

## **The Cocker Spaniel Club – 09/01/2022**

### **Cocker Spaniel Puppy and Veteran of the Year Competition**

I was exceptionally honoured to be invited to have the job bestowed upon me of judging the 2022 Cocker Spaniel Puppy and Veteran of the year competition. The committee and officers of the Cocker Spaniel Club made me so welcome, and I thank Derek, Sue, Wendy and all the team in the committee for the invite and hospitality. To the exhibitors I must say a massive thank you for your sportsmanship and kind words as you were knocked out in each round or defeated graciously in the semi finals and finals. My love for the Cocker Spaniel is always at the forefront of my time in dogs, and a breed I always have pleasure in handling occasionally or participating with the breed people in some way shape or form. Today my top honours went to what I considered to be fantastic specimens of the breed, and some variation in type in some cases but quality in abundance never the less. There are some dogs that were knocked out that I just wanted to mention as being a difficult one to call they are Penmartan Bright Knight and Glowhill Sweet Magnolia, two exhibits I admired very much and were unfortunate to meet the dogs they did in their respective rounds. I thank each and every one of you for entering and supporting this fantastic event, you've rekindled my passion for the Cocker Spaniel and may well see me in a ring near you very soon.

#### **Veteran of the Year (17,4)**

1. Cox's Sh Ch Gardenstone Pale Rider To Suvern JW. 8 year old male. Beautiful expression and workings in the head, well set ears, good length and strength in neck leading into well laid shoulders, beautifully ribbed and depth to chest with plenty of space for a functioning heart and organs. Good length of loin, strong back, well set tail, good rear quarters that are muscled and well built. Good length of hock. He moves with determination and effortless for his handler who showed him to his advantage. He was one I could not deny today.
2. Darby's Sh Ch Lujesa Magic Touch at Classicway JW. 8 year old bitch. This bitch I loved for her feminine elegance and her flowing with ease and no effort around the ring. Her head workings are divine, and ultra feminine with a soft gorgeous expression that just eats you up as you look into her eyes. She has a beautifully set neck and shoulders, plenty of rib and chest space and a good length of loin with a nice strong back, leading into a well set and well carried tail. She is another specimen of the breed that I loved for so many reasons, and I can see why her record of wins has gone before her. It was minor points I picked between her and the winner today.
3. Scotts' Kalispell Beaspoke. 9 year old male. Beautifully presented, lovely workings in the head and a well made body, he is a great mover and has so many advantages to the breed standard. He was just unfortunate to meet the top two today, but did so well to make the final three.

#### **Puppy of the Year (40,11)**

1. Wiggins Snowgate Onyer Bike to Scapafield. 14 month old Red male. Well isn't this a beautiful dog in so many ways!, I can see how he has done the winning he has done. His head is typical of a male and to my mind the definition of the breed standard. He has a well set neck which

leads into beautiful forequarters, good spring of rib, depth of chest and length of loin. He is shown in good condition and coat, and beautifully presented. He carries his tail well, and moves without any hesitation with strong reach and drive. He screams to be a stallion of a male but it not overdone in anyway. This dog could not be denied his honours today, and I am sure by the end of 2022 will be a champion undoubtedly. Having studied the catalogue subsequently I recognize I have admired his grandfathers offspring and descendants previously so it was no surprise he took my eye today.

2. Thomas's Claramand Cracker. 13 month old Orange roan male. This boy is another of quality, a little different in head workings to the winner, but his body and movement are second to none and he is a well made boy who could easily do a days work for sure. He took my eye from the minute he walked into the ring, and he didn't let go until those final few moments. By the end of the match he had started to show a little waning, but he still couldn't be denied the reserve pup of the year today. I watch with interest as he progresses.
3. Pearce's Kenwad Black Grouse at Miska. 11 month old black male. Well isn't this one to watch for the future, just giving a little away on age today in his maturity in head, but he has a body to die for, a coat that isn't too much but is beautifully presented all the same, and he can move with the best of them. I later discovered he had won Puppy Group 4 the day before at Boston Championship Show, and I'm sure you'll be seeing a lot more of this fine dog in the future. He's certainly a black stud dog of the future to be considered in my opinion.

Simon Whincup