

King Charles Spaniel Club, 4 May

It's 25 years since I last judged this club's 99th championship show, held in Vauxhall, London. Then I made Ch Tudorhurst Treasure BIS with Ch Oakridges Crown Jewel the dog CC winner. If I look back then and compare with today, I think you deserve congratulations for a job well done though as with all things to do with dog breeding it remains a work in progress. There were probably more spectacularly beautiful heads then, Crown Jewel being a particularly good example. But I found plenty of lovely ones today, and what was especially satisfying is that many were among the younger entry. There are many more with good temperament today than was the case then. That is a real step forward in my view. And I do think movement has improved comparatively speaking. Only a few today were really awful, many more were competent and some very good indeed. I would hazard a guess that very few breeds, inside or outside the toy group, could produce a nearly 11-year old who moved and performed as well as my bitch CC winner, the quite wonderful Ch Tewhit Tandango. I'd never seen her before but I shall never forget her. Only the exuberance at the end of a long day of the much more youthful now champion Tucherish Sundown managed to lower her colours but it could have gone either way. So it was with the puppies, some very promising ones among them. But in the end I could not get past the enchanting baby, Amantra Regalist. All these wins from a splendid entry made by 168 Charlies.

Just one other point I'd like to make. As I see it, one of the biggest differences today from the past is the attitude of the breeders and exhibitors, especially in relation to

each other. Perhaps I shouldn't say so but I'm going to anyway: then there were some really quite dreadful people associated with this breed. Neverendingly at each other's throats when they weren't stabbing each other in the back. (Not all, of course, but it doesn't take many total - human - bitches to spoil a breed and stop it progressing.) Whereas now you seem to co-operate so well to the general good. Take your seminars for example, and the wonderful new Book of Champions you've brought out. That must have taken a lot of co-operation. I won't go into names because I'd be bound to leave worthy people out, but I do feel you all deserve a pat on the back. Maybe as an outsider these things are a bit more obvious than to those of you who are so close to the action.

Thank you all for a wonderful day. I wish you and the breed well for the future.

Veteran D (3, 1 absent) 1 Byers' Ch Maynorth Carnival at Simannie, quality headed tri who kept his outline especially well for age;

2 Salguero's Gayhalo Black Night at Madruga, admired his head & lovely nature. Not quite the outline of 1 but better in body.

Minor puppy D (8, 1) 1, best puppy in show, Fry & Jackson's Amantra Regalist, such a tpy headed tri, beautifully balanced, great quality, superb temperament, lovely outline standing & moving;

2 Randle & Pritchard's Lillijay Debonair Digby, different type tri, balanced, masculine, looked good going round. Winner's exceptional quality prevailed;

3 Moss's Amantra Regale Sombur.

Puppy D (10, 2) 1 Waters & Robins' Maibee Teddie, outstanding tri, all quality, gorgeous head, balanced, lovely outline, great going round. Showed well enough here, collapsed a bit in later competition but has time to get it together;

2 Gillhespy's Lorphil Copper Sunrise, such a well balanced ruby, beautifully balanced, has quality and the good temperament which was a joy to find in so many. Good head but it would take a lot to get past the winner there;

3 Zonenberg's Chateau Tudorhurst de la Montagne Ensoleillee.

Jun D (4, 1) 1 Bills' Claytonia Christiano, absolutely outstanding type blen, great quality, balanced, right body for age, glorious head. Needs to perform more but couldn't get past him;

2 Leach's Amantra Carte Blanche, blen, wonderful temperament, balanced, in good form. Later developer, needs more body. More accomplished than 1 who was so very good everywhere else;

3 Hardiman's We Will Rock You Tovarich.

Nov D (2) 1 Austin's Baldragon Big It Up, great temperament, body & showmanship, typical head;

2 Waters & Robins' Maibee Rebus, lovely type & quality, gorgeous head. Not the temperament of 1 on the day.

Grad D (6, 1) 1 Goodwin's Tucherish Stanley Diggle, beautifully balanced tri, shapely, best rib for age, typical head, lovely temperament, looked especially good on the move;

2 Gillhespy & Mallows' Tucherish Jolyon, smaller tri, especially lovely head, great quality, gorgeous temperament, moved with great verve. Just needs time for body, preferred balance of 1;

3 Smith's Justacharma Now He Is Magic.

Post grad D (11, 3) 1 Anderson & Watt's Maibee Blue Bayou at Nisyros, b/t,fabulous going round, superb outline, great rib & body, ideal balance, typical head though eye could be a touch bigger;

2 Fry & Jackson's Amantra Chocolatier, b/t, masculine,balanced, typical head, great rib, temperament to match. Winner more compact;

3 Maddison's Tucherish Angelo.

Limit D (9, 2) Very difficult class. 1 Plews' Tewhit Tedward Bear, masculine,quality, exceptional headed ruby, great rib,cobby, so beautifully balanced, in great form, stately on the move;

2 Portingale's Tudorhurst Brigadier, extrovert b/t,so showy, great going round. Winner's exceptional head decided;

3 Rushton's Tiflin Tudor Royal.

Open D (6) 1 Fry & Jackson's Amantra Cheers, glamorous tri, in huge coat, great quality, performed well for his exceptional handler;

2 Healy's Chacombe Jackson, tri, typical masculine head, competent performer. More compact than 1 but not his front or finish;

3 Lloyd'd Cwmhaf Forty Second Street.

B/t D (4, 1) 1 Coupland's Tucherish Sundown, outstanding balance, shape & quality, gorgeous head, great on the move, loved everything about him. CC, which I gather made him up, and BIS;

2 Askins' Ch Headra's Chocolate Box JW, such a lovely type, masculine quality head, good rib & coat. Winner's exceptional outline on the move decided;

3 Waters & Robins' Ch Rytonion Out of the Blue.

Ruby D (7, 1) 1 T Tedward Bear;

2 Stewart's Marchog MacFlannel, great quality, lovely on the move, typical quality head. Winner's rib decided;

3 Portingale & Pennington's Fr Ch Rodolphe des Trois Maillets (Imp Fra).

Tri D (4, 1) 1, RCC, Fry & Jackson's Ch Check Mate Amantra, gorgeous headed tri, moved especially well, great temperament in big coat, showed beautifully;

2 Smith's Ageancourt Magic Once More is Justacharma, lightly marked, masculine head, balanced. Not as quality or showy as 1.

