

Northern King Charles Spaniel Club Breed Championship Show Sheffield 14th April 2012

An honour and a privilege to be invited to judge the breed at Club Championship level again, tinged with sadness as well all stood to dedicate the show to Shealagh Water's memory, a true friend to me, and to many others, as well as to the Charlie and Cavalier breeds. Her sudden loss should remind us all to be decent to one another, since there is a meaning to life beyond the dog game, and to strive to emulate Shealagh, to leave our chosen breed(s) in a better and healthier state than when we began.

I was thrilled to discover the entry exactly matched that of Crufts, since 102 exhibits made 116 exhibitors with just 16 of the 102 absent.

The King Charles has a gentle demeanour all its own and is rarely a "showing fool" as it prefers to weigh up its environment and partake of its masters hobby very much on its own terms. I made allowances for this, particularly amongst the youngsters.

Quality was very varied and, whereas the breed has made material progress in addressing conformation and the ability to move true and in a single "plane", I was surprised to find the old bugbears still with us of upright angles, front and back, coupled with a narrow, twisted front and a roached back with sharp "tuck-up" giving stilted movement, and all this in the one exhibit, not spread across several. I wanted a cobby Charlie, yet with enough elegance which, of course, is more easily achieved on the move with one that is longer in loin. It is the art of combining cobbiness with good angles and elegant, free movement which is and all ways will be, the challenge for the dedicated Charlie breeder.

Veteran Bitch (3, 0)

1st East's CH Nastane Sweet Fanny Adams, Fabulous, glammy tri bitch of 7 years: lovely head, well marked, moved true: essence of breed character as she looked at me with disdain; needs no more weight.

2nd Fry's CH Amantra Winterberry, Contrastingly super fit 7 years old tri; gorgeous head and eye with open nose pad; has elegance and style but not the front of above.

3rd Smith's Justacharma She's Magic

Minor Puppy Dog (5, 1)

1st Leech's Ouzlewell's Luciano, Well put together tri with well broken markings; good in head and eye, well balanced and matured; moved with soundness and elegance, as his structure indicated he should, full of quality with plenty of consistent winning to come.

2nd Spour & Coburn's Baldragon Berkeley for Khanandro, This lightly marked tri scored in skull; attractive face; quality, balanced lines; another sure to do well as he comes together.

3rd Morris's Lichens Windstar

Puppy Dog (5, 1)

1st Anderson & Watt's Maibee Lucus 10 month tri son of the BIS winner and, as and when he deigns to co-operate, has every prospect of becoming a title holder too since he has such an arresting compact outline when setup on the table with a headpiece to match, excelling in skull; well ribbed; perfect size; let's hope that once outdoors, his brain will kick in too.

2nd Askin's & Kendall's Headra's Wedgwood, Rising 10 month tri of enormous promise, less mature so a touch longer cast and looser in front but so strong in tear with drive off his hocks; good in skull, eye and earset; arch to neck; level; classy.

3rd Fry's Amantra Summer Chatter

Junior Dog (8, 2)

1st Schilizzi & Healy's Baldragon Royal Warwick Of Chalcombe (JW) Tri litter brother to the Reserve Bitch CC; so stylish at almost 18month but just needs to couple up; domed skull; good eye & ears; broken markings; so well made so moved cleanly fore & aft; showy & elegant; good bone & feet; another 18months to come to his best?

2nd Clarke's Stonepit Brave Bertie At Poltomic 15months tri; shorter coupled with good rib; most expressive face with good features; just a little "raw" overall, being at the teenager stage, so less collected on the move; very promising.

3rd Singleton's Corrinwood Mc Fly Celxo

Yearling Dog (2, 0)

1st Headra's Wedgewood

2nd Hopkins Rexlands Brimstone Typical enough Tri to earn his place; lovely eye; big, open nose pad, lacks skull; up to size; lots of maturing to do as rather tall & narrow at the moment; less secure on the move.

Novice Dog (5, 1)

1st Jackson's Amantra Summer Poet Touch longcast but just over 18 months; rich chestnut Blen; prefer lower earset that would give more dome to the skull; big

nosepad; good width to rib; sound rear; stylish & outgoing; a well constructed youngster with a positive future.

2nd Bailey's Aldroricka The Maverick 13 months tri; all Maibee bred; very nice type & size; good skull & face; cobby; well broken; just needs to fill through his loin.

3rd Mochrie's Cavella Cupar

Graduate Dog (5, 1)

1st Morris' Palandro Winter Robin At Raytrix This tri 6 year old proved as popular with the sporting ringside as with me; actually bred in the purple; his apologetic owner took some persuading to put him through his paces but I could not deny his abundance of breed type; as good in head details as in his cobby structure: good bone & Rib: every inch a Charlie (when stood at least) as I have been taught over the years.

