

8th Labrador Retriever National 2014

I would like to thank the Labrador Retriever Club of Queensland for inviting me to Australia to judge your National. To say that I had a fantastic time would be an understatement and I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee of the Club for putting on a great show. I would also like to thank all the exhibitors for their entries and the sportsmanlike way that my decisions were accepted. Finally, thank you to Norma Zimmerly for running my ring and to Pat Cameron and Bev Hughes for keeping me very well entertained.

I thought the quality of the dogs overall very pleasing. Some classes were a little difficult and compromises had to be made. I was pleased to see very few with short legs, or overly deep chests. Forehand construction, including upper arm length and angulation, impressed in so many, and movement, especially on side profile, was very good.

DOGS

Baby Puppy

1st Spagnolo's – Driftway Time To Shine

Black of 15 weeks, so composed and showed well for his age. His head and expression is correct for his age, good reach of neck leading into a level topline. Shoulder well laid, short coupled body developing nicely. Just tends to stand with his hind legs a little too outstretched. Has good bone and feet and moves freely for one so young which helped to win the class. Best Baby Puppy

2nd Fisher's -Mikelli Secret Agent

Another at 15 weeks, and one that carries a decent coat. Stands on good bone and moved well. Good layback of shoulder although perhaps a little steep in upper arm. Good depth of body to leg ratio, liked his good topline and tailset. Quarters well developed with stifles well turned, carrying just the right amount of weight.

3rd Brock's - Cambewarra Spending Up

Well grown yellow of 16 weeks, good length to his neck leading into a good layback of shoulder, Short through the couplings, good depth to body. Hind quarters still to develop, stands on good bone and moved ok.

Minor Puppy

1st Spagnolo's – Driftway Valentino

Yellow of 8 months, I liked his length of leg to body ratio. Correct depth to chest with a good forechest, quarters already well developed. Masculine head and expression just right for age, set off with dark pigment and an eye of good shape and colour. Carries a decent coat and moved soundly.

2nd Sheppard & Spagnolo's – Driftway Full Frontal

Well grown yellow, more strongly built than the winner. He has a kind head and expression, perhaps just a tad heavy in ear, and a good length of muzzle. Already has well sprung ribs and is short and strong across the loin. Good quarters used well on the move.

Puppy

1st Ritchard's – Embellish Story Teller

11 month black, in good coat and condition presenting a good overall picture. Very easy free mover, side profile showing excellent forward reach, enabled because of the correct layback of shoulder and length of upper arm. Body is of the correct depth and is short through the couplings. Kind head and expression and carrying a decent coat.

2nd Hann & Spouncer's - Blackboy Skating On Ice

Different type to the winner, a little more raw at this stage. Kind headed youngster with a super length of neck and layback to the shoulder. Would prefer a better angulated upper arm. Topline was level and kept well on the move. Stifles well turned and stands on good bone. Moved OK although tends to be a little proud of his tail on the move.

Junior

1st O'Connor's – Aralyen The French Connection

Strongly made yellow of good overall type. Carries a super topline with a well set on tail. Good depth to body, plenty of heartroom. Strong across the loin and well muscled quarters with developed second thigh. Quality bone and feet .

2nd O'Donnell's - Cladaghring Double O Seven

Yellow built in a lighter frame, has a good length of neck leading into a well laid shoulder although would prefer a better angulated upper arm. Well bodied, good topline and short and strong over the loin. Pleasing head with excellent pigment, ears a little heavy. Moved well on lovely legs and feet and short hocks

3rd Cardone's – Catraz The Bushranger

Very scopy black, displaying a good length of leg to body ratio. Great reach of neck and well angulated forequarters, although fore-chest still needing to develop. Strong topline and well set tail. Carrying a very good coat with otter tail. A little long though the second thigh, good bone and feet, moving soundly.

Intermediate

1st Catraz Kennel's - Aust.Ch. Blackrange Sorcerer's Apprentice

2 year old black in sparkling form, loved everything about him. So typical of the breed with a superb clean balanced outline. Liked his head which just needs to broaden with age, but shows a gentle kind masculine expression. Super reach of neck which flows into a well laid back shoulder and correct length and return of upper arm. Body well developed with the correct length of leg, and not carrying any excess weight. Great topline and strong over the loins, well set on tail, clothed all round to show an otter tail. Excellent well muscled quarters with defined second thigh. Stands on strong well rounded bone with the best of feet. Good hocks which he used well to drive round the ring. His fit condition showed in his outstanding movement, just a joy to watch. A dog with bags of presence that will only get better with maturity. I wish we could have more dogs like this in the UK. Very pleased to award him the CC and later on BIS.

