Cavaliers of the Midwest 02/24/12, Dallas, TX Judge: Peter Towse (Miletree)

My sincerest thanks go to the Cavaliers of the Midwest for inviting me to judge at their Dallas show. Thanks go to Cindy Hooper for a trip to the shopping centre on Thursday. And for a wonderful Thursday evening meal at the Cool River restaurant where the rib eye was just amazing. On my day to judge the ring was perfectly set up and coordinated by my good friends; Shirley Henry as ring steward and Dr Bruce as announcer, Kimberly Kinser ensured the exhibits arrived on time and Jan Gallagher kept the books straight. The venue with its facilities just lends itself to holding the perfect dog show but would not be the success that it is without all the hard work put in by the committee. The show theme and logo was the inspiration of Mary Grace Eubank, who exercised her talent in art work so well. The silent auction consisted of many very interesting collectables. The array of stalls offering knitwear garments, doggy things and exquisite jewellery filled the remaining ballroom. A seminar in judging apples from Bob Whitney provided a fun but also educational Friday evening event aimed at improving our critique writing. An enjoyable Mexican evening banquet, live auction with hilarious animations from Bob Whitney, followed by questions to the panel went down well on Saturday. Culminating in an extravaganza barbeque evening back at the ranch, courtesy of Ted and Mary Grace Eubank on Sunday. Thank you everyone that helped to make my stay a memorable one.

Junior Puppy Dog (5)

1. Pinecrest White Lightening (Eubank) Well broken Blenheim with a lozenge. Dark round eyes and good ear length gave a sweet gentle but masculine expression. Correct bite. Good reach of neck with correct lay of shoulders leading into an excellent top line, held on the move. Perfect tail set and carriage. Good temperament. Best Puppy Dog, Best Puppy in Show

2. Forestcreek Sir Prize (Cline) Blenheim dog, a more mature look with large dark eves in a stronger head, but still appealing. Good shoulders, top line and tail set. Parallel movement coming and going. 3. Sikeleli Wanna Be A Rock Star (Nel) Tricolour with a very pretty head and expression. Good shoulders, top line falls slightly over croup, and tail set was not as good as winner. Moved well going away but pulled a little on the return. 4. Denham Dream Boat (Madox) A ruby of larger frame than the previous winners. Nice expressive eyes. Top line was alright but again fell off over the croup which for me spoils the flowing outline of a cavalier on the move.

Senior Puppy Dog (4)

1. Autumnhill Ring of Fire, JW (Parente) The size and balanced shape that I look for at this age. Ruby with a well cushioned, full head surrounding a pair of large dark eyes. Level bite, good lay of shoulders leading into a level top line. Correct tail set. Good turn of stifle gave good positive clean movement. Good temperament, tail never stopped. Stood out in this class. 2. Bonitos Companeros Kaleo at Diorchavon (Bialek) Another nice sized and well balanced puppy with good bone. Dark eves giving a pretty expression. Good top line but falls away over the croup. Movement was satisfactory. 3. Canyoncrest Christopher Marlow (Barrett) Blenheim with a lozenge of good size and balance, but I would prefer more bone. Good shoulder, level top line falls over croup. Movement could be a little more positive. 4. Manorhouse Bluemoon Sweet William (Colson) Well broken Blenheim with a lozenge. Again I would prefer more bone. The eyes looked a little tight and red. Good shoulders, top line falling away over croup, so in side profile the movement was not that of winner but moved very well coming and going.

Graduate Puppy Dog (4)

1. Redbud Northern Dance (Scott) Correct size for age. A well balanced dog with good correct bone. Lovely dark eyes and long ears gave a wonderfully handsome expression. Correct reach of neck with correct lay of shoulders leading into an excellent top line, held on the move. Correct tail set and carriage. Moved well. Excellent temperament. 2. Bonitos Companeros Executor (Adair) Blenheim of good size and shape for his age with good bone. The eyes lacked the pigment of the winner but were acceptable, framed with long full ears, it gave a pleasant expression. Good shoulders, top line and showed a nice balanced shape. Movement was a little unsettled today. 3. Crizwood Billy Baroo at Torrey Pine (Byroads) Tricolour of good size. Good shoulders, top line falls over croup. Moved well. I would prefer a larger eye to give the melting expression that I was looking for. 4. Circlecity Walk In The Park (Matters) Blenheim with a perfect lozenge and rich markings. Some dogs go through an awkward stage of development at this age. I would prefer a little more body and weight at this age. His expression was not helped by runny eyes that had stained the hair below the eyes. His movement was quite satisfactory though and hopefully given some time everything will come together. Novice Dog (2)

