**JUDGES REPORT ‘DOG OF THE YEAR’ Saturday 8th February 2025**

**Judge : Carol Spencer Steward: Jon Bennett**

Thank you to the organizing committee of the Dog of the Year event in Jersey, it was an honour to accept. Upon arriving Friday, I was taken to check the ring size and joined the happy band of helpers who were setting up and cleaning the arena. I was extremely well looked after throughout my stay and would like to thank Rose Harris for taking the lead in my care and showing me around the Island. The Gala dinner in the evening was a great event, and I chose to sit with the ‘obedience group’ who were in extremely good spirits.

Thank you to Jon Bennett who acted as my ring steward for all the classes, no easy task having to progress through 5 ring plans without a mistake. A fantastic performance. Well done to Bev, Jackie and Fiona on the scoreboard, checking my sums and keeping the competitors in the right order.

I was encouraged to see lots of happy dogs and considerate handlers who certainly bought the right attitude to an event which must have been rather daunting. This was ‘Dog of the Year’ and I made no exception on how I normally mark. Although some had high scores most of the faults came from handlers losing, on occasion, more marks than the dogs. However, what is important is not how many marks you lose, but where you come in relation to your fellow competitors.

Finally thank you to all the competitors for making this an enjoyable day – what you may have lacked in precision you certainly made up for with good humour and enthusiasm.

**The results**

**Beginners – Winner**

Graham Elwin **BREEZE ELWIN** Crossbreed (Cavapoo)

Graham and Breeze worked number 5 in the running order, and I was impressed by this little dogs enthusiasm and clear love of his dad. Heel on lead was a little loose in places, however, on heel free he really started to work his little socks off, with constant attention improving as the test progressed. A lovely recall but a messy retrieve (not by Breeze but by Graham) with Graham moving his feet around. However, clearly good enough to win today! Congratulations!

**Beginners – Reserve**

Christine Shepherd **CARMIABLY ISNT SHE LOVELY** Labrador

Connie performed with a consistency throughout the test. She has a lovely attitude and was quietly handled by Christine. Christine and Connie were very close behind the Champion today with the most marks being lost by not sitting straight in all exercises which were costly today. Connie certainly has the right attitude to go much further in her obedience journey.

**Novice – Winner**

Lesley Le Vesconte VELNEBS FIRECRACKER Crossbreed

Buddy is a very smart looking crossbreed (cockerpoo) who set up nicely for his heelwork. After a sniff of the floor he then settle into his work. Lesley helped Buddy all through the exercises, calmly and with positivity. Loss of position and crooked sits took most of the marks today, but a very good recall clinched the first prize today. A young dog with loads of potential for the future.

**Novice – Reserve**

Sue Blake STOCKYARD SANDYS SAPHIRE Crossbreed (Aussie/collie)

Sue and Saphie produced the best heelwork in this class, super attention with just a few areas of loss of position. However, an extremely crooked present in the recall and retrieve together with some mouthing meant you were awarded a well-deserved Reserve placing. Super slim dog with a good attitude, so lots to work with in the future.

**Class A – Winner**

Rachel-Anne Gillies **REMROR DJ** Border Collie

This pair were the clear winners of this class. DJ’s straight work was consistent in position, however, the turns were the most costly today. Nice set ups in all exercises made a very nice picture of Rachel and DJ together. The A recall brought some faults on the pickup and subsequent heelwork, but clearly good enough for the win today. Congratulations! My apologies for your husband having to have his photograph taken with your lovely boy.

**Class A - Reserve**

Sue Blake **STOCKYARD SANDYS SAPHIRE** Crossbreed (Aussie/collie)

Sue and Saphie had a rather productive day! After gaining the reserve in Novice they then gained reserve Champion in Class A. Again, very close to the winner but a messy scent dropped you to this placing. Fabulous dog that I enjoyed watching work.

**Class B – Winner**

Liz Keeler **STARDELL CASCA** Border Collie

I am always impressed when I watch a dog set up, start working and I feel I can relax. Liz and Casca came into the ring like champions and that’s exactly how they left. Just a few bits and pieces in all three paces to mark, a workmanlike retrieve, excellent scent and I wasn’t going to mention the send away, but I will Liz! …. Slight anticipation and dropping short could have been costly. However, clearly in a league of her own in this class. Fabulous result Liz and Casca.

**Class B - Reserve**

Debbie McIntyre  **TISANE HURDLE JUMPER** Standard Poodle

Lovely Luca tried hard during her round, unfortunately there were a lot of marks lost for handler errors which are always costly. Debbie encouraged Luca throughout the test even though retrieve and scent were clearly not Luca’s favourite exercises. Well done Debbie on become Reserve Champion.

**Class C – Winner**

Rose Harris **FOXBARTON QUEENS JESTER** Border Collie

Congratulations to Rose and Floyd for achieving Champion today. Rose had been busy organising everyone before, during and after the show so I was impressed that they came into the ring as a team. Whilst Floyd is not tight on Rose’s leg, he does try his best to hold his position. Floyd was the only dog in the class to get to the back marker in send away, brilliant! Floyd clearly is not keen on sitting and missed this position in ASSD and in DC which was costly. However, his work over all the exercises made him a clear winner today. Fabulous result for you, Rose and the lovely Floyd.

**Class C - Reserve**

Pat Hitchon **PATOIS PHIZZ** Border Collie

Phizz is a lovely red and white collie who clearly adores mum. Whilst there were mistakes in all the exercises, Pat and Phizz had a great time in the ring. ASSD and DC were costly and scent was messy. However, Pat you certainly gave it a good go (particularly fast pace) and I was pleased to be able to award you with Reserve Champion.