

The Welsh Kennel Club Championship & Open Agility Show

Builth Wells Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 August 2018

CHAMPIONSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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With the Welsh Kennel Club being one of only two UK organisations to hold Championship Agility, Breed and Obedience on the same site some 160 Agility partnerships at the top of their game gathered on the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells to find our 2018 winners amongst the largest Dog entry in Wales. With only one Championship ring it needs judge's collaboration with course design; a good ring party; handler cooperation and a bit of Welsh sun brought it all together. Judges Fran Walton & Andy Brown report: -



Championship Agility for Small & Medium Dogs Judge Andy Brown writes: -

I would like to say thanks to the Welsh KC for allowing me to judge at their championship show. The atmosphere in the Championship Agility ring was very good and made it a special day, I would also like to thank Fran Walton for her help with the course design and building; we used the same courses for small, medium and large dogs due to time constraints through the day. As with all Agility shows it's the backroom staff that do all the hard work with a superb ring party and organisation making the day run smoothly

Massive congratulations to all the winners;



Lauren for the reserve small ticket and Bonnie for the win you two were on it in all three runs.

Jo in the medium taking the reserve ticket and a very surprised looking Steve winning the ticket.

And whilst not judged by me Charlotte taking the reserve in the large and Sarah getting the ticket both with stunning final round runs. Hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did Thanks Andy Brown



Championship Agility for Large Dogs Judge Fran Walton writes: -

I felt very honoured to have been asked to judge the Large Dog Championship Agility class at Bwlth Wells on the 18th August at the Welsh KC flagship show. Andy (Brown) and I had chosen fast, but technical courses for the Jumping and Agility heats, and many of the large dogs managed these courses very well.

In the jumping round, the majority of errors were over the final 5 obstacles which made a tricky combination, given the longer stride of these dogs compared with the small and medium dogs in the previous classes. There were 14 clear rounds on this course, with the fastest from Anthony Clarke (Protest), Lee Windeat (Bikini) and Andy Sandercock (Spy).

The agility round also ran well, despite some tricky angles during the middle section, and a tunnel trap just as most handlers were trying to run ahead for the following sequence. This section ended the hopes of several handlers, but the majority of dogs managed well. It was interesting at this point to see the different ways of handling this section to avoid either going wrong or losing time. There were 19 clear rounds in the agility round being led by Lauren Langman (Style), Sara Bacon (Dream) and Jo Gleed (Scooter).

This left the top 20 (based on time and accumulated faults) to run the Final Agility course to see who would receive the Challenge Certificate. I had designed a very fast course where it was possible to guide the dog round tightly – unless something went wrong and the flow was lost. Keeping the dog close into the jumps in the



opening sequence also left you open to knocking the poles down – a trade off of speed for possible faults.

The final suddenly became highly competitive and tense after Sara Bacon (just 15 years old) ran with her young Collie, Dream. This run was as near perfect as could be imagined, in a time of 33.598 seconds. The gauntlet had been thrown down! There were still 13 dogs to run, and the challenge brought disappointment to many of the Country's finest handlers as mistakes were made in the effort to beat Dream's time.

Sara managed to keep her lead and became one of the youngest agility handlers to be awarded the Challenge Certificate – much to the joy of her Grandfather who was at the ringside trying not to watch!!.

The Reserve was taken by the well established top partnership, Charlotte Harding and Scandal, with a fantastic run, but sadly not fast enough by a mere half second.

I would like to commend all the competitors for the spirit in which they ran this competition – there was plenty of competitiveness, but this never seemed to overshadow their enjoyment of the day, nor their obviously genuine congratulations for Sara upon her splendid victory.

Welsh Kennel Club Championship Agility 2018 Winners

Small Dogs

Bonny Quick with Ag Ch Goldheart Trail Of Flames

Lauren Langman with Ag Ch Samsir Blinkin Brilliant At Devongen

Medium Dogs

Steve Swankie with Crash and Burn Fern

Jo Gleed with Spiderwick Nimble Ninja

Large Dogs

Sara Bacon with Tynevermoor Secret Dreamer

Charlotte Harding with Red Hot Scandal

As ever the Welsh Kennel Club wishes to record its thanks to our judges this year and joins them in congratulating the winners, all the competitors and the team who makes it all work and is very grateful for the support of **EUKANUBA** of the 2018 Agility Championships at the summer show.

Ends

Editors please use as you wish

Graham Taylor