

Trent Boxer Club Championship Show 6th October 2018

It's now ten years since judging my first Boxer Championship Show in the UK. That one, like this one, thanks to the invitation of the Trent Boxer Club. Since my first visit I have always considered judging boxers in the UK as one of the most exciting challenges a Boxer FCI judge can face. It requires a great capacity of adaptation to the mechanics of judgments, rhythms and timing, handling, absolute concentration, synthesis of the whole in the assessment of each dog so as not to get lost in the details and, therefore, a very clear idea of the type you want and try to recognise in each specimen. Therefore, I owe a debt of eternal gratitude to Mr. And Mrs. Alton and all the extraordinary Trent Boxer Club team for having made my first contact with the English boxer "in situ" possible after so many years of having studied the bibliography (books, photos, pedigrees ...) that my mentor accumulated in this race, Mrs. N ria Pla, on the English boxer.

At a general level, I wish to make a single note on the assessment of specimens that I've judged on this occasion, in doing this may I remind everyone that the boxer is an athletic, solid, elegant and compact dog and these ethnic characteristics should be recognised easily, both in the first static glance ("the picture" of the dog) and in the functional movement, where a balanced construction produces a drive of the rear, body transmission and damping of the front quarters, which translates in efficient progress and with sense of ease, in which all parts move as a single unit. Let me remind you that in a properly built boxer the distance between the points of the joints of the limbs (and therefore the bones) is approximately the same. When the length of one of these bones is exaggerated it becomes disproportionate and prevents harmonious movement. Vain attempts to compensate for this imbalance, such as suspensions or movements of a "hackney" type, crooked displacement, result in harmful consequences on the profile of the top line and its transmitter role of drive, etc. This prevents the vision of a dog whose parts work harmoniously as a whole. The dog appears divided in parts, with obvious signs of its defects and the consequences on its functional efficiency. If eye trained to observe these problems in a couple of turns of the ring is already discouraging, it is really terrible to think of the permanent consequences that have about the dog and its ability to move in their day to day and throughout its existence.

One of my hobbies is to explore by bicycle the "greenways" along with my boxers, with which I have come to run 60km (almost 38 miles) in a single day. Therefore, I have solid arguments to believe in the functional boxer.

I am not going to try here to analyse the mechanics of the movement and its multiple problems, there are already extensive text as recommended in the excellent "Il cane si muove" by Bonetti and Gorrieri, but I can try to focus on the source of the problems I have too often identified among the dogs I have tried. And, even though some shoulders should set most backward, or that some humerus could be longer, it's enough a simply glimpse to the length of the different bones of the members to appreciate one standing out excessively over the rest, right between the knee and the hock: the tibia (lower thigh). After my last Championship show, my impression is that an extremely long tibia is the most important and extended handicap in the current population of English boxer.

In the static presentation of a boxer with a good handling, a wrong interpretation of the show concept can even find more attractive and spectacular that vision of the dog with its head vertically forced and its rear quarters exaggeratedly placed back (the sufficient to get a vertical and perpendicular position to the metatarsus base) and much more than the supposed to a dog with a correct tibia. But when this construction pretends to express in movement, any glimmer of balance, of functionality, typicality and, let's not talk about the "show", falls apart being completely absent.

I am not impressed by the pretended majesty of a stacked statue, artificially placed. What excites me and makes my skin crawl is just watching a typical boxer floating in parallel to the ground, flying effortless on the ring.

Among my group of winners in the Trent Boxer Club Championship I could find three or four dogs in the desired type, with typical and expressive heads and solid and compact construction, well

angled in the front and without hyperangulation in the back quarters. Unfortunately, for various reasons but mainly due to a physical condition perhaps away from the best of their ability, those specimen could not express in movement with the verve, drive and temperament I expect from a winner of CC for a show of this level of competition.

This does not diminish the extraordinary level of my winners of CC and reserve of CC, judging in which I had serious doubts, finally opting by rewarding the compactness, power and masculine imprint of the winner in front of the more chiselled head and better angled constructed but less powerful and compact of the reserve, a magnificent dog that, by coincidence, is the son of the female I rewarded with the BIS in my last Ch. Show in the UK, the Cotsworld BC, undoubtedly a family in which you can believe.

I don't want to finish this comment without thanking the excellent work of my assistants of ring, Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all the participants for giving me the honour of rating their boxers, and their exquisite sportmanship.

As usual, a great pleasure. See you soon!

Alex Palacín.

Veteran Dog 4 (1)

1st Bosckoph Dynamic Beg Ex, Cdex, Udex, WD. An excellent dog, of the best continental type, solid, compact, with magnificent profiles and construction, dark eyes, well open, positioned and very expressive, functional movement, with the logical drive for a dog which has overcome 10 years of age but with an excellent physical condition. BVIS

2nd Jenroy Moorcroft with Longsdale. Another excellent specimen, with an impressive profile at the static, expressive, with good bone and substance. With a tibia a little bit longer and a less distended croup, that has prevented him from expressing better in motion.

Minor Puppy Dog 10 (2)

1st Newlaithe Quintillion. Compact and solid, very well balanced, with an excellent static presentation. Well proportioned head, without exaggeration, wishing that with maturity lower jaw acquire greater curvature and the chin is more pronounced. He moves with a meritorious correction considering his compactness.

2nd Oleyville Optimistic Lad. In a similar type, with good bone and substance, masculine, with a better head than the winner's, well proportioned, potent muzzle, dark eyes. Structure with quite functional angulations although with a long tibia and a less compact structure.

