

CRUFTS 2020.

KING CHARLES SPANIELS

I'm sure that everyone deems it an honour to be invited to judge Crufts and I am no exception.

I enjoyed my day immensely with plenty of quality dogs from which to choose.

In a way, this quite surprised me as sitting by the ringside over the past couple of years or so I'd acquired the distinct impression that the overall quality was deteriorating. I found, however, in awarding top honours, exactly what I was looking for in terms of size, conformity to the breed standard, temperament and movement.

My main criticism was that so many were lacking in coat. Something which, perhaps, one can't control but nevertheless puts the dogs at a disadvantage.

It was a pleasure to see so many dogs from overseas. One sees and judges them with a totally fresh eye and gives the opportunity to compare with our own stock from the UK.

Veteran Dog (1,0)

**1. Maddisons Celxo Charles Dickens SHCM
Ruby now in his eighth year and still demonstrating his zest for life. Correct**

size with most attractive head. Broad skull and good dark eye giving lovely gentle expression. Well placed shoulders, short level back, well angulated quarters. Good rich colour. Moved soundly.

Minor Puppy Dog (2.1)

1. Arundels Cavella Oliver Twist Eight month old tricolour Very pretty head with well pronounced dome, good dark eye and broad foreface. Good reach of neck and well placed shoulders. Short back, deep ribs and well angulated quarters. Very well coated for age and nicely marked. A little unsettled today but improved later in the day to go Best Puppy in Breed.

Puppy Dog (2.0)

1. Couplands Mitapip Royal Diplomat with TucherishTAF Black /tan very mature for age. Lovely masculine head having broad skull and foreface, rich tan. Well constructed with good lay of shoulder, correct length of neck, deep ribs, short body and level topline. Well settled on the move but needs to tighten up in hindquarters. 2, Shelkovskayas Dante of Nevskogo Hobbite (ATC AW03199RUS) Beautifully marked tricolour. Pretty head which still needs to develop in foreface.

Nice straight front with well placed shoulders. Short back, level topline, well rounded quarters. Relaxed as the class went on but lost out on maturity to my first.

Junior Dog (5.0)

1. Hubbard & Johnsons Clussex I Have Seen the Coming of a New Day (ATC AW02669USA) An easy winner of this class. Took my eye as soon as he entered the ring. Lovely masculine head with good dome. Well cushioned foreface. Plenty of substance within the correct size constraints. Enough neck and well laid back shoulders. Short back with level topline and deep chest. Well angulated rear. Well presented in lovely coat. Showed like a dream Not yet fourteen months old. One I'd love to see when he reaches full maturity.

2. Southam & Arundels Chacombe Fin. Lightly marked tricolour. Liked his head with its broad skull, well cushioned foreface and gentle expression. Good front, level topline and well angulated rear. Moved well when settled. Wish he didn't have the ticking on his body.

3. O'Learys Miami Ink Black/tan, just coming up to fourteen months of age but still with a lot of maturing to do. Nevertheless much to like with his pretty head, good shoulders, nice

straight front legs and short back with deep ribs. Moved well.

Yearling Dog (3.0)

1. O'Learys Kasamanda Saxon Handsome tricolour with masculine head, having broad width of skull, rich tan and well cushioned foreface. Very short back, deep brisket, level topline and well angulated stifles. Loads of substance but within the size constraints. Moved with plenty of drive.

2. Hunters Kasamanda Hamilton at Hoobarton . Apparently litter brother to my first but more heavily marked and lacking the same reach of neck as his brother. The similarities were there, however. Good shoulders, deep chest, short back and level topline. Needs to mature a little more and gain more confidence in the showing.

3. Gilvich & Yakubovichs Potap Ot Nevskogo Hobbita (ATC AW01734RUS) Attractively marked tricolour but not the maturity of head as my first and second. Excellent neck and shoulders and rear angulation. A little longer in back than preferred and totally lacking in coat today.

Post Graduate Dog (3.0)

1. Coxs Petipaws Black Prince. Being an exhibitor of this breed I can remember when

this little chap hit the ring as a diminutive baby. My goodness, how he's come on now. Four years of age he's a lovely size but not lacking in bone or substance. Masculine head with good dome , well cushioned foreface and bright tan. Correct reach of neck and well angulated shoulders' Deep chest, short back and level topline.. Good rear angulation..Moved steadily to show off his strong rear action. Shown in good coat. In my opinion he will improve even more in the next year or so. 2. French & Traynors Mitapip Elusive Ruby . A richly pigmented male with attractive head having broad skull and expressive dark eye.. Enough neck and laid back shoulders. Short level back and deep chest. Well angulated stifle. He would do himself no harm by behaving , especially on the move and when standing.

3. Austins Dragonheart Fall Breeze Tricolour made in a smaller mould. Nicely marked with good head properties , sufficient neck and laid back shoulders. Short back and well angulated quarters. Has a tendency to roach his back which makes the croup fall away. Could also be more positive in hind movement.

