

## **Labrador Retriever Club of Ontario: Specialty Show – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021. Odas Park, Barrie.**

I would like to thank the Committee for the prestigious invitation to judge the Specialty and to thank those exhibitors who chose to show their dogs to me.

### **A quick review of the dogs:**

Being this is the Country of Origin for the breed, I think it's crucial we continue to show the rest of the world some correct type Labradors, and I feel you all did this today.

Overall, I thought there was some good quality in the breed, however there were a few that simply carry too much weight, and this impacts performance. In addition, some of the dogs were not shown to their advantage and this affects the placements. I hope the young lady with the RWB wasn't offended by my trying to "encourage" her. I thought the bitch was very worthy and needed to be moved better to fully show her quality.

On the whole, I thought mouths were good although a couple could benefit from a little teeth cleaning.

Feet (on any breed that has to work is an attribute where I expect excellence) were generally good, with only a couple where they needed a little tightening.

Coats were variable in regard to quantity – not surprised at this given the weather and time of year. Every dog however had correct coat quality.

### **A quick review of the exhibitors:**

Again overall excellence 😊. It was great to hear the support from the ringside for each exhibit and there was great camaraderie observed. Most people were a joy to work with and accepted the placements with good grace, recognizing it's the judge's opinion of the dogs on the day.

I have generally only ever had positive experiences when judging the breed and today continued this.

Thank you for your sportsmanship.

### **Summary of Awards:**

**Best of Breed:** Chaput-Brennan and Luckhart's - GChEx Masonridges Right As Rain DS RN

5 y/o Yellow bitch. One of the nicest Labradors I have ever judged. She just filled my eye and is quality all through.

Everything says "Labrador". Correct front and rear, strong level back and topline, and moves beautifully out, back and around. She was shown in great condition and in a competition with some other lovely Specials, she shone to take the top spot.

I was thrilled to be reminded, during the taking of the winning picture, that I judged her as a puppy in 2016 in Moncton, where she was BP, BOW and BOB (her first) over Specials. To see her fully mature was a joy and one of the pleasures of judging.

**Best Opposite Sex:** Nichol's – GCh Danrich On D'Run To Maktawae

2 ½ y/o Chocolate dog, who is another of excellent type and was unfortunate to be up against the winner today.

Certainly a dog that's worthy of winning a breed specialty. He has correct balance, a kind head and expression and is shown in hard condition. His excellent structure and muscling allows him to move true. He will develop further over the next couple of years, and I expect he will do plenty more winning at the highest level

**Select Dog:** Fernall and Vinnels" – GCh Fantasy Fly Cabus

6 y/o Black who was also shown in good condition. Appeared to be a little heavy in the picture but not when I got my hands on him. He moved out correctly and carried a strong topline. I preferred the slightly better forehead of the winning male but this boy was very close to the BOS. Another that was a pleasure to get my hands on.

**Select Bitch:** Girard and St-Pierre's – Ch Chablais Rosa Rose

3y/o who is on the slightly smaller side but well within standard. Has good make and shape and a good mover. Looks like she could do the job she was bred for, and I liked her very much. It was hard for any bitch to get past the BOB today and this Select award was well deserved and well won.

**Award of Merit and Best Veteran:** McLean's - GCh Nyroca Castlegar Remember Mii

9 y/o Black dog that clearly doesn't know he's 9! Apart from a little grey in the muzzle he belies his age. Correctly balanced dog with a lovely back end and turn of stifle. Moved out very steadily and kept going throughout the classes, breed competition and the final challenges. A credit to his owners. Was a worthy recipient of the Award of Merit.

**Dogs.**

Junior Puppy:

1<sup>st</sup> and RWD) Kendall's – Cawarras Old Time Rock N Roll

7 m/o Chocolate, showing nice balance for his age. Scores particularly well in front with a good layback of shoulder and already some nice fill in the chest. Moved out nicely on good legs and feet and will finish a good one. I expect to see him carry his champion title as he matures.

2<sup>nd</sup>) Paquette and Luckhart's – Labradale's Winning Streak

7 m/o Black of similar correct type to the winner. He was untidy in rear movement, which is not unexpected at this age. He has lovely breed type and is another that should carry a champion title with ease.

