

Date: 9/12/2017

Class: Class A (Dog & Bitch)

Judge: Roy Page

NATIONAL OBEDIENCE CLASS FINALS 2017

Held at the Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh, Nr. Kenilworth on Saturday 9th December 2017

CLASS A (DOG & BITCH) – THE HOWL EMPORIUM CLASS A FINAL

Ring Steward: Shelagh Page

Scoreboard Steward: Stephanie Evans

37 Entries - 27 Ran

A great show and an honour to have been invited to judge this sponsored Class A. The organisation by Fran Bush, Rhiannon Mulrenan, Paula Foakes and Chief Steward, Dave Banks was first class throughout and the hospitality was 5 star with breakfast on arrival and a lovely hot meal at lunchtime and some special "Penny Banks" cakes with drinks at the end of judging. In addition to the 4 people I mentioned above I'm sure that there are a lot more beavering away in the background to make this annual show the success that it is and I would like to thank them too – every one of them including, unexpectedly, the "Manxie" girls who welcomed us and directed us to our parking places after their own long, long journey from the Isle of Man. The temperature was sub-zero with snow in the air and on the ground, and they must have been chilled to the bone. Superb dedication to our sport. Everyone just give yourselves a big pat on the back and please accept thanks from myself, Shelagh and Stephanie.

Shelagh and Steph both did great jobs stewarding and scoreboarding, making my task so much easier. Thank you both for giving your day up to help me and being just brilliant.

All these things combined to make it a very special day and I feel certain that the competitors appreciated everyone's hard work. Special thanks to the class sponsors, The Howl Emporium.

Now to the results – a lovely class to judge with some really good performances. Just a few of the dogs struggled a little to cope with the noise and surroundings but the majority worked really well and I hope that handlers went home feeling pleased with their dogs. The following teams finished at the top of the leader board today.

1st Hazel Daglish and her Goldie BRIABAR HERE AND NOW. A cracking round of obedience from Hazel and Bryn started with beautiful attentive heelwork with only the most minor of errors. This was followed by one of only two clear recalls in the class today and then a near perfect retrieve. Fractional eagerness to prove his scenting ability was unnecessary 'cos that was near perfect as well. A joy to watch and a privilege to judge you Hazel and it gave me much pleasure to award you the red card in the Class A Final. Congratulations on this performance – you two should have a great future and I wish you all the best. Heelwork 1½; Retrieve ½; Scent 1

2nd Carol Spencer and her Working Sheepdog AY UP DUCKIE. A lovely heelwork round from Carol and Duckie with only a few bits and pieces to mark and this performance was backed up with excellent set exercises including a lovely scent discrimination. Loved his attitude - a memorable round Carol and I hope you were pleased that he got pretty well everything right today. 2½ Heelwork; ½ Recall; ½ Retrieve; ½ Scent

3rd Kit Clow and her GSD OSKETRA SIRIUS. What a lovely boy and what a great round from Kit and Devon. The first left turn was costly but after that, just beautiful. The only other clear recall today was followed by a decent retrieve but the stumbling block was Devon just turning a deaf ear to Kit's send command in scent. Otherwise it was a perfect scent. Nevertheless this was a round to be proud of. Good luck in 2018 Kit. 1½ Heelwork; 1½ Retrieve; 3 Scent

4th Voirrey Horne and her Border Collie MANANNANS ISLA MAN. Another super round of heelwork from Voirrey and Isla who had made the long journey from the Isle of Man – just a little dipping on left turns plus some very minor errors. I remember judging this team in Novice about 18 months ago when Isla was only 7 or 8 months old and I thought then that they had a great future with lovely attention and attitude for one so young. I saw nothing today to change my mind. Finished the day with a lovely scent. 2½ Heelwork; 1 Recall; 2 Retrieve; 1 Scent

5th Annegret Tack-Benton and her Working Sheepdog JIN'N TONIC. A really good heelwork performance from Annegret and Jinty just spoiled by Jinty's failure to sit at the end of the test. This messed up their chances of a possible 3rd place because they had sound set exercises including a lovely scent discrimination. Well done Annegret – there's plenty to build on here and 2018 should be a good year for you. 5 Heelwork; ½ Recall; 1½ Retrieve; ½ Scent. Won a 3-way run off from:

6th Jack1e Muir and her Cross MORGANSR MADE FOR ME. A nice heelwork round but bits and pieces added up for Jackie and Kitt. Could so easily have finished higher up the line if he'd been just that little bit tidier Jackie. Nevertheless I hope that you were pleased with his performance today. 3 Heelwork; 1 Recall; 1½ Retrieve; 2 Scent

7th Julia McGraw and her Border Collie SARKAMS LIVING THE DREAM. A bit of overturning from Murray on rights and abouts just took the edge off a lovely heelwork round Julia. A few bits and pieces on recall and retrieve but finished with a really nice scent. Another team who should do well in 2018. 3 Heelwork; 2 Recall; 2 Retrieve; ½ Scent

8th Dawn Walton and her Border Collie DORVALE DANCE MASTER AT ELLEJAY. Certainly no major heelwork faults from Indy but those odds and ends all add up Dawn. Nice recall and retrieve but then just a bit untidy on scent, although the actual discrimination was spot on. Well done and good luck. 4 Heelwork; 1 Recall; 1 Retrieve; 2 Scent

9th Steve Wiltshire and his Working Sheepdog SERENDIPITY I'M LUCY (A Ex). Lucy was a bit loose on some of her turns today Steve but she did you proud and I hope you were pleased with her. At the end of the day she did a really good retrieve to win a 4-way run off for this place. 4½ Heelwork; 1½ Recall; 1½ Retrieve; 1 Scent Won run-off for this place from:

10th Nichola Linbourne and her Rottweiler CORNERPIX LAWDY MISS CLAWDY. It was Xena's retirement round today, and what a terrific round it was. Loved her attitude Nikki and so glad she managed a place in the final line-up especially as it was an IF ONLY day because the failure to sit at the end of the recall prevented her gaining 3rd place. Hope her retirement is both long and healthy. A real pleasure to judge her final competitive performance. 3 Heelwork; 3½ Recall; 1 Retrieve; 1 Scent

Bad luck to the other two teams who lost out in the run-off for 9th place and just failed to make the line-up – 11th Maureen Conlin and her Cross WHO NEEDZ SLEEP AT JARYSMYSTIC (Zoom) and 12th Patricia Faulkner and her Border Collie ZANYWAY BILLIE JEAN (Nov Ex). Both of these dogs showed great promise for the future.

Judge – Roy Page