

Crufts The Kennel Club 2023

King Charles Spaniel

I would like to thank the Crufts Committee for inviting me to judge. It was an honour and a privilege to judge at this, the World's Prestigious Dog Show. I owned my first King Charles Spaniel in 1975. I went to view a puppy with the Late Mrs Mollie Castle of the World-Famous Oakridge, one of the Doyenne of our breed. Judging at Crufts is always a day I shall treasure the rest of my life. Thanks also to my steward Ms Marion Sargent who kept things running smoothly and also to the exhibitors for their entry. To the many exhibitors a big thank you for entering under me and the packed ringside for the warm, sporting applause. I was presented with some of the world top quality dogs to judge with a lovely entry of 61 dogs.

I had 9 UK Champions and 2 Overseas Champions entered and exhibited. I would like to truly thank their owners for the honour and having the privilege to judge them. I felt that overall, the depth of quality was in the males. I was pleased with both my final line-up and found some excellent examples of the breed. I found all dogs exhibited were sound and fit for function and thank you for such a super quality entry. Having lost my appointment at the King Charles Spaniel Club due to cancelling the Championship Show, to hold two AGM's, this appointment was a dream come true. They don't come any bigger than Crufts.

BEST OF BREED: Ryan – Cavallibrook Blimey O Riley

Dog CC: Ryan – Cavallibrook Blimey O Riley

Dog RCC: Nevskaia & Gilevich – Ita Ch Lincoln Ot Nevskogo Hobbita

Bitch CC: Willey & Siddle – Ch Penemma Misty For Me JW

Bitch RCC: Rix – Ch Baldragon Fame Game At Ricksbury JW

Best Puppy In Breed: Goodwin – Baldragon Tailor Made For Diggle

Best Veteran In Breed Willey & Siddle – Ch Penemma Misty For Me JW

Class VPD (5 Entries) Abs:1

1st: Dawson & Jones – Chacombe Arizona For Pomelo

Lightly marked Blenheim, 8 years young, dog defying his years, in the best of coat and condition, well conformed with good layback of shoulder, so sound and positive on the move with continually wagging tail, presented in excellent condition. Son of a well-known Champion and was the first out of four sired by him to win their classes. I found this later, reading the Catalogue. **Best Veteran Dog**

2nd: Hunter – Maynorth Shades Of Heaven At Hoebarton

Ruby of a lovely very rich colour, 10 years young, dark expressive eyes, very cheery character with a lovely outline he moved well and presented in super condition.

3rd: Maddison – Penemma Raphael

Blenheim, 9.5 years young, very nice type, needs a little more body and would look more compact and cobby, still enjoying his time in the ring put on a good performance and moved soundly.

Class PD (5 Entries)

1st: Goodwin – Baldragon Tailor Made For Diggle

Tricolour, 9 months old, appealed for size and type, cobby and compact toy spaniel, good spring of rib, lovely head type, dense black nose with large open nostrils, dark round large eyes, good width of jaw, well low set ears, good straight front, well angulated hind quarters, with good bend of stifle, silky textured coat, his movement was a joy to watch he maintained a lovely outline and topline and he was enjoying every moment, very confident puppy for his tender age. Presented in excellent condition and handling to perfection moved at just the right pace. Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy In Breed

2nd: Bowles-Robinson – Tom Des Trois Maillets Baldragon (Imp Fra)

Blenheim, 11 months old, flashy well broken markings, again nice overall size, good body, and plenty of coat coming, has a pleasant expression and nice head, free sound movement and presented in tip top condition as were all from this kennel.

3rd: Austin – Baldragon Blinkin Hell TAF

Tricolour, 10 months old of a generally pleasing type, full marks for temperament, moved soundly and well handled, presented in lovely condition.

Class JD (4 Entries)

1st: Smith – Justacharma So Magic JW

Tricolour, 14 months old, this youngster is an excellent example of the breed. Liked his size and balanced outline, super head, low set ears and good dark pigment, his coat is of correct texture, well prepared and presented, he looked lovely with very free movement and overall an impressive picture, compact and cobby body, another that could gain his title when he is fully matured, looking so promising and was presented to perfection.

2nd: Nevskaia – Mefisto Ot Nevskogo Hobbita

Black & tan, another with lots of potential and nice size and well balanced, he has a beautiful head and expression, good black pigmentation, good dome, correct low set ears, and lovely straight coat texture, level topline, good body and substance, standing and on the move. Presented in pristine condition. Two very attractive dogs with little to choose between them for final placings.

3rd: Bailey – Aldoricka The Hustler

Blenheim, son of a well-known champion, lovely head, good dome and ear set often missing in this colour, requires a little more body with maturity these will improve his body, Needs to gain more confidence, moved soundly but must get his act together, excellent straight silky textured coat that was presented in super condition.

