

Report of the New Zealand Kennel Club Agility Committee
March 18th 2012 10.10am
Soi Restaurant Wellington

Present: Cam List, Steve Chester, Paul Taylor, Kate Butler, Sue Willis, Karen De Wit, Keri Neilson (via SKYPE) and Lisa Duff

1. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as a true and correct record of proceedings

Karen/Sue
AGREED

2. Financial report

1. Paul T presented his financial report. General account balance \$97,829.24, NDTA Account \$26,126.98, Mike Butler Account \$2211.00. It was moved that payments be accepted.

Paul/Sue
AGREED

2. It was agreed to pay Mike Butler \$2,000 from the account. We have agreed upon replacing Mike's NZKC special certificates and ribbons pending the quote and approval from the committee.
3. We are awaiting NDTA 2011 Zone 4 final accounts.
4. The committee discussed that clubs were taking advantage of the promotional grant and ribbon trial subsidy systems. We are pleased that clubs are utilising these initiatives.

3. Correspondence

1. It was moved that the Inwards be received and the Outwards be approved.

Lisa/Sue
AGREED

4. Sub Committee Reports - Heights Review

1. Heights Review Update - An update was received from Keri regarding the heights survey results. There was a huge response and the sub-committee now need to spend time reviewing the results. The next step will be to organise a meeting prior to the next committee meeting. Keri will liaise with the sub-committee and arrange this meeting. This matter will be ongoing and a report will be presented once the results have been collated.

5. Regulations

1. Split Regulations - An email was received regarding the current split regulations. This will be forwarded to the heights sub-committee and will be considered as part of the heights review.
2. Overseas Competitors - An email was received regarding the requirements of overseas competitors moving to New Zealand and their eligibility for entering classes. It was agreed that they will begin in Starters/Jumpers C. Karen will draft a regulation that overseas competing dogs will start in Starters/Jumpers C and will not be eligible for Elementary.
3. Weave Regulations - A question was raised regarding the current wording of the weave regulations. Karen will review the regulation changes and clarify the intention of the wording with judges.
4. Walking the Course Regulations - An email was received regarding the regulations around walking a course after the event has began. The regulation is already in place but we will clarify this further with judges and clubs. Karen will put a reminder in the judges info-letter - that the regulation states course walks before competition. Where the competition is split people could walk the course at a height change, but should not when it is not split. It would better if the other ring is stopped to accommodate helpers.
5. Judging Games at RT's - It was raised that agility ribbon trial judges could also judge games at ribbon trials. It was agreed that this would be appropriate. Karen will alter the regulation to allow ribbon trial judges to judge games at ribbon trials.
6. Marked Catalogues - It was proposed that we remove the regulation that show secretaries must send out marked catalogues to the judges. If judges require one they will need to specify this in their judging contract. We will also remind clubs that they will still need to send a marked catalogue to the NZKC.
7. Scheduling of Probationaries - It was proposed that the regulation be altered to allow probationary appointments to be held where they may not have been scheduled, provided a notice is placed on the website and email list at least 1 week before the specified closing date. It was also proposed that only 1 probationary to be held per day. Karen will re-word the regulations and bring these back to the Agility Committee for approval.
8. Ribbon Trial Panel - It was discussed and approved that Judges on the ribbon trial panel be permitted to complete probationary appointments under the same conditions as a trainee judge. This would give greater opportunities for new judges to gain experience.

6. Competitions

1. 2012 Australian Nationals - An update was received from Louise Marsh.
2. 2012 WAO - A group of individuals are attending this event. Keri provided an update, seven dogs have been organised to run, one team is entered, and a coach has been appointed to support them. It was proposed that if they submit their team selection process we will pay their team entry fees as we did for the Australian competitors.
3. 2013 & Beyond - We would like to explore if anyone in the agility community would be interested in taking on the liaison role of International Co-ordinator. We feel it is important to look at taking New Zealand Agility to the world stage and explore supporting and sending a team overseas on an annual basis.

7. Judges

1. Senior Panel Application – Keri Neilson, Kirstin Graves, Martin Trimble and Joanne Rennell have been approved from the 1st April 2012.
2. Ribbon Trial Panel Applications - Meredith Evans, Tim Connolly, Chris Richardson have all been approved to go on to the ribbon trial panel this is approved from the 1st May 2012.
3. Resignations - Kathryn Spicer and Wendy Taylor have resigned from the senior judges panel. Their resignations have been approved and they have both been offered to join the retired judges panel.
4. Judges Exams - A discussion was had regarding the judges exams and the minimum requirement to pass the exam. Karen will seek feedback from the judges and also explore an open book exam, with a higher pass mark requirement when being promoted from to the ribbon trial and senior panels.
5. Trainee Panel - Rebecca Roper and Janette Davis have been accepted onto the trainee panel.
6. Mentor Panel - Martin Bush has applied to go on the senior mentor panel - this was accepted.
7. Senior Judges Maintaining Status - Karen discussed the ways that the senior judges can maintain their status when judges seminars are not available to them. Karen will also co-ordinate the judges to complete an update form and evidence that they have completed some professional development to maintain their judges status. Once they submit this form their judges fees will be paid.
8. Judges Sub-Committee - Karen updated us on how the sub-committee is moving along. This has been formed to assist Judges with course design. A number of Judges of all levels have agreed to participate.

8. Publicity/Communications

1. Nothing to report at this stage (or covered elsewhere in the meeting)

9. Clubs

1. Number of Ribbon Trials - We need to monitor that clubs are meeting the requirements regarding holding the required ribbon trial each year. Kate who is in charge of the calendars will monitor this and update the committee.
2. Zone 3 Ribbons - Approval granted to purchase the Zone 3 ribbons - eight ribbons in total.
3. Zone One Trophies - A request was sent to the committee asking for support to replace the zone one trophies. We have requested a quote for the cost of replacing the five trophies. Once this has been received we will then reach a decision.