2nd Naylor's Maenan Mr Moonlight Good headed 2 yr tri with a clean front, good size & balance; stylish just Very immature and giving 4 yrs of maturity away; should finish well

3rd Mallows Binglui Berlington Bertie

Post Graduate Dog (7, 1)

1st Singleton Silverholme Byron Celexo Immaculate 2yr B/t who gleamed with condition; loved his quality lines & overall conformation so that he "flowed" as he drove round the ring on good legs & feet; ex head both in skull & finish of face; will surely win his way out of this class as the show season gets into full swing.

2nd Smith's Justacharmer Oh So Magic Appealing 2yr old tri; good head features; cobby, sound; deep chest, balanced within his compass but, even for a Charlie, would prefer more length of leg; not quite the freedom on the move of the above.

3rd Thorn & Keane's Silverholme Basil

Limit Dog (7, 1)

Competitive Class

1st Mochrie's Downsbank Spruce 3yr try of a classic type, shape & style under a profusely feathered, if rather wayward coat. Your hands tell you so much on examination and here was a compact, cobby made yet with great reach, style and freedom moving' ex head; good skull; open features; good in rib; short coupled loin; good bone & feet; balanced; ideal size; for me, he combined specifics of breed type with that touch of class in his deportment to take him through to Reserve Dog CC and Reserve BIS (on maturity) over the bitch

2nd Leech's Amantra Carte Blanche At Ouzlewell This 5 yr old well marked Blen. Went so well; another combination type with style & substance; good eye & nostril: well ribbed; good bone & feet; compact & balanced; sound & active on the move.

3rd Goodwin's Tucherish Stanley Diggle

Open Dog (4, 0)

1st Moffat & Robins CH Maibee Theo 3yr tri; nothing exaggerated; all in balance & proportion; all in balance & proportion; full of breed type; perfect size; ex head excelling in skull as balanced by breadth of muzzle, lovely ears; good in neck and angles; cobby; short, strong loin; good bone & feet; he moves pretty true with some drive & style, Keeping his shape at all times; self-evidently though, his worth to the breed, and Shealagh's legacy, lies not in how many CC's he may annexe but in his prepotency as a stud dog Dog CC & BIS

2nd Sidgwick's FI/LW/Est CH Paulian Paddington JW 3yr Blen, immaculate; compact sound, richly marked with "spot"; deep, wide chest; short loin; good legs & feet; muscled quarters giving drive & style; a little plainer in face and touch longer cast but certainly in the top 4 males and a top class Charlie now in his prime.

3rd Rushton's Tiflin Tudor Royal JW

Special Open Dog (B/T or Ruby)

1st Silverholme Basil 3rd in Post Grad; good skull & eye; well ribbed; B/T coat gleaming with condition; weak in hock.

2nd Binglui Berlington Bertie 3rd in Graduate; lovely headed rich ruby; compact but lacked angulation; failed in front

Special Open Dog (Blen / Tri

1st Palandro Winter Robin At Raytrix

Minor Puppy Bitch (9, 1)

This class marked a significant, encouraging, upgrade in depth of quality that continued right through the bitch entry.

1st Gillhespy's Downsbank Designed For Lorphil 6month Blen half sister to Reserve Dog CC a classy baby; so pretty; assured & collected on the move being ably assisted by "foster mother" Margaret Mallows; good head type; open nostril; wide muzzle & well turned up; well broke; balanced easy mover; let's hope she continues in this vein when her future will be assured.

2nd Mochrie's Downsbank Evensong 8 month tri and another half sister of Reserve Dog Cc but through his dam; also very promising; perfect size; superb skull & eye: good finish of face, well marked; quality bodylines; not quite the assurance of above but that will come.

3rd Fry's Amantra Galaxy

Puppy Bitch (8, 1)

1st Sidgwick's Paulian Amazing Grace Delicious tri bitch, 12 months "on the nail"; you start off judging a breed Ch. Show full of expectation and, as you work through the entry, so different aspects of the standard come to mind to prioritise above other, where the breed appears to be lacking, this youngster may still benefit from more maturity and, like her BIS winning sire CH Maibee Theo, from more body markings but her style, structure & movement were, by this time, like a breath of fresh air; indeed I rated her the most accurate fore & aft in the entire entry, coupled with drive and elegance; feminine; compact, perfect size; feathered; prettiest of heads that will develop further yet; clean front; good angles; muscled up every time I looked in her direction she simply looked right; it's the balance that comes from a construction where each part flows into the next coupled with a natural ability to "pose"; pleased to have started her off & has an exciting show year ahead of her. Bitch CC

2nd Crossley's Amantra Summer Chorus Glorious Blen just turned 9 month, so less mature, but also of great potential; so well conditioned; oozing quality; well marked with spot; lovely head; super eye; good angles and topline; free & elegant on the move; very classy.

