

Judge's Report

CRUFTS 2013

CLUMBER SPANIELS – Judge Mrs Maureen Taylor (Maursett)

I would like to thank exhibitors for a very nice entry. I was impressed with the quality of the exhibits from mainland Europe, these all being totally new to me.

I found that eyes and ears were good, as was movement, although one or two could have done with losing a few pounds (but thankfully were not grossly overweight). My main concern was mouths! Oh dear! What has happened to our breed as far as mouths are concerned? Our standard calls for “a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws”. I am ‘old school’ and if you ended up with a dog that did not have a correct bite, the dog would never be shown and certainly never bred from. The same should also be said for monorchid and/or chriptorchid dogs as these are major – not minor - faults. When I last judged the breed three years ago I only found a couple of incorrect bites. This time, I found a large number of exhibits with incorrect bites, as well as teeth sticking out at all angles. I might add that these were all bred in the UK and none of the foreign dogs had incorrect bites! Whilst it is said on many occasions, it is worth remembering that we are merely custodians of this beautiful breed for a short time and should be endeavouring to improve it. Yes, I know that it costs a lot to buy a puppy, but if you end up with one that has a major conformation fault, bite the bullet, re-home it or leave it at home and start again. We had to do so on more than one occasion in other breeds. If you value our breed please, please do not be selfish; think of the breed and what is good for it in the long term, not short term success in the ring. I hope that some of our judges will also take that message on board as they have qualified these dogs for Crufts and more.

The eye colour also needs to be considered as I was disappointed to find a number with light eyes. This really does spoil the soft expression of the Clumber. Our standard also asks for a large head that is square, broad on top with a defined occiput, heavy brows and deep stop with a square muzzle. We appear to be getting some Clumbers with heads more akin to English Setters. So, my message to breeders is a simple one - do not lose breed type by breeding for one or two issues that seem to have taken precedence over the dog as a whole.

Veteran Dog (5 entry, 2 abs) 1st Crawford’s **Aust Ch Abbyford Taw**. I had the chance of judging some of this dog’s offspring whilst in Australia and it was a pleasure to get to go over him at long last. I just wish he had been under me when he was younger. Not a big dog and I would prefer a slightly more masculine head, but he was balanced and gave a good overall picture of the breed. He was in hard condition, with a straight front, tight feet, good turn of stifle, length of back with ribs going well back and a level topline which he kept on the move. 2nd Linley’s **Sealumber Next Generation**. A close decision between 1 and 2. Masculine head, deep chest, good eyes, well muscled and in good coat. Although this dog was the best mover in the class, I preferred the overall balance of 1. 3rd Pettitt’s **Twigmore Jumping Jack Flash At Cefnithon**. Taller and shorter coupled than 1 and 2, not quite the head of 2. Tight feet, deep chest and in good coat, but did not move particularly well today.

Special Puppy Dog (3 entries, 1 abs) 1st and BP Hyman’s **Jubilwell Diamond Geezer At Ranzham**. He was what I am looking for in a puppy. My only criticism is that I would prefer a better tail set. A masculine youngster, but not overdone, I loved his chunky head which was a good example of what a Clumber head should be like. He has a correct bite, tight feet,

level topline, good turn of stifle, plenty of coat and is a balanced puppy that has plenty of breed points, without exaggeration. 2nd Metcalfe's **Wymeswold Tarte Tatin**. A lighter framed puppy. Correct bite, clean eyes, level topline, tight feet. A little high on the leg at present and not quite the movement, overall conformation and balance of 1.

Special Junior Dog (2 entries, 0 abs) – 1st Counotte-De-Vree's **Bearsbay Full Speed To Cape Lewisporte**. A well boned, masculine youngster with a head that fits our standard, a correct bite, clean eyes, tight feet, good front and rear angulation, ribs going well back and was in hard condition, level topline and moved really well. He is well balanced and on the way to maturing into a very good dog. I would just prefer a lower tail carriage, but his quality is such that I could forgive this. 2nd Monaghan's **Tweedsmuir Mikado** A dog that has many of the same good points as 1, but is lighter framed and I would like a bit more of a masculine head. Clean eyes, correct bite, level topline, deep chest and moved well. He lost out on maturity to 1.

