I would like to thank the Northern Districts Bull TERRIER CLUB OF NSW for hosting a MAGNIFICIENT event – the second Biennial IRONBARK TROPHY weekend, This show was held on a campground with quaint cabins and communal eating. It made for a congenial atmosphere with the exhibitors and judges able to mingle and share their enthusiasm for our breeds . I was impressed by the interweaving of minis and large bully breeders and sharing of ideas.

The IRONBARK IS A MATCH COMPETITION BASED LOOSELY ON THE AMERICAN SILVERWOOD, with a few important variations;

1. Three judges rotate through and judge alternate classes but these judges are not chosen to do certain classes in advance, The advantages of this was immediately evident to me. In the USA if one feels a certain judge does not care for their dog, they might not bother to enter the entire day as the order of the judges is predictable by their designation as judge number 1,2,3.
2. Each judge chooses three outstanding animals from each class, that he/she judges. It was apparent that most of the outstanding breed examples were chosen to come back for the afternoon rounds. Occasionally a very good example might be missed by both of the judges, but in many classes the same 3 animals were chosen by both judges, Actually , in only one of the 12 classes were there 4 and 5 dogs chosen respectively, The rest of the classes had only 3 finalists chosen by both judges who did not communicate. .The exhibitors did not know who chose their dogs and this also added to the friendly atmosphere. As a breeder, I was saddened to miss putting my hands on the older dogs as I am always looking for good stud dogs , but I did get to put my hands on most of my ringside favorites before the day was through ,
3. The best part of the competition for me was picking the order of the judges out of a hat for the afternoon round. No one knew in advance who would judge their dogs. With all things being equal, the best available judges were to be picked to do the job, so it was not really important which of the judges were chosen for the final round, I personally loved the “chance” aspect of this manner of choosing judges.
4. The order of the classes alternated between mini/bully for each class, This kept everyone observing and learning about each breed even if they only had one. The dogs have really come far since I started to judges them in AUSTRALIA many years ago.
5. Best of all, I noticed that many of the breeders had donated prize money for each of the classes above and beyond the lovely ribbons and trophies that were doled out,

Many thanks to Debbie Selden who answered all of our questions promptly and all the club members who worked so hard to make us comfortable . Thanks also to our ring stewards, Peter and Linda who kept us on task through the heat of the day.

We had an entry of 84 with 51 bullies and 33 mini bulls. I was impressed with the bone and substance and head quality both in the bullies and the minis. It certainly has come along since I first judged here many years ago. You no longer have as many Dalmatian types which were extremely evident many years ago, The good bone has remained and type is much better now, The influence of imported frozen semen is clearly apparent as it has always been a challenge to import dogs due to the distance/quarantine regulations and this has been overcome with the successful use of frozen semen and Sires on Ice,

Our IRONBARK WINNER I AND BEST DOG was….

Mr J AND Mrs B Scofield’s, STARDOM’S DEMON’S DISCIPLE.(Stardom Dreaming Demon x Stardom Honeysuckle)

He was a typy medium sized white carrying red with a beautiful headpiece, correct bite and wicked expression. What I really liked about this dog was his depth and width of fore chest and beautiful front assembly. He has lovely tuck up from the side, correct topline and short back with nice bend of stifle. He could use better rear musculature but his movement is quite correct coming and going,

Runner up IRONBARK WINNER and BEST BITCH was….

Wiseman’s Bulroarus White Russian ( CH Rocky top Sundance Kid x Briminie Missmuck)-

Rambunctious stylish white girl with a long well-turned feminine headpiece and wicked expression, giving her handler plenty of challenge on one of her first outings, Her head is turned from the top through good finish and has nice depth of muzzle from the side, She has a dark eye, well placed and her head is filled up nicely under the eye . I think with more ring time, she will learn to use her ears better as they were held more erect as the day and weekend went on. She has lovely length of neck without any wrinkling merging into the topline ,round bone down to tidy feet with good width of chest. She moves easily and correctly from behind and a well coming toward but with a little puppy looseness at the moment. Shown in wonderful condition and well-muscled,

RUNNER UP BEST DOG

Matsen and Basillie’s SUPREME CH SARTORI MAGIC MIKE (CH. Wynefred Eye Witness x Satori Champs Elysses)

A dark brindle male with cracking headpiece, ultrashort back and oodles of type. I was not surprised later to learn that one of my other favorite young brindle dogs and 2 stunning white bitches who were finalists were all sired by him. He has the stamp of a stud dog, even though he is older now, almost a veteran, His head is wide, filled, and turned. He has a well laid shoulder, good topline, and short back. He moves well coming towards but his rear movement lets him down and he has lack of second thigh, perhaps weakening with age, He well deserved the this win today in good competition,

RUNNER UP BEST BITCH

HARRIK MISS MONEY PENNY - I loved this strapping girl from the start. Very typy white with, beautifully turned head with wicked eye, Power throughout with thick muscled neck with a decent lay of shoulder , good topline, and tailset, lots of bone, shapely with power, I loved her,

Miniature Bull Terriers

IRONBARK WINNER

FRITH”S HULIA ICE ICE BABY (Hulia Im a Tiger-Hulia Bunny Flop) 11 Month old white male exuding type with a fat packed up head and paralyzing wicked eye, and gently turned egg shaped head. These virtues along with plenty of bone and compact shapely body with good substance for his age, carried him to the top today ,

RUNNER UP IRONBARK TROPHY WINNER,

Elphik’s Stardom Gold Rush (Bullypins Kaimos X Stardom Golden Girl)

A beautifully constructed brindle male, with movement to go along with it, He is a medium sized boy that grabbed me from the moment he entered the ring, He has jaunty movement and did not put a foot out of place ,.He exudes power coming toward and a little less going away ,He has a fat head accentuated with proper white markings , good fill and a good bite, He has a bt of a brow and dark eyes that are placed well but could be a tad more wicked for me, His neck is well muscled and flows smoothly into a good shoulder and correct topline,

BEST BITCH

Clifton’s CH Aldridge Mischievous (gr ch Rhugar Wonder Boy Wally x Ch Bullwhip Lady Hawk)

Beautifully headed brindle and white mini with good expression, shapely and nicely put together, she stood out, in the final line up

R/U BEST BITCH

Hail’s CH BULLWHIP MISS MONEY PENNY (Dabews Wee Edward X Ch Bullwhip Gracie May)

Cobby Typy white with black ears and very strong turned headpiece, She is well balanced and small , and truly a mini with lots of attitude,

I would also like to congratulate the dual winners of the Emred Trophy Competition , It seems that there was a tie for points between john and Bernie Schofield and Merle Elphik. We had no idea there was a point competition going on but I must say that it seems fitting that these individuals who have dedicated much of their breeding programs over the years to Russ’ way of thinking, had come out as the victors Congratulations to all of you,