

Southern Golden Retriever Club Inc

Kelly Jackson Memorial Show

25th August 2018

Firstly, before I begin my critique may I give my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to everyone connected with the Southern Golden Retriever Club. It was such an honour to be asked to judge on what was a very emotional day in memory of Kelly Jackson, a courageous young lady, who was evidently very much loved by all in the club. I can honestly say it was an utter pleasure to be around so many happy, generous & extremely sporting people. You were all a breath of fresh air and made my holiday, along with Golden Retriever Club of Southern Australia, one that will be remembered as a 'holiday of a lifetime' for as long as I live.

On to the dogs and some general observations. Quality was overall very good with similar faults I have encountered in several other countries including the UK. I would advise that for the future breeding programmes it would be wise to be mindful about eye colour and tail carriage. Temperaments were fab, and I only had one slight concern with a particularly shy and reluctant bitch.

When judging I look for a dog that best fits my interpretation of the Breed Standard and one I feel would be 'Fit for Function' and, as far as construction is concerned, be able to do a days work.

Can I thank the very efficient steward who kept me right and the ring flowing and to Karen and her very efficient team for a wonderful day.

Baby Puppy Dog

1. Hawkwood The Pearly King

Beautifully balanced 15 weeks old pale coated puppy. Possessing loads of bone and substance. Kind male head with soft expression and super pigmentation. Nice dark eye of the correct shape. Best of fronts with straight limbs standing on neat feet. Good forehand with plenty of layback. Loved his sweep of neck on to dead level topline and correct set on of tail. Short in loin and good turn of stifle with well let down rear pasterns. Moved very positively with lovely strides showing both reach in front and drive behind. He slightly carries his tail a bit proud.

2. Arangold Chasing Rain Bows

Taller scopier puppy with a glamorous mid golden coat. Sweetest of heads with lovely pigmentation. Dark eye giving that lovely soft expression I like to look at. Again as 1 super well boned limbs and neat feet. Just preferred the front assembly of 1. Short in couplings with a level topline and perfect set on of tail which on the move was carried level off his back. When settled he moved very soundly with similar correct strides to 1. Well handled as he appears to have a naughty but lovable streak!

Minor Puppy Dog

1. Shannongold Oro Blanco

Super puppy in beautiful coat and condition. Loved his overall shape & balance. However, he can tend to look slightly 'slack' on his topline on the stack but I'm sure with maturity and exercise this will strengthen. Soft appealing head with lovely expression. Correct eye colour and shape and good dentition. Correct front angulation with good length to forehand and corresponding layback allowing his feet to stand naturally well under his body. Well off for bone and substance and neat cat like feet. He stands with his right foot slightly out but again hopefully maturity and some road work will sort that. Short in his couplings with a strong level topline. Strong muscular hindquarters with width of thigh and neat short rear pasterns. He moved soundly covering the ground with such an easy action and held everything together with perfect tail carriage. I'm sure this youngster has a bright future ahead.

2. Alubyc Flying Colours

Another super puppy. Today I preferred 1's more masculine head but that may change in the future. Stacked this boy presents a very pleasing balanced picture. His cream coat was in super condition. Soft gentle head with expressive kind eyes of the correct shape and colour. Sadly, today he was slightly losing his pigmentation but hopefully that will return. Super front assembly and he stands on well boned, straight limbs and correct neat cat like feet. Strong topline and loin. Good width to his hind quarters with short rear pasterns. Sadly, he can tend to stand cow hocked which today I put down to the slippery floor but it needs to be watched. He wasn't quite as positive on the move as 1. When settled he strode out well with reach and drive. Expertly handled.

Puppy Dog

This class demonstrated the vastly differing stages in puppy development and also took in the range of coat colours we have in our breed.

