

Critique – GRC of NSW Championship Show Sunday September 17th 2017 - Mrs M Morphet

Thank you very much to the GRC of NSW for the honour of being asked to judge one of your two Specialty Shows in September 2017.

Rob and I appreciated very much being picked up from the airport and taken to beautiful hotel by Colleen on Saturday afternoon and it was very kind of Sue McFadden to pick us up on the morning of the show, and Paul Middleton for taking us all the way to the airport after the event on Sunday night. Thank you to Tony Tau. I don't think I have had such an attentive ring steward before. It was nice to meet Dogs NSW Representative Lynn Mansfield who gave of her time to help with the successful running of the show.

Even though much is never visible, it was obvious that an enormous amount of work had gone into the organisation of the weekend events, so a big thank you to the very hard-working committee for putting on great shows for both its members and for the visitors from interstate. Rumour got around that it was an outstandingly well organised show so congratulations to Janelle, Debra and their team for a job well done.

Thank you also must go to photographer Debbie Meagher who was kept busy all day. I appreciate her patience in not complaining when I inadvertently seemed to continually be in her way whilst writing critiques after each class.

Thank you so much to the exhibitors for your entries not least those who travelled long distances for the two shows. Congratulations to all on the pegs on Saturday and Sunday.

As can be seen from last weekend, Judges judge differently and this is a great thing, otherwise there would be no point in have Dog Shows. That said, some of the classes, such as the Intermediate Dog Class, were very competitive, and this coupled with performance on the day, makes it completely understandable how difference often occur.

There was a Trainee Judge sitting ringside who asked me in a break between classes what I was looking for. Trying to answer in a positive manner I told her that I try and keep in mind that breed type should be chosen first and then from those chosen the soundest dogs.

I told her that since Goldens are Gundogs they must be able to move, not at great speed, but in a way that they could work in the field all day, something very important to the keepers in Scotland all those years ago. To this end they are to be balanced, short coupled and stand four square, well angulated front and rear with good bone and a firm level topline. And our Goldens must be presented in hard working condition. I told her that the texture of the coat should be neither too soft nor too wiry, Goldens have a water resistant undercoat which allows the fur to dry very quickly thereby preventing chills

I reflect back to Australia's very first Specialty Championship Show held in Sydney in 1964 which was judged by breeder Mrs Parsons of the famous Torrdale Kennel in the UK. At that show, a young Roger Bridgford was speaking with Mr Parsons, who gave him a piece of advice he has never ever forgotten. Here is what Mr Parsons said. "Sonny boy, if it slopes it ain't a Golden."

To follow on from what Mr Parsons said I believe that if a temperament it faulty it is not a Golden either. And if the beautiful expression is not there one of the breed's hallmarks is absent.

I mentioned on the day that purists in several countries have said that Australia has the best Goldens in the world. It is a very big call but there is no doubt that this country has many very clever breeders

who can consistently produce beautiful dogs - not an easy feat. Most will say that their success begins with an outstanding brood bitch.

As we all know the perfect dog has yet to be born, so without trying to sound unduly fault finding, I'd like to mention some minor points I picked up on after examining the cohort last Sunday, which may be worth considering in the future. A degree of "rolling over the topline" is very common. One of the best movers I have seen in recent years in our breed was Ch Dobro Diamantina who could have carried a gold coin on her back right around the ring. A few tails were too long and/or had a kink on the end which detracted from otherwise lovely outlines. There were a few where the vertical line of the hocks extended well beyond the tail set.

A couple of Golden Retrievers were quite narrow in front. And, of course, there were a number of sloping toplines. A few toplines dipped slightly in the middle. Only a few light eyes were observed. A few I noticed tended to be a little lighter in the bone. A couple of heads were a little strong but I found no bad mouths. A few were a little long and a small number moved a little closely going away. Only one Golden was a little nervous when being first approached but soon settled, a minor puppy, but this was perfectly understandable after a scare in the windy conditions the previous day. Feet were generally of correct shape. I found one Golden whose feet tended to be splayed and one, although were of the correct shape, appeared overly large. Sometimes lately, photos from overseas show Golden Retrievers, particularly puppies, with great long houndlike ears but I didn't feel this was a problem at all last Sunday.

