First may I thank the committee for inviting me to judge this both poignant and memorable 65 Anniversary show in honour of Neil Birks. It was a honour to have known Neil and benefitted over the years from his experience and advice. He will be remembered for his wonderful Birique dogs; his photographic skills and his overall kindness to fellow exhibitors and Frenchie lovers. A true “Dog Father” in every sense of the word greatly missed.

Congratulations must go to the hard working committee for an excellently run show and the superb array of awards and gifts for the exhibitors. I thoroughly enjoyed my day and would like to thank all the exhibitors for trusting me with their dogs and accepting my judgements with good grace.

I was fortunate to be able to go over some super examples of the breed and in some classes I wish I could have had more than just five award cards.All the dogs were presented in good condition with no evidence of poor skin or eye problems. Breathing has clearly improved. Most dogs had typical friendly French Bulldog characters.

However, there still remain areas of concern that, in today’s world of criticism of the brachycephalic breeds from the veterinary profession and animal charities, do our breed no favours and leave us vulnerable to actions against our breed similar to those we have seen in Europe.

There were still a large number of partially or almost totally stenosed nostrils. Although this may not affect the breathing of one particular dog, it does leave the breed open to criticism from those viewing the dogs from outside the ring. The standard asks for “visibly open nostrils”and that is what we must aim for. A couple of dogs did show signs of poor breathing.

The second worry was the huge number of either extremely small or virtually non-existent tails. Again the standard is quite specific in its description of the tail, “long enough to cover the anus”. That is different from an extremely small tail that is set so low that it manages to cover the anus.

Finally, there were some poor toplines, either level or over-exaggerated, and some very straight rear stifles which affected movement.

**MINOR PUPPY DOG** 4 entries 1 absent

1st MRS J MORGAN-LING’S, **CASTRUM OSINIUM RULE MY WORLD**

8 month old small, compact well-balanced brindle boy presented in excellent condition. Strong square head with great ear carriage and round dark eyes.Lovely expression without too much wrinkling. Defined stop and good open nostrils. Broad jaw with excellent dentition. Good reach of neck and correct topline leading to nice small tail. Topline maintained on the move. Straight front and tight feet. Promising depth of chest and spring of rib. Nice rear angulation. Moved swiftly round the ring with vigour. Handled and shown well. **BPB**

2nd MR G & MRS B MORISON’S **XANDENE KNEW YOU WERE MAGIC**

7 month old fawn compact boy with good bone and substance. Strong masculine head with good width of skull and correct ear placement. Round dark eyes and well defined stop. Good open nostrils. Broad jaw and nice dentition. Adequate reach of neck and correct topline. Straight front but front feet could be tighter. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Nice rear angulation. Moved out well round the ring.

 **PUPPY DOG**

1st Mrs L & Mr J Brooks’s **SERENANT MAVERICK**

11month old well-balanced dark brindle dog. Strong square masculine head with flat skull and correct ear placement. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and good open nostrils. Super mouth with broad jaw and excellent dentition. Nice reach of neck and super depth of chest and spring of rib. Straight front and tight front feet. Correct topline leading to small lowest tight tail. Reasonable rear angulation. Moved out well round the ring maintaining a good profile.

2nd Miss C Walton’s **BANKHOLT NORTHERN LIGHT**

11month old fawn dog slightly smaller and not quite the overall balance of 1. However there was still much to like. Square head with broad skull, round dark eyes and masculine expression.Lovely pigmentation. Excellent bite and good dentition. Correctly placed ears. Slightly level topline and marginally high set tail but a correct loose tail good to see. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Straight front but would like tighter feet. Adequate rear angulation . Moved well round the ring.

**JUNIOR DOG** 7 entries 0 absent

1st MISS S HUTCHINSON’S **ZORRO OF SHINE TREASURE FOR OSCHALBEN**

Super cobby well-balanced strongly boned brindle pied dog of 13 months presented in excellent condition. Square masculine head with broad skull and lovely round dark eyes. Super masculine expression. Correctly placed ears carried well. Defined stop and open nostrils. Excellent broad jaw and good dentition. Straight front with tight feet. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Correct topline with low set but very small tail. Topline was maintained on the move. Nice rear angulation enabling him to move round the ring with correct reach and drive. Very well handled.

2ndMRS B HUCKER’S **BEVANRAY TERRYPENDRY**

Another lovely brindle pied boy of 11 months slightly finer in construction than 1. Nice square head with good breadth of skull. Correctly placed ears and dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and open nostrils. Good width of jaw and dentition. Straight front and nice depth of chest and spring of rib. Correct topline leading to small low set tail. Adequate rear angulation. Moved and handled well.

