

## The King Charles Spaniel Club Open Show

3rd August 2025 at Baginton Village Hall CV8 3AB

I cannot but be grateful for the honour and opportunity I had been granted when I was invited to judge at the King Charles Spaniel Club's annual open show at Baginton Village hall on the 3rd of August in 2025. A huge shoutout goes both to the committee of the club, who organised the show so well and to all the devoted enthusiasts of this remarkable breed, who spent their Sunday in the middle of their summer holidays and showed under me in such great numbers. I believe that the breed has developed in the past few years, since I started to pay a close attention to Charlies. After having judged more dogs at this show, than the number of puppies registered by the Kennel Club in the past good few years, I cannot but take the opportunity to comment on some tendencies, which I think would not be wise to ignore. It was really interesting and surprising to note that not a single whole colour was shown in my ring with any mismarks on them, however the tricolours that are favoured by most judges at most shows are too often full of freckles on their white. Many of them lack the necessary amount of tan markings above their eyes and on their cheeks too. The breed standard specifically asks for well distributed black patches, so a totally white body on a tricolour is as much of a mismark as the lack of white blaze on the head. It seems like both the breeders and the judges have become very lenient about this. Weight and size is the other issue, with too many top winners being way bigger than what the standard suggests. I do believe that toy dogs shall remain within size, however challenging it may occur for us breeders to maintain the necessary amount of substance and bones. Luckily I did not have to report any health issues or other concerns for the Kennel Club.

### Class 1. Veteran Dog ( no entries )

### Class 2. Minor Puppy Dog ( 1 / 0 )

1. MITAPIP PERSEVERE , 8 month old ruby boy. Except for his coat, he is a very well developed puppy for his age. Solid bones, well sprung ribs, level top line. He moves very confidently, which is the result of his well angulated legs as well as his well laid back shoulders and good, long upper arm. He has a lovely warm expression. I am sure he is going to do very well in the long run.

### Class 3. Puppy Dog (3/0)

CHACOMBE HARRY ON DOWNSBANK A 9 month old try boy. Already a very nice head with big open nostrils. An elegant dog, moves well in spite of his young age. However everything is still very much under construction Had he not been so unlucky to meet the best bitch, an 8 month old puppy, he could have gone home as best puppy in show.

MITAPIP MACALLAN another 9 month old b&t boy. Another youngster that is true to his age in every possible aspect. Especially when it comes to experience in the ring. Other than that, an elegant head, short and level back and lovely rich, tan markings on well presented shiny black coat.

### Class 4. Junior Dog (1/0)

HEADRA'S BOHEMIAN RAPSODY AT POLTOMIC 15 month old tricolour boy. A very soft, but regal expression on his intelligent face. A perfect dome, low set ears with plenty of feathering.

Good front, well laid back shoulders. I was happy to see him being rewarded the RCC a few hours later in the champ show.

#### Class 5. Novice Dog (4/0)

BALDRAGON PARDON MY FRENCH A 19 month old tricolour boy. A bit heavily marked, but otherwise nice coat. The ideal size with good solid bones all over. A well balanced dog who unfortunately wasn't finding it the best idea to be at the show today.

MITAPIP ROYAL COMMAND A 3.5 year old lack and tan boy. Good size, lovely head and a lustrous coat. A bit weaker on hind movement than the winner.

#### Class 6. Graduate Dog (3/0)

HEADRA'S BRUCE An almost 3 year old tricolour boy. A fully developed coat, that is evenly marked. Elegant head, an energetic mover and friendly on the table. The sweetest temperament, which is so welcome as way too many are lacking it in this breed.

BALDRAGON PARDON MY FRENCH A 19 month old tricolour boy. ( see in the previous class)

#### Class 7. Post Graduate Dog (4/1)

BALDRAGON FRENCH CONNEXION AT FOCHAI a 19 month old tricolour boy. Lovely cobby body, deep and wide chest, solid bone and a very masculine head. As soon as the coat develops , this boy shall achieve a lot.

HEADRA'S BRUCE an almost 3 year old tricolour boy. ( see in the previous class)

#### Class 8. Limit Dog (5/0)

BALDRAGON DREAM CHASER AT LIZLANMOR JW A 20 month old tricolour boy. So much to offer already. A lovely and really carefully presented coat, soft but still masculine expression and head. Short and level back, good enough bone and seems totally in love with the handler. A confident and elegant mover. Soon after this show, he finished his title, which I could not but agree with. Another worthy champion.

2. BALDRAGON BLINKIN HELL An almost 3,5 year old tri boy. Fully developed, plentiful coat, evenly marked. A short and level back and very well angulated hind legs, which is most welcome in the current state of the breed. Unfortunately he was another one which was not really feeling the show buzz today.