1. Forestcreek Inception (Casey) Blenheim of nice size and proportions. Very pretty expression with dark eyes and long ears. Good shoulders, level top line but falls off at croup. Moved well. **2. Forestcreek Prince William** (Cline) Richly marked Blenheim and clean pearly white of a nice size and balance. Lovely dark eyes. I have in my notes small ears. Good shoulders, top line falls off at croup, movement was good. If the date in the catalogue is correct, he is only a puppy, so losing out on maturity.

Bred By Exhibitor Dog (2)

1. Canyoncrest Star Blazer JW (Du Ross) Blenheim of good size and balanced shape. Pleasing expression with dark eyes and full long ears. Good shoulders, top line leading to croup. Good turn of stifle. Good drive and moved well in profile and down and back. **2. Roserock Proud Not Prejudiced** (Contreras) Richly marked Blenheim with a lozenge. Very much like winner but with darker pigment to eyes and coat. Good full ears framed the dark eyes that could have been a little larger. Good shoulders, top line falling off at croup. Did not seem to move as well today. Results could be turned around on a different day.

Junior American Bred Dog (2)

1. Almeara Kiss The Girls (Whitmire) Blenheim, well grown for 11 months of age. Nice dark eyes giving a pretty expression. A good level top line but occasionally over angulated his rear so the top line angled down to the croup. Very good turn of stifle gave drive and moved well. **2. Sikeleli Against All Odds** (Nel) A richly marked Blenheim of 7 months was going to give a lot away with a 4 month difference. He had a good size and shape for his age but needs more bone. Open face markings with a pretty expression. Good reach of neck and level top line. Coat coming. **American Bred Dog (3)**

1. Tassajara Hugh Jackman (Seidman/Hughes/Berkau) Blanket marked Blenheim of rich coat colour, quite compact with short hocks in side profile. Lovely dark eyes in a well cushioned face, top skull slightly rounded, giving a soft expression, reminded me of a kennel; which was correct when I saw the catalogue. Level top line, moved slowly but well. 2. Sir Alistaire of Alderbridge (Alders) A Blenheim a little longer than the winner but still a good size. Dark eyes and long full ears giving a very pretty expression. Level top line with slight croup. Moved well coming and going. Wonderful coat, well presented. 3. Forestcreek Apollo (Walzer/Cline) The youngster in this class with a good size, but slightly heavier in stature than the previous two. Pretty expression. Top line tended to fall from shoulder to croup, he did not move as well as the two previous dogs today.

Special Limit Blenheim Dog (3)

1. Chantismere Cast A Spell On Corduke (Mulligan) Richly marked Blenheim with a lozenge. Dark eyes surrounded by full ears gave a beautiful expression. A lovely size and shape with good neck and shoulders leading into a level top line. Stood four square with nice straight hocks and moved with drive. 2. Kaishmar Carlos at Canyoncrest (Du Ross) Well marked and richly coloured Blenheim, taller than winner also with a lozenge. Nice expression. Good top line falls away over croup. Moved well. 3. Lanola Only Make Believe (Matters) Well broken and richly marked Blenheim with a nice open expression and large ears. Level top line. Needs more length of leg for a more balanced shape. Moved well.

Special Limit Tricolour Dog (2)

1. Pinecrest Dixieland Band (Scanlan Johnson) Good sized and well balanced shaped Tricolour. A little blanket marked but with a glorious long silky coat. Large dark eyes surrounded by good full ears gave a lovely expression. Movement was a little erratic today. *Best Tricolor Dog 2.* Canyoncrest Luck of the Draw (Du Ross) Well broken markings. Taller than winner. I would prefer more fill to the face to give that endearing expression cavaliers have. Good top line and moved well.

