

Wirral Alsatian Training Society – 30<sup>th</sup> March

Level 4 – Judge:- Rachel Cooper

Scribe:- Adrian Dornford-Smith

Thanks so much to Flo Williams and team for my invitation to judge L4 at WATS Open Rally show on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. I really enjoyed my first judging appointment in England and the variety of breeds was delicious! Thanks also to Adrian Dornford-Smith who scribed for me, having judged the huge L3 class in the morning and to Christine Carlton, our fellow travelling companion and judge for the laughs all weekend!

There was a total of 36 dogs entered in L4 with 5 absent or withdrawn on the day. I am delighted to say that there were only 9 NQ rounds, with 22 Qualifying rounds, including 15 Excellents.

It was lovely to see all the different breeds, working in their own ways, lots of great teamwork on display and lots of wagging tails and happy handlers!

I had designed my course as a fair test of the skills I would expect to see from L4 dog/handler teams, who are used to Rally trialling off lead and they did not disappoint.

The scores ranged from a perfect 210 (something to which I can only aspire!) with lots of 200+. The sniffy surface, inevitable at horsy venues, was definitely more difficult for some partnerships than others.... I did feel sorry for some of the Spaniel handlers.

Congratulations to everyone who came into my ring, it was a pleasure to see you work with your dogs.

(If anyone wants a photo of their scoresheet, please PM me directly rather than bother the show management!)

Rachel