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Oleg Bochkov and Natalia Feofanova. HD

EUROPEAN DOG SHOW LEEWARDEN. NETHERLANDS

EDS
2011



Photo by HOTdog



By
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WDPA CEO

European Dog Show 2011 at Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The European Dog Show 2011 at Leeuwarden, the Netherlands was only 7 weeks away from The World Dog Show in Paris. While Paris was subject to a lot of discussion and painful critiques, the European Dog Show in Leeuwarden was in many ways the opposite.

The short time in between both shows is said to be the most important reason why only **7239** dogs were entered for the European compared to the massive number of entries at Paris. But the fact that Leeuwarden is hardly known and has less accommodation facilities is another reason not to be underestimated. Paris is a metropole and capitol of one of the most known cities in the world, while Leeuwarden is only the capital of a province in Holland. If it would have been in Amsterdam, it would certainly have been different. But the fact that the committee had chosen for Leeuwarden must have had other reasons. The halls for the event were convenient and the price must have been a deciding factor.

As Leeuwarden is close to the border of Denmark the committee must have focused on the Scandinavian countries and indeed those countries were ranking pretty high, along with Germany. However, **Russia was country number two with no less than 1039 entries!** The Netherlands had the most with **1797** entries which is logical. **47** Countries were represented and that is very good. There were entries from as far as Thailand, Peru, Japan, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Canada. The United States had **22** entries, Ireland **16** and the United Kingdom **98. 324** Different breeds were shown and that is very good. The show took 4 days, from 1 to 4 september. The first 3 days there was the CAC show "Raad van Beheer" (the Dutch KennelClub). For this show **3526** dogs turned up which brings the total number of





Katya Arkhipova /Russia/



Streets of Harlingen Haven. 25 km fare from Leeuwarden.



Carla Molinari /Portugal/, Jose Luis Ibanez /P&G/



Harlingen Haven. City center.



Julia Miakotkina /Russia/



Harlingen Haven. City center.

entries for this event to **10.765**, which is less than half of Paris.

Small is beautiful goes the saying and that certainly counted for Leeuwarden. Arriving in the north of the country where everything is so flat and where water is plenty, there was no sign that there would be a big International Dog Show. Wasn't that one of the complaints about Paris too?

The halls were situated at the outside of the city but on walking distance from the centre and the railway station and close to the highways. Traffic was no problem at all. As I was told that all hotels were full at the time I planned to book for a room it proved so and I was forced to look for bed-and-breakfast accommodation in the neighborhood. Funny it was to find out that at most places they were not aware there was a big dog show going on in town. Later it seemed that there were similarities with Celje where most hotels did reserve rooms for the show and told people who wanted to book directly and not via the Show organizations travel agency that there were no rooms available. I was thus forced to book a room in Groningen, one hour driving away. Later Mr. Jippling, the show president, told me that there were still so much rooms left in the surrounding hotels of the town. Maybe this service should be revised. It could be a solution to announce the number of rooms available and the prices of the rooms and keep them up to date. This can be programmed on the website nowadays. This way people can better compare. Probably this has added to the disappointing number of entries. A lot of people wait till the very last moment to enter their dogs and start looking for a place to stay at that time too. If they find out that they are forced to drive a few hours extra each day, it makes the whole trip more expensive. If this cumulates with the high entry fees for this show, than it is understandable that they finally decide to

skip this show.

The show itself was an example of how a European or World Show should be. Everything was carefully planned and the information via internet and e-mail was carefully followed up and well in time. The parking area was OK except for a small part that had no tiles. The parking security was efficient, probably because they knew English and most people understood English. There were not so much visitors either and that causes not the stress we encountered in Paris. The weather was excellent, almost too good. Unfortunately we know the sun can cause serious problems for our dogs. I was told alter that a few dogs died in parked cars while others were saved. I don't know the rules in Holland but I Belgium people are allowed to smash the windows if the dogs are in trouble.

