

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club Championship Show – 31 August 2024

I was honoured to be asked to judge dogs at the parent club's championship show. Thank you so much for the lovely mementos of the day, they will be treasured. I appreciated the help from my very efficient stewards, Mike Lewin and Wendy Buckwell. There were some very challenging classes to judge and I was spoilt for choice in my Veteran class. I know the standard calls for a long, muscular neck, but a few exhibitors are really stretching out the necks of their charges which, for me, makes the overall outline less balanced. Sadly, I did find one "ski-slope" topline. In movement, I look for drive, which for me, comes from the rear and is not simply achieved by moving a dog fast. There was some erratic movement which could not be disguised by clever handling and so the price was paid.

Minor Puppy Dog (3,1)

1 – Graham's Nyliram Born This Way – A lovely 7-month-old puppy. Gorgeous head with melting expression. Good strong neck flowing into well angled shoulders. Good depth of chest, good rear angulation and neat feet. He showed that he is still only a baby in his erratic movement and the desire to take everything in. That said, I would much rather that a puppy behaved like this and was not an automaton – there is plenty of time for him to grow up! BPD & BPIS in agreement with my co-judge.

2 – Graham's Nyliram Edge of Glory – Stockier throughout than his litter brother – and much better behaved! Not surprisingly, many of the same comments apply. A very nice puppy, but not quite the class of 1.

Puppy Dog (2,0)

1 – Graham's Nyliram Born This Way – Repeat Minor Puppy

2 – Graham's Nyliram Edge of Glory – Repeat Minor Puppy

Junior Dog (5,0)

Temperament was not great in this class, with quite a few were lacking in confidence.

1 – Harrison's Glenbrows Amadeus JW – Fifteen months old dog with a lovely masculine head, leading to a long, strong neck. Good depth of chest. Well turned out. Moved fast.

2 – Douglas' Santallina Off and Running – Another fifteen-month-old dog with a pleasing expression. Moved better than 1, but preferred type of 1. Good angulation fore and aft and neat feet.

3 – Johnstone's Glenbrows Erasmus for Gilpeta

Yearling Dog (2,1)

1 – Williamks' Nyliram The Alibi for Trebettyn JW – This twenty one month old dog gave his handler a hard time – what a fidget! He has a nice head with good shoulders and depth of chest. When moved slower, showed some drive.

Novice Dog

1 – Graham's Nyliram Born This Way – Repeat Minor Puppy

2 – Graham's Nyliram Edge of Glory – Repeat Minor Puppy

Graduate Dog (5,0)

1 – Barkley’s Jacranella Galahad of Cherryheath (ai) JW – Heavier type than some in this class. Nice head, good angulation fore and aft, good depth of chest, nice tight feet. Moved well.

2 – Levy’s Cerysan Limited Edition – Good head with soft expression, good lay of shoulder, nice depth of chest. Preferred tail carriage of 1.

3 – Harrison’s Glenbrows Casanova JW

Post Graduate Dog (3,1)

1 – Lewis’ Kidenan Behind Marek von Trannon – Classic type with a handsome head, good strong neck, lovely depth of chest and well angulated which allowed him to move well. He has a very short dock which he chose not to carry today.

2 – Brook’s Eiriandylis Georgia Moon – my notes say that this boy was playing the fool today, which was a pity as he is well put together with a good head and pleasing expression, good angulation.

Mid Limit Dog (3,0)

1 – Graham’s Don’s As Bold As Brass with Nyliram (Imp Swe) JW – Good head with pleasing expression, good depth of chest, nice angulation which allowed him to move with drive – when his handler moved him a little slower.

2 – Nicoll’s Benoveor Sail On to Antreth JW – more workmanlike than 1. Nice head, good shoulder placement, lovely depth of chest, standing on lovely neat feet. Moved well.

