

The Cocker Spaniel Club

Sunday 14th July 2024

Dogs.

Firstly I would like to thank the officers, committee and members of the club giving me the opportunity to Judge this prestigious show which is everybody's dream to judge, of which I thoroughly enjoyed and would like to thank my Stewards Damien and David for keeping the ring going smoothly throughout the day, also thanks to Dave Bennett who took on the job of photographer.

Also a big thank you to all exhibitors for showing their dogs under me and taking my placings in a sporting manner, and finally to my co-judge Mike Wildman, with whom we agreed for all decisions for the top awards and the referee Mr Peter Pavey was not required.

I would just like to point out a few criticisms which I feel need to be addressed, I have noticed that the quality of the breed has declined in the last 10 years I understand that time changes and the availability of good stud dogs is not as strong as it used to be, which is hard when you are wanting to keep a type for your own kennel and to keep the quality top drawer, hopefully this will improve. At the present time parti colour's are of stronger in depth and quality.

The Cocker Spaniel is a head breed and I felt that the heads need to be addressed a lot of long and narrow forefaces, with not much stop and thick skulls which spoils the overall picture. There was a lot of dirty dentition. Mouths overall were ok, although a couple which were not quite perfect, this is a fault and should not be found even more so in dogs as this is something that we need to ensure is perfect when looking for stud dogs, you may have a quality dog to look at but the hidden bits are the ones that can be passed down, in dogs it's the 3 T's Teeth, Testicles and Temperament. Quite a few of exhibits were overweight which spoils the overall picture when stood and on the move, I also found that the cat like feet that we expect on our cockers are few and far between, a lot of big feet with long nails spoiling the foot shape, the amount of coat that is being left on hocks and on fore chest the standard says not too profuse, presentation on some exhibits could be a tad better. The temperament overall was excellent on all exhibits.

On a final note I would just like to address my hands on examination of the dogs on both the table and the floor where some people considered excessive, I would like to point out that I have always taken my judging seriously and have endeavored to find the best dog on the day. I always try to get 'inside' a dog and imagine what it would feel like if I were handling the dog – what virtues are there to be found and what faults need to be disguised. Clever trimming of our breed can often hide structural faults and so thorough hands-on examination is I believe essential and, in my opinion, infinitely preferable to a pat on the back and a thank you. On this note after closer examination I was delighted with my final shortlist of 6 and thank the handlers/owners for being understanding of my handling of them, any of my 6 were worthy of the top awards. My top 2 pushed the other 4 just that bit more and I was delighted to award them the CC and RCC.

Any Colour Baby Puppy 9 (1)

This class is such a joy to have to see the promising puppies and give them the chance to have show experience and be in the environment that they will hopefully step up to.

1st Stokes-Harrell Chezza's Mr Moonlight

Orange and White baby of good quality, pleasing head and eye, standing on lovely well made legs and feet, well balanced sufficient body for his age, happy mover for his replacement handler on the day.

2nd Terry's Shaggylands Midnight Train

Dark Blue baby of only 5mths, he held his own in this class of babies, Good head and dark eye, short and compact and has all the essentials to progress, needs time to settle and gain little confidence on the move but this will come with age.

3rd Fawcetts's Wissant About FlippinTime

Particolour Classes

Puppy 2

Unfortunately one withdrew due to me being unable to assess him on the table he was not very happy today and I did not want to upset him, thank you to the owner for being understanding.

1st. Lemmon Valefell Evergreen Trail

Medium blue up to size boy for his age, well boned and bodied, good attributes, both dog and handler new to showing and both need time and confidence and practice, he was a happy boy and moved well.

Novice 3 (1)

1st Beswick's Esqueen Give A Gift to Cachel

2 year old blue, a dog which I have not really seen before and was pleasantly surprised , a dog of outstanding quality and substance, gorgeous head and expression with the darkest of eyes, excelled in bone and well bodied throughout well ribbed and nice rounded backend, good quarters using his short hocks to advantage on the move, shortlisted to my final 6 and I am sure his time will come.

2nd Flowers Totenkipt Dancing Feet

Different type to 1st, pleasing head with nice short muzzle, good neck and shoulders slightly finer in bone and throughout to 1, would prefer him to be a tad shorter. Moved soundly

Graduate 6 (1)

1st William's Wilmerella Highlander

A well known youngster who has nothing to hide, very mature for his age, excellent shape and quality as expected from this kennel, excelled in bone well rounded ribs well rounded

backend good turn of stifle and moves so well with his ever wagging tail, his enthusiasm and cocker attitude won him this class.

