

**The Cocker Spaniel Club of the ACT Inc**  
**Championship Show 25th February 2022**

**Judge: Mr Tyron Atkinson (VIC)**

Thank you to the Cocker Spaniel Club of the ACT for this invitation and your wonderful hospitality. It was an experience I'll cherish. Thanks also to the members and exhibitors for your entry and the sporting fashion in which my decisions were accepted. I was grateful to complete my assignment in good weather and you all showed resilience as those conditions deteriorated. Please find the following observations as my opinions only and as rationale for my placements on the day. Remember that we all take the best Cocker Spaniels home with us.

**Class 1 Baby Puppy Dog**

*A lovely class to begin proceedings with two very promising babies.*

**1st- G C Douglas' BATHGATE MY HEART SKIPT A BEAT (AI).** Very promising blue roan dog with correct balance and proportions and good for bone and substance. Displayed moments of correct kinetic balance after he settled on the move. This puppy has a beautiful head and expression with dark expressive eyes, strength of muzzle and well moulded skull. Correct reach of neck flowing into well laid shoulders. Well-developed front with good length and return of upper arm, straight column of bone into firm feet. He is well ribbed back into strong loins with a correct tail set and carriage. His well-rounded rear is in perfect harmony with his front with low set and perpendicular and low set hocks. I was delighted to award him **BABY IN SHOW**.

**2nd – Royoni Kennel's ROYONI SPECIAL TIME.** Very handsome blue roan dog with a delightful demeanour and a very pretty head. Full and expressive eyes, chiselled head and low set ears giving the gentlest of expressions. Clean neck reaching from well laid shoulders. Straight legs with adequate bone and good running gear. Good depth of chest. His hindquarters are made well with good let down in stifle and low set hocks. Correct low set tail which he used to effect as he gained confidence on the move. Preferred the length of loin and overall proportions of the winner.

**Class 2 Minor Puppy Dog**

**1st- Anna Hatherly's BELLEBRIAR CLEAR IMAGE.** Smart blue dog with excellent bone and substance. Correct breed character with a merry nature and bustling movement. This young guy really enjoyed himself displaying the outgoing confidence that I'm looking for in the breed. He has a balanced head with a defined stop and square finish of muzzle. Clean neck into shoulders, straight legs but might prefer a touch more length of leg. Well ribbed back into adequate loin and well-made quarters which he used to effect as he covered the ground with correct reach in front and drive from behind. His tail action finished the picture. **MINOR IN SHOW**.

**Class 3 Puppy Dog**

**1st – Eileen Jones' TWNROYAL CRAIGIE BABY.** Stylish blue dog with plenty of bone and substance. Merry nature and plenty of confidence. His head is strong but balanced in profile. Longer neck with

smooth transition to shoulders. Front well developed with correct bone. Good depth of brisket and well ribbed up. Excellent hindquarter shape and correct tail set which he used to effect whether standing or in motion. I'd prefer a fraction more length of leg. Was unlucky to meet the bitch for class in show but preferred her topline and expression. **OPPOSITE PUPPY IN SHOW.**

### **Class 4 Junior Dog**

*An enjoyable class to judge with 4 fun loving youngsters.*

**1st- N & S Lane's SANDTOYS ROCKETT MAN.** This quality blue dog was the clear winner of this class for me. He was a standout for type, balance, and soundness. His head is balanced and well moulded with dark expressive eyes, large open nostrils, and low set ears. His moderate neck fits neatly into an adequate lay of shoulder and he is well boned down into firm feet. Deep in brisket with correct spring of rib but would prefer a firmer loin and topline. Beautiful wide and rounded quarters and a textbook tail set and carriage which never stopped wagging and showing wonderful breed character. He covered the ground with ease. Excellent coat and presentation. He was considered in the challenge line up and was unlucky to meet the bitch for class in show where I preferred her topline. **OPPOSITE JUNIOR IN SHOW.**

**2nd – V. Pento's BONNINGDALE MEANT TO HAPPEN.** Black dog showing good breed character. He demonstrated a merry nature with a tail that didn't stop. He is well proportioned, compact, and sturdy. His head and expression are pleasing enough. He is well ribbed back with a firm loin and solid topline. Well angulated behind but preferred the front angulation, bone and substance and ground coverage of my winner. Moved soundly.

**3rd – Ms H J Yeates' MYSHALAIR BETYA GUNNA LOOK.** Strongly built black dog with an excellent temperament. Would prefer less breadth to skull and a gentler expression. Strong, muscular neck, adequate forequarter angulation and strong bone. He is well ribbed back into wide and powerful loins. Excellent strength to his hindquarters. Preferred head, expression, and overall balance of one and two.

