

### **ALC Equipment Panel Report - 5th April 2024**

#### **Equipment Incident Report Forms**

As at 5/4/24 the panel had received no new incident report forms from the Activities team. The chair has noted a number of social media posts regarding equipment that have not been formally recorded via the equipment report form & so, combined with the lack of forms submitted in the previous 6 months, it seems the form is not being used as the panel would like. As a result Mrs Bale has submitted a discussion item suggesting that an online version of this form might be more accessible. This would also follow for the incident book. Given the KC wants to improve its communication channels this seems an obvious step & would make it much easier for judges to submit equipment issues.

#### **Equipment related incidents reported to the KC via Show Incident Books**

Three reports had been forwarded to the panel, all sent on 27/3/24. This has not provided us with sufficient time to resolve any of the raised issues before the deadline for this report. The incidents relate to:

- Galican Softline v2 seesaw movement. Mrs Bale has contacted Galican for feedback (no response received at the time of writing) & has a number of videos to review before following up with all parties involved.
- Dog falling off a Galican Softline v2 Dogwalk. Video of the fall is being reviewed by the panel. One of the soft, rubber caps that covers the top of the trestles was knocked off by the dog, potentially saving them from injury.
- Galican jump & Dog Walk. Dog misreading the side of the dog walk for the jump which was less than 5m from the dogwalk (it was not the next obstacle so met KC rules/guidelines). Video of the incident is being reviewed by the panel.

It is noted that all three incidents involved contacts with painted sides. In the second incident this colour matched the contact rubber colour, in the last incident this colour was white, the same as the jump pole. The addition of colour to the sides of the contacts is a new feature that may be causing dogs some issues. The panel will be monitoring this over the upcoming season & encourages judges to report any incidents via the equipment incident form.

#### **Other Equipment Related Updates**

The Performance Agility jump has been in use for a few months now & seems to be well received. Bing agility jumps are being brought into the UK. These are very similar to the Galican jumps & meet KC specs. Mrs Bale has some on order & will give feedback if there are any issues.

Pegging of tunnels has proved a challenge in the early season's soft ground. Mrs Bale has posted a reminder of best practice to relevant stakeholders via various channels & directed people to the new Code of Best Practice that has now been published. Many thanks to the KC for getting this online.

Timing gates are causing a few issues. A couple of reports were recorded in show incident books last year around reliability. Some systems seem to be showing signs of wear & tear with regular cable changes being needed or similar resets. This can massively impact a judging day so the panel will be watching to see if this continues & needs addressing. One stakeholder is developing integrated timing sensors into wing uprights which Mrs Bale is being kept abreast of.

#### **Stakeholder Communications**

Mrs Bale has spoken to several hire companies, manufacturers & a number of show organisers over the last few months in an attempt to improve communications. This included Naylor's tunnels at Crufts, Performance Agility via messages, Agility Ability via email & Whatsapp, Galican via email, Adams Agility via phone & in person & Kelluki Hire via messages & in person. Most are delighted at the improved relations although some seem less inclined to respond to emails or information requests. Topics have included live issues at show set up, informal chats via email & at shows Mrs Bale has attended. Once the agenda for the July ALC meeting is confirmed Mrs Bale will email all stakeholders with a round robin style update.

Given the extension to the ALC members term of office Mrs Bale would like another member or two added to the panel so we can cover the UK more effectively.

### **Follow Up from January Meeting**

#### **Recommendations Sent to the Activities Committee**

No update from the Activities Committee meeting had been provided as at 5th April (the deadline for the submission of this report) & therefore it had not been possible to update any equipment related stakeholders (such as hire companies & show organisers) of any changes that might be relevant to them for the upcoming season. This is disappointing as having spent considerable time building relationships with these key partners, the chair had not been able to answer many of the queries she had been sent around issues like deadlines for phasing out half & half tunnels. This delay causes stakeholders issues in terms of planning/making purchases for the season & several have expressed frustration to Mrs Bale around how long it takes for decisions to be made & then communicated.

#### **Equipment Review**

This is ongoing. A formal proposal for the long jump is included at this meeting, along with a proposal to remove the water jump & wishing well. This follows from the discussion point raised at January's meeting. As part of the hurdle review the panel will look at safer options around the brush jump & infills. An incident at a prestige KC event involving a wooden infill had been sent to Mrs Bale & given the move to impact absorbing material for other obstacles it would seem sensible for infills & any type of brush to also now be 'soft'. The aim would be to bring this as a discussion item to the January 2025 meeting.

#### **Securing the Tunnel/Minimum Coverage.**

This was referred to the panel following the January meeting & is still being reviewed.

#### **Start & Finish Gates**

This was referred back to the panel by the January meeting for potential solutions to be considered. As a result the panel has submitted a proposal that the tyre be removed as a finish obstacle as this removed the problem of the timing gates potentially being knocked. The majority of regions had supported this during their online discussions in January.

There has also been some discussion on social media around the correct placement of start & finish gates. Whilst it is of course the job of the judge to ensure all equipment is correctly set up in their ring, Mrs Bale will be contacting hire companies asking them to provide set up notes for the equipment they provide. These notes should cover the positioning of timers.