

NATIONAL OBEDIENCE CLASS FINAL.
BEGINNERS.

Sat 14th November 2015 at Stoneleigh.

43 ENTRIES (ABSENT 5)

JUDGE : Michelle Dunscombe.

Ring Steward : Helen Fishlock.

Table Steward : Claire Porter.

In 2014 I attended the NOCF as support for my competing friends, I loved the atmosphere and was absolutely thrilled to accept the appointment to Judge Beginners this year - thank you team NOCF for having me.

Thanks also to my dream team/here come the GIRLS of Helen Fishlock and Claire Porter. Helen stewards for me at most of my appointments and I love working with her, she's calm and professional and I know I can just leave her to it. I roped Claire in on the table, the perfect person to spend the day with and organise the incoming (competitors) & outgoing (score sheets). Thank you both, I hope you both enjoyed your day.

In preparation for the competition I put as much information out there on line as I could, although I realise that not everyone has internet access, I think nowadays most do, and if not their friends/trainers could inform them. On top of that I produced an information sheet which was collected from the booking in table, and held two run throughs in the morning, with detailed explanations of what was required, and I was happy to answer questions about the round. The feedback from this was amazing and so glad we did it, it also made Claire and Helen's jobs easier.

So we planned the outfits, the tables, I planned 4 "Mish special awards", which were lovely blingy key rings from Chris Dawkins which were awarded for "Best Dressed Team" "X factor Dog" "If only round" & "Best Bling", we created a shortlist of nominees (best bling was most popular) & I must thank Dave Ray for agreeing to take the time to read out my lists and making it special, thanks Dave. The day turned out just how I wanted, and what a brilliant way to spend it - with two of my best friends, with a load of lovely people showing off their lovely dogs. I felt so proud in the parade at the end as I led you all around and I watched I think the happiest bunch of competitors I've ever seen, thank you all so much for entering my class and paying me the honour of judging your lovely partnerships.

The beginners class was kindly sponsored by DTW, an integral part of our sport, thank you for supporting the Beginners. The whole event's main sponsor was Pet Needs, how crucial Keith & Hazel are to our sport. Thank you Pet Needs.

Due to the nature of the event I feel it is appropriate to give a small critique to all competitors, firstly I will write up my top 10, then do the rest in running order.

1st and National Obedience Class Finals Beginner Champion

B 32. DANIELLE SMITH and Trio. 2 yr old WS. JUWELLOR CHEERFUL XMAS GIFT.

Lost 3 3/4, & nominated for "Xfactor Dog".

This team came in just before lunch and completely changed everything. This was exactly what I was looking for - class, position, accuracy, keenness, individual style, beautiful teamwork, calm handling, excellent set ups and a good solid knowledge of all required. An absolute pleasure to judge.

HOL large right hand circle, about turn large left hand circle halt. Showed off this partnership's beautiful HW, flowing, making it look easy. Superb. Lost 3/4.

Rec. slight anticipation and a minor on the present. Lost 1/2.

Ret. Some mouthing/re-positioning of dumbbell, and markable present again. Lost 1.

HF, around the ring and back, this time with turns & straights. Danielle's excellent deportment and footwork showed Trio off, only one slight wide & a few other minor errors, excellent complete turns and consist position throughout. 1 1/2

An absolute class of their own and a really worthy winner. Will blast through novice, could go all the way, cracking team.

2nd and NOCF Reserve Champion

B 43. ALISON CAREY and Tia. 4yr old BC. SHAMBEANYS LEGACY PRINCESS AT SWEETSOX BEG EX.

Lost 5 3/4

Alison and the lovely Tia, drawn last and was worth waiting for. Excellent consistent position, & neat turns from both dog and handler. Minor inaccuracies on Hol costing 1 1/2, beautiful recall losing just a 1/4 for finish, retrieve more costly at 1 1/2, presents and finishes costing 1/2 each of this. HF to the same quality as HF, just one loss of position and slight inaccuracies dotted throughout costing 2 1/4, but the overall picture was one of easy accuracy, thorough training and good team work. Should do very well in

novice and beyond. Super, I enjoyed judging your round very much.

3rd place

By. Cathy Spearing and Marli, 2 yr WS. MARLINGFORD THE BLUE OF TIMBUKTU.

Lost 6 1/4 & also nominated for "best dressed", "best bling" & "Xfactor"

Drawn 4th, took an early lead until the winner worked. Cathy handled Marli very nicely, good set ups, and HW at a good pace really showed off this dogs style and drive. You both enjoyed every moment. HOL lost 2, work required on a few drifts and position, as through his style he sometimes goes a little forward. Rec tidy, just a 1/4 on present. Ret presents and finishes more costly, but still solid. Lost 1 1/4. HF lost 2 3/4, a smattering of faults generally caused with being slightly out of the ideal position on some of the turns. Overall a beautiful round and with work of this standard I'd expect your 2nd beginners to come early next season and some good results in novice to come too. What impressed me most was your joy in working together. Well done.