2nd Gilmour's Chavez Silver Cloud

Unlucky to meet 1 today, another beautiful exhibit as you would expect from this kennel, gorgeous head and eye, good neck and shoulder and leg length, legs and cat like feet to die for, good turn of stifle of which he could use to his advantage on the move, but he needs time to settle and need a bit of 1st enthusiasm and attitude. Too much coat left on his hocks.

3rd Craig's Alisma Amarillio JW

Special Open Dog 8

A quality class with outstanding dog's one of my difficult classes of the day.

1st Gorka's Glenbriar Silver Fox

This dark blue dog caught my eye as he entered the ring, and he did not disappoint on examination, of outstanding quality which gleamed throughout, most pleasing head and expression excellent neck and shoulders, well rounded ribs perfect body weight, very short and cobby excellent turned out stifle he moves so well fore and rear, just loved the overall balance scored in legs and feet, presented in excellent order, did not hesitate to award him the class and was up there in my final 6.

2nd Torbett's Sh.Ch. Kirlinjis Taylor Made

Another dark blue with outstanding qualities, so well deserved of his title with lots to like unfortunately today he was a little unsettled and carrying a little weight over his shoulders, saying this he moves with drive and you can see the quality throughout.

3rd Collin's Bartonholm Prince of Tides At Candyke JW

Special Open (other than Blue) 2

1st Thomas's Claramand Cracker

Orange dog of outstanding quality, most pleasing head with a nice dark eye for his colour, lovely neck and shoulders, balanced throughout very short and cobby excellent legs and feet moved soundly and steadily

2nd Handl & Eisin's Haradwater Mr Fantastic`

Black and White dog, pleasing balanced head, good dark eye, well bodied, in good condition moved ok.

Black, Black & Tan Classes

Puppy 4 (1)

1st Wolf's Dantes French Boy Golden Janyt

At just 8 mths this black & Tan with clear tan markings ouzes quality, the most appealing head and eye, with good neck flowing into his shoulders, well boned for his age beautiful legs and cat like feet, short and compact, moved sound and happy, I am sure with maturity this boy will excel.

2nd Ellison's Withiflor Gentleman

12mth Black, with pleasing head nice overall shape and type as expected from this kennel, with excellent qualities needs to settle on the move to show his virtues to his advantage.

3rd Watson's Quettadene Stars Aligned over Bordacity

Graduate 4

1st Ellisons's Withiflor Touchstone

Another excellent exhibit from this kennel, black and tan dog who needs to be handled to appreciate his qualities, outstanding legs and feet with ample bone, lovely neck flowing into his well laid back shoulders, well bodied, short with a powerful backend which he uses well on the move, full of quality.

2nd McShane's Meggiemac Black Pearl

A quality dog of good type with lots to like good legs and feet, well bodied, longer cast than 1st throughout, strong solid topline which he holds on the move. Too much coat left on hocks and stifle and chest which spoils the overall outline.

3rd Warrington's Zakova Santana

Special Open 6

1st Pearce Kenwad Black Grouse at Miska JW

Dog of quality with pleasing head and eye, ample neck flowing into well placed shoulders, well made front assembly, ample bone and nice feet, short and compact slightly overweight which spoils the overall picture, however had good muscle tone which makes him move soundly.

2nd Huc & Posuwajlo Johns Lennon Vom Moorsbachtal

Black and Tan with lots of outstanding attributes very similar shape to 1, but on the day preferred the topline of 1.

3rd Ellison's Spinoza of Merrily avec withiflor

Red, Golden, Liver, Liver & Tan

Puppy 1

1st Huc & Posuwajlo West Ham Vom Moorsbachtal

11th mth old, with a pleasant head and expression, well fronted with good legs and feet, longer cast, strong topline which he holds well on the move,

Novice 3

1st Davies's Kerriglow Summer Solstice

13th Mth old, age on his side where he should mature into himself, pleasing head, good neck and shoulder placement, well bodied throughout, moved sound and happy.