**4<sup>th</sup> – S Raine & E Glass' BELCROFT WALK ON THE WILD SIDE.** Another merry blue dog full of life and exuberance. Correct overall proportions. His head fits his body with low set ears. Good eye colour but would prefer tighter rims. Straight legs. Adequate depth of brisket but would prefer more spring and length of rib cage. Low set hocks. Needs to body up.

### **Class 5 Intermediate Dog**

**1<sup>st</sup> - S Raine & E Glass' BELCROFT FREE TO FLY.** Quality dark blue male built on classic lines with a balanced make and shape. His headpiece is his crowning glory. It is well moulded and cleanly chiselled with full, dark eyes, tight rims and fine low set ears which give a kind and gentle expression. Not to mention those lashes! Clean neck flowing smoothly into fine sloping shoulders. Corresponding length and return of upper arm set his front well beneath him. Straight, quality bone. He is well ribbed back with just enough spring to his ribs. Correct tail set and well angulated behind. He does need to body up a little and although he moves soundly with sporting carriage, I'd like him to show a touch more animation. **INTERMEDIATE IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - N & S Lane & K Willis' CH SANDTOYS WOTUTALKINBOUT WILLIS.** Plenty to like about this blue roan dog also. Compact, sturdy, and merry in nature. He has adequate bone with good spring of rib.

Excellent driving quarters with good substance. Shown in top condition with excellent coat quality. I preferred the head, expression, and front assembly of my winner.

### **Class 10 Australian Bred Dog**

**1<sup>st</sup> - M K Kingston/A C O'Keefe's CH KINGSWAY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT.** Strong blue dog with excellent bone and substance. Balanced head with pleasing expression. Chest well developed. Legs well boned and straight but would prefer a touch more leg length. Long ribcage with short, broad, and powerful loin. Hindquarters well developed with excellent breadth of thigh. He moved soundly and with purpose but I wanted to see a little more character and animation. **OPP AB IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Mr G & Mrs D Douglas' CLEEMIST SILVER AND ASH.** Smart blue male built on more compact lines than first. He has a well moulded head piece but would prefer his eye a shade darker. Clean neck into shoulders. Straight legs with adequate bone. Although he appears shorter in body, I would prefer him to be more ribbed back. He is well angulated fore and aft. Moved true and with an ever-wagging tail.

### **Class 11 Open Dog**

*An outstanding class full of quality and type. A challenge to judge but one I enjoyed immensely.*

**1<sup>st</sup> - Royoni Kennel's CH ROYONI R U THE SPECIAL ONE.** This quality blue male shown in full bloom exudes breed type. His head and expression are truly exquisite. To look into his bright, full, dark eyes with tight rims that give the gentlest, kind yet alert expression is something I could do all day. His head is well moulded and cleanly chiselled and set atop a clean, muscular neck which flows smoothly into well laid shoulders. His elbows are set well beneath him and his legs are well boned. He is deep in brisket and well ribbed up. His strong and powerful hindquarters with low set hocks and well bent stifles are used to great effect as he moves with purpose and animation. This boy has bustle and his tail never stops! It was a pleasure to award him **CHALLENGE DOG, RUBIS & OPEN IN SHOW.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - M & W Drekovic's CH. CLEEMIST BLUE HAZE.** Another outstanding blue male full of quality and class. Slightly shorter in back than my winner he has an overall balance and symmetry that is so pleasing to the eye. His head is balanced with correct strength throughout. Correct eye shape but would prefer a shade darker. His muscular clean neck springs from fine sloping shoulders and his legs are sound with ample bone. He really flows from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail. His well-rounded quarters are used to propel him around the ring in the soundest of fashions. He gave enough today but not quite as much as my winner. Shown in full bloom with a silky flat coat and gleaming jacket; on another day, they might have changed places. **RESERVE CHALLENGE DOG.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - N & S Lane & M Pate's SUP CH BENCLEUCH BRAW BALACH (IMP UK).** Where this dog is good, he is excellent. He has a plush and beautiful head with dark expressive eyes. He has good reach of neck with correct bone and substance throughout. He is well ribbed up with a perfect tail set and carriage that never stops and shows so much breed character. He quite possibly had the most bustling movement of any in the show and his rounded cocker bum is exemplary. I just preferred the length of leg and over-all balance and proportions of dogs one and two.

