

**NORTHERN KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB OPEN SHOW:
7 September 2014**

Thanks to the Officers and Committee of the Club for inviting me to judge my first breed show and for their kind hospitality. Also my excellent steward, Ron Stewart, who singlehandedly kept the classes moving through so well. I was extremely flattered by the entry of 93 dogs making 117 entries. Even with 30 absentees, to be given the rare opportunity to go over 63 King Charles Spaniels in one place was a joy. My thanks to the exhibitors for their entries, some of whom had travelled long distances. We all know the issues about varied type, size and handling but I was shocked at the number of slab-sided males with narrow, pinched rear ends. This is not good for the breed. With the Standard in mind, the "ideal" I was looking for was a small, cobby King Charles, a lot of toy dog in a small frame, with a distinctive, fully domed head and plush cushioning, large melting eyes, a decent width of chest and rear, glamorous coat, sturdy, straight legs and sound movement. I was pleased with my main winners, all of which I could have taken home.

VETERAN D(3) 1. Jackson's Ch Amantra Cheers.Tri of 9 yrs. He has the most gorgeous male head, great rise of skull with a broad dome, full over his large, dark eyes, supported unlike so many by plush cushioning. Great bone and substance. Presented in luxurious coat which is soft and silky. He is an effortless mover who can still storm around the ring, true fore and aft. RESERVE BEST DOG and BEST VETERAN. Thank you for the chance to go over him. 2. Gillhespy's Lorphil Copper Sunrise, gleaming Ruby of 7 yrs. Broad skull, with good cushioning and decent rise for a ruby, just not quite matching the plushness of the winner in fore face nor in rear movement which was a tad close. Expertly handled. 3. Maddison's Alambra Rich Ruby 7 yrs.

VETERAN B(4,1) 1. Mochrie's Downsbank Hazel. 10.5 yrs young Tri girl enjoying a rare outing. Small and compact, in large coat. She has excellent breed type, small, short and cobby. She moved well around the ring, though her topline didn't quite hold up! BVB. 2. Bailey's Maibee Margot at Aldorika. Hard to believe this robust Blenheim

girl is already a veteran. Gleaming and well marked coat with rich tan patches on a pearly white background. She lacks feathering but her short coat is thick and soft. Best mover in this class. Preferred head and size of 1. 3.

Wadsworth's Justacharma Magic of Kathy.

MINOR PUPPY D(4) 1. Jackson's Amantra Summer Promise, heavily marked Tri youngster of 8 months, whose been through a mixed wash. He's a lovely size, not overdone in any way. Sweet head, but definitely male, with dark eyes and lovely rise of skull. Nicely arched neck leading into well laid back shoulders, square outline and level top line. Completely mad spinning devil on the move, but managed to glimpse enough seconds of true movement. Has lots of promise. BEST PUPPY DOG. 2.

Smith's Bonniroy Delphin is Justacharma, larger framed B&T of 6.5 months. Gleaming black coat with rich tans. Thin and raw all through at this age, so needs time. Moved very nicely. Very Charlie. 3. Askins/Kendall's Jameson Azzaro Fapella Gray.

PUPPY D(2,1) 1. Moffat&Robins' Maibee Horatio, lightly marked, small Tri of 11.5 months. Pretty head with high dome and good width. Lacking body today. Square outline standing and on the move, which was a little close behind. Displaying a bit too much "Charlie reserve" today so had to give way to the exuberant younger pup.

JUNIOR D(4,1) 1. Champion's Stonepit Buster Keaton at Lankcombe, 16m Tri teenager, best for head and type. Compact body with level top line, good coat and bone. Throwing his rear left leg a little today on the move.

2. Maddison's Penemma Raphael, rangier, lightly marked Blenheim table wriggler of 12m, preferred his nose placement to 3. Willey&Siddle's Penemma Picasso.