3rd Askins & Kendall's Headra's Caverswall

Junior Bitch (12, 5)

1st Paulian Amazing Grace

2nd Robinson's Baldragon All About Me JW 17 months tri' I took time over these two as found this Bitch so outstanding in all essentials plus freedom & elegance on the move: essence of femininity; lovely head type; better marked; excelled in rib; more mature; these two have so many complimentary virtues & this bitch gave nothing away in stance & Character; but, finally, even she could not match the 100% accuracy behind above. Had no hesitation in rewarding her, against some superb Ch. Bitches with the Reserve Bitch CC. The breed is in a good place to have so many quality, young females as exhibited today.

3rd Moffat & Robin's Maibee Aldoricks Adventurous

Yearling Bitch (2, 1)

1st Sproul & Coburn Nisyros Nevada For Khandro B/t of excellent type & size; good head with ideal skull & eye but occasional protruding tongue; deep through ex ribs; level; moved out really well; plenty of outstanding virtues

Novice Bitch (5, 2)

1st Paulian Amazing Grace

2nd Amantra Summer Chorus

3rd Leech's Amantra Faberge

Graduate Bitch (3, 0)

1st Naylor's Maenan Moon Dreamer 2yr tri, good overall type & character; lovely headed bitch; level; moved true; still needs time to mature in body.

2nd Moffat & Robin's Maibee Isabella Tri age omitted; compact; deep rib; short back; good head type; less level; moving too wide in front.

**3rd Bailey's Headra's Chocolate Caramel At Aldoricka
Post Graduate Bitch (7, 1)**

1st Mochrie's Downsbank Valentina 3yrs tri undeniably feminine; pretty head with open features in eye & nose pad; good skull; ex size; so cobby yet still elegant; accurate on the move; a quality exhibit.

2nd Crossley's Paulian Hattitude Barley 2 yrs tri; half sister to both the Dog Cc and the Bitch CC; no surprise then that I thought her of ex type; scored in both eye & nose pad; wide rib; level; well marked; beautifully muscled & conditioned to move easily; still to mature on but capable of winning at a higher level.

**3rd Fry's Amantra Summer Lace
Limit Bitch (6, 2)**

1st Keane & Thorn's Danyas Twinkle Of Daddys Eye 5yr tri bitch; so cobby & typical; good bone & rib; well constructed; kept good outline on move; good in head' ex eye; fully marked; went true; oozing breed character; well conditioned; prefer a touch more refinement but the overall picture & deportment spelled "Charlie".

2nd Anderson & Watt Nisyros Atlanta Yearling B/t; 20month on the day; femine bitch of perfect size; built on quality lines; compact; good rib; lovely eye; good skull balancing a

wide muzzle; dead out of coat so not in best bloom; failed in front weather standing or moving.

3rd Harvey's Rocquencourt Rosetta At Rivermoor

Open Bitch (5, 1) Great quality class

1st Robinson's CH Nastane Miss Dior AVEC Baldragon JW Tri bitch still in outstanding form at 5yrs; showy to the point of over exuberance; ex skull, ears & neck; level; deep; outstanding rear; well marked; shear breed type & style whether in stance or on the move; daughter of the veteran bitch winner, & should continue to win CC's whilst as fit and stylish as today.

2nd Moffat & Robin's CH Maibee Olivia So tricky to separate this pair well broken tri with ex eye & skull: ex size; cobby muscled; ex rib & death; feminine; classy, showy; prefer touch more neck & less clean in front but equally still worthy of winning CC's.

3rd Askins & Kendall's Amantra Charmful At Headra

Special Open Bitch (B/T or Ruby) (3, 2)

1st Smith's Maplehurst Blue Magic Is Justacharma Rising 5yrs B/T; small; deep; cobby; ex eye & ear; prefer better finish of face & reach of neck; ran rather narrow behind.

Special Open Bitch (Blen / Tri) (5, 0)

1st Moffat & Robbin's Maibee Emeldamay Super tri, litter sister of the BIS; clean moving; feminine; ex size; good rib; open nostril; ex earset; prefer stronger underjaw; she has charm, type and cobbiness and is of cc quality that she so nearly won today.

2nd Robinson's Baldragon Bootylicious Tri rising 6yrs so more heavily built; good headpiece; good ribs; bone & feet; short coupled; stylish showgirl who pulled out all the stops' close up

3rd Smith's Justacharma Something Magic

Howard Ogden