

Critique GDSW 23

Judge Mrs Meghan Riese-Bassel (USA)

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Gundog Society of Wales for their invitation to judge English Springers. English Springer Spaniels are one of my favourite breeds, and I have been honoured to judge the breed at the American National Specialty and at the Westminster Kennel Club. I have also had the pleasure to watch many ESS work in the field in the USA. While many feel that the breeds are emphatically different in the US and the rest of the world, I beg to differ. I feel that many of the dogs I judged at the GDSW could successfully compete in the States and I think the same can be said for some of the best American dogs if they were to come to the UK. As a whole I was extremely impressed with the ESS entries. I saw plenty of moderate animals with EXCEPTIONAL heads. One of the areas of concern for me in the USA is a lack of head type – including eye shape/expression/good pigment, balance of foreface to back skull, and a tightness of skin on the head. Breeders in the UK should be commended for the work they have done to maintain such an important breed characteristic. Another area that I feel the entry excelled in was rib spring/rib shape. The entry was generally compact through the body and I did not experience the “barrel ribbing” that, unfortunately, I sometimes see in the USA. Finally, I appreciated the coat quality and amount of coat on the entry. Almost every coat was silky with an excellent texture. Back coats were generally short, tight, and natural – a welcome change from the heavily stripped and scissored back coats I often see at home. There were a few classes that had exceptional depth of quality. My Open dog and Open bitch classes were a joy to judge. There were animals in these classes who did not come home with a red or blue ribbon, but who I really feel are valuable to the breed. I also felt the puppy classes had tons of quality and was pleased that my best puppy went on to a nice Puppy Group 3rd. My dog and bitch challenge lineups were chock full of quality, and I couldn't help but smile when I stood back and looked at them. Thank you to my stewards for their hard work and to the exhibitors for their entries. I truly had a wonderful time, and it was a pleasure to see so much breed type in one entry. Thank you for the warm welcome!

MPD (2,1) 1 Weyman's More Than Amazing Wanna Be A Gangster At Spuffin A very well made puppy with plenty of type. Pleasing head with chiseling coming in. Still growing into the skin on his head and neck. Excellent front assembly. He has plenty of spring of rib and depth for his age. Forelegs are straight and feet are tight and round. Very good quality of bone. Topline shows no sign of weakness and holds on the move as well as standing. He is still figuring out moving in the ring, but I see tons of potential. Carries himself well with good foot timing.

PD (5,1) 1 Stevenson's Peasblossom Brogan At Gaolachcara. Stylish young dog with good leg to body proportion. Upstanding and typey in outline. Nice shape to the back skull with a lovely expression. Good length of neck coming from an exceptional placement of shoulder. He has tight elbows and plenty of fill. Wonderfully balanced throughout with correct substance for age. Sound from all angles on the move. BPD and BP and was pleased he was recognized in the puppy group as well. 2 Nicholson & Whitley's Kingsheath Paso Doble. Another quality puppy. This dog excels in strength through the rear. He has a lovely hock placement, and the muscling is coming on. I feel this dog will benefit from time, as he is in the teenage stage where parts are growing at different rates. He could be a bit tighter through the elbow. Superbly sound. 3 Merry's Gleadburyit Is Destiny For Anacapa.

ND (4,2) 1 Kingsheath Paso Doble (see 2nd Place MPD). 2 Fugle's Russell At Cumani (Imp Ita) Plenty of substance on this young dog. Good bone shape and amount. Topline is solid with no signs of weakness. Could use a bit more refinement through the head, though he has good pigment and a kind eye. Would benefit from a shade more bend of stifle.

LD (4) 1 Topliss' Sandylands Stand N Deliver. An exceptionally typey dog in super condition and coat. He has a very pleasing outline with good leg to body proportions. He has a very nice flow from head to tail with a strong and correct topline. I appreciate his low hock joint and neat feet. I wouldn't want any more bone on this dog, yet what he has is acceptable. Sound dog from all angles. Was in contention in the Challenge competition. 2 Gledhill's Greg De Les Tres Llacunes (Imp). An honest dog with tons of quality. Love this dog's head and expression. Foreface and backskull are wonderfully balanced with good chiseling below the eye. He has excellent spring of rib with an excellent topline. Very good shoulder placement. I would not want any more bone on him. Very sound on the move on round, tight feet. Would give him a shade more leg to finish off the outline. 3 Rowlinson's Meltarose Midshipman.