If I could give a piece of advice it is that, even when your Golden is relaxing, do not allow it to stand with a sloping topline or with cowhocks. It is surprising how often judges glance back to compare the exhibit they are going over with others in the class. Also, a Golden coming back to the judge and standing four square certainly enhances its chances. Of course, the amount of work put into the fitness of the dog is so much more obvious than many exhibitors realize. Only a couple of coats were found to be too soft. They often say it is the dog underneath the coat that is important and, of course, that is true but a healthy coat, where it has obviously been regularly looked after can certainly work in one's favour in very competitive competition such as last Sunday.

Please find below short critiques of the individual placegetters as I saw it on the day. Thanks to my husband Rob for taking some amateur shots as a memory of the day, one which I will remember always.

Wishing everyone all the very best for the future with your beautiful Golden Retrievers.

Marilynn Morphet

BABY PUPPY DOG

Photo below L/R Bluebreeze Over the Moon, Linketsis Rubenstein, Ainsleygold Someone Like You (AI) Askaval to Matana With Love, Elljooa Machu Picchu, Standndeliva King of Scots



1. **Bluebreeze Over the Moon – Mrs D Stubbings** A happy and confident little boy, Beautifully balanced and compact for one so young. Neck blending nicely into shoulders. Level topline. Well angulated with correct tail set. **Opposite Sex Baby Puppy in Show**
2. **Askaval to Matana with Love – Ms J Chaplin, Mr P Landy and Ms J Shield** A cream dog of quality different in style to one above. Slightly longer cast. Straight front and level topline. Beautifully presented and handled.
3. **Elljoa Macchu Picchu – Mrs E Pearman** Compact cream baby with lovely bone. Straight front and soft expression. Sound and well put together. Well bent stifle. Slightly steeper in croup than those above.

MINOR PUPPY DOG

Photo Below L/R Goldbrior Da Vinci Code, Fantango Blame it on the Sun, Alnclair Thomas Bracken, Fantango Addicted to Love



1. **Goldbrior Da Vinci Code – Mrs R Easton and Mrs L Olsen** A beautifully balanced youngster. Very attractive head and expression. Lovely angles. Well boned with level topline. Lovely coat texture. Moved soundly. Presented and handled so well, having a great show attitude.
Opposite Sex Minor Puppy in Show
2. **Fantango Addicted to Love – Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin** Slightly higher on leg – just barely into class. Attractive head which still needs to break. Lovely angles front and rear. Well boned straight front with cat like feet well under body. A quality youngster showing great promise.
3. **Alnclair Thomas Bracken – Mr W and Mrs S McGrath** Beautiful head and expression. Correct length of leg to body. Sufficient bone with cat like feet. Well laid shoulders. Deep chest. Just needs to strengthen slightly in front. Has a little kink at the end of his tail at the moment when free standing.

PUPPY DOG



1. **Bluebreeze Divinity Unleashed – Mrs D Stubbings** A mature puppy for his age. Showy cream boy with plenty of bone. Upstanding with an attractive head Straight front with good hind angulation. Just a little loose on the move at this age but of very nice quality. **Puppy in Show**

JUNIOR DOG

Photo L/R Giltedge Two Scoops or One (AI), Alnclair Crackerjack Crosby



1. **Alnclair Crackerjack Crosby – Miss P Miss P and Miss P Jones.** A moderately boned dog with a pleasing head. Would like to see a slightly darker eye. Good length of upper arm and well bent stifle. A promising youngster who hasn't yet learnt to hold himself with presence.
Opposite Sex Junior in Show
2. **Giltedge Two Scoops or One (AI) – Mrs K Handley** A flashy boy with pleasing head and plenty of bone. Lovely front assembly with forelegs well under his body. Lovely flow of neck into shoulders. Deep chest. Well coated. Tends to be sinking into his quarters causing a slight slope in his topline. A little loose in his movement going away. Beautiful coat of correct texture.

INTERMEDIATE DOG

A wonderful class full of beautiful dogs.

