

Kennel Club Championships 2015

TD Stake – Judge's Report

Lol Campbell

I'd like to thank Leamington Dog Training Club for hosting the 2015 Kennel Club Championships. This is not an easy task, but the whole team who put in so much work prior to, and during the event can be very proud of themselves, they did a fantastic job. It was a great pleasure to be asked to judge the TD Stake and an honour to see such great teams working. They say 'Dreams don't very often come true' but mine did when I watched the Best of the Best completing my test.

Thank you to my tracklayers, Andy Magyer and Len Newman who did a brilliant professional job and gave each team the chance to shine. We had the pleasure of watching some of the best tracking dogs in the country.

My stewards, Linda Newbold and Anne Bussey, thank you both for your help and your company. Linda stewarded the squares on both days and the Control and Agility on the Saturday, with Anne assisting with the 'speak' and the 'gun' tests. It was a pleasure to work with them.

TEST

The track consisted of 25 legs laid on very dry ground of sparse rape. The articles were a ½ x 3 inch piece of black rubber, a 4inch green garden cane and 3 x 2 inch piece of artificial turf. All the teams worked well with 10 completing the track, sadly 1 of these only retrieved 1 article from the track, so there were 9 teams on qualifying marks at the end of the nosework section.

The Control and Agility commenced with the down stay and then the 4 non-qualifiers worked the test, followed by the remaining 9 qualifiers, going in the order as drawn on the previous evening. The test commenced with the Speak, with the handler and dog moving forward accompanied by 2 stewards, one of which asked a question of the handler who had to respond. The sendaway and redirect followed which was 175 yards to an obvious tree on the boundary, a left redirect along the hedge to a tree and then a right redirect of 160 yards passed the sendaway point to another tree. Only 3 dogs managed the send away with one command, but most coped well with the double redirect. The heelwork followed with handlers being asked to complete a 'figure of eight' around poles towards the jumps. The clear jump was first, then the scale and then the long jump, 2 dogs didn't complete the agility. A small section of heelwork took the teams to a pole where the handlers were asked to leave their dogs and walk forward with a steward, the other steward placed 25 yards to the left of the dog then fired the gun.

Results

1st 208 – Tony Lockyer with Wt Ch Lawinick Come N Get It at Hartshill GSD. The first dog to work and set the standard with a lovely track and square. 161 nosework. 27½ Control 19½ Agility – Congratulations and well done.

2nd 204½ – After a run off. Gary Atkins with Wt Ch Glenalpine Pete BC. Tracked like a dream, but left an article in the square. Great dog. 154 nosework. 31 Control 19½ Agility. Well done.

3rd 204½ - Dave Olley with Little Raymond Crossbreed. Missed a box out on the track which was costly! Brilliant square. 154½ Nosework. 30 Control. 20 Agility. Well done.

4th 199½ - Tony Lockyer with Wt Ch Triple Top of Hartshill WSD. Nice stead track, coped well with the wind, but left an article in the square. 151½ Nosework. 28 Control. 20 Agility. Well done.

5th 196½ - Barry Gilbert with Wt Ch Glenalpine Cosworth. BC. Brilliant track, but another to leave an article in the square. 153½ Nosework. 28 Control. 15 Agility. Well done.

6th 191½ - Mike Williams with Tadmarton Eleanor. Lab. Well done. 141 Nosework. 30½ Control. 20 Agility.

Sheila Tannert retired her dog after doing a lovely control round with a superb send away and redirect. Enjoy a long and happy retirement Teal.