

NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR 20 NOVEMBER 2007
TELECONFERENCE

Meeting by Teleconference commencing at 7.34pm.

Roll Call - Alan McClumpha (chair), Karen deWit, Allan Rohde, Paul Remon, Lyn Sayers, Nick Chester, Fiona Hodgson, Brian Priest (NZKC CEO), Apologies –Roy Thorndycraft

Business arising from Minutes

Meeting Protocols not yet written up – **Alan Mc** is awaiting the meeting protocols for the rest of the NZKC to be developed from which our protocols will be drawn up. This is underway now.

YKC – Committee keen to make progress with YKC. Many Junior Handler classes and training sessions are being run in parts of the country but at this stage these are independent of the YKC itself. The NZKC receive regular request for information from kids wanting to be involved in Agility from around the country. Brian outlined what was involved in the YKC and holiday program etc. It was determined that we require info packs etc to be handed out to our young handlers via clubs. Karen to liaise with YKC with a view to getting more progress made.

Avalon Club – Brian reported.

Financial Report – Allan Rohde reported on levies progress, progress re bank account fees.

Matters Arising from the report

An update was given with regard the historical Zone monies. A letter from NZKC to all ex-Zone Statutory Managers regarding the dispersal of funds is to be sent out so the money can be formally and finally accounted for. Nationals levies – Alan M to bring this up with Executive as to whether the National show should pay agility levies to the Committee.

Notices of Motion

Proposal for the investigation of IFCS affiliation for NZKC

IFCS allows one association from each country the chance to affiliate to it. Affiliation with IFCS would allow for greater ties to this world body which runs world champs in agility etc. The IFCS supports the acceptance of all dogs whether purebred or not into competition and it is therefore a much more compatible organisation with NZKC as far as performance sports goes than the FCI.

Propose that Lyn investigate and commence the application process to join IFCS.

Judges Appointments.

Mike Butler - acceptance on to the judges panel carried.

Lyn Sayers –approval to judge in South Australia in 2008.

Nationals 2008 – Judges & Program

Require group of interested people to work with Susan Tansey on the Nationals for 2008. **Lyn** is to contact Susan and offer his services on behalf of the Agility Committee. **Paul** Remon is collating a list of issues from the 2007 show.

NDTA 2008 update, This was presented to the meeting.

Introduction. The organising committee of the NDTA has finalised its plans for the event in 2008. This document is to advise the Agility committee of the plans the organising committee has, to seek approval for the Australian Judge, and to seek regulation changes to enable the event to be run as planned.

Event Schedule

Day	Events
Friday Afternoon	Two novelty events tba, and Flygility
Saturday Morning	Gamblers, Snooker, Jumpers Pairs relay YKC at lunch time as a feature
Saturday Afternoon	Starters, Novice, Intermediate, Senior, ADX
Sunday Morning	Starters, Novice, Intermediate, Senior, AD
Sunday Afternoon	Interzone Teams at approx 1:30pm after Test B and

	after Test C
Monday Morning	Starters, Novice, Intermediate, Senior, Interclub team relay
Monday Afternoon	Individual Finals

Agility Inside the Building

Agility will be held inside the building at Manfield for the interzone teams on Sunday. On Monday Novice and Intermediate, Interclub relay and Finals will be held inside.

The surface is "lime stabilised" earth and has been recently trialled by the Feilding club at the official opening of the building.

Judges

Peter Dyan from Adelaide will be judging the Interzone teams and the finals.

Note: Agility Committee and NZKC Executive to approve this appointment

Individual Finals

The top 7 places in each standard agility class will be eligible to compete in the finals. Dogs only qualify for the finals once. No wildcards.

Inter Club Teams Relay

The relay on Monday replaces the mathematical exercise that now constitutes the club team competition.

A dog can only be in one team

A person can only be in one team

Teams relay is 3 dogs (two diff heights max). There are 2 courses, dog 1 does course1, dog 2 does course 2, dog three does course 1

Top 5 teams qualify for the final. Winner of final wins the competition.

Note: Regulation 9.3 needs to be amended to allow this.

Rational: To make the clubs teams competition a special event. This event has been trialled and proved very interesting and exciting.

Interzone Teams

We would like to ADD a 4 dog team relay to the interzone event.

Interzone teams will consist of:

Individual runs at Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior as per normal.

This will be inside the building at the completion of Obedience Test B.

The each zone team will compete in a 4 dog team relay

This will be inside the building at the completion of Obedience Test C.

The 4 dog team relay

There are four courses laid out in the ring.

All four dogs stand in front of their first obstacle.

First dog goes around their course.

When they cross their final jump the second dog goes immediately.

This pattern continues until all four dogs have run

Standard Judging applies. The faults are accumulated across the team and ONE time is recorded.

