

The Solid Colours Cocker Spaniel Association Championship Show 8th July 2023
Critique - Dog Judge Loretta Nobes-Strong (Ladlor)

Thank you to the officers and committee for inviting me to judge at this beautiful outdoor venue. Sadly the weather had different ideas and we had to take cover inside the equestrian facility. Apart from the heat and humidity of the day, the surface was even for the dogs and the officers and committee worked hard to ensure a successful day. Thank you also to the exhibitors for braving the thunder, lightning and torrential rain!

It was a privilege to go over such high-quality exhibits and I found most dogs to be well constructed and sound moving, holding a good topline and displaying both the front extension and rear drive necessary for efficient movement. However, I noticed some upright forearms creeping in, which needs to be considered when breeding.

Some exhibits would benefit from less coat on the legs and feet and improved shape to the feathering. Good construction can and should be enhanced with grooming skills, rather than the excess coat being allowed to detract from the overall outline and movement.

I was delighted with my line up and shortlist. The final winners all displayed that typical and appealing merry cocker attitude when taking their lap of honour. I later learned that my Dog CC and Best Puppy had the same sire and the Reserve Dog CC was by a favourite of mine!

Dog CC, RBIS & BOS – Hacketts' Lindridge Harbour Lights

Dog RCC – Bonds' Olibond Not a Bother

Best Veteran – Kew's Sh Ch Lujesa Starman at Wyleview

Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy in Show – Darbys' Classicway Call Time

Parti-colour

Special Puppy (4)

1. Torbetts' Kirlinjis Fast 'N' Furious - headed up a class of excellent youngsters. 10-month blue with a lovely head, gentle expression and dark eyes with tight rims, superb legs with the best of feet. My hands ran smoothly over his neck and shoulders into his compact and balanced body. Excellent hindquarters, moved soundly both ways and neatly presented.
2. Bayliss' Wilanorah We Will Rock You – 9-month dark blue with a classic head and soft expression, balance and cobby, good topline and correct tail set. Still needs to mature and settle on the move but has plenty of time.
3. Clarkes' Harbethol Look Magical Tyme

Special Novice (6)

1. Craigs' Alisma Amarillo – Attractive, 12 month quality blue with great ring presence. An excellent head, well balanced with typical breed expression, strong bone and thickly padded feet. Balanced, square body with correct topline. Moderate length of neck and good forearm and shoulder angulation. Short, deep and compact body with superbly rounded hindquarters. Sound mover both ways and displaying that typical merry cocker gait. In good coat and groomed to a very high standard.
2. Stokes-Harrells' Riondel the Showman – Another balanced and compact blue with an excellent head, good overall body proportions and a well-developed ribcage for his age. Excellent hindquarters,

short below the hock. A little less coat on the legs would better show off these qualities but nevertheless moved soundly both ways.

3. Clarkes' Harbethol Look magical Tyme

Special Graduate (2)

1. Palmers' Shansart Sky Dancer – Quality dark blue, completely balanced without exaggeration. A lovely head with correct proportion between foreface and skull and a soft, kind expression. Good legs and feet, masculine short body with excellent bone. Lovely hindquarters with a good turn of stifle and short below the hocks. In good coat and moved soundly both ways.
2. Bayliss' Shirepark Sir Francis Drake by Wilanorah JW – Blue with a well balanced head, dark eyes and kind expression. Moderate neck leading into deep and well sprung ribcage, balanced body, level topline and sound movement.

Special Open (5)

1. Torbetts' Sh Ch Kirlinjis Taylor Made – dark blue I judged as a youngster and has developed superbly into a worthy show champion. I still love his classic cocker head, eye and kind expression, strong bone, parallel legs and tight feet. Good reach of neck with correct forearm and shoulder angles. Cobby body with level topline, good spring of ribs and excellent hind angulation. Moves so soundly and merrily with great drive and ground coverage. Shortlisted for the CC
2. Wildmans' Reemif Midnight Blue for Chanmalo ShCM ShCEX – well-made blue dog I've admired from the ringside with his lovely even head proportions, correct eye and expression for the breed. Masculine, compact body with rounded bone, straight legs and nice feet. Shown in full coat which was presented very well and moved soundly.
3. Drivers' Annilan Mister Spangles at Beckaby JW

Red/Golden/Liver/Liver & Tan

Special Puppy (0)

Special Graduate (1)

1. Flowers' Inverella Dutch Ice King – red dog with excellent balance throughout and correct angulation fore and aft. Attractive head with a dark tight eye and typical soft cocker expression. Lovely neck and good shoulder layback, short, deep body and good turn of stifle. Well presented flat and silky coat. Moved extremely soundly but with his tail down. Shortlisted for the CC based on his overall construction.