2nd Blackboy Kennel's - Aust.Ch. Cornerstone Hotter By T Mile (imp NZ)

Well presented good yellow, no disgrace standing second to the winner. He has a very kind head which displays a good expression with eyes of the correct shape and colour. His muzzle is of good length and has good pigment. Good body properties with well sprung ribs and good quarters. Still needing to 'drop' into his loins. Shows excellent side profile movement.

3rd Tankard's - Aust.Ch. Cornerstone Many Miles To Blackboy (Imp NZ)

Litter brother to 2nd placed dog, and similar remarks apply. Strongly made all through, deep through the brisket and strong across the quarters. Adequate reach of neck and good layback of shoulder, and good length to upper arm. Well developed fore-chest and in decent coat. Well rounded bone and good feet.

Limit

1st Rapson's – Warakimba Rough Diamond

Upstanding pale yellow who shows himself to advantage, being very attentive to his handler. Loved his head, masculine without being overdone, shows an excellent length of muzzle and has a kind eye. Super topline with well set tail, deep through the body and has a good length of leg. Good layback to shoulder but would prefer better upper arm angulation although it is of good length. In decent coat and moved with drive and freedom which clinched the class for him.

2nd Pryor's – Lytmfyr Potent Magic

Medium sized dark chocolate of a good overall type. Well made throughout with good ribbing and short strong loins. Pleasing masculine head and expression although would prefer a darker eye, shows the correct length of muzzle. Well set neck, and correct layback of shoulder. Stands on good bone and feet.

3rd Travers' – Bonnsway Rock Star

Pale yellow displaying excellent pigment on a masculine head with a kind expression. Strongly made body with excellent ribbing. Quarters well developed. In very good coat and moved soundly.

Australian Bred

1st O'Donnell's – Aust.Ch. Cladaghring Flynn Over Torngat (AI)

This strong upstanding black took my eye with his easy free side profile movement. Displays a clean balanced outline, liked his masculine head which has a super expression. Strongly set neck, good shoulders with good length of upper arm. Stands foursquare and has the correct length of leg for his strongly made balanced body. In decent coat.

2nd Henry's – Gr.Ch. Booroomgai Make An impact

Yellow who possesses such a kind masculine head with a melting expression. Very kind eye of the correct shape and colour, and well placed ears and a muzzle of the correct length. Really liked his excellent reach of neck and shoulder line. Deep through the ribs, well sprung, and carries a level topline. Showed and moved very well

3rd Bain's – Aust.Ch. Courtsum Wild Attraction

Black showing good overall balance, attentive to handler and shows well. Appreciated his length of leg to body ratio. Good reach to neck with well laid shoulders and good return of upper arm. Strong across the topline and through the couplings, well set on tail. Kind head, not overdone in any way.

Open

1st Spagnolo's – UK.SH.CH. Priorise Spending Time

Pale yellow built on clean lines, who possesses such a kind masculine head with a melting expression. Very kind eye of the correct shape and colour, and well placed ears. Good reach of neck, deep through the ribs, well sprung, and carries a level topline. Strong across the loin and has excellent quarters and neat hocks. Thought him the best mover in this class showing reach and drive.

2nd Blackboy Kennel's - Aust. Ch. Blackboy Crushed Ice

Another clean lined yellow, just preferred the more fluid movement and hind quarters of the winner. Of good breed type, superb topline and tailset, good underline and deep through the brisket. Good length of leg and stands on sound bone. Well muscled quarters perhaps just a tad long through the second thigh. Liked his kind masculine head and expression.

3rd Jones' - Aust. Ch. Tapeatom Easy Rider (imp Ndl)

Black with a good topline and a deep body. Short through the couplings, medium reach to neck with a good layback of shoulder. Very good ribbing with plenty of heartroom. Excellent length of leg enabled him to move cleanly. This dog was in very good coat .

Veteran

1st Spagnolo's – Sup.Ch. Driftway Special Envoy

9 year yellow in really super coat and condition. Stood alone in this class but could have won in any entry. He really is something else! Great outline, so balanced and shouts breed type. Just loved his masculine head, shows such a gentleness and melting expression. Really strong neck and super shoulders with a correct length and angled upper arm. Good forechest and depth to chest. Quarters well developed and has retained a super topline with a well set on tail. Standing on rounded bone, good feet and neat hocks. Steady mover who could certainly show some of the younger ones how it should be done. Thought him fantastic and had the outstanding Intermediate dog not been present, he would have gone all the way. So pleased to give him the res CC and res BIS.

