

**Bath Championship Show – King Charles Spaniels
Friday 25th May 2012**

A glorious day dawned for me to judge King Charles Spaniels at Bath Championship dog show. My thanks go to the show officials for inviting me to judge at this extremely well organised show. Thank you to my two, very able stewards, who kept the ring in first class order. Also my thanks go to all the exhibitors for their wonderful entry. It was indeed a privilege to judge such a quality entry.

The majority of the Charlies that I judged today are a credit to our breed. I was able to find an excellent selection with gentle and affectionate temperament, large, dark eyes, well domed and with good rise to the skull. A few lovely dogs in the ring today need to improve their attitude to showmanship if they are to be highly placed and sadly a few would have benefited from more correct construction and more correct toy spaniel size. A real concern is that we still have dogs whose movement could be improved, particularly from behind; however I was well pleased with the movement on my winners, who also possessed long, silky coats with plenty of feathering. My final decision in awarding the CC's was that the tricolour dog Ch. Maibee Theo scored in absolute true breed type for B.O.B. over the very sound moving tricolour bitch Amantra Charmful at Amantra. I awarded Best Puppy and the Res. Dog CC to a glorious B/T youngster Tudorhurst Pirate King who captivated my heart due to his excellent breed type and showmanship with just a hint of naughtiness. Just loved him.

Minor Puppy Dog (7, 2 absent)

This class gave me great pleasure to find many puppies of true breed type. The first two could easily change places on another day.

1st Fry & Jackson REGAL IMAGE OF AMANTRA

What an exciting puppy to find in the first class of the day and certainly one that is the image of well bred Amantra stock. An absolutely delightful tri 6 mth old dog with a correctly marked, silky coat. His head has the makings of an excellent domed skull, showing fullness over his large, dark eyes, wide open nostrils and low set ears. Although raw in body, just as he should be, he is short in back and held a level topline both standing and on the move. Straight front and acceptable hind movement for his age. He has all the makings of a future Champion, I'm sure.

2nd Mochrie DOWNSBANK NOCTURNE

Well balanced B/T with bright tan markings in all the correct places. This boy has an excellent body shape, compact and cobby, deep chest with good spring of rib and short back. Arched neck, shoulders well laid back, level topline and a pleasing head. Well-feathered ears set on low. Straight, front movement, and will, with age no doubt strengthen behind. This owner is to be congratulated on the coat condition of her pup.

3rd Essex TUDORHURST BUCCANEER AT BRENDEK

Puppy dog (9, 1absent)

1st Pennington and Portingale TUDORHURST PIRATE KING

The first impression this youngster offers would suggest that he must be assured of a very successful future. Whilst our breed standard talks about being reserved, someone has obviously forgotten to tell this young B/T. I just loved him. He has so much showmanship and attitude. His outline of a short, cobby body, that has already a deep chest, level topline and proud neck carriage and is so correct he could not be denied his placing and the Res. CC. Gorgeous head with melting, large dark eyes, and coat in gleaming condition. As everyone in our breed knows, I do enjoy showing whole colours myself and this boy is one of the loveliest whole colour puppies I have had the pleasure to judge. Best Puppy.

2nd Kendall & Askins HEADRA'S WEDGWOOD

A mature tricolour pup with exceptionally positive, rear movement. A happy pup, as were all of this exhibitor's dogs, with a gentle and affectionate temperament. I just preferred the rise of skull of the first and slightly shorter back.

Junior dog (3, 0 absent)

1st Kendall & Askins HEADRA'S WEDGWOOD

2nd Byers PAULIAN ERNEST

A lightly marked blenheim with a large skull, wide open nostrils and plenty of width to his muzzle. Long well feathered ears, very good body with ample ribcage and level back when standing. Looks okay in profile, moving around the ring, although occasionally he drops his topline when pulling too strongly. Preferred the rear driving movement of the first.

