

ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB (UK)

Limited show held on 23rd May 2021

The show was held at a Bearley Village Hall, a very well equipped venue with great outdoor space. There was ample socially distanced car-parking and a one way system operating indoors for the toilet facilities. All COVID government and Kennel Club regulations were in force.

Some exhibitors brought their own wet weather accommodation in the form of gazebos. We were most fortunate that the gale force winds and rain that were forecast did not materialise in quite the magnitude that was expected, and a little rain every now and then did not deter anyone from enjoying the day.

The passion that is present for this breed is so apparent in the way that the Officers, Committee, Jacky Cutler as Show Manager and other volunteers, had all worked tirelessly to put on a fun filled day for all. All breed clubs have as their first Club Rule that they exist to encourage the betterment of the breed. What better way than to put on events for the owners, whether they are show people or not, where they can meet like-minded people and learn more about their chosen breed, sharing exchanges of both trials and tribulations. None of this would have been possible for the breed without the stalwarts who originally brought the breed into the country and have nurtured it, and those who still import from their homeland of Portugal.

Everyone helped one another today and there was a friendly atmosphere throughout the day.

For the actual Limited show there were prize cards, rosettes, trophies to keep, mementos to keep, and a bottle of Estrella (donated by yours truly) for each class winner (some lucky people had entered multiple classes and went away heavily laden). Plus wine for the principle winners of Best In Show, Best Opposite Sex and Best Veteran In Show. (No puppies were present).

Unofficial Handling classes were also held during the break where lots of useful tuition was given to those keen to develop new skills and get in some additional socialisation.

My stewards were excellent in performing their duties, keeping us all in line with how dog shows now need to be run, wearing our masks in the ring and generally keeping the show ticking along. Thank you.

To the exhibitors – thank you for entering your dogs and taking part. For some dogs it was a reminder of what they used to do, for others it was a completely new experience – both of meeting other dogs and people, or because their normal activity was obedience based. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and managed to take something away from the day.

There were fifteen dogs entered and twelve were present. People had travelled far and wide to attend and support the Club. May it go from strength to strength.

V D/B (4,2a) Two girls, both of which exuded breed type, and being veterans knew their task in the show ring. The first decision of the day and not an easy one to make Both girls were sturdy. The handlers knew what they were doing and showed both off to their best advantage. The breed specific attributes that I was looking for today were the amber eyes, the small rose shaped ears and the hook to the tail and these girls did not disappoint. Excellent head proportions, strong necks and

correct topline. Both are a credit to their owners and well able to compete against the youngsters, neither showing their age. 1. McWade's Brunilde Da Quinta Moinhos Das Almas At Bellalua (Imp Prt). 7 years old. Just marginally preferred her precise movement today. BVIS 2. Reid's Milagre Ice Ice Baby. 9 years old.

P D/B (0)

Y D/B (2) 1. Gibbins' Wulfgar Da Casa Das Thuyad (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF). Showing good overall proportions, this extrovert boy is full of the joys of Spring. Yes he needs more training but he is full of potential and will make a good ambassador for the breed. Strong head with slightly aquiline nose. Neat ears, in good coat with furnishings, and with a good turn of stifle. Long tail with upturned hook. A little erratic on the move but as the day went on and he had more practice he settled down. In the challenge for BD he won on his better rear movement. BOS. Best Yearling. 2. Hall's D'Ines De Castro Do Sobreiro Grande (Imp Prt). This girl was a little unsure of herself today and it was the only class that she was entered in, so I didn't get to see if she was any happier later on. There has been little chance for socialisation these last fifteen months. Perseverance with getting used to the lead should pay dividends. She is finer boned, has an attractive head, and good body shape. The experience today will have been good for her to start getting used to life after lockdown.