Class PGD (7 Entries) Abs:2

1st: Ryan – Cavallibrook Blimey O Riley

Tricolour, Excellent breed type, a very full masculine head, large round dark eyes, lovely dome, and correct ear placement. Really well filled under the eyes, yet soft, gentle mouth line, he reminded me so much of the Maibee kennel for type. Really outstanding quality exhibit, straight coat of silky texture, excellent pigmentation, super overall size, compact and cobby body, lovely neck and shoulder placement giving an excellent topline, strong rear action that gave him drive across the ring, his movement so free and true, a very happy showy boy, presented in pristine condition. I was thrilled to award him his first CC and Best of Breed. I am sure it will not be long before he gains his title.

2nd: Kendall & Baker – Cofton Tap Dance

Tricolour 3 years old, very expressive head, with the darkest of eyes, well balanced throughout, well set tail, movement very sound, straight front, moved very freely. Just needs to gain more body, this will come I am sure as he matures, has a lovely straight textured coat, Presented in sparkling condition.

3rd: Mochrie – Downsbank Indian Ink

Black & tan, head of good proportions, black nose and dark eyes, low set on ears, good neck, compact body, needs to gain a bit more confidence, moved ok. Shown in lovely condition.

Class LD (6 Entries)

1st: Arundel & Southam – Chacombe Fin

Tricolour, impressive in full straight silky coat, so well presented, full masculine head with plenty of fill under the eyes, excellent pigmentation and soft gentle expression, lovely rich tans, good neck and shoulders with level topline, well bodied, masculine head and low set ear, excellent pigmentation on nose and lips, good depth of ribs, legs and well boned but never coarse, very sound mover, who showed well for his handler. Very free sound mover, who showed so well to win this class, but sadly did not put all into his showing in the challenge, such a pity, I liked him a lot. He is of lovely breed type. I am sure when he gets his act together he will gain his title.

2nd: Jackson – Lankcombe Kings Speech Amantra

Tricolour, another nice exhibit, plenty to like about, good body and shoulders, pleasing head and expression, good pigmentation and coat, this dog scores on the move and really shines, was a joy to watch him move so effortless around the ring, presented in nice condition. I just preferred the softness of the winner's head, lovely to go over on the table.

3rd: Gillhespy & Kirschbaum – Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Chardonnay (Imp Ger)

Tricolour, super type, well-constructed, in good proportion, correct straight silky textured coat, lovely head and dark eyes, giving a soft expression, moved well in both directions and presented in lovely condition.

Class OD (8 Entries) Abs:1 (Excellent and quality class that was an honour to judge)

1st: Nevskaia & Gilevich – Ita Ch Lincoln Ot Nevskogo Hobbita

Tricolour, 2.5 years old. This dog stood out in a very strong class, loved his size and balance, superb coat qualities and presented to perfection, until you go over him on the table, everything just flows into place, beautiful outline, caught my eye on entering the ring, never put a foot wrong, sound construction with a good cobby body, appealing head with a lovely dome, dark eyes and black pigmentation, straight front legs, good rib and level topline, tail carried correctly on the move and when standing, impressive movement driven by strong rear angulation, moved effortlessly. Presented to perfection as were all from this kennel.

Very close decision today, had to settle for the Reserve CC.

2nd: Mochrie – Ch Downsbank Jeffrey

Tricolour, 4 years old. Excellent exhibit of lovely breed type, and similar size, moving he looked lovely, beautifully presented coat of silky texture, slightly arched neck leading to well laid shoulders, correct set tail well feathered, loved his bone, ribs and cobbiness, today I felt when standing he didn't quite match the winner.

3rd: Bowles-Robinson – Ch Baldragon Shoots He Scores

Tricolour 2 years old, well-known winner, another very nice exhibit, beautifully presented straight silky coat of good texture, slightly arched neck leading to well laid shoulders, level topline and pleasing tailset and well feathered. In my humble opinion, I would like him slightly shorter in back and more compact, not the finish of lips as the above, I felt that today he was just beginning to look tired not giving his best.

Class VB (3 Entries)

1st: Willey & Siddle – Ch Penemma Misty For Me JW

Blenheim 9.5 years young, I judged this girl at Blackpool Championship show in 2015 and awarded the CC and Best of Breed. What an absolute credit to the breed. Excellent breed type, compact and cobby with lovely bone and substance. Classic domed head with high-rise skull, with dark eyes, giving a lovely feminine expression, she has a perfectly placed nose placement, lovely pigmentation and wide-open nostril. Took my eye in the challenge and out moved everything. Not until the challenge, did I have any thought about giving her another CC, she out moved everything in the challenge and went around with such style and showed off her outstanding outline, still maintaining, a level topline, like a vintage wine just gets better and better, moved with such style with free-flowing action, presented in excellent condition and still has a silky straight textured coated. It was an absolute joy to handle her again almost a decade ago, what a credit to the breed. Thrilled and privileged to award her the CC, which I was told later was her 29 CC's. Best Opposite Sex & Best Veteran In Breed. Congratulations.

