Critique – Ladies Kennel Association Judge: Mrs K M Marsh

I was very pleased with the size of my entry of undocked GSPs and thank all the exhibitors for making the trip in these uncertain times. I would also like to thank the LKA committee for my invitation to judge and for their hospitality. Thanks also to my two stewards who kept proceedings moving along well.

A couple of general remarks regarding the entry, there were several exhibits attending their first show and not just in the puppy classes, the dogs all dealt with the situation smoothly but some of the handlers were showing their nerves, I tried to calm and assist them where possible, but a show should be enjoyable for both handler and dog so "keep calm and carry on!" I myself own an undocked GSP and know that excitement or stress can cause a higher carriage of the tail, but our breed standard asks for the carriage of the tail to be level with or below the back, I personally feel a very proud tail detracts from the overall outline of the dog.

Minor Puppy Dog (2). I look forward to watching both of these minor puppy's progress. 1 Scourfield's Relstraum Tott Wolfsburg. 7 months and what a difference a month can make. This lad had plenty of substance and bone. A handsome head and well-shaped eye. Nice length to his neck into well laid shoulders and a short strong back with his hind angulation matching the fore giving a balanced picture overall. Steady movement covering the ground well. BPD & BPIB. 2 Kendall & Kendall's Droversrests Titan. Finer in build and longer in loin than 1 but held a strong topline, he had a good forehand assembly and turn to his stifle. Excellent tight coat and he also moved steadily and true for his age.

Puppy Dog (3). 1 Scourfield's Relstraum Tott Wolfsburg. 2 Kendall & Kendall's Droversrests Titan. 3 Stainsby-Soanes Whistlecraft Jaeger.

Junior Dog (4). A very close decision between these boys. 1 Wetton & Morris' Kavacanne Bolt From The Blue. Beautiful coat and condition on this well moving dog, nice outline with good neck into correct shoulders and strong topline. He has depth of brisket and sufficient forechest. Handled very sympathetically. 2 Hill & Hill's Ceilloch Russian. Preferred the size of this boy, well balanced angulation and drove off short strong hocks, just not as settled on the move as my winner. 3 Brown & Brown's Montalba Mister Teatime.

Post Graduate Dog (3,1). Not an easy decision between these boys of differing types. 1 Mair's Thorscrag Apollo. On the move this dog was steady and true but handler needs to practice stacking as in a larger class he may be overlooked as he was rather fidgety and tending to pull back. A good-looking boy with great liver jacket of correct texture. 2 Tierney's Ceilloch The Show Must Go On. Handsome head and gentle expression. Good length to this boy's back, however he was not relaxed in the stand and tended to dip slightly in topline. Tending to turn a hock on the away movement.

Limit Dog (5). Two super dogs headed this class, differing types but both good examples of the breed. 1 Sielski's Orchidstar Bolts of Speed. An honest well-made GSP shown in lovely coat and condition, correct size and his fore and aft angulation was balanced giving a lovely overall outline. Great front angulation, straight forelegs with plenty of strength, super feet, good width to his thighs and pushed off from short strong hocks. Moved steadily and true covering the ground effortlessly with correct footfall showing reach and drive. A worthy winner of the CC and later BOB. He really went so well in the very strong Gundog Group. 2 Brown & Burns' Magregor Pop The Dom over Pothouse. A real workmanlike exhibit with strong bone and substance, plenty of depth and forechest. He is well made throughout although on the stack did not have the strength in topline of one. Covered the ground with a good stride. RCC. 3 Green & Green's Kazanpaul War Horse.

Open Dog (3). Three well-made boys headed this class with differing attributes making for another hard decision. 1 Sielski's Orchidstar Bonds Of Speed. Another lovely dog from this kennel, flashier in colour and in excellent coat and condition. Good forechest, strong straight forelegs and balanced angulation. His profile movement was ground covering and clean as he was moving away and towards me. 2 Thomas' Brainescroft Tahiti. Preferred the head of my winner, found this lad a little fine in muzzle. A well-made forehand and lovely strong topline, nice overall outline and of correct size. Moved steadily. 3 Lamb & Cook's Brooke Will Do It Through Milcook.

Veteran Dog (1). **1 Rose's Kavacanne Morgan It Seems**. A young veteran dog at 7 years, very typy and so well-schooled. Good size and condition, movement was steady and true but his tail was down and he didn't sparkle today.