Special Limit Ruby Dog (2)

1. Turretbank Beaujolais (Green) I had to decide what I valued most in a wholecolour as there were two completely different dogs here. Correct top skull not too domed, plenty of cushioning to the face. Dark eyes and nose, framed by full ears giving a wonderful open expression. Good neck and level top line and tail carriage held level on the move which he accomplished effortlessly. Well coated which I would prefer to be darker. This dog was longer than I prefer, but I considered the head on this dog out weighed its minuses. *Best Ruby in Show 2.* Storeyland Golden Ransom (Gallagher) Correct rich red coloured dog of good shape and balanced size. Nice dark eyes just set a little too deeply give him a bit of a frown to his expression. Good full ears. Good shoulders and top line and he moved very well.

Special Limit Black & Tan Dog (2)

1. Brookhaven Bob Bailey (Schilling) Lovely size. Generous coat of raven black and rich tan. Dark brown eyes gave a pleasing expression. Shorter on leg than I prefer but moved well. *Best Black & Tan Dog 2.* Meadowlake Toshihiro (Morrison/Sprayberry) A taller dog than winner but was just lacking in expression. Also well coated and moved well in profile and down and back.

Open Dog (2)

1. Ch Pascavale Nathan (Cline) A nice sized dog of well balanced shape with correct good bone. Dark eyes and long full ears giving that beautiful expression. Correct bite. Lovely arched neck leading into correct shoulders. Perfectly level top line and tail set, which he maintained on the move. Movement was positive and parallel, coming and going. Wonderful side profile. Winners Dog, Best in Show, Best Blenheim in Show

2. Bonitos Companeros Halli Galli (Eubank/Kirschbaum/Vordersrasse/Morrison.) Another top quality dog. Good size and balanced shape. Dark eyes in a well cushioned face framed with full ears gave a beautiful expression. Correct bite. Good neck. Level top line and tail carriage, held on the move which was just perfect. I can see these two changing places under different judges. Reserve Winners Dog, Reserve Best in Show

Junior Puppy Bitch (6)

1. Pinecrest Moonshine (Eubank) Well broken richly coloured Blenheim with a lozenge, of perfect size and balance for her age. Dark eyes giving a very pretty feminine expression. Good body with good spring of rib. Correct neck and lay of shoulders leading into a perfect top line and tail set, all held level on the move. Best Puppy Bitch 2. Sikeleli Tikyah Yafah Lovely Hope Nevaeh (Nel) Richly marked Blenheim with a lozenge. Good size and balanced shape. Good top line and moved well. **3. Pinecrest Mountain Dew** (Eubank) Another nice puppy from a superb litter. Every bit as good as the winner, just a shade longer cast in body. Also with a very pretty expression. 4. Crusin Off To Storeyland (Gallagher) Black and tan with a sweet expression, needs a little more fill which sometimes comes later in wholecolours. Good size and balance for her age. Moved very well.

Senior Puppy Bitch (7)

1. Bonitos Companeros Je T'aime (Adair) A mature Blenheim of nice size and shape. Dark eyes and a pretty feminine expression. Correct shoulders, excellent top line and tail set carried well on the move. 2. Forestcreek Princess Diana (Cline) Neat Blenheim of good size and well balanced shape. Dark eyes giving a very pretty expression. Good lay of shoulder, level top line and good tail set, carried level on the move. A lovely puppy, unlucky to meet winner today. 3. Liane's Xaviera (Poti) Richly coloured ruby with dark eyes and lovely expression. Correct shoulder placement, good top line and tail set. Moved elegantly. Best Ruby Bitch 4. Almeara Steal My Kisses (Longbardi/Whitmire) Richly marked Blenheim of good size and shape. Dark eves just need a little more cushioning to face to improve expression, good top line and tail set. Moved adequately.

Graduate Puppy Bitch (8)

1. Bonitos Companeros Gianna Nannani (Adair) This bitch really caught my eye. Lovely sized Blenheim of well balanced shape. Dark eyes with an extremely pretty expression framed by full ears. Correct lay of shoulders, level top line and tail set. Moved well and with elegance. Reserve Winners Bitch

2. Brookhaven Darbie (Ayers/Martz) Flashy well marked tricolour with rich tan in the right places. Large black eyes giving a very pretty expression. Good shoulders, level top line and good tail set. Moved well and elegantly. Top quality puppy. 3. Hadara Soul Speak. (Koch) Heavily marked Blenheim with a lozenge. Very sweet expression with large ears. Body coat to come. Shoulder placement was good, Level top line and tail set. Moved well. 4. Mayfield Miracle at Broberry (Thornberry-Brogan/Mayfield) Richly marked, well broken Blenheim, a little less mature than the others, but of good size and balance. Large dark eves and a very pretty expression. Correct shoulders, level top line and good tail set. Moved well in profile and down and back. A strong class.