The catalog was in Dutch and English and this time it was bad luck for the French and the German. Maybe it would be a better idea to force the organizing countries of European and World Shows to use at least the 4 official FCI languages. Not everything needs to be translated, only the information in the front should. Anyway English it much more understood worldwide. Judging took place in 4 halls. One hall was completely reserved for the commercial trade stands. Was this a mistake or not, it is hard to tell. Fact is that the trade stand holders complained about the lack of visitors and the poor result after the show, notwithstanding several announcements over the intercom. Seeing is buying and if you don't need anything you don't go to a separate hall to buy. I Paris the flow of people was constantly passing the trade stands and the result was good. If you see something new or something you could use, you stop and buy it, that is one of the oldest marketing rules. The main ring was situated behind huge curtains alike in France and alike we saw at Crufts before the

main ring moved to the arena. It was one of the most correct main rings so far. It was large enough to hold most groups and had stairs on two sides, and a VIP area on one of the long sides. The Podium side was kept simple, with logo's in the background and decorated with lots of tulips. The podia were comfortably large and not too high. Any dog should feel at ease on it as the handler could be on the podium too. The Press was situated beneath the VIP area. The security in the ring was very efficient, but friendly and nobody except the press was allow in the main ring to take photo's. This worked fine for everyone and everything went so smoothly that the time schedule never in danger.

Every day except Sunday started with the finals of the CAC Show. The first day the lights in the main ring were not perfectly directed. Every morning there was a briefing and there was a follow up of all the small corrections that were done day after day. That was very efficient and that is in my opinion why Leeuwarden is such a good example for other and future shows. It was clear that there was a good hierarchy and the delegating of jobs worked very efficient. The second day the problem was solved. All the judges and the press were informed in advance how things were planned for the main ring it they were asked to



follow these guidelines strictly. All dogs were judged in the very same way, not like in some shows where every judge was allowed to do as he liked, resulting in chaotic situations. It was not mentioned how many judges were invited but due to the rather low number of entries it was clear they were never overloaded and the show could have been done with less judges. Unfortunately it's impossible to predict this and I can imagine that this influenced the financial balance of the show for the worst. Moreover, the judges panel of an FCI European Dog Show should be very international as one of the highlights of the year and in this case of the century. Best in Show judge was Hans Van den Berg. As he didn't judge the previous days, his groupwinners were all new to him. "It was funny," he told me "I have never had so much friends like this weekend he says. They were all so nice to me, probably they found out that I was going to judge BIS. " Hans has humor in his eyes but behind that friendly face is a keen well-trained eye and a clever brain". After he examined all dogs carefully they disappeared again behind the curtain for the ceremonial part, the handing over of the FCI flag to Romania. His 3rd place went to the 4 year old male Champion wire-haired Dachshund "Alpheratz The Boss", owned by L. Terruzzi from Italy. He got his BOB ticket from Mr.Evgeny Kuplyauskas and was the choice of Mr.Andras Korozs to represent Group 4 in the finals. Another winner of day one was the runner up to BIS, the Fox Terrier wire-heard "Crispy Legacy" owned by A. Åström from Sweden. He was judged by Mrs. Paula Heikkinen. This male was entered in Champion Class and is also 4 years old. Mrs.Heikkinen also judged the group in the main ring and gave him the ticket to go to the finals on Sunday. It was the Afghan Hound "Agha Djari's Unplugged Version" that won Best In Show. It is a dog from Germany, owned by K. Hesselning. This dog was judged by

Peter Landarte who gave him his BOB certificate. Later Mr.Rafael de Santiago made him Best of Group. This was on Friday.

On the BIS podium I saw 3 beautiful dogs, 3 happy handlers, a pleased BIS judge and a very satisfied and proud President. Leeuwarden has made history and sets a new standard. It was not perfect and there were shortcomings like in all shows. I later spoke to a Dutch exhibitor who was not so happy, which was strange. She told the show was not better than the one in Paris the size of the show taken into account. To me it was clear that Paris had underestimated the show and the organization resulting in chaotic situations during the show. Leeuwarden, on the other hand, had underestimated things before the show, resulting in a low number of entries but was almost perfect with regard to organization and in that respect far out the best European Dog Show ever organized. I hope Romania will equal this result. It is to be expected that they can count on many dogs from Eastern Europe and thus a huge entry.

There is still one FCI Centenary show to go, the "Champion of Champions Show" in Brussels on November 12. Most of the dogs we have seen in the main ring in Brussels 2010, Dortmund FCI-Europasieger, Paris WDS and Leeuwarden EDS will be back in the ring to compete for the supreme title. I wonder if it will be one of the BIS winners or a completely different dog. I also hope the organization of this show will also be close to perfection. There is only one way to find out...be there to watch or to compete.

**Text: Karl Donvil.
Results: Raad van beheer**