2nd Pop's Merry soul Can't be Legal at Bocablue

Lovely head and dark eye, well rounded ribs very short and compact, moved soundly would have preferred better tail carriage on the move which unfortunately let him down today.

3rd Kent's Laurellakes Are you Reddy

Graduate 3

1st Bindza's Aisza Figaro for Laurellakes

Liver dog with lots to like, very short and cobby, good legs and feet, correct eye colour would have preferred more definition in his head moved ok.

2nd Flower's Corralet Dancing With Wolves

Red dog of nice type good solid legs and good feet, would prefer more body throughout. Moved well and happy.

3rd Jarvis's Galibar Goldeneye

Special Open 2

1st Needham's Snowgate Gold Edition at Merryhaze

Well made dog, pleasant head and eye well bodied very cockery moved well.

2nd Kaspar's Int Ch Claramand Fast Forward

Different type to 1st nice head and good legs and feet, would prefer more weight on this exhibit, on the day preferred the cockery bustle of 1.

Any Colour

Veteran

What a lovely class of oldies ranging from 7yrs up to 15yrs, all of which are a credit to their owners, we have to keep these oldies close as they are extra special.

This class was one of the hardest decisions of the day, the first 2 were of exceptional type and quality. These 2 will fight it out in veteran over the year

1st Pearce- Gudger Sh.Ch Cachel Prince Charming of Pearkim

What can I say about this outstanding orange roan, he is worth his weight in gold, the most beautiful head and melting expression, excels in neck and shoulders well ribbed and bodied, well balanced throughout with super quarters which he uses to advantage on the move, his tail never stops wagging and wanting to please his owner/handler at all times, he deserves all he has won through out his career and I am sure he will continue to do so. Did not hesitate with my co-judge to award him best veteran in show.

2nd Robertson's Sh.Ch Kastrain Affection JW

Black dog of exceptional quality of whom I have awarded a RCC in the past, he has been out of the ring for a while but to come back in this condition is a credit to his owner, he has such a beautiful head and eye excellent legs and feet so short and compact very cockery, moved sound on the move. unfortunate to meet 1 in such tip top form, he will have a great veteran career.

3rd Eisen's Manjuno's Dark Temptation

Minor Puppy 13 (7)

1st Whitehead's Ryallcourt Twis Tan Shout

What a lovely black white & tan baby, lovely head and expression, nicely marked, adequate neck length, great forechest so much substance for such a baby, super rear angulation moved happy and sound, will watch his progress with interest. Best Puppy/Minor puppy dog.

2nd Mitchell's Glowhill Spurred On

Light blue baby of just 7mths, loved his overall type and balance as you would expect from this kennel, he needs to mature throughout would prefer more depth in body but he has time on his side preferred the short and cobbyness of 1st

3rd Wolf's Dantes French Boy Golden Janyt

Puppy 7 (1)

1st Ewan's Craigdean Sloppy Joe

Dark blue dog, with so much to like, pleasing head and dark eye, outstanding bone and substance, well rounded ribs, nice round backend which he uses well on the move a little bit of a handful but that's what puppy's are about.

2nd Dennis's Oakrosa Bracken

Red dog of substance short and compact, nice head and expression, well turned out, he needs more confidence on the move preferred the stronger topline of the winner I believe this was his first show.

3rd Huc & Poshuwajlo's West Ham Vom Moorsbachtal

Junior 9 (2)

A really lovely class the first 3 were of excellent type and quality.

1st Harrison's Glenbrows Blue Sherbert JW

Light blue who had one of the most gorgeous heads and expression good neck and shoulders, well ribbed and bodied not overdone on any attributes, moved soundly using his short hocks to drive him off on the move.

2nd Whitehead's Ryallcourt Step in Time

B/W of quality, loved his overall shape and type, close up to first, preferred head and expression of 1st.

3rd Wildings Jayzander Jubilee Blues

Yearling 4 (1)

1st Darby's Classicway Call Time

My star of the day, a young light blue dog who I have admired since he was a youngster and upon maturity he has come on a treat and to finally have my hands on him I was not disappointed, the most beautiful head and eye with a melting expression, this is what heads should be like in the breed well proportioned throughout, ample neck flowing into good shoulder placements, not exaggerated in any aspect, very short and compact in excellent coat and condition, he is such a merry little cocker moves soundly with a happy disposition and carries himself well, he just makes me smile, he was in tough competition at the end but he held his own and I was delighted to award him the CC, and reserve best in show and best opposite sex.

