

SWESSC Open Show May 22



Judge: Mrs P Wallis

I was looking forward to this appointment, and the day didn't disappoint. Thank you to the committee of the SWESSC for giving me the opportunity to judge the breed at a club open show. Thank you to my steward Bea, and the ever helpful, charming Phoebe. Thank you also to all the exhibitors for your entries, a very late change of date did mean that understandably, some were unable to make it. The exhibitors good natured acceptance of my decisions and their cheerfulness on the day made for a pleasant atmosphere, it was an enjoyable and memorable day. The dogs were all well presented and well handled, a credit to all their owners.

I found dentition was good overall with the correct scissor bite, set square to jaw. I would like to see better hind movement, with hocks well under the body, driving forward, enabling the fore legs to swing forward with that throw of leg. The free easy gait of true Springer movement is an absolute joy to watch. Trying to stay on your own two feet, on a slippery surface, in the confines of a hall, whilst also trying to move a merry, exuberant springer to its best advantage is a real challenge. Obviously, some dogs handled the conditions better than others on the day and this would have been reflected in their placings.

We are but custodians of this pure, ancient breed, and whilst we are responsible for it's day to day welfare and wellbeing, we should not lose sight of the characteristics, within the breed standard that make the English Springer Spaniel "strictly its own".

M.P.D. (0)

P.D. (1abs)

J.D. (1) 1st. Reynolds' Clentonian Pitch Perfect. L/W 1yr old. Just out of puppy, and still at that rangy adolescent stage. He has a good depth of muzzle with a balance head, which is not coarse or too strong at this age, eye is dark enough with a kind alert expression. He has a good width and depth to his chest. He is fairly strong and short coupled in topline, but for me just needs a bit more length in neck and body. Movement was still a bit erratic and somewhat loose on the day, you would expect him tighten up as he gets older.

S.P.D. (0)

N.D. (0)

G.D. (0)

P.G.D. (1) 1st. Morgans' Dexbenella Frilled to Bitz. L/W 2 and half yr old. His head is masculine, without being too heavy with flat cheeks and just enough chiselling for me, correct medium size, almond shaped eyes that are dark enough. Ears are set on well to head and of good length. He is clean through the throat, with a decent width of chest. He has a slight arch to his neck which leads into good should and upper arm placement, a depth of chest and tight elbows, standing on tidy feet. He moved well enough, with good footfall and some extension. Just shading the veteran dog for Best Dog.

V.D. (2) 1st. Taubman's Meonstoke Hawthorne. L/W 9yr old. A dog I have judged before and a real pleasure to see him back as a veteran. In tip top condition, he is a free moving dog, which unfortunately for him meant 3 strides and he had run out of room. Showing his years slightly in his head, he has enough chiselling, a depth of flew and fluting between the eyes, with good ear set. Good shoulder placement, I appreciate his length of body to height ratio, he is short coupled and has the slight arch over his strong loin. Hind legs are moderate and well muscled. He lost out on best veteran, by default, to the veteran bitch who had showed her socks off today. Reserve Best Dog and Reserve Best Veteran.

2nd. Morgans' Kennair Dreaming On A Star. L/W 7 yr old. Another dog who I have judged before. A heavier type all-round than the winner, he was another who couldn't show off his extended movement in front today, however he tried, and I like the kind, biddable nature of this dog who has always tried his best even on a surface that doesn't suit him. He has a dark eye of correct shape, ears are close to the head and set in line with eye and are of good length. He stands on neat, well rounded feet, front legs are straight, into a good upper arm and layback of shoulder. Hind legs have a moderate bend of thigh are muscular and well developed.

S.B.D. (0)

P.B. (2) 1st. Kibby's Trimere Turn Back Time. L/W Tri. 12mths old. Preferred her raciness and length of leg over the second puppy today. She is quite feminine in head, with a depth of flew and square muzzle, cheeks are flat, eyes are a good size and almond shaped, but for me her head just needs to balance up. She has good front limbs and elbows that are tight to a

really well developed, deep chest, moderate rear angulation, but again for me she looked a little unbalanced in body, as she needs to develop a bit more in her rear. Her movement was typical puppy steady but a little erratic. However, for me on the day she was more forward than the second puppy.

