



## **REPORT FROM ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP MEETINGS HELD ON 2 MAY 2018 AND 2 NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Meeting 2 May 2018**

The Chair (Miss L. Pogodzinski) opened the meeting,

Apologies were received from Mr R Harlow and Mr D Jolly.

The Sub-Group wished to record its thanks to Mrs S Garner for her work on its behalf as a representative for obedience.

The Sub-Group was invited to note that reaccreditation of judges trainers would now take place every five years, following the newly accredited judges initial reassessment and reaccreditation at 3 years. This brings accredited activity judges trainers into line with other disciplines. This new policy came into force on 1st January 2018.

The Sub Group was invited to note changes in the time frame for the judges competency framework (JCF), applying to breed judges, which were due to plans to implement a new Customer Relationship management system. The New CRM system was under development and would improve the way in which individual judges records were kept. The new system is scheduled to be up and running late 2019.

The Kennel Club Board at its meeting on the 10th April 2018 approved that Mr R Kebble be appointed to replace Mrs S Garner on the Sub-Group. The chair welcomed Mr R Kebble to his first meeting.

Conformation and movement seminar film: a discussion took place as to whether this film could be shown at judges training seminars. The film is available on the Academy and if judges accredited trainers had access to the internet at their seminar it could be shown, those that had viewed the film found it of value and a suggestion that it should be mandatory for activities judges was noted.

Education Day for Activities judges. The Sub-Group had previously discussed the provision of an education day for activities judges in order to provide guidance on identifying visible health and welfare concerns in dogs at competitions. The office had carried out research into the feasibility of running such a day, and advised that assuming a ticket price of £25 it would not be financially viable, noting that it was necessary to offer payment to attract good quality speakers. Following further discussion a suggestion was made that it may be possible to make a film covering health and welfare for inclusion on the KC Academy.

Progression of obedience judges: As the rules stand today a newly qualified judge who has done their 3 novice appointments can then go on to judge open Class C. It was felt that some of those who did so may not be experienced enough to do so. Mr Rutter, on behalf of the Council, was in the process of collecting feedback with the view that following discussion at the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar a formal proposal would go forward to the January 2019 Council meeting.

Training Board: the Sub-Group noted a report from Miss Pogodzinski following meetings of the Training Board on 4th December 2017 and 14th March 2018.

The Board noted progress on the preparation of seminar material for the KC Academy.

The Board had agreed the Sub-Group's recommendation regarding the development of a series of short films aimed at those judging or wishing to judge agility, subject to funding. When complete they would be placed on a chargeable section of the KC academy.

It was noted that from 2022 all breed judges wishing to judge at KC licensed events would be required to join the Academy at a fee of £10 per annum for single breed judges and £26 per annum for multi breed judges. It was suggested that a similar provision be made for activities judges, this would allow the KC club to hold records of all judges, not just championship judges.



The Sub-Group was requested to note the Training Board's view expressed at its 4th December 2017 meeting that it should be mandatory for judges in all disciplines to take and pass the relevant examination relating to rules and regulations every 5 years.

It was noted that for breed judges this requirement did not apply until 1st January 2022.

There followed further discussion, Heelwork to Music judges are currently required to attend a R & R seminar every 4 years at present. It was agreed that a universal approach should be taken.

KC Academy: this issue had been considered earlier in the meeting, and the Sub-Group was requested to note that for Obedience, a draft script had been submitted and was under review, it was anticipated the footage obtained at Crufts would be suitable for use, although some filming at Stoneleigh may also be required.

Accredited Trainers: it was agreed that those trainers who lacked confidence presenting seminars would be offered support. Applications for new judges trainers in all disciplines had been received, interviews would take place at a future date.

The Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar would take place at Clarges Street this year as Stoneleigh was booked at the time the seminar usually took place.

Judging issues: various topics were covering including mentoring, judges retiring in agility due to overloading, and the use of social media by societies trying to recruit judges. It noted that the soliciting of appointments by a judge is not acceptable, but if a judge replied to a request from a society this would not be viewed as soliciting for an appointment as the first move had been instigated by the society, but show societies should satisfy themselves that prospective judges are qualified and able.

## **Meeting 2 November 2018**

Miss L Pogodzinski in the chair.

No apologies for absence.

It was noted that several new accredited judges trainers in most disciplines had been appointed, Mr B. Luckock in obedience, all new judges' trainers in all disciplines would be observed/assessed at their first seminar, then reaccredited every 5 years thereafter.

The Sub-Group discussed what constitutes a dog unfit to work, a discussion followed and it was agreed that the first decision lay with the judge, as happens now if a judge feels that a dog isn't fit to carry on they can invite the handler to leave the ring. It was thought a good idea to put a generic film on the Academy giving judges guidelines.

Academy: filming where necessary will take place in April, July or September.

Preview of films to be circulated to accredited trainers for feedback prior to going on the academy.

Obedience, a request was made for the office to make known the names of those new judges approved to judge championship classes, so as to ensure that the list on obedience UK is a true reflection of fact.

Mr S Rutter