Novice Bitch (4)

1. Avia Billie Jean (Longobardi) Rich red ruby of good size and shape. Black eyes giving a very pretty expression. Lay of shoulder is correct, level top line and correct tail set. Moved with elegance. A bit raw at 12 months but everything going for her. 2. Canyoncrest Miss Madelyn (Du Ross) Good sized tricolour with good balance. A little heavily marked. Pretty expression. Shoulders good, level top line and good tail set. Moved well. 3. Brymarden Over The Moon of Benchmark (Hoorman) Longer Blenheim. Dark expressive eyes and a pretty face. Head has not yet developed in proportion to her deep chested body. Needs a little more neck. Good level top line but falls over croup. Moved well. 4. Luxxar Sugar Babe (Helleson/Campanozzi) Nice sized well broken Blenheim. Dark eyes but off coloured nose. Good level top line and tail set. Moved well with a bold attitude.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitch (2)

1. Jayba Buttons N Bows (Lander) Another bitch that immediately caught my eye. Lovely size and balanced shape. Correct size and balanced body shape with the correct amount of bone. Large black limpid eyes, you could see her personality coming through, framed by long well furnished ears and black nose completed that beautiful expression that I so love and reminded me of some of our bitches back home. Correct shoulder placement leading into a level top line and tail set carried perfectly level. She moved with great elegance. Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite Sex, Best Blenheim Bitch, Best American Bred in Show, Best Bred By Exhibitor in Show

2. Bekenhall Blue Suede Shoes (Hall/Kelly Kent) Good size and shaped Blenheim, more lightly marked. Clean open face markings. Nice expression, I would prefer darker eyes. Body coat to come to match large pendulous ears. Moved well in profile and down and back.

Junior American Bred Bitch (4)

1. Bekenhall Tattle Tale (Hall/Kelly Kent) Well broken Blenheim with a lozenge, of good size and compact shape. Dark eyes and long ears gave a pretty expression. Good shoulders and top line. Body coat need to come through to compliment well feathered tail. Moved well. **2. Benchmark Shameless** (Hoorman) Heavily marked tricolour. Good size and nicely balanced body. Large dark eyes giving a very pretty feminine expression. Level top line and good tail set. Moved well in profile and down and back. **3. Brookhaven Fancy Free** (Ayers/Martz) Blenheim of good shape and size. Dark eyes, but a little stained below detracted from her expression. Good reach of neck. Her movement was a little unsettled today which affected her top line. **4. Luxxar Lady Primrose** (Schurr/Campanozzi) Larger richly marked Blenheim on a clean pearly white background. Dark eyes and nose pigment. Face needs a little more fill to improve expression. Prefer a bit more neck. Good top line, a little straight in angles. Moved adequately. Very happy temperament.

American Bred Bitch (4)

1. Almeara Made You Look (Whitmire) This is another bitch that I had my eye on for top honours. Well broken, richly marked Blenheim with a lozenge, profuse coat well presented. Large dark eyes and black nose, Good ears all made for an extremely pretty expression. Slightly taller than some but still well balanced and well made. Well laid shoulders and a level top line with correct tail set. She moved well, just a little proud of her tail. 2. Forestcreek Piece Of My Heart (Cline) Well broken richly marked Blenheim on pearly white ground on a good sized well balanced body, well presented profuse coat. Large dark eyes and black nose framed by large full ears gave a lovely expression. Good shoulders and level top line and correct tail set kept level on well animated movement. 3. Truluv Giselle of Foxwyn (Baker Fox) Well coated Blenheim with large dark eyes. Narrow blaze gave a slight frown to an otherwise pretty expression. Good top line but falls off over the croup. Well made and moved well. 4. Kinglys Copy Cat (Herrington) Taller heavier marked Blenheim. Head needs more fill to improve expression. Nice eyes but with marks. Well made and moved well.

Health & Conformation Bitch (3) There was some jocular family rivalry between the first two bitches, either of which was worthy of winning. In the end the Blenheim showed her socks off, just asking for first place which she duly got. All of them are a credit to their owners and looked fabulous.

