

PAFTA March 10, 2019 – TD/TDX Test Secretary’s Report

First off, I have to thank Karey Krauter for doing all the early work for the test, including processing all the entries and sending the results of the draw! And a great big thank you to Cindy Ievers, for stepping into the Chief Tracklayer’s role after getting her TD the week before – you made the test go much smoother! Thanks for handling getting all the flags and articles, as well as making the schedule and organizing the tracklayers! Also, thanks to Terry Southard for handling the premium and putting together the catalog! You guys all made my job a lot easier!

Track plotting kicked off at 9am on Saturday with the TDX tracks. Kamrin MacKnight and Bob Rollins handled that assignment, with TD judge Cheryl Bavister apprenticing. We had some showers off and on throughout the day. Ann Begun provided a delicious apple coffeecake and a warm egg/bacon/cheese casserole to get us started. In between his TDX and TD tracklaying assignments, Dick Symons went out and picked up a couple Subway sandwiches for lunch. I think we finished up around 3pm.

I woke up to pouring rain on Sunday morning, but it had mostly subsided by the time I left the house, so I was able to unload at the park without getting wet. With the time change to DST on Saturday night, our tracks had to go in a little later, waiting for daylight. The TD draw was held at 8am for the 3 TD tracks. No alternate track was plotted as we didn’t have any alternates available. Sharon Hall provided a breakfast smorgasbord with a little something for everyone.

I used a St Patrick’s day theme for the draw items and judge’s gifts. The draw items were a kitchen towel with shamrock designs, and a small plastic green-lidded container of dog biscuits. The judges received a green open mesh plastic container (lined with a shamrock towel) with three small jelly jars (with green lids), a green-lidded container of dog biscuits, and a green REI gift card.

The first dog to run was a Basset Hound bitch owned by Lisa Steele. The dog took a while to get started, checking out a lot of other scents on the first leg, but then finally decided to track and finished out the track nicely, completing her track in 20 minutes. She is now known as GCH DC SoLow Craigwood’s I’m Persnickety TD! Congratulations to Lisa!

The second TD track went to a young male Border Collie who got about half-way through the track before going off-track before the 3rd turn.

The third and last TD track went to a Whippet bitch who was in season and just didn’t really feel like tracking, so the handler called it off.

We did the TD awards and gave out the judges’ gifts, and then had the TDX draw at 10:00am.

The morning remained cloudy with a little sun starting to come through for the later TDX tracks, and calm to light winds – pretty ideal conditions. In spite of that, the TDX dogs still didn’t fare too well.

TDX Track 1 went to a Weimaraner bitch who started off nicely, made it through both cross-tracks and found the first intermediate article, and had made the 2nd-to-last turn when she was called back for missing the second intermediate article (a plastic checkbook cover).

TDX Track 2 was run by a male Gordon Setter, who also made it through the first half of the track, including both cross-tracks and the first intermediate article, but who went off-track at the 5th turn. Both these dogs should have no problem passing a future test.

The male PWD on track 3 made the first turn, but then quit tracking around the area of the first cross-tracks.

The alternate track was able to be used for titling, and we had a pass! Kathy McIntyre and her 6.5-yr-old Golden Retriever male, CH Dustrax Grand Slam TD (now TDX), completed their 870-yd track easily in just 15 minutes! Good job, Kathy! Congrats!

We finished up with hot soup and salads provided by Dimity Mueller. Thanks for providing lunch, Dimity!

Our tracklayers were: Dick Symons (TD and TDX), Lynne Benson-Colbert (who also brought the awards), Hilary Ellis, Barbara Fowler, and Lizanne Kaiser (who did 2 TD's). Many thanks for giving up two days of your weekend to lay tracks! Cross-track layers were Denise Gormish (primary for all 4 tracks) and Becky Luft for secondary. Thanks – you guys make it all possible!

It was starting to cloud up again by the time we were ready to pack up around 2:30pm, but the rain held off and we were able to get the vans loaded up. The heavens really let loose around 5:30pm with an intense thunderstorm with lightening and hail. It was really shaking the house! Apparently, lightening hit a transformer in San Jose that blew up – there were some pretty amazing video clips being posted of that, and huge amounts of hail! The news even said parts of San Jose got actual snow, but that may have been earlier in the day. I'm just grateful that it all waited until the test was done!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Knowles, PAFTA Test Secretary