

Catherine Collins:

It was my pleasure to be invited to judge this Speciality Golden Retriever Show. I had a really enjoyable time and was delighted with the overall quality entry of Golden Retrievers. I loved my class winners and especially the Best Bitch.

There are a few comments I would like to mention which I hope will help the exhibitors. I found a couple of level bites. It is important to remember the Breed Standard which calls for a Scissor Bite.

Some dogs were over trimmed around the neck & shoulder especially in the dogs with more colour which left a large pale patch on the layback of shoulder. There is no need to trim the Golden so severely in this area.

Handling could be improved generally. Some really lovely bitches I could not either judge or place because the handlers were unable to show their dog to advantage.

One other thing I would like to mention and it is one of my pet hates lol!!! and that is continually feeding the dog while trying to judge the exhibit. Almost impossible to see the mouth and the bite with all this food sticking to the teeth and the dog too busy looking for the food !! It was also upsetting for other exhibits coming into the ring as the day progressed as all this food was starting to lay on the ground. Camilla had to go around and collect the pieces of food in a tissue!

So these are a few little points that I came across during the day but I have to say overall the exhibitors did their best to show their dogs to the best of their ability and the quality generally was excellent.

I would like to extend my appreciation to my Writer on the day she was brilliant and also to Camilla who was a great help and was indispensable when it came to the translation of my critiques. She was a lovely person and I was delighted to have her as a student judge. I am sure she will be a great judge in the future and a real benefit to the Breed.

Thank you once again Wojtek for inviting me to judge and organising all the hospitality over the weekend.

I wish everyone involved in the organisation of this Speciality Golden Retriever Championship Show all the very best for the future.

Paula Edwards:

Pleased to judge at this well organised event.

My ring steward and secretary were excellent.

Disappointed overall with quality - overall balance was not good, few were too short in leg for length of body.

Found profile movement good, but very few were positive in front and hind movement in most was poor, there were a lot of low tail sets.

On a positive note, heads and top lines were good, as was bone and feet.

Main winners were of excellent quality.

A high percentage of dogs/exhibitors need more training to present the dogs correctly. Dogs were difficult to assess when sitting down and not being able to move in a straight line and pulling away from handler. The constant feeding of titbits does not help.

Learn to stand and move dog correctly and when they do, then reward with a treat for good behaviour.

Once again Wojtek, thank you for your hospitality and good luck for future shows.

Paula Edwards