

Show Report:

It was very nice to be invited to come back to Poland to Judge Golden Retrievers, it had been nearly 5 years since my last appointment and I looked forward to the show,. I was also curious to see how things might have changed and developed, with the breed in Poland. I arrived with my Co-Judge Susan Goodwin, and we were well looked after.

I was pleased to have 69 bitches entered, and I was not disappointed as there was only a couple of missing bitches, which is often a rarity when you consider how difficult it is to predict seasons and coats.

We arrived at the show armed with wet and cold weather gear but we did not need to worry as we escaped without any rain and it was a good temperature to show the dogs in. The rings were grassed and fairly level with plenty of room for even the larger classes. I was well looked after during the day by my ring steward and scribe (who I worked hard). I thank them both for volunteering to help.

Over all I found the quality good, and was pleased to see that there was not a tendency to go for short legs and long, large bodies and keel fronts, as you can see in many European countries now days. I would say that overall there was little exaggeration, and I can only congratulate the breeders to be so true to the breed and look after a good typical Golden. There are many points that are only hinted upon in the standard so it is important to study and understand a breed. There are many factors have affected the development of Golden Retrievers, the first example that come to mind is when the standard was changed in the UK, some important points were removed such as the weight, this has allowed a trend towards heavy unworkman like dogs. I also think exhibitors have changed too, few seem to value the full double coat as it takes a lot of time to prepare and I was pleased to see many dogs with good texture and depth to their coat, and coming to the ring well presented. I personally love to see a really thick wavy coat gleaming through good grooming and condition. Hanging was also good and dogs I handled seemed overall to be well muscled and in good condition.

I was priviledged to be asked to judge BIS. I loved the Best Veteran, the dog, Stoanedale Look No Further, he reminded me of some of my early champions and the type that came through from Nortonwood Faunus. A hundred percent masculine but not over done and with refinement and quality and a truly fantastic double coat, he was in super condition for his 10 years. The Best dog Carolake Make Believe is such a super type, no exaggerations and beautiful balanced. My Best Bitch and BIS Catequill Never Ending Story, is just a super bitch, she looks fantastic in the photos from the show, well proportioned, excellent balance, lovely feminine outline, what the photos do not tell you is the wonderful happy personality, energy and ring presence she has. To me she filled the standard, not just in the points of her conformation but also in the requirements of characteristics and temperament. She was Biddable, intelligent, Kindly, friendly and confident, and had the energy to work. These traits to me are as important as any of the others in the standard, having had a similar bitch I would guess she is a joy to live with too.

All the winners were showered with fantastic rosettes and prizes, I had an interesting and enjoyable day and I hope that all the exhibitors and dogs did too.

Thank you

Penny Gowland