1. Rivermoy's High Sheriff

Darker coated puppy today appealing greatly for his overall balance. His very happy disposition was quite evident. Appealing male head with strength without coarseness and dark expressive eyes. Good width & depth to his muzzle & with a well-developed stop. Another with correct front assembly with good length of forehand and corresponding length and layback of upper arm. Shows depth through the heart and short strong loin. His topline was strong and level and held perfectly both static and on the move. He was in hard workmanlike condition and his thighs had width and powerful second thighs and short rear pasterns. When settled this young boy could move with easy ground covering strides and correct parallel rear action. Some sympathetic trimming around his neck would enhance his length of neck and would take away the appearance of him being slightly stuffy which he isn't!

2. Shannongold Sol Y Estrellas (AI)

Paler coated male again possessing balance and in super coat and condition. Masculine kind head with expressive dark eyes. Super reach of neck on to the best of fronts with loads of bone and substance. Standing on the neatest of well-trimmed feet. If I'm being hypercritical I would prefer a slightly cleaner throat line. He had a super topline & set on of tail. Short and strong loin. Well-muscled rear quarters with good width and strong pasterns. On the move I preferred the more positive action of 1. This young dog today appeared to have a slightly soft temperament but I'm

positive once his confidence builds he will not only hold himself together better but his movement will improve. Nicely handled.

3. Shannongold Sueno Espanol (AI)

Litter brother to 2. Sadly, today he appeared to have left some of his coat back home which spoiled his overall picture. He has a lovely soft appealing head with super pigmentation and correct dentition. Text book front assembly with super forehead and layback. He stands on well boned straight limbs and has neat feet. Plenty of heart room and tight at the elbow. Hands on he is slightly longer in loin than 1 & 2. His coat on his topline, or lack of in places, spoiled the picture and he appeared to slightly fall away at the croup. He has balanced hind quarters of a good musculature condition and stands on short strong rear pasterns. He moves very soundly with good ground covering strides. Well handled.

4. Stanhopegold Aspiring Duke

The real baby in this class giving his opposition at least a 3 months head start on maturity. Sweet head with good pigmentation and correct pigmentation. Compared with the others his head lacked maturity and masculinity but this may come. His front assembly wasn't as well put together as the others in the class and he could improve with more forehead and better layback. I felt that this puppy really lacked bone and substance throughout which may be down to feeding or exercise or a combination of the two. However, he has time on his hands and some changes may well improve this. He moved well showing his happy, confident disposition and was very sympathetically and well handled.

Junior Dog

1. Gofetch Mad About The Boy For Drumtreve

My star of the day and a dog that really got me thinking about the breed standard and construction and movement and the synthesis between them.

He possesses that 'stallion' quality I look for in a male and the joie de vivre that makes a great show dog. However, he's a handful for his owner and has that young male determination that can sometimes make it difficult for a judge to see his true potential. Today thankfully I saw it!!

My notes say stunning darker coated boy. I loved his balance when he eventually decided to play ball and stand properly. He has a strong, masculine head piece without it being coarse. His expression is a kind, biddable one with that glint of mischief thrown in. He was in super coat and the most magnificent muscular condition throughout. He has bags of bone and substance and stands on neat cat like feet. Good front assembly with equal forehead and layback allowing his front legs to be placed well under his body. Plenty of heart room and well sprung rib cage. Strong, level topline held perfectly both static and on the move. Strong well-muscled hindquarters. This young dog moved so well displaying reach and drive with perfect footfall and tail carriage and the ground covering movement I look for in a well-constructed, well exercised dog. Here's where my conundrum lay, this dog static and hands on doesn't have a huge amount of turn of stifle but his ease of movement proved to me that as long as they are balanced fore and aft and in fabulous muscle tone they can

move and I've no doubt do a day's work. He was my Dog CC & BIS. Congratulations to his breeder & his owner.

2. Sandlewood Order In The Court

Mid Gold dog of a slightly smaller stature to 1. For true balance I would have preferred this boy to have a better front construction as he slightly lacked forehand and the layback was steep making his withers high giving an overall impression that he sloped from front to back. He has a lovely masculine kind head with super expression and dark soulful eyes. He stands on well boned limbs with very neat tight feet. He possesses plenty of heart room and spring of rib and has a short strong loin. His hindquarters were well muscled and his rear pasterns were short and well let down. Not quite the positive movement as 1 but he moved out well. Happy, confident boy who was handled beautifully.

