

## **Equipment Panel Report 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Equipment Incidents**

At the time of writing 23 equipment related incidents had been received from 12 shows since the beginning of the 2024. Of these, 13 had been entered in the incident book & forwarded to the equipment panel by the office, 3 were reported via the judges equipment form & forwarded to the equipment panel by the office, 4 were sent directly to the office & forwarded to the equipment panel. The remaining 3 were emailed directly to Mrs Bale who forwarded the incident on to the office for their records.

All incidents received by the panel are now being collated by Mrs Bale in spreadsheet form. As this appears to be the first time equipment related incidents have been collated in this manner it's hard to draw any conclusions, but the panel will continue with this process going forward to assist in looking for recurring problems.

First impressions from this year's data suggest that most KC shows have no equipment issues at all. However, as Mrs Bale attended 23 KC shows this year & regularly talks to many show managers & competitors, it is her feeling that many incidents aren't reaching the equipment panel. Clarity around the submission of the incident book would help with this & a proposal has been submitted to this end.

An online version of the Judges Equipment Form is also now a priority, again to improve reporting. The aim is to have this available before the main 2025 show season begins.

Most reports received concerned equipment failure.

Several First Contact equipment hires suffered from frayed tunnel straps, failing Velcro on tunnel straps & dog walk planks with excessive wear resulting in too much movement. The stakeholders involved are being contacted to address these issues as there are several different companies that hire out First Contact equipment.

A Galican seesaw issue which resulted in complete failure at a show was dealt with promptly by all parties & Galican have assured the KC that all faulty seesaw bases will be replaced.

There is some concern over the colours of contacts & the ability of dogs to see the tones. There is currently insufficient evidence in the reported incidents to see any pattern linked to any particular colour(s) but the panel will continue to monitor this.

There were also a few reports which were referred to the judges' trainers as improved education would solve the issues. These included judges refusing to use the regulated number of straps on tunnels & failure to apply the tunnel curve ruling, both areas which are covered by the Code of Best Practice that all KC judges should now be familiar with.

### **Collapsible Pole Trial**

The collapsible pole trial was launched via a KC Media release on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The Equipment Panel received no advance communications that the trial had been approved nor in what form it would take, so no structure to the trial was agreed. Therefore, in an attempt to collect

something useful from the trial Mrs Bale has drawn up a feedback form & placed this on the KC Judges Facebook Group as there is no other way of communicating with judges that she is aware of. At the time of writing the form had received 1 response. It will be left live until the end of 2024 & publicised regularly.

Mrs Bale has raised a matter in AOB regarding communication channels between the committees & the impact this has on the effectiveness of the ALC.

### **Hurdle Review**

The hurdle review has not yet been completed due to time constraints but is ongoing. This includes fillers.

### **Timing Issues**

There seems to be an increase in timing issues at shows. This is being monitored as there are several developments in this area at the moment. It should be noted that the KC have almost no regulation around timing & that any development/investment in timing systems is entirely in the hands of the businesses that offer the timing services.

### **Equipment Tolerances**

Some concerns have been raised over the application of the equipment tolerances values. Some tunnels are not meeting the tolerances due to losing their shape. Some brands of weaves have a diameter that is very close to the tolerance limit. As part of this review a proposal has been put forward for removal of the width range that is still allowed in the H regulations for the dog walk & see saw planks on top of the tolerance values.

The tolerance values will continue to be reviewed to check they are fit for purpose over the coming months.