

Level 6 – Judge: Claire Price

I would like to thank Pat Somerset and Somerset Rally for their invitation to judge Level 6, at your lovely warm and friendly show in such beautiful surroundings – made this judge want to don her walking boots and go off and explore! (Well, once the crutch is gone!) You and your team looked after us all very well. Thank you to Becky Collier in her role as CRS, for all her advice and support. I would like to offer a huge thank you to my fantastic scribe, Claire Stewart – you did a great job on your scribing debut. I would also like to congratulate you on winning Level 3 in the afternoon with your lovely girl, Thistle.

So to my class, I tried to design a flowing course to enable teams to show me exactly how capable they are, and the partnerships didn't disappoint as the standard was high. It was especially lovely to see the variety of breeds that were working today in the highest level, and this was represented in the qualifiers, with 7 different breeds in the 9 teams to qualify, from Golden Retrievers to Dandee Dinmont Terriers, with everything in between size wise. The placings were:

1st Katy Girdler – Gwynyon Sinead for Pashmatts – Border Collie - 203

What can I say but Wow! What a fabulous team – animated, stylish and enjoying every second of their time in the ring. The distance control exercise was done perfectly, in fact the only team to get it clear. The major points loss came from an unfortunate standing on the second sign. Congratulations!

2nd Marney Wells – Dazmarnic Firefly at Copyhold – Staffordshire Bull Terrier – 201

What a cracking team – show so much style, enthusiasm and attitude in their work. One of only a couple of teams to get a clear on the Back Up 3 Steps at heel, which they did beautifully. Major points loss came in the Down on Recall with some confusion over commands. Congratulations!

3rd Gill Lawrence – Taylor Made for Bekkis – Working Sheepdog – 194

Lovely happy round with just a few costly errors. Congratulations also on getting a qualifier with your other dog – was a delight to see an older dog so thoroughly enjoying their time in the ring. Congratulations!

4th Ruth Allingham – Allanabru Awesome in Amber – Miniature Pinscher – 192

Very stylish worker, who put in a lovely enthusiastic display of great teamwork. The major costly error was in not putting in the required pace changes. Congratulations!

5th Andrea Bolden – Our Cowardly Lion – Terrier X – 191

What a fabulous 'young man' – enjoyed every second of watching this team working together, their bond is a joy to see. I especially loved his 'creative' new sign and think it's one the RWP need to consider for future – think 'Weave through the legs and Down' has a ring about it! Congratulations!

6th Joanne Pickles – Midnight Bullet – Border Terrier – 191

Another great display of the teamwork that is required to compete at this level, they made a few costly errors in the beginning of the round but brought it all together to have a faultless last 7 signs and bonus. Congratulations!

Special Mention – Sue Pearson – Anlory Keltic Star – Red Setter

One of the best Stand to Down of the day in the distance control exercise, and also my favourite – I only wish I could have given bonus points for the adorable face on paws moment at the end of the down! You have a lovely relationship with your dog, and baring for a few big mistakes this could easily have been a qualifier.

Congratulations to all that qualified, to those that didn't quite make it today – keep having fun with your dogs and I'm sure your time will come. I look forward to seeing you at shows in the future.