

King Charles Spaniel

Judge: Mr A Allcock MBE

In a critique of a breed which I have owned, bred and loved, it gives me no pleasure to record that today was, perhaps, one of the most disappointing times I have stood in the centre of the ring. Essential requirements of squareness, bone, substance and compactness were decidedly lacking. Invariably, when these qualities were evident, accurate, free, sound movement and temperament was absent. It is a few years since I judged the King Charles Association Championship Show with 123 entries, when on that occasion, the headache was about separating high quality King Charles Spaniels and not having to compromise. I fully appreciate the geographical location of the showground coupled with a weekday can, on occasions, adversely affect entry numbers. Notwithstanding this, what has happened to the quality of the breed in such a relatively short period of time?

MPD (2 Entries) Abs: 0

1st: Hardiman's Tovarich Ticket To Ride. I particularly liked his size and shape; decidedly square in outline, sufficient bone and substance. Secure level back. Strong rear angulations. Lovely for neck. Good Coat for age. Moved with such a confident gait; front just to settle. A really happy chappy! BPD & BPIB
2nd: Kendall, Askins, & Wileman's Headra's Mad Hatter. Another very promising Blenheim youngster. In profile not quite as short coupled as 1. Really beautiful head features (with lozenge spot too!), well set ears. Great rise of skull, lovely eyes and cushioning. Excellent forequarters. Fabulous presentation. Close call between two most promising young males.

JD (1 Entries) Abs: 0

1st: Baker's Cofton Stars And The Moon. Tri colour. Presently slightly immature. Head proportions are balanced with the benefit of gorgeous eyes and well placed ears, perhaps appearing rather pretty. Lovely overall shape, level back, silky coat well broken coat. Chest to develop. Really happy confident showman. I perceive at 14 months he is slow to mature but predict that time will enhance all of these attributes developing into an impressive adult dog.

PGD (3 Entries) Abs: 0

1st: Cox's Petitpaws Black Prince. A well-built B/T and upon examination he feels like a King Charles should, supporting good bone and substance, excellent ribbing and depth of chest. Impressive head qualities and strong level back. Movement in profile was purposeful and strong. Considered for RCC.

2nd: Pearce's Downsbank Troubadour Over Ozzymoon. Well broken Tri with very attractive head qualities. Not the substance of 1. Tad straight in stifle. Moved OK.

3rd: French & Traynor's Celxo Vermouth On Ice

LD (5 Entries) Abs: 1

1st: Mallow's X-Jewel Od Dvou Orechu Binglei (Imp). Mature 2 year old B/T. Upon examination there is no denying that he is a King Charles Spaniel. Compact and Cobby; enough neck. Masculine head of balanced size; super nostrils and fill under those expressive eyes. Well set ears. Clean front and strong rear angulations. In the challenge, he totally out moved all others so could not be denied the DCC (his second).

2nd: Portingale Jacrianna's King's Ransome JW. Another attractive B/T. Coat rather curly today. Excellent for head qualities. Super for neck and shoulders; not the cobbyness of 1. Really happy showman.

3rd: Byer's Lanola Giorgio Armani With Simannie

OD (6 Entries) Abs: 1

1st: Jackson's Ch Amantra Treasury. This lovely Blenheim screams breed type and filled my eye. Beautifully constructed. Best of heads, neck and shoulders. I really thought he was going to be my CC winner but in the challenge he disappointed as he became rather lethargic and disinterested, particularly when moving. A very worthy Champion. In respect of breed type I awarded him the RCC.

2nd: Schemel's Tudorhurst Athos. Absolutely stunning for head, bone and substance. Not the overall compactness of 1. Beautifully presented sparkingly clean coat being straight and of a silky texture. In fact a lesson to many in presentation. Happy disposition.

3rd: Hunter's Maynorth Shades Of Heaven At Hoebarton

MPB (1 Entries) Abs: 0

1st: Jane's Toyswood Chasing Stars At Lesannlea. Small, lightly marked Tri colour. Sweet expression in a well-shaped head. Well placed ears. Would prefer more substance of body. Moved OK but tended to lean on the lead which should improve with confidence.

JB (6 Entries) Abs: 1

1st: Baker's Cofton Dusty Blue. Won a disappointing class. 19 month old Tri colour with well-balanced head, dark eyes and well placed ears. Excellent top line. Sufficient bone throughout. Moved steadily behind; a touch untidy in front. Excellent coat for age.

2nd: Cridland's Alizee Vom Weihertal TAF. Preferred her overall shape but not the expression of 1. OK for neck; secure back line. Good spring of rib. Would like to see more strength in rear movement. Presented in great order.

3rd: Cridland's Ellemich Drama Queen Avec Monleon

PGB (7 Entries) Abs: 3

1st: Austin & Baker's Miss E Cofton Dancing Though Life JW. Lots to like in respect of shape, bone and substance. A real show girl and lovely temperament. Super well broken coat and good body. Moved really well and considered for the RCC.

2nd: Blewett & Smith's Cofton Tallisker With Othmese. Well-built 2 year old B/T. Nicely proportioned throughout. Super black and tan combination. Strong rear angulations. Excelled in ribbing and top line. Just a touch longer in loin than 1. Steady accurate mover. Close call.

3rd: Stone's Mrs J C Maynorth Look Of Love

LB (6 Entries) Abs: 1

1st: Jackson's Amantra Truffle. Beautifully put together 2 ½ year old Blenheim. Gorgeous feminine head, eyes and ears. Good for length of neck, short level back and tail set. Ideal length of neck. A real show girl who never took her eyes of her handler. She presents such a typical outline on the stand demonstrating the correct square cobby silhouette which is requisite of the breed. CC (her 3rd) and BOB.

2nd: Goodwin's Lanola Mademoiselle JW. Lightly marked 3 ½ year old Tri. Another lovely girl supporting excellent head features. Excellent lay of shoulders and top line. Slightly longer cast than 1. Moved really well.

3rd: Hardiman's Tovarich Teanna

OB (6 Entries) Abs: 2

1st: Kendall & Askin's Cofton Winter Time Tale At Headra JW. Typical Blenheim head which is well shaped, of good finish and well filled under the eyes. Super bone and substance, especially in rib and chest. Moves superbly. It was a hard decision in the challenge to separate two top class bitches, each being quite different, but both with their own individual attributes. RCC.

2nd: Jensen's DK Ch Penemma Millie The Minx. Head shape OK. Would prefer wider and stronger finish to jaw and chin. Super placed ears and these were well furnished. Overall portrays a very attractive shape when standing. Not quite the width of chest and body of 1. A very impressive mover.

3rd: Stone's J C Maynorth Back To Black JW

Tony Allcock MBE