

# KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Hosted By

ICENI DOG TRAINING CLUB

20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

BEST WESTERN MARKS TEY HOTEL  
LONDON ROAD  
MARKS TEY  
COLCHESTER  
CO6 1DU

PD Judge: John Wykes

Tracklayers: Gary Martin & Alan Sword

Square Steward & Scribe: Kate Wykes

PD Steward: Karen Hamilton

Protected Stewards: Winston Cadogan (the fit one!), Nigel Hines, Gary Martin, Paul Morling, Amanda Pollard, Malcolm Snowden, Belinda Spensley & Charlie Taylor

Thank you to the Kennel Club for asking me to judge, also thank you to all the societies who nominated me and then voted for me.

Thank you to Icenidog DTC for hosting the KCC's this year and to Trials Manager, Frances Ball and all her helpers for putting on such a great event. From the outside it appeared to all run smoothly, if there were any problems they were swiftly dealt with so no one noticed. A great trial. Well done.

I was honoured to accept this appointment and I hope that the test I set was enjoyed by both competitors and spectators alike.

The PD stake is not just about the patrol round, they still have to do a proper nosework test and control and agility round worthy of a championship stake, then the patrol round.

Thank you to Gary & Alan for laying the tracks. They were all well laid on grass giving all the competitors the same chance, 4 of the 5 completed the track with just the 1 getting about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way round, with everybody getting all 4 articles out of the square they were all still qualifying after the nosework.

As we were given 40 minutes between tracks I made the most of the time by doing the steadiness to gunshot, the speak and the heelwork on the tracking field, this just left the downs, send away and the agility to do on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning 09.30 we started with the downs, 4 dogs clear, 1 dog lost ½ for minor movement. In tracking order they then did the sendaways and jumps, with varying degrees of success. Only one dog messed up the sendaway completely, unfortunately this knocked them out on the control, one dog had a jump down, but we went into the patrol round with 4 still qualifying.

Setting a test at the KCC's brings its own problems as you have to set a test that can be seen and enjoyed by the spectators as well as testing the competitors. Thank you to the protected stewards for all their hard work.

I set a round that I considered to be worthy of a championship stake, this meant that the round wasn't set out in individual little pockets, the handlers had to think for themselves as the round progressed before them and it would appear that some were not used to having to do this. However, we did still manage to keep 3 of our 4 qualifiers, so well done to them.

We started with the chase, 2 protected stewards (PSs) came from behind the competitors passing one each side of them and walked up the field, with the competitors challenging them as they went. They then started jogging and broke into a run as they went round a corner of the field out of sight of the competitors, at this point the 2 PSs split, 1 hugging the hedge and the other 1 running across the field, at the same time as this happened the competitors were told to send their dogs, once the dogs had rounded the corner and were committed to chasing the PS I signalled for the steward and competitor to come forward. Once they reached the PS and called their dog off, the 2<sup>nd</sup> PS shouted and started running, it was up to the competitor to then challenge the 2<sup>nd</sup> PS and send their dog after him, once the dog was committed to the chase they could then start off after their dog, not forgetting to take the PS they'd already got with them, once they got there they took control of the situation, end of exercise.

The next exercise was the quartering. They had to send their dog around quite a large part of a field. There were hides situated around the field to help draw the dogs. Once the dog located the 2 PSs, (hiding in a gateway) and had barked to let us know they'd found them the handlers went over and dealt with the situation, which meant getting the PSs out from where they were, searching them, (they were carrying weapons,) and searching the hide, (nothing hidden in it). They now had to escort the PSs (they knew where they were going) after a reasonable amount of escorting another PS approached, challenging them and going towards them, they challenged back and sent their dog when the PS refused to stop, they now had 3 PSs to escort.

Test of courage: As they continued escorting down the field a PS came out of a gateway challenging them, they challenged back and the PS went back into the gateway, at this point they sent their dog and as the dog went into the gateway there were 5 PSs who as soon as the dog arrived made as much noise as they could by shouting and banging tin trays. The handlers then followed up bringing the 3 PSs they'd already collected and dealt with the situation before them by bringing the PSs out of the gateway, getting their weapons off them and sorting them out.

The recall was the final exercise, the set up was exactly the same as before for the chase, only this time once the PSs had turned the corner and gone out of sight the handler sent their dog once the dog went round the corner out of sight of their handlers I signalled and at the same time the steward told them to recall their dog. So with the dogs out of sight, does the handler trust them to come back on one command, or are they going to throw away some marks by given them a 2<sup>nd</sup> command. Well some did, some didn't, but actually all the dogs turned on the 1<sup>st</sup> command, and that finished the test.

All the competitors completed the patrol round with varying degrees of success, nobody disgraced themselves whilst competing. Some got bits of it wrong and some didn't, one managed to do it better than the rest. In the end we finished up with 2 qualifiers.

Results:

1<sup>st</sup> & CC – Alan Bexon with WT CH Fly By Night Lad TDex, PDex - WSD (D) - 294 Qex. Well done Alan and Fly, winning 2 years running can't be bad. A good all round performance from this pair to take the win. Also, awarded the Best Patrol Round. Good Luck next year.

2<sup>nd</sup> & Res CC – Emma Baker with Jesszaks Ricochet Rik TDex, PDex - BC (D) - 283 Qex. Another good all round performance, not far behind the winners. Well done Emma and Rik.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Dave Olley with WT CH Little Raymond TDex, PDex - X (D) - 252 PD only. I also understand from Dave that this was Ray's last time out. Happy retirement Ray, you too deserve it.

4<sup>th</sup> – Wendy Beasley with WT CH Stardell Lunar TDex, PDex - BC (B) - 263.5 NQ.

I understand from Wendy that this was Lunar's last time out. Happy retirement Lunar, you deserve it.

5<sup>th</sup> – Manda McLellan with WT CH Little Tiger TDex, PDex - X (D) - 239.5 NQ.

Well done to all the teams, it's a great achievement to even get to the KCCs, so be proud of what you've achieved and good luck in the future.