sensible in his general construction and yet has a lot of quality. In great condition. His lack of “extremes” in combination with all his points earned him the Reserve Dog CC

Class 10 Special Open Pied (3 entries 0 abs)

1 Millar's Witherford Austin - Masculine with very nice lines - strong but a little short in neck - Nice face and expression and Ears. Nice bone and excellent hindquarters moving well.

2 Conway & Chapman's Norcairn Fabulous Frank - Youngish looking a little high on legs Sound - Very nice head, Excellent bone and substance Moves well but becomes a little over short in top line in action. Very nice colour

3 Elsbergiene's Busher Pljus Memory Game of Frustyle - Sweet rather than robust - a little long in under jaw. Nice frame.

Class 11 Special Open Dog Fawn (3 entries 1 abs)

1 Wallace's Rycolah Hemlock - Soundly built - a little flat in top line, Excellent proportions in legs to body and balanced construction front to rear Moving well – Like a little more type to muzzle.

2 Mathew's Boduf Dance Master - repeat from post grad

Class 12 Special Open Brindle (5 entries 2 abs)

1 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Fitou - Masculine with very pleasing proportions and outlines – strongly built but a bit weak in pastern. Especially nice body and ribcage and excellent roach and tail. Nice bone in balance to substance and moved very well.

2 Mr, Mrs, Miss & Mr Small's Vengeance Comanche avec Primarius - Nice moving dog from side with a bit too tucked up underline and a little too cut away in top line(croup) tail poor.

3 Thick's Ageancourt French Thyme - A bit exaggerated in shortness of loins (and neck) and thus not free enough in hindaction. Nice head.

Class 13 Minor Puppy Bitches (7 entries 1 absentee)

1 Smith's Kenya Alsamar - A quality fawn charming puppy with feminine expression and great proportions Ears a little wide. Great construction in front and rear and quite good body for age. A really nice one

2 Turner & Howell's Ellpura Elsie Elastigirl - Very much the same idea as winner who was a little darker in pigment Very nice neck and front and hindquarter - also a top puppy!

3 Pleasance' Cosmic Infinity of Katakia - pied - Still a little naively shapeless in body but pleasing head and short in the correct way and has a lovely head Well constructed in front and rear too little tail.

Class 14 Puppy Bitch (9 entries 3 absentees)

1 Pearce's Tillcar Lipstick Floozie - A star quality bitch with great balance and supporting so great on her four legs Has a great lay back and excellent head moving with breed type and soundness

2 Turner & Howell's Ellpura Elsie Elastigirl - Repeat from minor puppy

3 Wildman's Wildax Princess Tippy Toes - Very well constructed feminine with pleasing outlines and just the right kind of "bulldog" type Correct head _ wishing a bit more layback of front assembly - nice breadth of body – excellent rear and tail and moving very well.

Class 15 Junior Bitch (15 entries 4 absentees)

1 Johnson & McArdle's Carkkennar Mrs Hubble at Luconevar - The only pied in the class – Excellent proportions and lines put together in a feminine entity. Specially nice front and rear Nice carriage of her pleasing head. Poor in tail.

2 Senior's Kingrock Maple Syrup with Theapaul - A fawn pretty and feminine with an excellent head an expression Nice breadth in body and her stable frame – High quality bitch Moves very well

3 Conway & Chapman's Norcairn Shear Delight - Strongly built fawn with a bit generous wrinkling in face – Well constructed in body and legs creating a sound frame – eyes a little big. Moved very well

Class 16 Yearling Bitch (10 entries 2 abs)

1 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Cote d'Auxerre - Here comes one of the really outstanding! Excelling in soundness and balance and has this quality carriage of (a great) head and neck - very difficult to fault but very easy to really appreciate She is so well balanced standing and in action and has very breed typical curious and intelligent attitude that this one must have a great future – Gained the Reserve Bitch ticket and also Reserve BIS!

2 Spurgeon's Jolilaid Purple Dusk - A brindle bitch standing so well with quality on her legs - a little wide in ears. Great top line and body and moving well using her well constructed front and rear a little long in under jaw.

3 Coffey's Raglenary Sarsaparilla - A fawn bitch who is also well put together and has a well collected body and excellent bone and is moving very well – also of very high quality.

