



# THE SCOTTISH CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB

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Junior Handling Critique Summer Open Show 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Childrens' Handling Class

### Judge: Gordon Inglis (Craigowl)

I hadn't been to a Scottish Club Show for a number of years. Apart from showing my part of the Fab Four ( Ch Craigowl Keep In Touch) in 2017 and judging at the Club's Championship Show in 2018.

Carol collared me early in the day for this job, which I was happy to do as I am always keen to support the youngsters who show enthusiasm about exhibiting their dogs. Sadly, there was only one entered today, but 10 year old Miriam Spence was as keen as you could ask for and had a great relationship with her little bitch, Pheobe.

Miriam was keen to learn how to get the best out of her opportunity in the ring. She understood the basics of getting Pheobe to stand and show herself free standing. Obviously, baiting her with her favourite titbits helped. This was only Miriam's second time showing, so I spent some time and gave her some guidance as to moving Pheobe, so that the dog was always visible between her and the judge. She picked this up immediately and showed an improvement from her first attempt to go round and had shortened her lead to keep control. With practice she should be able to stand back from Pheobe in the standing position, so that the entire focus is on her dog rather than the handler.

She took all on board and in the afternoon, she showed her with more confidence in the main show, winning her class and was awarded Best Bitch. A great thrill for a youngster. I'm sure she is looking forward to her next venture into the showing. It was nice for me to see a family connection as Pheobe is litter sister to Lyncraeg Little Pip and thus by our own Hollis (Ch Craigowl Out Of Touch JW) and is mentored by breeder Lindsay Gow and Sarah Perry. Lindsay probably started showing at the Scottish Cavalier Club shows at a similar age. Keep up the good work, girls.

The Scottish Club shows are always happy occasions and this one was no exception and it was good to see a few friends from my youthful showing days like Terry (still stewarding) and Liz, as keen today in promoting the Club as she was back in the 1970s.

It was at the Scottish Club shows that our love of showing Cavaliers was founded.

Firstly attending the 1972 Championship Show at Stirling as spectators with Bill Siggers judging. Showing at the Members' show at Kirkintilloch, a year later under Sheila Halsall. I judged the Match at the Summer Party a few years later at Vi

Armstrong's farm in Ayrshire. Serving on the Committee where I proposed the idea of having a third show annually, an Open Show along with the Members Limited and Championship Shows. The members show was subsequently replaced by having two Open Shows annually. Co-Editing the year Book with Norma. Even after our move to Buckinghamshire in 1979, I recall attending a Summer Open Show under Tom Boardman at Haddington. Not forgetting the Amice Pitt Rallies at Oxenfoord Castle, Kelso and Carberry Estate East Lothian.

Since our move to the Newcastle area in 2001, we have regularly supported the Club's shows and they have been lucky for us, winning a number of major awards with various dogs and bitches. So it was a pleasure to return the favour by giving something back to the Club that has been so influential in my life with Cavaliers.