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Club News

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Malta's successful Golden D-Cup Gloster show

GOLDEN D-CUP SHOW

NICK and Annalain Barrett, judges, their congenial granddaughter Ruby and I, Dave Thomas, travelled to Malta for the fourth Golden D-Cup Show (Gloster open show).

Mario Zahra, the club secretary, gave me the background to the origins of the club. In 2019 a group of close-knit fanciers met to discuss forming a new Gloster club in Malta. Their objective was to preserve the Gloster standard set in the UK. History shows the strong connections between the countries going back 28 years. It was then they decided to adopt the standard show cage. Some unease was expressed when an established Gloster club in Malta contemplated certain departures from the standard. One was not to use the standard D-cup drinker. Traditionalists were against this, and this was the formation of the club and its title.

The first show in 2019 emphasised the links previously established. The show is practically run by the Zahra family alongside key figures such as Peter Falzon (show manager), Herman Demicoli (PRO) and Mark Cillia (IT admin). It is fair to say they have organised a show of paramount standards, which is a fine example for developing clubs in the Near East and North Africa.

The sophisticated promotion of the club is in the hands of Nigel (Mario's son), who is a media studies student. Talking to Nigel I was impressed how the media can be utilised to excellent effect. If you have such a creative talent, then use it to the utmost.

The two-day show had

an entry of 230, some 40 up on the previous year. There is ample room for expansion in the present show facility by utilising other rooms. The judging took place on a stage with a seated audience below.

Nick gave feedback to the audience on the judging process which they much appreciated. It was evident from the feedback there was some noteworthy class winners. Eventually an unfluffed (UF) buff corona hen came to the fore. She had excellent type and a clean outline. The winner was exhibited by Matthew Psaila who could not be at the show as he was judging in Portugal. He also won best consort with an UF buff consort hen of similar type to the overall winner.

Charles Vassallo won third best in show with an UF ¾ dark corona cock. Peter Falzon was best consort cock with an UF buff, also best cinnamon with an UF corona. Josette Buttigieg, from Gozo, won best yellow with consort cock. Of note with some yellow greens which could be useful for foundations stock. Frank Formosa best white with a corona hen. Finally, Herman Demicoli won best grizzle and the highest aggregate points award. There were no novice entries.

The presentation of the awards took place with Sabrina Psaila, Matthew's wife, and Emma, their daughter, accepting their awards.

I have known Mario for years and have seen at close hand his special abilities. His business acumen enables him to achieve high value sponsorship which is repaid

with graphic advertising displays at the show. An example of sponsorship was each class winner received a 1kg box of Cede.

Mario is noted for his graphic artwork especially in relation to publishing an excellent show schedule. I know he has designed schedules for shows outside of Malta. Thanks to Mario, Sandra his wife and their family, and also club members for making our stay so enjoyable and for the excellent hospitality.

● Dave Thomas has kept Glosters for more than 50 years and a panel judge since the late 70s. For more than 20 years, he has been secretary of the Gloster Club of South Wales & Bristol.



Members and guests celebrating the show's success



Emma and Sabrina with their awards



Sabrina and Emma with judges Nick and Annalain



Nick and Annalain travelled to Malta for the fourth Golden D-Cup Show



Best Gloster, an unfluffed buff corona hen, benched by Matthew Psaila