Blen D (2) 1 Smith's Justacharma He Is Our Magic JW, lovely type & quality, masculine quality head, great rib, in superb form & coat, looked great going round;

2 Salguero's Tewhit Thespian, well marked, typical all round. Unlucky to come up against an outstanding dog on form.

Veteran B (3) 1, CC & RBIS, Plews' Ch Tewhit Tandango, when this quite wonderful tri won here I wondered if I would judge a better bitch. I didn't, and not because there weren't some lovely ones on show. Absolutely outstanding in every way - type, quality, balance, movement, her head is divine & her outline on the move flawless even at

nearly 11 years old. The only reason the dog went over her at the end of a long day was that he was still exhibiting exceptional attitude but it could have gone either way. Truly a great one;

2 Stewart's Ch Marchot Marilla, tri, lovely head & expression, great quality, extrovert. Winner scored in rib & was exceptional on the day;

3 Bills' Claytonia Athena.

Minor puppy B (6) 1 Ireland's Charnell Only Hope, promising headed tri, gorgeous temperament, balanced, good rib for age. One for the future;

2 White's Cavella Copper Glow by Joondalup, ruby, very much a baby but performed well, typical head;

3 Stewart's Marchog Mai Berry Rouge.

Puppy B (16, 2) 1 Juniper's Kasamanda Luck Be A Lady of Lewiscarol, superb headed tri, great quality & temperament;

2 Anderson & Watt's Maibee Lola, scopy tri, showy, quality head, lovely type. Preferred her balance to 1, whose exceptional head decided. Very close up;

3 Waters & Robins' Maibee Leah.

Jun B (9) 1 Waters & Robins' Maibee Layla, tri, lovely type & quality, gorgeous head;

2 Coupland's Tucherish Wkd Antoinette, tri, also lovely type, balanced & quality.

Winner's exceptional head decided, both could have shown better;

3 Stone's Maynorth Irresistible.

Nov B (5, 1) 1 Coupland's Tucherish Cleopatra, tri, so compact, feminine, quality, lovely head, great showgirl. Just needs finish;

2 Smith's Justacharma Something Magic, blen, such a good temperament, in good coat, pretty & feminine. Winner a bit better everywhere; 3 Bailey's Maibee Margot.

Grad B (8, 1) 1 Plews' Tewhit Thumbelina, blen, best mover, typical head, in form, great temperament;

2 Fry & Jackson's Amantra Chorus, lovely type, best head, great balance. Not the temperament or back action of 1;

3 M Irresistible.

Post grad B (19, 8) 1 Pascoe's Cwmhaf Ain't Misbehavin at Cwmtirion, tri, best head in class, superb rib & body, beautifully balanced, kept outline on move, competent mover;

2 Ireland's Charnell Dietrich, feminine, quality tri, cobby, shapely, good going round.

Winner's exceptional head decided although this was good too;

3 Coupland's Tucherish Sarsaparilla.

Limit B (13, 4) 1 Plews' Tewhit Titania, all quality tri of superb type, great head & expression, lovely outline, good going

round. Worthy granddaughter of my veteran bitch CC winner;

2 Anderson & Watt's Tiflin The Black Pearl at Nisyros, lovely b/t, such a superb temperament, balanced, quality, great showgirl, good on the move. Winner's

exceptional head decided;

3 Gimenes' Rosschild Lady May.

Open B (7, 2) 1 Zonenberg's Amande Douce de la Montagne Ensoleillee, tri, identical type to same owner's junior dog but classier & more compact. Wonderful shape &

balance, generous head, great going round, superb temperament. As her handler knows, my ideal lies with a different type;

2 Waters & Robins' Ch Maibee Emily,blen, similarly good shape, body & movement,in good form, kept an especially good outline on the move. Little to separate, preferred skull of 1;

3 Gurtner's Amethyst de Melcourt.

B/t B (7, 1) 1 Coupland's Tucherish Michaela, very feminine, quality, pretty bitch, in great coat & form, went well. Could have kept outline better;

2 Stewart's Marchog Maisie Budwigg, also feminine & pretty but not in coat.

Ruby B(4) 1 Stone's Maynorth Twice As Spice, lovely colour, active & typical,willing mover. Just needs more coat;

2 Mallows' Lorphil Copper Cobana Binglui, feminine, in lovely coat, pretty feminine head. Not moving well today;

3 Juniper's Lewiscarol Ameratto.

Tri B (5) 1, RCC, Gurtner's Multi Ch Veryan D'Ahotep, tri, glorious type & quality, such a typical femine head, in superb form, showed so well, movement to match;

2 Fry & Jackson's Amantra Winterberry, also lovely type, quality and balance, moved well. Outshown;

3 Blewett & Smith's Othmese Due Steren.

Blen B (0)

BRYAN MITCHELL