4th and 5th place was decided by a run off. We did the circle again. Difference in run off score was only 1/2 a point, very close.

4th place

B 15. Penny Draper and Connie. 5 yr old BC. KINAWAY MISS CONGENIALITY

Lost 7 and nominated for "Best bling" (excellent colour coordination)

Penny showed Connie off by striding out and getting this super little bitch moving. HOL lost 3 all on minor things throughout, overall very nice. Rec 3/4 lost on present and finish. Ret 1 1/4, mouthing and holding on to dumbbell costly. HOL again was carried out at a good pace just minor inaccuracies, lost 2. Very nice indeed. Well done.

5th place

B 11 Sally Stephens & Islay, 2 yr old BC. MERCANTI TIGER MOTH.

Lost 7, and nominated for "Xfactor Dog", and for the "If only" award as Islay did lose confidence at some of the noise at the venue.

Islay is a very pretty athletic multi talented merle bitch, who started with outstanding HW for about 3/4 of the way around the venue, head position gorgeous and legs up around her ears - just beautiful, then the noises caused a loss of confidence for this sensitive girlie, the rest of the heel work dropped down a few gears, but still nice. Lost 2 1/2 Hol and 2 3/4 HF, my notes say right turns need some polish. Presents most costly on the sets. Rec 1/2 & ret 1 1/4.

Very nice team. Loads to like and an absolute ton of potential, with talented handler. Well done.

6th and 7th place were also decided by a run off. We did recall and retrieve.

6th

B6. Alison Shaw with her 7yr old WS, Izzy. WOT A MARVELLOUS MISMATCH.

Losing 7 1/2 also nominated for Best bling.

Izzy was completely overwhelmed when she first came into the ring. Quite a strong eyed collie and her eyes were out on stalks. I allowed Alison to take a few minutes to settle her, and I'm glad she did take the time as the little bitch went on to produce some really nice work. Appeared quite serious in this environment, but very well trained with some nice accurate work. Very nice position. HOL LOST 3 which included 1 point lost for a large spook. HF lost 2 3/4 right work proving more costly than the left work. Rec only lost a 1/4, & ret good apart from some holding on. Lost 1 1/2. Won runoff fairly easily. Well done and showed good handling when dog was upset by venue. Impressed.

7th

Tobie James and Fred, 7 yr old. Boxer. BOSCKOPH DYNAMIC BEG EX, CDex, UDEX.

Lost 7 1/2 & nominated for "Xfactor Dog".

WINNER OF XFACTOR DOG

Firstly well done on winning my special Xfactor award, Fred is full of Xfactor. He is just fabulous. A dog of a lifetime no doubt.

Here we have a multi sport partnership, here we have teamwork, style, power, plus position, attitude.

Fabulous left turns, just small drifts and sometimes a slight loss of position, but overall stunning. HOL lost 3 1/2, Hol 2 1/4. Good fast recall lost 3/4 on presenting/finishing faults and similar on ret losing 1. Well done I hope you do more obedience shows, I think you would fit in great.

Guess what? Run off for 8th and 9th. Unfortunately B26 stood when left.

8th place

B 38, Rachel Chapman and Shadow, 3 yr old GSD (last year's pre bees champ) SHERBERT TROPICAL.

Lost 7 3/4 & nominated for "Best Dressed" with matching accessories.

Cracking big black Gsd. Great position from the front and a ton of drive from behind. Creating some straightness faults, but should improve as he matures, nice sets. Good job well done
Hol 3, Rec 3/4, ret 1 1/2, Hol 2 1/2.

9th

B26 BECKY MARSHALL and Fender. 6 years old WS. FENDER RIFF ON THE EDGE.

Lost 7 3/4 & nominated for "Best bling" (amazing shoes)

Fender had a small meltdown on entry to the ring, giving Becky some time to let him settle, he then managed some good hw and excellent sets. Anticipation costly in round (3/4) and run off on recall. But only clear ret of the day. HOL some loss of position and forward working costly, lost 3 1/4, & similar on HF, causing some variety of position, but I did see a few glimpses of what he is capable of. Lost 3 1/2. Very good handling of a difficult situation, showed knowledge of her dog and reacted well. Brill stuff.

10th place. No run off yippee

B 35 LYNN DARBY and Chloe 2 yr old BC, ME EEGI PROJECT.

Losing 8 (2 whole points lost for hand touching) * I think we can all do the Maths on that one.

Lovely keen HW, no major faults, but dog needs to learn to stretch up to the hand rather than the handler dropping her hand as a management tool, as it is actually rewarding the drop. Maybe look at a watch/follow off the hand to give her a bridge off the hand into HW position. Very nice team, neat, good deportment, lovely attitude from both. Very much enjoyed your bond. Excellent sets, Rec 1/4, ret 3/4 s, finishes being costly. Still a young dog and handled the atmosphere/venue well. Good luck with her.