**YEARLING DOG** 5 entries 1 absent

1st MRS PEARCE’S, **BULLHAWK CEASE'N DESIST**

17 month old cobby, brindle boy shown in excellent condition. Super strong head with typical masculine expression. Flat broad skull and correctly placed ears carried well. Dark round eyes with good padding beneath. Well-defined stop and good open nostrils. Super broad jaw and one of the best mouths of the day. Good reach of neck leading to correct topline, maintained on the move, and super small low set tail.Straight front with tight feet. Good depth of chest and spring of rib.Good rear angulation enabling him to drive round the ring. **Res DCC**

2nd MiISS S HUTCHINSON’S  **ZORRO OF SHINE TREASURE FOR OSCHALBEN**

**NOVICE DOG**3 entries 1 absent

1st MRS T A & MR T M MEMBURY’S **BULLHAWK STARS’N STRIPES AT MEMBULLY**

17 month old tiger brindle boy in lovely condition. Nice square head with endearing gentle expression. Good width of skull and correct ear carriage and placement. Defined stop and adequately open nostrils. Dark round eyes and good jaw and dentition. Great depth of chest and spring of rib with well-defined cut up. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline and small slightly high-set tail. Straight front and reasonable rear angulation. Moved out well with his handler.

2nd MISS C  WALTON **BANKHOLT NORTHERN LIGHT**

**GRADUATE DOG**2 entries 0 absent

1st MISS S HUTCHINSON’S  **ZORRO OF SHINE TREASURE FOR OSCHALBEN**

2nd MRS V HEPWORTH’S **ANESSABULL LOUIE’S A LOOKER**

Fawn pied good boned cobby boy well presented. Super body shape. Square head with good width of skull. Defined stop and open nostrils. Lovely dark round eyes. Correct ear placement. Straight front with good depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation. Moved well round the ring with drive.

**POST GRADUATE DOG** 5 entries. 3 absent

1st MR P D & MRS S HUNT, ’S **XANDENE IT’S A KINDA MAGIC AT BALISTIX**

Fawn pied dog with good bone and substance. Strong masculine head with broad skull and correct ear placement. Dark round eyes and well-defined stop. Good jaw and dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline and super small tail a little high set. Maintained his topline on the move. Straight front and tight front feet. Adequate rear angulation and moved well round the ring.

2nd MRS D SMITH’S **ELLOUAB ROYAL PRIDE**

 Another fawn pied dog smaller and not quite as well-balanced as 1. Square masculine head but would prefer less wrinkle. Correctly placed ears carried well. Nice round dark eyes. Well-defined stop and rather narrow nostrils. Adequate reach of neck leading to correct topline and nice Lowe set tail. Straight front and adequate rear angulation. Moved well for his handler.

**MID LIMIT DOG** 1 entry 0 absent

1st MISS E RANKIN’S **GURU SUNDAY AT WILDAX (IMP RUS)**

Strong dark brindle boy with good bone and substance. Masculine head with dark round eyes and correct ear placement. Broad jaw and good dentition. Well-defined stop but rather stenosed nostrils. Straight front with good depth of chest and spring of rib. Correct topline leading to low set tail. Good rear angulation. Moved out well but was rather unsettled today.

**LIMIT DOG** 7 entries. 1 absent

1st MR D, MISS A & MRS C, CUND, CUND & HICKIN’S **CHELMBULL SPACE MAN**

Cobby well-balanced tiger brindle dog. Good. Bone and substance. Lovely head with masculine expression. Broad skull and correctly carried ears. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and open nostrils. Good jaw and dentition. Straight front and nice depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck leading to correct topline maintained on the move and small low set tail. Good rear angulation and moved with drive round the ring with his handler.

2nd MESSRS J R & R J BROOKS & CAIRNS’S  **CORURSUS BECOME THE ONE JW**

Another beautiful dark brindle boy who pushed hard for 1st place. Cobby and well-balanced with masculine head and expression. Well carried ears and lovely dark round eyes with well-defined stop and good open nostrils. Broad jaw and super dentition.Nice reach of neck and correct top liner with small tail slightly higher set than 1. Straight front and tight feet. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Correct rear angulation and again moved round the ring with drive maintaining a lovely profile. Just preferred the overall balance and movement of 1 on the day.