YEARLING D(5,3) 1. Jackson's Amantra Treasury, 20 month nicely marked Blenheim, another glorious head from this kennel. Lovely square body shape, completely Charlie. Tail low set but won the class on his better rear movement. 2. Smith's Alambra Here is Magic for Justacharma. Upstanding Ruby 22 months. Very typey but thin all through and would prefer more rib. Preferred dome and head proportions of 1.

NOVICE D(5,2) 1. Baker's Cofton It's Just A Perfect Day, 2 yr correctly marked honest type of Blenheim, good bone, correct size and shape, good topline, moved well enough. 2. Singleton's Lichen's All About Edward Celxo, larger framed, lighter marked Blenheim. Lovely broad head though would prefer better nose placement. Well presented in lovely coat but not at all happy to be here. 3. Wadsworth's Tucherish Mister George. GRADUATE D(6,2) 1. Singleton's Silverholme Byron Celxo. My headache of the day. Most gloriously headed B&T. Full dome over the eyes, great rise and nose placement, big, dark and round eyes, with plush, plush cushioning to his muzzle. So lovely. His head filled my hands when I held it. He is perhaps top size, but has great bone, rich tans, a massive coat (so lacking in many) and is full of breed type. Sadly, he completely played up his frustrated handler on the move, making assessment difficult. I could see enough to know that he was a sound mover but his pig-headedness destroyed his chances of higher honours. So disappointing. 2.C It's Just a PD. 3. Clarke's Stonepit Super Sydney for Poltomic.

POST GRADUATE D(8,3) 1.S Byron C 2.Moffat/Robins' Maibee Lowrie, well marked Tri, typical of this famous kennel, masculine head but preferred the darker eye and width of muzzle of 1. Lacked condition today through the body and back end and moved very close behind. 3. Clarke's Stonepit Brave Bertie at Poltomic.

LIMIT D(6,1) A very mixed class. 1.Coupland's Tucherish High Treason, pretty-headed Tri male, with lovely rise of dome and full of breed type. Great shape and size, full of style, freedom and panache on the move like a little show pony, holding his level topline rock steady. Nicely coated and correctly marked but lacked tans and, again, body. 2.Smith's Headra's Truly Magic is Justacharma, completely different type, being a much stockier and heavier marked alpha Tri male. Big headed again with good dome, very cobby with great rib but slightly heavy over the shoulders. Dripping in coat. Both these dogs beautifully presented in beautiful condition and expertly handled. 3.Rushton's Amantra Mr Brownlow.

OPEN D(5,1) 1.Mochrie's Downsbank Guthrie, mature Tri 2 year old. I have admired him from the ringside since he was a puppy, and was intrigued to get my hands on him. He is nicely marked, with bright tans and the correct flat coat. Another alpha male head here which fills your hands completely, lovely rise of skull, full dome and ample cushioning. Well boned, presented in gleaming condition, moved soundly front and back, holding his topline with a good tailset. Could perhaps be a wee bit shorter in body but still compact and solid. BEST DOG and BEST IN SHOW. I learned later that he has recently become a champion, so this was a good week! 2.Smith's

Justacharma Oh So Magic, 4 yr Tri in a smaller frame. A great head on this one, really plush but rather lack-lustre and today could not match the winner in coat quality or movement, being wide in front and too close behind.

3.Singleton's Iscalyn's Celtic Knight Celxo.

SPECIAL OPEN B&T OR RUBY(3). 1. A. Mr Brownlow, top size Ruby carrying some excess weight. Decent head for a Ruby but would prefer better nose placement. Good bone and topline. Presented in glorious rich ruby coat, handled well. 2. Maddison's Mitapip Midnight Marauder, rangier B&T, good bone and coat with bright tans.

Completely uncoordinated on the move, requiring some discipline.3. Bailey's Aldoricka Smokey Robinson

SPECIAL OPEN TRI OR BLENHEIM (5,3) 1.S Buster Keaton at L 2. S Brave Bertie at P flashy Tri, could not match the head properties of 1.

