

CLUB SHOW 2019 FINAL REPORT FROM NORMA INGLIS

The Cavalier and King Charles Spaniel Club of Switzerland was founded in 1999 and this year they are celebrating 20 years since their formation. It was such a privilege for me to be invited to judge the 2019 Championship show at Münsingen and as I had never been to Switzerland before it was doubly special. We flew from Newcastle in the North East of England to Basel and were met by Josiane who was to be looking after us for the weekend. She did a great job and in the few days we spent in Switzerland we were able to see quite a bit of the beauty of the country. It was a warm, sunny day for the show and a pleasant drive to the venue... an organic dairy farm. The cows were not even curious of the invasion of humans and dogs!

At the show there were a few other countries represented as well as Switzerland ...Sweden, Norway, Italy and Germany. Thank you to everyone who entered. It is very important for a Breed Club to be supported by its members and holding a show and bringing in experienced judges who can assess how the breeds are fairing, plays an important part in the breeds' continued development. I know, through personal experience, the amount of hard work it takes to organise a show, so our gratitude to all those who contributed to the smooth running of the show.

King Charles Spaniels ...9 were entered and I awarded 7 excellent and 2 very good. I was delighted to find such quality in my main winners. They were typical in head and sound moving with sensible temperaments. I think the fact that these are Toy Spaniels should never be forgotten and my main concern was size. Bigger than desired. My high regard for the Charlies entered was endorsed by awarding BEST IN SHOW to the 4 year old Tricolour Bitch CHJ Ch IUNO VON DER GEBHARDSHÖH who was the Charlie BEST BITCH and went on to win BEST OF BREED. Bred by Kristina von Ehrenkrook and owned by Manuela Wäny. A lovely girl who was well made and moved with great style. Around the world, Charlies are not generally known for being the best moving breed, this one proved them wrong. She covered the ground soundly and her head with rounded skull was typical. A delightful exhibit. Mention must also be made of the 15 year old Black/Tan who took BEST DOG ...HADES ZUR ALTEN SCHMIEDE. Bred by Manuela Wäny and owned by Angelica Jesenko. His level of fitness was amazing and he moved without effort. A lovely sized boy with handsome expression. I forgave the tongue popping out in view of his age as he excelled in other areas. Credit to his owner for his condition.

Cavaliers ...41 (1 absent) were presented for assessment. 8 Rubies, 21 Blenheims, 9 Tricolours and 3 Black/Tans. 32 graded Excellent, 4 Very Good, 4 Good and 1 was unable to be graded as she was overawed by the occasion and reluctant to put one foot in front of the other! Being a Club show some of the dogs shown were much loved family dogs who primarily were there with their owners to enjoy the sociable side of dog showing mixing with other like minded Cavalier owners. The Blenheims and Rubies were the strongest for quality with some very satisfying young 'redheads'. Bearing in mind the size of Switzerland I felt the overall quality was quite good but it was clear that a high percentage of the winners had dogs from other countries close up in their pedigrees. This is not a bad thing and hopefully put to good use then you will see emerge more Swiss home bred cavaliers who will take the top spots. BEST DOG & BEST OF BREED went to a German bred dog from the Intermediate class ...ANGELS PRIDE ONE DIRECTION. A Blenheim boy almost 2 years bred in Germany by Tanja Engel and owned by Melanie and Jörg Kolb. Such a lovely sized boy with good bone. He had great freedom of movement and his outline going around was satisfying with proud head carriage, firm top line and super tail set. Head was handsome and expression soft with good eyes. Correct coat texture and a friendly, happy temperament. BEST BITCH and BEST OPPOSITE went to the home bred CH CHJ Ch STONEHILL'S TINKER BELL owned/bred by Gunilla Kühni-Stenberg. A glamorous 3 year old Blenheim girl who had lovely breed type and was shown in good richly coloured coat and excellent condition. Our Breed Standard is laced with the words 'moderate' and 'medium'. This pretty girl appealed for her close adherence to the Standard and was totally free from exaggeration. Both standing and on the move she presented a balanced outline. BEST PUPPY was STAR OF THE NIGHT OF CASTLEFIELD. A sweet

little Ruby boy who beat his ruby litter sister for this prize. Only 5 months old and had a neat body shape and went round the ring with good confidence. Coat promises to be rich red and it was soft to the touch. A good looking baby with lots of style. Bred by J and U ZIMMERMANN. Another handsome Ruby boy impressed me to win BEST JUNIOR. OPUS DU CLOS DE LARPÈGE. Bred by C Delossendiere and owned by Elizabeth Pittet. Rather wilful and unschooled but I saw moments when he showed his virtues. Great size with short back. Almost a year old and easily distracted. Loved his colouring. Rich red and silklike coat. Good angles front and rear and he could move well when he wanted to! Worth spending time on to get him to behave in the ring as he is worth it! BEST VETERAN was a lovely gentle Blenheim boy. Nine years old. CHVET. CHJ Ch RICKSBURY ROYAL ASTROLOGER. Such a soft expression just showing touches of grey hairs on his face. Very agile in his movement and he still showed brightly. Bigger than my ideal but he has quality and is well put together. Bred in the purple out of champion parents, he has been passed some good genes. Lunchtime saw our first sampling of raclette 😊. It was delicious and sitting outside in the sunshine was so relaxing. So nice to see at the show, Audrey Stokes, a friend from the UK who was over visiting her daughter.

All too soon it was over but just one more enjoyable part that happens every year after judging, aperitif time! A super end to a wonderful day. Everyone was warm and friendly and I really appreciated the gifts received for judging. Thank you to everyone who made us welcome. Even now a month after the trip I can still recall the special sound of the Alpine cow bells.

Switzerland ... a very special memory for us.

Norma Inglis
Craigowl Cavaliers