

## **Golden Retriever Club of NSW Championship Show Sunday 9 June 2024**

It is a huge honour to judge at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show of my own breed club, and I am so proud and pleased to have had this opportunity. I was chosen to judge in 2021 but Covid changed that, so in a positive way I have been very fortunate to end up judging this year instead. Enormous thanks to the committee and members and everyone involved in the preparation and running of this weekend which was made extra challenging with the closure of the scheduled grounds less than 24 hours before the first show was due to commence.

I thought the venue was great. The trophy table looked fantastic, and I was pleased to be able to hand out show one's trophies on behalf of Bolette. The diamond theme was very special, and I am sure that those exhibitors who won their classes will treasure those trophies. I certainly will value my judge's memento. The luncheon provided by the Club has become very popular and is well appreciated by exhibitors and helpers.

My personal thanks to my Steward Tony Tau and also to Sue McFadden and Lyn Mansfield for their assistance on the day.

Thanks must go to all exhibitors for not only entering but for preparing their Goldens so well and accepting all decisions so gracefully.

My overall impression of the dogs was the pleasing depth of quality through many classes. I didn't need to comment on bites because nearly all exhibits had a correct scissor bite. Overall construction was good with very few dogs exhibiting any major structural problems. I know that many breeders have been made aware of height and body length problems by different controlling bodies. I did not see this being a common problem in the exhibits, although sometimes the extra length of body did make a difference in placings. It was a shame that some exhibits were lacking good coats and/or nose pigment. There were very few exhibits that were too overweight, most were in hard working condition. The quality of the baby puppy classes was very impressive, which predicts a bright future for our breed.

Finally, the movement of most exhibits was sound. There were a few dogs close in the rear when moving away and some were pinning in coming toward. I was so pleased to see that nearly all dogs held their topline on the move. Unlike many show venues overseas, and some in Australia, most of our dogs are shown outside on the grass. I feel that moving on a hard surface can disadvantage some dogs as they look like they are pounding along as there is no give in the surface. This can make their movement seem less fluid and impact on their reach and drive. Walking dogs on hard surfaces as part of their regular exercise routine can prepare them better for these indoor venues. Nevertheless the substitute venue has so much to offer and I personally hope the club will consider it as the preferred site for the future.

Wayne McGrath

**Baby Puppy Dog** This was a very strong class of baby dogs

1<sup>st</sup> Giltedge Look at Gary – Mrs K Handley **Best Baby in Show**

A compact light gold boy who is balanced in every way. Very well proportioned head with dark pigment highlighting the most pleasant eye shape. His movement was the feature that attracted my eye, and I could see how he effortlessly uses his balance to achieve a fluid and confident gait. This baby has all the right angles in all the right places. Well-presented and moved happily with his handler. I feel that if he continues to grow in these proportions he has an extremely bright show career ahead of him.

2<sup>nd</sup> Fantango Hit the Road Jack – Mr P Middleton & Ms J Salvestrin

My second place getter really had some tough opposition today. This boy is also well put together with balanced angles front and back, well sprung ribs and a level topline with a great tailset. Although he had tight feet he did tend to turn out one foot, which of course can happen at this age. Well-presented and moved happily with his handler.

3<sup>rd</sup> Bluebreeze Be My Valentine – Mrs DL Stubbings

Another well -constructed young dog. I was pleased to see good leg length on all three of my place-getters. This boy's dark pigment highlighted a well-shaped eye. Nice balanced head. Well angled front and rear as well as strong loin and short coupling. At this age and growing stage his feet turned a little east-west. Well-presented and moved happily with his handler. Still a boy with a strong show future.

## **Puppy Dog**

1<sup>st</sup> Fetchnpoint Last Roll Oft Dice (ai) – Miss S Stephens & Ms T Platt **Best Opposite Sex Puppy**

This young man, although the only puppy today, is a quality 10 month old. He was solid in bone with straight forequarters standing on catlike feet. He stood four square with the appearance of strength and quality. Although he did not move as well on the day as I would prefer, I was impressed by his very strong topline held together by his well angled fore and hind quarters. Just one thing is the slight hook in his tail which detracted from his overall appearance. He would have taken some beating by any competition.