Limit Dog (8.1) This was arguably the best class of the day in terms of overall quality.

1. Harveys Rivermoor Alberto Three year old tricolour with classic markings. The most gorgeous head, with broad skull and good dome. Correct width of fore face giving soft cushioning. Lustrous dark eye with gentle expression. Bone in proportion to his size. Good reach of neck and well laid back shoulders..Well rounded ribcage with deep brisket. Short back and level topline. Good turn of stifle giving strong driving action. Typical Charlie temperament, responsive without being effusive. I consider that this boy needs another eighteen months to two years to reach full maturity. A little out of coat and still needs to body up a tad but his overall quality and glorious head could not deny him his place and RCC.

2. Couplands Ambassador Boy Star of Tucherish (IMP RUSS) Ruby whose main strength is his lovely head. Broad skull, rounded dome and good broad foreface. Large dark eye giving soft expression. Very well laid back shoulders and deep chest. Short back and level topline . Good rear angulation giving steady movement. Just wish he were a tiny bit smaller and his colour had more depth. Ruby coats are notoriously more difficult than the other three colours to keep under control and this boy would gain tremendously with a straighter coat.

3. Salgueros Rivermoor Minstrel An attractive tricolour just reaching full maturity.

Good head properties with broad rounded skull, softly cushioned foreface with correct nose and eye placement. Just the right reach of neck and well laid back shoulders. Plenty of substance and good bone without being oversized. Short back and level topline. Well angulated quarters.. Attractive markings and shown in good coat. Moved well.

Open Dog (7.1)

1 Mallows. Ch X-Jewel Od Dvou Orechu Binglui (Imp Cze) A typical old fashioned Charlie. In my opinion, having the shape and outline that a fully mature Charlie should have. Everything about his head is soft and gentle but still masculine. Broad skull and well rounded dome, large dark eye giving soft expression, correct jaw and good breadth of foreface..Well angulated shoulders, deep chest and terrific spring of rib. Short back and level topline. Well rounded quarters which he used to advantage as he strode around the ring. A lovely size but oozing with substance. Shown in good coat. I remember this dog as a very naughty puppy but today he never put a foot wrong both when standing and powering around the ring.CC & BOB

2. Johnson, Hubbard, Peterson & Jacobs Am Ch Clussexx Paddington of Flivverway (ATCAW02735USA) Another black/tan very similar in type and outline to my winner. Lovely head, with large dark eye, good dome and full foreface. Well angulated shoulders, deep chest with full rounded ribs, short back and level topline. Well angulated turn of stifle. Beautifully presented in full coat. I felt that he could be more positive in his hind movement.

3. Gilvichs Dzentlemen Nevskiy Hobbit Is Doma Ha Barishihe (ATCAU01974RUS)

Flashily marked tricolour. Big masculine head but lacking the softness of my two winners. Good reach of neck with well laid back shoulders and deep chest. A little long cast which spoilt his topline. Reasonably rounded quarters but a little more leg give him more balance..

Veteran Bitch (3.1)

1. Austins Baldragon May Bea Baby Smaller made tricolour now in her tenth year and absolutely full of herself. Loved her size, petite but not lacking in bone or substance. Pretty feminine head with large dark eye. Short coupled with deep chest , good lay of shoulder, level topline and good rear angulation giving sound movement' Best Veteran.

2. Baileys Maibee Margot at Aldoricka A real oldie now approaching her thirteenth birthday but still full of life. Tricolour made in a slightly larger mould than my first but lovely for type. Old fashioned head with broad skull, beautifully constructed with good reach of neck, well laid back shoulders, deep body, level topline and well rounded quarters. So evocative of her breeding. Nothing to dislike, just preferred the smaller size of my first.

Puppy Bitch (1.0)

1. Bogdanovas Germiona Ot Nevskogo Hobbita (ATC AW02612RUS) Lightly marked tricolour with very happy temperament. Pretty feminine head, good dome, dark eye and good width of foreface. Nicely made with plenty of neck, well laid back shoulders, well rounded ribs and short level back. Nice rear angulation. Moved out with plenty of confidence.. At eight months still a real baby but full of promise.

Junior Bitch (7.3)

1. Stanburys Cofton To The Moon And Back to Inixia Very feminine tricolour. Pretty head with good dome, large dark eye and softly cushioned foreface. . Good reach of neck and lay back of shoulder. Short backed and well rounded quarters. Moved out with confidence.

2. Gromovas Sea Pearl Favorite Sharm (ATC 02491 EST) Another very promising tricolour. Pretty feminine head with good rounded dome, and dark expressive eye. Plenty of bone, excellent reach of neck and well laid back shoulders. Moved out with style. Not yet twelve months old and lost out a little on maturity to my first.