Photo below L/R Fantango What Happens in Vegas (AI), Ch Shtar Seal of Approval, Ch Piarki Winston's Golden Ticket, Parkridge Cause I Can, Zenevieva North Atlantic Drift (imp)



1. **Ch Piarki Winston's Golden Ticket – Ms R Ohlrich** A beautifully balanced youngster with a striking outline - Short coupled, level topline, lovely reach of neck, pleasing head. In great condition, He moved effortlessly with plenty of reach and drive. In an ideal world, I would like to see a slightly more developed ribcage and a little more nose pigment. That said, he just oozed overall quality, class and presence and I was so pleased to have the opportunity to award him the Reserve Challenge. **Reserve Challenge/ Opposite Intermediate in Show**
2. **Fantango What Happens in Vegas (AI) – Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin** Another beautifully glamorous cream Golden of great quality, well-constructed throughout. Straight front. Level topline. Pleasing head and expression. Good length of neck sloping gently into shoulders. A slight roll over the topline at the moment but moved with reach and drive. Handled and presented beautifully.
3. **Ch Shtar Seal of Approval – Mr M and Mrs P O'Sheehy** Another nicely made quality animal with an attractive gold coat. Compact. Dead level topline. Well laid-back shoulder and good length of upper arm. Lovely turn of stifle with good second thighs and well let down hocks. Correct tail set and length. Deep chest. Set himself up slightly out at elbow on his right hand side on the day. In profile he certainly painted a lovely picture.

AUST BRED DOG

Photo below L/R Ch Goldew Southern Son, Ch Fantango Game Set N Match, Fantango Here Comes the Son(AI), Ch Goldkey Freedom Fighter



1. **Ch Goldew Southern Son – Mrs C Cooke and Mrs K Handley** Typical rich Golden boy of the workmanlike style, masculine head. Strong bone. Well balanced. Deep through the heart. Level topline. Well angulated front and rear with well let down hocks. In full coat. Slight roll over the topline on the move. **Australian Bred in Show**
2. **Fantango Game Set N Match – Mrs J Chaplin, Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin** Beautifully presented masculine Golden with well chiselled head enhanced by beautiful pigmentation. Strong neck of good length. Compact with deep chest. Well bent stifle with good second thighs. Moved with reach and drive. Presented in beautiful condition.
3. **Fantango Here Comes the Son (A1) – Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin** Very pleasing head and expression. Straight front. Well laid-back shoulder placement. Well boned. Nicely angulated in hindquarters with hocks well let down. Just preferred strength of topline on those in front.

OPEN DOG

These two Open dogs were stunners and handled to perfection.

Photo L/R Ch Giltedge Do You Like Apples (AI), Gr Ch Fantango Playing The Game (AI)



1. **Supr Ch Fantango Playing the Game (AI) – Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin** A classically beautiful Golden Retriever teeming with quality. Lovely head and expression. Correct bone straight front with correct catlike feet. Neck of good length sloping gently into well laid shoulders. Deep chest. Level topline with correct tail set and length. Well bent stifle with well let down hocks. In hard working condition, he moved powerfully and effortlessly with reach and drive. A picture of balance and proportion. Newer exhibitors could learn much from the way this stunning dog is groomed, trimmed, presented and handled. A dog with such presence I felt very honoured to have the opportunity to award him the Dog Challenge and Best in Show. He is world class. **Dog Challenge/ Best in Show/ Open in Show**
2. **Giltedge do you like Apples (AI) – Mrs K Handley and Miss S Stephens**
Beautifully presented Golden boy in full bloom. Nicely chiselled head with correct ear placement. Lovely neck into shoulders. Deep chest. Level topline. Well angulated front and rear. Perfectly straight hocks when viewed from the rear. Correct tail set and length just with a slight upturn when standing free. Plenty of bone. Moved with reach and drive and soundly fore and aft. Although ideally a slightly darker eye would be my preference I believe this dog could also hold his own anywhere.

VETERAN DOG



1. **Ch Larbellah Team Leader - Mrs K Handley and Mrs D Petterwood** There is probably nothing I can say about the quality of this veteran that hasn't been said many times before. After being shown to Best in Show the previous day under Kerrie Kelly from Ireland, his age eventually caught up with him, as he moved round the ring for the Challenge in very stiff competition. Having broken records in this country, this boy is Internationally acknowledged as one of the greats. **Veteran in Show**



2. **Gr Ch Burragundy Dusty Drover – Mr T and Mrs P Kelly** A very attractive compact cream boy with a classic Golden head and expression. Level topline, deep chest and well angulated front and rear. Short coupled Standing four square with correct tail set. Moved effortlessly looking beautiful in profile.

