



Moa winning a group at Helsinki with her homebred French Bulldog, Ch Be A Nice Bull. The judge was the late Joe Cartledge.



Moa together with the chief steward at Sydney Royal.



Moa's 'once in a life time dog', Nord Ch Guidelines Copyright. photo Lillemor Böö.



Moa awarding BIS to a Labrador at Estoril Show in Portugal. Next to her is Carla C Molinari, president of the Portugese KC.



Judging Leonbergers – another strong breed in Sweden.

“So with some trepidation, I accepted and then I was advised to go for breeds in areas where I might have been considered a little weak, so that I had a portfolio of breeds that was as broad-based as possible. Then in either 1991 or 1992 I was granted all-rounder status.” At that time there was only a handful of all-rounders in Sweden and Moa became the youngest.

Back-tracking somewhat, alongside pursuing her judging career Moa was also busy developing her Labrador breeding programme. She imported various dogs from the UK, notably from the Foxrush and Rocheby kennels. Moa considers that her “once in a lifetime” dog was Nordic Ch Guidelines Copyright, a black male who is the breed record holder in Sweden and who subsequently proved an outstanding producer.

Presently Moa is somewhat excited about a new puppy – Rossmix Amarone Classico – who was produced by using stored semen from Copyright long after his death on a Champion bitch imported from Italy. She was sired by a Poolstead dog sent to Italy, and the new puppy is strongly line-bred to Sh Ch Poolstead Preferential.

Currently the Labrador kennel is run in tandem with Helene Strombom's Rossmix Golden Retrievers.

In 1982 Moa had her first invitation to judge in Australia from the Sydney Spring Fair, which in its heyday was run by Bob Curtis and Harry Spira who were responsible for introducing to Australia so many young and promising judges whose performances had impressed them when they had met them on their own judging trips overseas.

She enjoyed the experience enormously and has returned to Australia many times since.

When in Australia Moa met Guy Spagnolo of the Driftway Labrador kennel, now

one of Australia's most respected all-rounders, and she was responsible for introducing his judging skills to Scandinavia. She also initiated the export of Copyright's half-brother to Guy, thus enabling him to increase the Driftway gene pool.

Her first judging appointments in Britain were actually at open shows way back in the seventies. Her first appointment to award CCs was at Driffield when she judged Tibetan Spaniels. French Bulldogs and Pugs followed and the Labradors – of course – and then various other breeds.

Ironically Moa's first group appointment came at the LKA in 2003 when she was actually invited to judge all seven groups and best in show. What did she feel when the letter of invitation arrived?

“I read the letter three times to start with, and then checked the name on the envelope to make sure it was actually meant for me. Of course it was a tremendous thrill and a huge honour because at the end of the day, Britain is still regarded as the Number One Dog country – to me at least. I always consider myself middle-aged British polyester when it comes to dogs!” quips Moa.

“The opportunity to judge all the groups and Best is obviously a huge pleasure for any judge because you should get seven dogs that you really like, but of course that doesn't make the job of arriving at that final decision any easier. At the LKA the dog that pressed all the right buttons for me was the Maltese, apparently recently imported from the USA, and my reserve was the lovely Scottie bitch who evidently was bred in Sweden ... there are different ways of making a statement in Black and White!”

Moa's judging has taken her to many faraway places. She has judged in the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia of course, the Philippines, and virtually all the European countries. On her travels she has seen many excellent dogs.

“Strangely two of the dogs that really stand out are Maltese; one at Sydney Royal and then of course the LKA BIS dog. Then there was a Dobermann bred in Holland that I judged in Eindhoven in the early 1980s. The German Shepherd Triumphs Heidi, Bosse and Irene Nyman's first BIS winner in the 60's and, of course, some of the great British dogs in the early days. Airedales handled and presented by Joe Cartledge and Ernie Sharpe, and also terriers in the US that Peter Green has presented. They are all pictured in my memory disk, you never know where you will find them, but it is so obvious when one does”.

When talking about strong breeds around

the world, Moa comes back to Flatcoats in Sweden and Dalmatians in Sweden and Norway and also that some of the best Scotties are bred in Sweden. Russia is also a strong dog country where for example Schnauzers, all three varieties, are really top class and of course the Black Russians; amazing though is the strength also in some terrier breeders like Kerry Blues. Southern Europe like Italy is coming real strong in, for instance, Labradors, where we have seen a couple of UK Sh Chs in the last years. Australia is strong in some of the German gundogs, such as Weimaraners and GSPs as well as of course Jack Russells and Border Collies, among a lot of others. Norway's export of a talented St Bernard breeder to Belgium some 10-12 years ago has made a big impact on the breed in Europe. GB for toy breeds and some typical continental breeds, like Boxers and Rottweilers.

The list can be made long, but mainly Moa thinks that a breed gets strong and of high quality where there are breeders with green fingers and also where the breeders co-operate for the benefit of the breed. Flatcoats in Sweden is such an example.

The changing of breed Standards, as in the US, is not Moa's cup of tea, it is making life too easy. The history of the breed that the Standard is built on, is the red thread that should be followed. This is where I am very black and white, “Moa remarks”, I am not very impressed with the chic alterations that has been made to some breeds, Moa laughs – remember “middle-aged-polyester”.

Moa is one of a generation of Scandinavian all-rounders that have achieved worldwide recognition. How does she see the future and is Scandinavia set up to replace these with a new generation?

“I feel that some of the newer judges do need to take time to stop and think, and acknowledge the fact that there are lots of people around who know more than they do. They should remember that, and take the time to ask. Judging dogs is a craft that is not learnt overnight, and those who wish to follow a career as a judge should take advantage of the



Winning BIS at Visby with the famous Chihuahua, Int Ch Apoco Deodar Complice, owned by the late Curt Ginman.

knowledge that surrounds them before it's too late.”

This year Moa was again invited to judge all groups and best in show in the UK, this time at Bath. She clearly enjoyed the appointment and ended up awarding a first all-breeds best in show to the Welsh Terrier bitch who was last year's National Terrier BIS winner, and reserve to the Australian Vizsla who has had such an impact on the show scene here. More recently she was invited to act as one of the three judges of this year's petplan junior stakes Final – the first time ever an overseas judge has been engaged at this prestigious event.

Many who have watched Moa judge appreciate her efficient and decisive style. Scandinavia has over the years produced many notable all rounder judges and Moa is clearly continuing the tradition.



BIS Int show in Florence, Italy 1996.



Moa awarding BOB Cavalier at Sydney Royal a Homerbred dog exported to Australia.