To cater for the possibility where dogs of different height are in the same team, only obstacles that are NOT jumped can be common to the four courses, i.e. aframe, dog walk, tunnel, cross over, weaves. Note however, that for the NDTA the judge can be notified of the height combinations that will be present and this may provide flexibility in course design.

Overall Scoring System

Individual Agility, 1st=5 pts, 2nd=4pts, 3rd=3pts, 4th=2pts, 5th=1pt in each event

Relay 1st=10pts, 2nd=8pts, 3rd=6pts, 4th=4pts, 5th=2pts

Team with the most points wins

Note: Regulation 9.2 needs to be amended to allow this.

Rational: To enhance the interzone teams competition to build tension, atmosphere and interest. The relay will see the team work together. The Best team from the individual event runs last and everyone will know the score required, ensuring an exciting climax to the competition.

Recommendations to Agility Committee

Approve Peter Dyan as a Agility Judge for the NDTA and recommend this appointment to the NZKC Executive.

Peter's background and judging experience was discussed and there was support for his appointment. He will judge the interzone and finals classes in addition to some other classes. The meeting agreed to approve Peter's appointment for NDTA 2008 and apply for approval from Executive. **Alan M** to raise with the next Exec meeting.

Approve changes to regulation 9.3 to enable the Interclub event to be run as a separate event. This was approved by the meeting for 2008 NDTA. The existing regs regarding the running of the Interclub competition will be suspended for 2008.

Approve changes to regulation 9.2 to enable the addition of a four dog team relay to the Interzone teams event. This also was approved by the meeting for 2008 NDTA.

Alan M will take all 3 of these items to Executive for approval.

START BOX.

We would like to trial a new system of managing the start of an agility round. The purpose of the new method is to allow the next dog to be ready to run while the previous dog is in the ring. A "START AREA" is a box shaped area on the approach side of the first obstacle (marked by cones etc) . This area is a rectangle approximately 2m x 6m in size. The next handler & dog to run must be standing in the Start Area ready to go. In the Start Area, they are allowed a collar and lead but no toy or food. We propose that this system be trialled at ribbon events with the intention of using it at NDTA's to speed up the running of rings as entries become larger. We have seen this method used in Australia and know that it helps the competitors know where they are meant to be, the ring stewards know where they should be, and that it does speed up entry of dogs into the ring and being ready to run.

There was some discussion as to whether a start box would improve things if an already efficient call steward is doing their job properly. It was decided that it should be trialled at an ART. **Nick** and **Alan M** are to organise this trial at Cambridge and WAG December Ribbon Trials. They will liaise with the clubs, judges and competitors and ensure the results are reported back to the Agility Committee.

General Business

Sub-Committee Reports

Regulations - Fiona reported:

Rubber-stamping of the amended Agiltiy Regs was delayed when members of the Exec wanted more time to look over the changes. The NZKC office will have the amended regs on the website very soon.

Notes on probationary judging regs/guidelines were forward to Nick as head of Judges Sub-committee for their consideration. The existing guidelines were circulated to all judges.

The Control of dogs policy was circulated, approved and sent out to all clubs since the last meeting. These have been greeted positively by most. It has been suggested that clubs stipulate that their shows will run according to the guidelines within this document in their schedules. This means that entries are sent in the understanding that the dogs must be controlled as per the guidelines on the day.

The Club Complaints procedure was formulated to give clubs who do not currently have such a procedure something to work from. It was sent to the NZKC for comment and has just come back with some recommendations. Based on these ideas, the procedure has been amended and will be redistributed to the committee for final approval prior to being made available to the clubs.

The first draft of the Agility Committee Standing Orders (containing parts of all pre-existing Zone Standing Orders) has been completed and are now ready input from the Committee.

There was some discussion on the dividing line between competitions and regulations sub-committees.

Standing Orders. Karen asked whether we needed a lot of the things which have been put in the draft as things will change with the NDTA results etc. It was discussed and thought that it should be a living document which is subject to regular change as required so at this stage the topics should remain in. Complaints Procedure – Was given the ok by the meeting and can be distributed now. It needs to be sent to the Obedience Committee first. **Fiona** to action.

Judges - Nick reported

The Judges subcommittee has been busy over the last couple of months, most notably with the production and distribution of the Judge's Questionnaire. This was distributed to all judges on the Senior panel and agility judges panel the week before NDTA, a good response, with a total of 42. Questionnaires received back.