Sp Beg D (2) 1. Hall's Estjak Riodouro Very impressed with the stature of this dog with his imposing superior presence. He knows he is special. Ex powerful head with slight aquiline nose, small ears, excellent depth and breadth to chest, correct topline, ending in lovely J hook to tail and with well let down hocks. He moves with an excellent stride and straight front movement. RBD, just losing out on BD due to his untidier rear movement, but I was very tempted! 2. Wilson's Moon River Da Ponta Da Pinta (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF). This friendly boy is alert to all around him and the handler needs to just work now on getting his attention and applying what he learnt today. It is very difficult to take everything in at your first show. He moved alright and just needs a little more control now. Best short coat in show.

PGD (3,1a) 1. Estjak Riodouro 2. Moon River Da Ponta Da Pinta (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF).

LD (1) 1. Wulfgar Da Casa Das Thuyad (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF).

OD (1) 1. Estjak Riodouro

Sp Beg B (1) 1. Gibbins' Osha Da Casa Das Thuyas. Excellent example of a wolf grey coloured coat – a very attractive colour. It was rather thick and I see that later she was in the neutered class. Another exhibit with a handler who was not accustomed to showing but did really well. You can feel justifiably proud of yourself today. This young girl is not quite two years old. Attractive head and expression sitting on a strong neck. She stands herself well, with well boned straight forelegs and moderate rear angulation. Well bodied. I liked her overall body proportions, feminine yet strong. (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF). Best Sp Beginners beating the male on movement.

PGB (1) 1. Roberts' Asterel Kaa At Garregddu. 5 year old solidly made girl with excellent correct moderate angulation both front and rear. Strong limbs. Dark amber eyes, excellent bite. Moves steadily around the ring with animation and looks like she could go all day. Best PG.

LB (3,1a) 1. Roberts' Asterel Belle Starr At Garregddu. I see from my last judging appointment in this breed that I gave her BPIB in 2015 at Evesham & DCS. It is so rewarding to see how a puppy has matured. I must be judging to type as I see from the catalogue that her daughter was my BOB today. She is obviously passing on her excellent attributes. She has the very best of shoulder layback and return of upper arm, short backed and excellent topline, and with complementary rear angulation this enables her to cover the ground with ease in a steady and accurate stride. All the breed requisites of aquiline nose, amber eyes, rose ears and hook to tail. RBB. Best Limit. 2. Reid's Bellalua Delta Milagre. Obedience is her normal work and this is apparent from her intense focus on her handler. She is not used to strangers handling her so it was not worth upsetting her. What you see is what you get with her. Such purposeful movement was a joy to watch, full of activity and precision.

OB (2) 1. Roberts' Garregddu Agua. After singing the praises of the mother in LB I now encountered her daughter with all the same attributes. What a beauty! All the same comments apply to her as to her mother. It was an absolute pleasure to watch her show everyone how to move in a precise triangle. So feminine. The icing on the cake is that she has the largest black nose with lovely wide open nostrils which reminded me so much of one of my Briards from the past. BB. BIS. Best Open. 2. Milagre Ice Ice Baby

Breeders D/B (1) 1. Milagre Ice Ice Baby

Not bred by Exh (3,2a) 1. Wulfgar Da Casa Das Thuyad (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF)

Brace (1) 1. Roberts' brace. Impressed everyone with a lap of the ring, in unison with one another. Well done.

Sp Open Short Coat D/B (2,1a) 1. Moon River Da Ponta Da Pinta (Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF)

Sp Open (Fawn) D/B (4,3a) 1. Garregddu Agua

Sp Open (Brindle) D/B (1) 1. Asterel Belle Starr At Garregddu

Sp Open (Neutered) D/B (4,1a) 1. Asterel Kaa At Garregddu 2. Osha Da Casa Das Thuyas
(Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF). 3. Milagre Ice Ice Baby

Sp Open (Funds for Rescue) D/B (3,1a) 1. Asterel Kaa At Garregddu 2. Osha Da Casa Das Thuyas
(Imp Prt) (NAF ARAF)

Jane Paradise (Judge)