### **Class 12 Veteran 7+ Dog**

**1<sup>st</sup> - S McFadden & M & W Drekovic's AUST CH/ENG SH CH KYNA ALBERT TATLOCK (IMP UK).** This dignified statesman exudes quality and class. He is sturdy, compact, and well angulated front and rear. His head is balanced and beautifully sculpted with clean chiselling, square finish to his muzzle

and bright expressive eyes. I would darken them a shade or two if I could. His clean and muscular neck transitions smoothly into well laid shoulders and his strong straight bone make him truly top shelf. He is well ribbed back and carries a firm topline that contributes to his seamless outline. It could be said that he is rather short in back. His tail lashes from side to side as he moves soundly with efficient ground coverage. He came close to the top spot again (as I've awarded him BOB at a Gundog specialty before) but overall performance won over for his younger counterparts today; two of whom are his offspring. **BEST VETERAN IN SHOW.**

### **Class 1a Baby Puppy Bitch**

*A delightful class of pretty bitches.*

**1<sup>st</sup> - G C Douglas' BATHGATE HIT LIKE A GIRL (AI).** Compact and typical blue bitch built on cobby lines. Her head is ultra-feminine with dark expressive eyes. Moderate throughout and balanced in proportions and angulation. She is well ribbed up with correct rounded quarters and low set tail. Litter sister to my Baby Puppy Dog class winner; she is a variation on a very similar theme. Came close to her brother for Baby in show. **OPPOSITE BABY IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - G C Douglas' BATHGATE SUMMER HIT (AI).** Another typical blue bitch with balanced make, shape, and proportions. Pretty head which is balanced in profile but would prefer a little more strength through the back skull. Preferred her sister's eye shape and expression. Well angulated front and rear with straight bone and deep brisket. Good spring of rib but preferred her sister's length of rib cage. Correct tail set and moved soundly once she got going.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Royoni Kennel's ROYONI TIME TO B SPECIAL.** Another ultra-feminine blue roan bitch with the prettiest of heads and expressions. Full, dark eyes, chiselled head atop clean neck that flowed into shoulders. Enough bone. She has a correct level topline and tail set. I preferred the length of body and proportions on first and second at this stage.

**4<sup>th</sup> - Ms H J Yeates' MYSHALAIR ALL STYLE WTH KISSES.** Merry Gold bitch so full of confidence. Excellent substance and well ribbed back. Firm loins and strong rear. Preferred heads, expression, breadth of skull and tail set/ carriage on the other babies.

### **Class 2a Minor Puppy Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Royoni Kennel's ROYONI TIMELESS CLASSIC.** Pretty black and white bitch. Good for bone and substance. Gentle expression. Adequate lay of shoulder with straight legs and deep brisket. Correct spring of rib but would prefer a shorter and firmer loin. Rounded croup, low set tail and moved soundly. **OPPOSITE MINOR IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. H J Yeates' MYSHALAIR BETYA LIKE MY STYLE.** Finer black bitch. Pretty expression but a little finer in back skull. Straight column of bone but would prefer more layback to shoulders. Firm topline and well ribbed back into adequate coupling. Quite angular behind. Preferred substance, bone, length of leg and head of my winner.

### **Class 3a Puppy Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Megan Markotany's BOLWARRA I WILL BE ADDICTED TO LOVE.** A standout in this class for me. She flows from head to tail. Excellent bone and substance throughout. Feminine, finely chiselled head with an intelligent expression. Seamless transition from neck into well laid shoulders. Wonderful straight bone. Deep brisket and well ribbed back into a wide and firm loin. She has a

beautiful expanse to her well-made hindquarters that propel her in an economic and ground covering stride. I was very pleased to award her **PUPPY IN SHOW.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> S & S Strang's ROYONI SPECIAL ADDITION.** A pretty blue bitch. Her head and expression are very typical and enhanced by her glamorous lashes. Good reach of neck into correct front assembly. Well boned. I would prefer a shorter coupling and less exaggeration to the arch over her loins. Correct tail set and carriage which she used well on the move. She demonstrated a gentle and affectionate demeanour.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vendela Pento's BONNINGDALE DOUBLE OR NOTHING.** A merry gold bitch. This young girl is up on leg with a firm topline. Finer throughout, she has straight legs but would prefer more bone and substance. Moved soundly and excelled in temperament.

### **Class 4a Junior Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Megan Markotany's CH BOLWARRA WALKS LIKE AN ANGEL.** This light blue bitch is compact, sturdy, and full of quality. Excellent balance and typical proportions. Her head is chiselled with an alert and intelligent expression. Clean neck with reasonable layback of shoulder. Lovely straight legs with firm and compact feet. She is sturdy in front and so strong through the mid-section. Her loin is wide, powerful, flowing smoothly into a strong and rounded hindquarter. She holds her outline as she moves with rhythm and vigour. Correct tail set and carriage. Shown in full bloom with a soft silky and straight coat. Her compact, sturdy, and balanced make gave her the edge for the **RES CC & JUNIOR IN SHOW.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. H J Yeates' MYSHALAIR POETRY IN MOTION.** Gold bitch shown in hard and muscular condition. Well proportioned and good for bone and substance. She is deep in chest and has a firm topline and strong well-muscled quarters. Preferred the head and expression of the class winner. Moves with purpose and animation but would prefer more parallel movement behind.