2nd Surinx Lux Ch Merry wagging tails vintage De Lux Bel JCH

Black & Tan, different type to winner pleasing headn good neck length, longer cast and finer through out, he needs more time to mature, moves happy.

3rd Kent's Laurellakes Are You Reddy

Maiden 5 (2)

1st Leslie Ferrersedge Shilling

Light blue dog nice type, lovely head and expression, good length of neck, flowing into a well made middle, moves with drive very sound and happy movement front and rear.

2nd Pop's Merrysoul Can't be legal at Bocablue

3rd Proudlers Kimpa Kwackers Kalon

Novice 4 (3)

1st Dennis Oakrosa Bernie

Black dog which I have not seen previously due to owner not shown for a while due to maternal duties, such a pleasing head and expression, excels in neck and shoulders, lovely legs and feet with good reach of forearm, well rounded ribs and well bodied, very short and compact well rear ended with good turn of stifle, overall a very nice boy just needs confidence on the move.

Special Beginners 4 (3)

1st Jarvis Galibar Goldeneye

Mature up to size red dog with a rich red colour, nice head with a good stop giving him the nice cocker expression. Well boned legs well bodied good solid topline moved sound and happy presented in good condition.

Post Graduate 6

1st Hackett & Sheridans Lindridge Star Attraction

Light blue of outstanding quality, gorgeous head and expression with dark eye, Balanced throughout with no exaggeration, lovely neck and laid back shoulders, revealing good forechest good legs with cat like feet, such a merry cocker he moves with drive holding his topline well and is with one with his owner, in good coat and presented to a high standard in my shortlist of 6, I am sure his time will come.

2nd Share-Jones Sharemead Golden Spark

Red dog with so much to like unfortunate to be up against 1 today, he will hold his own I am sure, excels in body and bone the most gorgeous legs and feet, well ribbed not overdone in body, nice round backend lovely turn of stifle with good hocks which he uses to drive him round the ring.

3rd Gilmour Chavez Silver Cloud

Minor Limit 5

1st Platt's Allert's Fine Dining at Charbonnel

My surprise of the day, a dog with outstanding qualities his shape and outline stood out in this class and in the line up at the end, outstanding head and expression with dark eye, lovely neck flowing into well laidback shoulders, excels in bone, excellent legs and feet, a strong topline which he holds well stood and on the move, he is still only a Junior and he as time on his side and will mature further and I am sure he will push the top winners and gain his title I will watch his progress with interest. In my final 6 and he pushed the CC winner hard I awarded him the RCC with ease.

2nd Marris-Bray Glowhill Gallivant JW

Well known blue dog of excellent type, to appreciate him he needs to be handled, pleasing head and eye and well ribbed and bodied, short, cobby and compact in excellent condition moved soundly with drive.

3rd Saunders Carmelfair Corocenzo at Oxfordogs

Limit 7 (3)

1st Bonds Olibond not a Bother

Well known dog who I have always admired from the ring side full of quality, pleasing head and eye, lovely neck and shoulders, well bodied not overdone, excellent legs and feet stands 4 square moved very well today with a wagging tail moves sound.

2nd Brookes Gino Della Scairanera of Bruxly (IMP ITA)

Black of a good shape and type with correct head and expression, good bone throughout, nice legs and rounded feet, lovely short hocks moved soundly round the ring.

3rd Proudler Kimapa Kwackers Kalon

Open 8

A quality class with outstanding dogs all worthy of their wins the top 3 were out of the top drawer and made my decision difficult

1st Morris Sh Ch Riondel Candyman JW

Blue dog with outstanding attributes, so short, cobby and compact a lot of dog in a small package, pleasing head and tight dark eye excellent legs and tight feet, deep rounded ribs, well rounded backend of which he uses so well to move around the ring, loved his cocker attitude and ever wagging tail deserves everything he has won.

2nd Burkinshaws Sh.Ch Gilcar Midnight Dream

Another excellent exhibit, Kind head and eye, good reach of neck and shoulder placement, well bodied throughout excels in rear angulation with short hocks moved soundly and in perfect coat and condition another worthy Champion.

3rd Williams Sh.Ch Wilmerella Outlander

Dawn Young (Canyonn)

Judge