## **Junior Dog**

1<sup>st</sup> Naragold the Witcher (ai) – Emma Clark **Best Junior in Show**

A honey gold boy with lighter feathering. Not in full coat today but sufficient to give him the maturity of a junior. This boy is similar to the baby puppy dog. A very pleasant head and expression with that look of being forever biddable. Short coupled with good angles fore and aft, well boned and nice tight feet. Moved evenly with handler and held his topline on the move. Almost perfect footfall with no short stepping or overreach.

2<sup>nd</sup> Giltedge Catch Me Later – Kim Handley

A typical junior with the half way body. He has the head and expression of a typical male, good reach of neck flowing into a level topline. Lacking coat on the day meant that his underline did

not match that great topline. This young man was a handful for his handler and did not put his best foot forward on the day. Just not the finish of number 1.

3<sup>rd</sup> Goldbrior The Stockman (ai) – Linda & Ian Olsen

A short coupled well angled young dog with nice shoulders and well-turned stifle. Very pleasant head set on a good length of neck with well laid-back shoulder blades. He did not move as well for his handler as number 1, and when stacked tended to crouch down giving the appearance of a sloping topline and being short on leg. Still and all, in the mix.

### **Intermediate Dog**

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Bluebreeze Bitcoin Millionaire – Debra Stubbings **Best Intermediate in Show & DCC**

This boy appealed to me when he entered the ring. There is nothing over exaggerated about this 2 year old dog. He moved with confidence and ease covering the ground without rushing his movement. Nice smooth flow of neck into his level straight topline and correct tailset. Has a masculine head with good chiselling under correctly shaped dark brown eyes. He had matching length of upper arm and shoulder blade. His hindquarters had sufficient width of 2<sup>nd</sup> thigh and turn of stifle. I found this young man ticked the boxes for what I look for in a GR male.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Fetchnpoint Roll Up Your Sleeve (ai) RN – Miss S Stephens & Ms T Platt **RDCC**

There is so much to like about this mature young dog. Good front angulation with legs set well under his body. The ribcage is deep and well sprung continuing back to a short strong loin. Well let down hocks and a well-turned stifle give balance to this boy's overall appearance. Very masculine and appealing head held erect on the move. Movement on the day was not as smooth and co-ordinated as number 1.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Fantango One for the Road (ai) – Mr P Middleton & Ms J Salvestrin

Another good specimen of the breed. Tough competition in this class of quality. A short coupled dog with good depth of chest and angulation. Good tailset but not as strong a topline as the two above him. Good tight feet. Pleasing masculine head with correctly set ears, dark eye and good pigment. Not quite the maturity of the other two place getters, and he tended to cut up under his loin.

### **Australian Bred Dog**

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Bluebreeze Lost in Never Land – Debra Stubbings **Best Opposite Sex Australian Bred**

A sound example of the breed with no over exaggeration in any part of his structure. Skull and foreface in balance with tight eyes and good pigmentation. Head set on a clean and muscular neck of good length. Balanced angles fore and aft. Moved well with handler and came to stand four square on strong straight hocks.

2<sup>nd</sup> Askavale Million Dollar Man with Japorik (ai) – Ms R Yoshino & Mr P Landy & Ms J Shield & Mr W & Mrs K Vowel

A taller dog than number one. He has well laid-back shoulders, a deep chest and good turn of stifle. Level topline with correct tailset. Tight rear feet with well let down hocks. I would just prefer a slightly longer reach of neck for his body length. Moved well on the day.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Fantango Rogue Trader – Rachel Shapter

A gold boy with a pleasing expression on a broad skull without coarseness. A slightly longer cast boy who didn't have the front assembly of the others in this class, being a little short in his upper arm. He did have well-angled hindquarters. He moved well for his handler and displayed good footfall with enough reach and drive for his length of body.

### **Bred by Exhibitor Dog**

**DQ 1<sup>st</sup> Gohldrich Pop Goes the Wesley – Rachael Ohlrich Best Opposite Sex Bred by Exhibitor**

A light gold boy in reasonable coat. Pleasant head and expression. Shoulders were well laid back without being too loaded. Well sprung ribs with deep ribs that carried back to a strong loin. Short hocks with sufficient width of second thigh which he used well on the move. One thing I would like to see in this boy is a little more length of neck.