**OPEN DOG** 10 entries. 1 absent

1st MISS A & MR D, MR A & MRS L CUND & HARROP’S **CH/ESP CH CHELMBULL ROCKET MAN WW**

What is there left to say about this boy? Without exception he was the best mover of the day which means his conformation must be correct. I first judged him as a puppy and he has matured into a beautiful dog. Compact and cobby with a strong square head and correct ear placement. Round dark eyes and masculine expression. Broad jaw with super up-sweep and dentition. Straight front and tight feet. Good reach of neck leading to correct topline. Being “picky” I would prefer more tail but his small tail is correctly placed. Strong correctly angulated rear quarters enable him to drive round the ring with his handler maintaining his overall profile perfectly. A pleasure to watch and worthy of his Breed Record holder title which I unwittingly awarded him today, as I also unwittingly did with his father when I last judged him. **DCC BIS**

2nd MR S PETRALIA’S ROZELDOGUE GOD OF THUNDER JUN CH/BE ,JUN CH/RSM,CIB- J

Lovely strong boned well constructed dog. Strong masculine head with good width of skull, correct ear placement and dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and open nostrils. Super broad jaw and excellent dentition. Good reach of neck and correct topline. Low set good small tail. Lovely depth of chest and spring of rib. Straight front and tight feet. Adequate rear angulation. Drove round the ring in tune with his handler maintaining an excellent profile.

**VETERAN DOG** 2 entries 1 absent

1st MISS A & MR D, MR A & MRS L CUND & HARROP’S **CH CHELMBULL THE AVIATOR**

7.5 year old brindle boy who was clearly enjoying his day out and return to the ring. Nicely balanced cobby dog with good head and masculine expression. Good width of skull and correctly carried ears. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop with open nostrils. Broad jaw and good dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline and low set very small tail. Straight front and good depth of chest and spring of rib. Nice rear angulation. Moved out well at a good pace for his handler who had to keep up.**BVD**

**MINOR PUPPY BITCH** 5 entries 0 absent

1st MRS D SMITH’S  **OAKPRIDES LADY MAJESTIC**

6 month old square, cobby, well-balanced fawn girl who shows much promise. Very sweet feminine expression. Square feminine head with correctly set ears carried well. Nice board skull and dark well-placed eyes. Well-defined stop and open nostrils. Good jaw and dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline and low set tail. Straight front and tight feet. Promising depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation. Didn’t show herself to the best on the move but when allowed to move freely her good movement was obvious.

2nd MISS N WEIR’S  **BONISLE FOREVER GRATEFUL**

Another beautiful puppy who could have swapped places with 1 any day. 6 month old tiger brindle girl with lovely soft feminine expression. Square head with good width of skull. Correctly placed ears carried well. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and open nostrils. Lovely reach of neck with correct topline and low set tail. Nice straight front with tight feet. Promising depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation and moved out well. Shown to perfection by her handler. Just preferred the overall impression of 1 today.

**PUPPY BITCH** 5entries. 1 absent

1st MRS L BONSALL’S **MUGGSHOTTS PILLOW TALK**

This girl caught my eye immediately. 10 month old very pretty feminine brindle pied girl. Nicely balanced and beautifully presented. Lovely square head with good width of skull and correct ear placement and super carriage. Beautiful round very dark eyes. Great well-defined stop and wide open nostrils. Good jaw and dentition. Lovely reach of neck leading to correct topline and small low set tail. Super straight front and tight feet. Nice depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation enabling her to drive round the ring with her handler maintaining her beautiful profile. I will watch her career with interest. **BPB BPIS**

2nd MRS L & MRS J BROOKS’S **SERENANT IRON BUTTERFLY**

Lovely brindle bitch who fought hard for 1st place today and was unlucky to come up against 1 but I just preferred the mouth and overall profile of 1. Cobby well-balanced girl with lovely head and feminine expression. Good width of skull and correctly placed well-carried ears. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop with open nostrils. Good jaw and dentition. Lovely reach of neck leading to correct topline and low set extremely small tail. Straight front and tight feet. Super depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation. Moved well round the ring for her handler maintaining her topline.

