

**Hovawart Club of Great Britain**  
**Limited Obedience Show**  
**Sunday 4th October, 2015**

Judge : Chris Moss  
Steward : Eileen Borland

I would like to thank the Committee of the Hovawart Club for the kind invitation to judge the obedience classes at their Open Show, for looking after my steward and myself throughout the day and for the lovely lunch and gifts – much appreciated.

Thanks also to my steward, Eileen Borland, for giving up your day and so cheerfully guiding the handlers round the ring – great company as always!

As you would expect at a Limit Show the standard of work was very mixed with some dipping their toes into the world of obedience for the first time – just hope you all enjoyed the experience. Others showed great promise and it would be nice to think you might all go on to explore this hobby further. At lunchtime Gill did explain that Hovawarts make good tracking dogs which helps explain all the sniffing that went on in the ring, was beginning to think that someone had earlier walked round the ring dragging a bag of prime steak around! However, the best thing about the day? Have never seen so many wagging tails – all the dogs seemed to have a ball whether they understood what was going on or not – well done everyone – keep it up!

Now for the results -

**Pre-Beginner**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Janice and Lexi a lovely round, well handled just a bit of sniffing during heelwork which obviously meant she lost position, good recall only losing a ¼ for a crooked finish – clear stays – well done.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sara and Touse another good round from this youngster, her heelwork was not as precise as Lexi's and having done a lovely recall she decided not to wait for Mummy to finish her! Clear stays. It will come – an excellent effort from you both.

Now the two babies of the class

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gina and Isa only 11 months, her heel on lead was very good, but unfortunately Mummy lost points for a tight lead! Such a shame she so very nearly completed her stays, she obviously understands them, but just found the time a little too long – don't worry she will find these easier as she matures.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nick and Gaia again only 11 months, her ring work was excellent, another slapped wrist for Dad for having a tight lead! Really excellent heelwork and brilliant recall – she only lost a ½ for crooked present and finish. Sadly another wriggly baby who found the inactivity of the down stay too much.

## Beginner

- 1<sup>st</sup> Janice and Lexi – well what can I say – to win two classes you must be very proud of your girl! Looking at her marks for both classes she did even better in this the higher class! Her heelwork was better even though the round was longer, just a little drifting and of course again the dreaded sniff! One of only two clear recalls all day in any class and just a ½ for a crooked present and finish in retrieve – clear stays - very well done – hope you are tempted to pursue obedience further.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Caron and Tiggy – a very close run round to the winner, just a ¼ of a point between you both! Just a little wide at times in the heelwork which made her loose position – crooked present and finish on the recall – crooked present and a little bit of mouthing in retrieve, I see from my sheets she didn't do this in the novice round so obviously just a blip in this class – clear stays – well done.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sue and Cloud – another youngster – good heelwork, though a little wide at times, sorry Cloud but Mummy lost you a point for a tight lead, but you had a sniff so I guess you are even! Lovely recall just lost a ½ for crooked present and finish and ¾ for retrieve, crooked finish and a little mouthing. Just ¾ of a point lost on stays – a really brilliant effort from you both.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Claire and Lily – lovely heelwork, just a little wide at times and again naughty Mummy had a tight lead! Recall was just a crooked sit and present. A good retrieve just a crooked present and dropping the dumbbell at Mum's feet – clear stays – a very good round overall.
- V.H.C.Sara and Tousle – Brilliant heel on lead she only lost ¾ of a point for that exercise. Unfortunately in heel free Tousle thought playing tug of war with Mum's trousers was more fun – Sara I think you need to take this in hand domestically. Although she anticipated the recall the exercise itself was well executed, she again anticipated the retrieve with a drop and some mouthing – she found sitting in the stays a little difficult and then did the longer down stay with no trouble at all! At the risk of repeating myself she is again a very young dog and as her heel on lead showed she has great potential.
- V.H.C.Julia and Nelly – Nelly did lovely heel on lead with just a wide turn and a little drifting off the leg. Heel free she was a little wide and lost position. A hesitation on the recall and again that dreaded sniffing! She hesitated going out on the retrieve, but had one of the best pick-ups of the day, dropping the dumbbell and a crooked sit took some marks. She then fell over in the sit stay, but did the down stay with flying colours. Well done!
- Must mention Valerie and Chale. Things were going really well apart from the dreaded sniff! Then we had retrieve and I think Chale thought you threw it you fetch it! I know you must have been disappointed Valerie as she does this exercise really well at home, but that's what happens in obedience, it's the things you don't expect that trip you up at a show! Trust me I am speaking from experience here. However, the rest of her work was such that I can't help feeling that you should persevere with this exercise.

## Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> Caron and Tiggy – well I don't believe it here we have yet another team who did better in the higher class – obviously Hovawarts like to be stretched! Although she lost ½ a point more on the heelwork, on today's showing you need to tighten up her left turns in particular, the recall marks were the same, but she got the only clear retrieve of the day! Clear stays. You should be really pleased with your girl!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy and Shamus – an excellent round from your boy, only ¾ of a point separated Tiggy and Shamus! Heel on lead was very good, heel free he didn't keep such a good position and turns weren't as tight and we had that flippin' sniff again! Recall was excellent, just a ¼ for a crooked present and ½ a point for crooked present and finish in retrieve. Clear stays. What a super boy – well done to you both!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Janet and Obi – Well what a day you had with your boy! Brilliant result in breed and then the obedience 'if only' of the day – if only he hadn't fallen over in the sit stay! Thank you for explaining to me he only did that because he was tired! Actually Obi saved us having a run off for first place, I didn't realise at the time, but up to that point he and Tiggy were on the same marks. Nevertheless you really should go to some shows next year – he is more than capable of success at open shows!
- 4<sup>th</sup> Carla and Tiswa – A solid round of heelwork from this pair – just a little drifting and the odd wide turn and a joyous jump in heel free – sadly markable, but lovely to see your boy enjoying himself! After a slight hesitation on recall he flew back to you which caused a slightly crooked present! Then Tiswa did an even faster retrieve! Unfortunately this caused another crooked present and a drop, so maybe not as accurate as you would have liked, but really lovely to watch! Stays proved to be a little hard for Tiswa, but you should be really pleased with your boy today.

## 'A'

Carla and Urban – I think this was Urban's first go at an 'A' round and she put in a very creditable performance! Carla when the steward says 'about turn' the turn is to the right away from your dog – you did left about turns which are really difficult for both dog and handler and are not done in competition until the dog works 'B'! Slight hesitation on recall and then you made her do another left about turn - don't make your life harder! Another slight hesitation on retrieve and a drop. Then the scent, Urban did a beautiful scent, excellent discrimination, then she dropped the cloth – it's odd how dogs often do the really hard bit then make a mistake with the easy bit! Stays were a breeze, not sure if this was the first time she had done out of sight stays in public, but no problem here, she was solid as a rock. Well done both of you.

A huge 'Thank You' to you all for allowing me to judge all your lovely dogs – I hope you all had a good time, I know a lot of you were nervous, but just remember the judge is probably nervous too – we can make mistakes as well! On another day, a different judge, a different result. Just remember the golden rule -

**Keep it F – U – N for your dogs!**

Chris Moss.