

Critique
Golden Retriever Club of NSW Inc Show
4th May 2008

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Golden Retriever Club for the invitation to judge & all those exhibitors from near & far for your entry. It was a lovely day, which I greatly enjoyed. Goldens should be a medium, moderate dog, not overdone in any way, balanced & symmetrical, with a beautiful head and expression. When judging I remember a phrase used in many other breed standards, but which can be applied to all breeds: 'Over-all appearance, balance, gait and purpose to be given more emphasis than any of his component parts'.

As custodians of this wonderful breed and remembering that our top dogs could compete anywhere in the world, I think we need to be mindful of some faults that seem to be creeping into the breed - a lovely lay of shoulder is spoilt by a short upper arm that restricts movement; the head must be balanced, with good strength of muzzle, and kindly expression - I was surprised by the number that had longer, narrower muzzles; long & low is not balanced; and finally temperament, this must be sound, we are known as the KFC dog 'Kindly, Friendly, Confident' and is a hallmark of our breed.

Class 1 – Baby Puppy Dog

A lovely class, all five are very promising.

1st – J Schwebel's - Phileni the Gambler

A well balanced baby with good bone. Beautiful head with soft melting expression. Good front and rear angulation with neck flowing into shoulders, level topline, short coupled; also had lovely short hocks. Moved well.

2nd – L List's - Haydengold Power of One

Well balanced, with good angulation fore and aft, with neck flowing in shoulders. Lovely head with beautiful eye and soft expression. Moved well.

3rd – Goldshyne Knls' – Goldshyne Step by Step

Well balanced, with good angulation, with neck flowing into well laid shoulder. Lovely head with soft expression. Very happy on the move, which just unsettled him a little today.

Class 2 – Minor Puppy Dog

1st – S Stephens' - Burragundy Brace Yourself

Well balanced, with good angulation. Neck flowing into well laid shoulder, level topline, short coupled. Typical head with pleasing eye and soft expression. Moving well, with reach and drive. Awarded him Minor in Show.

2nd – S Stephens' – Giltedge Up Up N Away

Well balanced moderate dog with neck flowing into well laid shoulder, level topline; although would prefer a longer upper arm. Pleasing head with soft expression. Moving well with good drive.

3rd – K Handley & d Petterwood's – Larbellah Team Leader

Reachy neck into well laid shoulder, with level topline, although would prefer a longer upper arm. A balanced head with pleasing expression, but a little narrow through at this time. Longer cast than one and two; shown in beautiful coat. Moved well, but lacks reach.

Class 3 – Puppy Dog

1st – F, B & J Hession's – Goldtreve Storm Keeper (AI)

Lovely young dog, excellent head with beautiful melting expression. Well balanced, with good bone; well angulated front and rear with lovely neck into shoulders, level topline, short coupled, with short hocks and in excellent coat. Moves well, with excellent reach. One to watch, happy to award him Puppy in Show.

2nd – J & M McMahon's – Eraky Heres The Boss

A balanced puppy, with good bone, level topline. Sweet expression but not the head or angulation of number 1. At that in between stage and needs time to mature. Moved well.

Class 4 – Junior Dog

1st – E Pearman's - Elljoa Legacy

This young cream boy was a picture standing, clean outline, well balanced with lovely neck into shoulder and lovely coat. Pleasing head and expression. Moved well, but is a little close behind.

2nd – W & S McGrath's – Alnclair Anzac Edward

Well balanced with lovely head and expression, in beautiful coat. Not the neck into shoulder of number 1 and a little excited on the move, losing his topline, but then settled and moved well.

3rd – R Upsall's - Countrylife Glen Lochy

Well presented young boy, with kindly expression. Would like more angulation front and rear. Shown well, in good coat and moved efficiently.

Class 5 – Intermediate Dog

1st – S Stephens' - Ch Fetchpoint Knee Jerker

Well balanced, with good angulation front and rear, with reachy neck into well laid shoulder. A strong head, a little heavy in back skull for me and would prefer a softer expression. Moved very well, actually winning this class on the move. Beautifully shown & presented.

2nd – Goldshyne Knls' – Dream Max Grandmother's Prospect (Imp Swd)

Another one to like, a younger dog with excellent head and expression, good angulation front and rear, with lovely neck into shoulder. Slightly longer cast than one and would prefer a little more leg.

