

**GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF VICTORIA IN  
Championship Show Critique  
4 November, 2001  
Judge: Mrs Kate Crosbie-Black (Scotland)**

Some comments to start with. Thank you for a well organized show, the hospitality offered and a super sunny day. I would also like to thank the exhibitors for entering their Goldens under me. All exhibits were clean and well presented. As I said after the show presentation and for that matter handling style cannot be easy when you have a range of judges from different countries. Judges from the United Kingdom and from Europe generally have a preference for Goldens shown trimmed to enhance their outline and handled on a loose lead to let the movement be as natural as possible. In America Goldens are shown largely untrimmed, strung up on a tight lead and moved at a very fast pace – this does not in my opinion allow the dog to have proper forward extension when gaitting. Fast movement is not of itself good movement!!!

I personally was looking for a typical Golden head with some chiselling under the eyes, giving the nice soft and gentle expression that is such a hallmark of the breed. Also a good length of neck which goes with well laid back shoulders; a good length of upper arm to allow for good forward reach when moving; well ribbed back body with short couplings; good hind quarters with short hocks; a level top line, good tail set and sound movement were also on my wish list – all with good overall balance.

I found the Goldens in this show to have fewer faults in hind movement, tail set, body length and rear angulation than in many other countries, including the UK. On the down side you are no better than most in the forehand construction, that is the neck, shoulders and upper arm and as with most Golden breeders this area leaves room for thought when planning matings. Do find sires with good front assemblies. Temperament was without exception excellent and they did not seem to flag in what was for me hot conditions.

I fear that I must tread on a few toes when I speak of heads. A Golden should not have a coarse head and I found many coarse and untypical in both dogs and bitches, with domed skulls and overdone forefaces. Don't misunderstand me I do not want a head that is "snipey", but there is a happy medium. It seems that some popular stud dogs have passed on this heavy head and that some accept it as correct because it is so common. I did comment to one exhibitor that her bitch could do with less head and was told by her that the problem was too many weak heads. All I can say is that I didn't see any evidence to support her view! You do have fairly limited gene pool and vast distances to travel, but I believe that the breed would be well served by careful selection of a stud dog for its merits rather than for any other reason. In our kennel we do prefer to line-breed, but when we do outcross we look not only at the dog himself but also, and mainly, at the progeny he has produced. Not forgetting, of course that the dog is only half the equation. If only it was just a matter of putting two champions together then dog breeding would not be such a challenge. Some lines click together others unfortunately do not.

I was more than pleased with my principal winners who could hold their own in any quality entry anywhere. Indeed most of my winners could hold their own in most countries.

### **BABY PUPPY DOG**

**1<sup>st</sup> Acacian The Sorcerer.** Very promising puppy almost six months. His head is nicely balanced now, I hope it doesn't get any stronger. Very good in neck and shoulder, good in upper arm. He could be a little shorter in the body. Level top line and good tail set. Moved well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Acacian Super Natural.** A promising puppy but too strong in head for me at this age. Pleasing in forehand. He has his share of puppy fat and is losing his top line a bit while moving. Movement rather loose at rear and a little soft in front pastern.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tulzean Autumn Tango.** A real baby of just four months but showing a lot of promise. He has good shoulders and upper arm, nice reach of neck, good level top line and good turn of stifle. Moved well for one so young. A nicely balanced puppy with a nice happy character and showing much potential.

### **MINOR PUPPY DOG**

**1<sup>st</sup> Fantango Purple Reign.** A quality pale pup with a lovely head. Reachy neck into well laid shoulders. Good in upper arm, nice straight front, good bone. Level top line, good body depth and good turn of stifle. Moved well. A lot to like in this balanced pup. In good coat and condition.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Goldew Dream Weaver.** Well shaped head, hope it holds its balance. Good coat and condition, had the forehand qualities I was looking for. Pleasing overall construction. Good straight front and good bone. Top line firm and level. Well turned stifles. Moved well and well shown.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Leanr Wickedn A McGee.** In good coat and condition. Perhaps a little plain in head. Straight front. Good in neck, shoulders and upper arm. Good top line and tail set. Well turned stifle.

### **PUPPY DOG**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Camuka Monarch Of The Glen.** Quality gold puppy with nice head and expression. Well made forehand, level topline and well set on tail. Good body depth. Short coupled, good stifles. Good bone and straight front. Good bend of stifle. Moved well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Crowlee Royal Ransom.** Very nice gold puppy who did not co-operate very well with his handler but a well constructed youngster with a pleasing head. Nice reach of neck and well laid shoulders, upper arm of good length. Good front and stifles. Slopes a little overmuch in croup. Moved well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Golddog Alpine Wilderness.** Somewhat strong in the head for my taste. I felt affected his expression. Straight front. Could be better angulated in shoulder and upper arm. Good body proportions and short coupled. Good rear angulation and tail set. Moved OK.