Puppy Dog 9

1st Berwynfa Byhook or Bycrook. A very harmonic dog, with an excellent profile, pronounced whifers, the tibia could be shorter but it has a functional movement, neck with good attachment, narrow and high skull, well set eyes, dark and expressive and cubic muzzle. BPD, BPIS

2nd Walkon Masterclass. Another excellent dog, maybe not as angulated as the previous one and with a neck not as elegant as the winner's but solid, with some more bone and substance, a typical and expressive head with functional and efficient movement.

Junior Dog 8

1st Boxania Spice Guy at Birleyvale. In a very tight class between the first three classified, I've decided to reward this dog with a distinguished outline for his age which, without expressing at the maximum of his possibilities and with a tibia that could be a little bit shorter, but gathers many virtues as the bone, the substance, the masculinity, the very pronounced angulations, a deep thorax, the head well contained in his lateral faces, with dark and expressive eyes, wide and powerful muzzle. All of them very important characteristics and with a great potential in reproduction.

2nd Yeteb Hey Diddle Diddle. A very correct dog in all aspects, maybe even more compact in size than the winner, beautiful, expressive and well proportioned head, dark eyes, the chin could be more pronounced. Good angulations but I miss a bigger drive of the back quarters movement.

Yearling Dog 5 (2)

1st Harvlin Hot Toddy. Still immature but with very interesting bone, substance and profile, pronounced whitters, ascending top line, well constructed in spite of the tibia could be shorter, correct movement, expressive head with a potent, thick and full muzzle, abundant lip in spite of a chin that could be more pronounced. Broad perspectives of positive development.

2nd Picasso Ursatobox at Slanstorm (Imp). A good dog with a good front angulation, a very deep chest but with a forearm that I would like a little bit longer and that has some impact on how to express in movement, with temperament, balanced back quarters without exaggeration, very interesting, nice, expressive head, powerful muzzle, slightly irregular teeth.

Novice Dog 3

1st Mirak Poseidon at Winuwuk (Imp). Harmonic, compact, still immature but very well balanced and built in all aspects, with convincing and energetic movement, a nice head, continental type, very expressive, narrow skull, dark and open eyes, very pronounced chin, strong prognathism at the limit.

2nd Marbleview Phantom Menace at Thenamy. Elegant, dry skin, almost square, pronounced angulation of the back quarters, typical and expressive head, the mask could be higher and more intense, and the chin a little bit more evident.

Debutant 3

1st Smokescreen at Seacrest. Harmonic, very dark and little bit light, but with time for improving because of his age. Typical head with well open eyes and proportioned muzzle, nice expression, square and compact structure, good profiles even though it may still develop the front part of the chest, solid top line, functional movement.

2nd Lahaina Manhattan Mayhem for Horringer. A big one, masculine, prominent bone and substance, compactness, good profiles and correct movement. Typical head with some more wrinkles than desired, the mask could be more intense between eyes and muzzle, the convergence between the skull and the muzzle axis should be more evident, and the chin more pronounced.

Graduate 6 (1)

1st Hipkins That Suits Carwylid. Outstanding between the rest of competitors of his class, harmonic without exaggeration, with a very good level, with bone and substance, profile of body and marked angulations, tibia not too exaggerated, functional movement. Nice head, in continental type, the chin could be more pronounced but it's associated to a wide and lineal teeth.

2nd Hipkins Here We Go at Mellhawk. A dog with a spectacular static presentation, nice and expressive head, with bone and substance, very pronounced withers, more compact than the winner, the front angulation could be more pronounced, the tibia is a little bit longer and the croup is a little bit inclining.

Post Graduate 11 (1)

1st Bosckoph Dynamo (AI). Surely the best type, with the veteran, of all the journey. A dog constructed not in parts but as a whole. Solid, compact, functional, with marked angulations, athletic and very evident musculature under the skin, long and elegant neck, very continental type head, well proportioned and expressive. Unfortunately, the movement, even though correct, it's not been up to the expectations that his extra ordinary characteristics could make me expect, otherwise he was a firm candidate for the CC.

2nd Limubox Fool O'Scotch. With a little bit more of bone and substance, a very good front, pronounced withers in profile and ascendent top line, the tibia a little bit longer but showing the most convincing movement than the rest of the class. Elegant neck, expressive and well proportioned head, the chin must be more pronounced.

Limit Dog 16 (2)

1st Taranut Sterotype. An outstanding male who attracts the look at the first glance of the class because of his balance, compactness, marked withers, closed angulations, solid top line. Very well proportioned head, expressive, parallel lateral faces, cubic muzzle, wide teeth, dark eyes. Functional movement even though he could do it with more temperament.

2nd Berwynfa Toy Story. Spectacular dog, wonderful static, marked withers, bone and substance. The front angulation could be some more marked but the movement is functional. Typical and well proportioned head with nice expression. An excellent dog with great potential which, surely, his hurried arrival to the ring has not been beneficial after being waiting his handler, in a simultaneous competition with the females in the annexed ring, but whom I foresee a future full of possibilities.

Open Dog 12 (2)

1st Ch. Lanfrese Ocolardo. An outstanding dog for his compactness, masculine, square construction with functional angulations and very good movement. The neck skin has lost some adherence (surely due to the age) but with a nice and expressive head in spite of the handicap of a white stain only on the muzzle, and not also between the eyes. Very well lateral contained skull, good teeth, cubic muzzle. A male without exaggeration and outstanding in every sense. DCC

2nd Ch. Galicar Mac Steamy at Limubox. More elegant, with bone and substance adapted to his type, less compact than the winner but full of signs of distinction and class, thin physical condition with a very adherent skin, excellent angulations and movement, arched and elegant neck, head in a very continental type, emphasised by the chiseled forms and a beautiful expression. Reserve DCC

Alex Palacin