

WEST OF ENGLAND COCKER SPANIEL CLUB OPEN SHOW

Sunday 8th October 2023

Judge Mr David Bowen [Lararth]

I was honoured to be asked to judge the special awards classes at West of England Cocker Spaniel Club open show in the 8th October 2023.

Thank you to the hard working, efficient committee firstly for the invitation and secondly the warm welcome extended to Sharon and myself at this friendliest of shows held in a beautiful part of the country. I confess to being overwhelmed by the quantity and quality of exhibits entered on the day. My task, in some instances was difficult and final placings came down to fine margins. The exhibitors presented their dogs in excellent condition and accepted their placings courteously, thank you. I had two first class stewards in Sue Cox & Matt Griffiths who kept everything flowing and made my secretarial job easier, paperwork is not my forte as Sue found out. Final thanks to the Five Star catering crew headed by Bryan McCabe-Bell who provided a fantastic lunch.

Class A Special Award Puppy Dog or Bitch 8 [1]

1st Darby CLASSICWAY CALL TIME 11 month old light blue male of excellent breed type presented in top-notch coat & condition. He has a lovely head and expression with dark, tight rimmed eyes. He has correct height to length proportions and is very square & cobby. Good length of neck flows into a well placed shoulder with a well angled upper arm of good length. He stands on firm cat like feet with strong straight legs. He has a firm back with well sprung ribs & a strong wide loin. Excellent hindquarters with a good turn of stifle and strong short hocks. In movement this top-class young dog is balanced and fluent with effective hind drive and very good fore-reach maintaining a straight firm topline and pleasing outline. He headed an excellent class of puppies and I'm sure he has a very bright future indeed.

2nd Kettle LUJESA LAURELLAKES ANGEL WHISPER 11 month old good looking black female who possesses a lovely head and a melting expression with lovely dark tight eyes. She was presented in excellent coat and condition, very balanced and cobby throughout. She stands on straight legs with firm cat like feet, very good reach of neck which sits on a correct sloping shoulders. She has very good angulation front and back, with short strong hocks and a lovely turn of stifle. Her body is strong with a good spring of rib & a short strong loin. In movement she retains a straight topline with a good ground covering gait and a good ring presence.

Class B Special Award Post Graduate Dog or Bitch 9[1]

1st Masters & Dott MANCHELA LITTLE TEASE 18 month old dark blue of excellent breed type presented in outstanding coat and condition. Her excellent head and expression with beautiful dark tight rimmed eyes sit on a good length neck which flows into well placed shoulders with a long well angled upper arm. She has excellent height to length proportions being very square & cobby, with a straight level topline and excellent spring of rib & a wide strong loin. She has super hindquarters with a lovely turn of stifle and strong short hocks. In movement she presents a very pleasing picture in all phases and retains a rock solid topline. I judged this female back in May and as you can read my opinion hasn't changed of her, she was a pleasure to go over.

2nd West SHEIGRA SUPER SECRET JW, 2 year old golden female of again excellent breed type and shown in lovely coat & condition, beautiful head and a melting expression with super dark eyes. She has a good reach of neck and correct sloping shoulders & a long well angled upper arm. She stands

on correct straight legs & lovely feet & pasterns . Her topline is firm & straight with a good spring of rib and a short firm loin. Sound coming & going with excellent hindquarters and short strong hocks. In movement she covers the ground with a strong side gait retaining her firm topline at all speeds presenting a picture of complete balance. She was very unlucky to have met the first female today in such form as I really liked her a lot .

CLASS C SPECIAL AWARD OPEN DOG or BITCH 3[1]

1st West SHEIGRA SIMPLY A STAR JW, 6 year old Black female in lovely coat & hard Condition , she has a correct head and super dark eyes which sit on a correct length of neck with a well placed shoulder & correct length and lay of the upper arm . She has excellent height to length proportions, very square & cobby ,strong compact body with a good spring of rib & a short strong loin. Correct straight topline and very good hindquarters with neat string hocks which are very sound. In movement she impressed me with good ground covering gait & very good ring presence.

2nd Kidd FREESTONE CHANCES ARE, 4 year old blue roan of pleasing breed type . She has a nice head & expression with dark eyes . The neck is slightly short but sits on well placed shoulders. She has a good front ,with a well angled upper arm which is slightly short, with a good development of the fore chest & a deep brisket. The middle piece could be stronger but she has well sprung ribs& the loin is wide & strong. Sound coming & going with short strong hocks which are sound . She moves very positively but would like her to retain a firmer topline .