### **JUNIOR DOG**

**1<sup>st</sup> Leighvalley Famenfortune .** Well made young dog with good pigmentation Nice straight front with good bone. Good in front angulation and top line. Well set on tail. Nice depth of body and good coat. Well bent stifles and net hocks. Moved with drive. Pleasing overall.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Kerrien Knight Strathraer (Imp UK) .** Well balanced gold dog with nice head and expression. He has a good reach in neck, blending well into good shoulders. Good body depth, good length of upper arm. Good tail set. Stifles well bent and hocks well let down. Nice coat, condition and over balance. Moved OK.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lockdale Prince Brandon.** Pale coated. Lovely head in proportion with his overall balance. Nice reachy neck, good shoulders and upper arm, straight front. Level top line and good tail set. A bit over angulated behind. Not a big dog but placed on his construction.

### INTERMEDIATE DOG

**1<sup>st</sup> Shtar Billy the Kid** Pale cream dog with lovely head, reachy neck flowing into well angulated shoulders. Straight front. Level top line. In good coat. Moved with drive and style. Still to mature but lots to like.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Goldwyn Sir Guinness.** Lovely balanced cream with lovely head. Good in shoulders, upper arm and stifle. Good tail set, coat and condition. Good quality bone. Moved with drive. Close up to winner.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Dobro Secret Agent** Nice dog of good size. Good reach of neck and well angulated in shoulder and upper arm. Level top line and good in tail set. Well bent stifle. Moved well but his high tail carriage rather let him down.

### AUSTRALIAN BRED DOG

**1<sup>st</sup> Fernfall Sea Legend** Very nicely balanced gold dog, not a big one but very well put together. Straight front with good bone, excellent forehand qualities. Level back, short coupled with good tail set. Good coat and condition. Well bent stifle. Very good on the move. Liked him a lot. **Res Challenge Dog**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Gr Ch Goldog Alpine Highland** Quality dark gold dog with good balance. His head is a little too strong for me. Good in neck, shoulders and upper arm. Nice straight front with good bone. Level top line, short coupled with good tail set. Well bent stifles. Moved very well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Strathraer Scandalous** Very nice pale cream dog in good coat and condition. Nice head with good expression. Straight front, well boned. Could be a bit better in shoulder and upper arm angulation. Level top line. Well turned stifle. Well presented. Moved OK if a little wide in front.

**4th Ch Layanda Aces Image Q**

### OPEN DOG

**1<sup>st</sup> Tasvane Cheekie Charlie** Quality pale boy with a really lovely head, not in any way overdone. Excellent reach of neck and tie to well laid shoulders. Upper arm of good length and placement. Straight front. Good depth of body and nicely short coupled. Level top line. Good stifle and well let down hocks. Liked him very much indeed. **Challenge Dog and RBIS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Giltedge Hemingway** Another dog of real quality, rather bigger than the winner. Pale coated. He has very much the same qualities as the winner. He showed very well, but on the move he is rather proud of his tail and this difference put him into the second spot.

**3rd Ch Goldog Alpine Goodshow** Completed a lovely threesome. Another top class who was in no way disgraced by being third in this class.

**4th Ch Yellowfetch Olympic Gold**

**5<sup>th</sup> Ch Annador Just It and Abit**

### VETERAN DOG (I enjoyed this class which had good heads and construction in so many)

**1<sup>st</sup> Tasvane Indiana (Imp UK)** Super quality dog of 9 years. Lovely head, super neck and really good shoulder and upper arm. Straight front. Level top line, good tail set. Well turned stifle and well let down hocks. Moved steadily and presented a very pleasing and well balanced picture. Considered for top honours.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch & Eng Ch Stanroph Shogun (UK)** Another lovely dog with good head, masculine without being overdone. Good in forehand properties. Good stifle and well let down hocks. Perhaps a little longer in body than winner. Moved fairly well. A well constructed showman.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Gr Ch Goldog Alpine Snowyriver** Another well constructed quality exhibit. Loved his head and expression, not overdone in any way. Good in neck, shoulders and upper arm. Good bone. Level in top line. Good tail set and well bent stifles. Moved OK. Not in quite as good coat as first two, but nonetheless a lovely dog.

