Class: B PART 2

Judge: JANET MATTHEWS

STEWARD – PAUL EVANS

SCRIBE – JOY GREAVES

TABLE – DYANE JONES

Entries – 16, dogs worked 15.

What a fabulous day – a brilliant atmosphere from the second the doors opened. Hats off to the organisers and all those behind the scenes who made this event the shining success it was. I was both excited and honoured to be invited to judge at the first Obedience Class Championships Grand final. I would like to thank Fran and her team both for the invite and for taking this idea from concept to reality. The dedication involved in doing so has my total respect.

One of the greatest honours when judging is to award a team the opportunity to compete in the Obedience Championships at Crufts, but this apart, my all time favourite class to judge is Class B. I just love Class B - as a trainer, a competitor and a judge. For me, and its only my view-point, Class B is a show-case of potential Champions.....its very rare that an exceptional 'B dog', given the correct on-going training and opportunity, does not then go on to make its mark in the Championship Class...... so, to be given the opportunity to judge this class at the Finals and witness first hand some of the up and coming stars made me very happy.

It's always a great comfort to have a quality team around you, and I certainly had that. A huge thank you to Joy Greaves who as always did a fabulous job of scribing and also assisted me in the event preparation, pacing and timing the round and testing retrieves with her own 2 B girls....thank you for giving up the opportunity to work your dogs and being so supportive. I had the much sought after Paul Evans as my Ring Steward....a popular man by all accounts, putting handlers at their ease and doing a brilliant and efficient task of stewarding our competitors around the ring. Then our Table Scribe Dyane Jones, keeping everything in order for me on the day and also updating the display boards promptly to keep spectators informed.......and your laminating skills – anything that stood still in the run up to the event got laminated !!! Thank you also to Penny Hirsch my scent decoy steward. A huge thank you to all of you....I hope you had a memorable day and enjoyed being part of this event as much as I did.

1st   **Claire Porter with Lookylooky Rhythm N Booz**. Losing 11. A stylish enthusiastic round of heelwork very neatly handled by Claire. Boozy maintained a tight and accurate HW position on his turns and showed consistency in all paces. A quality Send Away was slightly marred by anticipation from the box when Boozy misinterpreted an unintentional signal from Claire on a left turn. Retrieve was very well executed with only very minor loss of points – considering the article was attractive and required concentration he did a grand job. Stays passed without incident.....and then scent, where Boozy did his best to sabotage all his efforts – anticipating all parts of the test through enthusiasm. Congratulations Claire, a very worthy winner - and very well done on winning the final run-off to become the very first Class B Champion.

2nd – **Emma Hughes with Jarysmystic Pure Genius**. Lost 12.5. Our leading dog going into scent. Alfie produced some very attractive HW with minor loss of points for recurring faults, usually caused by hesitancy on turns. The first stretch of HW towards the SA was costly and showed this teams inexperience. Once settled into the test the faults were ironed out and this team blossomed. Retrieve was extremely accurate with Alfie being careful on the pick up without being over cautious. A slight loss of points on SA for deviation and position, followed by a very accurate and tidy recall. Scent – oh dear – Alfie's playful side bubbled over and the points added up. Never mind Emma, Alfie did you proud – he showed he can play with the big boys! Really pleased for you – many congratulations on this place.

3rd – **Carol Clack and Briarbar Golden Dream**. Lost 12.75. The heelwork from this team was nothing short of fabulous – losing only 2.5 over all paces. Accuracy with drive and enthusiasm, a beautiful position with no dropping back or changing position on turns. Very well handled by Carol – as one would expect. A playful retrieve did cost some marks, but this could still have been a challenging round with those losses......until sendaway.....and scent..... A wonderful prospect for the future if and when this dog decides to play by the rules ! A pleasure to judge.

4th – **Julie Rowlands with Sarkam Unanimous Decision**. Lost 13. A young inexperienced dog relatively new to this class. Young Mario gave a very good account of himself – especially on his set exercises, where he showed some of the more experienced dogs how to do them. Heelwork was keen but a little inconsistent due to Mario checking his unusual surroundings, this also causing a costly 'no-sit' on the normal pace. Fast pace was very well conducted Mario being more balanced and fully occupied and engaged into the task. Congratulations Julie – always a pleasure to judge you. I know you were delighted with your lad.

5th – **Julia Skipp with She's The One**. Lost 14.5. A super little dog – China tried her heart out through the HW – very neat and accurate. Then came retrieve – oh she loved it – we all found out what China gets up to on Christmas day ! On a serious note it was very costly, losing 4 marks. Won this place after a run-off undertaking SA and retrieve.....Julia was a little firmer this time and China performed almost perfectly. Congratulations – a lovely team.

Well done to everyone who took part, I hope you all enjoyed the test – every team was a pleasure to judge – happy dogs and caring considerate handlers. Everyone entered into the spirit of the day – thank you all for your entries – it really was a memorable day.

Thanks once again to all those who made this happen – here's to next year !

Janet Matthews.