**Elevated to 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sup Ch Bluebreeze Hero of Never Land – Debra Stubbings**

An older boy with a smooth gold coat. A longer cast boy lacking the front of number one, and also not the same smooth flow of neck into shoulder. Front assembly lacked length in both upper arm and shoulder blade. Well let down hocks which were straight and true. Well handled. Moved with ease on the day.

### **Open Dog**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Gildengold Tattersal Tartan – Miss P Denholm Best Opposite Sex Open**

This boys' main attribute is his fluid and steady movement. He was straight and true coming and going. Level topline combined with near perfect tailset meant that he look a picture on the move. Masculine head with good pigment, ear set and eye placement. I feel if he had just a little more width of thigh and more turn of stifle it would give him a perfect balance.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BIH Ch BIH Jr Ch BLK Ch J Ch GRC ME CH ME GR CH MK CH Golden Romance Big Spender (imp Serb) – Mrs R Easton & Mrs A Meehan**

A solid boy with a kind masculine head and biddable expression. His front assembly was in balance with the rear, however when stacked his underline tended to cut up which accentuated his longer frame. More underside feathering would correct this look. On the day he moved out well, however he didn't move as smoothly as the first placed dog.

## **Veteran 7+ Dog**

1<sup>st</sup> Sup Ch Piarki Winstons Golden Ticket – Rachael Ohlrich **Best Veteran in Show**

A well built 9 year old who really challenged his younger rival. He moved with such enthusiasm that it was a pleasure to watch. His strengths include a well-developed front assembly connected to powerful hindquarters which gave him good reach and drive. Pleasing masculine head and expression. A strong level topline which he held on the move.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Hun Jr Ch Bonett Bride Merchant Traveler (imp Hun) – Ms E Clark

This was a tight decision. This boy of 7 years really appealed to me as well with ring presence on the move. Kind biddable expression. Smooth flow of neck into topline which he held both stacked and on the move. Slightly longer in body and shorter on leg than number 1, but still a very sound example of the breed.

**DCC winner Intermediate dog Ch Bluebreeze Bitcoin Millionaire – Debra Stubbings**

**RDCC winner Intermediate dog Ch Fetchnpoint Roll Up Your Sleeve (ai) RN – Miss S Stephens & Ms T Platt**

## **Baby Puppy Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Gunarryn Walk on By – Mrs F Dyer **Best Opposite Sex Baby**

The blond bombshell was at the top of the age group and was the pleasing shape that I would say she will keep when fully mature. A very feminine head with dark pigment, melting expression and a correct bite. She moved true and confidently. A little longer in body than what I would normally like in a baby but all her other attributes make her a very promising prospect.

2<sup>nd</sup> Fantango Joy Rid – Mr P Middleton & Ms J Salvestrin

When it comes to babies then they don't come much cuter than this little miss who was just loving her day out. She was happy when moving and was a handful for her handler on the stack as well. The light cream coat really highlighted the dark pigmentation of the nose, eyes and mouth. Her body proportions at this stage were all correct and I was very impressed with her bone in both front and rear. The hind quarters were exceptional in width and turn. Another promising puppy.

3<sup>rd</sup> Giltedge Charlotte Bronte (ai) – Mrs K Handley

A short coupled gold baby who moved so well for her handler. Well chiselled head with good depth of muzzle. Balanced angles front and back, level topline and correct tailset. I would love to see her fully coated.

## **Minor Puppy Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Gildengold Larks Heirloom – Miss P Deholm **Best Minor Puppy in Show**

I feel this 7 month old girl has such a promising future. She is a balanced youngster with good angles front and rear. Her strong neck carried her head at a pleasing position on the move. There was a clean flow from neck into her straight topline. As she is growing a new coat it appears like she was rolling when on the move, but when going over her I could feel she was in hard condition. She is a credit to her owner.

2<sup>nd</sup> Dalsgold Now you Sea Me (ai) Miss D Giacovani

This darker girl was up against a more mature looking bitch. It looks like she is going through a growth stage. She has a pleasant expression with good pigmentation. She moved well and stood four square for the examination.

