



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 15 December 2015

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Qualification for Crufts semi-final	The General Committee approved the Working Party's recommendation that the winner at Crufts should automatically qualify for the semi-final the following year. This would come into effect from 2016 with the winners from that year qualifying for the semi-final in 2017.	Competitors to note.
2.	Introduction of a new Elementary class	Having sought the views of competitors on the issue of whether an Elementary class should be introduced, it was noted that only minimal feedback had been received and there appeared to be very little interest in the introduction of an Elementary class.	No action required.
3.	Guidance for competitors	The Working Party discussed a suggestion that the Kennel Club organise workshops for judges and competitors to give guidance on what would be expected in a good performance at specific levels. The Working Party's view was that whilst such workshops may be helpful, it would be up to clubs and individuals to organise them rather than the Kennel Club. However it accepted that the provision of guidance would help make Heelwork to Music more accessible to new competitors, especially those who were unable to join a training club. It was agreed that a suitable Beginners Guide document would be produced as soon as possible.	Competitors to note.
4.	Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group	The Working Party noted that the Kennel Club's Guidelines for the Management and Training of Dogs taking part in Canine Activities document was awaiting approval by the General Committee.	Competitors to note.
5.	Seminars	The Working Party noted the views of the Activities Judges Working Party which had not been supportive of a suggestion that training seminars could be held over the course of several evenings, due to concerns that where a seminar was broken up by other activities, it would not be possible for attendees to remain sufficiently focused, and that too much time-consuming recapping would be required. It considered that	Seminar organisers to note.



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		there was a risk of important information being missed. There was also a possibility that some people may not attend every session.	
6.	Guide for Heelwork to Music Judges	Production of a revised version of the Guide for Heelwork to Music Judges was in progress and it was anticipated that this would be available in January 2016.	Show organisers, judges and competitors to note.
7.	Crufts qualifying heat	The Working Party considered applications from Kennel Club Registered Heelwork to Music societies to host a Premier Heelwork to Music Crufts 2017 qualifying heat, for both Heelwork to Music and Freestyle, to replace the Blackpool heat, held in August. It recommended that the heat be awarded to the Scottish Border Collie Club.	Competitors to note.
8.	Open European Championship 2016	The Working Party wished to support a Team GB to compete at the Open European Championship in 2016. Interested individuals would be invited to put themselves forward for consideration.	Competitors wishing to apply to take part will be requested to contact the Kennel Club at HTM@thekennelclub.org.uk
9.	Feedback reports	The Working Party noted that the majority of competitors welcomed feedback reports from head judges. However it emphasised that care should be taken by judges in the preparation of reports, and any negative comments should be generalised in nature and not specific to any individual competitor or performance.	Judges to note.
10.	Dogs leaving the ring	The Working Party was asked to clarify the definition of a dog leaving the ring and whether it was necessary for the whole of the dog's body to have crossed the line marking the edge of the ring for this to be the case. It was accepted that it was not always possible for a judge to have a perfect view and that it was up to the judges to decide whether or not a dog was deemed to have left the ring.	Judges and competitors to note.



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11.	Using the same routine for more than one dog	The Working Party was requested to clarify whether it was permissible for a handler to compete in the same class with multiple dogs, using the same music and routine for all of them. The Working Party did not consider that it was ideal for a competitor to do so, but it confirmed that there was no Regulation to prevent a handler from doing so.	Judges and competitors to note.
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