OD (8,1) 1 Bjorkman's Barecho Can't Beat A Curry. What a dog! This dog is full of quality and type. Beginning at his head, it is balanced with a lovely expression and shape to the eye. Very good pigment and chiseling. He is masculine without being overdone and has a commanding presence with every step. He has an exceptional

front assembly which can be seen on the move as he correctly swings his front legs out from the shoulder with ease. His leg to body proportions are spot on with excellent depth of body and bone quality. He is tightly knit throughout, yet has the flexibility to allow him to work all day. His hocks are low and strong and his thighs are well developed. He was brought in the very best condition with his coat quality being superb and moderate. This dog did not put a foot down wrong and held his outline standing and moving. He, quite simply, gave me goosebumps. I was pleased to reward his quality with the DCC and BOB. 2 Topliss' Sh Ch Beresford Lockdown. Another truly exceptional dog. The word "classic" comes to mind when I look at him. I love the flow of this dog, from head to tail. He is a different style to the class winner, yet is an equally outstanding example of breed type. He has a lovely head that flows to well laid back shoulders. He has plenty of fill in the front and good length of upper arm. His topline is spot on, strong, and flowing. Tail set is lovely and he has a short loin. This dog moves very soundly from the side, displaying reach and drive. He could be a bit stronger in the hock when viewed from the rear. Brought in lovely condition and handled to perfection. RDCC. 3 Topliss' Sh Ch Beresford Night Train.

VD (1) 1 Bjorkman's Seu(u)Ch/Nou Ch Barecho You Rock My World. A quality dog with very good type and tons of style. I liked him instantly as he soundly went around the ring. Well put together with a lovely outline. Correct amount of bone. Well laid back shoulders and a super rear assembly. Could use a bit more fill in the front. He is in very good condition for his age. Pleased to see such quality in the veteran class. Best Veteran Dog and Best Veteran.

SBD/B (2) 1 Warrener's Eastfalla Sherlockholmes. In well muscled condition. Lovely bone quality and coat. A beautiful and typey headpiece with a kind expression. Holds outline well both standing and on the move. I would like to see a better lay of shoulder to give more length of neck, yet has a good topline with plenty of muscling. 2 Unwin's Allenies Lady Marmalade. Beautiful expression on this one. Good bone with tight elbows. Neat feet. Quality of the coat is nice - just needs a bit of maturity and coat, but time will bring that.

MPB (3,1) 1 Borkman's Barecho Lil' Bit Of Me. An exciting youngster for the future. This girl is very sound on the move with an outgoing personality. She has a lovely lay to her shoulder and is balanced in angulation. Her body is well developed for her age and she has a good quality of bone. She is a bit heavy in lip at the moment, but as she is so young she has plenty of bone growth ahead of her. 2 Hydon's Loxbourne Hustle And Bustle. I just adore the personality of this puppy, she was so happy to be here. She, too, is sound on the go when she settled between bounces. At the moment she is in a growth spurt, so things are at an in-between stage. Yet, I see tons of potential in her and feel she has a lovely type. Her angulation in front and rear are quite nice and she has a good shape to her bone. I feel she will be quite successful as a mature girl.

PB (5,1) 1 House's Gleadbury Destiny Belle. A wonderfully balanced young girl. I love her front assembly with a good lay of shoulder and excellent length and return of upper arm. Straight forelegs and well arched feet. She moves with ease and power around the ring and has excellent foot timing. I would give her a shade more bend of stifle, but time could bring that. A quality girl for sure. 2 Harris' Melverly Betsy Trotwood With Coastalglows. Love this girl's outline. It is so classic and balanced. She has good angulation fore and aft, with a solid and low hock. In very good coat for her age. A bit heavy in lip, but again as she is a puppy she has some growth ahead of her. Today she was a little overwhelmed by the activity, but I have no doubt this girl will have a big future once settled. 3 Tolladay's Calvdale Half A Story Bethersden.

JB (3,1) Smith's Melverly Iridescent. A classy bitch who oozes type. I adore her outline and balance throughout. Compact through the body, yet has plenty of angulation. Moves with purpose and has plenty of reach and drive to do a day's work. I think what I like most about this bitch is her moderation in all aspects. I would give her a bit more stop in her head to finish it off, but she has a pleasing expression. She will be at her prime in another year and will be a force to be reckoned with. 2 Osbourne's Tiroen Typically Braego. Still growing up, but love the length of leg she has. She is feminine yet has substance. Straight forelegs with round, tight feet. Really nice rear, with low hock and good muscling. Just needs time.

