

3rd April 2022
Clumber Spaniel Club Open Show

Thank you to the Clumber Spaniel Club for the invitation to judge at your Open Show, and to my able stewards, Sue Graves and Nigel Bryant. I was absolutely thrilled by the entry, both the number and quality of dogs present. Thank you to each and every one of you who supported the classes. It was a pleasure and a privilege to judge your dogs. There were some very close decisions and these exhibits could well change places on different days.

Generally, I think there have been continuing improvements in the breed in terms of eyes, ears and mouths. I found only a couple of undershot and one level bite. Only one dog each had eyes, ears or hind movement which gave me cause for concern, though a number of eyes could have been more cleanly presented. Weight was unfortunately a different matter, with many carrying too much fat, affecting the quality of movement. This breed should be firm, fit and capable of a day's work in heavy cover. The weight, in the heaviest of our Spaniels, should come from bone and muscle, not fat. In terms of colour, several exhibits had a high degree of flecking through their body coat (plain white body preferred) and the markings on one or two seemed very dark, pushing the bounds of what could be considered 'orange permissible'. However, these were in the minority and I was very pleased to find so many dogs that were soundly constructed, with excellent temperaments throughout.

MPD (0)

PD (1) 1. Whitehouse's Maursett Muttley at Molvonja. A quality 9 month old dog, to start the day! An appealing head, with deep stop and clean eyes. Muscular neck of correct length. Excellent front construction, with well placed shoulders and a good length of upper arm. Deep chest and well sprung ribs, well carried back to a short strong loin. Strong bone and stands on neat feet. Correctly set tail. On the move he was steady and confident. He covered the ground with long strides and presented very neatly when coming towards. I felt his hindquarters were not yet as developed as the bitch puppy's, but was pleased to award him **Best Puppy Dog**. I seriously considered him for Reserve Best Dog and will watch his career with interest.

JD (2) 1. Pickering's Wahnahnish Superman (AI) (Imp Nld) (naf) (taf). Clean and balanced head, with good length of muzzle and room for his stop and brows to develop a little more, as he is only just 12 months. A hands on assessment was required to appreciate his neck, as this was rather hidden by his abundant coat. Well constructed, with straight front, well laid shoulders and matching length of upper arm. Deep chest and ribs carried well back. I would like a shorter loin, but he is well let down in flank. Excellent rear construction, with good bend of stifle and a well set tail. Good bone throughout. Strong, driving movement, correct from all angles. with a happy tail action. **2.** Fenwick, Thompson & Langridge's Badgersmoon Mr Branson. Also 12 months old, but lighter in build. Appealing head with square muzzle, deep stop and expressive brows. Good length of neck, leading to strong sloping shoulders. Correct length of upper arm. Good spring of rib and short, strong loin. Correct weight and excellent muscle tone throughout. I preferred his feet to the 1st. On the move, he had a strong topline, good length of stride and was very true when coming towards, but not so positive in hind movement today.

ND (2) 1. Fenwick, Thompson & Langridge's Badgersmoon Mr Branson. 2. Gascoigne's Nivalis Augustus. Beautifully presented 2 year old dog with excellent bone and coat. Broad skull and well defined stop, though I would like a little more length to his muzzle. Good length of neck and excellent front construction, with well laid shoulders and correct length of upper arm. Deep chest and well sprung ribs. I would like a shorter loin, but he is well let down in flank. Strong hindquarters, with good bend of stifle and low hocks. On the stack he really filled the eye, but unfortunately he had a mind of his own on the move today. I felt he would have benefited from more time to settle and a larger ring.

GD (0)

PGD (2,1abs) 1. Gascoigne's Nivalis Augustus. Moved far more steadily in this class, with good drive, true fore and aft.

LD (2) 1. Whitehouse's Maursett Mallachie at Molvonion. As per the breed standard, this 2 year old boy was balanced, well boned, active with a thoughtful expression and his overall appearance denoted strength. Excellent head, with broad skull, raised brows, deep stop and square muzzle. Strong neck of good length. Well constructed front, with deep chest, well sprung ribs carried well back to a short, strong loin. Powerful and well developed hindquarters. In good coat and standing on neat, round feet. True and happy on the move, holding a strong topline, carrying his tail correctly, both in his class and the dog challenge. I was pleased to award him **Best Dog, Best Opposite Sex & Reserve Best in Show**. 2. Fenwick & Thompson's Suelynnda Second Edition. 4 year old dog, somewhat lighter in bone than 1st, but the correct weight and very well muscled. Broad head with well defined stop. His angulation is well balanced. Strong body with deep chest and well sprung ribs. Very positive in hind movement, but I found him rather untidy at the elbow when coming towards and a little too proud of his tail today.

