

West of England Cocker Spaniel Club – 12th June 2016

Critique from Judge Loretta Nobes-Strong (Ladlor)

My heartfelt thanks to the officers and committee of this organised and welcoming club for inviting me to judge for them on the Queen's 90th birthday and for looking after us so well during the day. I felt privileged to go over such high quality exhibits and can honestly say that many classes left me with very difficult decisions, with the first 3 places easily interchangeable on another day. There were some very heavy coats in evidence and whilst flowing feathering can be attractive in places, it unfortunately detracted from the shape and movement in some cases. Finishing touches so often make the difference when the competition is close.

Solid Colour Puppy (0)

Solid Colour Novice (2)

1st Warren's Shadowside Yes Miss - Black and tan bitch with a well-balanced head and dark eyes. Compact and cobby body with plenty of room in the chest. Presented in gleaming coat, a little less feathering in the hock region would have showed off her shape to greater benefit.

Solid Colour Graduate (2)

Absent

Solid Colour Open (3)

1st Kew's Withiflor Wheels on Fire at Wyleview – BOS Pretty 3 year old black and tan bitch from excellent breeding stock. Lovely sweet head, dark, tight eye and beautiful expression. Balanced throughout without exaggeration, excellent bone, legs and superb cat-like feet. Shown in full bloom with long, gleaming coat and moving sound as a bell. Clearly at her best and pleased to learn later that she has been winning well.

AOC Puppy (4)

1st Herd's Quintavia Starry Skies – Heading up a very close class was this 11 month old eye-catching dark blue roan bitch. Exceptional head with dark, tight eye and melting expression. Short square body, well developed for her age with good bone. Very heavy coat which is a joy to be able to work with but a little care needed to ensure that it doesn't detract from her hind movement.

2nd Hackett's Lindridge Daisy Chain –Mature orange roan bitch just approaching her first birthday. Excellent dark eye which is lovely to see in this colour. Well-developed and robust in bone and body. Super short hocks which she used to drive around the ring and moved

soundly both ways. Plenty of coat for her age. Typical exhibit from this consistent, quality breeder.

3rd Crowley's Ashalon Chasing Bubbles

AOC Novice (1)

1st Pearce-Gudger's Chachel Prince Charming of Pearkim JW – Orange roan dog just out of puppy. Lovely balanced head, exceptional eye and expression. Great bone, legs and feet. Deep body with wells sprung ribs leading to superbly rounded hindquarters and short hocks. Moved merrily and soundly both ways and shown in excellent coat.

AOC Graduate (7)

1st Master's Manchela Paco Rabanne JW – BIS This young light blue roan and tan dog really caught my eye from the moment he entered the ring and continued to hold my attention when competing for the final honours. Such a lovely cocker type superbly balanced head, deep stop and melting expression. Good reach of neck, correct shoulder placement, compact, deep and well developed body with correct topline. Excelled in lovely rounded bone, straight legs and good feet. His hindquarters are well angulated and lead into short hocks which he used with purpose when moving. Fabulous coat, presented well and moved soundly and merrily in true cocker fashion. Will watch his career with interest.

2nd Bond's Cassom Fast and Furious at Olibond – This eye-catching blue roan dog was unlucky to meet the winner today. Gorgeous head, so nicely balanced with superb eye and expression. Strong bone and masculine body. Correctly angulated throughout with good turn of stifle aiding sound and happy movement. Presented beautifully.

3rd Herd's Quintavia When in Rome JW

AOC Open (1)

1st Mitchell's Glowhill Miss Saigon – I judged this bitch as a puppy and wasn't disappointed by her development into an adult. Balanced throughout with no exaggeration. Short and cobby with a well-balanced head. Lovely short hocks and moved so soundly both ways, clearly demonstrating her excellent conformation. Shown in full coat and shortlisted for BIS.

A/C Veteran (7)

1st Lockwood's Lujesa Casellina at Chimewood – BVIS Well known and much lauded black bitch. Such a stately lady looking nothing like her 9 years in age. I particularly liked the balance throughout with all elements of her construction in excellent proportion. Won this class on both the quality of her conformation and especially her irrepressible zest for life and merry, cockery movement. Completely sound both ways as is so typically seen from the breeder's kennel.

2nd Meaker's Charbonnel Thema n Louise at Meakwood – 7 year old blue roan bitch in superb coat for her time of life. Lovely head and eye, great legs and feet and well angled hindquarters. Moved soundly only not quite as impressed with her day out as the winner.

3rd Herd's Quintavia Stars in her Eyes JW

Minor Puppy Dog (2)

1st Dewhurst's Glowhill Hammer Time – 6 month old blue roan dog so well behaved for his age and clearly benefiting from ring craft. Good head with dark eye and nice expression. Mature in body with deep barrelled ribs and very well boned. Moved steadily and soundly both ways.

Minor Puppy Bitch (6)

A lovely class of quality exhibits; I am sure they will swap places throughout puppy classes.

1st Parker's Weyhill Wish List – BMPIS 7 month black bitch, completely balanced throughout, excellent head with dark, tight eye and typical melting cocker expression. Short and compact body into well-turned hindquarters and short hocks. In good coat for her age and moving soundly and steadily. A bright future awaits I'm sure.