Moved with drive but was a little unsettled today.

3rd – B & M Handley's – Sinderby Phoenix

Beautiful head and expression, good bone with lovely neck into shoulder. Would prefer a shorter loin and a little more leg. Another unsettled on the move, causing him to throw his front legs about although moved with drive.

4th – R Easton's – Inniscroft Keep The Faith (AI) (Imp NZ)

Well put together, with good head and kindly expression, short coupled and level topline. Not the bone of others and a little close being when moving.

Class 10 – Australian Bred Dog

1st – W & S McGrath's – Alnclair Gillys Hero

Well balanced, good quarters and neck into shoulders. Pleasing head and expression. Moves well, but would prefer less exaggeration in the hind movement.

2nd – T Saunders & R Yoshino's – Jonesh Charlemagne (AI) CCD

Well balanced, with good head and expression. No moving at his best today and would like to see a stronger temperament.

Class 11 – Open Dog

The placings in this class were all quality dogs, making my decision very difficult, which on another day could be changed.

1st – J Fall's – Gr Ch Tulzean Autumn Tango

This dog took my eye – medium/moderate dog full of quality. Beautiful masculine head with kindly expression. Well balanced, mature dog with strong but moderate bone, neck flowing into well laid shoulder. Level topline into strong hindquarter. Lovely cream coat, shown & presented to perfection.

This dog excels on the move, with free ground covering strides, taking ownership of the ring. Well deserving of CC Dog. Although pushed hard by the CC Bitch was also my Best in Show/Open in Show.

2nd – J Dulke & P Middleton’s – NZ Ch Glentreve Heavens Above at Goldriver (Imp NZ)

Excellent outline, looked a picture on the stack. Well angulated fore and hind quarters with lovely neck into shoulder. Masculine head with melting expression. In excellent coat & beautiful presented. Let himself down on the move today, with his rear action. Still could not deny him Reserve CC.

3rd – B & M Hanley’s – Ch Sinderby Seduction

Cream dog, with good angulation; not as strong in head as others, but has typical gently expression. Longer cast in body than first two, with slightly softer topline. Moved out well with good reach & drive.

4th – S & K Handley’s – Ch Giltedge Blackwatch

Well but together dog, with lovely flowing neck into shoulder. Pleasing head with lovely gentle expression. A little heavier than first three & did not have the movement to match the others today.

Class 12 – Veteran Dog 7-10 Years

1st – S & K Handley’s - Ch Giltedge Hemingway

9 years young, strong masculine head with lovely expression, well angulated front and rear with flowing neck into well laid shoulders. In excellent coat, shown and presented well. Moved well and appeared to be enjoying his day.

My veterans were both lovely and he was pushed hard by the bitch, but happy to awarded him Veteran in Show.

2nd – W & S McGrath’s – Ch Alnclair Rickys Revenge

Nearly eight, pleasing head with soft expression. Another with good angulation front & rear with good lay of shoulder. Slightly longer cast & a little shorter on leg than one. So happy, he was a little untidy on the moved, but was having a wonderful time.

Class 1A – Baby Puppy Bitch

Another lovely class of babies. This is very promising for the future.

1st – E Pearman’s – Elljoa Mercedes

Well balanced with a beautiful head, with excellent width and depth of muzzle & soft melting expression. Could have a little more lay of shoulder but had good length & return of upper arm. Short coupled with level topline. Moved extremely well for one so young. This 3 month old baby owned the ring and this presence & her attitude of ‘look at me’ gave her the edge which won her the class and also Baby in Show.

2nd – J Boston & R Upsall’s – Bozgold Hot Gossip

Another quality baby, at the top end of the age limit. Well but together with good neck into shoulders, a little longer cast than one with lovely head & expression. Moved well. Shown & presented well.

3rd – R Easton’s – Montego Keep the Dream

Well balanced, nicely put together bitch, with lovely head and expression; a little finer than one & two. Moved well.

4th – M Stuckey’s – Goldkey Chasing Rainbows

4 month old, stylish bitch with good angles and lovely neck into shoulders, is little longer cast than others. Strong head with lovely soft expression. Moved well.

Class 2A – Minor Puppy Bitch

1st – J Nash’s – Montego Eye Candy

Well made, with good angulation front & rear. Good neck into shoulder, slightly longer cast & would like more leg. Lovely head and soft expression. Moved well.

