

I would like to thank the Kennel Club of Jersey for inviting me to judge the Channel Islands Obedience Dog of the year. The competition was well organised thanks to the team you supplied me. A special thanks go to Christine and Mick for putting my ring together, which was the perfect size. Thank you Michelle for your perfect stewarding, thank you Carole for being Chief Steward and getting people into the ring on time. Thank you to Helen for keeping the score board and thank you scent decoys Jane and Heather and to Lyndsay for stepping in to do the B and C stays. Last but not least a thank you to the competitors for entering under me in this competition. I had a great day and it was so nice to see old friends again.

Beginners

1. J. Mauger and Lexi, a nice little dog who worked well on all the exercises, heel free better than heel on lead, so work on heel on lead. I liked Lexi's attitude very much, well done, keep up the training.
2. F. Sangan and Tay, worked well in heelwork, but turns were wide so they need a little work to tighten them, but keep Tay's happy attitude as that is important. Well done.
3. N. Moss and Deputy, worked a nice round but just let down on the heelwork he needs to keep his position on turns and straight heelwork, well done and keep it up.

Novice

1. S. Collins and Teal, a really enthusiastic boy which I liked, he was keen and accurate, a super round in both heel on lead and free. You were a great team together which is really important in obedience, I am sure you will go far with Teal. Very well done, a joy to judge.
2. L. Keeler and Casca, this team caught my eye when they came into the ring and only ¼ mark between the first and second dog. Worked well on all exercises and I know in your hands Liz Casca will do well. Like the winner, you worked as a team with your dog which is so important. Well done.
3. R. Marquand and Purdy, overall Purdy worked well but you just need to work on your heelwork, especially turns, but don't rush them. The first three dogs made this a very strong class to judge.
4. V. Dowding and Hattie, a nice round but Hatties heel free let her down, just work on Hattie being more consistent on all exercises, but so nice to see another breed doing obedience.
5. G. Davies and Porcia, she managed to do all the exercises but they all need tightening up especially the recall, I am sure club will help you with this.
6. D. McIntyre and Luca, such a happy dog in the ring but you need to work on your heel free and recall in particular. She needs to be worked very quietly, go back to training recall on the lead for a while as running round the ring will become a habit and a game for Luca when you are in the ring.

Class A

1. S. Collins and Teal, a very nice round. Teal worked well with no commands and again in the ring you were the perfect team. You just need to watch your scent, he needs no

pressure and its always good to go back to training the basics in scent rather than pushing him on. I think he has many successful years ahead of him. Well done.

2. R.McFarlane and Chyna, another very nice round with only $\frac{1}{4}$ between first and second dog. Loved his spirit and enthusiasm. Just keep an eye on the training of the retrieve and scent as all these little halves and quarters all add up and make a difference at the end on the round, well done.
3. J. Bennett and Tahro, worked well but her heelwork needs tidying up, just take it slowly step by step and not to move on too quickly. It's always best to go back to basics and get that right before you move on. Well done.
4. C. Burns and Harvey, Harvey needs to concentrate and be more consistent in his heelwork, it all needs tidying up and I am sure it will all come together for you. Work on your scent and don't put any pressure on him.
5. V. Dowding and Hattie I think Hattie suffered because mum could not talk to her. I would train heelwork for A on a very light thin lead so Hattie thinks she is off lead, even in competition if you think she is struggling talk to her and help her, it's better to lose a few marks rather than letting her struggle. Work on your scent without any pressure.

Class B

1. H. Speller and Storm, a very nice heelwork round. Storm worked well on all the exercises which is what you need in obedience, his scent work was the best in this class. A well deserved win.
2. M. Martel and Skye, the best heelwork in the class today, but sadly let down on his retrieve. He did a very nice scent but you do need to work on the retrieve without pressure, so go back to basics for a while, well done.
3. G. Davies and Esme, a good round but just needs to tighten up on all the exercises, especially heelwork and work on your scent as all the little mistakes add up. Well done.
4. M. De la Hay and Tusca, a nice heelwork round but sadly let down on send a way, she was also a little messy on scent but overall she worked well, you need to revisit your training on these two exercises without pressure as she is such a sensitive little girl.
5. J. Bennett and Tahro, heelwork training needs tidying up on all three paces, especially turns and you just need to check that after the sit at the end of each pace that she starts off with you in heelwork. She did a very nice send a way but was let down on her sit-stay. Keep the training up and I'm sure it will all come together.
6. C. Burns and Harvey, poor little man looked out of his depth today in this class. Keep up the training and make it enjoyable for him.

Class C

1. M Gibaut and Kip, a well worked round at a steady pace. He kept his position in all three paces and did not vary from that in his heelwork, his positions on the move were very accurate. A positive DC, a good send a way and scent. A worthy winner of this class.
2. R. Harris and Jodie had the best heelwork mark in this class, she worked very well but unfortunately in some of the other exercises she seemed to lose her concentration which cost her marks, which is a shame after such a lovely heelwork round. Well done.

3. H. Speller and Storm did not work such a good round as he did in Class B. DC let you down today. He had the only clear scent in this class today, well done.
4. T. Buckley and Spy not his day today, his heelwork was not consistent in all three paces his turns were sometimes messy they just need cleaning up. DC let him down badly today as did his sit stay. Knowing you Terry I'm sure you will work on these.
5. W. Wright and Rhia had consistent heelwork in all paces and positions on the move, a bit of a messy send a way and failing scent lost you your marks today.
6. P. Hitchon and Phizz heelwork needs to be more consistent in all three paces. You really need to work on your send a way as Phizz thought she would have a game with the markers today. You also need to work on your scent.

I would like to make a final comment to the competitors. You shouldn't be afraid to go back to basics in your training of any exercise, it gives the dog confidence when he can do the exercises correctly. If the dog cannot move on a step then he is not ready to move on so go back to basics and do not put pressure on your dogs by pushing them on too quickly, get it right from the start and all will fall into place. Remember training should be fun for you and especially your dog, so that when you are in the ring your dog will enjoy the experience and if all goes wrong in the ring, stop and put it right, it is better to put it right than letting your dog keep making mistakes as mistakes can become a habit and lose you the class. There is nothing more enjoyable than having that great feeling that you and your dog are working as a team.

Neville Uden