Special Open (2)

1. Wiggins' Sh Ch Snowgate Onyer Bike to Scapafield – red dog I've admired since I first saw him and didn't disappoint on handling, exudes quality. Balanced head with a kind and gentle expression. Great bone, thickly padded feet and correct angulation of the shoulders and hindquarters. Silky gleaming coat with plenty of feathering. Sound movement demonstrating his correct construction. Deserves his title and a contender for the CC today.

Black/Black & Tan

Special Puppy (1)

1. Ellisons' Withiflor Touchstone – gorgeous black and tan youngster coming up to 9 months with the very best of heads, rich tan facial markings and a soft, melting expression. Masculine for his age with good bone, thickly padded feet and strong hindquarters. Compact and completely balanced throughout his body. Plenty of coat to work with and very sound and merry on the move, enjoying his day. Sure to have a bright future.

Special Graduate (3)

1. Youngs' Canyon Black Caviar – black dog so typical of this consistent kennel, with a lovely head, dark eyes, good bone and tight feet, correct neck and should placement, so compact and sturdy with superb hindquarters and short below the hocks. Moved soundly with great purpose and sure to have a bright future when he settles down.
2. Andersons' Zakova Sundance Kyd at Sabaloo JW – Masculine black dog at his best and a close contender. Gorgeous head with dark, tight eyes and melting expression, good legs and feet, moderate muscular neck flowing into short coupled and well-proportioned body. Level topline and strong hindquarters which he used well on the move.
3. Ellisons' Spinoza of Merrily Avec Withiflor (Imp Fra)

Special Open (0)

Any Colour

Veteran (4)

1. Kews' Sh Ch Lujesa Starman at Wyleview – a favourite black of mine still showing excellent quality, type and balanced conformation at 7 years old. Masculine throughout with strong bone but not overdone in any way. Beautiful head, dark eyes and typical gentle cocker expression. Good level topline into strong hindquarters with well-turned stifles. Nicely presented coat, moved soundly with drive and enthusiasm.
2. Scotts' Kalispell Beaspoke JW – blue roan of excellent conformation and type also looking younger than his 8 years. Good head, superb bone, legs and feet and muscular hindquarters. Deep, masculine, cobby body with correct topline and tail set. Moved steadily, soundly and merrily enjoying his day out. In good coat and presented well.

Minor Puppy (7) – an excellent quality class which bodes very well for the future of our breed

1. Darbys' Classicway Call Time Light – this striking light blue roan oozes quality from head to tail. Simply gorgeous head and expression, perfect for the breed and exactly what I look for. Correct neck length and good forearm and shoulder angles which together with superb hind angulation created the front extension and rear drive I love to see on the move. Compact body with ample spring of rib and depth for his age. Delighted to award him Best Puppy and with my co-judge's agreement BPIS. Definitely one to watch for the future!
2. Bindzas' Laurellakes Hunky Dory - at just 6-months, this superb blue roan already exudes the type and quality I would be very pleased to own. Completely balanced foreface and skull with deep stop, kind eye and soft expression. Excellent legs and feet, short and compact body, level topline, excellent hind angulation and short below the hocks giving plenty of drive and sound movement fore and aft. Will surely be a major contender as he matures.
3. Warringtons' Zakova Wise Guy

Puppy (3)

1. Torbetts' Kirlinjis Fast 'N' Furious
2. Colliers' Pepperbox Midnight Parti - Blue of a good overall type, kind eyes and soft expression. Parallel front legs, good reach of neck into balanced and compact body. Good topline and tail set. Happy and sound on the move and plenty of puppy coat to work on.
3. Clarkes' Harbethol Look Magical Tyme

Junior (6)

1. McShanes' Meggiemac Black Pearl - commanding black dog with a lovely balanced head, dark gentle eyes and sweet expression. Strong, deep and masculine body into exceptionally strong hindquarters creating great propulsion around the ring which won him this class. Sound and merry and presented with obvious time and care.
2. Morris' Riondel Enigma - Light blue with all the typical hallmarks of this consistent kennel. Attractive head with appealing expression and dark eyes. Moderate neck into good shoulders and level topline. Compact body with plenty of flat, silky coat. Moved steadily and soundly both ways.
3. Shaplands' Deracor Dreamlad

Yearling (2)

1. Gilmours' Chavez Silver Cloud - quality light blue with attractive outline and good overall type (reminded me of a Mistfall dog I had). Classic cocker head and expression, good length of neck, correct shoulder angulation and excellent hindquarters. Presented well with obvious time and care and no excess coat to detract from his completely sound movement both ways.
2. Marris-Brays' Glowhill Gallivant JW - Another quality blue close to winning this class with his classic cocker head, pleasing eye, good bone and feet. Moderate neck, balanced body proportions and good hind angulation without exaggeration. Will improve further as he muscles up behind. Moved soundly, steadily and with great drive.

