

## **Labrador Cub 65<sup>th</sup> Championship Show Critique**

**Judge: Stephen Meredith (Mervale Kennels, NZ).**

I would like to thank the committee for inviting me to judge this show. I realise that this appointment was a result of the world being in Crisis with Covid-19, but I was truly humbled to be the first New Zealand Judge to be offered this opportunity.

I was delighted with the entry. I was honoured and felt proud that so many of my Labrador friends entered their dogs and were interested in my opinion. It was a fabulous experience that really did touch my heart. Being able to share this experience with my wife Gay, who stewarded for me, made it even more special and we'll never forget this day.

Thank you all for being great sports and accepting my decisions with grace.

In general, I was very pleased with the quality of dogs, there was good breed type throughout all classes. Broad heads, broad through the shoulder and rump, good coats with classic tail shapes. Who could ask for more?

I was most impressed with mouths - of all the dogs shown I only saw one incorrect bite. Movement was generally good with most exhibits showing good drive and purpose.

If I had one small concern, it was ear size. There were a number of dogs and bitches with larger than preferred ears. This can make the dogs appear "Hound like".

I would like to finish by saying what a pleasure it was going over the dogs, every single entry gave me pleasure and I found myself missing my own Labradors from years gone by.

None of us have the perfect dogs and I hope you accept my comments in the way they are meant.

I loved every single entry and I aim to be constructive

Stephen

### **Baby Puppy Dog (2 Entries)**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Chasers Rugginosa**

4 month old yellow. This puppy had a very strong pleasing head, beautiful dark eye. Strong bone and carried his top line well, he moved true. His front and rear angles were correct and he had lovely round feet. His top coat was a little too wavy for my liking but it was harsh to the touch and he had undercoat and a beautiful otter tail.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Lacote Fools Play at Croftsway (Imp Aust).**

5 month old yellow. Another quality puppy. The head not as defined or as strong as the winner but I'm sure this will broaden with age. He moved with strong rear action, he was of an age where he was a little higher in the rump than at the wither, which upset his top line. He had a correct coat and tail but carried his tail a tad high, which is not my preference.

### **Minor Puppy Dog (2 entries).**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Charing Lockdown**

6 month old black. He had good width across the skull but was a little lacking in stop and muzzle shape. He had a lovely dark eye colour, small ears and a correct bite. I would have liked better angles front and rear but his movement was straight and true, his coat was harsh and he had good undercoat, with a correct otter tail and lovely round feet.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Southerly Flash Flood.**

Preferred the head shape of this puppy to number one - lovely melting dark eye, good plains and correct bite. I was unable to assess this puppy's movement properly as he was being a typical naughty puppy making him difficult to handle. He lost the top spot through lack of coat and I preferred the tail shape on number one

### **Novice Dog (1 Entry).**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Eventide the Hustler.**

18 month old black. Strong headed dog with correct length of muzzle and broad across the skull, lovely dark eye, another that had a heavy wavy top coat but a correct undercoat. I would have liked a little more length in the upper arm, but he had correct rear angulation. He moved correctly and carried his tail at a pleasing height. (Novice in Show)

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### **Junior Dog (4 Entries, 1 scratched).**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Mistybrook Strike a home Run.**

16 month old black. Beautiful headed dog that had correct movement, good coat and tail shape. For me, he carried his tail too high. Whilst this is not a fault, personally I find it not to my preference. He was short coupled and was of a correct Labrador type. There was nothing overdone or extreme with this boy

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Outandabout Roy's Peak.**

17 month old yellow. Typical head, broad and square, pleasing eye colour, but this picture was slightly spoiled with his summer nose and his ears were larger than I would like. He was a nicely balanced dog. However, on the day, I felt that he was out of coat and this made him appear a little lean. He moved correctly.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Willowspring Shadow Hunter**

23 month old yellow. Another typical balanced dog with all the good Labrador qualities. Goodbroad head, coat and tail. His top coat was too wavy for me. Today, his position in the class was determined by too much condition. I like to say he was too well loved.

