

## **Report on Progress of the Judges Group.**

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### **Experienced judges giving up judging at KC shows.**

The reasons given as to why we are losing experienced judges are varied but the expectations of show organisers and competitors both contribute.

**Numbers of Competitors-** The competitors have a reasonable expectation that all dogs will be judged to a similar standard whether they are running first or at the end of the last class some 450 dogs later. With excellent organisation, ring party and very few course changes it will still take in excess of 9 hours to judge 450 agility dogs. During a long day of judging concentration is likely to flag at points during the day and will lead to not all dogs being judged to the same standard.

Whilst the current regulations place a maximum number on the amount of dogs, it would appear that reduced maximum number dogs of would encourage some judges to continue, we recognise that this is likely to increase the number of judges needed but if there are more judges willing to continue this would help with the increased demand.

**New Judges-** Aspiring new judges need to be actively encouraged and supported through the Judges Training Programme and the mentoring scheme, the mentoring scheme be made compulsory, with new judges gaining a provisional status until they have completed the mentoring programme.

**Social Media-** The application of the Kennel Clubs Policy on the Use of Social Media can only be effective if infringements are reported, at present social media is used to openly criticise judges and the decisions that they make, to this end it is the responsibility of the judge to report any comments directly to the KC, the KC should encourage the reporting of these incidents and they should not be subject to the normal reporting constraints.

**Continuing Personal Development-** The CPD scheme is receiving many favorable comments in its concept. However it is felt that for the CPD to be really effective we need get engagement in the scheme from all judges. A programme of regular updates on regulation changes and rule interpretation should be provided by the Judges Trainers in a series of update meetings.

**Appointment of a Head Judge-** A head judge at each show (similar standing to the show manager) to act as an arbiter and provide advice and act as a lead in resolving any issues appertaining to judging that may arise.

**Appointment of judging field officers-** Judging Field Officers that would carry out inspections in a similar way to normal field officers with a similar standing, as current field officers, this could feed into the CPD scheme.

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