

Crufts 2025 – King Charles Spaniel Dr Annukka Paloheimo (Anncourt, Finland)

Little did I know over 50 years ago with my first King Charles spaniels imported from the famous Zepherine and Tudorhurst affix that I will one day judge this breed at Crufts. Today I am a seasoned FCI all breed judge, but in my heart, I still am King Charles and Cavalier enthusiast. These breeds are special and would deserve more positive attention.

With such a long history in the breed, I was pleased with the overall quality, soundness and temperament of the entry today. May I congratulate all the breeders – you have worked hard to improve the breed in many ways, but of course the work continues.

Especially Open classes in both genders demonstrated the quality. I would gladly have awarded several CCs as all placed ones were top quality!

When getting ready to judge our brachy breed, I decided to pay special attention to open nostrils and breathing. I found only one or two exhibits with somewhat narrow nostrils, while the majority had excellent nostrils. The situation in many other brachy breeds is worse internationally.

I was positively surprised by the lovely temperaments – from puppies to veterans, I met only happy dogs. Well done!

The only wish I have is careful attention to proportions: cobby, rather square proportions is our goal. However, there were some with a bit shorter legs– please pay attention to this as depth of ribcage should equal length of legs for correct shape.

I wish to thank all exhibitors for presenting their dogs in gentle, professional manner. We had excellent ring stewards and, being first in the ring, we could allow enough time for all those needing it.

Thank you for a memorable day.

Dog, Veteran:

1. Downsbank Troubadour over Ozzymoon (Miss D M Pearce)
Lovely type and size, excellent body and bone. Lovely dome and width of jaws, such a balanced head, good expression, good open nostrils, good front and ribcage, in full coat, lovely tan, excellent attitude, happy mover with lots of energy.

Dog, Puppy: Lovely class of sound puppies

1. Headra's Bohemian Rhapsody at Poltomic (Mrs P Clarke)
Most promising head with the necessary width of skull, lovely profile, excellent jaws. Good nostrils, excellent bones, excellent coat texture, lovely markings.
2. Justacharma Magic Retained (Mr SS & Mrs GAJ Smith)
Lovely shape balanced medium head, skull could be touch higher, good nostrils, excellent bone, rear movement not yet ready, promising coat.
3. Rignolla Baby Raindeer (Ms Nd Rignall)

Dog, Junior:

1. Baldragon Dream Chaser at Lizlanmoor (Miss E Morley) Lovely balanced head with excellent shape of skull and width. Lovely eyes, good nostrils, excellent muzzle, excellent ear set, strong bone, good body, would prefer a bit more leg length, lovely temperament, sound mover with excellent topline.
2. Rignolla Baby Reindeer (Ms Nd Rignall), promising shape with good bone, excellent dome, excellent coat texture and perfect tricolour markings. Very sound but more immature.
3. Baldragon French Connection at Fochai (Miss J. Matches)

Dog, Post Graduate:

1. Helmajon Rhapsody in Blue (Mrs Abbott), Impressive dog, bigger size, very masculine. Strong head with excellent dome and profile, lovely wide muzzle, strong bone, would prefer a touch more leg length, good tricolour markings, excelled in soundness and movement.
2. Mitapit Special Edition at Poltomic (Mrs P Clarke), Lovely ruby, beautiful colour and excellent coat texture, lovely eyes, good skull, excellent nostrils, excellent ribcage, moves well
3. Othmese Regal Kynance (Miss D Ludlam)

Dog, Limit:

1. Helmajon Rhapsody in Blue (see previous class)
2. Wizzard Harry Fapella (Mr P. Fasora), excellent type, good size, ruby with substance, excellent ribcage and body, strong bone, lovely dome, good eyes, lovely deep colour, silky coat. Could have moved better today, unfortunately lacked concentration.
3. Headra's Jim Beam (Mr R & Mrs M Baker & Kendall)

Dog, Open (11, 2) What an excellent class! All placed would have deserved CC – how wonderful to witness the quality presented in this class.

