

FINNISH SPITZ SOCIETY CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, 16/06/13

The Finnish Spitz Society held a championship show where **BIS was Ch Toveri Pimu**; and BOS, Sukunimi Haway Geordie.

Thank you for inviting me to such a warm and welcoming show. How delightful it was to be at a show where the ringside was well filled and everyone clapped for all the winners, such a friendly crowd attending, which makes for a very happy experience for everyone.

There were a number of novice exhibitors and dogs, so one can only hope that they enjoyed themselves and learned a bit more about what dog showing is all about. Apparently, during the lunch period break, there were some 'training sessions' going on out in the ring, which resulted in more confident dogs, so well done to the folks who helped out, and resulted in a day less stressful for the 'newbies'.

Some positive items to mention are the excellent feet. As those who know me, I have a 'foot fetish' and for the function that this breed is supposed to be capable of, I was so pleased to see the preferred round foot which was also tight and well arched. Coats, well, of course we are in the midst of the coat changing season, so this I pretty much ignored, textures were very good to excellent in males, but much softer in bitches. Eye colour over the years has improved, with far fewer with truly 'light eyes' which for this breed completely spoils the expression. I was very impressed with how intense and complete the black pigmentation has continued even into the older veteran exhibits.

The concerns I had in judging the dogs today had more to do with the lack of detail in the UK Standard for this breed. When comparing the UK Standard to the FCI one, of course there are similarities and broadly speaking, a paralleling of broad brush strokes. However, the poor conformation, primarily in regards to front construction needs to be addressed. Merely to state 'forequarters strong and straight', ignores what is on top of it...if the rearquarters require 'moderate turn of stifle and hock of medium angulation', then surely there should be mention of what the angulation of the forehand should be, particularly if the neck is to be of 'medium length'. Straight forequarters should not require the scapula to be half way up the neck, thus resulting in very short necks, very narrow fronts with what I call the 'cathedral front' resulting. Even the FCI Standard calls for some forechest to be clearly visible. I would think that means there has to be some layback to the shoulder and more importantly, some angle back of the upper arm. Ears were for me too large in a number of exhibits; and then there were the tails...what has happened? Short tails, double curl found in some of other Spitz breeds, tails down, loose tails, we had all on display. As the tail is supposed to be one of the hallmarks of this breed, it is an aspect that really needs addressing.

JD (2) 1 Knights & Stokes' Toveri Turo of Lepas, 14 months dog of excellent quality and breed type, with typical head and bright, lively and enquiring expression, mobile ears, on his toes, excellent dark eyes, very good coat and excellent tail, just needs time; 2 Phillips & Morris' Enkelini Myrsky, 12 months, just out of puppy and apparently first time for both owner and dog in the showring. Has very good head and eyes are dark but a shade bold. Very good body, excellent strongly muscled rearquarters, needs training to gain confidence so he can show off his virtues to better advantage. **PGD** (4) 1 Anderson's Sukunimi Haway Geordie, mature dog who really projects the outline of the bold Spitz, using his neck and strong straight and short length back to advantage with tail bang on top and of fairly good length. Very good head and ears, slight arch to forehead, eyes could be darker and a tad more oblique in set, but I had to look at the overall dog and found his front quarters correct, good depth of chest with tuck-up, excellent bone, tight feet, very good gait coming and going as well as around the ring. CC, his first; 2 Irmiger's Sukunimi Leo, almost 5 years, so sound on the move but for me, at this age, was far too feminine throughout. He has lovely eyes for colour and shape. Very good fore and aft angles, lightly built throughout, tail was a tad too tight, but good length; 3 Honisett's Valokki Vhitori Veli. **LD** (5) For some reason, several of the dogs were quite unsettled in this class. 1 Thompson & Dalley's Toveri Markku, excellent head and expression, dark eyes with correct slight slant to them, slightly arched forehead, good neck, straight front, excellent feet. Good body with sufficient depth of chest and good tuck-up. Tail could be tighter and was not as good coming and going as he was for side gait; 2 Slater & Hardwick's Valokki Soren, very good head and expression, excellent pigmentation, eye shape, ears well used and mobile. Not as compact as 1, but has very good tail. Well muscled rear and this showed in his movement; 3 Rolfe's Puulatva The Red Norseman among Inkivaari. **OD** (5) 1 Pearce's Sukunimi Koda, excellent overall head pattern, having excellent eye shape and set on slightly oblique, lovely ears. Very good front, excellent neck, body, depth of chest with tuck-up, very good gait,

