

Southern Golden Retriever Society Limit Obedience Show 15th August 2015

I had a very enjoyable day judging these two classes and I hope the handlers enjoyed their rounds. On the whole, I found what I knew I would – happy dogs and kind, happy handlers. I would like to thank the society for their hospitality, Hazel for all her organisation, Gemma (forgive me if I've remembered incorrectly) on scoreboard and, not least, John Taylor, my steward, his first and hopefully not last time!

Introductory Class

The standard of this class was pretty even, as evidenced by my number of run-offs! Some handlers struggled with the play element which seems strange but, if you don't have a dog that naturally plays, it can be hard work trying to make them – patience and perseverance are what's needed.

1st: After run-off No. 32 Sue Pounds-Longhurst and Ruby. Lost 3pts: play-clear; h/work-2; recall-1; stays-clear

I thoroughly enjoyed watching this team, and my 2nd place team, play. I couldn't fault it – lovely input from handler which was mirrored in the response from the dog. The halt in the heelwork and a crooked present in the recall lost the marks. Well done.

2nd: No.26 Shirley Lidinson and Merlin. Lost 3pts: play-clear; h/work-2; recall-1; stays-clear
I loved this boy! Similar remarks to 1st place apply. Handler nerves lost the run-off.

3rd: No.33 Ian Richardson and Jonty. Lost 6pts: play-1; h/work-4; recall-1; stays-clear
Lovely play, slightly crooked present in recall. Slightly crooked halt in the h/work and, watch your lead, - tight leads cost marks!

4th: Not present for the run-off No.20 Michelle Jankelow and Jacob. Lost 6pts: play-2; h/work-3; recall-1; stays-clear

Worked two dogs in the class and both were lovely to watch – stays were the downfall of Michelle's other dog. Crooked present in the recall and slight changes in h/work position cost the marks today.

5th: after 3 way run-off No. 38 Lesley Thomas and Blaise. Lost 8pts: play-3; h/work-1; recall-4; stays-clear

One of the best h/work marks in the whole class – slight lag and a little wide but very nice. Recall was costly, my notes say 'need to call', I think you just used her name, but she needed the command as well.

6th: No.8 Jane Brimley and Charlie. Lost 8pts: play-3; h/work-2; recall-3; stays-clear
Similar comments apply. Slightly crooked halt in h/work and more encouragement needed in the recall.

7th: No.24 Andy Lawton and Honey. Lost 8pts: play-3; h/work-4; recall-1; stays-clear
Crooked halt and a tight lead cost the marks. My notes say 'lovely, happy girl' I loved her!

Beginners Class

Another nice class to judge. I was looking more at the 'technical' aspects of obedience in this class, so it was loss of h/work position and handlers wheeling their turns making their dogs go wide, that cost marks. In the retrieve, many handlers were catching the dumbbell as their dog dropped it which is not the idea! It should be the dog holds the dumbbell until asked to give. The more a handler catches the dumbbell, the quicker the dog will spit it out! Sit stays were also a problem for many, but it did turn hot which didn't help.

1st: No.6 Ann Benefield and Summer. Lost 6¾: HOL-2¼; recall-½; ret-2¼; HF-1¾; stays-clear
Little bits and pieces cost the marks, loss of position in h/work, crooked present and 'catching the dumbbell'. My notes say 'lovely handling' – well done, I enjoyed watching you work.

2nd: No.18 David Jarrett and Gilly. Lost 9¾: HOL-3½; recall-1; ret-1; HF-4¼; stays-clear
Nice handling from David, as usual. About and right turns need looking at as Gilly does go very wide and going the wrong direction in HF was costly, but David took it in good spirits!

3rd: No.44 Debbie and Penny. Lost 15: HOL-1½; recall-1¼; ret-2; HF-2; stays-sit 8¼, down clear
Nice work from this team, again bits and pieces losing the marks. 'Catching the dumbbell' and sit stay was costly.

4th: No.25 Andrew Lidinson and Jasper. Lost 15¾: HOL-5½; recall-¼; ret-4; HF-2; stays-sit 4, down clear
Most of the h/work marks were lost for a tight lead, hence the improvement in HF! Retrieve needs some refining. Jasper has the idea but the pick-up was untidy and 'catching the dumbbell'. A nice dog to watch with a lovely attitude.

5th: No.45 Mike and Leesi. Lost 17: HOL-5½; recall-¾; ret-1½; HF-1¾; stays-sit 7½, down clear
Another handler who was penalised for a tight lead. Again just bits and pieces and a costly sit stay.

6th: No.7 David Wimsett and Paschabelle. Lost 20: HOL-2; recall-½; ret-¾; HF-1¾; stays-sit 7½, down 7½

What a shame! Your ring work would have deservedly won this class, a bit of polish is all that's needed and I loved your handling. However, you appear to have a comedienne on your hands! Went down in the sit stay and up in the down stay – that's life! There's always next time.