2nd Mitchell's Glowhill Silvery Moon – Promising 6 month blue roan bitch. Nice head, lovely legs and feet, and excellent angulation. Typical cocker in body construction with all the key ingredients needed for a promising career as she matures.

3rd Craig's Alisma Alegra

Puppy Dog (1)

1st Crowley's Ashalon Red White n Blue – BPIS I absolutely loved this 11 month old light blue roan dog and would happily own him. Superb head, lovely eye and expression. Excellent length of neck and shoulder placement. Well boned and straight front legs, thickly padded feet, short coupled and deep body. Good rear angulation and short hocks. Moved very soundly both ways maintaining a good topline. Caught my eye straight away and competed strongly with the adults in my short list for BIS. I am sure that he will go on to have a great future.

Puppy Bitch (4)

1st Birkenshaw's Gilcar Crystal Blue – Another quality class headed up by this 9 month blue roan bitch. Balanced construction with lovely head and eye. Excelled in hindquarters and very mature for her age including a superb coat. Enthusiastic on the move and sound both ways.

2nd Craig's Alimsa Aivie – I loved this 6 month old cobby and cockery light blue roan bitch from the moment she entered the ring. Lovely balanced head with good eyes and expression. Excellent front legs with typical thickly padded feet. What a shame that she wasn't a willing mover today. I'm sure she will trouble the best when her owner conquers this.

3rd Meaker's Charbonnel East'n'Promise at Meakwood

Junior (1)

1st Pearce-Gudger's Cachel Prince Charming of Pearkim JW

Special Yearling (3)

1st Hackett's Lindridge Diamond Geeza - Masculine blue roan dog with plenty to like in his completely balanced and typical cocker construction. Fabulous bone, excellent legs and superb feet, deep body with well sprung ribs and powerful hindquarters. Moved soundly and with great drive. Short listed for BIS.

2nd Mitchell's Glowhill Cotton Eyed Joe – A very close second. Another balanced, well-known and well-constructed blue roan dog from this consistent breeder. The right amount of neck and correct shoulder placement. Short, cobby body with well-rounded hindquarters and correct feet. Plenty of coat and enthusiastic on the move.

Maiden (3)

1st Meaker's Charbonnel East'n'Promise at Meakwood – 10 month old dark blue roan bitch of really good type and conformation. Her now famous sire is a favourite of mine. Short and cobby body balanced by correct angulation front and rear. Good bone, legs and feet. Sound movement both ways and very merry.

2nd Viegas's Gardenstone Glitz n Glamour – Feminine light blue roan bitch by another sire I have long admired. Good head with dark and tight eyes. The right amount of neck and short, compact body. Moved steadily and happily, enjoying her day out.

Novice (5)

1st Warren's Shadowside Yes Miss

2nd Viegas's Gardenstone Glitz n Glamour

Undergraduate (1)

Absent

Bred by Exhibitor (7)

1st Meaker's Meakwood Precious Moments – Lovely blue roan bitch, so well balanced throughout. Pretty head, dark eyes, straight front legs with good bone and tight feet. Unexaggerated neck and shoulders leading to a deep and compact body and excellent hindquarters. Moved merrily and soundly front and rear.

2nd Moutrey's Sunzo Sonatina – Flashy, attractive and feminine black bitch shown in good coat and condition with a pleasing outline and good overall construction. Not quite the depth and substance of my winner and a little proud of her tail when moving.

3rd Mathew's Sonham Sapphire Blue

Not Bred by Exhibitor (3)

1st Viegas's Gardenstone Glitz n Glamour

Post Graduate (6)

A really tough class to judge with a particularly close decision between 1st and 2nd.

1st Craig's Alisma Zacharius JW – RBIS Quality 2 year old blue roan dog, just my type. So balanced throughout and another I would happily own. Excellent, balanced head with sweet expression and no exaggeration, sufficient neck into well laid back shoulders and gently sloping topline. Strong and well-rounded bone, thickly padded feet and short little hocks which he used to drive with purpose and soundly both ways. In good coat and very well presented by hand. Pushed very hard for BIS.

2nd Kettle's Lujesa Sky's the Limit JW – 2 year old black dog of excellent breeding and just teeming with quality as we've come to expect from this meticulous kennel. Balanced masculine head, excellent reach of neck and shoulder placement matched by superbly turned stifles and short hocks, creating a completely balance picture. So sound on the move both ways and driving well behind to show clean pads. Presentation second to none today.

3rd Matthew's Sonham Blue Diamond JW

Open Dog (3)

1st Barnes's Haradwater Get Lucky at Challowdown JW – Another superb quality blue roan dog shortlisted for BIS and in fact the sire of my BIS winner. Completely balanced throughout. Superb bone legs and feet, good neck and shoulders and excellent hind angulation. In great coat and another example of excellent presentation. Moved soundly and steadily and competed strongly for top honours.

2nd Hackett's Lindridge Smart Move – Masculine dog with strong head, good bone, powerful, compact body and well sprung ribs. Excellent legs and feet with well-turned and muscular hindquarters. In good condition and very sound on the move. Dripping in coat which so often completes the picture but required a little more shaping to showcase his conformation today.

Open Bitch (2)

Absent

Judge - Loretta Nobes-Strong