



*Tibama's Imaginary  
Christofer Robin*

# Tibama Kennel

Cavalier & King Charles Spaniels

Aud & Øystein Schønning



*Tibama's April Sun*

In the mid-sized town of Skien in Norway, just two hours south of Oslo, Norway's capital, one will find the home of Aud and Øystein Schønning, who founded the well-known Tibama Kennel.

Tibama has been the home of thirty-one Champion Cavaliers in all four colours. Seventeen of these Champions were from Tibama's own breeding program. They have sold Cavaliers to several other countries and have CC winners and Champions in Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Germany. The wholecolours dominate in these numbers with eleven Rubies and seven Black and Tans. Almost all of their Charlies are Champions, but at present the ones they've bred are too young to title. An impressive record, to be sure, but it didn't happen overnight.

## Discovering Cavaliers

Tibama originated from Aud Schønning's lifelong love of dogs. As a child, she cared for various dogs in her neighborhood until, at the tender age of eight, her parents allowed her to have her own dog. Her first dog was a Miniature Schnauzer named Putte. Aud remembers him as "not the easiest dog in the world," but he was her "first dog love" and hence will never be forgotten. When she was sixteen, Putte had to be put down, and with her studies looming on her immediate future, she decided that the first thing she'd do after completing her studies would be to get another dog.

In the course of her studies, Aud's boyfriend, Øystein, caught her "dog fever." They married early and a couple of years before the completion of her studies, they saw a Cavalier that was accompanying his family on an outing. Neither Aud nor Øystein spoke with the family about the dog, but they went home that day and made the decision that their future dog would be a Cavalier.

About six months before the completion of her studies, Aud lost her father. Her mother, knowing her daughter well,

gave Aud a book about all the different breeds of dogs. She and Øystein looked up the Cavalier and fell in love with a Tri-colour.

Only a month after her studies were completed, they picked up a young puppy from one of the three breeders in Norway at that time. That was in 1980, and the kennel was Apalåsen. The dog was Apalåsen's Timmy, who spent most of the first year of his life, curled atop Aud's computer as she worked from home. The following year they added a lovely Black and Tan male from Sweden, Charmeurs Johnnie Walker, "Bambi", bred by Lillemore Andersson. Bambi was shown only once, but he was far too interested in doing anything other than behave in the ring and that show was the start and end of Bambi's show career.

Timmy and Bambi graced the lives of the Schønnings until late 1990. During those years, three of the four Schønning children were born, and both dogs taught the children to love dogs and how to behave around them. Timmy also watched over the children and kept them from doing things they were not allowed to do.

## Creation of Tibama

After losing both of their Cavaliers in 1990, they faced the question of what to do in terms of their next dog(s). In reality, their decisions were about to start the "second part" of their dog lives.

They decided first on a Blenheim male named Kavalereus Yankie Boy, from Gerd Jenssen. Yankie was a promising dog, and the Schønnings agreed to show him. Yankie was a happy, very athletic and active boy who almost finished his agility Championship with Øystein.

They also wanted a Ruby male. Not finding anything that they liked in Norway, they got help from Øivind Jensen in locating and importing one from the UK. Sorata Julius arrived in Norway to become part of their family and lead the Schøn-



*These are some of the original dogs that made up Tibama. Photos Left to Right: 1) Ch. Javita Royal Gesture of Deltika, Rybergets Jewel, Int Norw.Sw.Ch.Sorata Julius, Kavalereus Yankie Boy. 2) Rybergets Jewel 3) N Such Int. Ch. Sorata Julius 4) N Such Ch.Tibama's Adorable Alice*





Left - Harana Ain't Misbehavin  
Right - NUCH Harana Gold Leaf



NUCH Homerbrent Perry



NUCH Sorata Barbie Girl

nings into the world of dog shows and breeding.

According to Aud, Julius was born for shows and taught them more in terms of how to do things than anything they could teach him. Clearly Julius was a good teacher: he became a Norwegian Champion at eighteen months, a Swedish Champion the following year, and an International Champion at three and a half years.

The loss of him ten years later in 2000 was nearly enough to make Aud throw in the towel and give up; however, by then they'd built up a really nice and solid line of wholecolours. Showing Julius had sparked their interest in breeding. Aud credits Julius with the creation of Tibama and said, "Julius is still in my thoughts every day, and without him, there would not have been any Tibama."

The kennel name came from the names of some of their first Cavaliers. 'Ti' comes from Timmy; 'ba' comes from Bambi, the Black and Tan from 1981; and 'ma' comes from Mary, a lovely Tricolour girl they purchased from Homerbrent in 1992.

While Julius was their first Champion in Cavaliers, their first homebred Champion was N SUCH Tibama's Adorable Alice, whelped in 1993. Alice was

one of five puppies in the litter, and it was Tibama's very first litter.

