

## **A dog and bitch**

Judge Carol Clack

Ring Steward and bossy boots - Angela Einon

Scoreboard and general dog's body - Doreen Davies

Donkey and helper of eating mince pies - Chris Marriott

Well, what a truly successful and amazing day! Thank you so much to Fran and her Gang for inviting me to judge at this prestigious event. Have to say, the new layout worked really well, and the collecting ring ran smoothly with the three girls keeping everything under control, also Domini looking very official at 'her desk'! A BIG, HUGE thank you to my super 'A' team, Angie and Doreen, couldn't have done it without you. All that purple and orange and bling all over the lounge floor! Even my pencils were orange and purple. Ange the waistcoats were sensational and Doreen even found a box of tissues in a purple box! Thank you for all your efforts to make it successful. Also thanks to Chris for pretending to be a donkey and helping to eat the mince pies with the help of Rob, Mark and Bron! If anyone judging next year wants orange or purple PLEASE don't hesitate to ask, we have it all!

So now to the Class – we tried to make it a bit like Crufts with Doreen escorting each competitor in and then placing their lead on a silver tray. She also brought and collected their dumbbell on the tray and came back in with their lead at the end of the class to escort them out of the ring. Doreen also had a decorated sign with 'A' on it that she held up for the next competitor to come to the ring. However, she had to put her foot down with a firm hand a few times when some of the handlers came up too soon! She gave them a telling off, and sent them back. A little off course for Crufts behaviour but it was fun. The only disappointment with the teams was lack of motivation when they brought them into the ring. Because it was a little more formal than usual, I think they thought they should not play with their dog. I know we were playing at being at Crufts, but it was only an 'A' round not Championship C! There were some super dogs in my class that I have judged through the year, but unfortunately some of them were really not happy with the atmosphere of the Hall and therefore did not show their true potential which was a shame.

I have been to Crufts with five of my dogs – 2 in the Championship and the other three worked in the Midlands Team, and I would like to say to all the competitors who took part in the year's NOCF, many congratulations to you all for qualifying and if you enjoyed and breathed in the wonderful atmosphere then you will LOVE Crufts! So keep working with your four legged friends – Crufts is what you are aiming for. Enjoy your dogs and good luck to each and every one of you for next season.

I must just say, the catalogue did not have breeds next to their names, so where I don't know if it is BC or WS, I have chickened out and put Collie!

1st and 2015 Class 'A' NOCF Champion! Vaneldurks Angus GSD dog and Lyn Griffin - Well Lyn what can I say. What a team! Your handling is calm and quiet and he responds beautifully. It was such a pleasure to watch and judge you. I so struggled to mark his heelwork, 'A' recall was clear and a very slight crooked present on retrieve. Lost 1 on scent, but did not prevent him from being Class 'A' Champion for 2015. Very well done, he really is something special, and I wish you luck for the future with him. Many congratulations.

2nd Tazaeos Diablo Collie Bitch and Sarah Delany - Another lovely round from this team. Again, nice quiet handling from Sarah. A couple of errors in heelwork, but nothing that cannot be rectified. Lovely recall, retrieve and a clear scent secured the second place for you. Very well done.

3rd After run off with next team – Borderlair Seventh Heaven WS bitch and Gwen Oakes. Well Gwen, your little girl worked her socks off for you today, some of the nicest heelwork I have seen her do. A couple of wide turns and off the leg a couple of times were the only marks in the heelwork, good retrieve. Anticipation on the recall and a drop of the scent cloth was costly. Very well done.

4th Honeylands Queen Bee Collie Bitch and Hillary Holley - Very neat girl . One or two errors in the heelwork that can be easily sorted. A naughty body signal from Mum cost them a higher place! But you didn't do it in the 'A' recall! Good recall, retrieve and scent. Well done.

5th After run off with next two teams – Itsjaros Journey WS dog and Robert Bint - Another lovely team to watch. Very little wrong in heelwork. Good retrieve, recall and scent . Would have run off for 2nd place if Rob hadn't lost marks for body signals!

6th Borderlair Chocolat Ruffle WS bitch and Chrissie Skelly - Lovely round Chrissie, heelwork left very little to mark. Clear retrieve and scent, but unfortunately lost marks for an extra command needed in recall which cost you top spot. Lovely handling and very neat girl, or should I say girls!

7th Pines Johnthancreek Hovawart Dog and Paul Foakes. Loved this boy! Marks for heelwork were mainly on turns. Retrieve and scent good, but was slow on the pick-up for recall, therefore left turned was not even executed. But overall a nice round. Well done.

8th Saartjie Rose at Weatherile Collie Bitch and Betty Isles - Heelwork wide in a couple of places and some wide turns. Good retrieve and scent, but slight

anticipation in 'A' recall. Well done on your place.

9th After run-off with next team – Carishill Isobella Goldie Bitch and Sue Peachey  
- A few minor errors in the heelwork but Mum also lost marks for stepping into her dog. Good retrieve and scent. Nice 'A' recall but body signal from Mum was costly. Well done.

10th Ch Chalkwell Express Yourself Standard Poodle Dog and Tracy Ansell –  
Well – I was shocked! A controlled poodle that belongs to Tracy!! A few bits and pieces in heelwork. Nice retrieve and recall, but mouthing and a touch of a cloth in scent cost you a higher place. Well done – I really was impressed!

Take home dog – Caroline Hall's lovely little Spellbert Degla Pride. When you first entered the ring I thought wow, only a ¼ on recall, then a clear retrieve, and the start of heelwork was amazing, and then .....! But she is lovely. Get the consistency and you will be flying. Well done

Thank you all for entering and congratulations to all the teams who qualified to work at this wonderful event. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

Love Carol x