

## Inter-regional Rally Competition – 2024

### **Judge's Report**

What a pleasure and honour it was to judge the Inter-regional Rally Competition at Crufts 2024!

Special praise to those who were placed in the individual levels. And huge congratulations to the Midlands team for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place and to Wales for gaining 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I'd personally like to thank my judging team for all their support over the past few months and hard work on the day. Helen Conacher and Rachael McGregor set up and changed the courses with speed! My scribe Susie Galloway kept good notes of the ring deductions. Tony Lewenz welcomed competitors and helped put them at ease. Leanne Ward and Keris Reynolds-Dobson kept the competition ring running smoothly. Helen Williams made sure every round was timed, which made a difference to a few placings. And Anna Dalziell calculated the scores quickly and accurately. Stellar work everyone!

Appreciation also goes to the KC organisers who ensured the event ran so smoothly, with special thanks to our Chief Steward Richard Keeble and Event Organiser Rachel Bradley.

There was a lovely mix of breeds in all levels. It was really nice to watch the terrific partnerships between dogs and handlers, and obvious that you've all put a lot of dedication into training over the winter. Very well done to everyone who competed – your dogs are a credit to you.

A bit of feedback that applies to all levels and I hope will be helpful for future competitions...

Extended cues resulted in many points being lost, especially for the 'call fronts' (holding hands for some time in front of you) and for those who use a long foot signal for 'stand'.

Pace changes were difficult to distinguish for some dogs, which proved quite costly in deductions.

Overall, I felt the standard was terrific and it was smashing to see so many happy dogs, enjoying working with their handlers. Well done on making it such a great competition!

### **Level One**

Jacky & Clara (Long Coated Chihuahua) – 195 points for South East & East Anglia. Well done on 3<sup>rd</sup> place, with a good time for the round. Despite needing some additional cues, Clara gave you lovely attention.

Diane & Yum Yum (Shih Tzu) – 198 points for Northern Ireland & IOM.

A strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place, with lovely consistency. Points were mainly lost for 'out of positions', however Yum Yum had great focus.

Lucia & Lexi (German Shepherd Dog) – 204 points for Midlands.

Congratulations on your well-deserved 1<sup>st</sup> place! Lovely to see nice steady precision and Lexi's swishing tail.

Anne & Doris (Collie Cross) – 187 points for Scotland.

Good to see you taking time to reassure Doris when she needed it, regaining her focus. The 'call front' was costly, however it was a super 'stand'!

Janine & Lacey (Polish Lowland Sheepdog) – 192 points for North.

Nice change of pace, very well done. It's a shame that 'tight lead' points were lost, as Lacey had mostly good focus on you.

Katie & Percy (Jack Russell Terrier) – 165 points for Wales.

Percy certainly knows the rally moves, however seemed quite distracted. It was good to see you working with him to regain his attention.

Tess & Brodie (Crossbreed) – 195 points for South West.

Points were lost for 'out of positions' and Brodie also seemed a bit distracted. However, a nice steady round that only lost out on 3<sup>rd</sup> place due to time – well done.

### Team Reserves

Super to see such good work in the ring from the reserves. I know how important you are to your team-mates and hope you've also enjoyed your training journey.

### Level Two

Julie & Fern (Border Collie) – 206 points for South East & East Anglia.

Excellent 1<sup>st</sup> place score – congratulations! Lovely focus from Fern, who has a terrific trot.

Lesley & Jaz (Crossbreed) – 176 points for Northern Ireland & IOM.

The sit-down-walkaround proved costly, however Jaz had some lovely, relaxed loose lead work and it was nice to see such a waggy tail.

Sarah & Ripple (Min Long Haired Dachshund) – 194 points for Midlands.

Super 3<sup>rd</sup> place for a lovely partnership – Ripple hardly took her eyes off you! Change of pace caused deductions however well done on a good round.

Vycki & Harris (Pomeranian) – 164 points for Scotland.

After a good start, Harris became a bit distracted. The bonus exercise was costly, however a lovely change of pace for a fast walking dog – well done!

Abigail & Melba (Shetland Sheepdog) – 175 points for North.

Another strong start with lovely weaves. The 'sit-stand' and bonus exercise caused deductions, however well done on regaining Melba's attention throughout the course.

Judi & Ruby (Crossbreed) – 203 points for Wales.

Lovely 2<sup>nd</sup> place round with few deductions, great work! Ruby had lovely focus throughout.

Mary Ann & Tetley (Min Poodle) – 194 points for South & South West.

Good attention from Tetley, though a few deductions for failing to maintain pace on turns. Nice round - only missing out on 3<sup>rd</sup> place due to a few seconds of time.

### **Level Three**

Lina & Sidney (Crossbreed) – 203 points for South East & East Anglia.

Very well done on a lovely flowing round - almost gaining 1<sup>st</sup> place, which was decided on time.

Sandra & Ozzie (Golden Retriever) – 184 points for Northern Ireland & IOM.

Some extended cues and an early 'call to heel while moving' proved costly, however it was a nice round with a good bonus.

Sue & Sketch (Border Collie) – 201 points for Midlands.

Just a few points lost for extended cues on statics, however it was a lovely, steady round and a good score for 3<sup>rd</sup> place – well done!

Maureen & Basher (Crossbreed) – 191 points for Scotland.

