

The Golden Retriever of Western Australia (Inc)

Critique – Specialty Show Sept 11th 2010-09-14

Hello all. Thank you so much for the opportunity of judging your specialty on Saturday the 11th of September 2010. Such a significant date these days and how I appreciated the opportunity to do so.

As always there are people in the background who deserve recognition for their involvement and help with running any show. My sincere thanks go to my stewards Jan, Lyn and Sylvia for their effective running of the ring. Thanks too, must go to all those wonderful folk who saw their way clear to collect me and run me around – Jean, Natasha, Carla, John and Robyn and to those who kept me company on the Sunday prior to the Club get together – Liz, Rebecca and Carla, John, Robyn and David. To Jessica and Ron my sincere thanks for hosting the after show function in your home and to all those who came along to enjoy a drink and a chat. To the insightful person who bought me Lindt choccies and a classy bottle of red wine to consume at my leisure. I took the chocolates to Jessica's house to share as they would not sit well on my hips alone!

My Motel accommodation was very clean and comfortable and I thank the Club for spending this money as I know how hard it is to fund shows when you only have a small fund base and bank account. Thanks to Penny and Deb for helping me make the necessary arrangements to fly there and back.

My trip over was basically uneventful whilst my return journey involved both legs of the flight dealing with screaming, tantrum throwing toddlers and infants and blasé parents! I was glad to get home and away from all that stressful noise I must say. As I knew it would, my 4 days with you all in Perth went in a blink and I am now back at work and the daily tasks of running a house and family – both 2 and 4 legged.

Lastly but not by any means least, my thanks to all those fabulous exhibitors, owners, handlers who took my decisions with such grace and professionalism whether you agreed with them or not. Judging is not an exact science and I know all too well the disappointment on some days when one does not do as well as one might hope, or the elation one feels when your time and effort pays off and the judge likes your dogs on the day. In general I thought the quality and presentation of all the dogs shown under me was excellent. I saw no heads or expressions that I did not like. The most common problem I encountered was east/west fronts and close hind movement. It's nothing new – they are everywhere in the world of dogs, not just our breed. Found a few dogs with less than ideal dentition but did not penalise the dogs heavily.

I have attached my critiques which I wrote on the day. **They are an honest interpretation of how I saw the dogs I examined and are intended as an observation ONLY AND NOT a criticism.** If there are exhibitors/owners who would rather not have these critiques published then please respect that, the same as I will, and leave them off the Club Website...it is afterall, their prerogative. I have attached a few photos where I had them but I did not have pics of all the dogs so feel free to add your own with the owner's permission.

Wishing you all the very best in life; keep up the good work – you have beautiful dogs of which you should all be proud.

Heather

Kaparla Golden Retrievers

Baby Puppy Dog

1st: **Ralun Bvlgari** - 5mth old cream boy who will improve and settle in the ring with further show experience. Lovely free moving puppy who was a little loose in front and tending to turn his feet out. Good head with dark eye and expression, super pigment, thick hard correct coat. Shape on the stack when he stood still for a millisecond was excellent, showing off his nice angles both fore and aft.

Minor Puppy Dog

1st: **Arangolds Vino Fina (Imp NZ)** - 6.5 month old pale honey coloured youngster with a nice new coat on display. Sweet head and expression, with excellent dark eye and pigment. His angles and general construction are adequate but I would prefer a shorter length of loin. I felt he was loose on the move and tended to pin in when coming towards me.

Puppy Dog

1st: **Ralun Aussie Venture** - Almost 12 months old, this super quality, well boned puppy had stacks of substance in an adolescent body, but was a little too big for me. Gorgeous head and melting expression, kind dark eye, good bite, excellent thick, well textured coat, nice hard topline and good tailset, super tight cat feet. He certainly enjoyed himself and was very animated. A bit loose in front with too much lift of the forelegs and a tad close behind on the move; adequate upper arm and lay back of scapula but I would prefer a little more angle in the hindquarter. There's no doubt he will be a more balanced size when his frame fills out and is well matured around 4 – 5 years of age. Well presented.

Junior Dog

1st: **Dobro Master Blend** - 15 month old gold coloured boy. Attractive head with broad skull and correct amount of stop and length of muzzle; good pigment and dark eye. Clean neck blended easily into well laid shoulders and level topline, deep brisket and well spring ribs, nicely short coupled and in hard muscular condition, but I felt his super front was not balanced with his hindquarter. Strong straight front legs and neat feet. On the move, not the drive behind I would like to see as I feel he would benefit from a longer more angled second thigh and stifle. Changing his wardrobe, so not in best of coats today. Well handled and presented. Beaten by his litter sister for Junior in Show.

