

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club Open Show

24th February 2018

Judge: Mrs Jennifer Millard

My sincere thanks to the officers and committee of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club. I consider it a real honour to be invited to judge at any breed club show and this was absolutely no exception, in fact it felt all the more special, having been so warmly welcomed into the breed. My thanks also to the wonderful stewards who did a thorough job with good humour.

I was thrilled with my entry of 78 and wasn't disappointed with the quality. It was a privilege to be supported by so many long standing supporters of the breed.

My overriding observation was that there seems to be a lean towards dogs who are shorter in leg or longer in body, personally I believe that this creates an unbalanced image.

Secondly I noted that the muzzle which should be 'fairly square' tapered in many of the exhibits. Furthermore I would prefer more upper arm in some. That's said I was delighted with the majority of toplines, eyes and pigmentation in the main were good and movement was better than I had expected. Temperaments were excellent.

Veteran Dog (2 entries)

1. Cocking & Barnaby's Bushwaker Thriller Really liked this chap, scores in head and outline, he pushed hard for RBD but I felt the other exhibit was better ribbed. Moved soundly and not remotely showing his age. A pleasure to assess.
2. Finlay's Cerysan Robert Boy Not dissimilar in type to 1 and much to like, all male and with a lovely relaxed but assured attitude. Super hard condition, pleasing expression, moved with ease.

Minor Puppy Dog (2 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Buckwell's Killena Ghostrider Raw well boned baby, already boasts a lovely rich colour, nice arched neck into well laid back shoulders, plenty of stop and a pleasing dark eye. A touch more confidence on the move would help

Puppy Dog (5 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Morgan & Schofield's Cwsscwn Who Knew This chap just oozes compactness, balanced and with a pleasing head, nice strong bite, excellent silky texture to his coat. Masculine without being overdone, just right for age. BPIS
2. Smith's Isfryn Peeping Tom Shorter in leg than 1 but quality none the same unlikely to meet one, moved very well, workmanlike but not overdone, balanced angulation completed an otherwise appealing picture.

Junior Dog (9 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Graham & Hogstrom's I have admired this youngster from the ringside and he took my eye today. Very smart and stylish with correct proportions, lovely arch to his neck, shown in first class condition and handled to full advantaged.
2. Smith's Isfryn Peeping Tom

Yearling Dog (4 entries)

1. Janes' Cwmbeili Gwilym Rangier dog than I would perhaps prefer but much to like in other respects, really scores in depth of chest and shows off his ample length of neck well. Good domed skull and correct topline, he gave a good account of himself
2. Davies & Revill's Julita Rutland JW Fighting his handler all the way which didn't help, good height, well-muscled and nice tight feet, moved well. He was sound and positive on the move and he gave a good demonstration of just how stubborn welshies can choose to be.

Novice Dog (5 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Perkins' Brent Part Time Lover Balanced to the fore and rear, correct amount of bone, just a touch longer in body than I would like. Lovely rich red, well arched neck into good front construction, pleasing head with correct amount of stop.
2. Johnstone's Glenbrows Valentino For Gilpeta This fellow has the kindest head and expression, very well presented but not fully cooperating today. He scores in depth of chest, exemplifies straight silky coat, lovely ear shape, would like to see him when he feels he'd like to cooperate more with his handler.

Post Graduate Dog (8 entries, 2 absentees)

1. Rees' Hudolus Rhys Henllys At Typica I have admired this chap from the ringside and he didn't disappoint today. He has a tendency to stand himself in a way which makes him appear rather moderate in front but appreciated the correct proportions and good rear angulation. Lovely tight feet, rear movement today cost him further consideration
2. Brown's Bowdonia Ozzie Have also admired this boy from ringside so it was a very close call. Shorter in leg than one but oh so sound on the move and clean coming and going. Well muscled and good spring of rib finished off with pleasing depth, a pleasure to assess

Limit Dog (5 entries)

1. Tew's Pamicks Believe You Can This upstanding male has a tendency to arch his topline a little which spoils an otherwise robust performance. In wonderful condition, very sound on the move really able to use himself and his condition to full advantage, well-proportioned and good dentition.
2. Sutherland's Jacranella Solo Shorter on leg and heavier than 1, demonstrates a well-rounded skull and has a topline many would envy. Good rear angulation, a touch closer behind than 1 which cost him today

Open Dog (4 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Graham's Sh Ch Taimeres Twister Round Nyliram JW ShCM Headed a wonderful trio of males I have admired from the ringside. Male but not overdone, a little length but still retaining compactness, so sound on the move, wonderful rich red colour, plenty of rib and well off for bone. Shown in fabulous condition and presented and handled to full advantage.
2. Barkley ShChCherryheath'sMrMischeif JW ShCM

Special Working Dog (1 entry)

1. Smith Isfryn Peeping Tom

Special Beginners Dog (4 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Le Maitre's Vannalmead Gelert Pleasing exhibit, has a slight tendency to tighten his topline but balanced to the rear and fore, well off for rib and overall a nice size with good bone. I suspect these two are a new partnership who together will make a good team
2. Bennet's Helgen Romeo The Lover Really liked the head on this one, also has a lovely dark eye, higher tail set and carriage than I would like and longer in body than 1. Has a tendency to push back which is a shame.