The rest of the class I will comment on in running order.

Remember your dog may have not worked the best it can - it did the best it could. A very challenging venue, especially for inexperienced dogs and handlers. Without exception all handlers were sympathetic to their dog's struggles, well done, it's human to be disappointed. And I've been there believe me.

B1. Drawn first and kicking us off.

Pauline & Saffy, 9yrs . BC. COCOBOLA SAFFRON

HW distracted, but Pauline didn't give up, sympathetic handling. Recall best exercise.

B2, Anne and Meg. Xb, 8 years old. MISCHIEVOUS MYSTIC MEG

Nominated for "BD" and "BB"

Place 29th. Reasonable HW, mainly drifts and loss of potential. Nice recall. Disastrous finish on ret. Lots of potential for this new team.

B3 Barbara and Amos, BC 7 years old. SHEPWOOD NOBLE LAIRD

Handsome Dog, failed recall. Nice ret, HW distracted, handler coped well.

B7. Carole and Eddie, Beagle, 7 1/2. FINAL EDITION AT HELIDALE, BEG Ex, CD Ex

Eddie showed bits of brilliance, but also some beagle traits of sniffing. Excellent ret losing only 3/4.

B8 Judith and Ben. WS, 4yr. MULTI-BEN OF BRYN-Y-MAEN

Excellent sets, but Ben struggled with the HW in this venue. Seems a nice dog. Better luck next time Judith.

B9. Vanessa and Tutti Frutti, Sheltie, 4 years. Finished a good 16th. SHELTYSHAM MISS MAYHEM

Beautiful circles, losing only 3, good Rec and ret, losing 1/4 & 1/2, HF more costly drifts and loss of position. But lovely dog, nice motivational handling well done.

B10. Deene and Dizzy BC 4 years Finished a respectable 13th FENBORDERS APHRODITE

Just out of the cards losing 9 overall. Sets good, save points on the presents and finishes, HW nice action but position needs more strength.

B12 Dawn with Saffy, 5 yr old Saluki, nominated "BD" DACFOLKE AZURITE WITH ZXYLASAHLAAM SHCM P-BEG EX

Saffy not happy in the venue sadly, mum did what was right. Well done.

B13, Victoria and Bert, Lurcher. 3 yr old. Get Down and Bertie

Nominated for "BD"/"BB"/"XF"/"IO"

BEST BLING WINNER (amazing shoes)

what a dog, drive keen, flamboyant.

Major Anticipation on recall costly. Only lost 2 on hf

B14 Jess with Morgan, 2 yr old AS. RANNALEROCH CHILACA AT APPLECREEK BEG EX

Nominated "BD"

Really good sets, another dog that struggled in venue for HW, but Jess handled well. Only a young dog. Good effort.

B 16. Michelle and Trio, WS , just a baby at 1. JEZZADDY ITS NOW A WRAP

Nominated "IO"

Super HW and ret, then lost 9 on recall. Could have been running off for 2nd with better luck. Will win out of novice easily.

B18. Bob and Jacko, Lab 4 years. GLYNJEFFS BLACK VELVET

Nominated "BD"/"BB"

I loved your outfit Bob, you pushed the BD winner hard. Super drivey lab, with crazy sets. Love him. Great team.

B19, Stephanie and Betty. Lab 5 years old. FINNYSTAR BLACK MAGIC

Nominated "IO"

Another dog that couldn't cope with waiting in the venue, HW not bad at all.

B20, Chris and Dandy XB (husky type) 5years Spannaface Fray

Absolutely no desire to do any sits whatsoever. Chris said he was retiring Dandy today, I've certainly seen him work a lot better, well done for keeping trying, it must have been frustrating,

B26. Betsy and Tassimo . BC 4 years. Finished 18th KALEAI MIDNIGHT SKY

Respectable round losing 11 1/2 in total. Easily distracted but nice team to watch. Needs a little more commitment to improve the HW. nice handling well done.

B24. Kate & Tuzzi. NSDTR, 2 yrs. TOLLERICE BERTUZZI

Nominated "BB" & "IO"

Winner of IF ONLY award

Kate entered the ring with tuzzi, and went for it. Her HOL actually brought a little tear to my eye, such teamwork, unity and understanding, I felt deeply moved by their bond. The circle was first class, only losing 1 for slight errors (2nd best Hol of the day - just a mere quarter behind the winner). Tuzzi was balanced, held a fabby position and let her personality shine through, I thought she was absolutely brilliant. Next recall, a bit of a wild present & finish losing an expensive 1 1/2, then the retrieve went a bit awry with a very slow sit where she needed another command. Whether she was already upset/distracted, or this caused yourself to lose confidence we will never know - although I suspect a combination of the two. HF was a complete disaster. Tuzzi completely failed to set up, we gave her time to settle, time to break off. When Kate finally managed to get her to sit at heel, she then wouldn't move off, and continued in that manner. I think with her you might need a few back up plans, and with thought and analysis you can hopefully even now come up with some ideas of what you could have done differently. That said Kate, you have an absolute little star there, great connection and really well trained. Good luck in NOVICE next year and beyond that in the future, Tuzzi will take you up the classes, just believe. I certainly believe in the pair of you.