Class 17 Post Graduate Bitch (10 entries 3 abs)

1 Wildman's Wildax Diana Ross - A well developed brindle bitch strong but nicely balancing substance and bone. Excellent fore chest and front construction and well placed hindquarters - Exc tail moved very well

2 Mr & Miss Cund's Chelmbull Rumour Has It - Nicely feminine brindle with excellent proportions legs to body and length- a white corner to the eye but nice expression Excellent back and hindquarters – a little short and hasten in step-

3 Fraser, Bootle & Kaye's Tommyville Tanzanite at Daitoff - A fawn bitch - short and with great proportions Nicely balanced angulations between front and rear – not quite the bone of above.

Class 18 Mid Limit Bitch (7 entries 1 abs)

1 Esposito's Jafrak La Di Da Ossidcla - Attractive feminine with neat and typy outline and proportions. Very nice expression and ears. A bit toeing out - Nice rear Moved well.

2 Scott's Amuelle Madame Monique - Fawn. Nice proportions and lines excellent substance and body. A bit wide in ears – Very nice neck and top line. Moved well

3 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Lunel - Nicely built with good lines a bit low in frontal bone of skull and a brindle colour that could be more distinct and clear. Very nice ribcage and fore chest: moves well.

Class 19 Limit Bitch (10 entries 5 absentees)

1 Brown's Monalisa Van Marver's Fortuna at Kuredeux - A pied bitch built on classical lines and proportions – great substance and bone and a very nice head and set of neck. - rear ribs a bit short. Construction in front and rear nice as are movements – general quality high

2 Davis' Rowendale Teacake - another quality bitch - very soundly built brindle supporting herself with balance on her four legs- Front assembly could be a bit more laid back. Very nice head and hindquarters Moved very well.

3 Barham's Zena Belle at Karlbull - another quality bitch but too generous in condition making her outline suffer Very nice head and moves well

Class 20 Open Bitch (10 entries 1 abs)

1 Mason's Aprika Miss World - A most attractive brindle bitch of the best size and format. Classical idea of lines and proportions. Excellently constructed in front and rear making here action sound an neat and of exquisite breed type. She has the most pretty and correct feminine head and a great set of neck. Reminds me of some great ones from the past.

Gained the Bitch CC and BoB (= Best in show)

2 Drummond's Renuar Roberta Bohemienne Glenlee (Imp) of a consequent and a bit more robust idea than winner – Excelling in bone in frame and sound substance Very pretty and typical expression. Moving very well - not quite the pasterns of winner.

3 Small's Merimna's Ruby Parure - Another very high quality bitch with a feminine presence Particularly well-constructed in legs and feet. Has a very attractive neck and top line and moves very well

Class 21 Veteran Bitch (3 entries 1 abs)

1 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Vouvray - Fawn – a little thin in condition but solid muscles Very well constructed legs and feet and moved very well. Excellent head and expression - great top line and tail. BVIS

2 Quin's Abbeymills Javu Day at Nirojo - Showing some age in colour – well developed body Nice head and neck, sound in action.

Class 22 Special Open Bitch Pied (3 entries 2 abs)

1 Quin's Bexbull Imperial Snowstorm at Nirojo - feminine - soundly constructed but a trifle high on legs and a little soft in condition. Nice head correct ears.

Class 23 Special Open Fawn (5 entries 4 abs)

1 Chambers & Drummond's Glenlee Eternal Flame Luvum - A very nice bitch with pleasing proportions and outline. Very well constructed in front and rear - A little weak in front feet - rear ribs a little short. Moved strikingly well

Class 24 Special Open Brindle (4 entries 2 abs)

Two great quality bitches here!

1 Rawsthorne's Ch Risethor Poppiholla - Lovely as a whole great head and top line - a trifle long perhaps but very well balanced – a trifle weak in pastern – great mover

2 Conway & Chapman's Ch Norcairn Dark Angel JW Sh.CM - very pleasing – stronger in pastern also great construction fore and aft as well as body and bone - a little shorter in action and has a bit short rear ribs.

The competition for Best Bitch was really great and quite a few challenged the winner and her reserve – ie the bitch from Open and the winner from Yearling bitch - The open bitch gained the BIS and the yearling bitch was reserve BIS and thus beating the Dog CC winner (who saw Best Opposite)

Best puppy was the dog puppy – beating the best bitch puppy from Puppy Bitch.

