

Report from Judges Working Party for Agility Liaison Council

19-04-16

At the meeting of the recent Judges Working Party the following aspects were discussed:-

Kennel Club Academy

There was an informative presentation on the development of The Kennel Club Academy, and the Online learning Platform, this is currently being developed for breed but it is envisaged that it will cover all disciplines.

Open Book Exam

This failed to find support with the training board. Although they put forward several suggestions, as to how the Agility Judges Training could potentially be improved and progressed. Mr Jolly prepared a paper based around these suggestions. The paper was presented to the Judges Working Party, the essence of this was to combine the existing two agility seminars into a single seminar, and use the Kennel Club Academy and the Online Learning Platform to assess knowledge prior to the seminar and do away with the formal examination. It is envisaged that there would be an online test developed that would sit within the Online Learning Platform.

This would provide the opportunity to restructure the presentations to provide more time on the aspects of practical judging, and the use of video clips and scenarios to test practical knowledge via syndicate work and discussions, these would be available to the trainers and also sit within the Online Learning Platform. The Agility representatives were tasked to give the development of the Online Learning consideration and feedback to the Judges Working Party and the staff involved in developing the Platform.

It was recognised that this will be a large undertaking for the Agility Representatives on the Judges Working Party, and the new format for Judges training should be rolled out concurrently with the launch of the Agility Section of the Kennel Club Academy.

Mentoring of First Time Agility Judges

An update on the mentoring system was provided, and it has been found to be running well and offers support to new judges. Potential mentors are reminded that they do not have to attend the competition in person to support the judge although this is preferable.

Continuing Personal Development of Existing Judges

There has been progress on the Continuing Professional Development of existing judges. The first assessments have taken place and these were well received by all involved, however, the uptake for this has been slow and a little disappointing. The Judges Working Party clarified that Accredited Trainers could carry out assessments at shows at which they were competing, however they should not assess a judge of a class in which they were competing. It is hoped that this will lead to a greater number of judges being assessed.

Judges Guide to Agility Equipment

This guide has been reviewed.

Chris Huckle 08-05-16