### A Few Important Dogs of Tibama

Because Julius sparked their interest in breeding, they acquired "Jannicken", Rybergets Jewel. She was a Black and Tan bitch with a great body, movement, and the sweetest temperament, but she was undershot. Thus, they only showed her a couple of times. Jannicken, though, would go on to become their foundation bitch. She and Julius were the foundation of their breeding program and both can be found in the pedigrees of their Cavaliers today. The two, however, were never bred together, as their lines were too tight.

Tibama imported dogs from Harana Cavaliers of England. The first was Harana Ain't Misbehavin, "Bambino," a Black and Tan dog from the same litter as the well-known GB Ch. Harana Too Darn Hot. Bambino earned two CCs and sixteen second placements during his show career. Bambino's son, Tibama's Black Baron, out of Jannicken, received three small CCs but never earned the required final and big CC. The next Harana dog to arrive at Tibama was "Rubina," Harana Gold Leaf, a bitch who quickly became a Norwegian Champion. Rubina

was also a very important part of their breeding program.

Ch. Harana Gold Leaf was a really solid bitch with excellent genes also related to health. Together with Julius and Jannicken, she became central in Tibama's foundation bitches.

Homerbrent Perry was imported in 1997. A great stud dog, he became a Norwegian Champion at two, and sired five Norwegian Champions, as well as many CC winning Cavaliers.

Sorata Barbie Girl arrived at Tibama in 2000. Though bred only twice, both litters were of very high quality. She became a Norwegian Champion in 2004. Also to her credit, the most winning Black and Tan and Ruby Cavaliers for 2005 are after her.

More recently (2002), Salador Channon came to Tibama. He is a small Black and Tan and is an excellent stud dog, producing lovely puppies. Now at an age of eight he still looks like a four year old, and his heart and general health are perfect.

In 2003, Black Cotton Amantra was added. He is a Black and Tan with the perfect Cavalier temperament. He also produces very nice puppies.

Aud stated that it is not easy to pick the dogs worthy of mention because they have had a great many really nice



Salador Channon



N SUCH Tibama's Mickey Mouse



NUCH Tibama's Christmas Royal Highness



dogs. N SUCH Tibama's Adorable Alice, their first homebred Champion, was a lovely Ruby bitch. She was also their oldest son's dog, and he was the one responsible for showing her to her Championship. N SUCH Tibama's Mickey Mouse, a son to Adorable Alice and Julius, is also a very memorable dog. He was the most winning Ruby for five years in a row. NUCH Tibama's Golden Juliana, by Harana's Gold Leaf and Julius is another worth mentioning. Juliana was the most winning bitch in Norway in 1989 and earned many good placements during her show career; she, like Mickey Mouse, were veteran show dogs who looked half their ages and were just as healthy.

### The Advent of Charlies at Tibama

The Charlies came into their lives much later. They purchased their first Blenheim Cavalier bitch from Amantra in 1994. In 2004, they returned to Amantra to buy a really nice Black and Tan Cavalier boy, Ch. Black Cotton Amantra. When they went to pick him up, Aud fell in love with a Ruby coloured Charlie, which started Aud's plans to add a few Charlies to their kennel of Cavaliers.

In April 2005, Ch. Amantra Chopin arrived at Tibama and changed Aud's life. Aud reports, "He is really stubborn, but a lovely dog, full of himself, and a real Charlie." Chopin's arrival has been followed by other lovely Charlies from Amantra. This year Tibama has had two nice litters of Charlies. Chopin is the sire and will be influential in their breeding program, as Julius has been. (Julius is behind most of their wholecolours of today.)

### Cavalier or Charlie?

When asked the question, Aud replies: "I am definitely a Cavalier person. I have loved them since the minute we got our very first one in May 1980. Being a family with four children together with the dogs has been uncomplicated. The way they are devoted to their persons, the way they love and always try to do their best (at least almost always), gives me all the engagement and happiness I have every time I speak about them, and still every time I speak to a new owner, even after

all these years.

Even if Cavaliers go back to Charlies, the Charlies are really different. I think the breeders in the thirties and forties were really good in breeding for type.

At least our Charlies are very much filled up with themselves, knowing exactly what they prefer to do. The challenge is finding a way making them feel comfortable doing what you want. I love working with Charlies, and I love the way they really come so close to the person working with them. Our Charlies are happy with the whole family, but they are typically closer to one person compared with the Cavaliers.

Working with and showing Charlies has made me a better handler for Cavaliers. Charlies can be a real issue in the show ring as well, and my techniques with them are usable for Cavaliers who are fresh in the ring.

We have some really nice Charlie puppies at the moment. I am excited to see them grow up and find out what they will be like at home and in the show ring, compared with their parents."

### Biggest Thrill

With a record such as Tibama's, there have obviously been a great many thrills and memorable times. However, when asked to name her favorite memory with regard to having dogs and showing them, Aud once again goes back to Julius saying: "I will never forget the day that Julius became an International Champion. We had been traveling the whole night to get to the show, and our youngest son, just eight months old at the time, was sick and had a fever. However, when we went into the ring and got the needed CACIB, all of our efforts to get there were forgotten."

