

NOCF 2018 Beginner Class show report

Judge: Ruth Britton

Ring Steward: Nicky Murrell

Scoreboard Steward: Andrea Waistell

Many thanks to the NOCF team for inviting me to judge the Beginner class at their prestigious class finals event. It is the perfect opportunity to celebrate successes achieved throughout the year and to see the cream in each class show themselves in this fabulous competition.

The whole day runs like clockwork due to a great deal of hard work by those involved in its organisation but the NOCF competition is so much more than that, the whole room sparkles from the decorations that adorn each ring and the trade stands showing off their tempting goodies not to mention the handler's bright glittering outfits and even the dogs show off new collars and leads excited by the general buzz around the rings.

As a judge I felt honoured and pleased to be involved this year but in order for a judge to be on top of their game they need good support and I had the best, Nicky steered the teams expertly around the ring but was also kind and patient putting handlers at ease and helping to calm inevitable nerves, thank-you so much. The third member of the team and in many ways the most vital role was Andrea on the scoreboard, she quietly ensured that the class flowed faultlessly all day, carefully inputting the scores and keeping the competitors in the loop, thank-you so much you were a star.

After many years of judging I had an idea of the standard of work I would see on the day, but this was exceeded, and I was really impressed, the dogs were happy and generally unphased by the atmosphere which is credit to sympathetic training and quite a few teams were quite outstanding.

This was a challenging class to win and those that made the line-up should be very proud of themselves and their lovely dogs and they were:

1st- Michelle Dakin with "Tatty Tedward"

Wow! wow! and wow! again this dog oozed personality and was beautifully handled by Michelle who anticipated every eventuality which I would normally only expect to see from someone with a great deal more experience than her. This little dog captivated us all, the rapport between dog and handler was palpable and a joy to see, a lovely combination of style, accuracy and enthusiasm, a star in the making and one to watch out for.

Best of luck in the higher classes.

2nd – David Foden with "Tiamaria Imperial Red"

Another fabulous team who on any other day could have easily scooped the top slot. A very well-schooled dog that knew his job and worked the round with confidence and precision but with a wagging tail and a cheerful manner which was a pleasure to judge.

Only minor errors lost on the whole round and a force to be reckoned with in the future, good luck.

3rd – Julie Shakespeare with “Ebony N Ivory Dream Maker”

This dog bounced into the ring raring to go and didn't disappoint he obviously enjoyed working for his handler and took the round apart losing very few marks. I could feel the connection between them which allowed me to stand back and enjoy their round, well done I was really impressed, and predict many more successes. Good luck.

4th – Richard Moss with “Elmleas Nell Away to Moss”

When they walked in the ring I could see that a good connection existed between the dog and handler and that shone through in their ring work. The dog had obviously been well trained with the left turns being particularly well executed and enjoyed working which was lovely to see and I am sure they have a bright future together. Good luck

5th – Sylvia Moorhouse with “Tazaeos Cierzo”

A pretty, stylish dog that showed me flashes of brilliance, harness that and you will have a winner. Fabulous, well done.

6th – Julie Donohue with “Vonbekkas Amadeus”

A good team that worked the round well, minor errors on each exercise relegated you to this place, on another day the result could easily have been different. Good luck.

7th – Lauren Goldsmith-Cottrell with “Queen of The Great Grass Sea”

A happy team that complemented each other beautifully, just a slip up on the first halt which was a shame, but it cost you a higher place in a very strong class. You deserve to do well, good luck.

8th – Ffion Roe with “Chesterfields Jack Lester”

Very smart work from this dapper little dog who did his best to please his handler. His set exercises were delightful, tighten up the heelwork and he will be fabulous. Good luck.

9th – Andrea Waistell with “Morgansr Leap of Faith”

Karma is a real sweetheart who also tries hard to please her handler and as such was a pleasure to judge. There were a few wobbles in heelwork, but good, competent set exercises secured this place. Very best of luck for the future.

10th – Wendy Rakison with “Bright Ruby Tuesday”

A delightful dog that obviously enjoyed working for her handler, good luck.

Good luck to you all for the future,

Ruth Britton