BITCHES. MINOR PUPPY B 1. Harvey's Rivermoor Lady Martha, well marked 6 month Blenheim. Compact, well bodied baby of excellent breed type. Good dome and width of jaw for one so young, dark pigment and dark eyes. She excels in layback of shoulder and matching rear angulation. Presented in gleaming coat and condition. She was slightly over-awed as they can be at this age but not nervous, just needs practice. Could be moved more quickly to her advantage. I just loved her and would have gladly taken her home. A very exciting prospect. BEST PUPPY BITCH AND BEST PUPPY IN SHOW. 2. Baker's Cofton The Wizard and I, heavy marked Tri. Her good head warrants close inspection due to her

markings, moved well for first time on a lead. 3.

Gillhespy's Lorphil Designer Label.

PUPPY B(3,2) 1. Johnston's Corrinwood Claudia, stood alone, lightly marked 11 month Blenheim, nice dome for her age and colour, good bone and a steady mover, a bit hesitant but just needs practice.

JUNIOR B(6,3) 1.Willey&Siddle's Penemma Misty For Me, very mature 12 month Blenheim, good head with dark pigment, cobby body with the best shoulders of the day, nicely marked, put down in immaculate condition in good coat and moved soundly both ways, had to be RESERVE

BEST BITCH. 2. Champion's Stonepit Lilian Gist at Lankcombe, 16 month Tri who had left her draws at home. Another good head and rise of skull, moved OK, would prefer her a tad shorter coupled. 3.Baker's Cofton Lady in Red. YEARLING B(4,2) 1.Dix's Beewye Penelope Pitstop, petite-headed Tri with dark eyes, another well out of coat but won on her movement and nose placement. 2.Baker's Cofton Fields of Gold, correctly marked, rich Blenheim, well bodied, but would insist on pulling her neck in and played up on the move.

NOVICE B(4,2) 1.C Claudia. 2. C Field of Gold.

GRADUATE B(6,2) 1.Coupland's Tucherish Julie Christie, petite, compact Tri, gorgeous head, short and cobby carrying a level topline and moved well, though rather wayward in front today. 2.Dix's Beewye Precious Perdita, another lovely-headed Tri, tighter front than 1 but a completely mad thing on the move, must calm down to show her many attributes and then she could do really well. 3. Bailey's Aldoricka Savannah at Peaksdown.

POST GRADUATE B(7,3) 1.Jackson's Amantra Galaxy, 3yr Blenheim, another really well domed, full head with good width to her underjaw, great rib cage and shoulder placement, tailset rather low. 2.Mallows' Lorphil Red Ribbons at Binglei, busy Ruby of rich colour, nicely headed but would prefer less wrinkle, she is cobby and square, preferred head of 1.

3.Mochrie's Downsbank Glimpse of Gold.

LIMIT B(4,3) 1.Baker's Cofton Walking on Sunshine, 2yr old Tri, lovely domed, large, broad head, good nose placement with bright tans. In good coat and furnishings, moved well. Very cobby, a real old fashioned Charlie. She is so typey I forgave her slightly loose front. Well

presented and handled to win BEST OPPOSITE SEX and RESERVE BEST IN SHOW despite flagging badly towards the end.

OPEN B(4,3) 1. Willey&Siddle's Penemma Sweet Dream, lightly marked Blenheim, 5yrs, good dome, pigment could be darker, nicely proportioned in gleaming white coat, good bone and substance, unfortunately weaved badly in front and was rather close behind. SPECIAL OPEN B&T OR RUBY (3,3) All absent.

SPECIAL OPEN BLENHEIM OR TRICOLOUR(3,1)

1.Gillhespy's Downsbank Designed for Lorphil, well marked Blenheim, dark pigment, would prefer more dome, compact with well-sprung ribs, pinned a little going away, well presented and handled. 2. S Lilian Gist at L. BRACE (4)1. Bailey's well matched, cobby and well marked Blenheims, moving as one. 2. Dix's Tris. 3. Clarke's Tris. JUDGE: JOHN GOODWIN (DIGGLE)