OD (2,2abs)

VD (2) 1. Sheppard's Whisgig Daddy Cool. 9 year old dog with strong bone and in good coat. Broad head with raised brows, well defined stop and square muzzle. Strong neck of good length. Straight front, well laid shoulders and upper arm of correct length. Deep chest and well sprung ribs. Well developed hindquarters with well bent stifles. Very happy on the move, covering the ground well from the side and true when coming towards. In the dog challenge, he showed more consistency in front movement than some of the younger exhibits, earning him **Reserve Best Dog, Best Veteran in Show**. 2. Sheppard's Whisgig The Bristolian. 7 year old dog with a well balanced head and typical thoughtful expression. Strong neck, straight front and very well constructed, front and back. Deep chest, well sprung ribs and strong in loin. Good bone throughout and correct, round feet. Unable to match the 1st on the move today.

SWD (0)

MPB (3) 1. Pickering's Wymeswold Verdejo at Greencourt (Imp NLD). A nicely presented and beautifully constructed 8 month old. I found her head a little fine at present, but not incorrect for her age, with pleasing proportions and plenty of room for development. Good length of neck leading to well laid shoulders. Good length of upper arm, straight legs with good bone and lovely round feet. Deep chest, well sprung ribs, well carried back to strong loin, and well let down in flank. Well developed hindquarters and correctly set tail. Very lively, making it quite difficult to assess her front movement, but what I could glimpse was true. Her rear movement and side gait were superb. Coat in excellent condition. 2. Hookway's Suttonbelle Peggy Sue. Another 8 month old, but not as forward in her development as 1st. Plenty to like about her head, with broad skull, deep stop and developing brows. Good length of neck, flowing smoothly into well laid shoulders and a strong topline. Straight forelegs and standing on neat, round feet. Well balanced hindquarters. She needs to develop in bone and chest to complete the picture, but this should come with age. On the move she was steady and happy, true front and back. 3. Burge's Gracedieu Maple

PB (6) 1. Boden's Suelynda Kreme Della Kreme. A very fitting name for this eye-catching 10 month old. Well developed head, with everything in proportion, no hint of exaggeration and correct working through her brows. Long, muscular neck. Sloping, muscular shoulders, correct upper arm and well boned, straight legs. Neat round feet. Deep chest and strong through body, with well sprung ribs, carried back to a short muscular loin, well let down in flank. Excellent hind angulation and short hocks, in perfect balance to her front. Finished with a well set tail. Sound, driving movement with a lively tail action. I found it difficult to fault her and would gladly have taken her home! **Reserve Best Bitch, Best Puppy Bitch & Best Puppy in Show.** 2. Dawson's Big Boom's Viking Liv Beskerby (Imp HRV) (naf). There was a depth of quality in this class and many similar comments apply to this 11 month old. Very pleasing head and expression, good length of neck, well angulated and balanced quarters, with excellent muscle tone. Straight forelegs and neat feet. Deep chest, well sprung ribs carried back to a short, strong loin. Correctly set tail and in lovely coat and condition. Ground covering, driving movement when viewed from the side and front. Not quite as positive as the 1st when moving away today. 3. Pickering's Wymeswold Verdejo at Greencourt

JB (3,1abs) 1. Dawson's Big Boom's Viking Liv Beskerby (Imp HRV) (naf) 2. Sheppard's Star Fidelis Isle Of Sancerre Among Whisssig (naf) (taf). 15 month old with a well developed head, heavy brows, deep stop and square muzzle. Good length of neck and well laid shoulders, though I would like a touch more upper arm to balance her front construction. Straight forelegs with strong bone and correct feet. Deep chest, well sprung ribs, strong loin and well bent stifles. Her tail is set rather high and this was carried high on the move. She did not quite have the forward driving movement of the 1st, but I suspect she can go better than she did today.

NB (2) 1. Goodsell's Pleniflorus Alexandra. Lots to like about this 2 year old. Appealing head, with nicely developed brow, well defined stop and deep muzzle. Desirable flat coat of excellent quality, but so abundant it rather hid her lovely neck. Excellent front construction, well angulated from the side and straight from the front. Deep chest, well sprung ribs carried well back to a strong loin. Well developed hindquarters, though I would like more bend of stifle. Correctly set

tail. She really came alive on the move, with strong ground covering action, true front and back, with a happy tail action. Her owner needs to work on her trimming - she is worth it! **2.** Burge's Summervilles Skylark. 3 years old. Broad head, with well developed brow, deep stop and intelligent expression, though I would like a shade more length to her muzzle. Strong neck, straight forelegs, deep chest, well sprung ribs carried well back, and short loin. I preferred the front angulation of my 1st, but this bitch had very strong, well muscled hindquarters with good bend of stifle. Correctly set tail. Thick, silky coat in excellent condition, but another who needs to work on her trimming, just to clean the hocks. Steady and sound on the move.