Intermediate Dog

Tough class as I was really splitting hairs between these first two boys.

1. Benlea Over The Moon

Darker coated boy who eventually pipped 2 at the post on his more positive movement. He was beautifully balanced throughout and in super coat and condition. He shouts breed type. Would I be so bold as to suggest to his owner that possibly she needs to be less severe whilst trimming his neck. He has fore chest, he has lovely front construction and he has ample neck so more sympathetic trimming is all that is needed.

He has a masculine head with a kind expression despite a slightly light eye. Ample reach of neck on to the best of fronts with super forehand and layback allowing his front feet to stand naturally well under his body. Well off for bone and very neat feet. Plenty of heart room and short over his loin. Dead level topline. Well-muscled hind quarters with plenty of width to his thighs and short pasterns used to advantage on the move. This dog was a joy to watch on the move but slightly carries his tail a bit high.

2. Scotiagold Claret Cliff

Another quality boy who was turned out and handled to perfection. Pushed 1 hard here and I'm sure these two will swap places often. Lovely headpiece with kind gentle dark eyes and super pigmentation. Preferred the sweep of his neck to 1. Correct forehand and well laid-back shoulders. Level topline and correct set on of tail. Hindquarters of good width with super muscle tone and short rear well let down pasterns. Moved out so well but just felt 1 had better width behind when going away. Beautifully handled.

3. Ch Winterlea Lord's Image

Scopier male of a pleasing type. Masculine head with a very biddable, kind expression. He stands on well boned limbs and has the best of feet. Longer in his couplings than 1 & 2. Not quite the front of 1 or 2. Level strong topline and perfect set on of tail. Well-muscled hindquarters with super second thigh and neat rear pasterns which produced plenty of drive on the move. Well handled.

Limit Dog

1. Speyside Full Circle To Moorfield CDX TCQ RA

What a happy boy, full of enthusiasm and the bond between dog and owner is quite evident. I loved his head with the biggest smile permeating his confident & happy disposition. He is a balanced boy with no exaggerations. On the move he has the most eye-catching head carriage and moves out so well holding his lovely shape well. His head is masculine but has a softness with lovely dark pigmentation with depth of muzzle and good width to the skull. From his obedience titles this skull is brimming with brains too!! He has well-muscled hind quarters which he used to advantage on the move. If I'm being picky I'd prefer more width to his hind movement as he tends to do a bit of crossover of strides. All in all, a great package of a typical, happy Golden Retriever.

NZ Bred Dog

1. Ch Goldriver Let Me Entertain U

Lovely boy who shouts out breed type. He strode his way around the ring with powerful ground covering strides. For perfect balance I wished this boy had another inch or two on his leg to complete the picture. He has a masculine head with a pleasing, kind expression despite a touch of winter nose. He is well off for bone and has very tidy feet. I liked his sweep of neck onto well-constructed shoulder assembly allowing his forelimbs to stand well under him. He has a dead level topline and perfect tail set and carriage. He is strong and short in his couplings and has well-muscled hindquarters which help propel him so easily around the ring. He is a joy to watch coming and going with easy strides and lovely parallel hind movement. Well handled.

Stud Dog

Two very similar boys who are both a credit to their owners and breeders and no doubt will be well sought-after studs with lots to offer any breeding programme. I hate this cliché, but I really was 'splitting hairs' here!!

1. NZ & Aust Ch Goldriver Off The Radar

Just pipping the class on his more positive hind movement. He presents a very balanced picture and to me just shouts out breed type. In super condition throughout. Loved his head with dark expressive eyes with dark pigmentation, good dentition and plenty of width to muzzle and skull keeping his 'maleness' without being coarse. Text book front assembly with good length of forehead and corresponding layback allowing that lovely sweep of neck and whilst static his forelimbs stand well under his body. He has a good spring to his ribs and was tight at the elbow. He carries just the right amount of weight with a cover over his ribs but well-muscled throughout. He was short and strong in his loin and carried his topline level both static and on the move. This boy could move and used his well-muscled hind quarters to propel him around the ring with very 'easy on the eye' ground covering strides holding his balanced shape. Expertly handled.