2nd. Weyman's Spuffing Prosecco. L/W 9 mths old. She also has a feminine head, square in muzzle, eyes are dark enough for her age, she still has that puppy brow, head is in proportion and broad enough for a bitch, with the slightly rounded back skull, giving her that kind spaniel expression. All round she is still slightly immature, but she has good angulation for and aft. Movement was a bit loose but did show forward movement, so will hopefully come together as she matures. She has that friendly happy disposition doing all that she was asked of quite cheerfully.

J.B. (2) 1st Wilson's Kingsheath Kushida at Cassapple. B/W Tri 12mths old. Racy and elegant in build, no denying she was a bitch, feminine through and through. Very mature looking for her age. Good eye shape and ear set. Neck is well set to lay back of shoulder, with no throatiness. Rear angulation is moderate, no exaggerations, with well-muscled thighs. Neat, well padded feet. Overall, she presented a well-balanced picture for a youngster. She moved out tidily, but steady. Best Tri.

2nd. Reynolds' Clentonian Picturesque. L/W 12mths old. Although roughly the same age as the winner of this class she was not so forward. Compact, her angulation for and aft is good enough at this age, she has depth to her body, short coupled, with a level topline. She is actually a bit more balanced than her litter brother who was in the Junior dog class, but she is still very much a baby. However, having said that it is testament to the temperament of this breed, that her friendly disposition saw her through when her handler took a bad tumble on the corner of the ring and scared the life out this youngster. She still wagged her tail and I was able to go over her, understandably she was just a little unsettled on the move. She has a balanced head, with a lovely dark eye and square in muzzle.

S.Y.B. (0)

N.B. (2) 1st. Wilson's Kingsheath Kushida at Cassapple. 2nd. Weyman's Spuffing Prosecco.

G.B. (1) 1st. Taubman's Meltarose Madelaine at Meonstoke. L/W 2 and half yr old. Daughter of the Veteran dog, she has many of his attributes, hind quarters are broad and well-muscled, she covers the ground well with a free easy stride but looked like she was finding the confines of the hall a bit unsettling. Head proportions are of equal length, another with a lovely dark eye, flew is deep and set square, with well developed nostrils. I wouldn't like to see anymore length of neck, she has enough to present a well balance look. Clean through the throat, with a slight arch to the neck, it flows into a well-developed shoulder. Elbows set well to chest. Feet are well padded and round.

P.G.B. (0)

L.B. (4,1Abs) 1st. West's Grosbreuil Apricot Regal. L/W 6 yr old. Not a lot to split the 3 bitches in this class. They could all change places on a different day or venue. All 3 had different types of head but all were feminine. Finer in head than the 2nd placed bitch, she has good eye shape, which is dark hazel in colour, her neck is of adequate length into good

shoulder placement, she has a level topline and is short coupled, moderate rear angulation. Although moving steadily, her footfall was the most accurate of the 3 today.

2nd. Toublic's Cobhay Fancy Phlox. L/W 3 and half yr old. A bitch I have judged before as a puppy, I liked her then for her balance, accurate footfall, her kind expression and her willingness to please, nothing has changed except her footfall wasn't so accurate and she was slightly untidy on the move today, I was unsure if it was the floor or lack of concentration. Slightly stronger in head than the first, that is not a criticism, just a difference, she still has a lovely dark eye, depth of flew, and good ear set. There is nothing exaggerated about her in anyway, she is not the raciest type, but strong and sturdy. Forelegs are straight with well rounded feet and strong flexible pasterns, hindlegs are moderate and well-set. Her well feathered tail with its lively action is indicative of her happy springer nature.

3rd. Reynolds's Clentonian Picture Perfect

O.B. (4,2Abs) 1st. Hydon's Clentonian Pandemonium. B/W 5yr old. Another that I have judged before. I like her for her overall make and shape, and clean lines. She just flows from nose to tail, again nothing over exaggerated. Head is feminine and of good proportions. Her clean neck, with adequate length flows into a good lay back of shoulder, over the wither, she then has a level topline, with the slight arch to the loin, she has a level croup and good tail set. Her movement was steady, accurate and true, both coming and going. She was pipped at the post today for best bitch by a veteran who for springer exuberance had really upped her game. Reserve Best Bitch.

