

Pre Beginners

Judge: Dave Pask

Caller Steward: Linda Wild

Scoreboard Steward: Kerry Wild

My sincere thanks to Dave Banks for the invitation to judge my absolute favourite class at the first ever Obedience Class Championships. Massive unlimited thanks also to Fran and Rhiannon as well as Dave for organising what turned out to be everything it promised to be and oh so much more.

A huge achievement to take on board an idea Fran had on a sleepless night added to a few comments and turn those into such a prestigious and well organised event that just has to be one for the calendar for many years to come!

Thank you to Pet Needs for sponsoring the class and for the gifts for Linda, Kerry and myself.

As always my huge thanks to Lovely Linda, who always manages to make sure I am totally organised to within an inch of my life when I am undertaking a judging appointment. Everything 'just so', permission to get a drink, visit the loo, only given if everything else is ready for the class first. Word perfect as always and keeping all teams as calm as possible as they negotiated the round.

Today, for the first time ever, I also had the pleasure of Kerry's company on the scoreboard as well. No need to check the maths or worry about who was coming in next. Kerry had everything sorted before it needed sorting and everything scoreboard related ran as smooth as clockwork. Thank you Kerry for stepping into the breach and being such good company for the whole day. I will ask again....that's a promise.

I thought very carefully about the round I wanted to set before finalising my idea. I wanted something that contain something for all abilities, all sizes of dog and still have enough for handlers to show off their dogs. Length of the round was important as was the chance for smaller dogs to shine while the larger dogs could still stride out and show me their stuff too. I ended up with one right, one about and one left plus a semi circle to give the dogs a chance to show me how well they could stay with their handler in all situations. I hope that all that took part enjoyed this round with a difference. It was a round planned specifically for this show and gave you all the only chance ever to have a go at it while I am judging. A special show, deserved a special round and to use it again would, in my mind detract from the uniqueness of the first ever show of this kind.

For those that did not see the round, it was basically a large "D" and the teams worked around the outside of it. Recall was a short one, straight up the centre.

OK.....now that's covered on to the teams that presented themselves and gave me the absolute honour of judging them. A very happy bunch of talented but nervous teams were to enter my ring

today as expected. Nerves played a huge part in today's rather special Pre Beginner class with the title of Class Champion not making things easier for relatively inexperienced competitors.

That said, what a fabulous and happy "go for it" bunch you proved to be! I noted on more than one occasion that handlers that had never met before were chatting happily with one another, exchanging ideas and thoughts on the day as well as taking great care to settle their dogs and ensure that they were as ready as possible to strut their stuff and show me their best work. You were all exactly what I used to love about being in Pre Beginners myself. Chatty, happy and encouraging to one another. I applaud your attitude. I hope you all enjoyed your day and I wish all of you the very best of luck in the years to come. You all have super dogs and every one of you went home with the best one.

Nerves as I have said already, plus stays played a bit of a part in proceedings but without further rambling from me, let's get down to the nitty gritty of the line up.

1st Mrs Rachel Chapman with Sherbert Tropical – 2014 Pre Beginner Obedience Class Champion!!!!

WELL DONE Rachel!! Congratulations on this win and I hope you are still buzzing. Not a lot to mark on Shadows straightline heelwork, just a little bit of outward crabbing with his bottom but I think that was caused by him holding back the powerhouses that are his rear leg muscles. As the biggest dog in my ring today he coped very well with the changes of direction and the semi circle. Good luck for the next season and the higher classes.

2nd Mrs Hazel Dalglish with Decoymans Piper Laska -2014 Pre Beginner Obedience Class Reserve Champion!!

A double take was necessary when Hazel entered the ring looking very much like husband Ralph! After a bit of detective work, it transpired that Hazel was not Ralph and Ralph was not Hazel either! It was abundant clear who Laska was, so be honest we just carried on regardless and got on with things. What a dog Laska is too! Ralph encouraged and praised Laska in all the right places and could show many men just how to vocally encourage a dog to work. The main points lost were for a tight lead and a slightly anticipated recall but they are easily sorted. Fabulous attentive heelwork from Laska and I predict a promising future for her in seasons to come. Well deserved place.

3rd Mrs Janet James with Little Red Fluffypants

Janet, I love Red to bits! Her happy posture, wagging tail and light steps were a joy to watch as she glided round the ring with you. Not once did her expression change from start to finish of the tests. She even looked happy having her one minute sit break and the 2 minute down break of stays. I wrote "Happy Chap" on my scoresheet but should have written "Happy Chappess"! . Slight losing of position in heelwork and sitting 'in' closer than heelwork were the few things I could find to mark. Clear on the recall!!! Well done, you deserve every inch of the ribbon that made that rosette.