### **Intermediate Dog (1 Entry).**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Croftsway Viva Las Vegas**

24 month old black dog. This dog showed good Labrador quality by having the correct width throughout, he had a very strong head, he had a good coat and tail. However, his head was too strong for my preference. He had correct ratios between length of muzzle to skull but his muzzle was too deep caused by excessive flews and again for me his ears were on the larger side.

What I liked about him was his strong bone, good angles, super coat and otter tail. His lovely temperament, made him a fabulous show off. (Intermediate in Show).

**Limit Dog** (1 Entry).

**1<sup>st</sup> Mistybrook Mate I've Got this.**

16 month old yellow. Very pleasing head and expression, good angles front and rear, slightly longer cast than I would like, with the length coming from the loin. On the day, he was not in his best clothes, and his tail suffered because of this, making it look sickle.

**NZ Bred Dog** (4 Entries).

**1<sup>st</sup> Jancerie Hot Chocolate.**

3 year old Chocolate dog. Good quality dog with correct bone and balance. Pleasing head shape with an acceptable eye colour . Short coupled with correct angles. He had super width through the stifle. Good top line and carried his tail well on the move. He had beautiful round feet and great coat texture and colour. Better handling may have elevated his position. (Reserve dog).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ashdale Chasing Moonbeams.**

30 month old black, Strong headed dog with good eye colour but ears were a little too large for me. Longer cast than the 1<sup>st</sup> place getter. Shown with too much condition. Heavy coated with a wave in the top coat. A fantastic otter tail.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Southerly Denniston Coal to Blackhills.**

3 year old black. Pleasing head but would prefer a darker eye. He was longer in length than the 1<sup>st</sup> place getter. Coat was too wavy for my preference but he did exhibit a typical otter tail. He had good bone and correct movement.

**Open Dog** (3 Entries).

**1<sup>st</sup> Spl Grand Ch Croftsway Tommee.**

5 year old Black. An eye Catching dog, super head with great muzzle shape ,broad skull and correct bite, would have preferred a darker eye, beautiful small ears. This dog had great balance , good angles and fantastic top line, super otter tail that ran straight off the back. His coat was harsh to the touch and had a lovely soft undercoat. Good strong bone and perfectly round feet. An outstanding quality dog. (Reserve in Show& Open in Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Ch Bradorla Counter Balance (Imp Aust).**

6 year old black. Another quality black. Good head with a dark eye and correct shaped ears which were placed well on the head. He was longer cast than the first dog but had balance. He had good angles and correct coat and tail. He lost to the first dog because he lost his top line on the move and was a little closer behind. I would have preferred smaller feet.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Blackhills Michelangelo.**

6 year old black. The third dog in the class with a good head and expression, shorter coupled than #2. Correct coat and tail shape, but too much feathering under the tail for me. Which detracted from the overall picture and again too much condition.

**Baby Puppy Bitch.** (2 Entries)

**1<sup>st</sup> Croftsway Game set and Match at Eventide.**

15 week old yellow. An adorable baby with a cheeky attitude, typical head and expression. Lovely dark eye, I hope she grows into her ears. Balanced outline and performed well for one so young. (Baby puppy in Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wynstream Chilling out At Croftsway (imp Aust).**

This puppy wasn't completely happy with showing today, she played her handler up and did not move because of it. She had a pretty, feminine head and a lovely puppy coat, she was going through a growth spurt as she was high in the rear.

**Minor Puppy Bitch** (2 Entries).

**1<sup>st</sup> Croftsway Lisa Marie**

7 month old black. What a little cracker, Beautiful outline on the stack, pleasing enough head which will develop with age, would have liked smaller ears, but saying that she is young and may grow into them. She had a super coat and tail. Used her tail to her advantage by carrying it straight out on the move. (Minor Puppy in Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Southerly Forecasting Rain.**

6 month old black. Another lovely young lady, a little underdone in condition which made her look lean. She had good angles and moved well, she lacked coat especially her top coat which exaggerated her lean condition.

**Puppy Bitch.** (1 Entry).

**1<sup>st</sup> Croftsway Showtime.**

10 month old black. Another quality youngster. Typical head with a melting expression, the head will need to broaden. She had a good outline, correct angles and good coat and tail. She carried her tail high which is not my liking. She moved with purpose. (Puppy in Show).