10. Calendar

1. 2012 Calendar – Steve will pass on the calendar to Kate to maintain. Kate will make contact with Kirstin to organise this transitioning of this responsibility.
2. 2013 Calendar – Kirstin has nearly completed the 2013 calendar. AD and ADX allocations have been reviewed and fairly and equitably distributed amongst the clubs.

11. Disputes

1. Two complaints regarding dog aggression towards a judge have been received. These have been referred to the NZKC and Fiona Hodgson.

12. Health and Safety

1. Accidents - Nothing to report. The possibility of providing an online submission for people to complete if they would like to report an injury was discussed. Cam will explore this further.
2. Assessment Report on Dog - Lisa updated the committee on the current dogs on report and the progress that is being made.
3. Informing Judges of Dog Assessment Process - Karen will inform judges about the process that Fiona Hodgson has helped us to put in place.

13. Equipment

1. COF Progress - Sue discussed her proposal of her way forward with the COF (Certificate of Fitness). Kate will work alongside Sue to develop some criteria and a system for checking this equipment. Sue and Kate will forward this to the committee for discussion.
2. Agility Related Injuries - An email was received regarding agility related injuries. Sue will incorporate this into her COF work and explore some potential ideas around this.
3. Equipment Specifications - An email was received regarding old equipment that does not meet the current regulations. The committee discussed the possibility of developing a timeline to begin phasing out old equipment. Sue will present a recommendation to the committee for discussion.

14. National Events

1. 2012 NZDAC - The committee were updated on the 2012 NZDAC organisation. There was a proposal from the organising committee regarding seeking an exemption to split most agility classes. We will make contact with the committee and discuss this further. We would also like to suggest that the organising committee make contact with the YKC organisers and discuss the possibility of the YKC Handler of the Year Finals being held at the NZDAC. The proposed judges for the 2012 NZDAC were accepted.
3. 2013 NZDAC - Karen updated the committee on the initial developments.
4. Nationals 2012/NAC – Karen updated the committee around the Nationals 2012. This year it will be an

agility display from the DAWG Club and we will explore linking the NAC finals with the Nationals in 2013.

5. Team Trials - Lisa to make contact with the clubs regarding the team trials. Lisa will draft an email and forward this to the committee then forward out to all clubs. This will specify the role of the Zone Co-ordinator, outline the \$200 available, and regulations/requirements around the team trials.

15. Executive Council

1. Certificate of Appreciation – Two nominations were received for Certificates of Appreciation. Cam will take these to the Executive for approval.

16. Obedience Matters

1. Nothing to report at this time

17. Measuring

1. Official Measurers - David Cook, Mike Butler and Fiona Ferrar have been approved as official measurers.
2. Protocols for re-measures - An email was received requesting a re-measure of a handlers own dog. This was discussed and we have agreed to explore developing a protocol for re-measuring dogs when handlers apply to the committee for a re-measure. There would need to be a rigid protocol in place and the application would need to meet the criteria in order to receive a re-measure. Karen will formulate a procedure and present this to the committee.

18. YKC Matters

1. YKC benefit show - Levies are outstanding from the YKC benefit show.

19. General Business

1. **Rights in Agility** - An email was received regarding start and finish line areas, this was discussed and we felt the existing regulations that are already in place for start and finish lines are sufficient at this point in time.
2. **Criteria for Winning Out of Jumpers C** - An email was received regarding reviewing the criteria required to win out of Jumpers C. This will be referred to the heights sub-committee
3. **Allocation of Jobs** - Karen will take over the Kiwi Dog Agility pages in the Dog World and work alongside Keri. Lisa will continue to input articles as she gets them from the South Island.
3. **Ribbon Trial Subsidy Request** - A request was received from Otago Training Club regarding making a payment of \$160 to cover the cost of the two agility ribbon trial judges traveling to judge their ribbon trial. This was discussed and approved.
4. **Jumpers Events vs Standard Events** - Keri led a discussion regarding the balance between standard and jumpers events throughout the country. We discussed the possibility of future proofing the sport and ensuring that the clubs throughout New Zealand continue to fulfill the requirements. Keri will write a proposal for

altering this regulation. She will present this to the committee at a subsequent meeting.

5. Handler with Disability - An email was received from the Otago Training Club regarding a disabled handler who would like the opportunity to compete in agility with the assistance of his helper. We discussed and agreed to elaborate on the relevant regulation to allow special circumstances like this to be directed to the Agility Committee for a decision. These decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

6. Incorporated Society - On-going

7. Elementary A & B - Karen has nested the elementary A & B courses and these will be updated.

8. AD and ADX - Karen is currently reviewing these courses it was suggested that the Judges Sub-Committee work alongside her as she does these.

9. Administrator - It was discussed with the committee about the possibility of employing a secretary to support our role. This would prove difficult, but we will explore an honorary payment for the AC members who have costs associated with their voluntary i.e internet access, telephone calls.

10. Permanent Numbers - Cam raised the possibility of any dog over the age of two and a half years old being required to have a permanent number. Cam will email the clubs and seek feedback regarding permanent numbers through a online survey.

11. Day Memberships - The NZKC are proposing day measurements for the breed show. We feel that this would not be appropriate for agility. Kate proposed drafting a remit regarding shorter term NZKC memberships that will be submitted to the Executive Council.

Meeting Closed at 3.45pm

Next meeting: Sunday 20th May 2012 **Venue:** Audio Conference