3rd Maddison MITAPIP MIDNIGHT MARAUDER

This B/T is a very attractive boy but I must just mention that if he is to be more highly placed then his owner must get him to move on a slacker lead and not string him up as his whole backend movement is badly affected at the moment.

Post Graduate dog (8, 1 absent)

1st Schilizzi & Healy BALDRAGON ROYAL WARWICK OF CHACOMBE J.W.

A really lovely type of tricolour dog so sound and well balanced. Beautifully marked coat on his non show side. He excels in size, head and nose placement. Darkest of nose pigment and lovely large, dark eyes. Long, well feathered and correctly set ears. His coat was in gleaming condition. Short coupled, well ribbed body with a lovely straight front. Good depth of forechest, arched neck flowing into well laid shoulders, level topline and correctly set tail. My eyes were constantly drawn to him and one I considered for higher honours. A pleasure to judge.

2nd Wallhead SLEEPYHOLLOW TRIKKI DIKKI AT MERIDA

Another well marked tri. that is just lovely to go over on the table. Of ideal size, short coupled with beautiful large, dark eyes and good rise to skull. Well balanced throughout. Extremely well presented.

3rd Naylor MAENAN MR MOONLIGHT

Limit dog (8, 0absent)

1st Essex, handling for Fry & Jackson AMANTRA OLIVER TWIST

This typical ruby boy had one of the best “Charlie” body shapes on the day. Mature with good spring of rib and well turned stifles. His front construction is good, allowing plenty of heart room between his deep chest. His coat was in excellent condition, he has long, well feathered ears. He has an exceptionally good, straight front and is short in the back. This dog is not an easy one to show and I have seen him let himself down on many occasions. He did enough today to win this class.

2nd Mochrie DOWNSBANK SPRUCE

Mature tri. dog with very good body shape, level topline on the move and correct tail set which is in overall balance with his body. You can see that this dog is well exercised, due to his good muscle tone and driving rear movement. Attractive head and eyes and rich tan markings.

3rd Kendall & Askins HEADRA’S CHOCOLATE D LITE

Open dog (5, 1absent)

1st Moffat & Robins CH. MAIBEE THEO

This top winning tri dog is certainly a tremendous ambassador for our lovely breed and epitomises the best of breed type. Beautiful head, well domed skull that is full over his darkest of eyes. Blackest of nose pigment, wide open nostrils and well defined stop. Well cushioned cheeks, and long, low set ears. Mature in body as one would expect for his age, good depth of chest and excellent spring of rib. Long coat of the silkiest texture that glistened and

complemented the sunshine. Looks great in profile moving around the ring with so much ease and was totally at one with his handler. From the look in his eyes you can see his reserved and gentle temperament. A pleasure to judge and award a dog, his 25th CC, I am told, and B.O.B. Thank you for bringing him.

2nd Fry CH. AMANTRA REGALIST

A well deserved Champion tri. dog, sadly today just lacking in body weight and coat. However super breed type with a most attractive well domed head. Firm front movement and moved well in profile.

3rd Maddison ALAMBRA RICH RUBY

Minor puppy bitch 7, 1absent)

1st Hardiman LEVICOS LADETTE TO LADY

7mth old B/T pup that was an easy winner in this class due to her being very well schooled, pleasing breed type, compact and cobby body. Good neck and shoulders, level topline and correct tail set with an ever wagging tail. She has all the essentials to continue to win well in the future.

2nd Essex TUDORHURST BEATRICE AT BRENDEK

Another B'T pup of very similar outline to first however I much preferred the front movement of first. She possesses the makings of a good coat with rich tan markings and correct texture. At present she is a little strong in underjaw.

3rd Lewis CARLEETO SWEET MELODY

Puppy bitch (4, 1 absent)

Although only three present in this class and all being slightly different in size and breed type, they could all win on another day.

1st Schilizzi & Healy BALDRAGON ENVY ME OF CHACOMBE (NAF)

A stunning tri. bitch, daughter of the dog CC winner, who eventually got it together on the move to win this class. She has a classic, captivating head, with excellent rise to skull, ample cushioning to cheeks and plenty of width to her muzzle. Large, dark eyes, set well apart, compliment her very pretty expression. She carries herself proudly, neck well arched with positive, elegant movement both ways. One certainly to watch out for in the future.