#### Class 9. Open Dog (8/2)

CH & AM CH MARSWARD MY MASTERPIECE A ruby gentleman , just a few days before his 8th birthday. A total show stopper as soon as he walks into the ring. Not only the ideal size, but every other detail is in harmony and balance. Cobby and masculine in every possible way with a wide and deep chest and well rounded ribcage, but still manages to move with such elegance and pride, never putting a foot wrong. A rich dark ruby coat covers the short and level back and enough length of neck that connects his masculine and perfectly domed head to the rest of the dog. No

dog is perfect but I really would have to think very hard to try and find faults with this dog. Today he was my best dog and best in show.

CH MONLEON MADE BY MAGIC FOR MARCHOG At 5 years and 10 month old this Blenheim dog is definitely in his prime. Having to place my dogs in this class was a real heart break. A class full of super star champions. This boy is also a very well deserved holder of his title. He manages to pack everything that the breed standard asks for into his nice small frame. Perfect angulations and proportions all over. Beautiful white coat without any freckles and with evenly distributed rich red patches. A correct mover and his head and expression is very elegant too, but today somehow he was just not as enthusiastic to be in the ring as the winner.

#### Class 10. Special Open Dog (confined to black and tan and ruby) (4/0)

DOWNSBANK INDIAN INK A 4 year old black and tan dog. Definitely the best head in the whole show, but probably amongst all currently living Charlies as well. His spectacular head consists of a perfect hemisphere of a dome above large dark brown, round eyes. His jaw bone is wide and masculine, the cheeks have the ideal amount of cushioning, the lips perfectly touching. Low set, well leathered ears with lustrous amounts of coat. A judge cannot only reward a dog strictly on one outstanding merit and this dog has a lot more to offer too. Ideal size, beautiful coat, presented very well covering a very balanced body and good strong, well muscled legs. If only he managed to concentrate a little bit more and remain collected even in the challenge. Still I had to name him my reserve best dog and reserve BIS today, without much hesitation.

TUCHERISH ANDREW CARNEGIE An almost 6.5 year old boy, also a b&t. An even more ideal size than the winner, lovely expression, elegant head. The well presented coat is shiny black with very rich tan markings in the right places. A short and straight, level back, good boned and enough muscle tone all over. His hind is a little bit lacking the ideal amount of drive while going away. .

#### Class 11. Special Open Dog (confined to tricolour and blenheim) (1/0)

1. ALDORICKA THE HUSTLER A 3.5 year old blenheim boy. It is rare to see a blenheim in such a beautiful coat in this breed. Especially the long feathers on the low-set ears, but the pristine, snow white body with evenly spread deep red markings is very eye-catching too. This covers a masculine dog with solid bones, a good chest and well laid back shoulders.

#### Class 12. Veteran Bitch (5/1)

Ch & AmCh MARSWARD BLACK MAGIC WOMAN A 10.5 year old black and tan lady.

A grand lady who still can outshine most of her competition in the ring. The head is so elegant and regal that one just cannot stop marvelling it. Everything is still very balanced, her short and level back, the well sprung rib cage, the good angulations while looking at any possible angle. She still can move surprisingly well for her age. Today she was my best veteran and reserve best bitch. She has definitely proven herself as a brood too as she is dam of the BIS winner.

Ch CHACOMBE MARANA BALDRAGON An 8 year old tricolour bitch. Another very worthy champion who was very unfortunate to meet the winner in her class today. Lovely bone structure, great condition and coat, evenly marked. A happy and cheerful mover.

#### Class 13. Minor Puppy Bitch (2/0)

BALDRAGON REMEMBER ME An 8 month old tri baby girl. She is very well developed, especially for her age. Already oozing with quality and it can only get better in her case. A very elegant and confident mover, already in perfect harmony with her handler. The high of the summer is the season when most bitches are out of coat, but she still has plenty. The coat is evenly marked, her whites are snow white, without any freckles. Friendly and well behaved on the table, where I was able to touch well laid back shoulders, a firm and level, short back. Well angulated and very balanced. I was most happy to reward her the title of best bitch and best puppy in show. Later on the day she also managed to win the BCC in the championship show, which was already her second one. Before this critique was finished, I was happiest to learn that she managed to finish her title and become a champion. That is more than impressive for a minor puppy bitch.

