

Crufts Dog Show

Judge: Mrs B J Hargreaves

My thanks to the Crufts Committee for giving me the opportunity to judge my original breed at the Kennel Club's premier show.

The first GSP arrived at our kennel some 43 years ago, time flies!! Although not as active in the breed we still take a very keen interest in all aspects GSP.

The intervening years have seen many changes, the most recent being, to me, the most challenging of all.

As many qualified dogs were denied the opportunity to enter, the entry was not, in my opinion, a true representation of the breed as I know it.

Having said that, I am delighted to say I really enjoyed my day with you and your splendid dogs and found sufficient worthy specimens to make my final choices from.

On the plus side a great improvement in coat texture was noted, dentition was acceptable just one or two dogs with small teeth, pleased to see that nearly all had the required eye shape with very few round eyes, still the occasional too broad a head which was prevalent in the early days. Size seems to be more even with no strikingly oversized dogs present.

My main concern was movement. I saw very untidy front and rear movement, legs going in all directions at times.

I am sure this could be improved by the handlers taking their time when moving their dogs, there really is no need to run at '60 miles' an hour a judge can see what he needs to at a more sedate speed..

It was evident, on handling, that a lot of exhibits lacked muscle tone, with few in hard condition. This lack of muscle was most noticeable in the hind quarters which are required to be 'strong and well muscled' to produce the 'forceful propulsion' in other words - drive.

I enjoyed both the veteran classes they were a credit to their owners. the puppy classes held some promising exhibits as did the yearling classes. Of the limit classes the bitches were the stronger. The reserve dog CC winner came from the Field Trial class and was in good hard condition.

The best class of the day was open bitch, lots of top quality here, and many good ones went card-less. It really was a case of splitting hairs. The winner, and eventual CC and BOB stood out for me.

Open dog contained top quality dogs but the winner stood out and the CC was his, all dog, strong but not coarse, moving with power.

I thank all exhibitors for their entries and the sportsmanship they showed throughout the judging

To the two stewards, my grateful thanks

Veteran Dog (8). **1 Sloane's Kazanpaul Sticky Toffee Pud of Whistlecraft.** A good young veteran. A good example of the breed nothing exaggerated, and moved well. **2 Duncan's Sh. Ch. Magregor Pukka JW ShCM.** Another of good type, just preferred the front movement and head of 1. **3 Cook and Lamb's Adhemar Break of Day ShCM.** Not showing his 10 years lovely chap, good type.

Special Puppy Dog (3). **1 Knowles, Glen & Malcolms' Wilholme I Gotta Feelin for Bessalone.** Well balanced 8 month old, quite mature in body. Will need time to put it all together, Liked his sound movement. *BP.* **2 Mould & Bird's Koolwaters Cream Cracker.** Good size elegant youngster, his front movement let him down today. **3 Rose & Hunt's Kavacanne Gale Force Wind.** Good type, long in body at the moment another one that needs time to get it together.

Special Junior Dog (2). **1 Nicholls' Vinitas Vampire Venom.** Liked this youngster for his type, right size head and expression, and he moved well, should finish well when mature. **2 Rose and Hunts Kavacanne Gale Force Wind.**

Yearling Dog (5,2). **1 Nicholls' Vinitas Vampire Venom.** **2 Gain & Dixon's Kavacanne Gift Wrapped.** Needs more ring training a pity as he is a good type, head and expression appealed, difficult to assess. **3 Gibbs & Rees' Kavacanne Pappleazzi.** Litter brother to 2. Rather heavy in jowls and lost his top-line on the move. Needs time.

Post Graduate Dog (8,2). **1 Duncan's Kavacanne Hun Toint Retreve JW.** Good type, appealing head and expression held his top-line well on the move, long on the leg at the moment. **2 Coackleys Chamorloe Bach's Symphony.** Decent type, looked well stood, moved OK. **3 Hughes' Sonnenberg Sealion.** Good type, little heavy in shoulders and front movement untidy.

Limit Dog (10). A class of mixed quality. **1 Barnett's Puddledub Poit Dhubh.** Best mover in the class, decent type good head and expression. **2 Coackley's Charmorloe Bach's Symphony.** **3 Rutherford & Foxes' Cushatlaw Fog on the Tyne.** Exhibit not present for critique

Open Dog (10) **1 Adams & Elrington's Sh Ch Barleyarch Alvar JW.** Mature specimen. Excellent type he fits the standard. Medium size, short back, standing over plenty of ground. He has elegance but still retains his masculine outlook..A good GSP head, with excellent 'look at me' expression. He didn't disappoint on the move, which was straight and true and he had the driving rear action which I was looking for but rarely found. A good dog from any angle. He made my job easy when selecting the dog *DCC*, which he won with some to spare. **2 Ottaway's Plumhollow Top Hat.** Again excellent type, good head and eye giving the required alert expression, his movement was good, driving well from the rear. He was in excellent condition. **3 Waddell's Sh Ch Magregor Chocoloossus.** Not a good day for this dog. A great pity as he is a very good specimen, typy in all aspects, super head and expression, not a happy dog on the day.

Field Trial Dog (3). **1 Dymon's Friarbelle Marsh Mellow.** Again another free striding specimen lovely balance throughout, not exaggerated in any way. He has a typical GSP head and expression, with an alert and energetic outlook. In hard condition, which was sadly lacking in a lot of exhibits today. In the challenge for the Res CC the deciding factor was the super true driving action of this youngster gave me great pleasure to award him the *RDCC*. **2 Fisher's Int Sh Ch & Neth Ch Will I am of Ankerwood JW.** A good type of GSP. Lovely head and expression, moved well but not the enthusiasm nor drive of 1.

