

OBEDIENCE REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES JUDGES WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2016

The Judges Working Party meets twice a year and is made up of representative judges trainers from all the Activities disciplines; Agility, Bloodhound Trials, Heelwork to Music, Obedience, Rally and Working Trials.

Those from Obedience are, Sue Garner, Robert Harlow and Steve Rutter. Roy Page has now retired; Robert Harlow has taken his place as Chairman of the Obedience Liaison Council. The Working Party reports to the Activities Sub Committee and the Kennel Club Training Board. The latter is concerned with the training and development of judges from all disciplines.

ASC Judges trainers and the respective discipline specific Liaison Councils and Working Parties can raise items, so that matters involving judges, judging and judges training are coordinated and all relevant parties properly informed.

The items discussed that are of interest to Obedience were;

On line Learning Platform. The Kennel Club Academy has now been launched. The Working Party was given a presentation of some of the live elements and how they support show judges training along with other elements such as Breeder Education. Each activity discipline group will now put together ideas for the content of learning material for judges in their field. The intention is not to replace the judges training seminars but to support them through providing pre-seminar knowledge and other supporting information. This is an ongoing project and will be progressed over the coming year.

Open book Agility examinations. These have been considered by the Agility judges trainers and put to the Kennel Club Training Board. There were reservations regarding these. After a long discussion there were merits on how the on line learning could be used to help potential judges gain the knowledge they require.

Mentoring system for new Agility Judges. An update on progress of this was given. A number of new Agility judges had taken advantage of the scheme. The role of the mentor is to assist with course planning pre-judging and helping to review the day. The mentor does not need to be present at the show at which the new judge is judging. Further updates will be given in time.

Appointment of Accredited Trainers. At the October Annual Trainers Seminar, the Obedience Judges trainers considered the number of trainers in place and how to set up a system to support others to join the group. The best means to do this was discussed and names put forward for approval. These can be announced once they have passed through the interview and approval process.

Assessment of Judges. The process by which an assessment of a judge's performance was discussed and agreed. There is a clear process given in the show incident book, where concerns need to be raised. This information will be in the reviewed Manual for Registered Societies once published.

The working party will meet again in November 2016.

Sue Garner