

Leonberger Club of GB Open Show 05/06/22

I was very grateful to have the opportunity to judge the 2022 LCGB open show after a long Covid delay. I was also very pleased to see that the majority of the young Leos that have grown up over these past two or three difficult years were on the whole very calm and steady despite the impact that lockdown may have had on their early socialisation. We had a few very exuberant exhibits, but no overt hostility or cringing apprehension, so well done to all of their owners. The atmosphere from where I stood seemed very jovial and it was really great to see so many new faces on both ends of the leads. Thank you to the LCGB committee who as ever put on an excellent show, and to my very efficient and capable stewards.

At a breed specialty show, type is and always should be at the forefront of consideration, and there are some issues to point out in this regard. In heads in particular we are seeing a drift in ear placement, which should be fairly forward and high set. Ears that are set low and back, especially when combined with a more oval shaped skull, result in something much more like an Estrela Mountain Dog in appearance. I did see fewer loose lidded eyes and short under jaws than have been creeping into the breed in the past, but eye colour clearly still needs attention. On the whole the dogs were of good size and substance and proportions in most were correct, with just a few needing to shed a few kilos. Top lines and tails continue to be problematic, and I would also point out that breeders (and handlers) need to be mindful about foot placement as many were left and right at both front and back.

#### **Veteran Dog (2,2)**

#### **Minor Puppy Dog (0)**

#### **Puppy Dog (7,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lear Schofield's Alfross Romabo Harper . 11 month old strong upstanding puppy, of good size. A powerful lad, with type head of correct shape and proportions with a full dark mask and nice eye, although the lids are a tad loose at present. A strong under-jaw and a well-defined stop combine with an excellent ear set to give him an impressive head. Reasonable length of neck and strong well angled front with strong boned straight legs and excellent feet . He is very well proportioned with a super topline for his age, and a strong well-made hind end that provides good drive for an excellent stride. Feet are correct front and back. He moves with strength and efficiency as he strides around the ring, finished with a reasonable tail carriage presenting a lovely impression of power and elegance. A very promising youngster. Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy in Show.

2<sup>nd</sup> Rickman's Morwinas Asbjorn . A 9 month old reasonably big lad with rich dark coat, still showing an adolescent wave to it. He has a very nice head with correct breadth and profile, complete with a strong clean under-jaw and correctly set ears used expressively. A reasonably good neck leading to a strong well-boned front, although still a bit low on the leg at the front due to a short upper arm, giving a rising topline which may correct with maturity. Well off for bone at front and back but tends to stand left -right at the back. Moved fairly well for his age although with his tail carried up.

3<sup>rd</sup> Probert's Morwinas Warhammer

### **Junior Dog (2,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Iveson's Onaway Dark Trumperter. 15 month old medium sized lion red dog. He has a lovely head with correct planes, a nice dark mask, correct length of under-jaw, and well set ears but his eyes could be a tad darker. Nice gently arching elegant length of neck running into a good top line. His chest is still developing and will likely broaden out as he matures but he shows correct height to length proportions in profile and very nice angles front and back. He stands a bit east / west at the back end, and his movement is still rather puppy-like.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sevastapulo's Amber Vitkennel Crimson King Oldholbans (Imp BLR) Another 15 month old youngster of very different structure to the first being more lightly built and certainly still in a tall and lanky phase of growth. His ears are set a touch low and slightly too far back, and his skull is a bit oval but may still come on with maturity. He has a good black mask and strong under- jaw and correctly shaped eyes that could be a bit darker. A good length of neck and reasonable top line but his shape is a bit square at present and he would benefit from more bone, substance and rather more generous angulation all around. He moves with a good steady action.

### **Graduate Dog (3,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> Gloss' Fieldhouse Sunshine. A good sized, broad and strongly built 2 and a half year old dog in a rich red coat. He has a very strong masculine head with correctly placed ears, excellent jaw and somewhat too prominent cheeks, but his rather exotic broken mask and light eyes give a less than ideal expression. Good length of neck into strong shoulders, with correct withers leading into a good top line. He has a good broad chest and very strong bones in front and back limbs, but tends to place his feet left and right at the back. A very exuberant boy, he alternated between pacing, moving correctly with a good stride, and galloping across the ring pulling his rather slight handler about with him. He certainly enjoyed his day out.

