**Southern Golden Retriever Society**

**Open Show**

**8th September 2023**

**Judges Critique**

Thank you to the Committee for affording me the honour of judging at this lovely breed open show & a special thank you to Pat & my stewarding “team” for ensuring that I was well watered, on what was a beautiful but very hot, late summers day.

Thank you to the Exhibitors who brought their lovely dogs for me to assess. I was delighted to have such a varied entry & some that were completely new to me.

The ring was a super size for our breed to stride out however some dogs & indeed owners were suffering from the heat particularly at the end of the day & I did keep this in mind when considering the performance of some. I was looking for a dog that was correctly constructed with no exaggerations enabling free, accurate movement & with a head, expression & temperament that epitomise our breed.

Veteran Dog – No entries

Minor Puppy Dog 3 (1)

My notes here say “loved them both” & I truly could have taken both of these very promising puppies home. I will watch their future progress with interest.

1. Montverde’s Olvinglay Gan Amhras - This pale boy is very raw & just as he should be for his tender 6 months of age. He has so much potential with a lovely expression & dark eye. A reachy neck flows into well laid shoulders & perfectly matching angles fore & aft with a dead level topline & tailset. For one so young his footfall was remarkably accurate & he happily showed off his attributes at every ask. I was delighted to award him BPD & BPIS.

2. Angell’s Linirgor Seven Up At Millanza - Another cracking puppy with the best of bone & substance. He stood foursquare on the roundest of feet with straight front, tight elbows & good return of upper arm. Short coupled & level topline. His lustrous cream, double coat completed the picture.

Puppy Dog 5 (1)

1. Olvinglay Gan Amhras

2. Angell’s Linirgor Seven Up At Millanza

3. O’Gorman’s Berrymeade Billy Summers (AI)

Junior Dog 6

1. Henson’s Cinderbank Move It JW – The best of heads with the softest, Golden expression. I have seen his pale gold coat looking better but there was no denying his overall quality with ample bone, classic matching angles, tight elbows & good depth to chest. There is nothing overdone & his well muscled condition aids his free flowing movement.

2. O’Gorman’s Berrymeade Billy Summers (AI) – This 11 month boy is very upstanding & well developed for his age. He wears a dark gold jacket which is in excellent condition & is superbly presented. Straight limbs are finished with tight, catlike feet, level topline & tailset which he holds on the move. He is very attentive to his handler who gets the very best from him.

3. Harris & Ball’s Wemcrest Out Of This World

Yearling Dog 5 (1)

1. Liggins & Hodges Silver Passion Glam Fashion At Nunsbrook JW (Imp Deu) – A compact cream boy in full double coat who is full of substance. Standing foursquare, he is well up on his pasterns & is of a happy disposition which makes his head & expression very appealing. Short, strong couplings with correct turn of stifle & good width to thigh, level topline.

2. Black’s Bencoe Just In Time Del Avrain – A lovely substantial cream coated boy who at first look I thought would be my winner. He has a gorgeous balanced head with good pigment, longer in the body than my winner but he was balanced throughout nonetheless with a table top topline & super turn of stifle. On the day he lost out to better movement & a front stance that was fractionally better.

3. Wemcrest Out Of This World

Maiden Dog 2 (1)

1. Olvinglay Gan Amhras

Novice Dog 2 (1 abs/1wd)

Undergraduate 4 (1abs/1wd)

1. Williams’ Berrymeade Kilternan Of Busheyhall – A 2 year old mid gold boy who is still maturing. Dark eye & kind expression. Well laid shoulders, good depth of chest, level topline & a well shaped stifle.

2. Liggins & Hodges’ Swanavly Popsy’s Glam Fashion At Nunsbrook (Imp Srb) – This boy had an appealing head with a happy disposition & a beautifully presented full cream coat. Good width of thigh & turn of stifle. He was giving his owner a hard time today but at only 13 months he is still a baby & I’m sure in time & on another day he will mature & be more settled.

Graduate Dog 7 (2)

My thinking cap was certainly on here with a close decision between my top 2 who were of different types.