Veteran Bitch (5 entries, 2 entries)

1. Sutherland's Ch Julita Rezanella of Jacranella Lovely head with classic expression, just right for size, lovely tight feet and shown in excellent condition. Quite a picture when it all comes together, today was lacking a little gumption on the move.
2. Graham &Denwood's Slapstones Heart (AI) Lovely bitch not remotely showing her age, good amount of bone and moves so well, she was a real pleasure to assess. Nice size feminine but retaining type, shown in first class order

Minor Puppy Bitch (2 entries)

1. Revill& Taylor's Julita Rhubette Thought this youngster although very raw was rather sassy, balanced and real depth. Nice tight feet for one so young, unlikely to meet mature ladies later on showed like a veteran
2. Buckwell's Killena One Nite Love Affair Heavier boned than one but well ribbed, lovely dark eye and pigmentation, correct proportions. Lacking a touch of confidence today but I am sure that will come with time.

Puppy Bitch (8 entries, 2 absentees)

1. Morgan & Schofield's Cwsscwn De Ja Vu (AI) Pleasing young lady, well off for maturity, nice neck into well laid back shoulder and correct upper arm, well ribbed and very sound on the move. Her tail carriage detracted a touch for me
2. Cooper's Isfryn Lady Cooper Lovely eye on this lady and the most pleasing attitude, workmanlike but feminine, correct domed head, lovely tight feet and good coat. A pleasure to judge

Junior Bitch (8 entries)

1. Caldwell's Hillpark Queen Bee For Cerysan This lady headed this difficult class, a moderate bitch although not incorrect, liked her for her compactness, lovely coat, presented in first class order. Moved well, very sound and active going around, would prefer a lower tail carriage.
2. Graham's Ferndel Cover Story About Nyliram JW Lovely eye and the most laid back attitude, well boned but not overdone, feminine head, first class coat and colour. Didn't disappoint on the move, good coming and going.

Yearling Bitch (5 entries)

1. Tew's Pamicks Field of Dreams JW My notes say that 'I really liked this young bitch' and that was qualified when later I consider her for higher honours. Just right for age, classic compact outline, good width to her ribbed nice short strong loin and correct depth. Unexaggerated but eye catching.
2. Caldwell's Hillpark Queen Bee For Cerysan

Novice Bitch (5 entries)

1. Morgan & Schofield's Cwsscwn De Ja Vu (AI)
2. Perkins' Brent Love Me Do A longer bitch nice but quality all the same good tail set, lovely arched new good width and breadth to muzzle. Sadly not showing her topline off to total best advantage

Post Graduate Bitch (7 entries)

1. Ritchie's Saraband Eternity At Slapestone (AI) JW This lady is coming on in leaps and bounds and having had to opportunity to assess her I can see why she does so well. Lovely neck, great ear shape, lovely rear angulation and correct moderate topline, sound on the move
2. Sutherland's Jacranella Sonata Heavier than one, well constructed to the fore and just the right amount of coat. Good amount of stop, moved well if a little hurried a more relaxed attitude would help.

Limit Bitch (5 entries)

1. Graham's Nyliram Miss Joules JW Liked the proportions on the lady, correct bone and moved well. Scores in depth and fore chest which had been lacking in many, a lighter eye than some, good amount of stop, lovely ear set shape and carriage moved well.
2. Sutherland's Jacranella Serenade A more moderate bitch than 1, scores in muzzle, would prefer a touch more rear angulation, topline almost level but has a lovely long neck, moved well. An ounce more confidence would help

Open Bitch (5 entries)

1. Cocking, Barnaby & Tully's Sh Ch /NL Ch Bushwaker Gregory's Girl At Highclare I have done this lady well before, she had more coat than I've seen her with. A lovely size and balanced, correct angles, her head really appealed today. She didn't have the most gumption today on the move but was still a worthy winner BB.
2. Sutherland Sh Ch Jacranella Sonata Heavier than one scores in neck and shoulders well ribbed and nice short lion active on the move and sound going and coming not the most eye catching of bitches but sound all the same RBB

Special Working Bitch (3 entries, 1 absentee)

1. Barkley's Cherryheath's Miss Chief JW 10 year old lady, a little rangy for me but has the loveliest eye and expression. Good ear set and shape, correct proportions and on the move she didn't remotely show her age
2. Dixon's Stedigan Starz In The Eyes Petite sweet youngster, would prefer a darker eye but oh so feminine and has the loveliest attitude. A little more schooling for the show ring would do her the world of good

Special Beginners Bitch (6 entries)

1. Cooper's Isfryn Lady Grey

2. Hankins' Haltonian Juliet With Woodelrond Pretty lady with lovely dark eye and pigmentation, less angulated than one but sound on the move all the same, she was energetic and workmanlike.