

The Beagle Association

24th February 2018

Handling Classes

Judge Charlotte Ayres-Cousins

Junior 6-11 years

1st Lee Lister, a promising young handler showing a good level of confidence and natural awareness of handling his charge. I believe this is only his 2nd show so he done very well, especially with a dog which is not his own. Good lead position, correct pace on the move. Kept calm when his dog wasn't cooperating on the table, when he managed to get the dog to stand correctly, he presented it very well. On his movement assessment, he utilised the ring well, giving himself and his charge the best opportunity to shine before the judge. Tips for improvement: When moving with other dogs at the start of the class, give yourself plenty of room in front so you can easily avoid catching up and bumping into the dog in front of you plus it allows you to flow with your dog at the correct pace. If you are too close, wait until you are behind the judge and pull your dog up to give you room once again. After your movement and pattern assessment you need to present your dog to the judge. The judge shouldn't have to move, whether this be sideways, forwards or backwards, so stand a good distance but not too far away to enable the judge to view your presented dog. Shadowing is something you will pick up, it quickly becomes the normal reaction when you realise what it is and why it is done. Simply never block your dog from the judge. If the judge moves around your dog to view it from different angles, you need to be moving around your dog as well ensuring there are no limitations to what the judge can view. If you watch the older juniors and adult handlers you will soon pick up shadowing. Learn how to show your dog's teeth and bite. Sometimes the judge will ask just for the bite which is the front of the jaw, and sometimes they will ask for the teeth, in which case start at the side of the jaw, come round to the bite at the front and then to the other side showing all the teeth. The judge may well ask you the dog's age, even if it's not your dog, it's always a good idea to ask the owner the age so you can engage positively a response. The judge may also ask you to point to a particular part of a dog, so over the coming months start learning the points of a dog to keep you at the advantage you deserve. Very well done, so impressed.

2nd Emily Syson, Another promising handler with plenty of enthusiasm. Needs to pick up the pace on the move to get the best out of her charge. You need a little more support in learning how to stand a beagle, and all the tips for improvement from the winner of the class also apply here. All my comments are there to help and support, and you are a very impressive young handler that just needs guidance with a very promising future.

Junior 12-16 years

1st Jessica Bootes, wow this young lady has come on leaps and bounds, really honing in and perfecting her technique, and it's clear to see how much her confidence has grown as a result. Well presented on the table, showed teeth with confidence. Really nailed the pattern work which today was the letter T. Kept the shape throughout. Good utilisation of the ring. Good job. Well done.

2nd Kyra Harrison, A really tough decision this young lady presented me. Wow another fantastic handler of the future. Again I can see how her confidence has grown as she is focussed and perfecting her technique and ring etiquette, Demonstrates a true strong bond and connection with her charge. Presented very well on the table, showed teeth correctly and knew her part of the dog. Pattern for this class was the letter T and this is the only slight glitch that swayed my decision as

unfortunately coming out of the letter T, the corner was cut. Other than that these two wonderful handlers were head to head. So wonderful to see such young talent, love for their dogs and showing. Very well done.

Adults

1st Andrea Keepence-Keyte, Even the figure 8 couldn't get a mistake out of this handler today. I was judging some very good handlers, I had to try in the time I had to get some mistakes out of them and throwing in a figure 8 certainly did bring mistakes but not for this lady. Confident, focussed and clearly very well practiced in all pattern work, superb shadowing, and good ring utilisation. Well done.

2nd Sam Dawson, Much the same as first, I didn't notice any mistakes in this assessment, just the performance of 1st place was more taking the bull by the horns and executing the pattern work and such precise shadowing.

3rd Sam McBain, another great handler, couldn't spot any mistakes, just didn't have the precision of 1 and 2.