## **Puppy Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Bluebreeze Gumnut Baby – Debra Stubbings **Best Puppy in Show**

A well-constructed and very feminine young bitch. Moderate matching angles fore and aft, well sprung ribs, deep in chest, good reach of neck and in good coat for a youngster. Solid body with pleasing underline matching her strong topline. Moved out well and was in tune with her handler. Only too pleased to award her Puppy in Show.

## **Junior Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Naragold the Good Witch (ai) – Emma Clark **Best Opposite Sex Junior**

Another young girl presented and handled well. Dark pigment and kindly expression. Her front and rear angles were excellent, combined with the correct reach of neck giving her a strong symmetrical balance. Light on her feet as she moved at a steady pace.

2<sup>nd</sup> Goldbrior the Ice Goddess – Ms KJ Atkinson

This 14 month old girl was not far behind the first place getter. A strong body with a true level topline, good length of neck and head of even proportions. She is longer cast, slightly longer in loin than number 1 and when moving tended to be less fluid than her competition. She still presented well with a good textured coat that is developing.

**Intermediate Bitch** - The largest class in number with some beautiful young promising bitches

1<sup>st</sup> Giltedge Look at Ava – Teresa Anderson **Best Opposite Sex Intermediate**

This girl is just so well made. Balanced and well-chiselled head. Dark eye with good pigment. The balance of her body was particularly appealing, nothing overdone, all in harmony - this flowed through in her movement with all body parts doing their task in unison, nothing out of line or sequence. Handled expertly she moved with confidence and power around the ring. With full coat on the day she would have pushed the older girls for top honours.

2<sup>nd</sup> Bluebreeze Rumour Has It – Renee Krischer

Another nicely put together girl with great angles front and rear. Impressive catlike feet with strong pasterns and short hocks. Super topline and tailset, just a little longer than first placegetter, however moved well and handled with confidence.

3<sup>rd</sup> Gunarryn Rock a Hula Baby – Mrs F Dyer

Very similar to the second place getter. A light cream girl with almond shaped eye and gentle expression combining dark pigmentation. Moved out well with straight powerful drive in the hindquarters. Like the 2<sup>nd</sup> placegetter slightly long in body but again held a strong level topline and perfect tailset. Not quite the tight feet of number 2.

### **Australian Bred Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Fantango Whispering Secrets – Mrs F Dyer **Best Australian Bred in Show**

A clean outline and balanced proportions in this girl coming up for 6. Love her head proportions giving a very feminine look. Clean body through with good pro sternum, depth of chest and tight elbows. Move with happy attitude, straight and true. Not too long in body, however to put this girl in top placings I would like to see more turn of stifle and a full coat when shown.

2<sup>nd</sup> Giltedge Sassenach (ai) – Kim Handley

Another quality bitch. Again typical bitches head with nothing overdone. Strong and powerful body shape especially through the region of the neck. Little longer cast but still with well angled shoulders and hindquarters and so she didn't look out of balance. Did not quite move with the ease of number 1.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Japorik Haasta Manana – Ms R Yoshino

This young lady of 4 years of age was presented and handled so well. A balanced and feminine head placed well on a strong neck and great shoulders. Ribs of good spring carrying back to a strong loin. Her blades were well laid back, sufficient length of upper arm and a great rear assembly with good width of second thigh and turn of stifle. Would like to see her up on pasterns more with tighter feet. Her movement was not as smooth on the hard surface as I like to see in the girls of this age.

### **Bred by Exhibitor Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Fantango Killer Queen Mr P Middleton & Ms J Salvestrin **Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show**

A short coupled girl with her angles all in balance. Lovely feminine head with dark pigment and gentle expression. This girl seemed restless when entering the ring and gave her owner a lesson in handling. After she settled I found her structure is what I like in a bitch. She is feminine without being loaded or overdone in any way. Quality texture of top coat and just enough to finish a pleasing outline.

