

Report from Judges Working Party for Agility Liaison Council

There have been several issues progressed by the Judges Working Party.

Mentoring of First Time Agility Judges

The new mentoring system has been rolled out by the office, new judges will receive a letter inviting them to participate for their first three judging appointments. The office will match them to a judges trainer, who will act as a mentor, the mentor is expected to be available for advice, support and guidance before the judging appointment, during the judging appointment (if possible), and provide the opportunity to review their performance, what has gone well, what areas (if any) they would like to improve upon. This scheme is entirely voluntary. The annual judges training seminar felt that the feedback forms needs rewording. The mentoring system has its first prospective judges signed up.

Continuing Professional Development of Existing Judges

There has been considerable progress on the Continuing Professional Development of existing judges. There was a great deal of support for the process by the Judges Trainers. The office will be asking Judges Trainers to give up one or two days a year when they would visit shows in a similar capacity to that of a KC Field Officer, to undertake observations. The Judges Trainers will not be competing on the days that they are carrying out observations. It is hoped that they would undertake as many observations on as many judges as possible. The observers would be encouraged to feedback to the judges, however immediate feedback would not be compulsory, they would only raise concerns that they felt needed addressing immediately, any serious concerns would be addressed by the Activities Sub Committee. It was felt that the recording form for observing the judges still requires further development. It is intend that the Continuing Professional Development scheme will be rolled out in early 2015.

I will report back to the Council the uptake of the two schemes as they develop and any outcomes.

Refresher (Update) Training

All existing judges are encouraged to attend the Requirements of an Agility Judge seminar or a specific refresher, they do not have to sit the assessment, however attendance at this seminar will provide them with a useful refresher on the rules and regulations.

Judging Procedure and Course Designs

The presentations are in the process of being reviewed and updated with the aim of reducing the questions on general show management and providing more time for the Course Design and Practical Judging element. The annual trainers seminar recommended that the Judges Working Party consider that the Requirements of an Agility Judge should become open book exam. The Kennel Club is reviewing an E-learning package that may be used in for Requirements of an Agility Judge assessment.

Judges Trainers

The office will be collating a list of the Judges Trainers, to allow the Judges Working Party to review the geographical location and the seminars delivered by the existing trainers to try to ensure a good geographical spread across all areas. As there appear to be areas with a limited access to the existing judges trainers.

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