2<sup>nd</sup> Dunleavy's Bavaruki Lejon Bomba

A midsized 2 year old dog of dark colour. He has a slightly domed top skull made all the more prominent by his ears which are set low and back. He has a prominent stop and a full black mask with pleasantly shaped and reasonably dark, kind eyes. His under jaw is rather short, contributing to very open jowls. A good length of neck with the desired slight arch leads into a slightly low front end with a top line that could be more level , but he has reasonable substance and moved out fairly well remaining steady despite his classmate's antics.

### **Post Graduate Dog (6,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Tratt's Nexgen Apache Chief. A strong, big boned 2 year old lad with good lion coloured mid-length coat and a nicely developing mane. He has a lovely broad masculine head, with reasonably well set ears laying close to the skull, a nice dark mask reaching just over the eyes and rich black pigment in his clean correct jaw. His eyes could be a tad darker and his cheeks are perhaps slightly prominent, but there is no doubting this guy's breed with just a glance at his head. A nice length of neck joins to well-built shoulders and on through a firm top line to nicely rounded croup. His limbs are straight and strong on all four corners with good feet and just enough angulation at the back end, which he is still settling into as he matures. He has a good full tail, which he is rather proud of

showing off, but when he settles into his powerful stride, it does not curl over his back. One to watch.

2<sup>nd</sup> Amesbury's Cleon Armchair Honey Bear at Morwinas. 2 year old mid-sized male of rich dark colour and lovely pigmentation with a nice profile throughout. His head is nicely balanced if a tad oval in skull. His under jaw is nice and strong and his eyes are a good shape and not too light. This young dog has a lovely balanced profile with correct harmonious proportions, a good top line into well rounded croup and very nice rear angulation. His front legs are well under him and straight, but he tends to stand a bit left right. He could use a touch more bone throughout, but he is still young. He is a nice and steady if somewhat unenthusiastic mover, and carries his tail perfectly.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wakefield's Sherwayleo Apatite

### **Limit Dog (4,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lewis' Cochise Choovio President Z Merboltic (Imp CZE). An impressive top sized male in full maturity and exuding breed type. Lovely full red coat of good length with dark highlights and a full rich mane adorning his chest. He has a wonderful masculine head with a reasonably dark eye, (although the lower lids are a bit baggy), with correct structure and a solid black mask reaching up and over the eyes. His ears are correct and he has a nice strong under-jaw with correct dry, close fitting black lips, all of which combine to give him the desired regal expression of the breed. His body proportions are very good with a deep broad chest carried well on strong, parallel and well boned front legs and an equally strong and sufficiently angled hind end. He moves soundly with a calm, settled and confident gait, carrying his tail very well, but perhaps lacking in enthusiasm. A bit more fitness and he could be a show-stopper. A well-deserved Reserve Best Dog and Reserve Best of Breed winner.

2<sup>nd</sup> Gower's Leohayes Winter Soldier. A lovely good sized male just approaching full maturity with a richly marked lion coloured coat with dark tips. He has a terrific masculine head of correct proportions with a clear and well developed stop, excellent full dark mask, lovely well set and expressive ears and a nicely shaped reasonably dark eye all combining to give him a super type and expressive head. His neck is moderately long and flows elegantly into his withers atop nicely built shoulders and strong legs with good bone. His outline is excellent when he stands correctly, but he tends to be a bit in at the hocks at the back. His movement, like his ring confidence, is still a touch hit and miss and he would probably benefit from more experience.

3<sup>rd</sup> Lear-Schofield's Alfross Kapuko Haruki

### **Open Dog (3,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Baldwin's Brynarian Balilaika . An impressive top sized red male in full maturity, he oozes substance and breed type from the start. He has a very strong, broad head with a slightly over-large skull that can appear a touch round at times due to his slightly low set ears. He has an impressively strong muzzle with good under jaw, and a rich black mask up to and over his well-shaped rich amber-brown eyes that convey a lovely soft expression. He has a good length of neck flowing into strong and very substantial shoulders with a pair of very strong front legs well under his broad and deep oval chest. His top line and underline are both excellent, as is his broad loin and gently sloping croup. He has a sufficiently angled rear end, which is all you would want in a dog of his size and

substance, and very good hocks. He stands four square on excellent tight feet. When he moves out in full fluid stride, which can take some coaxing, he is a picture of elegance despite his impressive size and substance. Pleased to award him a very deserving Best Dog and Best of Breed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Gloss' Fieldhouse Sunshine