Novice (8)

1. Hacketts' Lindridge Harbour Lights – Exciting light blue who caught my eye immediately and was just what I was looking for today. Only just out of puppy but with everything in perfect proportion as we've come to expect from this consistent breeder. Exquisite head with complete balance, deep stop and melting expression, moderate neck and correct layback of shoulder. Good bone, thickly padded feet. Compact, deep and powerful body with well sprung ribs and plenty of fore chest. Level topline and correct tail set, rounded hindquarters and short below the hocks. A joy to go over then moved so soundly and steadily with that characteristic merry cocker action and ground coverage. Delighted to make him my CC winner on the day and hope it will be the first of many.
2. Darbys' Allerts Don Viking at Classicway (Imp Swe) - Another eye-catching blue of good overall type and construction. Attractive head, moderate neck length into good shoulder placement. Short coupled with well sprung ribs and correct topline. In good coat and moving very soundly both ways, showing great drive and enthusiasm.
3. Craigs' Alisma Amarillo

Graduate (4)

1. Bonds' Olibond Not a Bother - Exceptional blue dog I haven't seen before. Well balanced head with deep stop, pleasing expression and tight, dark eye. Excellent legs with well-rounded bone and thickly padded feet. Good neck length into fine shoulders and correct angulation. Compact and short-

coupled body leading into strong hindquarters with excellent bend of stifle and short below the hocks. Flowing lines on the move with true and typical gundog action. Presented and handled expertly and shown in beautiful coat and condition. Happy to award him the Reserve CC today and I'm sure he has a bright future.

2. Rahman & Williams' Chataway Dark Louis – red dog of superb quality who pushed hard in this class. Masculine head with correct proportions between foreface and skull, dark eyes with tight rims, great bone and feet. Short, deep and compact body with level topline leading into good hindquarters. Flat, silky coat presented expertly. Moved soundly both ways displaying that merry, bustling action I look for. Another with a bright future from this consistent kennel.
3. Ellisons' Spinoza of Merrily Avec Withiflor (Imp Fra)

Post Graduate (3)

1. Hacketts' Lindridge Front Runner - Striking, masculine orange dog I have admired for some time. Classic head with a kind eye and gentle expression, great bone, thickly padded feet, deep body with well sprung ribcage, superb hind angulation and short below the hocks. Excellent topline both standing and moving. Sound action with great drive and purpose.
2. Pearces' Kenwad Black Grouse at Miska JW – Attractive black of great type with plenty to like. Kind eye with a soft expression. Excelled in reach of neck which flowed into exquisitely refined sloping shoulders and forearm return. Correct topline, good spring of rib, great hind angulation and well muscled thighs. Moved soundly and steadily and expertly presented.
3. Masons' Sanlauga Soul Man

Special Beginners (2)

1. Colliers' Pepperbox Back in Time RL 1EX - Blue roan with a masculine head, excellent bone and good neck and shoulder placement, great hind angulation. Carrying a little too much coat which detracted on the move today but easy to rectify.
2. Brothwells' Wilanorah Ticket to the Moon at Wissant - Very merry blue dog, good head, lovely feet, not as muscular as the winner but nicely presented and moved soundly.

Limit (7) – A close decision between the first three

1. Bindzas' Aisza Figaro for Laurellakes - Quality liver dog with everything in the right place and probably at his best now. Balanced head, square muzzle and distinct stop, eye colour harmonising perfectly with his coat colour. Lovely legs, with good bone and thickly padded feet. Strong neck into fine sloping shoulders, compact body proportions with ample deep ribcage and good width across the loin. Sound and steady movement and plenty of coat.
2. Cassidys' Manchela Speechless at Cassoz JW - Quality masculine blue dog from the top drawer and I understand recently gained his show champion title. Balanced head, good bone and feet, compact body with correct topline and tail set. Well angulated hindquarters and short below the hocks. The unusual surface might have affected his movement slightly today, as he normally moves so well.
3. Thomas' Claramand Cracker

Open (4)

1. Williams' Sh Ch Wilmerella Outlander – Masculine and impressive blue roan who truly deserves his title. Excelled in that classic cocker head, eye and expression. Lovely neck into fine sloping shoulders, short, deep body with excellent hind angulation and short below the hocks which gave him great drive and soundness around the ring and he was enjoying his day out. In good coat, presented well and pushed hard for top honours.

2. Bindzas' Aisza Figaro for Laurellakes
3. Brothwells' Wilanorah Ticket to the Moon at Wissant