2. Ch Hawkwood Fraxinus

Very similar type to 1 who also oozes quality & breed type. He presents a very balanced overall picture with one component nicely leading to the next. Kind, biddable male head piece with super pigmentation and correct dentition. He stands four square on the best of feet and is well off for bone

and substance. My only concern was a ruffle of coat over his croup that spoils his topline and catches your eye. He was in super musculature condition throughout with great width to his backend. Moved out well but not quite the hind movement of 1. Another expertly handled.

Veteran Dog

I love the oldies and both these boys deserve to be revered as they were both fantastic specimens in tip top condition and a real credit to their owners.

1. Ch Arangold High Fidelity

Just loved this boy, both in terms of his very sound construction but also for the fact that he moves with the ease of a dog half his age. So utterly balanced with a topline to die for. On the day he wasn't carrying a huge amount of coat, but it certainly didn't detract from his quality. He has for me a classic head piece with a soft, gentle expression. I forgave him a slight winter nose as his eye pigmentation was good. Every component flows beautifully into the next from the gentle sweep of his neck on to such balanced forehand and layback and firm level topline and tail set that comes right off his back. He stands on great feet for his age and carries the correct amount of weight. Well-muscled rear quarters and short neat rear pasterns. This dog comes alive on the move with his economic strides that propel him with such ease around the ring. A joy to watch and I had no hesitation in awarding him the res CC. Beautifully handled.

2. Ch Winterlea Lord O The Manor

11 ½ years young pale coated boy who was a pleasure to judge. He can still move like a three-year-old and could show some of his younger counterparts a thing or two!! He has a soft gentle head with such a pleasing happy expression and correct eye shape and colour and super pigmentation. He has plenty of bone and stands on neat feet which is usually one of the first signs of old age...none here!!! He didn't quite have the front angulation of 1 and was slightly longer in loin than 1. He has a level topline and perfect set on of tail. His hindquarters are well muscled for an old boy with strong neat rear pasterns. His movement was a joy to watch and he really does defy his age. He was presented in stunning pale coat in topping condition. Sympathetically handled by his owner allowing him to give his best.

Open Dog

1. Ch Shannongold Acheve Le Reve

What a cracking example of a balanced mature boy. He was so well put down in glorious pale coat in superb condition and handled to perfection showing off his many attributes. Loved his gentle head piece with such expressive soft eyes. He has perfect dentition and plenty of length and depth to his muzzle. Lovely flow from his reachy neck into text book front assembly allowing him to stand without handling with his feet well under his body. Well off for bone and tidy feet. He has plenty of heart room and well sprung ribs. His couplings are short, and his backend matches his front in terms of balanced angles and evident muscle tone. His almost flawless construction allows him to move soundly with correct footfall on his fore and strength and width behind propelling him with ground eating strides. Beautifully handled by his young handler.

Baby Bitch

1. Sandlewood The Drama Queen (AI)

Stunning 5 months old pale coated bitch who looked beautiful from all angles. Such a sweet puppy and so very well-schooled. Feminine head with super pigmentation. Lovely bone and feet. Her front is so correct with good forehand and layback. Level topline and perfect tail set. Well turned stifle for her age and neat rear pasterns. She moved like an old pro making me smile as she strode happily across the hall. So well handled and I'll watch her future progress with great interest.

2. Hawkwood La Peregrina

Pale coated younger baby with loads of bone and substance. Sweet head that I hope won't get too much stronger for a bitch. Lovely pigmentation on her button nose and correct shape and colour to her eye. She was slightly longer in her couplings to 1. She held her dead level topline both whilst standing and on the move. She strode out on her triangle showing such even strides and a displaying her confident, happy nature.

