CKCSC Puppy Of The Year 01/05/2017, Mesa Arizona Robert Lamont, Moorfields Cavaliers, Northern Ireland

I would like to express my thanks to the Club for their invitation to judge the **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Puppy Of The Year 2017**. It was a great privilege and honour for me to have the opportunity to judge such a prestigious event. I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for the very warm welcome shown to Heather and myself and for the efforts of everyone involved in making our time in Phoenix an experience for us to remember, especially those who took time to take us sightseeing and entertain us during our free time.

Thanks to my ring stewards for all their help on the night and especially to the exhibitors for entering quality puppy qualifier exhibits, which made judging a pleasure.

In general I was very impressed by the overall high standard and quality of the exhibits. Presentation was a credit to the owners with dogs presented in beautiful condition, eyes were dark and well pigmented, fronts were excellent with well laid shoulders. There were correct heads and good necks in most exhibits and temperament was good in the majority of cases. There were, however, some very nice dogs and bitches somewhat spoiled by poor toplines, low tail sets, high tail carriages and a lack of drive in hindquarters. These are faults which, if not addressed, will have a negative impact of the future of the breed we all love.

GROUP 1: DOG PUPPIES LESS THAN 13 MONTHS

Group 1 Challenge Winner: Linrica Milan, JW (Liu)

Very well marked blenheim dog of excellent size, shape, type and overall proportions, nice head with desired dark eyes and nose pigment, well constructed in front and rear with good angulation and level topline, moved happily soundly and freely, a very nice puppy with outgoing personality and balance on the move. In the challenge for best male puppy he looked a little tired and faded slightly.

Group 2: Dog Puppies 13 Months and Less Than 17 Months

Group 2 Challenge Winner: Chadwick Jet Setter At Hudsonview, JW (Glynn/Glynn) Quality Blenheim dog of excellent type, size and shape, who immediately caught my attention as he entered the ring, lovely head, with dark eyes and desired expression, good front and rear angulation, overall construction and proportions, good reach of neck, very well presented in lovely coat and condition, beautiful on the move. He moved freely and soundly, a picture of a real Toy Spaniel with balance and elegance. In the final challenge for best puppy dog and later Puppy of the Year his overall quality, outgoing temperament, balance and shape on the move pipped his rivals. **Best Puppy Dog of the Year 2017 and Overall Puppy of the Year 2017**

Group 3: DOG PUPPIES 17 MONTHS AND OLDER

Group 3 Challenge Winner: Ch Brookhaven Here Comes Hogan, JW (Ayers/Martz)

Mature Blenheim puppy with very good bone, nice overall shape and outline, good size and type, attractive head with lovely large dark eyes and nose pigment, beautifully presented, shown in good condition and coat, lovely rich chestnut colour, sound and happy on the move, very well handled, a quality exhibit overall, just pipped in the challenge for Best Puppy Dog of the Year by the outgoing temperament of my winner.

GROUP 4: BITCH PUPPIES LESS THAN 13 MONTHS

Group 4 Challenge Winner: Delsol Love In An Elevator (McHenry)

Quality Blenheim with full head, lovely dark eyes and good expression, well broken markings, very good overall shape and proportions with good bone, type and size, good construction front and rear, very elegant on the stand, moved freely, soundly and happily at one with her handler. Was a little proud of her tail at times.

GROUP 5: BITCH PUPPIES 13 MONTHS AND LESS THAN 17 MONTHS

Group 5 Challenge Winner: Ch Chadwick Sentimental Journey, JW (Eckersley)

Very attractive Blenheim bitch of lovely size with lovely head, soft expression, and beautiful large dark expressive eyes, a real toy spaniel in type, shape and outline, beautifully presented in lovely condition and full coat, well defined markings, good overall front and rear construction, very nicely balanced, she showed all her attributes to good effect standing four square showing happily. She moved happily and soundly, very attentive to her handler. Just pipped by her brother's personality in the challenge for POTY. **Best Puppy Bitch of the Year 2017**

GROUP 6: BITCH PUPPIES 17 MONTHS AND OLDER

Group 6 Challenge Winner: Ch. Kean La Ti Da, JW (Keane)

Feminine Blenheim bitch with nice head and large expressive eyes with long flowing ear leathers, very smart on the stand standing four square showing a graceful outline, shown in lovely condition and full coat, good neck, and shoulders with level topline. Moved gracefully as she presented herself on the move although lacking a little in confidence at times.

Robert Lamont 12 January 2017