2nd: Baker – Ch Cofton Fairy Tale JW

Tricolour, 7.5 years young, another quality girl, today she looked really well, pleasing head, with dark expressive eyes and good pigmentation, lovely substance, bone and movement, full of confidence and holding a firm topline, in beautiful coat and presented in super condition.

3rd: Hunter – Tovarich Thomasina At Hooebarton Tricolour, 7.5 years young, pleasing head, eye and expression, moved soundly and presented a pleasing outline, not going as well as above, but a nice example of breed type, presented in lovely condition.

Class PB (1 Entries)

1st: Tess Des Trois Maillets Baldragon (Imp Fra)

Blenheim, almost 12 months, feminine puppy bitch, pigmentation slightly off today, with the most balanced head with dark eyes, lovely reach of neck, lay of shoulder and typical topline, compact and cobby body, coat of super texture and presented in such lovely condition, she moved well and soundly. Best Puppy Bitch

Class JB (3 Entries)

1st: Bowles-Robinson – Baldragon Forever Unique

Tricolour, 14 months old, she is of a pleasing size, feminine head, with lovely dark round eyes and excellent pigmentation, won this class been more mature and moved soundly, all three in this class were playing up for their owners!

2nd: Bailey – Aldoricka Sweet Victoria

Tricolour well broken with pearly white patches, just turned 12 months old, another youngster just out of puppy, showing lots of potential, she still has some maturing to do in

body, correctly carried tail, presented in lovely condition, moved soundly. Needs to get her act together, and that comes with practise, practise, practise! She was acting like a little madam being wilful, a typical Charlie.

3rd: Baker – Cofton Dancing In The Dark

Black & Tan, 15 months old, very pleasing overall type, good head with good nose placement, I would prefer a slightly darker eye, low set ears, good reach of neck, moved with purpose and presented in good condition.

PGB (6 Entries) Abs: 1

1st: Austin – Baldragon Gots Hattitude

Tricolour, 2.5 years old, nice head with pleasing expression, looked well on the move and close up on the table, well balanced throughout with good straight front, in between coats but what was there was very well presented, nice bone and substance would prefer her to be more compact and shorter in body, coat presented in super condition.

2nd: Hinson – Kerizma Krocus

Ruby, 5 years old, another very nice exhibit, unfortunately today, her pigmentation was slightly off, just a typical winter nose, well bodied, good front and rear assembly, balanced outline, moved soundly, on the green carpet her rich ruby colour gleamed.

3rd: Boyer – Evropa Ot Nevskogo Hobbita

Black & tan, 19 months, well-constructed, compact, she has plenty of character, straight front, well set tail, nice rise to skull, coat straight and silky textured which was presented in very sparkling condition, moved well, she is so well constructed just needs to settle.

Class LB (5 Entries) Abs: 1

1st: Byers – Simannie Maid In Wales

Tricolour, 3 years old, outstanding quality and type, so compact and cobby, dark large round eyes, and very good pigmentation, went well with correct level topline, today was being a typical Charlie, acting as a wilful madam and refusing to stand in the challenge, which cost her a major award. Won this class on having such a cobby, compact body, this kennel has such a lovely breed type and always able to get a good body on her dogs. I hope she gets her act together as I am sure she would gain her title. Presented in nice condition

2nd: Boyer – Ellinghurst Kiki Dee

Tricolour 4 years old, another of lovely breed type and giving her handler a hard time, although compact she lacked the cobbiness of the winner, typical feminine expression, moved soundly, good quarters and action, presented in super condition.

3rd: Lovel – Cofton Dreamed A Dream At Lovetrac

Tricolour 2 years old, I liked this exhibit and was of lovely breed type, she is a quality girl who just needs to body up and would look shorter, coat of correct straight silky texture and put down in sparkling condition.

Class OB (10 Entries) Abs: 2

1st: Rix – CH Baldragon Fame Game At Ricksbury JW

Tricolour, 2 years old, Beautiful well-proportioned head and lovely ultra feminine expression, dark large round eyes, well low set ears, well balanced, good compact body, correct front and sound rear, well presented coat of excellent silky straight texture, slightly arched neck, movement was sound, carried herself with style and presence, I just preferred

the finish of lips on the CC winner. Presented in excellent sparkling condition, I was pleased to award her the reserve CC.

2nd: Bowles-Robinson & Jones – Ch Chacombe Marana Baldragon

Tricolour, 5 years, Excellent quality and of lovely breed type, such a lovely feminine head well domed with large round dark eyes, well balanced cobby body, correct front and sound rear, this reflected in her outstanding movement, this was the hardest decision I had to make today such a pity, as I liked her a lot, presented in excellent condition.

3rd: Bowles-Robinson – Ch Baldragon Hold That Thought

Blenheim 6 years old, lovely head, excellent body compact and cobby, and lovely silky, straight textured coat, well presented, scoring in front and topline, nice head proportions, good rear movement, topline and tail carriage.

Stephen Randle Goodwin (Lanola)

Judge