

NZDJA



Pam Douglas is an All Breeds judge and has recently completed some judging assignments in Finland including two specialties for breeds she has been closely associated with. I asked Pam some questions on her appointments.

Lavina Diamanti

Where did you judge and what breeds?

On the first weekend in a town called Lahti is where I judged The Bearded Collie Club of Finland an entry of 74 and The Australian Terrier club of Finland with an entry of 77. The following weekend in Oulu I judged at an All Breeds club and had the following breeds – Saturday - Whippets, American Akita's, Deerhound and Pharaoh Hounds, a total of 52 entries. On Sunday I judged Welsh Corgi's both Cardigan and Pembroke, Beagles and 1 Bloodhound. Total entry of these breeds was 62.

What was the quality like overall?

The overall quality at the Specialist shows was excellent. On top of grading dogs, excellent, very good etc, you also award another ribbon the CQ (I equate that to the Challenge Qualifier). All the dogs graded excellent and also awarded a CQ then return to the ring for judging of Best of Sex and these are placed 1,2,3,4, and they could all come from one class if the depth of quality was there. At the All Breed Show, I loved some of my Whippets (I had to remember to get my eye in on the different height standard so I used my tape measure on all the Whippets), and the Cardigan Corgis and Pembroke Corgis had depth throughout the breeds as well.

What are differences between the dogs you judged there and what you see here and in Australia?

In the Bearded Collies and Australian Terriers the good front assemblies with balanced hindquarters were the norm rather than the exception. I kept commenting on this so frequently my scribe writing my critiques was very proficient with that sentence! Hence I was seeing the correct movement in the Bearded Collie, without the exaggerated kick up behind. The presentation was more natural and this I appreciated. All the dogs were groomed to a very high standard and presented well.

Was there an absolute stand out dog for you?

Not one, but both my Best Of Breeds in Bearded Collies and Australian Terriers I would proudly love to have been the breeder of these specimens.



BOB Australian Terrier bitch.

FI & NO CH Bristregal Dancing In The Dark For Regal
Owners: Nina Janger & Kenneth Holmberg

How different was the judging system and is that difficult to adapt to?

Completely different to our part of the world. Some people brought their dogs into the ring for the critique only, knowing that a Specialist would not award a grading above fair. I love the system of verbally critiquing then and there, then getting on and judging the class. Understanding that only dogs with the CQ award would come back for the Best of Sex line up was explained to me again in case I had not read all the judging information that had been sent to me. Of course you do not judge a complete group as there are just too many dogs. The total entry at the All Breeds shows was 2100. They have different judges doing each group and classes of group like Breeders and Veterans and they are awarded Best in Show Veteran and Breeders, 1,2,3,4. The groups judged the previous day are often required to find accommodation so they can attend the Best in Show the following day and as a result we had extra dogs and exhibitors in the hotel on the Saturday night.

Did you have any language difficulties?

No, my ring stewards were excellent and what can I say about my stenographers. Each day I wrote out some phrases that I may have used for individual breeds. I had learnt on previous trips that some comments are hard to understand in a second language. I take my hat off to all those people with the ability to speak many languages.



BOB Bearded Collie male.
 Bristregal Exciting Encore
 Owners: Piia Aho & Jouni Aho

Any advice for NZ judges doing a specialty overseas.

Do your research on the judging requirements. Understand that people are wanting honest critiques and practise before you go so it comes natural especially for the breeds that are not your speciality. Don't be afraid to do what I did facing judging the number of Whippets I had. Ask a breeder to present to you a number of dogs and practice verbally critiquing, hopefully with somebody you respect listening. As we don't critique here in NZ or Australia, it doesn't come naturally to many people and does require practice.■

National Board

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Important Dates

- 31 January Closing date for applications for promotion