Post Graduate Dog (2 entries, 0 abs) – 1st Monaghan's **Tweedsmuir Mikado**. 2nd Dieck's **Gainsmill Just Ted At Kafernes**. A mature, well coated dog with a good head and eyes, tight feet he is shorter coupled than 1 so is therefore not as balanced. Moved well.

Limit Dog (8 entries, 2 abs) – 1st Counotte-De-Vree's **Bearsbay Full Speed To Cape Lewisporte**. 2nd Cornwell's **Theannaareh Emerald**. I judged this boy back in 2010 and he has matured well. A close decision, but just unlucky to meet the winner of this class today. Pleasing head, correct bite and good length of back. He is balanced and has good angulation, but not quite the topline of 1. Clean eyes, tight feet and moved well. 3rd Hyman's **Nakuru Dragon Spirit At Ranzham**. The sire of my BP. I would prefer a bit more masculinity to the head and he is also looks a bit 'stuffy' in neck as he has a profuse coat - trimming some of his coat out would help show off his shape better. Overall, he is an honest sort of dog with no serious faults. Moved well.

Open Dog (13 entries, 1 abs) – what a fabulous class this was, with many going home cardless that were, nevertheless, quality dogs. 1st CC and BOB was Levai's **Big Boom's Banditos Dex**. Well, where do I start? This dog was the son of the bitch that failed last year's vet test. He has what is known as "ring presence" and shows all the time he is in the ring. Masculine through and through, but without exaggeration, I loved his typical Clumber head, clean eyes, correct bite, strong bone and tight feet. This dog has a fantastic topline which he holds on the move, and has good angulation both fore and aft. Well muscled, he moved with drive and enthusiasm, covering the ground effortlessly. He entered the ring in pristine condition. Still only a youngster, he should gain his crown if campaigned in the UK. I was very impressed with him, as I know were many others who commented on how well he looked in the Group. 2nd and RCC Monaghan's **Sh Ch Tweedsmuir Dambuster**. This is a quality dog and one that excels in movement. His head could be a little more masculine for my taste and his front a little tighter but overall he is quality. He has clean eyes, a correct bite, level topline, rear construction is good and, like 1, is a true showman. Shown in good coat and moved with drive and enthusiasm which some lacked, possibly due to the heat. 3rd Cox and Isherwood's **Sh Ch Vanitonia The Buck Stops Ere**. One that oozes quality like his sire, his head is an excellent example of a what I class as a correct Clumber head along with clean eyes and soft expression. Tight feet, level topline, good rear angulation and moved with drive but, like 2, is a little loose in front. Still only a youngster and, as we have come to expect from this kennel, shown in excellent condition. Very close decision between 2 and 3.

Field Trial Dog (1 entry)

1st Zurick's **Sedgehurst Tempest.**

Special Working Gundog Dog (0 Entries)

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Dog (4 Entries 1 Absent)

1st. Underwood's **Ir Sh Ch Studeem Rock the Kazbar at Laceygunn** This is another dog which I would like to see a little more of in terms of head and substance; he is also a little high on the leg for my taste. Nevertheless, he has no serious faults, has clean eyes, correct bite, good feet, level topline and moves well. 2nd Deicks' **Gainsmill Just Ted At Kafernes.** 3rd Reid's **Kafernes Jack Daniels.** Clean eyes, feet are ok and nicely boned, but could do with losing a few pounds.

Veteran Bitch (0 Entries)

Special Puppy Bitch (6 entries, 1 abs) – A nice class of youngsters. 1st Newsham and Brookshaw's **Anbrook Amanda.** Pretty little bitch with sweet head, clean eyes but would prefer them a few shades darker. Correct bite, tight feet, level topline, good front and rear angulation and sufficient coat. Moved well. 2nd Pickering's **Wymeswold Sabayon.** A bigger type of bitch with good eye colour, correct bite, tight feet and oodles of coat. Not the muscle tone of 1, which affected her movement. 3rd Watts' **Jubilwell Diamond Diva At Stoweridge.** Another pretty bitch who was giving quite a lot away in age to the first 2 and, at this age, it does make a difference. Sweet head and expression, with good front and rear angulation, well muscled and should grow on into a nice bitch.