NB (7) 1 Keely's Khaleesi De Les Tres Llancunes With Alhambrian (Imp Esp) Such a spanielly girl with plenty of depth of body and spring of rib. Pleasing outline and a really nice front assembly. This girl is very sound from all angles (be sure not to move her too fast). Beautiful shape to her back skull and a pleasing expression. Nice bone quality. I would give her more width across the rear, but she has a low hock joint and uses herself well. 2 Gleadbury Destiny Belle (1st in puppy bitch) 3 Osbourne's Tiroen Typically Braego (kcj).

GB (8,3) 1 Savell's Petranella Tipping The Wink JW. Elegant girl on the best feet. She has a good flow to her with very good balance. Excellent rear with good width of thigh and second thigh and low hock. Really like her head, it is balanced in foreface and back skull with a lovely shape to the flew. Good length of leg and depth of body. Would like to see her front feet a bit more true. She presents a very pleasing outline. Honest on the move from all angles with reach and drive. 2 Joyce's Peasblossom Aura At Felltops. Typey outline with good angulation. Straight forelegs with good feet. Nice depth of body and short loin. Moves well around the ring.

Would like to see her with a shade less weight. Lovely back skull and balance to muzzle. Could have a bit less lip. Good rear angulation with plenty of width across the thigh. 3 Richardson & Terry-Richardson's Daenerys Moondancer To Cherishym.

PGB (2,1) 1 Keely's Alhambian Amy Winehouse. Nice type to this girl. She is mature through the body with good spring of rib and depth of body. I like her angulation, and she has tight elbows with a well placed shoulder. Coat is of good quality with correct amount of feathering. Topline is strong and holds well on the move. Today she was very happy to be in the ring, so I didn't see her best going around. Happiness in the ring is a good problem to have!

LB (3) 1 Corbett's Trimere Turn Back Time. Really like the style and outline of this bitch. Lovely coat texture and a nice, tight back coat. Good length of upper arm and legs are placed well underneath her. Upstanding girl with a solid rear assembly. I feel she looks best when she is standing by herself. Pleasing head and expression.

Moves effortlessly with reach and drive. Unfortunate to meet more mature bitches in the challenge. 2 Topliss' Sandylands Send My Love. Lots to like on this girl. She has a nice outline with good balance. Her topline is solid and she carries it well around the ring. I like her shoulder placement and low hocks. Good spring of rib, short loin, and nice depth of body on her. I appreciate her bone quality. She can give the illusion of knuckling over when she is stacked. Moves well around the ring with purpose. 3 Lillie's Freeway Fortune.

OB (10) 1 Calvert's Sh Ch Calvdale Flutter JW. This girl is just my cup of tea! She drips in type from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail. So balanced with spot on leg to body proportions. But I cannot continue about her without first addressing her headpiece. It is quite simply stunning. I could look at it all day. The balance between back skull and foreface is spot on. She has the kindest of expression and a beautiful shape and color to the eye. The muzzle is feminine but she has plenty of underjaw for retrieving. She has good spring of rib and depth of body in an elegant package. Short loin and good tail placement. Her forelegs are straight and solid and end in tight, round feet. Shoulder is well placed and she stands over her front legs well. Her rear nicely matches her front with good muscling and low set hocks. She is honestly sound from all angles on the move.

BCC and BOS. 2 Casey & Jayes' Sh Ch Sandylands Send The Roses. What a quality girl. She has such a pleasing outline. She is what I would describe as a "one piece" bitch, meaning that she looks as if she was carved out of one piece of wood. Her parts work harmoniously together to create one image. She stands well over her front with a good placement to her shoulder. Her topline has no signs of weakness, both standing and moving. I would give her a bit more strength in her hock joint. She powers her way around the ring in an exceptionally effortless way. There is so much to appreciate about this girl. She was brought in the very best condition.

Pleased to have such a nice bitch to recognize for my RCC. 3 Taubman's Meltarose Madeleine At Meonstoke.

VB (2) 1 Wildsmith & Brown's Sh Ch Trimere Tickle Me Fancy. This girl is hardly showing her age. A typey girl with good proportions. Very nice head planed with a nice expression. She excels in topline which has no sign of weakness. Moves soundly and happily. BVB. 2 Osbourne's Petranella Exclusive With Braego. What a face on this girl. I could look at her expression all day. Good bone and substance. A nice lay of shoulder and has correct depth of body. A shade long through the body and loin. Happy to be here today.