would like a longer tail. RCC. **BD** (2) 1 Valokki Vihti Veli, this dog was my headache, as he would not use his tail in PGD so ended up 3, though I preferred him over 2 in that class. Given a bit more time and he came together for this class and really looked the part. Very good to go over, very good head and expression, good neck, but would like more length of rib and less length of loin. Excellent tail and very good movement. It's amazing what a bit more practice can do to turn around a dog; 2 Enkelini Myrsky. **VD** (6) 1 Masters' Ch Toveri Peni, 8 years, best overall in this class for head, expression, conformation and movement. Eyes could be darker and I would like to see a bit more fill under the eyes. Very good coat texture, excellent front, legs and tight feet, well ribbed back with short strong loin, correct depth of chest to length of leg with tuck-up in underline, strong straight back; 2 Mansfield's Yoivo Kuiski, 10 years young and other than the greying on head, doesn't show or act his age at all. Good body and tail and has excellent light true action around the ring, lovely to watch him on the move; 3 Rolfe's Enkelini Salama.

VB (3) 1 Thompson & Cavill's Ch Toveri Pimu, 8 years bitch of excellent overall quality and breed type in abundance, which looking at her on the stack, typifies what we look for in the breed. Beautiful head and expression, dark eyes, excellent pigmentation, ears well used and not too big, excellent front, straight and not too fine in bone, very good neck, strong topline, correct depth of chest, on her toes to give the preferred outline of the lively Spitz, excellent coat. CC, BIS & BV; 2 Slater's Ch Valokki Helmi, 10 years feminine bitch with very good head and expression, excellent pigmentation for her age, very good ears, eyes are dark but could be set slightly more on the oblique, very good body, bone and feet, is longer in back than 1 and at times, topline suffered as a result when she relaxed; 3 Rolfe's Inkivaari Helli. **JB** (4) 1 Thompson & Cavill's Toveri Tuula, 14 months and of the 3, has the more preferred square outline. She has dark excellent eyes, feminine expression, ears well used, straight front, straight strong back, well ribbed back with short strong loin, excellent bone and tight feet, very good tail and excellent gait, needs time to develop, which is no bad thing; 2 Rolfe's Enkelini Kesa, I have to say, to be fair, I did prefer 3, but as she wouldn't put up her tail, she paid the price. This is her littermate, longer cast and heavier bitch who won her place as she displayed more the Spitz personality and use of tail. Fairly plain head and expression, very good tail and OK on the move; 3 Rolfe's Enkelini Ninkaunis. **PGB** (3) 1 Slater & Moritmore's Valokki Venla Sisko, quality feminine bitch with excellent conformation and this resulted in correct movement. Preferred her head and expression, is a touch long in loin; 2 Mansfield's Sukunimi Kyri of Yoivo, bitch with a marked stop and more than a slight arch to forehead so that affected expression. She has very good front, bone and tight feet. Preferred her excellent tail over 1's but not as positive in rear action as 1. **LB** (4) 1 Mortimer & Taylor's Toveri Maikki, bitch with feminine expression and overall proportions, giving her the more typical and desired outline. Very good head, front, neck, legs, feet, another one because she is so compact she has such a strong level topline, good tail and very good gait; 2 Ash's Korpi Ella, bitch with feminine head and expression, liked her ears very much, in balance to head and well used. Eyes for me are a shade full and needs more fill under them. Good neck, shade long in body, excellent tail and very good front movement. **OB** (2) 1 Master's Ch Toveri Neiti, there are many things I like so very much about this bitch, but her excess weight is not one of them. She is a spayed bitch carrying a wealth of coat of excellent texture but too much weight. Very good head and expression, excellent forehand with straight legs and neat tight feet, straight back, well muscled rearquarters, excellent tail and due to her excellent conformation her movement was faultless. RCC; 2 Thompson & Cavill's Ch Toveri Piku from Hakojen, 6 years feminine bitch of smaller proportions. Presents a square outline, very good head and expression, excellent pigmentation, ears are mobile and well used. Not the forehand of 1 and also preferred tail of 1. **Brace** (5) 1 Master's, the best of the 5 braces in so far as similarity in head pattern and overall size and proportions; 2 Ash's; 3 Rolfe's. **Team** (1) 1 Rolfe's, this brought back to me the memories of Jean Seele and the days of her winning the Best Team in show at the Birmingham National champ show! Like then, today this team walked together into the ring calmly and not a murmur among them, standing quietly, such good manners! **Griselda Price Progeny** (1) Rolfe's group headed by 10 years mum and four offspring. **John Blaber Memorial** (3) 1 Valokki Vihti Veli; 2 Valokki Venla Sisko; 3 Korpi Typo.

MARY DEATS