2nd: **Oceanviews Sheer Magic** - Attractive quality cream boy 13.5 months old handled and presented in excellent full bloom, by his talented and handsome handler. Soft expression and lovely head, with good eye and pigment. Presented a good outline in profile but I would prefer a better length of humerus and lay back of shoulder – lacking prosternum and forechest under the coat. Topline hard, adequate spring of rib and good depth of brisket, but he was unsure of himself on the day which affected his attitude in the ring; very proud of his tail.

3rd: **Fernavy Frankincense** - Another cream boy of nice type who was lacking confidence in the ring on the day. Longer cast than both the others in the class and very out of coat. Would like to see a shorter loin as it is what makes this boy longer in the back. I would prefer more length of neck and greater angles in his front assembly. Tended to turn his front feet out.

Intermediate Dog

1st: **Ambermist Optimum Velocity** - Super quality gold boy of excellent breed type and size, so beautifully presented by his glamorous handler. Attractive masculine head, good neck into shoulders flowing into a hard level topline and short couplings, complimented by well angled hindquarters with short strong hocks and tight, well arched feet. Carried his tail up a tad high when excited. Strong, well muscled with solid bone and substance. Would prefer to see tighter elbow placement. Very animated outgoing boy who gave his handler a hard time on the move – thought she may end up being tripped up a few time

2nd: **Oceanviews Southern Star** - Classy, scopey cream boy in excellent coat and condition. Good head and expression, with dark eye and good pigment. Slightly longer cast than the winner of this class. Thought this dog had super angles both fore and aft and he was balanced in outline, however he gave away a higher placing by flicking his hind show side back leg in an unusual manner on the move - this may be due to an injury but it affected his foot placement and rear drive. Handled very professionally.

3rd: **Aneiraby Captain Zircon** – Bigger cream boy with very nice head shape and soft melting expression. I was pleased with this boy's super depth of chest and brisket, well sprung ribs, short strong loin and hard topline, but I would prefer a stronger backend with greater stifle angulation. Carried his tail too high on the day.

State Bred Dog

1st: **Grand Ch Wantree Rebels Replica** - Gorgeous eye catching 6 year old gold dog who presented a stunning outline. Loved this scopey, balanced boy who was a little longer cast than the other dog in the class but still held his topline well on the move. Attractive, chiselled masculine head with nice kind eye and dark pigment. Superb angles in his front assembly and sweeping angles behind, complimented by short strong pasterns and hocks. Won this class easily with his long easy strides giving him totally ground covering movement. Gleaming gold coat. Professionally handled and presented. Pleased to award him the **Res DCC & State Bred in Show**.



2nd: **Ironbark Stop Press QND** - Pretty, attractive boy who I also noted has brains as well as beauty, sporting a QND Retrieving title after his name. Not as balanced as the winner of this class - I felt his hindquarter was strong and adequately angled but would like to see his front with a longer humerus and scapula setting his front legs underneath him more. A busier boy on the move with short stepping action and rear action a bit too close behind. Well presented in lovely coat.

Aust Bred Dog

1st: **Ch Conarhu Gonwith The Wind** - Solid mature 7.5 year old gentleman who was a bit too well fed! Masculine head with kind eye and good depth of muzzle. Stacks of depth throughout the chest and rib with lots of quality and substance. Super angulation in both his forequarters and his hindquarters. Genuine easy

moving dog showing good foot placement coming and going as well as in side gait; just losing his topline a bit. Great shaped cat feet and straight legs in front. Shown in excellent full bloom, gorgeous gold coat gleaming. Would prefer a little more length of leg if I was being picky.

Open Dog

1st: **Ch Swifttreve Drovers Run** - Almost 8 year old, scopey, gold dog of super shape and construction... so well balanced. Loved his masculine head with correct proportions and chiselling, dark eye, dark pigment and correct ear placement. Superb depth of chest and brisket and super balanced angles all over. Super length of neck which blended so nicely into well laid shoulders. Level topline which he carried on the move. Won this class on his effortless, lengthy stride. Shown and presented well, despite being a bit sluggish.

2nd: **Ch Swifttreve River Dance** - Another lovely style of dog, not dissimilar to the 1st place dog. Masculine attractive head. Super front and shorter couplings than the first dog but his lower tail set and higher tail carriage spoilt his outline on the move. Balanced outline, balanced angles. Liked him a lot and it was a difficult decision for 1st and 2nd place. A sound, honest dog. Handled and presented well in good coat and condition.