BITCHES

Baby Puppy

1st Ritchard's – Embellish Timeflys

Black of 16 weeks of a very nice type. Her excellent length of neck and correct shoulders won her the class. Level topline, well turned stifles. Feminine head and expression, well off for bone and stands on good feet. Moved well and was in decent coat

2nd Spagnolo's -Driftway Time N Again

Pale yellow with a lovely head and expression. Shows a good length of neck, leading onto a level topline. Body developing nicely which is balanced throughout. Liked her quarters and neat hocks. Moved and showed well for one so young.

3rd Fisher's – Mikelli Otterly Devoted To U (AI)

Pleasing head on this 15 week old black. Already quite well developed for her age, short coupled and with a good turn of stifle. Well off for bone with good feet and short hocks. Moved ok.

Minor Puppy

1st Spagnolo's – Driftway Latin Dancer

What a super 7 month puppy this is! Yellow of high quality with lovely clean lines. Loved her feminine head and expression showing a kind eye. Excellent neck flowing onto a good topline and a well laid shoulder. Liked her body depth to leg ratio, well ribbed and has super bone and feet. She displayed the best movement in this class and carried herself well around the ring. In good coat.

Liked her so much I gave her the res CC - a grand future lies in store for her no doubt.

2nd O'Connor's – Araylen Running Wild with Time (AI)

Darker yellow of 9 months, and another with a well balanced outline and excellent topline. Good reach of neck, well sprung ribcage and short through the couplings. Would prefer a slightly better turn to the stifle.

3rd O'Donnell's – Bradorla Liberty Bell

Neat looking black of 8 months. Feminine head with a well shaped eye and a decent length of muzzle. Excellent width to quarters with short hocks. Strongly set neck and already deep through the brisket.

Puppy

1st Liebhardt & Jones' – Kirkdell Razzle Dazzle

Pale yellow of 9 months of good overall type. Pretty head just needing to break. Super reach to neck and well laid shoulders. Well ribbed back and short through the couplings, excellent quarters with short hocks and good bone. In good coat and condition

2nd Cardone's – Eastside Hannah Montana

Different type to the winner, more scopy at this stage and more length of leg. Really good reach of neck and layback of shoulder with the correct length of upper arm. Can tend to stand a little slack at times. Well developed quarters with strong bone and neat feet. Not carrying any excess weight and moved well.

3rd O'Connor's – Labzrina Dreams Run Wylde (AI)

Compact yellow of 9 months. Possesses a feminine head and a sweet expression. Correct eye shape and colour. Good breadth to chest and short through the couplings. Well set on tail and stands on good bone. Moved well.

Junior

1st Charnock's – Eraky Clarity

Yellow teeming with quality and displays a super type with clean lines, balanced all through. Really good neck and shoulders flowing into a level topline and a well set tail. Well sprung ribs, correct length of leg and carries the correct amount of weight. She has a most gorgeous head and expression with a melting look and a willingness to please. Very well handled to best advantage. Moved very well and in decent coat. She pulled out all the stops in the final challenge and won the CC.

2nd Anderson's – Laskelsa Silver Moon

Pale yellow, quite similar to the first placed bitch in many respects. Of good breed type and well balanced. Liked her head-piece, excellent length to neck and layback to shoulder. Strongly made body with well developed quarters. Super coat and tail, moved and showed well.

3rd Traver's – Bonnsway Dealers Choice

Another good pale yellow, presents a well balanced outline with good body properties. Strong topline and well set tail. Well developed quarters and good through the hocks. Carrying a very good coat with otter tail. Moving soundly and shows an excellent side profile action.

Intermediate

1st Ellis & Wickham's - Aust.Ch. Bradorla Black Diamond

Well balanced neat looking black, compactly put together and won here on her excellent movement. Kind feminine head and expression, just needing a little more time to finish. Carries an excellent double coat with a well clothed otter tail. Good top and underline, quarters well developed and used well on the move. Well off for bone and stands on neat hocks and good feet.

2nd Charnock's - Aust.Ch. Eraky Movie Star

Well presented yellow, built on clean lines and displays a well made shape. Strong topline held whilst on the move. Super length of neck, well angulated for and aft and well muscled quarters. Strong but feminine head showing eyes of the correct shape and colour.