2nd Mochrie DOWNSBANK EVENSONG

A slightly smaller, neat tri. bitch who has a lovely outline both when standing and in profile on the move. Again a beautiful head, and with great clarity of markings on a well presented coat. Well set, low hung ears with plenty of feathering. Ample depth to her chest, short in back and holding a level topline.

3rd Kendall & Askins HEADRA'S CAVERSWALL

Junior bitch (5, 1 absent)

Again, although only four in the class and with the first three already having won extremely well in their short careers so far, difficult choices had to be made.

1st Goodwin AMANTRA QUEEN OF CLUBS AT DIGGLE

An attractive B/T bitch who is so well schooled, and moved impeccably today. She is deep and short in body, holding a level topline both standing and in profile. A joy to watch moving so elegantly around the ring. Her rich, glossy black coat is silky in textured, has rich tan markings and was immaculately presented. She has a pleasing head, very pretty dark eyes, although a little strong in underjaw at present.

2nd Sidgwick PAULIAN AMAZING GRACE

A young tri. toy spaniel, who has already been extremely successful in the show ring. Lightly marked coat, with a pretty head that has the desired wide, white blaze between her dark eyes and up her forehead. Her body appears, in my opinion, due to her lack of coat markings, to look

longer than it actually is. At her age she has plenty of time to spring more ribcage, perhaps after a litter. Sound, confident mover.

3rd Kendall & Askins HEADRA'S CAVERSWALL

Post Graduate bitch (8, 1absent)

1st Robinson BALDRAGON ALL ABOUT ME J.W.

Extrovert tri bitch, short in back and with ample depth to her chest. Very good rise to her skull, most attractive expression, and long, low set ears. Strides out well covering plenty of ground. Just a tad proud of her tail which unfortunately, for me, spoils the overall picture, but a real quality bitch and one that will continue to do well in the future.

2nd Naylor MAENAN MOON DREAMER

I really admired this short coupled tri bitch that fits the standard well. Very stylish on the move, driving strongly from the rear. A pleasing size, cobby body, level topline good turn of stifles and very good tail set.

3rd Blewitt & Smith GMACRYSTALS QUARTZ AT OTHMESE

Limit bitch (8, 0absent)

1st Searle STONEPIT DOLLY DAYDREAM

Attractive headed blen. bitch that scores well for breed type. Lovely size, mature body shape, cobby and compact. Very good nose placement and large, dark eyes enhance her expression. Moved particularly well in profile but needs to strengthen at the rear.

2nd Fry & Jackson AMANTRA SUMMER LACE

Classic head on this well marked blen. bitch. The most beautiful eyes in the bitches today. Mature in body and with good bone although not as short in back as first. She moved out extremely smartly.

3rd Goodwin MAIBEE CLEMENTINE OF LANOLA

Open bitch (8, 0absent)

1st Kendall & Askins AMANTRA CHARMFUL AT HEADRA

Mature tri bitch, who outmoved all other bitches on the day due to her most correct construction. She may not be have the prettiness of other winning bitches but she has a head full of “character” and expression that are so special to her. She is short in back, appears cobby and compact, holds a level topline both standing and on the move. The rapport between this correctly sized bitch and her handler was a joy to watch and she was my choice for the Bitch CC, her 3rd.

2nd Dix CH. PAULIAN PRUDENCE FOR BEEWYE J.W.

A tri. bitch who excels in the showmanship department, she adores her handler and it certainly shows. Her coat is well marked, has good length to it and was in very pleasing condition. She is a lovely bitch of excellent breed type with the prettiest of heads, long well set ears and dark eyes. She holds a level topline both standing and on the move, has a good turn of stifles and correct tailset. Reserve CC.

3rd Moffat MAIBEE EMELDAMAY

Lorraine Gillhespy