3rd: **Arangolds Watching On High (Imp NZ)** - A good looking cream boy of correct size in lovely full coat. Nice head. Placed 3rd because I would prefer a better front assembly and corresponding length of neck. Topline slightly sloping to the rear due to upright shoulders. Would prefer more angles behind which would make this boy stronger on the move. Hind action close at the hock and not as much drive as the other two boys in this class. Kind, gentle attitude, well presented.

Veteran Dog

1st: **Aust/NZ Ch Goldttreve Camrose Kraka** - This 8 year old quality cream boy cruised into the ring and had that 'look at me' appearance right from the word go. Although I asked all exhibitors so far to do twice round the ring he did not flinch and motored his way smoothly round without missing a beat, exhibiting perfect true foot placement and covering the ground with smooth effortless strides. Not a big dog – much more moderate than some today but so well put together – everything in all the right places. Moderate, balanced head with soft kind expression, correct ear size and placement, black pigment and good stop. Reachy neck sloping perfectly into clean well laid shoulders and super front. Legs set well under him, hard level topline, deep chest to the elbows and married well to short tight couplings and ideal length of back. Super angulation in the hindquarters and short strong hocks connected to small neat, cushioned cat feet. Carried his tail level and his stamina belied his years. Not in full coat today but could hardly fault that as coats come and go. Reminds me so much of his famous great grandfather. Presented and shown to perfection, and was so honoured to have the opportunity to award this gorgeous boy **Dog CC** and **Best in Show** as his 'swan song'.



2nd: **Aust Ch Dobro Diamond Edge (AI)** - Dark cream male, bigger all over than other boy in this class and more up on leg. A quality dog with a glamorous coat and sound balanced shape. Elegant but masculine head, dark expressive eye, muscular neck sweeping down into clean adequately angled shoulders and front. Well sprung ribs, and good depth of chest on this mature lad. On the move, there appeared a tendency to lift the front feet higher than I would prefer plus I would like to see stronger drive behind. Beaten on the day by NO1 on the move. Handled and presented well.

DCC – Aust/NZ Ch Goldtreve Camrose Kraka **Res DCC – Aust Grand Ch Wanntree Rebels Replica**

Baby Puppy Bitch

1st: **Mystiglen Flirtatious** - The baby of the class at 4.5 months, but so well balanced for one so young. A pretty cream puppy who carried her topline firmly on the move which is what gave her first placing today and **Baby Puppy in Show**. Liked her a lot – super soft head and expression. Very balanced conformation. Quietly and confidently handled her debut in the ring. A solid future ahead I would think. Well handled and presented.

2nd: **Jemmata Couture Couture** - Honey coloured baby of 5.5 months. Coating up nicely and growing as expected. Feminine head and soft expression; super long neck into clean well angulated shoulders. Good front, well angled hindquarters and attitude to burn. Lost out to the 1st place puppy on the day due to a growth spurt giving her a high bum end which spoilt her outline somewhat. Can look forward to a promising future. Well handled.

3rd: **Ralun Bellissimo (AI)** - A quality pale cream puppy bitch with the best of heads and expressions – sooo pretty with her dark expressive eye and head of beautiful proportions. Good overall shape for her age with excellent angles in front and behind but, like No 2 before her, she was high in the rear end which spoilt her outline, plus she was a bit scared and unsure of herself so was placed 3rd due to her temperament. As I was critiquing the class, I saw her stacked to perfection by her kind, sympathetic handler and thought she looked breathtaking! Another with a good future once she settles and gains confidence.

Minor Puppy Bitch

1st: **Dobro Darby** - A scopey, slightly longer cast blonde bitch with good length of leg and body proportions for her age. May smooth out in the topline as she grows but is presently a little low on tail set and rounded in croup. Super neck into shoulders, animated and happy on the move. Puppy and handler will learn together and become a professional team as they gain experience and confidence. Currently changing coat and not in her best clothes on the day. I note she is a daughter of my Res CC Bitch. **Minor Puppy in Show**.

2nd: **Ambermist Question of Honour** - A chunkier puppy with super bone and depth through the chest for one so young. Excellent spring of rib, minimal tuckup and adequate angulation. Dead level topline. Liked her head but would like to see more chiselling which may well come as she matures. Lost out to No1 due to a slight weakness behind – I would like to see more drive in the hind movement and although she seemed to be having fun she needs to settle on the move and in the ring, so the judges can see her properly.