3<sup>rd</sup> Dunleavy's Bavaruki Lejon Bomba

### **Veteran Bitch (4,2)**

1<sup>st</sup> Jones' Bavaruki Bronko Bloomer. An 8 and a half year old girl who still has it. She is not the biggest, but she is so fit and well put together with a really lovely structure that still oozes breed type and gives nothing of her age away. She has a strong and balanced feminine head with full black mask without a hint of grey, an excellent eye and a good under jaw that still retains its dark pigment. A nice sturdy neck flows harmoniously into a strong somewhat cobby body wearing a nicely highlighted lion red coat. Her limbs are straight and correct with sufficient bone for her size, resting on tight round feet. Both top line and underline are superb and her rear angles are ideal. She moves around the ring with a smooth, steady efficiency, carrying her tail with a dignified perfection as she goes. Best Veteran and also pleased to award her Best Opposite Sex.

2<sup>nd</sup> Parry's Ch Starlake Christol Confiture. A 10 year old lady with the frosted white face one might expect at her age. She is a good sized girl and still quite fit, with a strong body wearing a lion yellow coat. Her skull is somewhat narrow and oval in shape, her stop is a little lacking in definition and her head overall has a slightly long appearance. Her under jaw is in balance with her muzzle and she still has a happy smile and mischievous twinkle in her old eyes. Her proportions are quite good and her top line, although slightly rising, is still very firm. She has strong limbs with good bone and a correct tail. She moves impressively well for such a venerable lady.

### **Minor Puppy Bitch (1,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Westwood's Hillhaven Your A Heartbreaker NAF. A 6 month old baby just starting out, she had the ring to herself and took it in her stride. She is a lovely baby-berger with an excellent head, super dark mask reaching up and over her really lovely dark well shaped eye. She is carrying correctly placed ears giving her a sweet and typical expression. Her stance showed a little apprehension and the back end is still puppy bum high, but her very promising front end was clearly evident. She moved around the ring willingly and at a nice smart pace.

### **Puppy Bitch (4,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Raynor's Nexgen Bella Donna. This is an 11 month old mid-sized and still a tad leggie girl wearing an adolescent lion yellow coat, much of which she seems to have left at home on the day. She has a sweet face and expression with correct ear set and dark mask rising to just over her eyes. She has a lovely length of neck and a good, well angled front end with nice straight firm legs and good feet. Her body proportions are very good for her age, although she has rather too much tuck up on her underside at present and is still evolving at the back end, where she tends to stand a tad straight at this stage. She moved out very well for one of her age. Best Puppy Bitch.

2<sup>nd</sup> Amesbury's Morwinas Torrinsdottier

A well grown and still maturing 9 month old youngster with a really lovely lion yellow coat showing lots of promise. Her head is correct with a nice dark mask, lovely eye and correct ear set giving a sweet feminine expression. She has plenty of fore chest and a very nice outline with a good top line for her age and strong rear angles. Her overall balance would be improved by a touch longer neck and this might come as she matures. She has good bone for her age but unfortunately she tends to stand left and right at both front and back at present. Her movement is acceptable for her in-between age.

3<sup>rd</sup> Probert's Morwinas lady Skadi

### **Junior Bitch (1,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Lear-Schofield's Alfross Tulabo Natsuki. This 17 month old girl is a very promising and well-constructed mid-sized lion yellow youngster with good balanced proportions presenting a very pleasing outline. She has a pretty, very well structured head with a good dark mask and well set, expressive ears. Her eyelids are a little loose fitting and eyes could be darker. She has a good length of neck and very nice, well angled shoulders into lovely straight front legs. Her top line is still a bit immature but her hind legs are nicely shaped with broad thighs, good angles and super hocks. She moved very well with lovely drive and only a little over exuberance in her tail carriage.

