

Report on Minutes of the Agility Committee Meeting, Face to Face, 22 June 2008, Wellington

Present L Sayers, K de Wit, N Chester, F Hodgson, R Thorndycraft, P Remon, A Rohde, (in attendance) P Lyth. **Apology** A Willox

Meeting opened at 8.08 a.m.

Financials

Allan Rohde circulated accounts to 31 March, reported on outstanding levies. Gift for auditor agreed. Discussion re a draft 'Agility Club Handbook' - F Hodgson to review, and to look at any content that can be used from the breed version. Also outstanding from some clubs are NDTA funds distributed by Zones. Approaches to individual clubs will be by various Committee members.

The Committee agreed to place money on term deposit.

The Committee agreed to provide further working capital to the Agility section of the NDTA 2009 organisers in the sum of a further \$4,850, for a total to date of \$5,150 (previously \$300 ground deposit has been paid.) Noted that agility and obedience will have two separate bank accounts. Noted that agility have had sponsorship income from a calendar.

Correspondence

List circulated and accepted. Noted that levies have been paid by the NDTA 2008 benefit show and that the minutes of 21 Aug 2007 state that levies do apply to benefit shows.

Agility Event Dates

The Committee will take responsibility for confirming and altering Championship dates. This will include numbers of events on a weekend, e.g. double becoming a triple. This will include benefit shows if any are applied for.

General Business

Judges.

Subcommittee has responded to information requests from prospective judges. The discussion document is in draft, and about to be updated from the outcome of Competitions consultation. The document is not going to be ready for next year. There are six people interested. Seminars to be held as Committee members get around the country. Noted that resignation of M Trimble has to be properly recorded.

Noted that someone needs to draw up a pack, How to Judge Jumpers.

Clean Run software for course design -Discount has been negotiated. Agreed to go to the agility community, making it available to everyone, but not compulsory. Licences and upgrades to be offered at discount price, and with a 50% subsidy for judges. This is potentially a useful tool for communication between judges and N Chester, and also for probationaries.

NDTA Awards -There are differing practices in different historic Zones. The Committee will attempt to have NDTA Awards reinstated.

Gazette - A call for content and photos

Competitions

The results were circulated from the second round of consultation. Discussion and decisions on various issues:

NDTA: Agreed to keep the historic Zones as regions. Agreed that a person can only represent the Region in which they live, but that the Committee can grant an exemption for exceptional circumstance.

Team managers -Done at the April meeting.

Team selection methods - The Committee reviewed each Region. A decision has to be made re Zone 4. Agreed: Carole Logan to organise team trials in July/August and to include points from the Waimakariri show. R Thorndycraft to progress.

Team Subsidies - There were some valid comments about no subsidy in home zone and some anomalies. Agreed several decisions: Committee to pay based on distance, based on over 200km round trip. Committee to make a rate decision each year. For 2008, suggest rate is 50% of AA guideline rate and first 200 km to be member's responsibility and capped at cheapest airfare

equivalent on closing date of teams. For avoidance of doubt, subsidy can be paid within the home Zone.

Uniform - P Remon had a sample. Agreed that polo to be in the Region (Zone) colour. F Hodgson to develop a form for team members' measurements.

Competitions - submissions

The Committee discussed submissions from the second round. (Anything not mentioned in the summary is accepted, as there were no submissions against.

Decisions:

1. There is strong support for improved profile of Agility at the National Dog Show, and support for Miniature trophies
2. Both Elementary 1 and Elementary 2 are required. Non-comps not allowed. An entry form is required for all RT entries (to include acceptance of NZKC Rules.) R Thorndycraft to send a sample RT entry form. Standard course designs for Elementary are needed. K de Wit to compile 10 courses, seeking one design from each Committee member. There must be an opportunity for a prospective judge to set their own course. To be maximum of six weave poles in an Elementary course. The tyre will not be allowed. Hurdles to be low. K de Wit to draft and circulate. A Rohde referred to the Zone 1 Handbook.
3. JD / JDX. Qualification to be: 25 Clear Rounds for JD, 25 more Clear Rounds for JDX in Gr B, all at a specified rate of travel. JD moves you up (graduation) out of Gr C. Graduating from Gr C gains JD. JDX will count toward graduating out of Gr B. Graduating out of Gr B gains JDX. Dogs starting at Gr B will need only 10 CRCs for JD.

Noted there are no weaves in Jumpers, and compulsory weaves in Starters. That's the difference.