### **Class 5a Intermediate Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Megan Markotany's CH BOLWARRA PINA COLADA.** This bitch stood out in the class for her correct proportions. She has a beautiful head and expression with a chiselled skull, bright full eye, and tight rims. Moderate clean neck. Correct bone with straight legs and well arched toes. Adequate layback and length and return of upper arm. She is deep in brisket and well ribbed back into strong loins. Strong, rounded hindquarters with correct tail set. Would prefer more rhythm of gait but put enough together to win the class. **OPPOSITE INTERMEDIATE IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Hatherly's BELLEBRIAR UNDER THE MISTLETOE.** Longer cast blue bitch with ample bone and substance. Very pretty head with expressive eye and balanced skull to muzzle. Excellent length and return of upper arm but would prefer a touch more layback of shoulder and length of leg. Moved with confidence. Preferred balance and proportions of first placed bitch.

**3<sup>rd</sup> E M Jones' TWNROYAL MY ONE AND ONLY.** This bitch has an abundance of bone and substance. She was shown in good coat and condition. Would prefer less pronouncement of the zygomatic arch and a fuller and more expressive eye. Muscular neck flowed into well laid shoulders. Good length and return of upper arm. Deep in brisket and long in ribcage with broad loin and expansive thighs. Would prefer more length of leg and a firmer, more level topline

## **Class 10a Australian Bred Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> SM McFadden's CH GLENBRIAR A FINE ROMANCE.** This bitch is built to go all day and what I would describe as 'high type'. She possesses just the right balance of substance with refinement that is correct for the breed. From the tip of her well moulded head to the end of her well carried tail she is seamless in outline. Her tightly knit body and curvaceous conformation are a picture of balance and symmetry. She is compact and sturdy in every regard and so sporting in make, shape, and movement. There is nothing manufactured about her. She is firm to the hand and her shape is maintained as she covers the ground with ease. Presented in immaculate order it was a pleasure to award her the **BITCH CHALLENGE & BIS.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. H J Yeates' CH MYSHALAIR STYLE IN MOTION.** Sturdy gold bitch with plenty of bone and substance. Strong head set atop a muscular neck. Sturdy front with deep brisket and well ribbed back into strong and powerful loin. Muscular quarters. Preferred head, expression, and outline of my winner but she is a quality bitch with a merriness and bustle that was unlucky to meet the winner on the day.

## **Class 11a Open Bitch**

*Five bitches in full bloom and maturity.*

**1<sup>st</sup> M K Kingston's CH KINGSWAY ACT THE PART.** Quality blue bitch with excellent bone and substance. Very pretty head with expressive eyes set atop a muscular neck flowing into well laid shoulders. Excellent length and return of upper arm with correct fill in front. Strong bone and compact feet. Well sprung ribs and well angulated behind with expansive rounded thighs. Correct tail set and carriage. In my final consideration in the Challenge line up but preferred the topline and proportions of my winners. **OPPOSITE OPEN IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SM McFadden's CH GLENBRIAR ROYAL SCANDAL.** Another quality blue bitch that was very close to first. She is well balanced with a lovely outline. Balanced skull and muzzle. Clean neck into shoulders and well angulated front and rear. Excellent bone and substance throughout and covered the ground well once she got going. Preferred eye shape and expression, and length of ribcage on first. Shown in lovely coat and condition.

**3<sup>rd</sup> SM McFadden's CH GLENBRIAR SOLITAIRE.** Very pretty, dark blue bitch shown in hard condition and with excellent proportions. Merry and compact with a well moulded head and a bright and intelligent expression. Straight column of bone but would prefer more of it and better feet. Correct hindquarter angulation with low set hocks giving good drive behind. Preferred the bone, feet, and tail carriage of first two bitches.

**4<sup>th</sup> E M Jones' TWNROYAL ALLTHEGOLDISMINE.** Gold bitch in full coat who moved with purpose and vigour. Lots of bone, body, and substance. Well angulated rear with excellent second thigh. Preferred head, expression, and topline of those placed before her.

**5<sup>th</sup> V Pento's GLENAYDEN MY CUP OF TEA.** Well proportioned black bitch. Sweet expression but would prefer less dome to skull. Straight legs, hard topline and correct tail set, and carriage. Wonderful merry disposition. Preferred bone and substance of others.

## **Class 12a Vetrn 7+ Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> M K Kingston's GR CH BELLEBRIAR TIME SHARE.** Lovely blue bitch with excellent bone and substance. She has a pretty head set atop a clean and moderate length of neck which flows into finely pointed shoulders. Straight legs and good feet. Sturdy front assembly and strong through the mid-section. Wide and short in loin. Powerful rear with good propulsion from behind. **OPPOSITE VETERAN IN SHOW.**