Fabulous little girl and I hope I get the pleasure of watching her work again. Good luck for the next season.

4th Mrs Caron McLure with Hightimbers Penny

Tiggy is another well trained dog that enjoys her heelwork. Caron, watch your lead hand it went a little tight at one point and have a look at how she turns. Just a little laggy at times. Straight lines were faultless. Heelfree was just as consistent as Heel On and a joy to watch. Another team with a bright future. Well done and good luck for next season.

5th Mrs Lynn Marsden with Firbank Fell Fergus

Fergus is a bit of a nosey chap isn't he Lynn? His noseyness presumably because of the sights and smells all around played a big part in his heelwork position and this is where you lost the main marks today. Having said that, in a venue such as the Kennel Club Building with so very much going on all around him, he still put forward a creditable performance. Good handling by yourself brought out sufficient good points for you both to gain this well deserved place. Recall was almost faultless, just a teeny bit off centre. Very well done, I am sure that with continued training to the quality you have obviously already done, he will come on even further. Good luck for next season.

6th ARO Mrs Margaret Wildsmith with Tachnamadra Laurencin With Sandiebeck

Margaret, watch those tight leads! Jodie knows what is expected and knows how to produce it. Tight leads are expensive and cost you a higher place although I know you were very happy with being in the line up today. Fantastic relationship between yourself and Jodie. Jodie is a bubbly dog who obviously enjoys the chance to prance and strut her stuff for her Mum, a joy to watch. Other than the lead, very little to mark on the rest of the round. A clear recall! Very well done on this place and good luck for the next season.

7th ARO Mrs Elizabeth Brown with Mweenish Moonshine Miranda

Pearl is another bubbly girl who's training is coming along nicely Elizabeth. Excellent handler/dog relationship and she clearly loves her obedience as well as, judging from her wagging, anything else in life too! Tight lead to watch for you too in HOL the main marks. Loss of attention and also position due to this the main things in HF. Nothing that cannot be sorted I am sure. Lovely recall and a pleasure to watch you both. Well done on this place and good luck for next season.

8th ARO Mrs Gail Holl with Roger And Out

Roger and Gail are a team I have had the utmost pleasure of judging on a number of occasions in the past. Gail knows just how to set him up, slightly further away from the leg with him being a little chap that does not want squashing by a foot. Heelwork set up starts with Roger sat out looking at Gail and 99% of the time he does not deviate from that distance which means he cannot be marked for losing position. A few marks for a small lag out of turns when he did not quite put on enough power to stay alongside you and a drift out wider on the about. As usual, nothing major in terms of heelwork itself. The most expensive exercise today was the recall. I know everyone, including me loves the way he spins rather than returning to heel after the present but today was just a few spins too many for the scoresheet. Fabulous little dog, who LOVES to show off and when you can do it so well, why not? Very well done on this place Gail, you so deserved it and keep on being as entertaining a team as you have been from the very first time you entered Obedience. Love it!!

9th ARO Miss Kim Rogers with Charlie Boy Bow

Dodge had a jolly good luck round and a bit of a sniff while in the heelwork today. Naughty boy!! Kim and a couple of tight leads. Naughty Kim. OK that's the bad things. Good things include fabulous handler/dog relationship and clearly some good training has been done in the past to enable you to qualify for the class today. The venue and the sights and smells are very different and who can blame a dog for looking? Work on attention and you will do very well with Dodge Kim. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

10th Miss Lian Gibson with Queen Of Preston

Luna also found the flooring interesting and could not resist a sniff. Just a bit of work on attention in the future will sort this I am sure. Again the venue is different from anywhere else and the more inexperienced dogs do sometimes just HAVE to explore the floor. Tight leads Lian! They cost points so be careful, like quite a few above, with your lead hand. I wrote on my judging sheet "much better without the lead" so that is where you need to work hard in your training. Other than inexperience and watching your lead, not a great deal to mark so you are doing very well as you start your obedience career. Keep up the good work. Very well done on this place and good luck for the future.

So that's it folks!!!!

The end of my report, which I hope you all enjoy reading.

Most importantly, I hope you all enjoyed your day, enjoyed my round and had a good time, wherever you finished in or out of the line up. It has been an absolute pleasure to judge you all and I hope you take away positives and continue to progress well with your dogs.

From me and my two lovely companions Linda and Kerry, thank you ALL for being a great gang and entering under me.

Good luck everyone and enjoy your dogs

Dave