Most of these have been filled with a number of thoughts/suggestions/opinions which will be shortly collated and reported back on. Once this is done, the subcommittee will look to make some recommendations. The subcommittee has also gathered some other information from Australia on how judging systems work there, to gain even more viewpoints on what might and might not work here in NZ. We will also be passing a brief email out to club secretaries and the agility email list asking for feedback and suggestions from the wider agility membership, this will have a brief turnaround, so we will not hold ourselves up too much. As was pointed out at the last meeting, a timeline outlining the process for review would be helpful. This is now been drawn up:

20 Oct - Judges questionnaire complete

18 Nov - Questionnaire results in

15 Dec - Results tabulated and distributed

20 Dec - Recommendations on paper for changes

30 Jan - Draft amendments to judges' recruitment/prerequisites and probationary training complete

15 Feb - Proposal complete for all levels of judges training including changes to advancement to senior panel.

Mar 08 - Review by Agility committee

Apr 08 - Review by all agility people

May 08 - Regulation changes made to support new system

Apart from the continuing work on this process, other work on immediate issues is also happening, namely the work that needs to be done for prospective new judges looking to come onto the panel in 2008.

It seems that there are 4 prospective new Judges for next year: Dyson Beasley (Rotorua), Mike Butler (Wellington), Nic Furby (Blenheim), Chris Henderson (Nelson)

Now the written exam for 2008 has to be written. Committee members asked to submit questions.

Judges Exam – 19 Feb 2008. Nick to collate. It was decided that diagrams could be included.

Applications for new appointments to the panel and those applying for promotion to the senior panel need to be forwarded to the Agility Committee Admin Officer each year. **Brian** to ensure this happens.

It was noted that the Judges application forms on the NZKC website require to be updated showing this year's date. **Brian** to organise.

NDTA/Competition + Awards – NDTA discussion document – Karen reported

The report itself has been forwarded to the OB committee. Their survey is due in by 15 Nov so they should then have an idea of what is wanted. They have a teleconference on 22 Nov, and it is intended to liaise with them after that.

Terms of Reference: Karen outlined suggested Terms of Reference for this sub-committee as which are precis'd as follows.

COMPETITIONS. Terms of reference.

Topics: Agility Calendar, Class Structure & Graduation Methods, New Classes, Elementary Class, Obstacles, Dog Height, International Competitions, Tidy of Existing Competition "protocols" or traditions – eg assembly areas, collars etc, Assistance and Guidance for clubs

It was noted that where we are working through regulation changes, we must be aware to complete as much as possible prior to elections of a new Agility Committee in order that the incoming committee is not left with too many half-complete projects.

Sponsorship – Lyn reported:

Lyn has had some discussions with Jude Haase re sponsorship and have gained some idea of the level of “audience” required by major sponsors. Brian raised the probability that more would be gained from a joint approach including all NZKC disciplines as the audience will be as required. Lyn is to have a meeting with Brian to discuss soon. There was some discussion about the “push play” angle from an agility perspective and we should try to ensure those pushing this idea realise the amount of physical involvement of the handler in agility.

Other General Business

1. Executive report – A McC. - Nothing to report at this stage with the meeting next month. The trans-tasman reciprocal agreement has been agreed.
2. Trans-Tasman Challenge 2009 and beyond – This has been suggested for Queensland in 2009 with the next one in NZ in 2011. **Lyn** and **Fiona** to liaise with Reg Dwyer to progress this and advise back as time goes on. No regulation alterations are required in order to run this challenge.
3. Calendar – Complete and out. We have not yet received a copy of the Obedience calendar for 2008. Dangerous Dogs – The issues at CCATS club resolved. An incident at Tauranga , October show was discussed. Brian raised the requirement for clubs which have any incident at a show to copy any paperwork on the incident to the NZKC for them to keep it on record. As long as procedure has been followed, no further action would be required. It was noted that the owner of the dog needs to be informed that the incident report will be on file at the NZKC. It was agreed that an update is required as to how to deal with issues at shows and that the Agility Committee need to advise clubs as to what procedure to follow. Brian pointed out that reporting to NZKC on any incident is important with regard to Public Liability Insurance issues which require good and thorough documentation and record keeping. Some discussion was held on similar issues with regard complaints, incidents, exclusions etc.
4. Projects List – Deferred to next meeting
5. Measuring – Alan M reported on progress re measuring device investigation. He has found a laser device which would be perfect but is too expensive. He will look at finding a cheaper one. In the meantime he can get the “trials” type of measuring slide for approx. \$50 each. It was resolved that we purchase 10 sets of these in order to get dogs measured in millimeters from now on. Measuring protocols to come yet – has been delayed with people being away etc. First draft is nearly ready for comment. Discussion was had on timing for new regulation re measuring. It was resolved that we work toward a date of 1 Jan 2008 for mm measurement of all new dogs in the sport and that all existing dogs be measured by 1 July 2008. **Fiona** and **Lyn** to draft reg change required and have it checked by Agility Committee in time for **Alan M** to take to Executive meeting in December.
6. Club Equipment –. Deferred to next meeting. Judges Equipment checking form to be distributed and encouraged. **Alan M** and **Nick** to get this done.
7. AD Courses Revamp – Nearly complete – to be checked by full committee as soon as they are complete. ADX Advanced courses to follow.

There being no further General Business the meeting was closed at 11.17pm.