

Thank you to Fran for the invitation to judge the Beginner class at the National Obedience Class Finals. Also a huge thank you to Fran, Rhia, Dave and everyone else who make this show happen for us all to enjoy. We had a superb day from the moment we arrived. A Bacon butty to start the morning off, then a lovely lunch. Tea a cake at the end of the day. All lovely. Thank you to Tony and Lynne for looking after our competitors, you were both great and I appreciate you giving up your day.

Throughout the year competitors accumulate points to be able to compete at the class finals. We had a class of 39 of which 35 competed. Beginners is always a nice class to judge as quite often there will be a mixture of different breeds and today was no exception. Handlers are just starting out their career in obedience and so naturally some of them will be nervous when they come to a show like NOCF. Some of our handlers were extremely nervous and consequently it has an impact on their dogs work. Some of the dogs were completely overwhelmed with the atmosphere and couldn't cope with working indoors, but handlers soldiered on and tried to help their dogs as best they could. A few dogs worked lovely only to throw something silly in as is quite often the case. However after a few run offs we had our top ten handlers and dogs.

1st. ARO No 33 Joanne Pickles with Midnight Bullett. Border Terrier (Merlin)

Well what can I say about this little dog other than WOW. What a corker. Great handling from Joanne, giving praise and encouragement to Merlin where needed. Superb attention all through the test. Nice close heelwork with only a small amount to mark. Clear set exercises. Your round was so good I made you do it again and it was even better in the run off. Joanne has come from Good Citizen Pre Beginner Stakes coming 3rd at Crufts in 2016. This has stood you in good stead for a great future for you and Merlin. Congratulations and I wish you all the best in Novice.

2nd ARO No 25 Suzy Dadly with Ziggy Rose WS (Ziggy)

I first judged Suzy and Ziggy a couple of years ago. Well two years on and I couldn't believe this was the same handler and dog. A lovely first round, super attention from Ziggy, good clear recall, just a small amount to mark when Ziggy lost attention on AT's, but you managed to get her back quickly. Lots of encouragement from Suzy. You have both grown in confidence. A super partnership. Congratulations getting reserve place. I'm really pleased for you.

3rd No 23 Robert Kent with Brydea Beatty Beagle (Lola)

I have written on my sheet FABULOUS. And it was! A round where people applauded you at the end. To train a beagle to the standard Lola worked is not easy and it is credit to Robert. You can clearly see you have a great relationship. Superb attention with only minor blips.

Super recall and retrieve. My advice to you would be to slow down on your turns and try to get her working a little closer to you. Congratulations A joy to watch.

4th ARO No 30 Wendy Line with Ossies Juming Jax, WS (Jax)

A very nice round from Wendy and Jax. A great set up, but some loss of position at the start of heelwork on and off the lead but then settled in nicely. Walking at a good pace. Jax was one of the dogs that was a little concerned with the atmosphere of the day, but Wendy giving reassurance to him. Good recall and retrieve. Won a three way run off. Congratulations

5th ARO No 34 Rachel Richards with Goodby Mr Chips X (Chip)

Rachel what a fabulous relationship you and Chip have. He is a cracking happy little dog and a credit to you. This partnership have been competing for just 18 months. Super close heelwork and fabulous attention, right up to when Chip lost his focus when he was distracted by 2 dogs during heel on, which was a shame. Heel free was brilliant and you knew you had to keep him going at the same point which you did (excellent handling skills). Some mouthing on retrieve but a super recall. I was extremely happy to see you in the line up. Another dog that has come from KC Good Citizen Pre Beginner Stakes coming 3rd this year at Crufts. Well done

6th No 5 Wendy Evans and Gullivers Lilly Labrador (Lilly)

Worked in the morning. Another dog that had a super happy attitude and already graced the green carpet at Crufts for the Welsh team. Lilly's attention was lovely. She took it all in her stride. Just a couple things to iron out like a slow sit and some mouthing on retrieve. Wendy I would suggest that you walk a little bit quicker which will make the whole picture look even nicer. Having said that still a lovely round. Well done

7th ARO No 37 Laura Wiley and Moonstyle Mystic Frost Intro Ex Aus Shep (Halla)

Laura competed with 2 dogs today and Halla was by far the better of the 2, but then Laura also got into her stride. Some nice close heelwork but has a tendency to be a bit nosey. Get this sorted and you will certainly be higher up in the places. Nice recall and retrieve. Won the run off for this place. Well done

8th No 27 Jo Tuttle with Falkors Wicket Scret Rottie (Lacey)

Lovely to have a Rottie in the lineup and very much deserved to be. At just 3 years of age Lacey in another dog that had superb attention, but Jo lost more mark than the dog, by

stopping on turns. Sort this out and you will certainly do well in novice. A very happy dog who clearly loves her work and her mum. Jo encouraging in all the right places. Clear recall and retrieve. Well done

9th No 2 Liam Norfold and Kennibee Klevva GR (Kenny)

Worked first thing in the morning and certainly set a good standard for the day. Great set up with Kenny. Lots of play in between exercises to keep him up and at it. Some nice heelwork, with minor faults. You should have been higher in the places if you had not have done what you did with the dumbbell (you know what I'm talking about Liam!) Super recall. Well done

10th ARO No 4 Alison Burrows with Risingtides Lady Opal (Emma)

Lovely straight line heelwork from Emma today, some wide abouts, but left turns were fantastic. I'm not surprised you won out of beginners so quickly. Super happy dog with a lovely attitude. Won the run off by a cats whisker. Well done

10th No 17 Keelagh Wiggins and Tigerbear Prince Fudge GSD (Fagin)

I am so pleased Keelagh made it into the line up. It was really hard to split you with the above dog and I had to be very picky. I like this dog very much. Great attitude. A shame Fagin couldn't control his barking otherwise with the heelwork he produced today you would have been higher in the places. A great relationship you have with him. Well done

Congratulation to everyone who took part in the Beginner finals.