

**CKCSC, USA 9th Annual Puppy of the Year  
02/21/13, Dallas, Texas  
Judge: Gordon Inglis (Craigowl)**

It was an honour to judge this prestigious annual competition. Thank you to the Club for the invitation, to the exhibitors who brought their puppies to show to me and to my joint hostesses, Mary Grace Eubank and Shirley Henry for looking after me so well. The Match format called for some very close decisions. The luck of the draw meant that some excellent puppies were eliminated earlier than they might be in standard conformation classes. However, to enter the competition you had to be a winner, and my whole evening was a pleasure.

**Puppy Dogs:**

**Jayba Easy Does It, JW** (Lander) Although heavily marked, this richly coloured blenheim was excellent for size and balance with very pleasing head and eye. Holds himself well standing and is so self-assured and fluent on the move. Up against a very nice youngster in the second round who ran him close, but his grace and balance on the move and better tail carriage won him through to the final. He continued to show himself with style and confidence and having found him in the second pairing of round one, I was sure he was the one to beat today. That said, he remained on fine form throughout the evening, defeating all comers to become **DOG PUPPY OF THE YEAR & ultimately PUPPY OF THE YEAR 2013**. At just thirteen months he was the youngest of the 3 group winners, but his attitude, carriage and posture belied his youth.

Others who made an impression on me were:

**Chewcreek Three Amigos Dusty Bottoms JW** (DePhillip) Mentioned above, whose attractive head, copy-book blenheim markings and compact body drew my eye immediately. **Ch Mimric Consensus JW** (Hodges/Perkins) Group 2 Winner, who appealed for size and compactness, with good angulation and plenty of body and coat. Just found him a shade heavier in head and foreface, and at just a month older than winning puppy has less scope to develop. **Pincrest White Lightning JW** (Eubank) Group 3 winner. A well-marked blenheim of ideal proportions with a tidy outline. Loved his large, dark eyes. Would have preferred more angulation in his hindquarters. **Melrose Gold For Bonitos Campaneros JW** (Magera/Mitchell) This ruby at first look fulfilled all my requirements. I was particularly drawn to his soft head and open expression. His size and balance and rich colouring were also just right. So disappointed to find him so thin when examined on the table. Another victim of the cut-throat decision making required in the match format.

**Puppy Bitch Winner:**

**Ch Starmarc I Believe, JW** (Hooper) Winner of the second group of bitches, this tricolour was perfect for size and shown in full bloom. Lovely head type with a soft and most alluring expression. Her well-marked coat was gleaming with condition and the texture was soft to the touch. Moved steadily and accurately and standing held herself well enough but can dip a bit in topline if left to relax. Pressed hard by the older blenheim bitch in the final, where on the day the tricolour's condition and coat finish carried her through. **BITCH PUPPY OF THE YEAR**

**Piccadil Destined To Be Rich** (York) This richly coloured blenheim just about 10 months, was clear winner of the youngest group. Still in the developmental stage, all is as it should be. Looked still rather babyish against the older group winners. **Ch Chadwick Embrace JW** (Eckersley) Winner of the oldest group, this blenheim satisfied me in so many ways, with her appealing head and expression, overall size and balance, nice flow of neck shoulders and backline, although the white along her topline can deceive the eye. A bit in between coats but I was so pleased to have the opportunity to handle her. The tricolour had the edge on bloom and finish today, but they made an outstanding pair for the finale. I particularly liked the way she was shown in repose, with her handler standing well back, but in control, ensuring that all the focus was on the dog. A lesson well worth observing by a number of tonight's exhibitors.