Again, extended cues lowered your score, however Basher showed good attention and a great change of pace.

Samantha & Ronnie (Crossbreed) – 203 points for North.

Congratulations on 1<sup>st</sup> place! Just the 'down' causing issues on an otherwise lovely round with smashing focus from Ronnie.

Chrissy & Sky (Crossbreed) – 200 points for Wales.

A precise round with clear cues for Sky. 'Normal pace' was costly, otherwise nice work at heel and a good score for 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Lynne & Tide (Border Collie) – 188 points for South & South West.

A nice, steady round – well done. Pace changes and extended cues caused deductions, however Tide showed lovely attention and focus.

### **Level Four**

Hazel & Trek (Shetland Sheepdog) – 177 points for South East & East Anglia

A couple of incorrect exercises proved costly, however a nice steady round with good attention from Trek and a lovely jump!

Paul & Alfie (Crossbreed) – 155 points for Northern Ireland & IOM.

A big environment for Alfie, who went off to say hello to the spectators! Some 'out of positions' and extended cues added to the deductions, however Alfie worked a super emergency stop and bonus.

Beryl & Lyra (Labrador Retriever) – 198 points for Midlands.

A steady round, deserving of 1<sup>st</sup> place – well done! Despite a few 'out of positions', Lyra showed nice focus and concentration.

Angela & Harvey (Crossbreed) – 192 points for Scotland.

With 'out of positions' and pacing causing the most deductions, this was still a strong 3<sup>rd</sup> place, very well done.

Wendy & Molli (Cocker Spaniel) – 181 points for North.

Molli was a bit distracted, causing some incorrect exercises at the start – well done on regaining her focus and a really nice jump then 'about turn left'.

Yvonne & Ace (Standard Poodle) – 193 points for Wales.

A smashing 2<sup>nd</sup> place, well done! The 'emergency stop' and 'down' exercises were costly, however Ace paid good attention to you throughout.

Terri & Darcy (Papillon) – 184 points for South & South West.

'Stand-walkaround' and the 'emergency stop' caused some issues, however Darcy showed mostly good loose lead work and a smashing jump – well done on 4<sup>th</sup> place!

## **Level Five**

Sonya & Riley (Working Sheepdog) – 172 points for South East & East Anglia.

Unfortunately extended cues and pacing cost the most deductions, however well done on a super 'moving backup'!

Maria & Flame (Labrador Retriever) – 183 points for Northern Ireland & IOM.

Some lovely work from Flame, with the 'moving backup' and additional cues lowering your score. Nice retrieve, though Flame seemed excited to leave the ring!

Lizzie & Rudi (Flat Coated Retriever) – 193 points for Midlands.

Well done on 3<sup>rd</sup> place! 'Out of positions' caused deductions and it was a shame about the jump, however Rudi had lovely loose lead work and a smashing waggy tail.

Lesley & Odin (German Shepherd Dog) – 190 points for Scotland.

'Out of positions' lowered your score, however Odin showed fantastic focus and did a solid retrieve – well done on 4<sup>th</sup> place!

Fran & Yogi Bear (Labrador Retriever) – 179 points for North.

Points were lost for Yogi's exuberant barking, however you did well to regain his attention and steadiness. Nice retrieve – it's a shame there was no 'finish'.

Nerys & Pink (Working Sheepdog) – 194 points for Wales.

Extended cues caused a few deductions, however a lovely moving back-up and a super round that deserved 2<sup>nd</sup> place!

Barbara & Mop (Working Sheepdog) – 198 points for South & South West

Congratulations on winning 1<sup>st</sup> place! Just a few deductions and Mop was a bit distracted in parts of the course, however completed a lovely return from the jump and 'moving backup'.

## **Level Six**

Rowena & Toes (Shetland Sheepdog) – 178 points for South East & East Anglia.

Good knowledge of the exercises at Level 6. A few extended cues and 'out of positions' reduced your score, however Toes had fantastic focus and attention on you.

Debbie & Ross (Border Collie) – 195 points for Northern Ireland & IOM.

A solid 4<sup>th</sup> place – well done. Great to see Ross enjoying the course, even if he lost a few points for barking. Lovely fast 'emergency stop' and the second half of the course was particularly good.

Briar & Bramble (Golden Retriever) – 182 points for Midlands.

Lovely precision at times and a super pop-up stand. Such a shame about the angled recall and emergency stop, but great enthusiasm from Bramble!

Amy & Duke (Collie Cross) – 198 points for Scotland.

A fantastic 1<sup>st</sup> place in the highest level – congratulations! Just a few 'out of positions' and a wee sniff of the distractions, however Duke's attention was lovely and you both worked really well together.

Sue & Delta (Border Collie) – 197 points for North.

Super 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Level 6 – well done! 'Out of positions' lost points and it's a shame that Delta knocked the jump over, however a lovely partnership to watch overall.

Shauna & Merlin (Working Sheepdog) – 197 points for Wales.

A steady 3<sup>rd</sup> place, nice work. Merlin seemed a bit distracted and lost points for circling the 'left about turn' sign, however you worked well with him and it was a good bonus.

Julia & Mole (Cocker Spaniel) – 162 points for South & South West.

A nice steady pace walking together and you showed lovely patience with Mole when he was distracted. A few incorrect exercises were very costly, however super emergency stop and pace changes.