3rd Blackboy Kennel's - NZ.Ch. Cornerstone Designer Smile (AI) (Imp NZ)

Litter sister to the 2nd and 3rd placed males in Intermediate dog – it must have been some litter ! Good yellow with well sprung ribs and correct depth to chest. Quarters are well developed and used well on the move. Kind pretty head showing intelligence, correct length to muzzle. Well rounded bone and good feet and neat hocks

Limit

1st Henzell's – Scolouvalley Rollin N The Deep

Good looking black, built in a neat package. Stands off her owner and shows well. Excellent neck and shoulder leads into a firm topline and a correctly set tail. Lovely feminine head. Deep through the brisket and stands on excellent bone and was in good coat. I particularly liked her open side gait movement.

2nd Charnock's – Eraky Night Skye

Another good looking black with a strongly set neck. Well made all through with plenty of daylight under her chest. Quarters well developed, well sprung ribs and strong over the loins. Strongish head but still retaining femininity. In good coat and moved ok.

3rd Hann & Spouncer's – Cheyandor Carly TD

Pale yellow, well made and of good type. Has an excellent coat and otter tail, and a lovely head and expression. Good depth to body although carrying just a tad too much condition for me. Well off for bone.

Australian Bred

1st Courtsom kennel's – Cladaghring Over The Top (AI)

Well made scopy black that moved so well. In good order throughout, firm topline and excellent quarters, well muscled. Well laid shoulder, strongly set neck and deep through the chest. Strong but balanced feminine head

2nd Putterill's – Aust.Ch. Blackboy Pure Blonde

Upstanding pale yellow displaying a lovely reach of neck and layback of shoulder with a good length to upper arm. Most pretty head and expression. Balanced through the body with a good length of leg. Showed and moved very well

3rd Wardle's – Aust.Ch. Burrumtravis Ems Girl

This old fashioned type of yellow appealed, reminded me of some of the Poolstead and Sandylands dogs from 1980s. Very well sprung ribs and short coupled body, firm topline and good underline. Beautiful head and expression, set upon a reachy neck and good shoulders.

Open

1st Blackboy Kennel's - Aust. Ch. Blackboy Copper Penny

This chocolate has the most lovely head and expression, her eye colour contrasting with her coat colour perfectly; correct length of muzzle and neatly set ears. Good reach of neck into a well laid shoulder, excellent depth to brisket showing plenty of heartroom. Quarters well developed with good second thigh. Moved so well around the ring and showed beautifully on a loose lead. Sadly flagged in the challenge whereas others continued to show, or she may have featured in the final placings.

2nd Jones' - Grand Ch. Kirkdell Dazzle n Delight

Black of a super type, in very good coat and possessed an otter tail. Liked her head-piece and her flowing lines through her neck and shoulder line right through to her correctly set tail. Deep through the chest and short and strong over the loin, super quarters. Liked her length of leg and she was carrying the right amount of weight, showed and moved well

3rd Henzell's - Aust. Ch. Scolouvalley In Her Shoes

Scopy yellow, shows very well. Liked her overall type, balanced and feminine. Strongly made body, good forehead, displaying a decent fore-chest, strength across the quarters. Good bone and feet and neat hocks. Excellent coat and moves well.

Veteran

1st Charnock's – Aust.Ch. Eraky Enchanting

Another good yellow from this kennel, 8 years old and quality all through. Thought her just lovely, so well balanced and cleanly built. Most super neck and shoulders with good layback and return of upper arm. Well developed quarters used well to propel her around the ring, sound bone and short hocks. Great spring of rib and firm across the backline. Wonderful head and expression, so feminine showing a willingness to please. She was close up in the final challenge.

2nd Twine's – Aust.Ch. Kopafield Beez Neez

Really liked this showy pale yellow, she stands off her handler and presents a lovely picture. Such a pretty feminine head, good reach of neck and a well made shoulder. Deep through the chest with a good forechest, strong over the loin and has well bent stifles. A really good mover who impressed going around the ring.

3rd Sheppard's Sup.Ch. Southbank By Design

Slightly heavier yellow, of 7 years. Liked her kind head-piece although she could have neater ears. Shoulders are well laid and possesses a good length of upper arm which was well angulated. Barrel ribs well sprung and carries a firm topline with a correctly set on tail. Moved well.

Gary Johnson (Judge)