

## **The Kennel Club Obreedience Competition**

**Thursday 7 March 2019**

**Judge: Anne Bussey**

Having worked (in my capacity as an instructor) with some of the teams and individuals for the Obreedience display at Crufts since its inception six years ago, I was delighted to receive the invitation to judge the Obreedience competition at Crufts this year. I set out to make the competition as straightforward as possible, knowing that working a dog in the Crufts environment brings its own challenges. I selected heelwork pattern 'A' and I was impressed with the performance of all the teams. To work your dog on the green carpet and maintain awareness of your team-mates is no mean task. You should ALL be very proud of your achievements. I was also impressed with the standard of the set exercises where all dogs demonstrated a sound knowledge of the job in hand. This competition is really stepping up to the mark now, - demonstrating how all breeds can be trained to a high level of obedience. Congratulations to you all, you did your breeds proud.

My job as the judge was made easy by the support of my team who worked like a well-oiled machine and kept everything flowing seamlessly. Each and every one of you did your job to perfection and my thanks go to you; my scribe Stephanie Evans, Steward Shelagh Page, Collecting Ring Steward Roy Page, Location Steward Maureen Sale, Marks relay and scent Kath Hardman, and Scoreboard Ann Davis. My sincere thanks go to you all, I could not have done it without you.

At the end of the day we had one team as clear winners, followed by a three-way run-off. This was great as it gave everyone a chance to see the top teams working again!

**1st      The Covert Cockups (Cocker Spaniels).**

With all dogs looking attentive from the start this team did not disappoint. Many congratulations!

**2nd      The Pink Shepherdesses (GSD).**

Winning the run-off with improved heelwork. Well done!

**3rd      Butterflies (Papillon).**

Did you see that stop on recall? Wow. Well done Butterflies a pleasure to watch.

**4th      Sheltie Superstars (Shetland Sheepdogs)**

Again a pleasure to watch, good team-work and solid sets. This team included the dog the judge would most like to take home!

Congratulations to all the teams who qualified to work at Crufts this year. I hope you enjoyed your day as much as I did.