WEST OF ENGLAND COCKER SPANIEL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 26/1/25 SPANIEL (COCKER)

My thanks to West of England Cocker Spaniel Club for giving me the opportunity to judge our lovely breed at their show. My stewards were extremely competent with their kind, efficient manner.

I would also like to thank the exhibitors who entered under me many of whom had travelled in the wake of Storm Eowyn. It was an honour and a privilege to go over the bitches all of whom had reliable temperaments and were freshly groomed. I found just one incorrect bite and several were lacking in bone and substance which was only revealed on handling. However, overall, the quality was evident and I was delighted with my cracking lineup at the end.

AOC PUPPY (1)

1. Cowles' Regaltav Valentine To Shenjela. Very attractive, eleven months blue. Well balanced throughout with nothing overdone. Good rear angulation. Moved out positively with drive and panache.

AOC NOVICE (2,2) AOC GRADUATE (4)

- 1. Davies' Manchela Little Mermaid Of Annaside JW. Honest, eighteen months blue who presented a typical outline. Looked a picture both stacked and on the move. Plenty of heart room and depth of body. Ribs well spread. A very confident youngster who propelled herself around the ring with ease.
- 2. Darby's Pearkim Pompadora Dargess. Dark blue of nineteen months. A little out of coat today. Spot on front assembly. The required thickly padded feet which carried through into a good amount of substance. Level topline which she held on the move.
- 3. Holland's Kyna Touch Of Magic To Holchancer.

AOC OPEN (3)

- 1. Whitehead's Sh Ch Ryallcourt Stitch In Time JW. Absolutely beautiful three year old light blue. Judged her as a minor puppy. I liked her then and haven't changed my opinion. Feminine with ample bone and substance. Text book height to length ratio with super angulation both ends. Elbows well tucked in and short below hocks. Not flashy but commanded the ring holding her topline as she moved around with ease. An expertly trimmed jacket completed the picture. BCC & BIS on the referee's decision.
- 2. Masters & Dott's Manchella Little Tease JW. Very appealing two year old dark blue of the quality one would expect from this kennel. Well muscled up with substance in abundance. Presented a classic cocker outline with superb bend of stifle. Very exuberant on the move displaying a merry disposition. The handler worked well to channel her energy. Called back in for further consideration in the challenge.
- 3. Gorka's Shansart Mary Poppins POL/LT JCH.

SOLID PUPPY (2)

- Pop's Merrysoul Donatella Versace With Bocablue. A compact nine months black built on smaller lines but so well bodied up. Lovely head and expression. Excellent coat and condition. Positive on the move. A promising puppy.
- 2. Ward's Whinburn Northern Lights Over Wensum. Nine months golden who presented a pleasing picture. Lighter in bone than first place. Shapely and clean over neck and shoulders with good turn of stifle. Good trimming completed the picture.

SOLID NOVICE (1,1) SOLID GRADUATE (5)

- 1. Bindza's Laurellakes It's A Miracle. Two year old black who headed a strong class. Balanced head proportions. Good reach of neck into clean shoulders. Short, deep body and plenty of bone. Grand ribcage. Very well presented. Moved true.
- 2. Young's Canyonn Classic Vision JW. Black of two years aptly named as she presented a classic vision. Well chiselled head.

- Clean over shoulders with good return of upper arm. Tight, well padded feet. A little out of coat today. Superb drive.
- 3. Gilmour's Chavez Royal Devotion.

SOLID OPEN (1)

1. Ward's Wensum Let's Dance JW. Really good firm body on this three year old golden who I judged two years ago. Still like her. Glossy coat. Firm, level topline. Nothing exaggerated, very honest and typical. Seemed tired on the move today.

VETERAN (3)

- 1. Bard's Withiflor Fairy Tale JW. I remember this eight year old golden as a minor puppy. Credit to the owner for keeping her in tip top condition. Well muscled with tightly padded feet. Clean over neck and shoulder. Nose lacked a little pigment today but that did not detract from the overall picture. Moved true. BVB
- 2. Sewell's Wintonia Hidden Gem At Quattrozampe VW. Eight year old dark blue with lots to like. Compact and shapely presenting a square, balanced outline. Superb muscletone. Happy and confident. Her merry character was evident as she moved around the ring. Well handled.
- 3. Saunders' Moonstryder Eliza Taylor At Oxfordogs VW. MINOR PUPPY (8,4)
- 1. Ellison's Chavez Golden Glow With Withiflor. An extremely close call here between these two goldens who were both six months on the day. I later discovered they are litter sisters. Pretty head with square muzzle. Decent length to upper arm. Depth of body and ribs well spread. Outgoing character. Set on of tail is absolutely fine but she flew if in the challenge for best minor puppy in show. BMPB
- 2. Gilmour's Chavez Royal Charisma. Excellent reach of neck into well laid shoulders. Well angulated at the rear and short below hocks. A stylish puppy. Preferred the bone and substance of 1. Age appropriate trimming. Moved with purpose.
- 3. Edginton's Uxendel Sea Scandal.