B25 Alan & Hagan. GSD 3 yrs old. BLAYDONERS REAL DREAM.

Nominated for "BD"

WON : Best dressed team.

This is my good tip for the future, a newish to obedience team, showing both inexperience and talent. Both of you need some ring miles on the clock just to polish up and then there's no reason why you can't win up through the classes. Lost 1 on HOL for a tight lead, nice and attentive just needs more understanding of HW position, Set exercises not bad, presents most costly. Lost 9 1/2 overall a respectable 14th place in good company. (Without the tight lead you would have been pushing hard on the heels of the placed dogs) good effort, well done on winning my special award for Best Dressed. Smart, classy, spot on. Good luck for next season.

B27 Celia & Mr Pippin. Poodle . 5years old. JUSANIN GLENISTER.

Nominated "BB"

I loved this team and Celia was a pleasure to have in my class, Mister Pippin is gorgeous and beautifully presented. His obedience work is full of attitude on HW, needs a little work on keeping a consistent distance from leg as he drifted a little, left work better than right work, so something to work on. 1 of the

only 2 clear recalls of the day, and tidy retrieve with just a little mouthing. Well done on finishing within the top half of the class. Excellent achievement.

B28 Jo & Moss. WS 5 years old. OUR BOY MOSS

Lovely team, who worked well together. Moss struggled a little with the venue, but did a reasonable round, excellent sets from this team, showing off their training. Well done.

B29. Bethan & Ruby . Lab x GSD. 4 years. BETHS RUBY TUESDAY.

Nominated for "BB" (super top)

Lost 10 altogether, but two of this was for a dropped dumbbell so shows the quality of the round. HOL really good only losing 2 1/2, and a super recall losing 1/2. HF was good, mainly a few losses of position being most costly. I think Ruby coped really well in a difficult environment and you should be proud how much you have come on together. Looking a real team now.

B30. Maggie and Maisemore, BC 9YRS. BROAD BEACH MAISIE

Ended up 11th, so close. SUPER drivey Hol and good sets. HF more costly with a few wides. Only lost 8 1/4. Very impressed, lovely attitude to the work and each other. Fab to the judge.

B33. Jeanette and Skye, Xb , 2 year's. SKYLARKS CURLY FLYER.

Nominated "BD"/"BB"

Super little dog. One of the only 2 clear recalls of the day, and only 1/2 lost on ret, impressive. HOL costly due to a tight lead and a sniff, but a little darling who will improve because she has the attitude to do so. Fab and I loved your relationship.

B36 Jacky & Zanta. NSDTR 2 YEARS. REDAURORA GOLDEN DREAM RL2

Nominated "BB" (loved the shoes/jacket/trousers)

Really good motivation from this handler, wide work the main problem, but has good promise to improve. Fabby sets. Well done on finishing in the top half of the class.

B37 Emily and Jasper, WS, 6 yrs. JASPER THE COWPE CRUSADER.

Jasper also struggled to maintain a good hw position in the venue, but Emily kept trying and worked well together and ended up showing some nice work. Wide work being the main fault. Good sets. Keep going with him as he shows potential. Well done on finishing in the top half of the class.

B39, Christine and Simba. GSD 7yrs. WINDCHILL WHISPER, BEG EX

Nominated "BB"

Ret costly with some "holding" issues, nice recall though, HW needs some attention to some drifting, but good handling from Christine.

B40. Jeanette and Shadow. GSD 4 years old. SEJAGH HIGHLAND LASS

I really liked this dog. Forward working in the HW on circle but nice handling, good team. just bits and bobs. Tons of potential.

B41 Dave and Pip. BC 4 years old. KINGS FARM MOLLIE.

Sweet little girl nice steady HW, nice turns but a few losses of position. Excellent sets. Only lost 8 1/2 & finished 12th. So super effort.

B42. Richard and Revel. BC 2 years. TERRANOS FROLIC IN GLORY

Nominated "BD"

Firecracker of a dog, position needs work and some application to accuracy. All the potential in the world. Nice handling. Excellent recall.

To finish, thank you all for your entries in my class and hope you all enjoyed, even if it didn't go quite to plan.

See you all around the shows, and will be more than happy to hear of how you are all getting on next season.

Judge Michelle Dunscombe