

The Field Spaniel Society Open Show - 14th October 2018

I would like to extend my thanks to the Field Spaniel Society members for the honour of being invited to Judge, and to the Officers and Committee, for their hard work in producing a successful Open Show.

Many thanks to my efficient Steward Jane, who kept the ring running smoothly, and to 'apprentice' Steward Keith for his hard work and good humour.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day and was thrilled to have the opportunity to go over some top quality Field Spaniels!

MPD - NO ENTRIES

PD (1)

1st McDonald-Watts - Cochen Hocus Pocus. 9 month old black, looks a picture in profile. Gorgeous head, puppyish but masculine, with eyes that draw you in and hold your gaze with the softest of expressions. Well developed nostrils, and low set ears of good length. Strong neck and well laid back shoulders. Good size and well balanced; plenty of bone with more growing to do looking at his knobby knees! Needs to tighten in front assembly, but has time on his side. Moves well once settled, although would benefit from losing the fluff off his thighs as it gives a false illusion and detracts from rear movement. Promising pup - look forward to seeing how he comes on. **BPIS**

JD - NO ENTRIES

ND - NO ENTRIES

GD (1)

1st Wheeler - Sonnetend Careless Whisper:

Decent head, with kindly expression, framed by low set silky ears, strong neck, and good lay of shoulder, well muscled fore and aft, holding his topline well. Although unsettled initially, once settled, showed typical steady movement, driving from the rear.

PGD (1)

1st Murray - Nadavin Wallace:

I was very taken with this lad. Best of heads, and the most wonderful noble expression. Well off for bone and size, presenting a very pleasing outline. Moved happily, but would like to see him to tighten in hocks to allow real drive from the rear.

LD (2)

Two very handsome Field Spaniels, presented in tip top condition, both with lots to like about each.

1st Fowkes and Mills - Sonnetend Moonlight Drive. Black. Excels in head, and muzzle/skull proportions, kind, almond eye, with a leanness beneath. Sturdy legs, supporting a nicely proportioned body - with well laid back ribs and strong loin. Rear angulation ok. A bit unsettled on the move initially, but gave a good account of himself once settled.

2nd: Gallen - Woodsong Lexington (IMP FRA). Well put together, Liver dog. Pleasing outline. Moved out well, and at one with his handler. Well angulated fore and aft, moving with drive off beautifully muscled rear. Just preferred the head and expression of 1st.

OD (5)

The most difficult class of the day, as all straight out of the top drawer. But oh, what a treat for me!

1st: Fowkes - Sh Ch Finishing Touch at Shirmal. I have admired this Black dog since he was a pup, and was thrilled to finally get my hands on him - he did not disappoint! A substantial male, well muscled, good bone and perfectly balanced in profile. Noble head; darkest of eyes with masculine, yet gentle expression. Long, well muscled neck leading the best of shoulders - well laid back. Good length of rib leading the strong loin. Good feet and legs, strong in hocks, together with his well muscled rear, saw him powering round the ring.

Unfortunately, he lacked that same drive in the challenge for BIS. **BD** and **RBIS**.

2nd: Taylor - Sh Ch Elgert Take a Bow with Tayowen. Many of the same attributes apply here as to my 1st. Presented in super condition, and in fine fettle. Masculine head, but with an expression that conveys gentleness and nobility. Well proportioned, and in hard condition, but not quite as positive in movement here, as class winner. **RBD**

3rd Elliot Ewtor Excalibar at Portsoy.

SBD NO ENTRIES

VD NO ENTRIES

MPB NO ENTRIES

PB NO ENTRIES

JB (1)

1st Watts' Elgert Surprise Surprise. Pretty, feminine young bitch. shown in gleaming condition. Sweet head and expression, bite ok. neck and shoulders good. Needs to body up overall, but should come with maturity. Tight feet. Balanced in outline. Happy, but erratic on the move, however saw enough to allow me to assess sufficiently.