1. Gulliver’s Tonara Moon Walk – This boy had left his clothes at home today & there was certainly no disguising his quality. Lovely balanced head, good strong neck into well laid shoulders, matching angles front & rear, level back & well ribbed. Good drive on the move.

2. Gerhold’s Navilis Vivat Vivaldi JW (Imp Ukr) – A different type to my winner & there was certainly much to like. He is full of substance with super bone, the roundest of feet & strong front pasterns. Masculine head with dark eye & correct earset, deep in chest, short through the loin & good width of thigh. Beautifully presented cream wavy coat & handled well.

3.Withey’s Rosinante Major Hero

Post Graduate Dog – No entries

Limit Dog 2

My notes here say “2 super boys”!

1. Foreman’s Ambersun Alive And Kicking – I had not come across this mature 4 year old boy before but I was delighted to judge him here. He has the best of masculine heads with dark, melting eyes & the gentlest of expressions. A good sized boy in a pale coat with furnishings aplenty. A strong, reachy neck into shoulders that are well laid back. Correct length of leg, strong front pasterns & good return of upper arm, deep chest. Correct turn of stifle & well let down hocks. Stood foursquare throughout. I was thrilled to award him BD & BIS

2. Gerhold’s Navilis Nouveau Venu JW (Imp Ukr) – Another super boy from this kennel who is beautifully presented & handled. Smaller than my winner but with excellent bone & substance. A true Golden head, correctly proportioned with good expression & earset. Short couplings & super turn to his stifle. Inclined to be a little too proud of his tail today.

Open Dog 2

1. Clarke-Gear’s Ousevale Tobermory JW – A happy pale boy who excels with his front angulation. He stands straight from every view on tight catlike feet. His presentation really showed him off to advantage & his runner certainly got the best of him on the move.

2. Trinder’s Thornywait Ruffino - A larger framed golden boy who I liked a lot. He has a good length of neck which flows into his flat back, good spring of rib & short coupled. I preferred the front of my winner.

Special Open Dog 1

1. Williams’ Berrymeade Coeur Blimey At Busheyhall – A balanced boy in a gold double coat, good length of neck into shoulders that are well laid back. He is deep in chest with ample bone & angulation throughout. Super masculine head with kind eye. Well muscled, enabling him to move well with ground covering action. Pleased to award him RBD & RBIS.

Veteran Bitch 1

1. Ball’s Fivelms Dream Alliance – Although this pretty pale 9 year old bitch stood alone here she was more than worthy of her place. She is a lovely classic shape with a feminine head & is perfectly straight when viewed from any angle. Her movement belied her age as she floated around the ring. BVB, BVIS

Minor Puppy Bitch 4 (1)

1. Trinder’s Trindever The Temptress – A 7 &1/2 month old baby with a pretty head & a reachy neck into shoulders that lay back well, level topline & tailset. She stands on tight catlike feet with ample bone. Good turn of stifle. A dense golden coat completes the picture.

2. Ward’s Wild Rose To Laurenley of Sunshine’s Valley (Imp Bel) – Another promising baby in a cream wavy coat. She has a lovely shape throughout with a clean neck, correct return of upper arm & good shoulder layback. Short through the loin & appropriate turn of stifle. Not so steady on the move as my winner today.

3. Taggart’s Altindan User Friendly

Puppy Bitch 6 (1)

1. Green’s Fenpinque Pumpkin Charm – A 10 month old puppy in a wavy light gold coat. A very pretty head with dark eye & gentle expression into a clean neckline. She is a classic, balanced girl with good angulation & nothing overdone, level topline. Her young handler gets the best out of her both standing & on the move & I was delighted to award her BPB.

2. Taylor’s Pandreft Tamara – Another 10 month old whose golden coat gleamed in the sun. Very similar comments apply to my winner with good angulation throughout & super feet. Her smiley expression & head are extremely appealing but today she was not quite as steady as my winner.