GB (1) 1. Sheppard's Whissgig Crackerjack. 2 years old. Feminine head with square muzzle and clean eyes. Good length of neck. Well angulated quarters, sufficient chest and good spring of rib. Well let down in flank, but I found her rather long in loin, which affected her topline. Very lively and a handful for her handler on the move today, but when she settled she moved true front and back, with strong drive.

PGB (2) Quality girls, both beautifully presented and well handled. **1.** Monaghan's Tweedsmuir She's So Sheek. Approaching 2 years old, but by no means lacking in maturity. Well proportioned head with developed brows, correct length of foreface, square muzzle and clean eyes, with a gentle, quizzical expression. Long, muscular neck leading to sloping, muscular shoulders. Good length of upper arm and well boned, straight legs of correct length. Perfect feet. Excellent depth to her chest, well sprung ribs carried back to a short, muscular loin, well let down in flank. Nicely balanced hindquarters, with good width of thigh and well bent stifles. Correctly set tail. In beautiful coat and condition. As per the breed standard, she moved straight fore and aft, with effortless drive, and I just couldn't take my eyes off her! **Best Bitch & Best in Show.** **2.** Dawson's Beskerby Luminescent. Another lovely head with well developed brows, deep stop and square muzzle, though I would have liked a cleaner eye. Good length of neck, well laid shoulders and correct length of upper arm. Straight front, with a touch more bone than the 1st. Correct, round feet. Deep chest, well sprung ribs carried well back. Very slightly longer in loin than the 1st, but holding a strong topline. Well angulated, muscular hindquarters and correctly set tail. Very positive on the move, but I preferred the driving hind movement of the 1st today.

LB (3,1abs) 1. Sheppard's Whissgig Comedy of Errors (AI). Feminine head of good proportions, though I would like a cleaner eye. Strong neck of good length, leading to well placed shoulders. Correct front assembly, with good length of upper arm, straight forelegs and strong bone. Deep chest with well sprung ribs and short coupling. I would have liked a stronger topline and a little more bend of stifle. Correctly set tail. Moved OK. **2.** Taylor & Hilton's Deisau Beneath The Sun. Broad head with well developed brows, defined stop and deep muzzle. I would like a better eye. Long, muscular neck. Strong, sloping shoulders and correct length of upper arm; however, I felt she tended towards the narrow in front. Heavier boned than the 1st and stronger through body. Deep chest and well ribbed up, slightly longer in loin, but well let down in flank. Broad thighs with good bend of stifle. Ground covering movement when viewed from the side and true when coming towards, but I preferred the hind movement of the 1st today.

OB (3,2abs) 1. Sheppard's Whissgig Wintersaga (AI). 4 year old bitch with feminine head, nicely developed brows, deep stop and square muzzle. Decent length of neck, well laid shoulders and a strong topline. Straight forelegs and correct feet. Good depth of chest, well sprung ribs carried well back and a short strong loin. Her hindquarters are quality, with well developed thighs and excellent bend of stifle. Well set tail, constantly wagging! I felt she lacked a little in upper arm, and this affected her movement from the side. Moved true front and back. Presented in good coat and condition.

VB (1) 1. Knowles' Jackpotstud Super Model. 7 years old. Feminine head of good width. She has a pleasing expression with nice eyes, but I would like a little more working in her brows. Enough neck and a strong level topline. Sloping shoulders, correct length of upper arm, well boned straight forelegs and perfect feet. Deep chest, good spring of rib and short coupling, but I felt she was a little short in body. Strong hindquarters with well developed thighs, good bend of stifle and short hocks. Correctly set tail. Correct weight. Lovely to watch on the move, very true, with excellent reach and drive. Her rear movement could teach some of the youngsters a thing or two! BVIS was the most difficult decision of the day. I think if we had been judging outside on grass and I could have seen her really stride out, the decision may have been different.

SWB (1) 1. Jackpotstud Running Late. 2 year old bitch with an appealing head of good width, well developed brows and good length of muzzle. Lovely long neck, flowing cleanly into a strong topline. Her forequarters are balanced, with enough chest, good spring of rib and short, strong coupling. Quality hindquarters, with well developed thighs, good turn of stifle and correctly set tail. I would have liked a better lay of shoulder and felt this shortened her length of stride, but an enthusiastic mover, true front and rear. The correct weight and I wish all the exhibits had her muscle tone!

Brace (1) 1. Knowles' Jackpotstud Running Late & Jackpotstud Super Model. A truly delightful pair of Clumbers, so similar in type and markings, I was not at all surprised to learn that they were mother and daughter. Having attempted more than one brace class, I know how difficult it is to get gundogs moving in unison on the lead. This pair did it beautifully, striding round the ring with happy wagging tails. It was a pleasure to judge them.

Eleanor Bryant (Phenset)