



Activities Judges Sub-Group report following meeting held 5 May 2022

The meeting began with a minute's silence in respect of the passing of Steve Rutter and in recognition of his significant contribution to the Sub Group's work.

As Robert Harlow had stood down I was nominated to take his place.

Synopsis of the meeting:

K Allen was nominated to take the vacancy left by Steve passing away.

Conformation & Movement Day

No future developments. It was agreed that careful consideration should be given to content already available in order to make the best use of the budget.

Heelwork to music - now have a mentoring programme in place for future judges. From 1st January 2023 prior to being fully qualified a judge must be mentored by an approved mentor on three separate occasions.

Agility Show/Competition Managers - discussion regarding the issues of minimum standards for these posts. Currently no regulations are in place. Hopefully proposed reconnections will be finalised for the forthcoming ALC

Codes of Best Practice - All disciplines were reviewed. Updates for Obedience - only change was to the addition of guidance relating to social media. Sub-Group noted that reference should be made to the relevant codes of practice for judges in all judging contracts. With wording to state that the judge agreed to be bound by such codes.

Also acknowledged was that some competitors may not be aware of the existence of the relevant code. It was agreed that the regulations for each discipline be amended to include that competitors must abide by the relevant codes of conduct issued by the Kennel Club. Judges guides are not printed on an annual basis and details will be highlighted within the regulations booklet & reflected in the training provided by Accredited Trainers.

Full & frank discussion regarding criticism of agility judges. It was agreed that the situation will be monitored by agility reps.

Accredited Trainers - the majority of accredited trainers are in urgent need of re-accreditation. Various suggestions were made in how this could be carried out quickly and efficiently. It was agreed that assessments may be carried out by an accredited trainer from the same discipline and also where two accredited trainers co-present each may assess the other. It was hoped that this will significantly improve the backlog.

Judging Criteria

It was considered how to remind judges of the importance of keeping records up to date & keeping abreast of rule changes within their discipline. Full agreement that judges should be kept informed of any changes via various methods i.e. liaison councils, working parties, published minutes etc. The Sub-Group took the view that regular reminders may be helpful in ensuring judges remained fully aware of their responsibilities.

Michael McCartney