PUPPY (6)

- 1. Gorka's Esqueen Lucky Strike (ATC BB77799POL). This ten months dark blue ticked so many boxes. Balanced head and kind expression. Well laid shoulders and return of upper arm. Ribs well spread. Good muscletone including second thigh. Good bend of stifle. Thickly padded feet. Good coat presentation. Very pleasing in profile. Confident on the move. BPB & BPIS with the agreement of my co-judge.
- 2. Salmon's Crimicar Blu Diamond. Blue of ten months and another good exhibit with well prepared coat. Longer in loin than 1. Lovely headpiece and flowed over neck and shoulders. Pleasing ground covering action. Well handled.
- 3. Pop's Merrysould Donatella Versace With Bocablue.

JUNIOR (3)

- 1. Marris-Bray's Plaiglen Biker Babe To Helenwood JW. Thirteen months black who I have previously admired. In excellent coat and condition with ultra firm muscletone. Melting expression, Good angulation both ends. Close in the couplings and broad beam. Moved out true fore and aft. An exciting prospect. Shortisted to four from my final lineup. BJB I understand why she had to leave before the challenge for best junior in show.
- 2. Small's Albertean Minerva JW. Seventeen months dark blue. Had to be handled to be appreciated. Honest type. Ribs well spread and depth in body. Carrying a tad extra weight across her shoulders. Well turned stifles. Moved really well showing her happy temperament.
- 3. Heard Albertean Aletheia.

YEARLING (10,6)

1. Masters' Manchela Pollyanna JW. My notes say 'wow'. A text book package. Eighteen months blue. Exquisite headpiece with well arched neck flowing into very good shoulder placement. Elbows tucked in. Width and depth all through. Bone and substance in abundance complemented with firm muscle. Her handler had to channel her exuberance on the move. Shortlisted to four from my final lineup.

- 2. Yilmaz's Anlasana Yeavering Belle. Nineteen months blue who was unfortunate to meet 1. My notes say strong, sturdy, happy and positive. Well groomed and handled to bring out the best in her. Short in the loin. All in all, a super example of the breed. Moved with bustle,
- 3. Burnet's Granrose Three Times A Lady By Charmwen.

NOVICE (5,2)

- Share-Jones' Buttered Toast Of Sharemead. Thirteen months golden who excelled in bone and substance. Superb pigmentation. Strong yet feminine with melting expression. Width all through but just carrying a tad too much weight. Expertly trimmed. Thickly padded feet and well let down hocks. Good ground covering action.
- 2. Salmon's Crimicar Blu Diamond.
- 3. Griffin's Griffial All My Loving.

UNDERGRADUATE (3.1)

- 1. Bowen's Glowhill Annika At Lararth. Two year old blue of excellent proportions. Balanced all through. A touch out of coat but she had nothing to hide. Well muscled up. Firm topline which she held throughout. Shown to advantage.
- 2. Beckwith's Sheigra Special Secret With Balaambeck. Chunky three year old black. Square in profile and wearing a well prepared coat. Very well handled displaying a happy, gentle character.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS (6,3)

- 1. Salmon's Crimicar Blu Diamond.
- 2. Griffin's Griffial All My Loving. Thirteen months golden. Balanced head proportions. Carrying excess weight which detracted from her outline but, overall, very sound. At one with her handler. Moved soundly with confidence.
- 3. Heard's Albertean Aletheia.

POSTGRADUATE (6.1)

1. Hutson's Stobytill Bootylicious. Stood out in her class for balance and style. Lovely headpiece with well defined stop.

- Short below hocks. Played up her handler a bit but demonstrated enough driving action to win this strong class.
- 2. Brookes' Bruxly Elizabeth. Two year old black who pushed first place hard. A whisker away. Short and square. My notes say boxy. Depth of brisket and closely coupled. Well trimmed. Moved soundly.
- 3. Cowles' Shenjela Starlight.

LIMIT (10,1)

- Morris' Riondel Solitaire. This two year old dark blue headed a strong class. Nothing exaggerated. Good head proportions with defined stop. Plenty of heartroom. Layback of shoulder impressive. Well spread ribs. Short, strong loin. Well let down hocks. Plenty of bone all topped off with a carefully prepared coat. Drove around the ring with confidence in spades. RBC
- 2. Darby's Classicway Chiming Bells. Attractive two year old blue in full bloom and out of the top drawer. Appealed in many ways. Clean sweep over neck and shoulders. Hard, firm condition carrying the correct amount of weight. Width all through with a broad beam. Good tail action on the move.
- 3. Anslow's Shansart Skylark.

OPEN (5,3)

- 1. Bowen's Lararth Midnight Blue. Three year old blue who enjoyed touching affinity with her handler. Exceedingly merry and exuberant. Rock hard condition. Her quarters revealed excellent muscletone. Good spring of rib. Many attributes. Demonstarted ease of drive on the move.
- 2. Well rehearsed six year old blue. Stood taller than first place and was longer cast. Excelled in head with such a kind expression. Well arched neck into clean shoulder placement. Moved true.