**JUNIOR BITCH** 5 entries. 0 absent

1st MISS V BRYANT’S  **ARCHNESS THE DRAMALLAMA**

15 month old beautifully constructed cobby, well- balanced brindle bitch with super bone and substance. Square head with soft feminine expression and beautiful round dark eyes. Broad skull and correctly placed ears carried well. Well-defined stop and great open nostrils. Good broad jaw and dentition with nice up-sweep. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline and low set but extremely small tail. Super depth of chest and spring of rib. Straight front and cat-like feet. Good rear angulation enabling her to drive round the ring and maintain her topline in the process. Showed to perfection. I feel sure it won’t take long before she gains her title. She only lost outtoday on maturity . **Res BCC**

2nd MR G & MRS B MORISON’S **JAFRAK SPOTIFY XANDENE**

Lovely 14 month old double hooded brindle pied bitch showing much promise. Beautiful head with feminine expression and good width of skull and correctly placed ears carried well. Round dark eyes. Well-defined stop with open nostrils. Straight front and good depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck and correct topline with low set small tail. Nice rear angulation. Moved out well for her handler.

**YEARLING BITCH** 7 entries. 3 absent

1st MISS N GOUGH’S **KATAKIA VALERIE’S BEAUTY**

Dark brindle well balanced feminine girl. Lovely square head with typical feminine expression. Good width of skull, correctly placed ears carried well when alert. Well-defined stop and lovely open nostrils. Super round dark eyes. Good jaw and dentition. Nice straight front with good depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck and correct topline leading to very small tail. Good rear angulation. Moved really well with drive round the ring.

2nd MRS A GODDARD’S  **EASTONITE QUARTZ QUEEN**

Very nicely balanced fawn girl with lovely square feminine head. Broad skull and correctly set ears carried well. Good jaw and dentition. Nice reach of neck and correct topline leading to best tail of the day. Loose and able to wag if set a little high. Straight front and tight feet. Nice depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation and moved out well when not on too tight a lead.

**NOVICE BITCH** 7 entries 1 absent

1st MRS V HEPWORTH’S  **ANESSABULL ATHENA**

Nicely proportioned fawn pied girl. Square head with sweet feminine expression. Flat skull and correct earnest and well-carried ears. Well-defined stop with good open nostrils. Round dark eyes. Nice broad jaw with good dentition. Lovely straight front and tight feet. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Lovely reach of neck leading to correct topline and super correct low set tail. Nice tuck up and adequate rear angulation. Moved out well round the ring maintaining her topline.

2nd MRS T A & MR T M MEMBURY’S **MEMBULLY MAYBE MY TIME**

Pretty brindle bitch slightly smaller than 1 but still nicely balanced. Good square head with sweet feminine expression. Flat skull and correct earset and carried ears well. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop with super open nostrils. Good width of jaw and good dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to very slightly level topline and very small but correctly placed low set tail. Straight front and tight feet. Super spring of rib and depth of chest.Reasonable rear angulation. Moved well for her handler.

**GRADUATE BITCH**10 entries 1 absent

1st MRS J & MR G MORGAN-LING & LING’S **AKIRA TYTORRO TAFFY'S ANGELS**

Very well constructed compact tiger brindle girl presented in excellent condition. Lovely square head with typical feminine expression. Super round dark eyes. Broad skull and correctly placed ears carried well. Well-defined stop and absolutely super open nostrils. Broad jaw with very nice dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline and low set but very small tail. Straight front and tight feet. Good rear angulation enabling her to drive round the ring with her handler maintaining a good profile.

2nd MRS V HEPWORTH’S **ANESSABULL ATHENA**

**POST GRADUATE BITCH** 5 entries. 0 absent

1st MS L FOLEY’S **LEYENDA MASQUERADE**

Well-balanced cobby tiger brindle girl presented in excellent condition. Square head with broad skull and soft feminine expression. Correctly placed ears carried well. Lovely round dark eyes. Well-defined stop with good nostrils. Broad jaw and good dentition. Super depth of chest and spring of rib with nice cut up. Good each of neck and correct topline leading to very small tail. Straight front with tight feet and good rear angulation. Moved out well round the ring maintaining a lovely profile. Pushed hard for the Res CC in the challenge.

2nd MS J J BAGNALL’S  **MEJERIC SENORITA**

Nicely balanced fawn bitch with sweet feminine expression. Square head with super ear placement and carriage. Beautiful dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and really great open nostrils. Good jaw and dentition. Straight front with good depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck leading to correct topline and very small low set tail. Good rear angulation. Moved well for her handler.