RIGNOLLA DEVON DREAMER WITH POTBELLI Another 8 month old baby girl, but this time a blenheim. If the winner is a very mature puppy, this sweet flower is the opposite. Apparently blenheims need a bit more time to mature and she is a true blenheim. Very much of a cute puppy, but already moves well and has a lot to offer. A lovely, soft feminine and elegant head and expression. If anyone doubts that dogs can smile, just go and meet her. Deep red and evenly spread markings on pristine white coat that is still under development. A friendly, charming temperament on the table too. The handler and her seem to be very happy with each other, which is always a delight to see.

#### Class 14. Puppy Bitch (3/0)

BALDRAGON REMEMBER ME An 8 month old tri baby girl. (See above)

MITAPIP TATIANNA TOVARICH A 9.5 month old black and tan bitch. Again a baby girl, who is typical of her age. Still moves and acts like a friendly puppy, but why should she not?! A sweet, feminine expression, nice wide jaw, good open nostrils.

#### Class 15. Junior Bitch (3/1)

JUSTACHARMA MAGIC TRIX FOR LIZLANMOR A 16 months old try girl. Apart from the even blaze and nicely feathered black ears, she is a totally white bitch. Typical of the season, she has just dropped all her coat, but at least one can see her good construction. Namely a great front with well laid back shoulders, a short and level back. Also well angulated in the hind. A good enough mover, but still has to gain a bit more confidence in the ring.

HEADRA'S SOMEBODY TO LOVE A 15 months old try girl. A true toy spaniel with a very feminine and elegant head, but definitely before her full maturity. Short and level back, her anatomy seems well constructed and balanced from front, side and hind as well. A bit reluctant to make new friends, but this will also come with some practise.

#### Class 16. Novice Bitch (5/2)

BALDRAGON REMEMBER ME An 8 month old tri baby girl.(see above)

MITAPIP LIMITED EDITION An almost 3 year old ruby girl. A very feminine bitch with delicate features. Soft expression and very elegant head. Enough coat, that is presented very well. The show ring is not her most familiar place just yet, but it is definitely worth it to pursue.

#### Class 17. Graduate Bitch (2/0)

JUSTACHARMA MAGIC TRIX FOR LIZLANMOR A 16 months old try girl. ( see above in junior bitch)

HEADRA'S SOMEBODY TO LOVE A 15 months old try girl. (see above in junior bitch)

#### Class 18. Post graduate Bitch (4/1)

TRAVLANA SOUND OF THUNDER AT MARSWARD An almost 2 year old ruby girl. A solid, cobby and stocky lady through and through. Good bones, deep and wide chest, well laid back shoulders, nice and round rib cage. A confident and powerful mover.

MARCHOG MALL FLANDERS An almost 2.5 year old ruby girl. An elegant, feminine small bitch. Lovely domed skull, wide open nostrils, good colour and pigmentation, enough coat. She was not as confident in the ring as the winner.

#### Class 19. Limit Bitch (3/1)

MITAPIP NIGHTSHADE A 3 year old black and tan girl. The right size, short and level back , good bones, a nice and elegant head and expression.

BALDRAGON GOTS HATTITUDE A 4.5 year old try lady. A stocky, solid, robust lady that has well defined features, especially her good solid bones, well laid back shoulders, deep wide chest. She has already proved herself as a successful brood, as many of her off spring have appeared in this show as well. Another one that had decided not to want to reach her full show capacity today.

#### Class 20. Open Bitch (2/1)

BALDRAGON CENTRE STAGE WITH KHATIBI JW Another tri lady who is a bit over 4 years of age. A well deserved champion, a famous show girl whom I have long admired in the show rings. She still has it all, the lovely and feminine head with the most elegant and regal expression, the right size with great bone structure and rib cage, the short and level back. Unfortunately today she just decided not to want to be there at all. Not on the move and especially not on the table. see above in junior bitch)

#### Class 21. Special Open Bitch (confined to black and tan or ruby) (3/1)

MARCHOG MUFFINS FOR TEA An almost 3 year old black and tan lady. Just on the verge of her full maturity. Ideal size but still cobby and good boned. Good front with well laid back shoulders and a well rounded, barrel-like rib cage. A friendly and approachable character. She is redeveloping herself after a litter of puppies, but there is definitely a lot to look forward to.

MITAPIP LIMITED EDITION An almost 3 year old ruby girl. (See above in novice bitch)

#### Class 22. Special Open Bitch (confined to tricolour and blenheim) (2/1)

1. ELLINGHURST KIKKI DEE A tricolour lady, who has just past her 7th birthday a few weeks before the show. An ideal size with everything that matters packed into this small hamper. Namely a lovely, classical type of head and a short and level back, ideal amount of bone. Her coat is plentiful and groomed to perfection. She was a bit reluctant to move but still managed to move well enough.