

Critique—Mrs M Burgoine—ACTBTC Show Sunday 3 Oct 10

It was a pleasure to judge the ACTBTC Championship Show, thank you for the kind invitation. Special thanks to Sharon (Busters mum) for ferrying me around and for your kind hospitality 'to us girls; those morning walks were very special. And to Di and Mike for putting up with my 'wicked sisters, we go back many, many years and the bond is still as strong as every, thank you all so much.

To the exhibitors, your entry was appreciated and nice to see old and friendly faces. Rather than individually critique your dogs I felt a general observation was appropriate.

Firstly the Miniatures, I really was disappointed in the quality or should I say lack of it, with the exception of the Dog CC and Res CC, the latter being a nice dog but far too big. Showing Big Mini's has no useful purpose, they have been here long enough and interbreeding has been ongoing, no one appears to be getting it right. Way back in the early 90's there were some nice true to type Miniatures about, what happened to them, were they bred from? Was the influence of Bull Terriers to their detriment? Interbreeding has to be really well thought out and not done willy-nilly. Big Bull Terrier males should not be used, neither should large doggy females be interbred. Careful selection reduces random breeding and after all breeding surely is in the pursuit of excellence and never forgetting the Standard. The lack of power in the heads was quite evident, CC male was not a bad pup, one can only hope he matures nicely.

Bull Terriers: The males were with the exception of a couple, really well boned, something we must hold onto in the breed, size was quite uniform and heads not at all bad. Nothing leapt out and grabbed me, they would all look and do a lot better if they were trained to show. It is the easiest thing to train a Bull Terrier to do and they look so much better, as would the whites really shine out in the ring if they were not covered in chalk. The bitches were not a bad looking bunch. Some of them have come on in the last 12 months and many lack depth of chest. The CC winner has a lot to offer the breed: type personified, well balanced and well trained. It really makes a difference, her body shape and super quarters finish a lovely package. There is no reason that she will not produce as good, if not better than herself. There was a few smart girls in the line up—only time will tell!

We are so fortunate to live in the 21st century where the world is our oyster. We can import semen from almost anywhere from dogs that suit our bitches at a fraction of the cost. The unpredictability of bringing in a stud dog when it is so easy to fall into that trap of using him just because he is imported, or he becomes sterile in quarantine through infection, which has happened. The breed does not go forward. The future does look bright for our breed, those who are dedicated will be rewarded.

Along with many others I look forward to each years specialty shows to see where we are going.

With thanks

Margaret Burgoine