2<sup>nd</sup> Fetchnpoint I Spy w My Lil Eye (ai) RN – Miss S Stephens & Ms T Platt

A gold girl of 2 years of age with plenty of potential as she matures. Strong in head, deep muzzle, correct eye and ear shape and placement. Clean and muscular neck with good flow of neck into topline. A well angled bitch who also used the body to get an even and efficient gait not wasting any energy. The lack of coat at this show meant that she did not look as finished as first placegetter. She is still young and yet to fully mature, and when she does I would think that she will drop into herself more in the hindquarters giving her more turn in stifle and slightly lower rear end.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Kulabay Catcher of Dreams – Rachel Shapter

A balanced bitch with good angles fore and aft. Nicely balanced head although the light 'winter' nose detracted from the overall expression. Well positioned ribcage with nicely laidback shoulder blades. Rear assembly also well proportioned. Did not quite move with the reach I would like to see and a little down on pasterns. The lack of coat really did not help her in the placings.

### **Open Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Giltedge You Watching Me – Kim Handley – **Best in Show & Best Open in Show**

I know there are times when judging a class where the quality will have such depth you could go either way with placings. This is why my BIS and RUBIS came from this class.

Both these bitches were beautifully put together with the most appealing heads and expressions. Not one thing out of proportion or exaggerated.

The CC winner was happy to be in the ring. She moved evenly with purpose for her handler, not rushing her gait or losing her topline especially in Challenge. When examining her, I couldn't help being taken with her structure. Front and rear assemblies, ribcage, topline, tailset and balance, it was all that I want in a Golden. When standing back, I noticed how the light gold coat lay flat against the body, the feathering was enough to fill in the underline and complete the picture.

Only too pleased to award this fine example BISS.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Fantango Do You Wanna Dance – Mr P Middleton & Ms J Salvestrin – R/Up Best in Show**

This fine young lady was obviously pushing the point. All I said about my BISS equally applies here. She also moved with a very happy attitude and gave her all for her handler, not putting a foot wrong. I really liked the proportions of her skull with just the right length of muzzle. The front and rear assemblies were balanced and she used this balance when moving to best advantage. When it came to decision time I thought this girl was slightly longer cast, which is something I mentioned above. However, only too pleased to award her RUBIS.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Bluebreeze Barefoot Princess – Debra Stubbings**

A difficult class indeed – unlucky to meet the two above today. An appealing 6 year old, well angled and short coupled with a deep chest. Well let-down hocks and good width of second thigh. Presented in beautiful condition with a flat coat with dense water-resisting undercoat. She moved well for her handler with good reach and drive.

**Veteran Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Goldbrior Elsa on Ice (ai) – Ms KJ Atkinson & Mrs RR Easton Best Opposite Sex Veteran**

Even though the only one in the class it would have taken some old lady of quality to knock this girl off the blue peg. She is well constructed with depth of chest, spring of rib and lovely level topline. Feet tight and catlike without splaying. In the front I would prefer a little more length in upper arm, however in the rear she was well proportioned with good turn and hocks well let down. Moved well for her handler.

**BCC winner Open Ch Giltedge You Watching Me – Kim Handley**

**RBCC winner Open Ch Fantango Do You Wanna Dance – Mr P Middleton & Ms J Salvestrin**

## **Neuter Bitch**

1<sup>st</sup> Bluebreeze Second from the Sun – Mrs S Pelham – **Best Neuter in Show**

This girl was well coated and beautifully presented. She was handled well and gave her best in the ring. Good topline with matching underline gave the look of a substantial Golden that's built for purpose. Well coloured dark and tight correctly shaped eyes with nose pigment to match. She is carrying the correct weight for her frame and is a great example of a 7-year-old.

2<sup>nd</sup> Gohldrich Ticket to Magicnes – Ms R Ohlrich – **R/Up Best Neuter in Show**

A younger bitch with a very clean outline. Moved out well and seemed to be enjoying her day. A little longer cast than the first place getter and as she was out of coat this gave the impression of extra length as well cutting up under the loin. Great rear assembly with low hocks and pleasing width of second thigh and turn of stifle.

3<sup>rd</sup> Goldstream Butterscotch – Mrs Michelle D Oldfield

A very young girl who is still suffering "junior drop" in her coat. Bodywise, she has good bone and the structure throughout the body is typical for a bitch of her age. She has a deep chest combined with good angulation front and especially the rear. A gentle kindly expression enhanced by the dark pigmentation was good to see. However, with no furnishings to complete the look, then they tend to look too scopey and therefore are missing one of the hallmarks of the breed.