Canadian Bred:

1<sup>st</sup>) Kiefer's – Oaksill Smooth Criminal

18 m/o very handsome Yellow. I really liked his head and expression. Another with a good forehand, although still needs a little more fill, which should come with age. Falls away just a shade early in the croup, but this doesn't impact his good hind movement. Another overall very lovely young dog.

Open:

Chocolate; 1<sup>st</sup>) Kime and Rutherford's – Fargoridge Lastcall Seaworthy

2 y/o who is carrying a little too much weight. Strong in the rear which showed, despite the extra couple of pounds, in some correct drive when he moved. Looking for a little more fill in front, which I again expect as he still further matures.

Black; 1<sup>st</sup>, WD and BOW; Dobson's – Jaunenoir Masonridge P Bunyan

4 y/o of excellent type. Would prefer him with just a touch more fill in the front, but is very handsome, nicely balanced dog, who moved beautifully out and back. His profile movement in the class was OK but was a real delight in profile action in the challenge, where he stepped up his game, showed correct reach and drive and carried a strong topline. Carrying the correct weight which allowed him to make the most of himself. In very good company he eventually ended up as Best of Winners. A Champion title cannot be far behind.

Yellow; 1<sup>st</sup>) Sundermeier's – Whitevelvet Feel The Sand

2 y/o who didn't really make the most of himself. Was doing just enough to get by. Correct front, and nice topline although another who falls away just that shade early in the rear. Moved steadily but I suspect there is a lot more to come from this youngster.

**Bitches.**

Junior Puppy;

1<sup>st</sup>) Brennan and Luckhart's – Labradales Rising Sun and 2<sup>nd</sup>) Kiefer's – Castillejas Lets Dance

Loved both these youngsters and at just over 6 m/o they were both real troupers. They are both very pretty with correct head and expression and both have correct make and shape. They are ideal for their age. The winner was a very typey Yellow, who on the day had tidier movement out and back. The Chocolate in 2<sup>nd</sup> place is one that I think could finish as a real star. I will watch both these girls as they mature, and expect big things.

Senior Puppy;

1<sup>st</sup> and BPIS) Georgeoff's – Samphire Vivacious

9 m/o Chocolate who is very nicely put together and has a beautiful head and expression. Moved out nicely in both directions. Particularly scores in the rear. Held her topline on the go around and beat some very lovely and promising youngsters for the BPIS Award.

12-15 months;

1<sup>st</sup>) Fernall's – Amaizeing Grace At Devonsleigh and 2<sup>nd</sup>) Holmes' – Wyndance's Her Comes Da' Judd

2 Yellows who were close to each other. Neither showed particularly well and were being a little lazy. Their good make and shape suggest they can, and will, do a lot better at future shows. I would like to judge them both in future. I preferred the head and expression of the winner which is what separated them today.

15-18 months;

1<sup>st</sup> and RWB) Watson's – Castilleja's Kelsey At Fullcount (RWB)

14 m/o Black, who stood alone in the class, but would win in good company. Scores in a good front assembly and moved nicely in the class, then very sluggishly in the Challenge, but significantly improved with encouragement. Deserved RWB today.

BBE;

1<sup>st</sup>) Wyatt-deGroot's – Staghorn's Load Of Malarkey

4 ½ y/o Black who has super Labrador type but who could drop a couple of pounds to her advantage. Moved nicely in profile but a little close behind on the out and back. Has a pretty head and expression. Well deserved to be awarded Best BBE in Show.

Open:

Black; 1<sup>st</sup>) Grant and Harris' – Gorsebrook Solaia Blairour

2 y/o who is very well muscled and nicely balanced. Falls off a shade early in croup. Another with a typical head and expression and who moved steadily both out and back and in profile.

Yellow;

1<sup>st</sup>) Vinnels' – Wyndance's Meghan At Shanbro (WB)

Almost 2 y/o Yellow who painted a great picture standing and who also pleased me on the move. A balanced and feminine bitch who is nicely made all through. She topped the bitches today and I cant see her going to long without a crown. In the Challenge for BOW, shoe was out-moved by the Dog, but it was a close decision.

2<sup>nd</sup>) McLean's – Castlegar Blue Bonnet

Very similar to the winner and most of the same comments apply. She didn't move as well as the winner today, but I have no doubt they will swap places at future shows, and is another one who will carry her title.

*Gordon Hayburn (Judge) August 2021*