Special Junior Bitch (2 entries, 0 abs) – 1st Crawford and Hughes' **Chervood's Snow Charon of Knott.** A well put together bitch with pretty head showing the attributes of our standard, clean dark eyes and correct bite. Of good length, with ribs going well back. Front and rear construction was good. Overall, a balanced bitch who was well muscled and moved well. 2nd Linley's **Mayghan's Lawn Of Herbs By Sealumber.** A taller, rangier type of bitch in comparison to 1 and nowhere near as mature. Clean dark eyes, good feet and moved well.

Post Graduate Bitch (7 entries, 4 abs) – 1st Lockett's **Studeem Dancing Queen Of Fayemm.** Not a flashy bitch, but everything is in the right place and she just needs more coat to finish her off. Feminine head with pleasant expression, correct bite, tight feet, good length of back and good front and rear angulation. Best mover in this class, covering the ground with an easy flowing movement. 2nd Pettitt's **Clumbess Crackling Rose Of Cefnithon.** A well coated bitch with dark eyes, correct bite, tight feet, good length of back and turn of stifle. Not quite the movement of 1. 3rd Deik's **Kausing Kerfuffles At Kafernes.** Sweet head, well coated bitch who moved well. Unfortunately, not the construction and balance of 1 and 2.

Limit Bitch (6 entries, 2 abs) 1st Jefferies' **Jubilwell Jingle Bells.** This young lady was a puppy the last time I judged her. She has a melting expression on a feminine head that meets the standard well. Tight feet, good length of back and ribs go well back. Deep chest and moves with drive due to correct front and rear construction and being in hard condition, her overall conformation and balance is good. 2nd Kapalka-Rec's **Wymeswold Black Dangerous.** A slightly bigger version of the winner of this class, being a balanced bitch, with no major faults. Head similar to 1 and the same comments apply, correct bite, dark clean eyes, in good coat. She moved well, again due to correct construction and was in good coat. A very close

decision between 1 and 2, but she was on the heavy side which swayed my decision. 3rd Wilson's **Winhampton Naughty But Nice**. Pretty bitch with sweet head, good length, balanced, with good front and rear angulation. Moved well.

Open Bitch (15 entries, 5 abs) – As with the Open Dog class, I was spoilt for choice with some quality bitches present. 1st and CC Cox and Isherwood's **Vanitonia Save Me A Spot**. I understand this was her 3rd CC and, since she then went on to pass the vet test, will now be awarded her title. She is feminine, yet shows the strength that should be present in our breed, I loved her head which was for me exactly what I am looking for, correct bite and clean eyes. She is a balanced bitch, with great angulation and length of back with ribs going well back. She moved really well, covering the ground in easy strides making it look so easy and effortless. And, like the dog CC winner, presentation was immaculate. One thing that she does have – and where many are lacking these days - is that she is short from foot to hock, which I do like. As a breed, we are in danger of losing that. 2nd and RCC Kirkman's **Eilandon Pink Penelope Of Kirkara**. The sire of this bitch is also grandsire to my class winner. Another bitch I last judged as a youngster, when I recall she won Junior. As usual, the standard of presentation from this kennel is exceptional. She was in full coat and in pristine condition. A very pretty bitch with the sweetest of heads, correct bite, clean eyes, good length of back well ribbed, deep chest and tight feet. She just lost out on movement to 1. 3rd Bakker's **Wymeswold Bogotta**. A bitch that I have never seen before, but I really liked her a lot. Sweet head and expression, correct bite, tight feet, level topline and good angulation. A balanced and well constructed bitch. She moved really well and can certainly hold her own with the bitches here in the UK. All in all, three cracking bitches which must bode well for the future of the breed.

Special Working Gundog Bitch. (2 Entries 1 Absent)

1st Jeffries **Ch Jubilwell Whole Lotta Rosie**. Last time I judged this bitch, I awarded her the CC. I am so pleased to see that she has now lost the 'Sh' from the front and is now 'Ch' – well done. A feminine bitch and the dam of my Limit bitch winner, to whom she has passed on many of her qualities. Sweet head, correct bite, level topline, good angulation front and rear. She moved with drive and was in good coat. A good example of a bitch that demonstrates breed type.

Good Citizen Bitch (4 entries, 2 abs). 1st Thorogood's **Dockwray Serenity of Harrifield**. Sweet bitch, correct bite, good length of back and angulation front and rear. Unplaced earlier in a very strong Open class, but an honest (not flashy) bitch. 2nd Deik's **Kausing Kerfuffles At Kafernes**.

Maureen Taylor
(Maursett)
Judge