

OBEDIENCE REPORT OF THE WDA JUDGES WORKING PARTY

The Judges working party meets twice a year this report to the Obedience Council details the items discussed and actions taken from the November 2016 and April 2017 meetings. The next meeting is due on 14 November 2017.

Those from Obedience are, Sue Garner, Robert Harlow and Steve Rutter. The group reports to the Activities Committee and the Kennel Club Training Board. The latter is concerned with the training and development of judges from all disciplines.

Items discussed included.

Annual Judges Trainers Seminar. Judges trainers for all the Activities disciplines meet annually at Stoneleigh to exchange ideas and to look in detail at judges training for their respective disciplines. In November, the JWP reviewed the outcomes of the October 2016 day and agreed actions resulting from recommendations made.

For Obedience there was a review of the seminar content and guidance documents such as the judges guide and Chief Stewards guide, with changes agreed to bring them in line with new regulations due to come into effect in January 2017. Kay Allen was present for the first time, having completed the interview and approval process in 2016, as an accredited judge's trainer.

A large portion of the day was taken up looking at the needs for the on line Kennel Club Academy judges section and how obedience judges would access information and how that might be presented.

On line Learning Platform. The work to produce material for the Kennel Club Academy is ongoing and making progress. This is a substantial piece of work, so will take time to complete. A basic script is now in place but requires detail that will be the narrative supporting the combination visual elements of photos, videos and slides.

The April JWP looked at progress from each discipline and what each requires to achieve to completion.

Obedience judges qualifications and progression. Questions have been raised regarding overseas judging appointments and overseas judges. Clarification is needed which can be included in the Activities Committee (AC) Policy document regarding this. A document will be presented to the AC committee in due course.

New judges currently have no restrictions on the classes they judge once they have completed their three Novice classes. Views will be sought on this and discussed by the judges trainers in October.

Activities Judges ongoing education. The JWP is looking at options for ongoing judges training including one-day seminars that would broaden knowledge and understanding of both discipline specific and wider issues such as conformation and movement. The Subject will form part of the agenda for the Trainers Annual Seminar in October.