3 – Hankins’ Julita Rainmaker with Woodelrond

Limit Dog (6,1)

1 – Allen & Cochrane’s Eiriandylis by George – Loved this three-year-old, beautifully presented boy throughout. The trouble about a Welsh Springer is that everything should be in moderation, so there are no exaggerations to highlight and praise. It is the quality of the overall package that I was looking for, and for me, on this day, this boy had it. He has a gorgeous head with a melting expression, great strong neck, good angulation, depth of chest and nice tight feet, and yes, he moved with drive. My notes from the class say “just my type” and so he turned out to be, his qualities demanded that he be awarded the CC and in agreement with my co-judge, RBIS.

2 – Stevenson’s Mymmsbrook Matador with Blythway JW – Another three-year-old of good type. Good long, strong neck leading to a mature body with good angulation, which allowed him to move well. Good tail set and neat feet. I would just prefer his head to have a little more stop.

3 – Hepworth’s Kamunting’s Mad Hatter

Open Dog (3,1)

1 – Marrella’s Sh Ch Ferndel Water Mark (ai) – This two-year-old dog still has to fully mature. He has a lovely head with a pleasing expression. A good long neck leading to well angulated shoulders. Nice depth of chest with a good tail set. Moved with drive. Pleased to award him RCC.

2 – Douglas’ Chanangel Yorkshire Gold to Santallina – This dog is more workmanlike than 1. He has a good head, lovely lay of shoulder and good bone. Sadly, left his clothes at home today.

Champion Dog (4,1)

1 – Millard's Sh Ch Ferndel High Comand at Rubylea – This dog is starting to show a little grey, but it does not detract from his obvious qualities. He has a lovely head and is beautifully put together with good angulation and depth of chest. Moved well. Don't think he was happy with the floor today when standing. This was a close class.

2 – Gaylor & Robertson's Sh Ch Heniveruce King of Brewers for Aprilflash – There is lots to like about this dog. Slightly stronger head than 1 with a good expression. Good strong neck leading to well angled shoulders, nice depth of chest, lovely tight feet, moved well.

3 – Cemis' Sh Ch Taimere's Talk About Me

Veteran Dog (7,2)

I was spoilt for choice in this lovely strong class

1 – Brown's Bowdonia Ozzie VW – I was surprised to see that this boy is almost 10 – how time flies! He is a lovely dog throughout from his gorgeous head with a melting expression onwards. He has a good strong neck, good angulation fore and aft and nice topline. He moved with drive. BVD and BVIS in agreement with my co-judge.

2 – Smith's Isfryn Peeping Tom JW – A youngster at only 7. He is a lovely old-fashioned type who moved with drive. Good depth of chest and nice top line. His tail didn't stop wagging!

3 – Barkley's Sh Ch Cherryheath's Mr Mischief JW ShCM VW

Special Beginners Dog (6,1)

1 – Brook's Eiriandylis Georgia Moon – Repeat Post Grad. He won this class on his overall type.

2 – Chimes' Bronnydene Fly Red Kite – This sixteen-month-old was obviously lacking maturity in comparison to 1. He is more compact than 1 and has a nice head with a good lay of shoulder

3 – Levy's Cerysan Limited Edition

Special New Members Dog (2,0)

1 – Chimes' Bronnydene Fly Red Kite – Repeat Special Beginners

2 – Wallington's Ferndel Renzo at Rovindal – This fourteen-month-old has a lovely head with a melting expression. He has a good neck and topline with good feet. I would prefer more depth of chest.

Field Trial Dog (0)

Special Working Dog (1,0)

1 – Smith's Isfryn Peeping Tom JW – Repeat Veteran

Special Shooting Dog (3,1)

1 – Smith's Isfryn Peeping Tom JW – Repeat Veteran

2 – Stevenson's Mymmsbrook Matador with Blythway JW – Repeat Limit

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Dog (5,2)

1 – Brook's Eiriandylis Georgia Moon – Repeat Post Grad

2 – Barkley's Cherryheath's Mr Mojito – Not surprisingly, this nine-year-old boy is starting to show his age. He has a good head and topline and moved well.

3 – Hankins' Julita Rainmaker with Woodelrond

Finuala Barnes (Barhi)

Judge