Minor Puppy Bitch

1. Shannongold Bella Khaleesi (AI)

Beautiful, feminine pale coated bitch. Presents such a balanced outline. I loved everything about her from her sweetest of heads with cheeky expression and lovely dark eyes and great pigmentation to the tip of her tail that she wagged constantly and carried right off her back when moving. Her outline was outstanding for such a young puppy and I'm sure she has the brightest future ahead of her, god willing! She stands four square on well boned limbs and lovely neat little cat like feet. Her shoulder assembly is perfect with equal forehand and layback. She carries just the right amount of weight and was well muscled for a baby. I loved her sound backend with good turn and width of stifle and short rear pasterns. Her movement was so lovely with such reach in front and she drove from behind with a very confident stride. Such a happy, confident puppy, it was a pleasure to judge her. I wish you well for the future. So gently handled.

2. Alubyc The Pearl Sails (Imp)

Another sweet baby who sadly could do with just a bit more confidence. She has a very feminine head with super pigmentation and a beautiful expression. Similar front assembly to 1 and standing on well good boned limbs with tidy cat like feet. Sadly, today lack of confidence or a slippery carpet made it impossible to get a fair impression of her outline. On the move she settled and appeared

much happier. She was sympathetically handled. Build on her confidence as I truly believe this little bitch will be worth it.

Puppy Bitch

1. Stanhopegold Aspiring Lady

First time in the ring for both puppy and handler and didn't they do a great job. With more practice they will have great fun together.

Super little bitch who had a lovely head with dark eyes and sweet feminine expression. Good dentition and pigmentation. Super reach of neck on to balanced front assembly. Level topline and short strong couplings. Well muscle hind quarters with good width of thigh. Perfect set on of tail which she carried straight off her back whilst moving. She moved out well, nice puppy, well done!

Junior Bitch.

1. Dobro Gold Fusion At Aubrook (Imp Aust)

Super young darker coated bitch, oozing quality and epitomises breed type. Sadly, today she appeared to have left her coat at home in the Hoover! Classic head with gentle expression, dark pigmentation, correct eye colour and shape with good width and depth to muzzle. She's a strongly made bitch with good bone and substance and stands four square on neat feet. If I'm being hypercritical I would prefer better forehead which would complete the balance of her front assembly. Lovely sweep of neck on to strong level topline she held on the move. Good spring of rib and strong couplings. Well-muscled hind quarters on this bitch with impressive second thigh and short rear pasterns. She moved with such enthusiasm covering the ground well with even strides and was true coming and going. Well handled.

Intermediate Bitch

1. Arangold Time For Change

Smaller framed bitch of a very pleasing type. Loved her balanced shape which she held both static and whilst on the move. Feminine head very attentive to her handler with dark expressive eyes. Good dentition and good depth and length to her muzzle. She has a super flow from her neck on to her strong, level topline. She has a straight front and correct neatly trimmed feet. Super front assembly and good spring of rib giving ample heart room. Short coupled loin and well-muscled hind quarters with good turn of stifle. Moved out extremely well with straight lines and plenty of reach and drive. Well handled.

2. Ch Winterlea Painted Image

Larger framed bitch than 1 but nevertheless possessing bags of breed type. Feminine head and dark expressive eyes, good pigmentation and correct ear shape and position. Loved her length of neck and solid front assembly. Slightly longer cast in the loin than 1. She was in hard workmanlike muscle tone throughout and used her strong hind quarters efficiently on the move. Not quite as positive hind movement as 1. Well handled.

Limit Bitch

1. Speyside Flying High RN

Four years old mature bitch of a very pleasing balanced type. In super workmanlike condition throughout. Super head with kindly expression showing that biddability I like to see. Dark eyes of the correct shape and lovely pigmentation. Good front assembly with good length to forehand and layback of shoulder. Lovely sweep of neck on to her topline that slightly falls away at the croup. Well-muscled hind quarters. Moved out well with very easy strides. Handled well.

