

The SMBTC judging seminar on Saturday 9th April 2011 was blessed with glorious sunshine. Candidates had travelled from far and wide, even two mad souls from Germany, and included a good mix of Mini people, two BT people and two all rounders, one a well recognised group judge. Our two speakers, Juliet Shaw (Badlesmere) and Joanna Phillips (Bullyon) started the proceedings with an overview of the standard and the particular areas of virtue and type in the Miniature Bull Terrier with the aid of Ralph (aka Ch Badlesmere Blue Beard at Byzantine) and Dandy (aka Ch Decadance Dandylion), both aging, but still outstanding examples of the breed.



After lunch – as usual we were treated to delicious home made cakes (it is almost worth doing these seminars just for the cakes !) and a ploughman’s lunch courtesy of our kitchen manager, Marion – the candidates were invited to “judge” and critique 4 dogs. These dogs had been deliberately selected with different pros and cons to stimulate discussion and the open and interactive critique session afterwards proved entertaining and illuminating with a healthy variety of opinions and priorities. I say entertaining rather as an aside because I think the sunshine had slightly gone to our heads and there was much good natured humour when describing one of our dogs for critiquing, which was somewhat portly (and was christened the “bolster on legs” for the day) and it almost became a competition to see who could produce the most polite critique for her !

As we outlined at the beginning of the talk, judging is a largely subjective exercises (within the confines of the breed standard) and it was nice to see variety of opinion as, of course, if every judge had the same opinion, the same dogs would win every time and there would be no fun in that !

We hope the candidates had an enjoyable day and that it helped their journey into becoming experienced judges of Miniature Bull Terriers. There was some very nice feedback and we wish all those who took the time and trouble to come along, all the best with their judging careers.

Jane Peakin
Secretary SMBTC