Special working Gundog Dog (0) No Entries

Good Citizens Dog Scheme Dog (5). **1 Ottaways Plumhollow Top Hat.** **2 Collins Twice as nice of Forestpoint.** A little broad in the head but still enough good breed points to warrant his position here. **3 Soanes' Kavacanne Sticky Toffee Pud of Whistlecraft.**

Veteran Bitch (10,2). **1 Hinchliff's Ch Stairfoot Sandgoose JW.** Won this class with ease. Lovely bitch from any angle. Elegance with substance, she is an excellent type everything is where it should be, and her movement was correct and her feet as per standard not many were today. I seriously considered her for the Res CC but she flagged a little in the challenge. **2 Beverley's Vinita Chinook.** Another good specimen in excellent condition. **3 Priors Booton Marietta of Whinchat.** Lovely sound and typy lady enjoying her day out.

Special Puppy Bitch (7,1). Some very promising youngsters for the future. **1 Duncan's Kavacanne Gale Storm.** Presented a lovely balanced outline, good breed type and she moved well. In the best puppy challenge she was unsettled so Best Puppy went to the dog. Sure she has a good future. **2 Knowles, Glen & Malcolm's Wilholme Sharp and Smart at Bessalone.** Another one with a bright future, everything is there just needs time to come together. Lovely for type, well balanced, something spooked her but still deserved her place. **3 Sielski's Orchidstar Zid Zaid Zana.** A little long in body at the moment and so not as balanced as 1 and 2 but of good type and moved well off good feet.

Special Junior Bitch (1). **1 Stockley's Beljam Dream Design.** Good typy youngster, head, eye and expression, carrying a little too much body weight which didn't do her any favours when on the move.

Yearling Bitch (7). Some very promising exhibits in this class. **1 Waddell's Magregor Fluffernutter.** Notes say 'will make a cracker'. Sound and true on the move. Elegance and substance combined with the required breed points and all in one package, will make for an exciting time for her owner. Wish her well. **2 Garvey's Kavacanne Toint the way to Richtig.** A very good type, bitch not as good rear angulation as 1, but enough good breed point to gain her place. **3 Kingsley & Protheros' Kavacanne Kiss my Apple.** Another quality youngster who deserved her place in this very good class.

Post Graduate Bitch (7,1). Good feet on all these three winners. **1 Hughes' Sonnenberg Sea Holly.** Good bitch all round not exaggerated in any way eye and expression all GSP, her good rear angulations gave her the drive to move well. **2 Beverley & Beverley's Vinitas Lil Miss Jenni Jai.** Close between 1 & 2 both good bitches both have good breed points just preferred rear angulation of 1. **3 Attwood & Turner's Patterscourt Twill.** Decent head, and shape, moved OK

Limit Bitch (5). **1 Glen & Shield's Wilholme Saucy Brown JW.** Full of breed type, Excellent head with good eye colour, good front angulation leading to good hind quarters, which she used well on the move. She is very much a 'what you see is what you get' bitch, and today she got it together and I was pleased to award her the *Res BCC* Well done. **2 Mould & Bird's Koolwaters Calamity Jane JW.** Unlucky to meet winner she is a good bitch, lots to like, just preferred winners top line. **3 Beverley's Vinitas Little Miss Posh.** Again another bitch of good type, who moved well.

Open Bitch (16,2). Class full of quality bitches with many going cardless, I was splitting hairs in many cases. **1 Waddells Sh Ch Magregor Schokolade JW.** When this bitch came into the ring she took me back many years to the days of the famous Inchmarlo Kennels and others who contributed to the GSP as we know it today. I was privileged to see and handle some of these archetypal dogs and they are imprinted in my mind. This image is harder to find nowadays, but today I was delighted to find a specimen so close to that image it gave me goosebumps. She epitomises the standard, elegance with substance so well balanced. Excellent typical feminine head with good eye and expression, leading to a good length of neck which in turn runs into superb shoulders, body deep with well sprung ribs, and hind quarters well muscled with good bend of stifle, finishing in compact well padded feet. Handler got the pace just right, really showing her flowing, ground covering movement to take the *BCC* and I had no hesitation in awarding her *BOB*. They did the breed proud in the big ring. Well done. **2 Rose, Morris & Evan's Sh Ch Kavacanne Toff act to Follow JW.** Another out of the top drawer, good all round not overdone, not as positive in movement as winner. **3 Rumney's Keigame Sweet Melody.** Another quality bitch from a clever breeder, excellent breed characteristics. Deserved her place in hot competition.

Field Trial Bitch (4,1). **1 Simon's Swfthouse Cagney.** Good honest GSP 8 years old and in excellent condition as befits a working girl, and her movement was very free with plenty of drive from her well muscled hind quarters. **2 Stewart's Ch Winterwell Pillowtalk at Lavagrad ShCM.** Yet another good all round example of the breed 10 years old and still able to show some of the youngsters how to move. **3 Davidson's Sirilta Solitaire.** Rather a soft coat on this otherwise typy bitch, lovely outline, good head, eyes slightly round which detracted from an otherwise good expression.

Special Working Bitch (1). **1 Davison's Sirilta Solitaire.**

Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bitch (5). **1 Browns Montalba Millie Chillum ShCM.** Good type lovely outline standing and didn't disappoint on the move which she did with sound and true action and plenty of drive. **2 Duncan's Kavacanne Gale Storm.** **3 Beverley's Vinitas Lil Miss Jenni Jai.**