NZ Bred Bitch

1. Arangolds Silk and Satin

4 years old pale coated sweet bitch. Beautiful head with feminine expression with dark points and good pigmentation. Liked her sweep of clean neck on to her strong level topline. Super front assembly with plenty fore chest and well angled forehand and layback. Short on her couplings. Would prefer slightly better turn of stifle but her quarters were well muscled and her pasterns short. She moved out well but the picture was slightly marred by a raised tail. Beautifully handled.

2. Shannongold New Addition At Piperdale.

Cream coated bitch who, when she allowed her handler to stack her, had the loveliest of shape. However, she sadly lacked the confidence to hold herself together and, on the move, she scuttles along with very erratic movement. When she settled and allowed hands on she was very nicely put together with the best of front angulation and stands on well boned limbs with lovely tight cat like feet. She was well ribbed and had short couplings. Her head was very sweet although she does look slightly panicked which again detracts from her lovely expression. Well turned stifle and neat rear pasterns. Her movement was difficult to assess as she pulled her handler around the ring despite her sympathetic handling. I do hope she gains in confidence!

Brood Bitch

Like the Stud dog class I was very pleased to see some fine examples of the breed and it bodes well for the future.

1. Shannongold Viva Las Vegas

Stunning pale coated bitch so beautifully balanced from all angles. In super coat and condition and so nicely presented. Feminine head with kindly expression, correct eye colour and dark pigmentation giving a very nice overall head piece. I loved her flow from her neck and super front angulation with feet placed well under her body. She has plenty of bone and substance but retains her femininity. Level topline and tail set although she can sometimes get a bit lazy and loses it slightly. Her hind quarters were strong with good width and muscle tone. She moves beautifully with long easy strides. In very strong company I was delighted to award her the CC.

2. Arangolds Leather and Lace.

Another stunning bitch who pushed 1 hard. Stands four square when looked at from any angle. Really liked her balance. Lovely feminine head with soft expression, good dentition and dark expressive eyes. Another with lovely flow of neck on to correct front assembly. Plenty of heart room and well sprung ribs. Ultra-short in her couplings with level topline. Balanced rear quarters with well turned stifle and short well let down rear pasterns. She moved very soundly but tends to carry her tail high which slightly spoils the picture. Expertly handled.

3. Ch Scotiagold Finest Blend

Dark coated bitch of great quality & breed type. She possesses strength in head but still holds its femininity. I would prefer a darker eye to soften the expression. Super front angulation, dead level topline and short in her loin. Her hindquarters were powerful with well-developed second thigh and well let down rear pasterns. She has lovely even strides and covers the ground with ease. Sadly another who slightly flew her tail.

Veteran Bitch

Two darling veterans.

1. Ch Shannongold Living The Dream

I just loved this mature bitch. She was in super coat and condition and presented a lovely typical, balanced picture. Her soft gentle head appealed greatly with her kind expression with a hint of a cheeky twinkle. She has the best of fronts, has a super reachy neck and stands on straight limbs and tight feet in great order for her age. She is short in the loin and has well developed hind quarters. She moved out extremely well and knew her job. She was beautifully handled. I was delighted to award her the reserve CC

2. Ch Kavandale Just Like That

Another fantastic bitch. I loved her overall type, balance & presentation. Super head with soft pleasing expression with dark pigmentation and a kind eye. Super front assembly. Great spring of rib and short strong loin. Super backend with good turn of stifle and well let down hocks. Not quite as positive on the move as 1.

Open

1. Ch Arangold Velvet Latte

Although out of coat I preferred this bitch for her overall balance. She has an appealing feminine head although I would prefer a slightly darker eye. She is well off for bone and substance and stands

on neat feet. Balanced front assembly and rear quarters and in good muscle tone throughout. She covered the ground well and preferred her movement to 2.

2. Ch Arangolds Legends Never Die

My notes say lovely type of bitch presented in very glamorous wavy blonde coat. Hands on she presents a very fit and strong bitch with a kind appealing head. I would prefer a slightly darker eye. Super front assembly with good forehand and excellent length of shoulder blade with good layback. Level topline and tail set. She is short in her loin and has well developed hind quarters. She moved well but not as positively as 1. Well handled.

Mary Neil