

## **The Kennel Club Obreedience Competition**

**Thursday 5 March 2020**

**Judge: Kate McCartney**

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Crufts committee for the honour of judging this prestigious event at Crufts 2020. I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity of judging these teams who have battled throughout 2019 to gain a place at the final.

Ten teams take part in this event, and I was determined that each and every one of them had a pawisitive experience and enjoyed themselves as much as their nerves allowed. Hopefully my team and I provided the tools and atmosphere to do just that.

I furnished all the teams with a booklet introducing everyone in the judging team and advising them what order the exercises were in and who to speak to if they had any questions. Feedback from competitors and supporters was that this was well received and helped alleviate some nerves. My team and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The teams were all without exception sympathetic to their dogs needs and to the other team members. All the teams were supportive of each other and the camaraderie between them was obvious – it created a lovely atmosphere. Congratulations to each and every one of that qualified for this event – judging you all was truthfully a gratifying experience – thank you all for your kind comments and for accepting my decisions without quibble.

I couldn't have made it to or through this event without the support of my good friends in the Dream Team – you were all FAB Thank you. Richard & Steve for your help before, during and after this competition thank you so much – I don't think people actually realise how much behind the scenes organising you do. To the sponsors of this final Our Dogs – thanks for your support and the fantastic prizes you provide.

Now to the results:

### **1<sup>st</sup> The Sheltie Superstars – gaining 47.50 points.**

Superstars they most certainly were they produced quality in each exercise. Four very different characters but certainly worked as a team. Congratulations on a well deserved win.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> The Butterflies – gaining 45.50 points.**

Aww these dogs (& handlers) produced some fantastic work on the set exercised which allowed them to secure second place – Fantastic Well done you should be very proud.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> The Wagtails – gaining 45.40 points.**

Wow it was a close-run thing between these gorgeous cavaliers and the Butterflies. This team was well named – tails never stopped wagging (the dogs that is) and the handlers never stopped smiling. Too many points lost on some of the set exercises was just the difference. Congratulations on a good team performance.

### **4<sup>th</sup> The Poodle Training Club (Standard) gaining 45.20 points.**

Again, not much in it between third and fourth placing. Good camaraderie from this team. A solid performance to gain 4<sup>th</sup> place at Crufts – Good Result Well Done

I can't close without mentioning the Cairntastics – they were FAB and really entertained the crowd Harris was definitely my dog of the day - he was such a character, and he was handled to perfection – well done

Thanks to everyone who came along to support this event and well done again to all the teams that qualified for the final – you all did your breed and your teams proud. PLUS you got to take the best dog home.

Good Luck for 2020