2nd. Toublic's Cobhay Dazzling Azalea L/W 6 and half yr old. Another bitch I have judged before, she is the mother of the 2nd bitch in limit, and most of the comments could also apply to her, she is shorter on the leg than the winner of the class, compact and sturdy. Her head is of equal proportions, with the sweetest of expressions. She has a strong top line with well muscled quarters and strong broad thighs.

V.B. (4,1Abs) 1st. Weymans's Spuffing Molly's Secret. B/W 7yr old. Another I have judged before, so thank you to all the exhibitors who were brave enough to entrust their dogs to me again. It is so important to judge the dogs on the day, not on previous experience or in the case of youngsters what they could become, and this bitch has proved it, she stood down the line previously, but what a jaw dropping difference today. She had obviously been reading the breed standard, as all the superlatives, strong, merry, active, friendly, happy disposition were there for all to see, along with a couple of others, enthusiastic and exuberant. I won't say she is holding her years really well, because she is only a month into her veteran years, and some would say that at this age they should be in their prime. She was giving the 2nd and 3rd 2 and 4 years respectively. Her head is balanced with deep flew and flat cheeks, for some there could be more chiselling, but what she has is enough for me, she has the slight arch to her neck, tapering up towards her head, the neck is set into a decent layback of shoulder, she is compact with a strong level top line, body is well rounded, with enough width of fore chest. A strong back end with moderate angulation completes the picture. On the day she moved with such verve, handling the conditions the best of all, she kept the happy attitude all the way through Best Bitch, Best Veteran, Best Black and White, and Best in Show. Well done.

2nd. West's Meonstoke Cherry Blossom at Grosbreuil. L/W 9yr old. Truly unfortunate to meet the winner on the day. Liked her lovely classic head, soft expression and kind dark eye. She did nothing wrong in this class, but just couldn't out move the winner. Good angulation rear and aft, still strong in top line, and still well-muscled in thigh. Liked her overall appearance. In excellent condition, credit to her owner.

3rd. No critique, but just wanted to say well done to the owner of this bitch that she still has enthusiasm for showing at the grand old age of 11.

S.B.B. (1) 1st. Kibby's Trimere Taylor Maid at Pinhays. L/W 12mths old. Litter sister to the puppy class winner. Again, similar attributes apply, although for me her head is slightly broader and better balanced. Her eye colour could be a bit darker, but this will hopefully darken with age. Neck is of good length and arched. Angulation is fairly good for this age, but shapes change as puppies grow. Not as deep chested as her sister, but for me she is much the better balanced of the two. Of the two she also moved slight better, they both still have that puppy legs all over the place gait, but again that will sort itself out with maturity. Pleased to award her Best Puppy in Show.

English Springer Welfare Stakes Dog or Bitch. (8, 2 Abs,1W/D)

- 1st. Meonstoke Hawthorne
- 2nd. Clentonian Pandemonium
- 3rd. Grosbreuil Apricot Regal
- 4th. Cobhay Fancy Phlox
- 5th. Cobhay Dazzling Azalea

Terry Holman Memorial Brace Stakes Dog or Bitch (3)

- 1st. Cobhay Fancy Phlox/Cobhay Dazzling Azalea
- 2nd. Grosbreuil Apricot Regal/Meonstoke Cherry Blossom at Grosbreuil
- 3rd. Trimere Taylor Maid at Pinhayes/ Trimere Turn Back Time

Chairman's Members Stakes Class Dog or Bitch (7, 1Abs)

- 1st. Clentonian Pandemonium
- 2nd. Meonstoke Cherry Blossom at Grosbreuil
- 3rd. Meltarose Madelaine at Meonstoke
- 4th. Cobhay Phancy Phlox
- 5th. Spuffing Prosecco

Pauline Wallis (Judge)