

Beagle Club Open Show 20/11/2021 Critique – Mark Walden (Dogs)

The Beagle Club Open Show was an absolute delight. Many may already know that I've been an admirer and owner of beagles for many years and I'm incredibly grateful to be given opportunity to judge at a show that I have spent many years previously visiting and exhibiting. Despite the challenges we still face with the pandemic, the show was efficiently run and the atmosphere was brilliant so my heartfelt thanks to the officers and committee for making me feel so welcomed as well as my co judge, Patsy Hollings.

PD – 1 entry, 2 absentees

1st was Bondlea Woodlark by Mrs M Hunt that was a very smart puppy, nice drive when moving with no signs of stiffness, I wouldn't want any more substance on the head but there were no exaggerations of any kind. Had a nice depth of chest and had an even temperament which is always welcoming to see in a puppy.

Junior Dog – 1 entry, 0 absentees

Same dog, see above.

Yearling Dog – 2 entries, 1 absentee

1st was Simeldaka Senglea Squire bred by Mr & Mrs D & K Simkin. Moved very well, had a nice drive with no compromise on the topline. Firm structure of the head complemented by a soft expression, free from any coarseness.

Post Graduate Dog – 6 entries, 2 absentees

1st was Jalhar The Wonder Of You bred by Mrs E Edge. Decent construction of the forequarters, had nice laid back shoulders which brought a tidy symmetry towards the point of shoulder. Head was fair, ears well placed with would have liked to have seen a better dome on the head. Overall however, a very sound dog.

2nd was Rosrodens Aphrodite bred by Miss R Vickers. Nice and compact showing a nice drive on the hindquarters. Slightly heavier on the head however this was something I was willing to overlook upon placement as I thought his movement was very sound. Hocks well let down and tidy.

Limit Dog – 3 entries, 0 absentees

Tricky as 1st (63) and 2nd (6) were a very close call I found, both were of very good quality.

1st was Eardley Will Power at Simeldaka bred by Mr. T Jones and Mr S Jepson. A delightful dog to glance at initially and upon inspection there was excellent structure and head with plenty of substance. Nice length to the neck which dovetailed into a level topline. Decent pigmentation within the eyes and nose. Ribs were well sprung and when he was moving he was calm but merry and alert which is exactly what I would like to see in any Beagle. Went on to win best dog.

2nd was Luluwell Major bred by Mrs. Pat Hills. I really liked this dog and very much enjoyed judging it. Very well balanced, respectable and compact. Would have liked to have seen a bit more muscle in the

loin but there was no compromise when it came to movement. Head was adequately domed and well defined.

Open Dog – 4 entries, 1 absentee

1st was Deaconfield Kingcraft bred by Miss. D G Taylor. Charming expression on the face and shoulders well laid back. No exaggerations of any kind and was well presented. Moved well and covered decent ground on movement and worked well with his handler. Smart outline overall which was pleasing to the eye upon first glance.

2nd was Gemark Eyas bred by Mr. Andrew Chapman and Mrs. Teresa Chapman. Very sound movement with this dog with a good reach at front with no signs of high action. Charming expression on the head. Has slightly more length on the legs than I would have which was more prevalent when standing but despite that he looked very well tidy and balanced.

Veteran Dog – 6 entries, 1 absentee

1st was Ch. Janfrey Randal Upon Rundle Jw Sh.cm bred by Mrs. J May. Could tell that this dog had plenty of experience in the ring. Hindlegs performing a very respectable drive when it came to movement. Decent volume within the chest feeding back to the ribs which were well sprung. Level topline. Delighted to see this dog win Best Veteran in Show.

2nd was Lanesend Segenhoe Jw Sh.cm bred by Mrs. A Phillips. Was clearly trying to convey that age was no barrier when it came to presentation, and he did a terrific job at doing so. Very tidy head free from any wrinkles or exaggerations. Body has plenty of length and height but I wouldn't want to see any more.