**MID LIMIT BITCH** 4 entries. 1 absent

1st MRS T A & MR D P MASSEY’S **LEYENDA UPTOWN GIRL HOT TO TROT FOR CHAREVE**

Well-balanced nicely constructed cobby brindle bitch with lovely square head and feminine expression. Broad skull with correctly placed well-carried ears. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop with good open nostrils. Wide jaw and good dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to correct topline, maintained on the move, and lovely small low set and deep set tail. Straight front and tight feet. Super depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation. Moved with drive round the ring.

2nd MR J A, MRS A J & MRS S S VEARNCOMBE & HALE’S **RUPTION KNIGHTCOTT BACK IN BLACK JW**

Another lovely well-constructed tiger brindle bitch with lots to like and who challenged hard for 1st place but was not quite as compact as 1. Lovely square head with feminine expression. Flat skull and good ear carriage. Dark round eyes and sell-defined stop with super open nostrils. Good wide jaw and excellent dentition. Straight front and tight feet. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck and correct topline with super low set tail. Good rear angulation and moved out well round the ring maintaining a nice profile..

**LIMIT BITCH** 12 entries. 1 absent

1st MISS V BRYANT’S **ARCHNESS OWN IT**

Strongly built, nice constructed fawn girl. Strong square head with feminine expression. Correct ear placement and broad flat skull with good width of forehead. Superb dark round eyes. Well-defined stop with great open nostrils. Good broad jaw and dentition. Straight front with tight feet. Excellent depth of chest and spring of rib.Slightly steep cut up. Good reach of neck leading to correct topline and very small low set tail. Good rear angulation and drove round the ring with her handler maintaining a lovely profile.

2nd MR M & MRS Y AYRISS’S **LADY REBELLION AT BOULEVAYA**

Another well constructed bitch but different in build to 1. Dark brindle with nice overall profile. Square head with very pretty feminine expression and broad skull and correctly placed ears. Dark round eyes. well-defined stop with super open nostrils. Broad jaw and good dentition. Nice reach of neck leading to adequate topline and lovely low set small tail. Straight front and tight feet. Good depth of chest and spring of rib.Nice rear angulation and moved well round the ring.

**OPEN BITCH** 7entries 1 absent

1st MR R, MRS M & MRS J D SMITH & PRATT’S **CH JAFRAK SO FLIRTY AT KHANIN**

 I have admired this girl since she was a puppy and she didn’t disappoint today. Beautifully balanced compact tiger brindle girl presented in excellent condition. Square and cobby in build with good bone and substance. Strong square head with feminine expression and beautifully carried ears. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop and good nostrils. Broad jaw with lovely dentition.Straight front and tight feet. Super depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck and correct topline. Correct low set tail but could be bigger. Nice rear angulation enabling her to drive round the ring maintaining her lovely profile. Delighted to award her **BCC & RES BIS**

2nd MRS T A, MR T M & MRS S L MEMBURY, MEMBURY & PEARCE’S **CH BULLHAWK EGG’S CITING AT MEMBULLY**

Another beautiful girl who challenged hard for 1st place but I just preferred the overall profile of 1. Well-balanced and nicely constructed brindle bitch with a square head and broad skull but feminine expression. Correctly set ears carried well. Dark round eyes. Well-defined stop with super open nostrils. Good width of jaw and nice dentition. Nice reach of neck and correct topline leading to a small but adequate tail. Straight front and tight feet. Lovely depth of chest and spring of rib. Good rear angulation. Drove round the ring maintaining a good profile.

**VETERAN BITCH** 5 entries 2 absent

1st MISS L ROACH’S  **CH ROALICE MINI MOUSE**

I was so looking forward to going over this girl who I have admired for a while now and she didn’t disappoint. She totally belies her 9 years when she drives round the ring with her handler. Nicely balanced cobby fawn girl with good bone and substance. Strong but feminine head with broad skull and correct ear placement. Super round dark eyes. Well-defined stop and good nostrils. Broad jaw and still has good dentition. Straight front and tight feet. Great depth of chest and spring of rib. Good reach of neck and correct topline with low set small tail. Nice rear angulation and she could show the youngsters a thing or two with her reach and drive whilst maintaining a lovely profile . Delighted to award her **BVB BVIS**

2nd MISS S HUTCHINSON’S  **EXQUISITUS REGINISUS**

Another lovely fawn girl with not quite the overall balance of 1 but still a credit to her owner. 8 years old and clearly still enjoying her day out. Small and compact with strong head yet feminine expression. Dark round eyes and correct ear placement. Broad jaw. Cobby in build with deep chest and good spring of rib. Straight front and good rear angulation moved well round the ring.