4. Regulations are needed for what gear is to be used in Jumpers.
5. The Committee needs to look at rules and graduation for Games. A plan is needed for training judges. Noting that quite a skill base needed for clubs to run games. To be talked about later.
6. Graduation: the Committee will recommend a points system, to reward people and keep people in the sport. To use the system as on page 3 of Document 2, option 2. Administration is to be developed. Agreed: Points will not be retrospective but wins will be.
7. Agreed: Only points and wins gained subsequent to graduation from Starters will count towards graduation from Novice.
When counting numbers in a class, the number entered (not run) are to be counted.
8. Agreed: New AD & ADX courses will be effective from 1 October. Agreed Use of tables in AD/ADX to be reevaluated in a while - perhaps 18 months or 2 years.
Administration system is needed for certificates for numbers Clear Round Certificates. Agreed: All CRCs can be counted from any standard classes for any dogs competing after 1 Jan 2009. (I.e. old Jumpers will not count, but all other CRCs gained by a dog over the years count.
9. Hurdles issues have to be deferred. The only thing to do is to delete the maximum
10. Hoops: the Certificate of Compliance stage is the time to deal with any design problems with new hoops. Until then hoops can be used.
11. Tunnels: there are unsafe tunnels around. Photos of examples of safe and unsafe.
12. Long jump: trials to be undertaken of: shorter length; new materials; bidirectional. Suggestion to go to judges list inviting them to not use full 900mm for mini class long jump.
13. Dogwalk/seesaw angles: should not be the same angle.
14. Start and Finish obstacles can be of the same type, but can not be the same obstacle. The dog must start in the ring.

Other: Issues around the wingjump are still undetermined. Height of sidebars of jump. Checking that safety aspects.

K de Wit to redraft the Competition document and to circulate to the Committee. The draft Regulations will be available.

Finance

A budget is needed. Some work was done in 2007, now the Committee has a better idea of the annual cost to run the Committee. There are also issues on what the scope of its work is. The brief is to improve and expand the sport. For example, promoting PADs, "Public Agility Displays." F Hodgson and K de Wit to draft a list of what clubs need to know now.

Obedience liaison

Actioned informally on Saturday after Annual Conference of Delegates.

Sponsorship of Sky programme

Proposal for a programme to be made at the NDTA. To be put to Executive, proposing a grant, to sell advertising to ProPlan, and to underwrite. Committee agreed to a 1/3 underwrite. *Subsequent to meeting a proposal to this effect was put to the members of the committee and voted on.*

Other general business

Leave of absence approved for F Hodgson for the 2009 calendar year.

Possible affiliation of NZKC Agility to the International Federation of Canine Sports

Ian Gray's book "History of Agility" needs to be updated.

AD Trials: if to be held at RTs, there needs to be better notification. Website and Gazette page should show ADs for the coming year.

Electronic timing: regulations covering electronic timing, should these read "record to at least two decimal places"?

Club equipment checking, and issue of compliance document. This needs to be planned, not just ad hoc. A 'Next Inspection' date must be stated. If date would be less than a year, the equipment should be failed. Gear towards end of life would have a 12 month date, and new gear can be next inspected more than 1 year in the future.

NDTA 2009 agility committee: R Thorndycraft reported another round of meetings, getting quotes to then lodge grant applications. Obedience is responsible for their sport. Noted Dave Jolly of England. If he judges, part of the deal is to present training modules. His attendance to be confirmed.

NDTA 2010: N Chester advises Zone Two.

Allocation of AD & ADX. Basically continuing unchanged.

Judge P Dynan to be chased up for reply to request for judges meeting. To be told what he has to cover. N Chester to have input, supply to L Sayers.

A measuring issue: a person who wanted a measure changed. The Committee discussed the protocol. Anything over two years of age with a millimetre measure should never be remeasured. There is a provision for revocation of certificate, and for application for remeasure. An application would have to be made, and any remeasure would have to be done by a member of the Agility Committee.

The Committee noted a potential issue with "tall midis" and the use of discretion: if the dog is 8 or 9 years, leave it be, but if the dog is say 3 years then change the height. F Hodgson to supply information on number of dogs potentially in this situation.

Seesaws: needs to have equipment checked to see if it complies. Certificate of Fitness may address. L Sayers to develop and progress an idea he has.

Discussion re responsibilities and powers of judges and test managers. Generally the course belongs to the judge, but the contract can spell out things the club wants / does not want. The safety of the dog is paramount.

Noted that one Australian state opposed the Trans-Tasman challenge. The President to take up the matter with ANKC counterpart when meeting him in the near future.

All first aid kits should be up to date. Standing Orders to include all clubs to have a qualified first aider.

Gazette supplement May 2009: to be on every meeting agenda.

Life Memberships and Certificates of Appreciation (awarded by Executive Council) to be on Feb/March Agility agenda each year.

Brian Priest joined the meeting. Reported that the Companion Dog Directory is up & running. To compete in agility, the dog would have to transfer to Pt 2. The necessary Associate Membership

(for the person owning the Companion Dog Directory dog) will provide the opportunity for agility to be exposed to a lot more people. He will circulate the quarterly newsletter and information on what associates get.

The meeting calendar: Teleconferences are practical for yes/no type decisions. Committee agreed to take teleconferences off the calendar. F Hodgson to propose dates in 2009 and 2010 for four meetings a year, including one at ACOD.

F Hodgson to send out to clubs the AD and ADX application.

The Committee needs to tell clubs that the Committee will source NDTA uniforms for teams.

The Committee discussed members' participation on the agility list, and whether a matter is a personal view or an Agility Committee position. F Hodgson to advise list, that if a Committee member participates as a Committee member, they will say so clearly, and if not, it is a personal view.