

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club Open Single Breed Show

Saturday 23rd February 2019

My thanks to the committee for the invitation to judge at their show and for the warming welcome and great hospitality. Having been around the breed for many years now I have seen some changes in the appearance of the dogs over time. In my entry here, however, I was particularly pleased with the quality of the younger dogs, especially in the bitches, as this is where I saw dogs coming through which are retaining the true breed type, those features that set the Welsh Springer apart from its other spaniel counterparts and which enable it to keep its function as a true dual purpose spaniel, and so my thanks to the exhibitors for this entry.

VD (3);1. Tew's Pamicks Dazzling Boy JW ShCM, at 10 ½ years he is in good condition for his age, masculine head of good proportions and ears set on low, clean in neck leading into nicely sloping shoulders with good front angulations, deep in brisket and strong topline which he held well on the move. 2. Barkley's Sh Ch Cherryheath's Mr Mischief JW ShCM, 7 years old, nice head with well defined stop and set on a strong neck, nice rise over his loin but just slightly shorter in body than 1, hocks well let down, good bone structure, nice tight feet. 3. Finlay's Cerysan Robert Roy.

MPD (1);1. Barkley's Chanangel Mr Whodat at Cherryheath, just 6 months and understand this was his first time out, head of good proportions with correct ear set and shape, nice fore and rear angulations giving him a good frame to mature into, ample bone throughout, good tail set which he carries well, will hopefully gain his confidence with time.

PD (4, 1a);1. Knowles' Menstonia Minstrel, lovely puppy, super head with good expression and clearly defined stop, good reach of neck leading to well laid back shoulders and short upper arm to complete his front assembly, held his topline well, strong in his hindquarters giving him a positive gait on the move, great bone and well muscled throughout, think he should have a promising future, BPD & BPIS. 2. Philipson's Menstonia Meteor, another nice puppy, kind eye, clean in throat, deep brisket, pleasing topline and good front and rear assembly with moderate bend of stifle and well let down hocks, nice tight feet, just found him to be slightly more feminine in head and lighter in bone than 1. 3. Leary's Menstonia Meridian of Haslemount.

JD (5, 3a);1. Ritchie & Butler's Slapestones Diamond Mine, my find of the day, a typical Welsh and although still young with time on his side to complete the picture, he already has everything in the right place and is certainly built to do his job, good bone structure and muscling throughout, nice masculine head with kind eye and clearly defined stop, strong neck leading to well placed shoulders, presented a pleasing outline and was balanced throughout with good front and rear angulations, has a good spring of rib and is strong in the loin, nice tight feet, presented well, he holds great ring presence and moved well once settled, feel there is even better to come yet with this one as he matures, think he is certainly one to watch for the future, pleased to award him BD & BIS for overall type. 2. Cemis' Taimere's Talk About Me, masculine head and nice eye with good ear set, nice rise over the loin and good rear angulation with moderately bent stifles and well let down hocks, moderately feathered, just not as balanced and movement not as positive as 1.

YD (3);1. Ritchie & Butler's Slapestones Diamond Mine. 2. Stevenson's Isfryn King Leir at Blythway, loved him for type, a true spaniel, strong head with good depth and correct ear set and shape, compact and presents a balanced outline, with great bone structure and muscling he is powerful on the move, lovely cat-like feet, would just prefer him to be of a slightly larger mould, presented well and in good coat and condition. 3. Le Maitre's Vannelmead Gelert.

ND (6, 1a);1. Cemis' Taimere's Talk About Me. 2. Philipson's Menstonia Meteor. 3. Leary's Menstonia Meridian of Haslemount.

PGD (5);1. Ritchie & Butler's Slapestones Diamond Mine. 2. Oliver's Glenbrows Royal Dragon, masculine head with lovely ear shape, short upperarm, good reach of neck leading into good shapetopline, deep brisket, forelimbs straight and moderate bend of stifle, nice type just could do with more length in body. 3. Janes' Cwmbeili Gwilym.

LD (8, 3a);1. Stone's Stedigan All in Good Time for MerremShCM, lovely and compact dog who presents a balanced outline, strong head of good proportions, clean in throat and strong neck leading to well placed shoulders, ribs well sprung, straight in fore, good stifle angulation and well let down hocks in the rear, nicely boned, tight feet, built to work and another who had power on the move making him deserving of RBD. 2. Caldwell & McDowell's Bowdonia Only the Brave for Cerysan, nice head and strong in neck leading to a nice front assembly, good topline and deep in brisket, just slightly longer in hock so preferred rear angulation of 1. 3. Brown's Bowdonia Ozzie.

OD (0)

Special Working Dog (4, 1a);1. Stevenson's Isfryn King Leir at Blythway. 2. Smith's Isfryn Peeping Tom JW, muscular dog, very merry disposition, masculine head with good length of muzzle, well sprung ribs and strong in the loin, good front and rear angulations, it was a close decision between these two but feel he would benefit from slightly more length in body and so just preferred the overall balance of 1. 3. Groot's CIE/NL CH Isfryn on the Spot.

Special Beginners Dog (3, 1a);1. Bennett's Helgen Romeo the Lover, skull of good proportions and slightly domed, upper arm short, good length of body, hocks well let down, good bone, would prefer more rise over the loin. 2. Roland-Shrubb's Bichere Essex Skipper, more feminine than 1 and lighter in bone, good reach of neck leading into nicely sloping shoulders, would prefer a little more rise over the loin but holds good rear angulations with a moderate bend of stifle.

