

## Jaroslava Poulouva reports on her judging of Native Terriers in the Czech Republic

It was an honour to be invited to my home country Czech Republic to judge Irish Native Terrier Breeds at the prestigious Terrier Club Championship Show. Cynology has a long tradition in the Czech Republic and Terrier breeds have always been very popular. The first terrier breeds appeared at dog shows in Czech around 1899. After the 1st World War, dog breeders started to organise breed clubs and The Czech Terrier Club was founded in 1924. Irish Terriers and Kerry Blues were already very popular. The first Czech-bred dog to become an FCI International Champion in 1937 was an Irish Terrier!

At the judge's dinner the night before the show, the Club President brought along some of the original old catalogues and it was most interesting to learn that the entry for Kerry Blues in 1937 was bigger than I got in 2011. The Czech Terrier Club show has had some stunning venues in the past, one of them was Vojanovy sady park in the historical heart of Prague with a view of the famous Charles Bridge. However modern times dog show demands easy access, covered rings and large space for parking, so the venue was recently moved to a popular dog show & race-course location in Mlada Boleslav (the city where Skoda cars are manufactured).

My entry was 22 Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, 18 Irish Terriers and 8 Kerry Blues. Each of the Judges had between 50-70 dogs per day to judge, which is the right amount considering the fact that every dog has to receive a written critique and it is highly desirable for the Judge to give also a verbal critique after each class to the exhibitors and audience



outside the ring. This is the norm in this country, specifically at specialist shows and from specialist Judges. As I am originally from Czech, I find the verbal critiquing one of the most interesting parts of dog shows and I grew up on this system. It is a great tool for learning and understanding judging.

I had a great number of Wheatens to judge and was so pleased that most of them were typical specimens as required by the Irish (and FCI) standard. Presented dogs had correct coats, good bone and terrier bodies underneath and great movement with ease, typical for the breed. I gave only 3 Very Good gradings, one for coat, one for size and one to a bitch which was a correct specimen but didn't perform on the day due to lack of experience. I was very happy with my winners and it's a pity that my BOB bitch and Veteran bitch couldn't attend the finals, they would certainly have done well.

When I learnt that I had 18 Irish Terriers to judge, I got really excited. The last time I have seen ITs in Czech was about 2-3 years ago and there were only a few specimens of very mixed quality.

As the dogs were entering each individual class, I must say, my heart beat was increasing. There were good solid specimens of the breed all through but the winners were of really high quality. Correct racy elegant types with neat front & nice loin tuck-up, good bone, correct coat & color and as a bonus they could move perfectly - something that I would like to see in our rings more often, especially fronts. The Irish Terriers definitely made my day, both the quantity and quality.

I had only 8 Kerry Blues to judge which was slightly disappointing but I know the level has



always been high in this country but breeders just can't breed often as it is very difficult to place the puppies, outside the show ring this is a very rare breed. I was the breeding adviser before my relocation to Ireland and I know the breed, pedigrees & people around maybe too well, but it was nice to see several new faces and most of the dogs I have never seen before or had my hands on. All dogs were quality specimens, mostly with very correct coats and great colour, lovely movers. Some dogs I felt were a bit too heavy for me, a Kerry

must have good bone and substance but elegance at the same time and to balance that is a difficult task. In the breed we often get dogs that are too coarse or on the other hand too light in bone & body. My BOB winner bitch had the right amount of substance and elegance, very stylish and mature in body, coat and colour for her age and she was a great mover. Obviously my colleague Judges also thought highly of her and later in the day she won the Group (long-legged terriers) under Mr. Zdzislaw Kitlinski from Poland and then Best in Show under Mrs. Marja Salminen from Finland.

I had a marvellous time in Czech, the weather was great and the show committee looked after us judges so well, not to mention the exquisite Czech cuisine which on its own would be a reason to visit this country!

Jaroslava Poulouva



Photos:  
BOB Irish Terrier  
Spitfire v. Koudenhoven  
BOB ISCW  
Alisha Ochey Wheaten Lulaby  
Best in Show Kerry Blue Terrier  
with judge Mrs M Salminen (Fin)

## Belfast & District Irish Setter Club Club Open Show

The Belfast & District Irish Setter Club recently welcomed Mrs Carol Gill from the UK to judge it's Open Show.



Best Dog & Best in Show was McLarnon's **Glenavna Journey South JW**. Best Bitch & Reserve Best in Show Stewart-Ritchie & Stewart's **Gwendariff the Special One JW**.



Best Puppy: Skerritt's **Riversett Who's that Girl**. Reserve Best Puppy in Show Stewart-Ritchie's **Gwendariff Uve been Tango'd**.



Best Veteran: Park & Hough's **Ir Sh Ch Lestannons Mickey Blue Eyes JW**. Reserve Best Veteran Walsh's **Clonageera Royal Envoy**.



## Portrait of an Artist

A profile on Louisa Nally,  
Celtic Canine Artist  
by  
Ann Gormley and  
Oisín Grehan

Louisa is undoubtedly Ireland's finest canine artist. Born in Clare she has established herself internationally as a Specialist in the Irish Native Breeds of Dogs and Gundog and Sporting Art. The soul of each of the dogs she has painted can be seen through the life like expression in their eyes. The atmospheric and magical content of her work leads to each painting becoming truly creative and grasping you into each picture.

When did it all start? Well at the tender age of three her creative talents in sporting art were discovered by her Grandfather, a very talented artist who was a friend and colleague of Paul Henry (who painted so many well known scenes of Connemara). On one of his visits, her grandfather found her lying on the floor with a box of crayons drawing bunnies and designing a cardboard cart for her tortoise to pull her teddy bears in to go for a picnic feast. (This later became a futile journey with tortoise and cart upside down and her dog eating all the bread and jam for the intended feast.) Her Grandfather said to her "you certainly have got my talent and also my nose". She was so pleased about having his talent but rather cross about having his nose and indeed still is over half a century later. The drawing of the bunny won her a first prize in a competition on National radio, the prize was a large paintbox and brushes etc. With her big paint box stuck under arm Louisa was on her way into the world of painting and all the magic it was to bring her. During her early days of school her first teacher was to inspire her art with the wonderful stories she told. She persuaded her to draw a scene of the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, but the whole blackboard was taken over with a massive illustration of the serpent with dramatic patterns and vivid colours. The whole class ended up copying her work and so Louisa gave her first art lesson, the temptation of Adam and Eve forgotten!

More stories of Ancient Ireland, its pagan religion and Celtic fables were to feed her imagination and so came her first Irish dog breed to be portrayed. The hound of Cullen and Cu Cullen emerged as a detailed illustration and so her fascination with Irish history and Irish dogs was born! Dogs were a feature of Celtic art and the designs of these from the book of Kells could keep her entertained for hours. Even at this young age working out the mathematics of them got her working on detail, conformation and perspective. Louisa was a very serious child loving the solitude of her art and long periods of watching wild life everything from simple insects to rabbits, hares, foxes and strange creatures of the garden pond. Her teachers sometimes worried about the time she spent on her own and called her timid but always at the top of her class. Her sisters and friends called her a day dreamer!

Continued on Page 23

