

JUDGES WORKING PARTY

Report for the Obedience Liaison Council
concerning the Working Party's meeting held on 28th April 2015.

The meeting opened with a warm welcome to its new member representing Obedience, Steve Rutter.

It was noted that the new e-learning initiative, mentioned in the last report of the Working Party, was progressing and would initially be used for the training of breed judges. It would subsequently be introduced for training in the activity disciplines and a further presentation on the subject would hopefully be provided at the next Annual Accredited Trainers Seminar in October this year.

The subject of evening-only seminars was discussed but it was noted that obedience seminars, properly delivered, took a minimum of 5 hours and the Working Party recommended that they should not take place for *any* discipline as pressure of time would be stressful for all concerned.

Accredited trainers have to be reassessed every 3 years and 7 of the 9 Obedience trainers had already been re-accredited, leaving just 2. One of the other disciplines, Agility, had a significant number awaiting re-accreditation however. Only Working Party members may undertake assessments and, ideally, the assessor should not be from the same discipline as the trainer being assessed. In order to ease the backlog it was agreed that where necessary, a Working Party member would be permitted to assess someone from within their own discipline. It was also clarified that assessors should be present throughout the whole of any seminar presentation, but not necessarily during the subsequent examination (where applicable).

Obedience G Regulation G32.d states in sub-section (4) that **on first appointment** to judge at Open Shows or the non-certificate classes at Championship Shows, judges must have attended an Obedience Test Design and the Practice of Judging Seminar (effective from 1st January 2015). There had been confusion as to whether the term "on first appointment" related to the date on which the judging contract was issued, or to the date on which the actual judging appointment was scheduled to take place. As a result there had been some problems in ascertaining whether some judges were eligible to fulfil their appointments. It was noted that clarification of this issue was not possible as the wording used in the regulation was ambiguous. The issue would not be a long term one however as the wording "effective from 1 January 2015" would be removed from the regulation.

There was a discussion regarding the acceptability of Accredited Trainers Including deliberate handling errors within their practical seminars with the intention of catching out delegates. It was agreed that the intention was to inform and educate and that it was acceptable for such errors to be highlighted but not included in such a way as to attempt

to catch delegates out. The matter will be further discussed at the Annual Trainers Seminar in October.

Roy Page

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