VB (5, 1a);1. Revill's Julita Rinatasha JW ShCM, very typical, nicely balanced bitch, feminine head, nice ear shape, muscular neck leading into a nice shoulder placement, held a lovely topline with ample rise over the loin, deep brisket, moderately bent stifles and hocks well let down, tight feet, good muscling throughout contributing to her positive movement, shown in great condition, BVIS. 2. Madeley's Barhi Flaming Star at Maytag, pretty bitch, head of nice proportions with good length of muzzle, good shoulder placement, well sprung ribs, moderately feathered, ample bone throughout, slightly shorter in body than 1 but in good condition and still looks capable of a full day's work. 3. Barkley's Cherryheath's Miss Chief JW.

MPB (1);1. Mackness' Blythway Sundance Gold, 8 months old, still looks quite a raw baby at the moment but she has plenty of time on her side yet, nice expression, good earset and shape, good body and spring of rib for her age, very correct rear assembly with a moderate bend of stifle and short hocks, neat feet, BPB

PB (1);1. Harrison's Glenbrows Temptress, well presented, balanced in body, long clean neck, short upper arm, moderate bend of stifle, tight feet, tail set on low, good for bone but would prefer a slightly more feminine head on a bitch.

JB (4, 1a);1. Knowles' Menstonia Make a Wish, loved her for type, lovely head with kind eye and well defined stop, clean in throat and strong muscular neck, nicely laid shoulders, short upper arm, straight in front, good length of body giving her a balanced appearance overall, nice rise over the loin, well muscled with deep second thigh, best mover in the class which coupled with her overall

type and quality made her worthy of top honours, RBB. 2. Harrison's Glenbrows Temptress. 3. Walker & Down's FerndelComand Performance.

YB (8, 2a);This was by far the strongest class of the day and any of those placed could have swapped places on another day.1. Revill& Taylor's JulitaRhubette JW, another lovely bitch who oozes quality and breed type, balanced throughout and maturing nicely, feminine head with gentle expression, good length of muzzle and defined stop, ears set on low and of correct shape, clean in throat and neck long and muscular, superb in both front and rear assembly with moderately bent stifles and hocks well let down, deep brisket and well sprung ribs, nice rise over loin gives her a pleasing topline, moved out wellwith nice tail carriage, great bone and muscling all through, a very worthy winner and close decision in the challenge for BIS. BB, RBIS & BOS. 2. Cooper's Isfryn Lady Grey of Gilstonia, another of a nice type, she presents a powerful and compact frame designed to enable her to do her job well, pretty head with well defined stop, nice ear, shoulders well laid back, good fore and rear angulations, great muscling and positive movement, just needs time to mature to complete the picture. 3. Morgan & Schofield's CWSSCWN De Ja Vu (AI).

NB (3);1. Bonser-Hadfield & Hadfield's Glenbrows Faith, head of good proportions with a kind eye, strong neck, short upper arm, carries a strong topline, good spring of rib, slightly longer in body but best mover in the class. 2. Roland-Shrubb'sBichere Painted Lady, feminine bitch, nice top line with nice rise over the loin, tight cat-like feet, good bone structure and good for coat just needed a bit more body today. 3. Naunton'sTrenzalore River of Dreams.

PGB (5, 1a);1. Caldwell's Hillpark Queen Bee for Cerysan, lovely feminine head, straight front with nice fore angulations, good spring and length of ribs, strong in loin, moderately bent stifles, tight feet, good muscling. 2. Jones' Julita Rumours at Trosely, liked her overall type, nicely placed shoulders, moderately bend of stifle, tight feet, just preferred head and muscling of 1. 3. Lancett'sCwmbeili Gwilym.

LB (5, 1a);1. Morgan & Schofield's Ferndel Bon Bon for Cwsscwn, balanced throughout, good fore angulations with short upperarm, nice topline and good length of body, well sprung ribs and good coupling, well boned and muscled, strong tail with ample feathering, moved out well. Considered her for top honours. 2. Connolly's Ambika Tranquil Spirit for Benmorby, workmanlike bitch, nice head, well coupled, moderate bend of stifle and deep second thigh, good positive movement, liked her for type, just slightly shorter in body and not quite the maturity of 1. 3. Roland-Shrubb'sYpagneul Coco at Bichere.

OB (4, 3a);1. Caldwell's Bowdonia Bellissima for Cerysan, strong bitch, presents a pleasing outline, lovely ear shape and set, straight front,deep brisket and good spring of rib, moderate bend of stifle, tight feet, well muscled, shown in good coat just carrying a little more body than I would like which let her down in the challenge.

SWB (1);1. Cooper's Isfryn Lady Grey of Gilstonia.

SBB (5);1. Cooper's Isfryn Lady Grey of Gilstonia. 2. Le Mattre'sVannelmead Gwenllian, nice type, strong neck and topline, good fore and rear angulations, well coupled, deep second thigh, tight feet, just needs to settle on the move and would benefit from carrying a little less weight. 3. Ferguson's TaihangScherezade at Teaselwood.

Rachael Griffin (judge)