**Junior Bitch** (4 Entries).

**1<sup>st</sup> Mistybrook Midsummer Magic.**

18 month old yellow. Pleasing head with a lovely dark eye and small correctly placed ears. She was short coupled and had good angles. A balanced outline. Unfortunately on the day, she was starting to shed her coat. She moved with purpose and presented a pleasing picture. (Reserve Bitch Junior in Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Blackhills Sweetest of All.**

18 month old yellow. Longer cast than the first place getter, she was broad throughout and had correct movement. Another exhibit who was carrying too much condition, she was too well loved.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Southerly Ever and Ever.**

16 month old yellow. She had a pleasing head and expression, she was heavily coated causing her to lose her outline. She didn't move as well as first two.

**Limit Bitch** (8 entries, 2 scratched).

**1<sup>st</sup> Mistybrook Glory Days.**

16 month old yellow. Another wellBalanced bitch with a classic head shape, dark eye, small ears. She was deep in the muzzle and had good pigmentation. She was short coupled with correct coat and tail. A lot to like.(Limit In Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup>Croftsway Could Be Bluffing.**

Super head on this three year old yellow. Longer cast than winner and she lost her top line on the move, very happy to be out and loved everything around her. She had beautiful round feet and good bone. Moved true.

**3<sup>rd</sup>Blackhills Run to the Hills.**

15 month old black. Another beautifully balanced girl witha super coat and tail. Gorgeous round feet, and strong bone. She was let down by her head which lacked depth in the muzzle and needed a bit more stop.

**NZ Bred Bitch.** (3 Entries).

**1<sup>st</sup>Spl Grand Ch Eventide Southern Cross.**

3 year old yellow of outstanding quality. Balanced, clean moving and she caught my eye as soon as she entered the ring. Coat and tail acceptable as she was another going through change of coat, she still carried her beautiful otter tail correctly and never stopped using it, whether on the move or on the stack. She had good bone and lovely round feet. Her head had correct proportions, good bite, dark eye, small ears and deep muzzle. She was a beautiful picture. (Best in Show& NZ Bred in Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup>Ashdale Luna Eclipse.**

30 month old black. Pleasing head, balanced with good angles, she was a little longer cast than the winner, she had a correct coat and tail. Today though, she was carrying a bit too much weight which sadly hindered the quality of this lovely girl.

**3<sup>rd</sup>Outandabout Charlottes Web.**

3 year old black, Typical head with a melting expression. Ears slightly too big which detracted when she used them and brought forward. She had a good coat and tail. She moved a little too close front and rear, but watching her from the side, she covered the ground well.

**Veteran Bitch** (3 Entries 1 scratched).

**1<sup>st</sup> Southerly Ursula CGC**

A balanced10 year old black. Pleasing head, but her eye colour was not her fortune. Her coat and tail was the most typical Labrador coat and tail in the show, it had correct texture and length with good undercoat, no wave or curl to be seen. She carried her tail perfectly on the move, which was true and straight. (Veteran in Show).

**2<sup>nd</sup>Jancerie Starflower CGC F.**

7 year old yellow. She was loving her day at the show and obviously was well loved by her handler. She had a great temperament and moved with purpose. She never stopped wagging her tail.

**Open Bitch** (5 Entries, 2 Scratched).

**1<sup>st</sup> Charing Drama Queen**

5 year old yellow. Beautiful type exuding Labrador qualities. Broad, double coat, otter tail. She was balanced and I loved her head and expression. She let herself down on the move as she lost her top line.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Chasers Pippin Peach.**

6 year old yellow. Another quality bitch, she was happy and energetic, longer cast than the winner, She had great drive from rear. Good coat and tail and lovely round feet.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Croftsway Vegas Show Girl.**

2 year old black. A lovely balanced bitch, she had good coat and tail unfortunately she carried her tail too high for me. She moved well and covered the ground with ease. She had a pleasant head, I would have liked slightly smaller ears and a little less flew.