NB(1)

1st King - Marmelade des Hais De La Conch. Super-happy Bitch, enjoying her day. Good outline in profile, but would prefer a little more of her overall. Head and expression ok. Movement good once settled. Has potential - would benefit from ringcraft classes to get best out of dog and handler.

GB (4)

1st McVitty - Sonnetend Faith. Pretty Bitch, well up to size, and correctly proportioned. in great condition, well muscled but without detracting from her femininity. Good angulation front and rear, well balanced and drove effortlessly round the ring on good feet and legs to take the class.

2nd Stone - Sonnetend Sunday Girl. Slightly smaller cast than the winner, but perfectly proportioned throughout, many of the same attributes as above apply. Beautiful head with sweet expression, good angulation, balanced, held top line well, although slightly less positive on the move than 1st.

3rd Reeves - Magic Du Kreizker at Broomace (IMP FRA).

PGB (3)

1st Harding - Kingsmist Lady in Black. In 'vest and knickers' today, but nothing to hide.

Good size overall and height to length ratio presenting a very pleasing outline. Adequate bone and sturdy limbs. Feet good. Noble head, good length of muzzle, wide open nostrils. Dark eyes with melting expression. Best mover in this class. Impressed on the 'out and back', demonstrating accurate foot fall, which decided her placing.

2nd `Stones - Sonnetend Flawless. Lots to like. A very promising young bitch with plenty of bone. Beautiful, classic head, with sweet, gentle expression. well put together throughout, and moved well.

3rd McVittys Sonnetend Faith

Limit Bitch (4,1a)

1st Bebb-Sutton - Cochen Flamenco. Well made Bitch. Noble head of correct proportions, almond shaped eyes, with expression typical of the Breed. clean neck and shoulders, well angulated. Pleasing outline. Proportionate length and spring of rib, firm in loin. Well muscled rear quarters, with strong, well let down hocks. Moved with drive and purpose.

2nd Osborn Elgert Lady Stardust Beautiful shape. Slightly smaller than 1st, but well put together, and everything in the right place. Prettiest of heads, with melting expression. Correct angulation fore and aft, nicely bodied, with firm top line. Another with super rear quarters and firm hocks. However, not quite driving with positivity of 1st.

3rd Wheeler - Tayowen Touch of Elixer

OB (2, 1a)

1st Stone - Sh Ch Sonnetend Soft Touch. Standing alone, but WOW! This quality, mature Bitch is a perfect example of how the Breed improves with age! Beautifully proportioned head, with defined brow and correct chiselling. She has a kindly, yet slightly haughty expression, as befits nobility.

Neck of good length and well muscled. Shoulders well laid back, with proportionate return of upper arm. Deep chest with plenty of heart room, ribs moderately sprung and of good length, leading to firm loin.

Moderately angulated, well developed rear, pleasing width of second thigh with strong, well let down hocks, which served this Bitch well, to drive with great purpose around the ring.

Having given such a good account of herself in her class, she pulled out all the stops in the Challenge, and I was delighted to award her **BB** and **BIS**

SpBB (2)

1st McVitty - Sonnetend Faith (repeat)

2nd Reece - Magic Du Kreizker at Broomace Smaller and more compact than 1st; rather plain in head. Ok for bone, and well muscled. Moved out well. A happy bitch and at one with her young handler, who impressed me, with her patient and gentle manner.

VB (3, 2a)

1st. Taylor - Tayowen Touch of Elegance

A sound bitch, with plenty of bone and substance. Classic Field Spaniel head, good length of muzzle, well defined occiput. Beautiful, dark, almond shaped eyes, that are so meltingly expressive.

Standing on good feet, and strong legs. Well bodied, with correct angles fore and aft. Hard condition. Bit fidgety stacked, but moved OK, holding her top line well. **RBB VB**

2nd Wheeler Tayowen Touch of Elixer. Decent head and expression, well proportioned body, and well balanced, happy lass, just lacking drive on the move.

Debs Channon - Judge