### **BABY PUPPY BITCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Dobra Free As A Bird (AI)** Very promising pup. Nice head, super neck into well laid shoulders, good in upper arm, pleasing top line and nice short couplings. Well bent stifles. Moved well for one so young.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Guhnnura Secret Agent** Another nice babe with reachy neck into good front construction. Short back and nice set on of tail. Well made hindquarters. Good on the move.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dobro Eternal Flame (AI)**

### **MINOR PUPPY BITCH For some reason heads seemed to be a problem in this class with many being either very plain or very overdone.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Yellowfetch Pixie Dust** Very nicely made puppy with good reach of neck and good front angulation. Straight front. Firm level top line, well set on tail. Good bend of stifle and a good mover. Her head was very overdone but her other merits won her this class.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Camuka Absolutely Fabulus** Her head is just about right for age. Good neck, shoulders and upper arm. Level top line. A little longer in body than winner. Good stifles and well let down hocks. Moved OK.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Goldshyne Country Road** Another with a bit too much head. She was however of good overall construction and moved well to merit her placing in this class.

### **PUPPY BITCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Beacroft Domain Chandon** Lovely puppy bitch. Appealing head and expression. She has all the right angles in the right places. Nice level top line and short couplings with well set on tail. Moved very well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grandridge Kiss Me Kate** Another nice puppy bitch with many of the attributes of the class winner. I just preferred the upper arm length and angulation of Chandon.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Santamaria Strength N Honr** Yet another nice bitch with good overall construction and balance. Rather too strong in head for me. Moved well.

**4<sup>th</sup> Fernfall China Rose**

### **JUNIOR BITCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Kerrien Summer Breeze (Imp UK)** A younger of real quality. Has a very good head with shape and balance. Reachy neck and well laid shoulders, good length and angulation of upper arm. Good top line and tail set. Well turned stifle and well let down hocks. Moved well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Strathraer Blue Denim** Another good quality youngster of similar type. The same remarks generally apply. Loved her head.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Parkridge Spellbound** A lot to like and well worth her place in this good class. She was a little stronger in head and not quite so good in the upper arm as the first two, otherwise she had similar attributes.

**4<sup>th</sup> Fernfall Maid for Music**

### **INTERMEDIATE BITCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Justley Razzle Dazzle** Very pleasing gold bitch of good type and balance. Pleasing feminine head and gentle expression. Very good in front construction with nice reachy neck, nice short back, good depth of body. Well set on and carried tail. Good stifles and well let down hocks. Moved well with good ground cover **Res Challenge Bitch**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Donsue Attitude Plus** Another quality, balanced exhibit. Her head tends to be a little strong. She has a good forehead and a level top line, there is however a little more slope at the croup than is the ideal. Quarters are OK and moved well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Goldwyn Irish Cream** A bitch with much to please with lovely feminine head. Very good reach of neck and good angles to shoulders and upper arm. Good hind quarters. Her

handler stands her with a sloping top line, but it is level on the move. Nice overall balance. Hind movement cost her a place as it was much too close.

**4<sup>th</sup> Leighvalley Everlasting**

#### **AUSTRALIAN BRED BITCH (Not an easy class to judge)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Balmattum Foxy Lady** A good honest bitch with a well shaped head and nice expression. Her forehead is good if unexceptional. Nice straight front. Nice level top line and good tail set. Well bent stifle and short strong hocks. Moved very well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Fernfall Watermark** Close decision, bitch of different type, well made overall and very feminine. Pleasing neck shoulders and upper arm. Good top line and well turned stifles. Moved OK. I just preferred the overall picture and balance of winner.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Goldfleece Fly So High** Another nice bitch with good overall construction, well angulated front and rear and moving OK.

**4<sup>th</sup> Giltedge Tara**

#### **OPEN BITCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Fantango Romancn T Stone** A bitch right out of the top drawer, simply oozing with quality. Lovely head and expression. Classic outline with good reachy neck flowing smoothly into well laid shoulders. Good length and angulation to upper arm. Perfectly level top line, short coupled, well set and carried tail. Went bent stifles and neat hocks. Handled with expertise. Moved with such style and drive around the ring. The one I would gladly take home!!!!

#### **Challenge Bitch and BIS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Gunarryn Alice Dupont** Another bitch of great quality. Lovely head, very good front assembly, nice short back, and good qualities with good bend of stifle and short strong hocks. Her pregnancy just beginning to show, but she moved well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Giltedge Virginia** Excellent bitch of different type, she has a good length of neck, good shoulders and upper arm. Short coupled with well set on tail. Good angulation at rear with neat hocks. A bit stronger overall than my first two and I would prefer her more feminine. Moved very well.

**4<sup>th</sup> Ch Tamesis Honey Kiss an Angel**

#### **VETERAN BITCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Tasvane Spring Morning** Seven year old of nice type. Good reach of neck and fairly good in shoulders, perhaps could have better angulation to upper arm. Good stifles and short hocks. Moved well.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Ribbonwood Broadway Hit** A year older than winner. Nice head and expression, level top line. Could be a little better angulated in upper arm and stifle. Straight front. Moving well if a little wide in front.