

KENNEL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS – WORKING TRIAL

Moira Rogerson – PT Judge

I would firstly like to thank the Kennel Club for the invitation to judge the Patrol Dog Stake at the Championships and to all at Leamington Dog Training Club who helped in any way and made the event first class. Special thanks to my team - Tracklayers, Track Watchers, Search Steward, Control and Patrol Steward and last but not least Protected Stewards who are happy to run at speed and be chased and bitten by dogs, all in a very controlled manner of course.

The first day started with the nosework exercises, a track which was 2 hours old and 880 yards long, one article was after 220 yards (Green plastic 5 inches x ½ inch) , the second article (green carpet 2 inches x 2 ½ inches) at the end of the track. There were twelve changes of direction on the track some right angles, some acute.

This was followed by the twenty five yard search square which contained 4 articles, a grey curtain ring, a knotted piece of cord, a piece of leather and a flat piece of rubber.

Then we did the speak exercise part of the control section. The handler left the dog at one pole of the search square walked to the next one as they passed the second pole they told their dog to speak, on reaching the third they were told quiet and the fourth to bark again until the exercise was over.

Then it was steadiness to gun, again part of control marks. They left their dog and stepped two paces away from the dog 10 paces away from me.

First day complete.

The second day in the morning we did the rest of the control and agility starting with Heelwork weaving in and out of poles at normal pace, then sendaway 150 yards outrun to a boundary then left redirect along the boundary 130 yards then more heelwork at slow pace and fast pace bringing up to the agility. Agility 3ft clear jump, control at the other side, 6 ft scale jump one way with control, then return over scale. Lastly 9 ft long jump with control at the end. Finally all dogs came in to do a 10 minute down stay out of sight of their handlers. Manwork comes later in the afternoon.

The manwork was what we call a lock out, no competitor had the chance to watch another work so no advantages could be gleaned. I tried to set a test that showed the excellent control Patrol Dogs are under but also their bravery and determination. First exercise was about control, a man came across towards dog and handler waving his arms around and shouting. He had been attacked, pointing at another man who came out of the crowd and proceeded to run off. This was a short chase for the dog to detain the aggressor, as handler walked up to control his dog and protected steward they were attacked from behind. Their dogs were to be called off and come to their rescue. Then a short escort of the two men. Next was a double recall, handlers were told this would happen, the dog was sent on one man and recalled to be sent on another fleeing man and recalled. Next quarter an area, dog hopefully to find the hidden people, one in hedgeback, one laid down by a dead tree, both covered in camouflage. Dog has to bark to let handler know he has found them. Next a long chase followed by an escort and attack on handler as escort has resumed unknown to handlers test of courage stewards gathered behind them. It was a Halloween theme and they wore masks and pretend hatchets. A steward in the crowd on a loudhailer said look behind you, as they looked behind there was a lot of shouting and aggression. The dog was to bite the protected arm of course of one of the four men, they all continued to shout and threaten till they were told to stand still and drop their weapons. The dog was called off . This was the end of their test.

I ended up with a very worthy winner.

- 1st Mr Alan Bexton B/C Dog WTCH Fly by Night Lad
Superb, Fly did little wrong over the 2 days.
- 2nd Mr Dave Olley's Cross Dog WTCH Little Raymond
Last year's winner and another excellent performance. A sad day though as Ray retires from PD at this trial.
- 3rd Mrs Diane Ling's Cross Dog WTCH Deben Little Tom
So many things did not go to according to plan in your round. A super dog who is already qualified for next year's KCCs.
- 4th Manda McLellan's Cross Dog WTCH Little Tiger
Not one of Tiger's best trials, another dog who is already qualified for next year.
- 5th Mr Lee Payne's Cross Dog WTCH Little Rough Rhinestone
Unfortunately Diesel could not do many of the exercises due to an injury he had a few weeks earlier. I hope he makes a full recovery.

Moira Rogerson - Judge