Part of Challenge line up

Photo below L/R Ch Larbellah Team Leader, Gr Ch Fantango Playing the Game (AI), Ch Goldew Southern Son



Photo below L/R Ch Goldew Southern Son, Ch Piarki Winston's Golden Ticket, Alnclair Crackerjack Crosby



Baby Puppy Bitch

Photo below L/R Wembury Turn the Other Cheek, Montego euro Diamond Dancer, Askaval Frozen in Time, BLuebreeze Second from the Sun, Kulabay Catcher of Dreams



1. **Montego Euro Diamond Dancer – Mrs R Easton** Very feminine mature baby with a lovely outline. Gentle expression with correct ear placement and dark pigmentation. Straight front with plenty of leg underneath. Well angulated front and rear. Moving out well. Showed with confidence and painted such a lovely picture. **Baby Puppy in Show**
2. **Wembury Turn the Other Cheek – Mrs L Lowe**
Very nicely made baby with a pleasing head and expression with beautiful pigmentation. Solid topline and correct tail length and carriage. Held herself very well for one so young. Nicely handled .She has a promising future.
3. **Askaval Frozen in Time – Mr P Landy and Ms J Shield**
An attractive baby with pretty cream coat in beautiful condition. Feminine head with gentle expression and lovely dark eye. Well boned. Slightly longer cast than those in front. Very nicely presented.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH

Photo L/R half obscured Dykinta Grand Quest(AI), Wynwhisper Practical Magic, Giltedge Catch my Act, Giltedge Hildegard, Burragundy Happy Hannah, Standndeliva a Pint O Ya Best, Alubyc Gentlemen Prefer Blondes



1. **Alubyc Gentlemen Prefer Blondes – Mr W and Mrs K Vowel** Beautifully made youngster having lovely conformation. Well boned and compact. Forelegs right under body. Level topline straight front and cat like feet. Deep chest with well angulated hindquarters. **Minor Puppy in Show**
2. **Giltedge Catch My Act – Mrs K Handley** Very tough decision between first two. Super outline with plenty of substance. Very sound fore and aft. Beautiful hindquarters. Level topline correct tail set. There is plenty of leg under her. At this stage, her head is slightly finer with longer ear length than one above.
3. **Standndeliva A Pint O Ya Best – Mrs J Upsall** This lovely little girl got a fright the day before in the strong winds, but settled down quickly. Very compact with such a feminine head. Well boned with sufficient angles front and rear. Correct tail set and carriage. Moved out and back effortlessly and confidently.

PUPPY BITCH

Photo L/R Bluebreeze Devine Intervention, Wembury Reason to Believe, Taleyah A lass from Ballymore, Elljoa Martini



1. **Wembury Reason to Believe – Mrs L Lowe** Lovely outline. Well balanced with a good reach of neck. Attractive head and gentle expression. Plenty of substance. Front feet could be slightly tighter. Sufficiently angled front and rear and hindquarters completely parallel when viewed from behind. Moved soundly. **Opposite Sex Puppy in Show**
2. **Talayah a Lass from Ballymore – Miss C Murphy** Another feminine cream bitch with a lovely head and expression. Nice blend of neck into shoulders and a level topline. Thick coat for one so young. I noticed she has the same sire as one above just 11 days apart but slightly higher on leg. Very sound also painting an attractive picture.
3. **Bruebreeze Devine Intervention – Mrs D Stubbings** Attractive young bitch completing the placings in a lovely class. Plenty of substance being deep through the heart. Straight front, good reach of neck and well bent stifles. Moved soundly fore and aft. Not quite the strength in the topline as those in front at this stage. Very nicely presented.