3rd: **Jaaru Mahalia** - Pretty cream youngster with gorgeous head and expression. Excellent substance and bone. Beautiful tight feet. I would like a longer neck and corresponding better bone length and angle in the upper arm and scapula as these shorter bones caused her to slope from the wither to the croup, where her tail set was a little low set. This outline was not helped by the fact she was insecure and not happy in the ring, carrying her tail down.

Puppy Bitch

1st: **Ralun A Touch Of Silk (AI)** - Happy animated puppy almost 12 months old. Such a classy girl who caught my eye as soon as she entered the ring. Stunning youngster in full thick double coat, groomed and presented to perfection – perhaps a little less neck hair trimmed out at the front. So balanced and well proportioned with super angles at both ends, a well ribbed short coupled body in between, carried on strong straight legs. Loved her neck into shoulders – elegant and sloping, well turned stifle and strong muscular second thigh. Hocks short and well let down to small arched feet. Superb on the stack but topline not so strong on the move with a roly-poly action over the loin and a tail carriage acting as a rudder when she was moved a bit too fast. Considered her for the CC. Glad to see her win **Puppy in Show** against her litter brother even though I had no idea of the relationship of both dogs until I saw the catalogue. A huge future ahead for this cracking bitch.

Junior Bitch

1st: **Dobro Magic Happens (AI)** - A gold bitch of super shape and make. She had a stronger head than some of the others but had a kind soft expression and dark eye with excellent black pigment. Skull and muzzle proportions correct and balanced, nice clean neck into level topline and a tail carried straight off the backline – maintained well on the move. Loved her substance and beautiful angles. Strong hindquarters standing her four square on sound feet and straight front legs. A very promising bitch. So rewarding to see in the catalogue that I found family members and awarded her **Junior in Show** over her litter brother without knowing the connection on the day.

2nd: **Aneiraby Diamantina Starr** - Pale honey bitch with nice overall moderate shape. Pretty head, good scopey neck into shoulders and strong level topline. Lovely free moving girl who was happy in the ring. Would prefer more spring of rib and straighter front legs as she tended to turn out her right foot on the stack. Attractive youngster handled with expertise.

3rd: **Oceanviews Bizzie Lizzie** - Feminine blonde girl shown and presented in glorious thick coat. Attractive head with dark brown eye and good nose pigment. Balanced compact short coupled shape with excellent spring of rib and well let down brisket. Unsure and a bit nervous on the stack and whilst being examined but gained confidence once she was moving. Super straight front legs and small tight feet. Outmoved today by both No 1 and No2 who were simply more confident. A promising young bitch. Superbly handled by the young empathetic and talented lad with such a lovely, kind soft manner and good rapport with the dogs.

Intermediate Bitch

1st: **Montego Rambling Rose (IID)** - Attractive pale honey bitch. Shorter backed than No 2 and although I found her to be balanced both front and rear I would prefer more angle in front, a slightly longer neck and certainly a bit more stifle angle behind. She is lighter framed than some but carried this off on the day with her quality and super correct hard double coat.

2nd: **Ch Aneiraby Citrine Charm** - Another attractive girl with rich honey colouring. Scopier than No 1 but topline and tailset not as sound – would prefer more spring of rib, less drop off at the croup and less curve to the tail. Nice style of golden who pushed hard to win the class.

State Bred Bitch

1st: **Ch Ralun Xtravaganza** - Just loved this glamorous blonde bitch as she is very much my 'cup of tea' and after reading that her Grandmother was the Scottish import Ch Dalius Band Of Gold, I can see the strong resemblance. Such a feminine head with good chiselling and shape, dark eye and good ear placement. Clean scopey neck into a longer back than others but she held her topline on the move and covered the ground with long even steps. Loved her super angles behind and excellent deep chest with good prosternum in front. Her coat was in full bloom and she was presented and shown to perfection. I would prefer better pigmentation and smaller, tighter feet.

2nd: **Ch Sevansky Pandora** - Also loved this quality golden girl who was a tad naughty and difficult to handle. Gorgeous looking girl with hard level topline and short couplings leading to well angled quarters both front and back. Pigment of eyes, lips and nose dark and correct giving her a great head and expression. Needs to settle on the move and stop crouching which lost her this class on the day. Not sure I like the 'halti type' affect given to her show lead, but I fully understand and appreciate the need for the handler to do what they think is best for the dog on the day. Well presented, handled and shown with expertise and understanding from a very talented handler.