3. Stewarts Mildred Snitzer Marchog. A delightful black/tan with well defined dome, good dark eye and softly cushioned foreface.. Good reach of neck and lay back of shoulders. Short back and deep body. Excellent turn of stifle and short hocks. Moved out well but lost her topline both on the move and when standing.

Yearling Bitch (7.1) This was a lovely class and with maturity I would forecast a few future champions. Hair splitting decisions between the first three.

1.Boyers Ellinghurst Kiki Dee Tricolour with very pretty head, having broad skull, good dome, dark expressive eye and well rounded foreface. Plenty of bone for size, good reach of neck and well angled shoulder. Well rounded ribs , short back and level topline.. Good turn of stifle and moved soundly.

2. Bakers Coftons Fly Me To The Moon Tricolour of similar type, just a smidgen

smaller. Pretty feminine head with soft expression. Nice straight front, deep chest, short back and well rounded quarters. Moved well but in the final analysis tended to roach a little when standing.

3. Mallows Grace Od Dvou Orech Binglui (Imp Cze) A very feminine black/tan of lovely size. Well developed head with good dome, dark eye and nicely cushioned foreface.. Enough neck and shown in good coat. She moved out well enough but was unsettled when asked to stand.

Post Graduate Bitch (6.1)

1. Gilvichs Onika Ot Nevskogo Hobbita (ATC AW01733RES) Black/tan of considerable quality. Feminine head having broad skull and good width of foreface plus expressive dark eye. Lovely size with good bone, substance, deep chest, short back, level topline. Shown in beautiful condition with straight silky textured coat.

2. Baileys Rising Star at Aldoricka Lightly marked blenheim with happy temperament. Loved her head, very feminine with broad skull, softly cushioned foreface and large expressive eyes. Good reach of neck and lay back of shoulder. Rounded rib cage and depth of chest. Straight topline and well rounded quarters. Just slightly longer in back than my first. A

little out of coat today. Moved around the ring exuding confidence. Another to watch as I'm sure that, with maturity she will trouble the best.3. Hinson's Kerizma Krocus Mature ruby with gorgeous depth of colour. Pretty feminine head with well rounded dome and good breadth of foreface. Ample reach of neck and well angulated shoulders. Well sprung ribs and deep chest. Short back and level topline. Good turn of stifle. She moved well but felt that she was carrying a little too much weight today. Very promising girl.

Limit Bitch (4.1)

1. Couplands Mitapip Renaissance By Tucherish A top quality black/tan bitch with sweet feminine head. Well accentuated dome, expressive dark eye and well cushioned foreface. Good rich tan, sometimes lacking in the wholecolours..A smaller specimen of the breed but not lacking in bone or substance. Lovely outline showing well angulated shoulders, well rounded ribs and deep chest. Short back , level topline and well turned stifle. She won her place on her overall quality but in the Challenge she was let down by her poor hind movement

2. Harveys Rivermoor Lady Martha JW. A lovely blenheim bitch I've long admired from the ringside. Gentle feminine head with well

accentuated dome, large dark eye, good wide jaw and softly cushioned foreface. Well constructed with good layback of shoulders, plenty of heart room with spring of rib and deep chest. Short level back and good rounded quarters which she uses to advantage in her sound movement. Unfortunately today really out of coat and giving her handler a hard time when she resolutely refused to stand.

3. Hinsons K. Krocus

Open Bitch(11.4)

1. Austin & Bakers Ch. Cofton Dancing Through Life JW Delightful tricolour bitch now carrying the full bloom of maturity. Very pretty feminine head with broad skull and rounded dome. Lovely dark eye giving gentle expression, softly cushioned foreface and rich tan markings. Built in a small mould but with plenty of bone and substance. Well marked body, good neck and well laid back shoulders, terrific depth of chest and good spring of rib. Short back and level topline with well angulated stifles. Full of confidence and as reflected in her name, she danced around the ring as though she owned it. Shown in good, soft silky coat. BCC

2. Stewarts Ch Marchog Macflannelette Another black/tan girl of lovely size. Such a pretty feminine head with good dome, large

expressive eye and full finish of foreface. Loved her overall outline with keel produced by her well laid back shoulders, deep, cobby body and spring of rib. Very short back with level topline and well angulated quarters. Small she may be, as a toy spaniel, but nowhere lacking in substance. Unlucky to meet my first whose exuberance carried the day. RBCC

3. Miller & Ryans Ch Clussexx Reign It in Cavalibrook (Imp USA) Another tricolour bitch out of the top drawer. Very typical head with broad skull, good dome, dark round eye and well cushioned foreface.. Sufficient neck and lay of shoulder. Good bone and substance. Deep sturdy body with nice spring of rib, short level back and nicely angulated quarters. Today she seemed completely out of sorts. Although she moved soundly, she appeared totally disinterested in her surroundings and when compared with the showmanship being demonstrated by my first two, paid the price.

RUTH MOCHRIE

Judge