

Judges Critique - 80th Cocker club of Ireland — 23rd March 2013

Firstly many thanks to the Officers and committee of the Cocker Club of Ireland for the honour of judging the 80th anniversary championship show. Let's hope we are all around in 20 years time to gather again. The show was well organised and the buffet lunch was really good idea and so good to see everyone enjoying themselves on this special day. A little hairy getting there as we'd had a lot of snow overnight in England so I was worried I wouldn't be able to get to the airport to catch my flight. But all was well. Many thanks to the majority of the exhibitors for accepting my decisions in a sporting manner.

Since the last time I judged in Eire I think the overall quality has dipped in males. Rear construction on many exhibits was a worry and possibly some good hard exercise would help that considerably. On the whole presentation wasn't bad but please remember they are Cocker Spaniels and not American Cockers, they don't need excessive amounts coat on their legs it can make exhibits look like sail ships coming towards you! Distracting from the real movement when in many cases it wasn't necessary. Sometime less is best.

Dogs:

Baby Puppy. 1. Laura Huston's - Hustonia Xperience. Well presented cobby Cocker, Good topline with good ribbing and short loin. Well balanced with good clean lines throughout. A little unsettled on the move but only to be expected from such a youngster. **BBPIS.**

Minor Puppy. 1. Laura Huston's - Bombay Bachelor By Hustonia. Blue roan. Nice make and shape and well balanced, well ribbed and good let down behind. Moved well away from you. Good bone and feet, would have like a slightly better lay of shoulder.

Puppy. 1. John McLoughin's - Bencleuch Buck The Trend. Maturer than 2nd, moved well both fore and aft. Lovely bone and feet, well balanced and kept that in profile. Good kind head and expression. Better size than 2nd. However could do a little less weight and sharper presentation.

Junior. 1. Chris & Hilary Laverty's - Laveris Watchme. Clues in the name here, definitely one to watch. Lovely make and shape, well balanced with really good cat like feet. Well boned with a good straight front. Well made behind, but the handler needs to be careful when placing the rear end not to over exaggerate and lose the back end and level topline. Moved so well around the ring a merry Cocker. Certainly one to look at when it comes to presentation.

Intermediate. 1. Sally Kelly's - Acarreagh That's My Boy Sam. Not at his best today and not the happiest on the move. Well ribbed and short loin. Would have liked a slightly better reach of neck.

Open. 1. Kerry Brennan's - Kerrijoy Apollo. Lovely headed dog with good masculine expression. Nice square dog with good ribbing and short loin, correct size. Presented well with nothing overdone. Really good rear movement, maybe like a better lay of shoulder. **Res. Green Star.**

I thought the 2nd in the class; Acarreagh Lone Ranger was a good honest dog with nothing to hide, just lacked the finish of the 1st.

Champion. 1. John & Margaret Baldwin's - Sh. Ch. Kilivory Derby Lad. Super short compact dog. Real masculine head with lots of work in it, with nothing over done. Lovely legs and correct cat like feet. Well boned and well muscled behind, and this showed on the move. Real power and drive! **Green Star & RBIS.**

Bitches:

Baby Puppy. 1. Laura Huston's - Hustonia Xcetera. Sweet feminine head and expression, well made behind like litter brother. Moved well away just needs to settle on the front movement.

Minor Puppy. 1. Sally Kelly's - Baysway Razzmatazz. Good outline with a pretty feminine head. Well made front construction, but would just like a little more substance all over and didn't settle that well on the move.

Puppy. 1. McEntee's - Baysway Dentelle Noire. Very pretty promising youngster that should go on well. Well made behind and this showed on the move. Well laid shoulders into good front construction with nice legs and feet. Well presented, just needs to be at one with her handler! **BPIS.**

Junior. 1. John McLoughlin's - Bencleuch Bossy Boots. Maybe longer type than 2nd but overall preferred her. A lovely honest Cocker Spaniel. Super bone and feet, well ribbed and well made behind, moved well fore and aft with drive. Just a little less coat on the rear end would make things a lot cleaner. Well balanced head with a feminine expression. Considered for RGS.

Intermediate. 1. Ingrid Knapp's - Lindrigde Blue Icon. Another honest bitch with so much to like about her. True both fore and aft on the move and kept her balance on the move with lovely flowing lines. Well ribbed and nice short loin. Well made rear construction with a good let down of stifle into. Good short hock. Pleasing head and expression considered hard for the Green Star but just lacked the finish of the winner. **Res. bitch Green Star.**

Open. Super class with good quality bitches to choose from. 1. Doreen Lavery - Hustonia Paparazzi. A real typical cocker that would look well in any ring throughout the world. Super bone and feet, lovely feminine head into a good clean neck and shoulders. Good cobby balanced body, correct size with a good strong topline. Just a little more substance than 2nd. **Bitch Green Star and BIS.**

Champion. 1. Brian O'Sullivan's - Sh. Ch. Chavez Gaelic Connection At Forestpine. Well made behind and showed on the move when driving away from you. Kept her profile well on the move, just a more balanced picture in profile. Good coat and condition.

Veteran. 1. Sally Kelly's – Sh. Ch. Lochdene Silver Thimble. Well made cobby Cocker typical of this kennel. Moved well enough with a nice make and shape around the ring.

Judge: *Julien Barney.*

15/09/2013