

MINUTES OF NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE MEETING: 22nd June 2014.

Present: Steve Chester, Joanne Rennell, Karen de Wit, Peter de Wit, Jocelyn Jensen, Lisa Duff, Sue Willis.

Apologies: Nick Chester (judging in Australia) Accepted

Office holders:

Peter de Wit resigned as Chairperson.

Lisa Duff resigned as Deputy Chairperson. Accepted.

Both were thanked for their considerable contribution in the past 12 months.

Re-election:

Steve Chester elected Chairperson: Unopposed.

Peter de Wit elected Deputy Chairperson Unopposed.

Motion: That the AC Chairperson is the representative of the Agility Committee to the Executive Council, and the Deputy Chairperson administer the Agility Committee.

Accepted.

Rationale: To spread the work load.

Peter to inform the President and Director/Secretary of the NZKC.

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted as a true account:

No matters arising.

Financial Report:

March, April, May financial reports presented by the Treasurer.

A large amount of money was paid out in the April May period on levies to the NZKC, GST, training seminars, and equipment (largely the jump subsidies)

Those clubs who have as yet not claimed jump subsidies have until the end of June to do so.

Matters arising from the Financial Report:

Jump Subsidy: Approval for subsidy given for the numbers of jumps at the time of the original stock take.

\$100 for Club Night Grant: Aimed at encouraging new competitors.

Executive Council Report: Peter de Wit attended the EC meeting held on 21.06.2014.

Levies: The NZKC office presented a paper on the Agility levies.. Peter presented the view that the current agility levies are fair, and equal or greater than that required by the official formula. He backed this discussion with facts and figures. The DOC is looking at adopting a similar sytem. AC members applauded the work Peter had done on this matter.

Report from Jo Murray (advisor on animal welfare to NZKC.) on the perception of the NZKC from the general public. Those who were asked about agility did not know that it had anything to do with NZKC, likewise Canine Good Citizen.

Report on the situation in Australia. The Chairperson of AKA spoke about their position on animal welfare rules stringent on some matters such as tail docking. He spoke of communication changes - "Dog" as a prefix claimed as a trade mark before the name of the state, for puposes of looking it up on the internet. He felt NZ should consider this.

Remit 4 withdrawn.

WAG: approved to hold a show on the same date as the NZKC National Championship in 2015 – for that year only. In any other year, or any other club, wishing to do so must apply to the Executive Council of NZKC.

FCI. Differing demands from those originally put forward to the NZKC mean that this is not being seriously considered at this time.

NAWAC: National Animal Welfare Advisory Council – major input into the regulations made by the New Zealand government on the treatment of animals. The NZKC is encouraged to be leaders in the welfare of dogs. Good principles need to be highlighted and encouraged, and problems addressed. The AC feels that the COF, and regulations on starting and finishing areas are examples of 'good principles'.

Correspondence:

Letter regarding the wording of Remit 4 to be presented at ACOD regarding the appointment of a representative for the AC at Executive Council meetings. The remit was withdrawn before the meeting.

Application from Waimakariri Dog Training Club for a grant to aid in the relocation of their club grounds which are very prone to flooding since the earthquake in 2011. Decided that financial help would be given for agility equipment.

ACAC: Asked for dispensation to not hold shows in 2015 to allow the rebuild of their club. Dispensation given to not hold a championship show in 2015, but must run a ribbon trial. If unable to run a championship show in 2016, then ACAC should apply to become a Non-Championship Agility Society.

Mangawhai Dog Training Club: Application made to become a Championship Agility Society. Application to go to Directory/Secretary – Peter Dunne.

Letter regarding the attitude of a judge at a show: Committee talked about the situation, felt that it was appearance rather than intent, and that positive encouragement would help.

Letter regarding the position of the first obstacle in a course. A discussion to be started on the Judges Group.

Calendar:

WAG: Permission given to run a show on October 4/5 2015. Date given to that club for one year only. Any other club wishing to use a date which involves the National Championship must apply to the Executive Council.

Hawera: Decisions on classes sorted. Club to be advised that AD and ADX are allocated on a yearly basis, and may change from year to year.

Wanganui: Has applied to run a championship show in early July involving two sets of Agility, and 3 sets of Jumpers - and to run their ribbon trial on May 16th.

Measuring: New applicants needed especially in the Bay of Plenty and Northern regions. Work has been done on a draft proposal to ease the problems some have had in getting their dog's measured in isolated areas.

Judges:

Judging the up contact: More research to be done - then passed on to the Judges group for their opinions and ideas.

Agility Judges Seminars: Have been run by Nick and Karen and found to be successful. More to be arranged when suitable.

First Obstacle on a course: To be discussed with judges.

Extra Awards: Aimed to give goals to all competitors, particularly those who have dogs that may not achieve Agility Champion or Jumpers Champion status. Awarded on clear rounds – the number of clear rounds to be challenging but achievable. Proposal being worked on by Karen.

New Milestone certificates were admired and approved.

Certificate of Fitness: (COF's) There is a full complement of assessors who will be reimbursed by the AC for each club they go to.

The proposed programme is for Steve Chester Peter de Wit and one other,(yet to be announced) to document the assessment process by the 5th of July, obtain feedback by the 10th of July, and to start COF's with their respective clubs by 1st August – to be completed by 30th December 2014.

Proposed training session: South Island - 12th of July.
North Island - 19th of July.

Appeal Committee: of rejected equipment. Peter de Wit, Joanne Rennell Sue Willis.

Certificate: Designed by Karen de Wit.

Highlight by photo's and video good/safe equipment as example to other clubs, and for approval by AWAC and the NZKC.

NZDAC 2014: AC has transferred \$5000 to the Zone 5 NZDAC Committee for down payment of facilities/costs.

On-line entries, catalogue, camping spaces, day tent sites, some sponsors – done.

Invite to be sent to new Executive President.

Presentations for long term judges that are present.

NZDAC finals qualification method:

Peter presented a paper outlining the 3 methods used and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Decided that qualifying for a final is a considerable achievement, and the winners of finals are the National titleholders. There is a balance of too many dogs, or too few dogs in a final. Ideally the final should take approximately 30 minutes, and have no more than 25 dogs. The system of deciding who makes the final needs to be settled, seen to be fair, and regulated – so that all competitors know before competition starts.

Methods of qualifying:

1. Flat rate qualification – e.g. top 4 dogs in each height group.
2. Percentage qualification.
3. Mixture of 1 and 2 – minimum of 3 dogs per height. Direct entry for the winner, number of dogs in the final proportionate to the numbers entered. Maximum number of 25 dogs. Points 1st place no points but direct entry, 2nd place 9 points, 3rd place 5 points, 4th place 3 points, 5th place 1 point.

Motion to accept system 3 – proposed by Peter/Joanne. Approved.

NZDAC 2015: Presented by Jocelyn Jensen.

To hold finals. Request to leave them out of the programme declined.

General Business:

Credit Card: Proposal by the Treasurer for the AC to have a credit card to cover expenses. Discussed, but no decision.

Individualized ribbons for champions:

Kim Nicol proposed the AC award a personalised ribbon to champions and grand champions of agility and jumpers classes.

The committee decided to present the ribbons at the NZDAC for the prior year July to June. Karen to look into appropriate ribbons.

Training for instructors of lower grades:

Steve Chalmers email pointing out the lack of training in methods of instruction for those who work with handlers from the lower grades.

Ideas to be sought.

Training fee subsidy for visiting New Zealand instructors:

Maximum of \$200 per day. Accepted. Karen to alter the subsidy form on the website.