

Thank you to Okehampton & DCS for inviting me to judge the junior & adult handling classes at your open show on 24/09/2022

Class A – JHA – 6 – 11 Yrs

1st Libby Rycroft (9) handling a Dachshund.

A smartly dressed young lady who looked the part as soon as she walked into the ring with her dog. She performed her pattern work with no fuss. Nice straight lines & good lead work.

I was pleased to also award her Overall Best Junior Handler.

2nd Chayton Clark (8) handling an Affenpinscher.

A polite young man who was at ease with his dog. Looked good on the stack. He needs to practice his straight lines starting in front of the judge rather than down the side of the ring. Lead work also needs some practice to keep it out of the way but overall a nice picture.

Class B – JHA – 12 – 16 Yrs

1st Harriet Bruford (12) handling a Dachshund.

Performed some nice straight lines keeping her dog focused on her. Needs to work on shadowing as she didn't move as I walked around her dog. Good table work.

Class C – Adult Handling – 17 – 30 Yrs

1st Paige Edens handling a Dalmatian.

I do like to see dogs in the ring who test their handler & Paige's dog really did this today! She kept her cool & performed her pattern work faultlessly. Straight lines & great lead work. My eye was always drawn to the dog & not the handler which is always the aim of a handling competition – to show off your dog to the judge whilst you remain in the background. Not always an easy feat to achieve.

I was pleased to go on to award Paige Overall Best Adult Handler & then Best Overall Handler from all classes today.

Class D – Adult Handling – 31 - 45 Yrs

No entries.

Class E – Adult Handling – 46 – 59 Yrs

1st Rena Barrow handling a Beagle.

Presented a lovely picture both on the floor & on the table. A confident handler who worked to get the best out of her dog today. Clean lines & neat leadwork. Stopped the required 3 paces from me after her pattern work & shadowed faultlessly.

Pushed hard for best overall adult today.

2nd Janeet Rice handling a Tibetan Spaniel.

Another very competent handler who could change places with 1st on another day. Good pattern & table work. Excellent shadowing & presentation. Only lost out to 1st as on the stack after the up & down as she stopped 2 paces from me which meant I had to stand back slightly to see the full profile of the dog.

Class F – Adult Handling - 60 + Yrs

1st Shelagh Crowther

Presented the dog in a lovely outline & performed her pattern work very well. Shadowing was excellent. When presenting her dog to me I asked her to show me her dogs 'bite' but instead she showed me it's 'teeth' Something to practice for future competitions.

Thank you to all the handlers who competed under me today, I thought the standard of handling was very good throughout all the classes & hopefully I have given you some pointers to practice before your next competition.

Zoe Adey

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