

Class: Novice Class Run Off

Judge: Dave Pask

Caller Steward: Linda Wild

Scoreboard Steward: Kerry Wild

I have already posted messages of thanks to almost everyone on my Pre Beginner report so I will try to keep this report a bit shorter.

The people I have not thanked are Novice Part 1 Judge Kath Westell, Novice Part 2 Judge Lou Jackson and their teams for sorting through the many talented Novice teams that entered today and leaving me with just the final places to award. Thank you for leaving me with 10 teams to run off in pairs of such tremendous quality, it was not an easy task at all.

Many thanks to Marcie and her wonderful stay team without you, everything would have ground to a halt for every class as we wouldn't have been able to complete all the tests. Thanks ladies and gentlemen. Apologies for missing you off my Pre Beginner report.

Thanks also to the ladies at the collecting ring, did not use your services earlier for the Pre Beginners, they are so keen, they are never far enough away to need a collecting ring...hehehe. Thank you for ensuring all of the run off'ees, were at the ring, in the right order and your timing was excellent.

The standard of all of the ten finalists was superb and it was a great pleasure to be able to watch you all. Thanks to all of you too.

We were given a superb size ring to use with plenty of room for each team to show me what they could do with long straights as well as the usual turns permissible in Novice.

I tried to make the round interesting by adapting one of my regular Novice rounds that begins with a diagonal straight and a right turn along the ropes. Previous competitors have told me they enjoy this round as it 'flows' and gives them plenty of space to show off their dogs. I hope you all felt the same.

These teams were so good, that the vast majority of the total marks lost were for very minor indiscretions in position which I spotted with my zoom lens spectacles. I mark absolutely everything I see but it did not add up to very much in the heelwork patterns for anyone today. I don't make notes for the very minor errors, I just mark it as I use a counter so that I do not have to take my eyes off the team from start to finish of a round. This usually keeps my rambling to a minimum when writing the team by team break down but we'll see how I go as I start on the next part of my write up.

On to the most important bit, the line up.

1st Ms Wendy Wheatcroft with Carishill Iago

2014 Novice Obedience Class Champion!!!!

As soon as Wendy set up for heelwork, I saw this dog just twitching to get on with it. Absolutely fabulous attention and they both stepped off with a mission. Despite dropping out of his high driving position a few times during the round, accuracy alone, which is what I look for secured you this well

deserved place. A real powerhouse of a dog who is well trained and handled hammered his way through my round like a seasoned professional. Very well done Wendy and Jethro and good luck for the future.

2nd Mrs Christine Skelly with Borderlair Chocolate Ruffle

2014 Novice Obedience Class Reserve Champion!!!!

Oh didn't your girl pull out all the stops for you today Christine? Just one quarter of a point from 1st place, you must be very proud of your performance today. One teeny error in HF (slight loss of position on a turn) was all it was that prevented me having to run you both off again! Stunningly accurate, fantastic attention and an attitude to take you both to the top. Lovely calm handling all the way around helped your girl produce her very best. Well done and good luck for the future.

3rd Mr John Clark with Saartjie Highland Thistle

As the first of the two gentlemen to enter the ring for the 3rd/4th run off, John took off with his dog at a cracking pace and turns were almost completed by the time Lovely Linda had finished directing him. So much drive created a bit of a wiggly bum on the straights with minor bum over/under steer (the dog not you John) on the turns particularly on the first heelwork pattern HOL. Nonetheless a team to be reckoned with if you are competing against them in the future. Well done on this place and good luck for the future.

4th Mr Robert "Look at my Santa!" Bint with Itsjaros Journey

Firstly, if you don't get the Santa reference well it serves you right for not attending the show and watching the line up after the run off. I have no sympathy with you.

The second of two gentlemen to enter the ring in this particular part of the run offs, Robert also clearly meant to do all he can to show off his dog. Experienced handling brought out the very best from his dog as Robert. Powering around the ring on heelwork and only two small errors separated the two teams in heelwork. Recalls were almost identical and then Skid lived up to his name on the retrieve. Powering at the dumb, grabbed it and yes you guessed it, "skid"ed on a little way before flying back to Robert and presenting it. Very well done on this place Robert and good luck for the future with this fabulous dog.