3. Todd’s Van Gogh Of Sunshine’s Valley With Toddrosa

Junior Bitch 8 (6)

1. Rodgers’ Ambersun Passione Of Odarla – A pale girl of a year old who still has a lot of maturing to do. Feminine head into a reachy neck, correct length of leg & tight elbows with good return of upper arm. Shoulders lay back well & she excels in her strong top line. Well boned with good feet & excellent stifle. Not in a full coat today.

2. Ousevale Angel’s Kiss At Carianjo – A beautiful gold coat with pale furnishings adorned this 16 month old youngster today. She stands foursquare on lovely round catlike feet at all times. She is shorter in the couplings than 1 but I preferred the rear angulation of my winner. Her handler once again did a super job.

3. Pratt’s Rosyth Kind Of Magic

Yearling Bitch 3 (1)

1. Brown’s Sansue Love Note At Louellabrook – I judged this one as a very raw puppy & she has certainly come on a treat since then. Wearing a cream coat in super condition, she stands on a good-sized frame which is a well angled throughout to give her strength & balance. Her neck is a good length & is strong & clean. Well muscled for her age which enables her to move with purpose.

2. Poile’s - Thornywait Starshine At Cherrimar – A 19 month old in a pretty gold coat with feminine head & dark eye. She excels in the rear with a super stifle & good width to her thigh. Short coupled. There is lots to like about her although I would prefer a better tailset.

Maiden 6 (1ab, 1wd)

1. Ambersun Passione Of Odarla

2. Pandreft Tamara

3. Taggart’s Altindan User Friendly

Novice 7

1. Ambersun Passione Of Odarla

2. Ousevale Angel’s Kiss At Carianjo

3. Pandreft Tamara

Undergraduate 4

1. Ambersun Passione Of Odarla

2. Ousevale Angel’s Kiss At Carianjo

3. Morrison’s Kayzaelle Kind Spirit

Graduate Bitch 5 (1)

1. Smith’s Gablecross Rosie Cotton With Lucastes – This 2 year old bitch is feminine from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail & paints a very dainty picture. On a smaller frame than some she is compact with a short coupling. She has excellent angulation front & rear. Moves straight fore & aft.

2. Sansue Love Note At Louellabrook

3. Winsor-Williams’ Fleur So Sweet

Post Graduate Bitch 5 (2)

1. Smith’s Goldmarker Luminess (AI) – A beautiful 2 year old bitch in a dark golden coat with profuse pale featherings. I loved her balanced head & corresponding expression. Tight catlike feet, good length of leg & turn of rear stifle, hocks well let down. Super topline. Moved out with drive & accuracy. Pushed hard in the challenge but was pipped to RBB.

2. Healey’s Marasabit Shimmer & Shine – A darker golden girl on a bigger frame. Similar attributes to 1 - good angulation & balance throughout which shows in her movement. I just preferred the head of my winner today.

3. Moss’ Molbram Venosa At Carianjo

Limit Bitch 5 (1)

1. Healey’s Marasbit Vanity Fair – Another dark golden bitch from this kennel who is similar to her half Sister. She is very balanced with a strong, clean neck, good depth to her chest, well ribbed & short coupled.

2. Gargan’s Siagar Final Edition – I loved this girl for her type & I was splitting hairs with my decision. Profuse cream coat & beautiful balanced head with kind eye & expression. Very compact with short coupling & good corresponding angulation fore & aft. Moved out straight & true.

3. Chan’s Lovissa Hello Dolly Of Wemcrest

Open Bitch 3

1. Fosdike’s Meiepere You Are My Sunshine Est/Lva JCH/BALT JW’18 (Imp Est) – A feminine cream bitch with the neatest round feet & strong front pasterns which enable her to stand perfectly straight. Good leg length, spring of rib & short couplings give her body balance. Matching front & rear angles. Her happy disposition showed through as she wagged her tail both standing & on the move. She strode out with super ground covering movement holding her topline which she maintained throughout. She would not be denied BB.

2. McCammick’s Saffdales My Memoir to Inca – Still a baby at just 16 months & not wearing her full gold coat today this little lady put in a good performance nonetheless. She has a feminine head, neat feet, short couplings, good stifle & level topline. Steady on the move.

Jenny Clarke