

## **The Kennel Club Obreedience Competition**

**Saturday 12 March 2016**

**Judge: Krysia Wilenczyc**

I would like to thank the Kennel Club for the invitation to judge the Obreedience Competition at Crufts this year.

This is a new and exciting event, designed to give the breeds not normally associated with obedience the chance to showcase how intelligent and trainable their chosen breed is. Having taken part in the first year with a team of Afghans, I know how exciting, although also nerve racking, it is to step on to the green carpet with a breed that, although trained, can choose to do it 'their way'. We did have a few 'other breed' moments, but this only added to the fun of the event.

I was delighted to be presented with the following teams to judge: Samoyeds, Greyhounds, English Springer Spaniels, Pyrenean Sheepdogs, Whippets, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers and Border Collies.

Every team gave a good account of themselves and I hope that they enjoyed their time in the ring as much as I enjoyed judging them.

Thanks must go to my brilliant team, Lyn bowers, Dawn Barry, Wendy Birch and Michelle Newman, who did an excellent job in making the event run smoothly and putting the competitors at ease.

I hope that this event goes from strength to strength to encourage people to have a go at training their pet dogs, no matter what the breed.

The teams that made the least errors and were placed are as follows:

### **1st. Team Kinaway – Border Collies.**

As to be expected from this working breed, the Border Collies delivered a round of precision and teamwork at its best. Coupled with excellent set exercises, they were clear winners. Well done.

### **2nd. Roag's Babies – GSD**

Another working breed showing what they are capable of with good teamwork and set exercises. I believe these GSDs are all related. Well done on coming a close second.

### **3rd. Team Toller - NSDTR**

Team Toller came into the ring with a determination to take the top spot and, after the heelwork, were just in the lead by a quarter of a point. Unfortunately an exuberant scent, which resulted in the dog forgetting who their handler was (much to the delight of the crowd), relegated them to 3rd place. Well done.

### **4<sup>th</sup>. Cavaliers at Work – CKCS**

It was lovely to see this small breed working well as a team. The set exercises were performed well but a small error on one of the exercises kept them in 4th Place. Well Done

I do hope that other breeds are inspired to get a team together, have a go and qualify for next year's event. It was a pleasure to judge you all this year and the little 'other breed' moments just added to the fun.