JUNIOR BITCH

Photo L/R Bluebreeze on Cloud Nine, Cals Miami Attraction Toramgold, Giltedge One Scoop or Two (AI)



1. **Bluebreeze on Cloud Nine – Mrs D Stubbings** Beautifully made, petite, feminine bitch teeming with quality. Lovely head and expression. Short coupled with lovely angulation front and rear and a good reach of neck. Level topline with correct tailset and length. Moved soundly with plenty of reach and drive. Held herself beautifully. **Junior in Show**
2. **Cals Miami Attraction Toramgold - Mrs R Ramsey** A lovely young cream bitch slightly higher on leg and scopier than one above. Attractive head and expression with a beautiful reach of neck. Good depth of chest. Straight front with plenty of bone. Preference would be for a slightly broader chest. Moved well.
3. **Giltedge One Scoop or Two (AI) – Miss S Stephens, Mrs K Handley and Miss T Platt**
A soundly made, quality bitch. Beautifully presented. Well-muscled and with level topline on the stack. Standing with straight forelegs. Shortcoupled. Nicely angled front and rear. Once again would prefer a little wider between the forelegs. A slight roll over the topline on the move.

INTERMEDIATE BITCH

L/R Wynwhisper Girl Gone Wild, Ch Fantango Say It With Style (AI), Wembury Well I Wonder, Linkestis Rapsody in Blue, Bluebreeze Rapunzel, Fantango True Believer



1. **Ch Fantango Say It with Style (AI) – Goldshyne Kennels** A very beautiful eye-catching bitch at the top end of the height standard. Standing completely four square with a rock solid topline, correct tailset, length and carriage, , her good reach of neck, depth of chest and well balanced angulation front and rear painted an outstanding picture. Coupled with a beautiful head and expression, correct amount of bone, correct proportions and free flowing effortless movement she was most deserving of the CC against very stiff competition. Her owner should be so proud. – **Bitch CC/ Runner Up Best in Show/Intermediate in Show**
2. **Montego Stars in the Sky – Ms K Atkinson** Another gorgeous bitch, with feminine head and soft gentle expression. Beautiful outline. Level topline. Standing four square. Well angulated front and rear with plenty of leg beneath her, she floated around the ring , pushed the eventual winner in the class and was unlucky to come up against another stunner in the Challenge line up who just pipped her for Reserve Challenge.
3. **Bluebreeze Nine Pieces of Eight (AI) – Mrs D Stubbings** A pretty bitch of a different style that I also liked very much. Sound and well put together with very nice angulation front and rear. She moved with reach and drive. I would love to have seen her when she is in full bloom.

AUST BRED BITCH

Photo below Giltedge Roll Out the Red Carpet (AI)



1. **Giltedge Roll Out the Red Carpet (AI) – Miss S Stephens, Mrs K Handley and Miss T Platt**
Strongly made bitch with a beautifully solid topline. Broad skull with beautiful head planes. Sufficiently angulated with straight front and good bone extending down to neat catlike feet. Plenty of leg underneath her. Moved soundly with reach and drive. Not in full coat today, but I feel this bitch has more successes to come. **Opposite Sex Australian Bred in Show**
2. **Ch Ainclair Lil's Angel – Mr W and Mrs S McGrath** -Very typey compact Golden girl. Sound and well put together. Pleasing feminine head with lovely pigmentation. My preference would be for a little more length of neck. Short coupled. Level topline with sufficient angles front and rear. Moved soundly and presented in fit and trim condition.
3. **Ch Fantango Carry on Dancing – Mrs S Kain, Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin** Lovely cream bitch spoilt on the day by a little excess weight. Attractive head with lovely dark eye. Well boned down to cat like feet. Good reach of neck. Plenty of angulations front and rear. Level Topline. Correct tailset. Moved methodically.

OPEN BITCH

Photo L/R As Below **Fantango Santa Monica, Gr Ch Fantango Stack the Deck, Giltedge When the Cats Away**



1. **Gr Ch Fantango Stack the Deck - Mr P Middleton and Mrs J Salvestrin** A beautifully balanced quality feminine blond girl who paints an outstanding picture. Beautiful head with a classic Golden expression. Standing completely four square with lovely angulation front and rear and good second thighs and well let down hocks. Correct tailset and carriage on the move which is so fluid and eye-catching. She certainly pushed for the Bitch CC on the day and was delighted to award her the Reserve CC. **Reserve Bitch Challenge/ Best Opposite Sex Open in Show**
2. **Fantango Santa Monica - Mrs S Kain** An attractive cream bitch with pleasing head and expression. Neck of good length. Again, lovely angulation front and rear. Standing four square with deep chest and well let down hocks. Not as fit as winner of the class. Moved soundly but tended to have a slight dip in the topline when standing free.
3. **Giltedge While the Cats Away – Mrs K Handley and Mrs D Petterwood** A different style to those above. A quality bitch with an imposing outline. Feminine head but would prefer a little more stop. Good reach of neck with good depth of chest. Hindquarters set a little far back giving the appearance of standing over too much ground. Still has plenty of time to mature as quite young in this open class.