3rd: **Swifttreve Keeper Oth Tartan** - I have written in my notes "another really lovely bitch"liked her a lot. Super feminine head and gentle, pretty expression. Could do with better forequarter angulation and truer foot placement and drive behind. Not in the best of coat today. A happy girl in the ring. Well handled.

Aust Bred Bitch

1st: **Ch Dobro Dellaluna** - A classy cream girl with stacks of depth and oozing quality. A bitch of super substance shown in full coat and excellent condition. A superb front assembly with great length of upper arm and shoulder blade, very deep through the heart to the elbows and strong prosternum up forward. Feminine head which is not overdone, although broader in the back skull. Clean scopey neck blending perfectly into well laid shoulders and level topline. Strong well angled hindquarter and well muscled second thigh leading down to short hocks. In an ideal world I would prefer a little more length of leg to balance her perfectly. Strong contender for the CC but I would like a better hindfoot placement when moving away. Awarded a well earned **Res CC** and **Aust Bred in Show**. Well handled and presented.



2nd: **Ralun Won N Only** - Another super scopey, quality bitch of delicious rich gold, glistening colouring; more up on leg (which I liked) than No1 but not the front construction nor the coat finish on the day. Clean impressive outline showing superb hindquarter and stifle angle. Considered her a gorgeous bitch with melting head, and expression, dark eye and pigment, clean lengthy neck and strong topline. I would like more width between the front legs and longer upper arm and lay back of shoulder. Lost out to No 1 on maturity and finish but an eye catching bitch nonetheless. I felt her handler had a wonderful rapport with all the dogs she showed and this dog was no different – handled and presented beautifully.

Open Bitch

1st: **Ch Dobro Diamantina** - Super quality 6 year old bitch with great body proportions and conformation. Everything in all the right places. Very long neck into shoulders running smoothly into a strong level backline. Pretty, feminine head with correct chiselling and broadness for a bitch. Super front without being overdone and equally balanced hind angulation. Shown in full double coat and trimmed and presented to perfection. My only comment would be that I would personally prefer a slightly more gentle sloping of the neck into withers. A hard decision to separate the top 3 bitches shortlisted for the CC but this lovely girl won on her strong level topline, sound movement and gorgeous breed type. A worthy winner of **Bitch CC & Runner Up Best in Show**.



2nd: **Nugold In Lovin Memory** - 8.5 year young 'grand old dame' in super shape and condition except for having left her winter wardrobe at home for the occasion. Nonetheless a strong well angled front and excellent stifle and second thigh behind with strong short hocks and neat feet. Super depth of chest and heart room in a strong well made body. Pleasant head and kind expression.

3rd: **Ralun Vogey Lady** - Scopey blonde girl with just a bit too much length of body for me. Due to this she lost her topline on the move and was naughty for her handler, being stubborn and sluggish. On the stack she came together into a very nice outline but I would still prefer a shorter loin and better strength across the back. Nice type, lovely head, dark pigment and soft eye. Handled sympathetically and with calmness.

Veteran Bitch

1st: **Ronjalee Reet Petit of Fernavy (Imp UK)** - 8 year old large boned bitch with stacks of substance setting off her super shape and construction. Shown in superb condition and full 'out of control' coat. Strong but pleasant head with such a pretty eye and expression. Loved her excellent front construction and well angled hindquarters with great strength in the stifle and well muscled second thigh. Short hocks, good feet but would like a truer hind foot placement from behind when moving. This quality girl was a bit sluggish and disinterested in being in the ring and I feel she would look tidier with her thick coat sitting flat as I am such a stickler for presentation. Loved her.

2nd: **Ch Ambermist Grace In Motion** - Beautiful gold bitch of outstanding quality. Shorter backed and more compact than No 1 and was unlucky that I simply preferred the style and type of the class winner. Strong clean neck into well laid shoulders; good front with correct amount of upper arm and shoulder blade; ideal depth of brisket and very well sprung ribs and minimal tuckup at loin. Hindquarters adequately angled and strong, blending well with short hocks and tight feet. Not overdone in any way. Lost her topline and dropped her croup on the move a little. Showed with pizzazz and was at one on the move, with her glamorous smartly attired handler. Excellent clean shape overall and shown in tiptop condition belying her 8.5 years of age. Beautifully presented and handled.

BCC and Runner Up Best in Show – Aust Ch Dobro Diamantina

Res BCC and Aust Bred in Show – Aust Ch Dobro Dellaluna