1. Ch Pinecrest Freeze Frame (Eubank) 12 year old Blenheim with a lozenge. Slightly taller but balanced. Large dark eyes framed by long golden ears that draped either side of her sweet face. Level top line and correct tail set, all held level whilst moving perfectly and with such attitude. 2. Ch Pinecrest Night Light (Eubank) 8 ¹/₂ year old Tricolour of a good size and shape. Plenty of coat of black and still with rich tan markings. Her ears show a few grey hairs but still a picture. I was shown a front cover of her afterwards in her prime. Level top line and tail set perfect on the move, though when she stood she just dropped her top line slightly. 3. Castlemar Sophie Grace, C-CD, C-RE (Barton) 8 years old well marked Blenheim of good size and shape in good coat condition. Large dark eyes framed by huge well feathered ears. Carrying a little extra weight on shoulders but good level top line and tail set. Moved very well.

Special Limit Blenheim Bitch (5)

1. Bonitos Companeros Zsa Zsa (Adair/Mitchell) Another bitch that caught my eye for further consideration. Blenheim of a compact size but balanced. Very dark eyes, good full ears presented a pretty expression not detracted by her narrow blaze. Correct shoulder placement leading into a level top line and tail set carried well on the move and in good coat condition. 2. Rockin Rebels Chanel at Turretbank (Green) Blenheim with not quite a thumb print, but a definite lozenge. Good size and shape. Pretty expression helped by great full ears. Level top line and tail set when standing. Moved well but just lost the top line a bit. Rear assembly very slightly splayed. 3. Spindlepoint Hope (Compton) Richly marked Blenheim, slightly taller than the first two. Dark eyes but just showed the flash of a lighter surround to the eye. Good level top line and tail set. Moved well. 4. Jayba Sweet Pea (Lander) Well broken richly marked Blenheim with open head markings. Dark brown eyes but still a pretty expression. Dropped her top line on occasions, but had good tail set and carriage. Rear movement not as positive today.

Special Limit Tricolour Bitch (1)

1. Pinecrest Dixie Melody (Eubank) Strikingly marked Tricolour with her band of white on front and rear limbs with profuse jet black coat in between. Good size and shape with a lovely full head, showing rich tan in the right places. Dark eyes framed by large voluminous ears gave a sweet expression. Very good shoulders and level top line and tail set held level on the move and wagging level all the time. *Best Tricolour in Show*

Special Limit Ruby Bitch (2)

1. Brookhaven Lucky Penny (Schilling/Ayers) 1 year old well matured bitch. Slightly longer in body but otherwise well balanced. In two coats at the moment but that will come right. Large dark eyes gave a nice expression. Good shoulders, level top line and tail set, all carried well on the move. **2. Riverview New Years Eve** (Du Ross) 5 year

old bitch of a nice size and shape. Paler coat colour which I would prefer darker. Large dark brown eyes, ear on show side has been chewed by a companion. However level top line and tail set. Moved well.

Special Limit Black & Tan Bitch (4)

1. Roseriver Hallelujah (Young/Scott) 2 ½ year old of good size and balance. Dark eyes framed by full ears gave a very pretty expression. Massive straight silky coat of raven black and rich tan. Good top line and tail set. Moved well. *Best Black & Tan in Show* 2. Cruisin Minnie Mouse (Rackler) Another outstanding female, half sister to winner. Good size and balance. Dark eyes and full ears giving a sweet expression. Another big coat of straight silky raven black and rick tan. Coat just a bit sparse on the tail. 3. Avia Camellia (Poti) Again a nice sized and well balanced exhibit with lovely black eyes and full ears. Good top line and tail set. Moved well. 4. Katesmore Enchanting Garbo (Moore) Pretty face with nice dark brown eyes. Very rich tan markings. A nice well balanced shape.

Veteran Bitch (1)

1. Castlemar Sophie Grace, C-CD, C-RE (Barton) 8 year old well marked Blenheim of good size and shape in great coat condition. Large dark eyes framed by huge well feathered ears. Carrying a little extra weight on shoulders but good level top line and tail set. Moved very well.

Stud Dog (1)

1. Ch Bekenhall Jailhouse Rock (Hall) A lovely sized well balanced Tricolour dog, well broken markings and a very stylish look about him. Accompanied by his progeny, all of an excellent show type and very typical of their sire.