

Eastern Counties Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society

Championship Show, April 11, 2026 (Judge: Dr Annukka Paloheimo (Anncourt), Finland

Dogs

This was a dream judging appointment: judging your own breed in its home country. Thank you for the invitation and your kind hospitality.

My life has evolved around Cavaliers since 1971, first as an exhibitor, then also as a breeder and later as a FCI judge all over the world. In these 50+ years I have also lived, showed and bred Cavaliers in Britain and it was with a bit of sadness to witness the shrinking number of entries.

How could we attract more exhibitors and more dogs to maintain the key purpose of a show: to evaluate breeding stock for and among breeders. But also, to preserve a pleasant hobby, an event to meet up with like-minded enthusiasts. The less dogs, the less people. Then there is also the economic side, you would need 'enough' entries to cover the costs of running a show. Co-sharing of judges and venues is a good solution. But perhaps you could attract more entries if you adapt to the FCI system where champions are allowed to compete only in champion class, and then for BOB, but are not allowed to win a CC after the qualifying one. This broadens the possibility that owners of well-deserving good dogs find it worthwhile entering a show even when there is a special star or two in the breed at a certain moment of time. Having been there as an exhibitor and breeder in Finland, it does work. The star is still a star, and the wins we calculate for 'Cavalier of the Year' would be number of BOBs and group placements. But current RKC rules allow multiple CCs and there is solid reasoning behind but times are changing and it may be good to review it.

Having said this, I am sure we all are proud of the breed ambassador of the moment, Ch Ellemich American Express, and I was pleased to meet him again after three years when I awarded him Toy Group at Crufts, as a youngster. He is now fully mature and absolutely at the peak of condition and full of breed type.

Veteran Dog (4,1)

1. Trishine's Celestial Dream with Finjaro, blen, lovely type, excellent expression, rather short muzzle, lovely dark eyes, excellent pigment, excellent ears, correct bone, good body, easy mover. Best Veteran in Show.
2. CH Granasil Trick or Treat for Narvidar, black&tan, excellent shape, vey compact, in excellent condition, correct eye shape, good front, excellent mover, lovely temperament, full of energy.
3. Jomaki Gospel Bill

Baby Puppy Dog (1,0)

1. Verheyen Cantona at Fortunamajor NAF TAF, black&tan, 5 months, quality puppy with excellent proportions and size, superb silky coat texture, good balance, correct bone, good rear, sound mover, great temperament. Mouth needs to improve.

#### Minor Puppy Dog (2,0)

1. Fortunamajor Resurrection under Gracewincavs, blen puppy with correct proportions, promising head, excellent pigment, correct length of muzzle, correct bite, lovely shape of eye, lovely markings, needs a bit more weight, balanced mover.
2. Llapsttam Techno Notice, black&tan, lovely silky coat texture, good proportions, excellent size, would prefer a bit longer muzzle, moves freely but front movement needs more length.

#### Puppy Dog (4,1)

1. Arrowbien Clark Gable, blen, compact well developed confident puppy, lovely shape and balance, lovely colour, excellent eyes, lovely ears, correct bite, very sound, moves very well for his age with tail wagging non-stop. Future star! Best Puppy in Show.
2. Carsan Double Agent with Toseland, blen, quality puppy of larger frame that needs to fill in, lovely type, excellent classic skull, mouth needs to improve, very sound. Lots of potential. Needs more time.
3. Sabal Vanagu Imperija at Bjulaseta (Imp LTU)

#### Junior Dog (4,0)

1. Hearthfried High Hopes at Luphenex, blen, most promising youngster, excellent shape, medium bone, very sound, lovely neck, good eyes, excellent ears, muzzle could be a bit longer, correct bite, excellent mover.
2. Fortunamajor Jimmy Choo JW, blen best of eyes, excellent expression, lovely ears, stronger head, would prefer bit more leg length, lovely colour, profuse coat, movement needs more time, tail needs to settle.
3. Hearthfried Highlander at Pipaddie
4. Toraylac Cosmopolitan

#### Yearling Dog (2,0)

1. Llapsttam Luther Vandross JW, ruby, bigger dog of excellent type, so very sound, lovely eyes, excellent bite, excellent shape of muzzle, excellent mover, beautiful colour, in full coat. He would benefit from a bit more weight. Clearly one of the very best today!
2. Mecho From Pirin, black&tan, correct type, good proportions, overall sound, lovely eyes, muzzle could be a bit longer, sound mover, not in best coat today.

### Novice Dog (3,1)

1. Carsan Double Agent with Toseland, puppy seen in Puppy Class.
2. Bowfort Sea The Fire, very smart tricolor with perfect markings, so rare in this colour and absolute joy to see! Excellent true toy size, medium bone and lovely proportions, pretty head still needing more time to mature, good front, topline and rear movement needs to get stronger, lovely coat, excellent temperament.

### Graduate Dog (4,0)

1. Hearthfriend Trafalgar, blen, handsome head, lovely eyes, excellent pigment, ears and ear set, excellent colour, good balance, topline needs to get stronger.
2. Charlottetown Jonbon, tricolour, balanced dog with classic head shape, lovely to see his good length of muzzle, correct medium stop, correct ear set and skull not overdone in any way, excellent colour and markings, sound mover. Unfortunately not in the best coat condition today.
3. Verheyen Woody Under Gracewincavs JW
4. Calonlan Zeus JW

### Post Graduate Dog (3,1)

1. Carsan In Your Dreams, black&tan, larger dog with good balance, sound, correct medium stop and length of muzzle, excellent bite, moves well but topline could be firmer, lovely wagging tail, coat could be silkier.
2. Hearthfriend Trafalgar, see previous class.

### Special Mid Limit Blenheim or Tricolour Dog (5,0)

1. Tamyse Bear With Us at Cerneyleaze, classic head with correct length of skull and muzzle, excellent skull and head profile, excellent pigment, correct lips, lovely eyes, could be more compact in shape, sound and steady mover, correct coat.
2. Stonepit Into the Blue, stronger head, compact shape but could have a bit more leg length, good neck, excellent size, good mover.
3. Theodore James Castellum Mare at Heatherfriend
4. Luphenex Highland Fling
5. Jomaki Gospel Bill

### Limit Dog (8, 3)

1. Carsan Richie Rich JW, tricolour, excellent shape and size, excellent colour with perfect markings, so rare! Lovely eyes, balanced head, correct bite, in top condition, moves quite well.
2. Mecho From Pirin, seen in yearling. Moved now much better.
3. Dinitro's Rock Steady Eddie JW
4. Bowfort Bo Jo

Open Dog (6,1) Class of only four dogs but not lacking quality!

1. Ch Ellemich American Express, this was the second time I met 'Dublin'. The first was three years ago at the famous main ring of Crufts where I awarded him Best in Group. Then still just a youngster but as a breed specialist I had the confidence and delight to appreciate him. Now fully matured, he looks even better and is a clear star! I love his shape, so compact and sound, has got best of eyes – truly melting expression – Blenheim colour and markings could not be better, and the sound, brisk yet elastic movement with natural drive is unique. Showing the happy cavalier temperament made him unbeatable today. CC and Best in Show.
2. Ricksbury Elite JW, classic dog still needing to mature for his full potential, classic head with the desired medium stop and correct balance of skull and muzzle, lovely true cavalier eyes and expression, nothing in excess, touch longer is shape, excellent front and neck, sound mover but would have liked to see him moving in a bigger ring outdoors to let him show his full range. Delightful, quality dog that is in his way to bigger awards, today reserve CC.
3. Charlottetown Golden Touch
4. Carsan Hot an Tasty JW