

Manchester Championship Dog Show 2010

Friday 22nd January 2010

King Charles Spaniels

It's three years since I last judged the breed, so this was an assignment that I was very much looking forward to. Upon perusal of my previous comments, I note that I mentioned my concern about temperament and the overall soundness of the breed, particularly movement. I am delighted to report that positive steps forward have been made in both of these areas. The "shrinking violets" and the dogs that slouched around the ring in a crab like fashion are now the exception rather than the rule, and there were many examples within this representative entry of 65 that were soundly constructed and moved in a free and active manner with real drive from behind.

Presentation varied from just about adequate to the magnificent. I will share with you the words of my mentor from almost fifty ears ago: "Superb presentation can make an ordinary dog look great and the lack of it can make a great dog look ordinary". All these years later, the above could formulate a mission statement for all aspiring exhibitors.

You are all aware of the pressures and responsibilities that are placed upon all serious breeders, exhibitors and judges. To the genuinely committed I strongly recommend that you to do two things: first and foremost to immediately become a member of the Kennel Club's Accredited Breeder Scheme (A.B.S.), secondly to seek membership of the Kennel Club. Through the governing body of the sport, let your voice be heard to protect the health and fitness of the breed whilst retaining true breed type without exaggeration.

Puppy Dog 4 Ab 2

1. Downsbank Spruce

A composed tri of a pleasing size, I particularly admired his size, build and shortness. He has pleasing head properties, displaying excellent nostrils and a perfect mouth. B.P.

2. Stonepit Mister Adorable at Triciaville

A handsome blenheim of 11 months. Masculine headpiece, expressive eyes, he moved with drive from behind. I just found him a shade bigger and a little rangier than the winner.

Junior Dog 5 0 Ab

1. Nisyros Cool Hand Luke

The future of this youngster can be assured and I am happy to tip him for his title. A lightly marked tri, short, compact and well-ribbed. He has a beautifully shaped head with excellent arrangement of facial features, and generous, correctly set ear leathers. He showed and moved with great style ♦ his spectacular presentation was the icing on the cake. A credit to all concerned.

2. Maibee Theo (NAF)

Another handsome tri with such a happy, outgoing temperament. The same spotless presentation as the winner, and much of what I have written about the winner applies to this chap in separating him from the winner. I just found that I preferred the muzzle and jawline of Luke. A close decision

3. Tucherish Sundance

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Post Grad Dog 10 0 Ab

An excellent class.

□ 1. Kumbia Jazzmason (Imp)

This exhibit is an absolute joy to assess and typifies excellent breed type. He is generally pleasing throughout and displays the perfect temperament. Such a steady, composed showman. Whilst his presentation was adequate, if you move it into the realms of spectacular you will reap greater rewards.

2. Paulian Paddington J.W.

A very glamorous, eye catching blenheim with such a happy and exuberant temperament. Ideal size, the loveliest of type and excellent presentation. Will change places many times with the winner but today I made the victor of this class fractionally shorter.

3. Amantra Chieftain

Limit Dog 8 Abs 1

1. Ageancourt Magic Once More Is Justacharm

Here is a dog that is an absolute pleasure to assess, first and foremost he is perfectly sound. He is free from any form of exaggeration, radiates health and fitness and moves soundly with real drive from behind. Look into his large, masculine head and you will find all the necessary attributes, particularly an outstanding nose pad with the best nostrils of the day, a sound front assembly, an excellent body and perfect topline, superb muscle tone and moves with drive and freedom. He is the perfect combination of fitness, healthy soundness and temperament whilst retaining true breed type. I was delighted to award him his first ticket. If campaigned he is got to make his title.

2. Lillijay Debonair Digby

Stems from a line for which I have the greatest admiration. This all quality tri presented a real challenge to the winner. There is so much to admire here, in fact I would be perfectly happy signing a certificate for him. In the final

comparison I went back to the heads and I found the winner's head held fractionally more appeal. I just couldn't pass over his superb nose pad and nostrils.