Minor Puppy Bitch (5,2). 1 Garvey's Richtig Ragdoll. A lovely young bitch so balanced presenting a clean outline, good bone and substance. She had excellent ground covering movement and I am sure she will have a bright future. 2 Walker's Zarozinia Phoenix Rising Over Jolicoem. Another pretty young lady with a "look at me" attitude, super tight coat, did not move with quite the length of stride of my winner, another one to watch. 3 Jackman's Navigareamor Spring Time.

Puppy Bitch (6,1). **1 Hallam's Redic Shiraz**. A young bitch who was more mature than the minor puppies as would be expected. She has a super feminine expression, good width to her chest, lovely balanced angulation giving a very nice outline. Her coat was harsh to the touch. Excellent movement. *BPB*. **2 Garvey's Richtig Ragdoll**. **3 Walker's Zarozinia Phoenix Rising over Jolicoem**.

Junior Bitch (3,2). 1 Tierney's Ceilloch Juniper. Stood along but as the saying goes a very worthy winner, I really liked this young girl and look forward to seeing her develop. Needs to gain more control on the move as pulled against her lead, but when moved again on a looser lead showed more confidence and balanced stride. She has a super coat of rich dark liver flashed with clear white with some ticking and was in lovely condition. For a bitch she is a lovely size and type, very feminine with a lovely expression. In the challenge she was what I was looking for and so was awarded the *RCC*.

Post Graduate Bitch (11,4). A very mixed class with many bitches making their debut into the ring. 1 Thomas & Taylor's Pingarypoint Puzzled at Knabynnus. This was a very balanced bitch although a little larger than I like. She has a very feminine head with gentle expression, clean all through with good angulation. Straight strong forelegs with lovely tight feet, her rear angulation again was good, and she covered the ground with a steady and accurate stride. 2 Stainsby-Soanes Whistlecraft I'm A Rogue. It has been said many times, but this young girl was definitely enjoying her day, her tail didn't stop wagging, more my preference in size. Not quite the front angulation of my winner but had a strong topline and nice tailset which she carried well. Good width to her thighs and was another strong mover. 3 Thomas' Brainescroft Pinkster.

Limit Bitch (5,2). 1 Burford's Pingarypoint Legolicious JW. This girl had good substance and strength throughout. Lovely forehand and well developed forechest. Her outline was clean and impressive, good length to her ribs, perhaps a little long in loin but held a strong topline and a correct tailset. Her rear end was very well muscled, and she had strong hocks which she used to drive around the ring. 2 Rose's Kavacanne at Karwendel JW. Not quite the ring presence or confidence of 1, but a very pretty bitch with a lovely head and expression. Good length to her ribcage and a strong short loin, nice turn of stifle and short strong hocks. Moved out well but was not quite so clean in front movement when coming back. 3 Brudenell-Pryke & Gallagher's Puddledub Pilis.

Open Bitch (4). 1 Brown's Newlands Pass to Montalba ShCM. Lovely size and type, feminine in head and expression, lovely strong neck into shoulders and short well-muscled topline. Straight forelegs and well-made tight feet, slightly long in hock but this did not affect her movement which was a nice ground covering stride. 2 Sielski's Orchidstar Jenga. Another very nice example of the breed from this kennel. She was shorter on the leg and did not have quite the hindquarters of my winner. Her overall balance and movement gave her this placing. 3 Burford's Pingarypoint Eye Candy JW ShCM.

Veteran Bitch (4,1). **1 Burford's Pingarypoint Hot Topic**. This beautiful young veteran bitch filled my eye, she was shown and handled extremely well, she has a classic head and beautiful expression. Good length to her neck into well laid shoulders, ribs well sprung into a short strong loin, slight slope to her croup and a well carried tail. Again, a very fit and well-muscled exhibit from this kennel. Pleased to award her the **CC** and **BVIB**. **2 Whitehouse's Kazanpaul Crème De La Crème**. Another very attractive bitch with good bone, substance, and strength all through. Gentle enquiring expression, shorter in neck than my winner but had well laid shoulders and strong topline, plenty of depth and well-developed loin. Not too happy on the move today. **3 Thomas' Brainescroft Saffron**.