Junior Handling Critique Spring Open Show 18th February 2023

Judge: Norma Inglis (Craigowl)

Judging the Junior Handling classes at the Scottish Cavalier Club Open show on February 18th at Alva was great fun.

The First age group was 6-11 years with three competitors and strangely enough all showing whole colours. We had Hallie Roy aged 8, Miriam Spence aged 10 and Lucas Roy aged 10 years.

They were all very sympathetic to their charges and handled them with gentle affection. We all know Cavaliers do not respond well to rough treatment and these three showed great understanding of what it takes to get the best from your dog. Showing a dog can be quite daunting and even the most seasoned exhibitor gets nervous. When asked to go through their paces all three understood what was required and showed with quiet composure.

In the end it was the confidence of young HALLIE ROY that won her 1st place. As the class progressed she settled into the task and put up a winning performance.

Miriam came 2nd and Lucas 3rd. They simply need a bit more practice but I'm sure they will come out next time with renewed confidence.

The Second age group was 12-16 years with TONI McCUE standing alone. At 14 she gave a polished flawless performance and was at one with her dog. She never once overshadowed her dog ...a sign of a good handler. Impressive.

In the run off for Best Junior Handler....despite her youth.....I felt HALLIE showed great determination and dealt with the task in hand in a very positive way. She overcame more challenges and showed lots of promise.

Good luck to all the exhibitors...practice makes perfect