3. Maibee Teddy

Open Dog 5 Abs 0

A good class with in depth quality

1. Ch Marchog MacFlannel

My admiration for this rich ruby has been consistent throughout his distinguished career, from awarding him first in a junior class as a raw youngster to short listing him in a group as the finished article. He is no doubt an outstanding representative of the breed. He radiates health and fitness and his presentation and conditioning borders on the magnificent. Moves soundly and true, today he took the reserve ticket.

2. Ch. Amantra Cheers

A handsome tri that is perfection in terms of size and build, a famous champion of repute and presenting me with much food for thought, a final move off and today I felt he couldn't match the superb movement of the winner.

3. Maibee Blue Bayou at Nisyros

Veteran 1 Abs 0

□ 1. Tewhit Thespian

□ I remember judging this attractive Blenheim over 6 years ago and now at 7 years he retains many of the virtues of his youth. Happy to re-acquaint myself with him. Just for the record, the last time I judged him he was 2nd in Postgraduate at the Southern Counties Show.

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Puppy Bitch 7 Abs 2

1. Headra's Clementine

A lightly marked tri that's sweet, feminine and utterly adorable. Lovely breed type, shows plenty of promise. Just needs to settle and learn ring etiquette.

2. Downsbank Valentina

A heavily marked tri of a good pattern, very similar in many respects to the above. I just made the winner slightly firmer in top line.

3. Ouzlewell's Carte D'amour

Junior Bitch 3 Abs 1

1. Tucherish Lucretia Borgia

A feminine b/t that is very much at the legs and wings stage of her development, but there's loads of promise and potential here. I adored her head piece and facial properties she's too pretty to be a dog!

2. Baldragon Heaven Scent

Pretty 13 month tri of a nice type and quality, particularly good nostril, but today not maintaining her top line as well as she should.

Postgraduate Bitch 5 Abs 0

This was not the most exciting class of the day.

1. Stonepit Penny Royal

A composed, sensibly sized tri, short and compact. She is an attentive show girl that gives of her best.

2. Maibee Margot at Aldoricka

A Blenheim that was something of a handful, being giddy and over exuberant. I particularly liked her body development and expressive eyes, but her lack of composure lost her the class.

3. Maenan Moon Angel

Limit Bitch 10 Abs

□ 1. Tucherish Wkd Antoinette

Today this glorious bitch ticked all the right boxes for me. She is of an ideal size, short and compact in stature, with perfect ribs and top line, and she moves and shows with the dignity of royalty. Look into her head and she ♦s deliciously feminine with the most exquisite facial qualities and excellent nostrils, perfect jaw line, generous, well set leathers. She possesses the rare combination of qualities that can satisfy the purist and all rounder alike! I simply loved her through and through, and was delighted to award her third CC and BOB. An outstanding champion.

2. Beechglen Daisy

A very honest tri, there ♦s a lot to like here, but regretfully she ♦s her own worst enemy. I just wish she had a more regal bearing and carried her head with pride.

3. Maibee Olivia

Open Bitch 7 Abs 0

An outstanding class

1. Ch. Amantra Winterberry

An outstanding and worthy champion of the most delightful breed type.

Soundly constructed and moving with drive and precision. She provided me

with a great sense of satisfaction that the breed can produce such healthy, fit and typical stock. Definitely the closest decision of the day between Winterberry and the eventual C.C. and B.O.B. It was literally the smallest personal preference that separated them. This bitch will go on to win more tickets ↻ today she was awarded Reserve C.C.

□ 1. Ch. Maibee Layla

Another outstanding Champion that does the breed proud. I liked everything about her and would have been happy in endorsing a certificate for her. Decisions have to be made and it was the smallest cosmetic difference of colouring and markings that swayed my preference.

3. Tucherish Michaela

Geoffrey Davies

Judge