

Class: Norton Rosettes Novice Final

Judge: Steve Wiltshire

Ring Steward: June Slade

Scoreboard: Sue King

Firstly, a massive thank you to the organisers of this fantastic event. Their vision for this event has been made real by sheer hard work and dedication and for this they deserve all our thanks. Not just organising but setting up, doing the necessary jobs on the day, and then taking it all down after everyone has left.

The best way to show our appreciation is to support the NOCF by both entering and telling everyone what a great, uplifting day it is.

Secondly, special thanks to my ring team, June Slade for her usual faultless stewarding and Sue King on the scoreboard - so efficient at organising the flow of competitors that we finished the class in good time. Thanks also to my wife Carol for looking after our dogs so that I could keep my mind on the job in hand. A dream team, smart and efficient.

I wanted to set a round that enabled all the different dogs in the class to show off their abilities and at the same time to be challenging enough to do justice to the occasion. I hope I succeeded.

As you would expect from a class of winners, the standard was very good. Even the small number of dogs that were not completely at ease with the atmosphere or the venue gave a good account of themselves due to the positive and supportive handling they received. Perhaps not doing training rounds at the Finals made handlers be extra positive and encouraging?

So, to the results:

1st place - Nerys Thomas with Aurora Of Calanhaf Nov Ex (Pink) WSD Lost 2.5pts. What a team! Came into the ring and absolutely nailed the test. Pink kept a lovely position throughout the heelwork patterns. Very smart handling made the most of this super accurate dog. A pleasure to watch you work - Very well done

2nd place - John Patilla with Janjelly Shadows Of Echo (Kaddy) Retriever/Collie cross Lost 4.5pts

It wasn't only the bling hat that sparkled, the dog sparkled as well, very stylish with excellent attention. Slight hesitation on a few of the turns during heelwork was costly, but overall an excellent round. Well done

3rd place - Janet Saker with Corneroak Golden Girl Velda (Velda) G. Ret. Lost 5pts
Took a while to settle into the round and this was when most faults occurred. Once settled she showed what she can do and was accurate and stylish. Well done

4th place - Rachel Richards with Goodbye Mister Chips (Chip) Min Poodle/terrier cross Lost 5.5pts

Wow - what a little star. Brilliant heel on lead with just a couple of dips on about turns (handler?). Chip's enthusiasm in the retrieve exercise carried over into the heel free causing the loss of most points. A pleasure to watch him work.

5th place - Gerard Paisley with Candlewind Troika (Troika) BC Lost 6pts.

Took a while for Troika to settle into the round but when she did, quiet handling brought out the best of Troika with a crooked back end costing a higher place. Well done

6th place (ARO) - Rachel Cudworth with Janjelly's Top Gun Goose (Goose)

Collie/Ret. cross Lost 6.5pts

Stunning during heel on lead, Goose's enthusiasm during retrieve carried over into heel free. Despite being well handled, this caused several errors which were costly. Well done

7th place (ARO) - Sandra Elliston with Wild Rosemary Beattie (Beattie) G. Ret. Lost 6.5pts

Beattie started off really well with lovely attention. Unfortunately she lost position a few times which was costly. Well done.

8th place (ARO) - Donna Surtees with Miss Batty (Nora) Beardie Lost 7.5pts.

Very well motivated and kept a good position with most errors caused by over enthusiasm

9th place (ARO) - Paula Foakes with Kanukalos Rhapsody (Rioja) Lost 7.5pts.

Hesitation on turns causing most loss of points. Nevertheless, a very credible round. Well done.

10th place - Nicola Murrell with Sixela Heir To Broch Tuarach (Frazer) WS Lost 8.5pts.

Frazer really enjoyed working but his enthusiasm caused him to put his back end out of line at times. Well done

But never forget that you all took the best dog home

Steve Wiltshire