VETERAN BITCH



1. **Montego Pretty Woman - Ms K Atkinson** Very well named. She really is a pretty woman. Very feminine head. Good reach of neck straight front with catlike feet. Good depth of chest and well sprung ribs. Well bent stifles. Lovely outline. Level topline. She certainly held her own in the Challenge line up. **Best Opposite Sex Veteran in Show**



2. **Ch Montego Bridget Jones – Ms K Atkinson** Lovely gold veteran girl with a beautiful head and expression. Well angled front and rear. Short coupled with a deep chest and plenty of bone. Well-developed ribcage. Hocks well let down. Moved soundly. Both lovely bitches who were handled beautifully.

Part of the Bitch Challenge line-up.

Photo L/R Montego Pretty Woman, Gr Ch Fantango Stack The Deck, Giltedge Roll Out The Red Carpet (AI)



Photo L/R Giltedge Roll Out The Red Carpet (AI), Ch Fantango Say It With Style (AI), Bluebreeze on Cloud Nine



NEUTER DOG



- 1 **Alnclair Magnus Atramgold – Mrs R Ramsey** A very typey handsome blond five year old boy with a beautiful expression which made him look like he was smiling. Well laid-back shoulders with good length of upper arm. Forelegs will under body. Straight front with good bone down to neat catlike feet. Angulated rear with correct tail set. Glamorous coat. Just a slight slope towards the tail when stacked. **Runner up Best Neuter in Show**



- 2 **Ch/Neut Ch. Kulabay Poker Face ET – Ms R B Shapter** Golden boy with broad skull and deep muzzle. Gentle expression. Good depth of chest. Short coupled. Sufficient angulation front and rear. Correct tail set. Moved soundly.

NEUTER BITCH

Photo L/R Ch Majik Truly Julie (Imp Fin), Ch/Neut Ch Goldkey Dream Catcher, Japorik Miss Rosebay CCD CD, Ch Neuter Ch Caerhays Glen Jenna RN



1. **Ch/Neut Ch Goldkey Dream Catcher – Mrs M Stuckey** Feminine blond girl with an attractive head and soft expression. True to type. Standing four square with a firm topline Strong hindquarters with good second thigh. Preference would be for a slightly better length of upper arm. Presented in firm muscular condition. **Best Neuter in Show**
2. **Japorik Miss Rosebay CCD CD – Mrs D O'Brien** Another very nice blond girl with plenty of substance. Classically feminine head with a dreamy expression. Well angulated with straight front and well bent stifle. When standing free she had a slight slope. Correct tail set and carriage. Moved soundly.
3. **Ch/Neut Ch Caerhays Glen Jenna RN – G and Dr P Woodman** Short coupled Golden girl of the older style. Lovely dark eye and alert appealing expression. Sufficient bone. Straight front and nicely angulated in the hindquarter. Neat catlike feet. Moved soundly. Coat a little too soft.

Photo Below: Challenge Dog ** and Challenge Bitch competing for Best Exhibit in Show



Photo Below: Reserve Challenge Dog and Bitch CC competing for Runner Up Best In Show**



Photo Below: Baby Puppy Dog and Baby Puppy Bitch **competing for Baby Puppy in Show



Photo Below: Minor Puppy Dog and Minor Puppy Bitch competing for Minor Puppy in Show**



Photo Below: Puppy Dog and Puppy Bitch competing for Puppy in Show**



Photo Below: Junior Dog and Junior Bitch competing for Junior in Show.**



Photo Below: Neuter Dog and Neuter Bitch ** competing for Neuter in Show



Photo below: Best Exhibit in Show: Supreme Champion Fantango Playing the Game (AI) Bred and owned by Mr P Middleton and Ms J Salvestrin