### The Human Side of Tibama

Aud and Øystein have four children, three of whom are now adults living on their own. The youngest, who is almost sixteen, is still at home. The Schønnings were a typical "dog family," doing a great deal of traveling together to dog shows. All four of the children were involved in the family dog endeavors, participating in the



*Ch. Amantra Chopin  
Tibama's First Charlie*



*NUCH Black Cotton Amantra  
Photo by Diana Frank*



*Harana Ringo Starr  
Tibama's youngest Harana boy*



*Charlies left to right: Ch. Amantra Victoriana,  
Ch. Amantra Portia and Ch. Amantra Chopin*



*Tibama's Black Baron, lived until age 14  
(Harana Ain't Misbehavin x Rybergets Jewel)*



*Ch. Amantra Chopin  
Winner of over 50 BOB and BOS awards*





*Amantra Jacob Marley  
13 CCs at 18 months old*



*Ch. Amantra Chardonnay, son of the  
well known Ch. Amantra Character*



*Tibama's Golden Diamond, a Tibama  
puppy of today - still true to type*

“children with dog”, followed by “junior handling.” Two were especially active handlers, showing several Champions. Their oldest daughter, Kjersti Helene, has since focused on dog agility and enjoyed success in that venue as well. For the Schønnings, their dogs have always been a family affair, be it showing or breeding.

Aud reports that she is currently in “her best age”. When she is not working with dogs, she is using her “PhD in business administration after lots of years as a CEO, mainly in the public sector.” She is also the chairman of the Norwegian Cavalier Club, a post she has held for quite a number of years, except for a break from 2007-08.

#### **Some Final Thoughts from Aud**

##### **About linebreeding:**

“I am absolutely a believer in linebreeding. Breeding out makes an opening for different problems we do not know. I want to keep a type, both in health, construction and temperament. Linebreeding makes this possible. Of course we need to be careful, avoiding inbreeding and breedings going to close, but we have managed to keep a type which is well known in quite a lot of countries

and a type of which we are proud.

To me one of the real challenges of breeding is first finding and selecting the breed type of preference, and then breed towards this type, and when you get there – go on breeding this type. This is our way of creating the Tibama's. It is possible to see when a wholecolour dog is from Tibama or at least closely related to one.”

Aud continued to say that health is a priority for her. She goes through this same procedure to find a healthy type. She said this is a lot of work and an even harder challenge.

Aud does not like to gamble with out crossing. She says that it is “more about luck and unluck than about knowledge ... and planning.” She said, “When we mix two dogs which are not (or just very slightly) related, we do not know which genes will come through.”

Like many Cavalier breeders, Aud has spent a great deal of time trying to find out the inheritance of our most serious diseases in the breed: hearts and syringomyelia. She feels strongly that outcrossing is a bit like playing at the casino, a definite gamble.

She does not want people to think she supports inbreeding. She aims for moderation in keeping the line, finding some



*Tibama's Happy Dancer  
A promising new youngster*



*N SUCH Liljeskogens Karisma Kamila  
a Salador Channon daughter*



*Tibama's Jewel by Urmenvreen  
A promising young Tibama Particolour*



*Tibama's Golden Master Builder  
(Ch. Homerbrent Perry x Tibama's Golden Juliet)*



fresh blood from time to time, and then breeding back. It is the method she has used for years and with great success.

#### About judging:

Aud mentioned a concerning thought she has about the judging of Cavaliers: "At the moment we have another challenge, at least in Norway. Since the country is small, the dog clubs prefer to have judges doing several breeds, which gives us just a few breeder judges a year. This has gone on for some years now, and unfortunately we are losing breed type in the Norwegian Cavaliers. Most of the all-rounders here (often coming from Southern Europe and also Eastern Europe) are excellent in judging movement and teeth, but a Cavalier is definitely much more than that. The Cavalier Club is working with this issue at the moment."

#### In Closing

It is clear that Aud and Øystein have followed their dreams and achieved great success with their beautiful Cavaliers and Charlies. We thank them for opening up the doors to their home and kennel and letting us take a peek inside. With their goals clearly defined and their eagerness to proceed ahead, we are certain they will have much continued success in the future.

Visit Aud and Øystein Schønning online: [www.Tibama.com](http://www.Tibama.com)

*The Royal Spaniels thanks Dusty Hellmann for her assistance in compiling the Tibama Kennel story.*



*Tibama's Love from the Past  
A Young Tibama Hopeful*



*Tibama's Joker by Urmenvveen  
Young Tricolor Tibama Boy*



*N SUCH Amantra Victoriana  
A Very Successful Charlie Bitch*



*N SUCH Amantra Victoriana  
A Very Successful Charlie Bitch*

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