

CRUFTS - 2024

SPANIEL - CLUMBER

I thoroughly enjoyed my morning on the green carpet and thank the exhibitors who granted me the privilege of judging their Clumbers. This appointment was rescheduled from 2021. There was a divergence in type throughout my entry, most noticeably when judging Open dog. I was surprised that there were more than a few exhibits carrying too much weight and out of condition. This was a pity because some of these would have fared better had they not been. It was obvious when asked to move on a loose leash, thus denying the handler the chance to disguise any shortcomings. Saying this, there were others who did not move soundly. A breed watch point of concern is obvious ear irritation and I was pleased to say that I saw none of this even though there were more than a few with dirty ears. Most exhibits were clean and well-presented so why do exhibitors not include ear cleaning in their show preparation. Overall, I found eyes and mouths good though there were some with small pin like teeth. Having said this, I was more than pleased with my class winners and I thought my principals excellent examples of the breed. It makes me feel that the Clumber is in a better place than it has been for some time.

VD (1) 1 Levai's Multi Ch Big Boom's Jocker Donkey. A well-known dog now nearing his tenth birthday. Lovely head, eyes and expression. Strong neck and good shoulders. Excellent topline and strong well-defined hindquarters. Well boned and good feet. In top condition but sadly did not move soundly today. BV.

PD (3) 1 Blackburn's Suelynda Let Me Be The One. 10mo. Strong head. Well boned, good feet Nice length and a pleasing outline. Low hocks. Moved well. 2 Boden's Suelynda Boom Bang A Bang. Litter brother to 1st. Preferred his head though similar comments apply. Unfortunately, his rear movement let him down today. 3 Riley's Scottsriver Cruzin Dude. 9mo. Reasonable head. Good neck and shoulders. Pleasing outline but another who did not move well.

JD (7,1a) 1 Gardner & Carter-Hunt's Vanitonia Something Extra. 12 ½ mo. Caught my eye. True breed type. Beautiful head and expression. Pleasing eyes. Good neck, shoulders, front and feet. Has depth for one so young. Balanced outline. Strong hindquarters. Excellent movement. RCC but he pushed hard for the CC. 2 Monaghan's Kensesqui Nice at Tweedsmuir. 15 mo. Strong masculine head. Good front and feet. Plenty of bone. Good depth and length giving a pleasing outline. Defined hindquarters. Moved with purpose but needs to tighten up behind. 3 Henderson's Delsaux Walking On The Moon. 14 mo. Well up to size. Good head. Strong neck. Good feet. Pleasing outline. Good hindquarters but movement was all over the place.

PGD (8,2a) 1 Kensesqui Nice at Tweedsmuir, 2nd in Junior Dog. 2 Wareham's Prestij Nachii Mandarin Shik (Imp Rus). Rather plain headed. Good eyes. Strong neck. Good hindquarters, Stood rather square. Moved well. 3 Steele's Stonielea Celebration.

Fair head with a pleasing expression. Well placed shoulders and good length. Needs to drop in loin and movement could be sounder.

LD (5,1a) 1st Whitehouse's Maursett Muttley at Molvonia. Good type with a typical head and expression. Strong neck. Straight front and good bone. Good depth and strong hindquarters. Moved well. 2 Wareham & Dunstan's Maursett Melwyn. A bigger dog. Good head and front assembly. Good feet. Nice length and pleasing hindquarters. Moved OK. 3 Nicolson's Clumbus Jolly Jumper of Taranstigh. Rather deepset eyes. Good bone, depth and length. Out of condition. Moved OK.

OD (9) Nine very different dogs but the best class of the day. 1 Cox's Sh Ch Vanitonia Soloist. Looked at him and my mind went back to times past. Excellent breed type and full of quality. Super head and expression. Good front. Beautiful balanced outline. Sound typical movement. CC & BOB. I thought he looked outstanding in the group. 2 Garamvolgyi Duthweilerner's Big Boom's Viking Thor. A different type to 1. Good head, well placed shoulders. Good feet. Plenty of depth and length. Moved well. 3 Whitehouse's Sh Ch Maursett Mallachie at Molvonia. A bigger dog. Loved his type. Good head and eyes. Strong neck and clean shoulders. Good depth and length Moved well.

GCD (1) 1 Thorogood's Anbrook Don't Stop Me Now at Harrifield. A large dog with a strong head. Good bone and correct feet. Nice length and defined hindquarters. Moved well.

VB (1) 1 Wielhouwer-Panjer's NI Ch Diddlina of Those That Do. 9 ½ yo. Feminine head. Wonderful teeth! Straight front and well-padded feet. Good body and a strong topline. Moved steadily.

PB (2) 1 Dawson's Beskerby Flora Finching. 10 mo. Lovely head and expression. Good front. A balanced outline for one so young. Good rear angulation. Moved well BP. 2 Bubalo's Hrothgar's Rise Like A Phoenix. 10 mo. Head needs to develop. Well boned. Good length of neck. A pleasing outline. Low hocks. Moved well.

JB (4) Three lovely girls. 1 Cox's Vanitonia Serena Grandi. 12 ½ mo. Beautiful head and expression. Good front and feet. Well placed shoulders. Good length. Pleasing outline which she held on the move. Well developed for her age. 2 Matthew's & Moon's Vanitonia Song and Dance. Litter sister to 1st and very similar. She too is coming on well and another with everything in the right place. I just preferred the more positive movement of the winner. 3 Taylor & Hilton's Delsaux Fly Me to The Moon. 14 mo. Feminine expression. Well off for bone. Nice depth and good length. Strong, defined hindquarters. Moved OK.

PGB (8,1a) 1 Harvey's Gracedieu Finest Jewels. Reasonable head. Plenty of bone. Good length and defined hindquarters. Moved ok. 2 Nixon's Stonielea Williams Charm.

Pleasing head and expression. Has a fault but won this place on breed type. Balanced outline. Rear movement needs to improve. 3 Morris's Suelynda Sophies Wish. Good head. Correct front and feet. Well placed shoulders and good length. Moved ok.

LB (4) 1 Taylor's Maursett Masikean. Lovely feminine head and typical expression. Clean neck and well placed shoulders Balanced outline and good hindquarters. Moved well. RCC. 2 Vrtikova's Victores Venari Kaprys Rejenta. Good head. Well off for bone. Good front and feet. Nice length but falls away over the croup. Moved well. 3 Steele's Stonielea Williams Legacy. Nice head. Balanced outline and strong hindquarters. Moved ok.

OB (8) A quality threesome. 1 Crocker, Frost & Cahill's Sh Ch Vanitonia Secret Episode. Lovely, typical feminine head and expression. She really has it all. Scores in neck, front, depth, length, hindquarters. Moved typically. CC. 2 Bubalo's Hrothgar's Hit The Dance Floor. Strong type. Good head, neck, front and feet. Good length and pleasing hindquarters. In good condition. Moved well. 3 Taylor's Sh Ch Maursett Marnie. Beautiful head and typical expression. Good front and feet. Balanced outline. Good depth. Moved well.

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