### **Graduate Bitch (2,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Hillyar's Cleon Lady Keshuri at Astridkyaleo. A big and substantial 19 month old girl with strong bones and a richly detailed, slightly wavy red coat with dark tips. She has a strong head, but less than idea ear set and a somewhat oval appearance to her skull, which her slightly overdone cheeks accentuate. She has a strong muzzle and good under jaw combining to give her a very nice profile with a high and solid dark mask, but the eyes could be darker to harmonise. She has good strong shoulders and a nice broad and deep chest, with strong legs standing on correct feet front and back. Her top line is excellent and she presents a lovely strong and balanced outline. She moves well but frequently carried her tail up and would perhaps benefit from dropping a few kilos.

2<sup>nd</sup> Buchwald's PS I Love You Nelly Bore Cysterskie. She is a five year old fully mature bitch on the smaller side with a really lovely head and expression. Her head has a well-defined stop and solid mask, eyes of good colour giving her a soft expression, very well set ears that frame her lovely face perfectly, and good muzzle with plenty of under jaw to give the right profile. She has a good length of neck and well laid shoulders. Her front pasterns are a somewhat weak and she is a bit down on them, which perhaps contributes to giving her the appearance of being a touch low in front with her top line rising towards the rump. She has very respectable rear angles and moved well while keeping her slightly hooked tail well down as she went.

### **Post Graduate Bitch (4,0)**

1<sup>st</sup> Amesbury's Prada-Ikboy Du Domain De La Noyaraye Avec Morwinnas (Imp FRA)

A three year old good sized bitch showing maturity and substance. She has a lion yellow coat which is a little short, despite her rich furnishings on trousers and tail. Her head is somewhat narrow and oval in skull, accentuated by her long, slight low set ears. Her mask is very black and solid up to and over her eyes, which are a lovely rich dark brown, with correctly shaped lids. She would benefit from

a touch more well defined stop. She has a reasonable length of neck into strong, well laid shoulders with strong, straight forelimbs. She is of good size and has a harmonious height to length ratio, with good top line into a gently rounded croup. Her rear angles are quite shapely and when she gets going her stride is long and elegant.

2<sup>nd</sup> Buchwald's PS I Love You Nelly Bore Cysterskie.

3<sup>rd</sup> Wescomb's Fieldhouse Sun Dancer

### **Limit Bitch (9,2)**

1<sup>st</sup> Jones' Vanitza Delicious Candy at Leovanna (Imp BGR). A good sized, substantial bitch with a lion red coat, much of which was left at home on the day. She has a strong and broad head, with well-defined stop, a good medium mask and kind, reasonably dark eyes with satisfactory lids. Her under jaw is nice and strong, with lovely black pigment to her lips. Her ears are set lower than I would like, giving her skull a rather domed appearance. She has plenty of breadth and depth of chest and strong correct limbs in fronts. Well defined withers and both top line and underline are correct, contributing to a very nice and breed typical outline. She has lovely hocks and her feet are correct both front and back. Her action is nice and steady, with tail carried well and she moved with a rather dignified grace, helping her to top a strong class. Please to award her Reserve Best Bitch.

2<sup>nd</sup> Griffin's Simbalions Molly Malone (Imp It). A nice big and tall girl in a rich red coat of good length and lovely highlights, but with a distinct wave to it. She has a very nice type head with the darkest of masks, a good eye colour, ideal ear set and excellent expression. She has quite a long and elegant neck into well-structured shoulders, standing on nice straight and strong front legs with large strong feet, but she does tend to stand a bit soft in the pasterns. Her proportions are quite nice despite her height, with a lovely broad and gently rounded rump, well defined rear angles and a lovely tail set, which she carries reasonably well as she moves out with a comfortable elegant stride.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jones' Agree With Cloe from Arwiland (Imp Cze)

### **Open Bitch (2,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> Thomas' Inculpata Leo Vom Zarendorf (Imp Rus)

A very promising mid-sized and still quite young bitch who stood alone in her class. She is a very harmonious and well-built young lady with a lion yellow coat, clearly in mid-moult. She has a strong dark mask on an elegant and very lovely head of correct feminine type with very nice top skull to muzzle balance and a clear yet not overdone stop. Her mid-tone eyes are acceptable but the lids could perhaps be a bit snugger at the corners. Her ears are well set and used to great effect giving her a lovely expression. She has a good length of neck set on well laid shoulders and carries moderate bone. Her outline is good although I expect she still has some maturing to do, with very nice proportions, adequate angulation to both stifle and rear pastern and lovely strong hocks. She is a nice steady mover.

Sharon Springel