5th Mrs Tracy Ansell with Chalkwell Express Yourself

Living up to his name too, Vinnie knows just how to express himself. Movement and grace in a manner that only a dog with Poodle power can show combined with a handler that knows just how to bring out the grace of movement that this breed of dog is so good at producing. Left turns were where he lost most of the few marks in heelwork, but he lost exactly the same HOL as HF so consistency was the order of the day. OCP on recall and the retrieve didn't matter a jot as his overall heelwork left him with a margin for error. Very well done on this place with him Tracy and good luck for the future.

6th Mrs Sue Cotton with Wild Foggy Marsh

Lovely to see that you had made it into the run offs with your handsome boy Sue. You work so hard with him and he's such a super dog to watch. Attentive and powerful until the turns and then he decided to be a bit lazy on them at times and get himself slightly out of position as a result. OCP on recall but oh Bradley, you were very naughty on the retrieve! Mouthing and then not letting go with OCP is not what Goldies do Bradley!! Am sure you'll be having a word with him about that just after he has all his extra treats for putting in such a fabulous day of work for you Sue. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

7th Betty Iles with Saartjie Rose At Weatherile

Betty and Rosie flowed around leaving me not one major fault to mark on either of the HOL or HF. Just bits and bobs that added up. Superb partnership and clearly with a fabulous relationship between them. Encouragement from Betty in all the right places during the heelwork stretches kept Rosie looking in good form to do well in this run off. I hope she is another dog that got extra treats after her efforts today Betty. She deserved them. Recall and retrieve need a little work but am sure you will have them sorted in no time. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

8th Ms Carole Hanney with Edenvillage Diamond

Kumi has come on leaps and bounds since I last had the pleasure of judging you both Carole. I know in the past, you have had your work cut out at times, finding ways to manage her noseying while getting the accuracy training too. Hey Carole.....you're doing OK!!!!!! A very creditable performance from you both today and she coped very well with the round as well as the venue. Fantastic to see her working so well for you and a great joy for me to watch you both working under me again. A little loose at times with her heelwork position being the main points loser today but that applies to most of the dogs in the class. A dog that through your patience and training has really improved since I last judged you though. Small bits of work still to do but wow, I was impressed by how far you have come in recent months. Keep up the good work. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

9th Mrs Julia Harbord with Starnias Dock Of The Bay

I just had to look back through my previous reports as I thought I recognised Smokey's posh name. I was right when I found my scoresheets for April. There you both were Julia. Another team that has clearly improved quite a lot since I last had the pleasure of judging you both. Well handled, fabulously trained canine part of the team with excellent handling left you on the same marks as the team that finished 2nd today so had you been running off against that team, who knows how many extra run offs I might have had to do? As I always mark everything I see wherever I am judging, that is a tremendous improvement since April. The first team I saw when the run off judging commenced, you set a high standard from the beginning and kept to that standard throughout your round. Your total score matched that of the dog that took 2nd place too!! When the standard for the whole run off is so high from all 10 teams, that is one heck of an achievement. Slight loss of position at times and a couple of bottom swings (Smokey not you) on the turns the main points lost but not very costly at that. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

10th Mrs Linda Hughes with Highland Celtic Mist

Well Linda, I believe this is the first time I have judged yourself and Keltie. I'd be honoured if I could watch more of your rounds in the future. "Stunning!!" I have written on my judging sheet. What a very well schooled young dog she is and a huge credit to you for her training. Adding up just your heelwork scores, you were identical to the team above. Untidy finish on the recall being the exercise that decided the place today. I am sure that yourself and Keltie have a very successful career in front of you based on what I witnessed today. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

Well, it didn't turn out to be a short report in the end but I make no apology. Once I started to read through my sheets, I got mental pictures flooding back of each team and had the same grin in my head that I had when I was watching them in the actual round. This was quite simply the highest overall standard of Novice teams that I have had the pleasure of judging. I am jolly glad that I did not have the hard job that that Kath and Lou must have had whittling this standard of teams down to five each.

Thank you to EVERYONE involved in the show from the organisers, Linda and Kerry, stay team, fellow judges collecting stewards, sponsors and of course all of the competitors for making this one of the best appointments I have ever had the pleasure to take up.

It has been an absolute joy to have been part of possibly the best thing to happen in Obedience for years and I hope the show continues for many years to come.

Good luck everyone and enjoy your dogs

Dave