1. Ch Baldragon Shoots He Scores (Mrs C Bowles-Robinson), I judged this handsome dog as a puppy some years ago and gave him CC and BOB. He has fulfilled all the promise, also as a sire of today's bitch CC winner. Bigger dog, excellent type and substance, handsome head with excellent skull and width of muzzle, excellent big open nostrils, excellent eyes, strong bone, excellent ribcage, enough leg length, excellent tricolour markings, full coat, steady mover with firm topline. With a lovely calm temperament, he represented the breed well in the main ring. CC & BOB.
2. Multi Ch Cavamirs Assam (Ms S and Mrs E B Nordin), Delightful tricolour with lots of energy and happiness, excellent proportions, excellent dome and profile, lovely expression, lovely free and light movement when settled, could do with some more weight. Reserve CC.
3. Valentino Mermoz Fapella Gray (Mr P Fasora)

Bitch, Veteran

1. Ch/Am Ch Marsward Black Magic Woman (Mrs M & Mr J Tuesley & Swaine), 10 years old black and tan, excellent silky coat in full bloom, excellent head shape, lovely expressive eyes, excellent bone, steady mover with firm topline. Credit to her owner! Best Veteran.
2. Cofton Reach for the Stars (Mrs Abbott), very feminine, excellent size, lovely skull and profile, excellent ears, good neck. Could have better drive today.

Bitch, Puppy:

1. Justacharma Magic Dance Dalshareon (Mr D & Ms Hayward & Walker), excellent proportions and size, very feminine, lovely expression, balanced head with correct skull, excellent bone and body, strong rear, happy mover. Best Puppy.
2. Headra's Killer Queen (Mrs M E Kendall), more immature, excellent skull, lovely eyes, good nostrils, correct bone, good length of leg, promising coat, positive mover.

Bitch, Junior:

1. Yeshalomi Day To Remember for Khatibi (Miss L & Mr J Tarabad & Whitham), Blenheim with excellent colour and markings, excellent proportions, lovely dome, good eyes, promising head, excellent bone and body for her age, steady happy mover with strong topline, lovely temperament.
2. Baldragon French Fancy (Mrs C Bowles- Robinson), excellent head with pleasing profile, excellent skull and width of jaws, good bone and body, could have been happier today.

Bitch, Post Graduate:

1. Marchog Moll Flanders (Mr N Robinson), excellent shape and size, lovely type, excellent eyes and expression, lovely profile and chin, excellent nostrils, good bone, excellent body, lovely ruby colour, good mover with firm topline but played with the handler.
2. Travtana Sound of Thunder at Marsward (Imp USA) (Mrs M & Mr J Tuesley & Swaine), stronger ruby with solid shape, skull could be a touch higher, good bone, very sound, good mover.
3. Chacombe Catch a Star for Seafar (Mrs L Rutter)

Bitch, Limit:

1. Winnie Fapella Gray (Mr P Fasora), black&tan, stronger female with excellent body and bone, good proportions, correct skull and width of jaws, rather wide tan markings on brows, correct coat, steady mover with excellent topline.
2. Lovetrac Katrina Baldragon (Mrs C Bowles- Robinson), smaller, very feminine tricolour with excellent expression, dome and muzzle, good coat texture but not in full bloom, excellent markings, sound mover but could be more outgoing today.
3. Chacombe Gladys Deacon at Cavallibrook (Mr K F Ryan)

Bitch, Open: What a quality class, many in the class well worthy of CC.

1. Ch Lovetrac Kamilla (Mr P Lovell), very smart, slightly smaller female in excellent condition. Cobby shape with enough leg length. Excellent tricolour markings, lovely silky coat, excellent profile, lovely expression, excellent chin, excellent precise and light mover with firm topline. CC.
2. Multi Ch Cavamirs Darjeeling (Ms S & Mrs E B Nordin), Medium size blenheim, full of spirit and attitude, excellent type, correct skull, lovely profile, excellent bone, carries herself so well, light positive movement, firm topline. In full coat with slight waves. reserve CC.

3. Ch Baldragon Fame Game at Ricksbury JW (Mr B Rix), lovely stronger female with excellent head, best dome and jaws, lovely expression. Strong bone, good proportions, unfortunately not in full coat condition today.