

Judges' Working Party Meeting Report – 22 April 2013

Observation of Agility Judges

The Working Party considered the points put forward by the Council and it was pleased that the general consensus was that the agility community would welcome a form of observation for all judges. Due to the size of the project, the matter is now referred to the Annual Accredited Trainers' Seminar in October 2013 for further discussion.

The Working Party noted the additional point made by the Council regarding the possibility of introducing a mentoring system for existing judges. It was stated that implementing the proposal would be a large undertaking so for this reason Championship judges could be asked to volunteer and assist in the project. The matter was welcomed in principle, but it was agreed that due to the number of larger projects currently being undertaken, that it would be considered further at a later date.

Jumping Practical Seminar – Jumping Appointments Only

Further discussion took place. Concerns were raised that it could become more difficult for show societies to organise judges if there were two types of judges. Consideration was also given to whether the current practical seminar should be adapted instead of creating a completely separate seminar. The matter is now referred to the Annual Accredited Trainers' Seminar in October 2013 for further discussion.

Additional Assistant or "Up-Contact" Judge for Prestige Events

The Working Party discussed whether an additional assistant judge or "up-contact" judge would be an effective means of supporting judges and ensuring credibility of the events/finals. The matter is now referred to the Activities Sub-Committee for further consideration.

Agility Competitors Flouting Regulations Following Elimination

The Working Party discussed the apparent rise in agility competitors training or practicing in the ring following elimination. It was of the view that in such situations, competitors often took up a substantial amount of time to correct the error(s) made on the course which was unfair on the judge and other competitors waiting their turn. It was stressed that the Code of Conduct was now a regulation which judges could use to report and prevent competitors behaving in such a manner.

Re-accreditation of Accredited Trainers

At the request of the Training Board, re-assessment of Accredited Trainers had begun and each trainer would be accredited on a three year rolling basis.