2nd – C & K Lynch & S Stephen’s – Yellowfetch Shining Light

Well balanced, flowing neck into shoulder but would like a longer upper arm. Pleasing head and expression, but would prefer more muzzle. Moving well, but I would prefer more reach.

3rd – S & K Handley’s - Giltedge Concerto

Clean outline, with flowing neck into should but would like a longer upper arm; is longer cast, with softer topline. A longer, narrower head than previous two, but with sweet expression. Would prefer more reach and drive on the move.

Class 3A – Puppy Bitch

1st – P Denholm’s – Goldfleece Such is Life

Well balanced, with good neck into shoulders and level topline. Pleasant head although a little long in muzzle and would prefer a little more bone all over. Moved well.

Class 4A – Junior Bitch

1st – J Schwebel’s – Goldtreve All That Jazz

Cream bitch with excellent head and expression. Good quarters, with flowing neck into well placed shoulders; longer cast and would like a little more leg. Moved with reach and drive, and this together with her lovely head gave her Junior in Show.

2nd – G & P Woodman’s – Caerhays Katrina

Balanced, although a finer bitch, very well presented. Not the head of one. Moved extremely well.

3rd – I Williams’ – Gibzonia Calls Goldmatt

Well put together bitch, carrying little too much condition. Smaller head, did not balance with her body and was not moving well today.

Class 5A – Intermediate Bitch

1st – S Stephens’ – Gr Ch Yellowfetch Whatz It To U

Lovely gold bitch, balanced, with excellent fore and hindquarter angulation. Reachy neck into well laid shoulder. Very good head and expression. Shown and presented to perfection. Moves very well, with reach and drive. My Reserve Bitch CC winner and Intermediate in Show.

2nd – R Easton’s – Seaduel Diamonds Forever

Cream bitch, with lovely head and expression. Well made with good angulation, short coupled with level topline. Not the movement of one today.

3rd – J Fall’s – Dream Max Anja Parson (Imp Swd)

Cream bitch, good fore and hindquarters with flowing neck into shoulder. Pleasing head with soft expression. Longer cast than previous two. Unsettled on the move, losing her topline.

4th – R Upsall’s – Bozgold Waltzing Matilda

Well balanced, with good moderate angles. Lovely head with melting expression with reaching neck into well laid shoulders. Moved well. Not in the best of coats today, but could not deny her a placing.

Class 10A – Australian Bred Bitch

1st – J Hession’s – Ch Goldtreve Wild Child

Loved this girl, nothing overdone in any way, full of quality. Well balanced feminine bitch with lovely gold coat. Excellent head and the most beautiful soft expression. Neck flowing into well laid shoulder to strong level topline. Moves extremely well with effortless gait. Well deserving of CC Bitch. Runner Up Best in Show/Australian Bred in Show.

2nd – J Hession’s – Ch Goldtreve Wild One

Cream bitch, very similar to one (litter sister). Pleasing head, but would prefer a little more stop; again a beautiful soft expression. Moves extremely well.

3rd – T Saunders & R Yoshino’s – Japorik As Time Flys

A slightly longer cast balanced bitch with pleasant head. Moved well.

4th – I & L Olsen’s – Goldbrior Orange Blossom

Well but together balanced bitch with lovely head and expression. Not moving well today.

Class 11A – Open Bitch

1st – J Boston’s – Montego Heavenly Bliss

Well balanced cream bitch. Lovely head & expression with good angulation, short coupled. Moved well.

2nd – S & K Handley's – Jonesh Live at the Ritz

Longer cast girl with good angulation and flowing neck into shoulder. Not the head of one. Moved well.

3rd – W & S McGrath's – Gr Ch Alnclair Maggie May

Lovely older girl with beautiful coat. Would prefer more angulation in the front and a stronger head, but she has a lovely expression and moves very well.

Class 12A – Veteran Bitch 7 – 10 Years

1st – K Atkinson's – Ch Montego Miras Dream CDX

7 yrs young. Well put together balanced bitch. Typical head and soft expression. Moved very well, enjoying her day out.

2nd – W & S McGrath's – Ch Alnclair Ann Ticipation

8 yrs young. Well angulated, longer cast bitch, would prefer a little more leg. A pleasing head and expression; also moved well, having a wonderful time.