



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS from The Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 24 May 2022

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Working Party representation on Sub-Groups	<p>Mrs Pink was re-elected as the Working Party's representative on the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group, with the proviso that on those occasions when she was unable to attend a meeting, Ms Lyddon would do so.</p> <p>Mrs DeRizzio was re-elected as the Working Party's representative on the Activities Judges Sub-Group.</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.
2.	Mentoring of judges	<p>The Working Party had previously noted that the mandatory requirement for new judges to undertake mentoring would take effect from 1 January 2023. Following the issue of an advertisement for potential mentors, five applications had been received, and were under consideration. Candidates would be invited to attend a Zoom meeting, at which full details of the role could be clearly set out and discussed.</p> <p>The Working Party was keen to encourage further applications and raised a concern that the advertisement had not provided sufficient information as to what the role of mentor entailed, and as a result it appeared that some potential candidates had been reluctant to apply, not wishing to over-commit themselves. A further advertisement was issued on 5 July 2022, and it was hoped that suitable candidates would apply. Applicants would be invited to attend a Zoom meeting in order for them to discuss the role and the commitments involved. The date for this would be announced in due course.</p> <p>It was confirmed that all members of the Working Party with suitable judging experience would automatically be approved as mentors.</p>	Suitable candidates to apply.
3.	Lists of judges	The Working Party noted that The Kennel Club's Find a Judge facility for heelwork to music judges would not be available for some time. The existing online facility only applied to judges at championship level in their respective disciplines. Facilities relating to non-championship judges were under development, but it was likely that	Judges and competition organisers to note.



	Proposed	Recommended	Action
		<p>this work would not be completed for some time.</p> <p>In the interim, judges are encouraged to provide their details for publication on the heelworktomusic.co.uk website, which would display the name of the judge, the level for which they were qualified, and an email address. It is hoped that all judges would submit their details for inclusion, especially those who are newly qualified and may otherwise be overlooked if competition organisers are unaware of them.</p> <p>The Working Party also discussed whether it would be acceptable for competition organisers to request that suitable judges put themselves forward for appointments. It agreed that this would not be viewed as canvassing for appointments (which was not permitted), and that it would therefore be an acceptable practice for judges to respond to such requests issued by competition organisers.</p>	
4.	Judging appointments for the same class in the same year	The Working Party acknowledged that there are currently some difficulties for competition organisers in appointing judges, particular at a time when the costs of living were rising sharply, with the result that some judges were reluctant to travel to undertake appointments. However, it was suggested that judges should be requested to be cautious in accepting several appointments to judge the same class in the same year as this could sometimes be detrimental to the number of entries received.	Judges and competition organisers to note.
5.	Crufts qualifiers/Premier status applications	<p>Following consideration by the Working Party, the following statement was issued by The Kennel Club on 15 July 2022:</p> <p>‘STATEMENT ON CRUFTS QUALIFYING PROCESS FOR 2023</p> <p>We are aware that there has been much discussion and consideration of the amended Crufts qualifying process for 2023 within the HTM community. The passion, enthusiasm and interest of the community is fully acknowledged and is an important characteristic of the discipline.</p> <p>The amended qualification process for 2023 is already underway. This follows discussions by the HTM Working Party and a decision by the Crufts Committee to implement an amended qualification process for this qualifying period. This has been a proactive response to internal changes in the HTM competition landscape</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.



	Proposed	Recommended	Action
		<p>that impacted on the ability to follow the previous 'semi-final' process, as well as the wider situation arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and relaxation of associated restrictions.</p> <p>The WP continues to review and assess the current qualifying trial process. Outcomes will be reviewed as a standing agenda item at the November HTM Working Party meeting and recommendations passed through the relevant Kennel Club committee structure.'</p>	
6.	Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group	<p>The Working Party noted a written report from Mrs Pink on the work of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group following its meeting on 4 April 2022. In particular it considered a suggestion from the Sub-Group whereby a small levy could be placed on entries for Kennel Club licensed competitions in all activities disciplines. This levy would be used for specific purposes, such as to provide funding for research that would benefit all disciplines. However, the Working Party was unanimous in not supporting the imposition of such a levy.</p> <p>It also noted that the Sub-Group had discussed the issue of obesity in respect of dogs competing in all disciplines. The Working Party was not of the view that a significant issue existed in relation to heelwork to music, but should any such concerns arise, the Sub-Group would be informed.</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.
7.	Overseas competitions	<p>The Working Party discussed correspondence received from a competitor who had expressed disappointment at the Working Party's decision not to send a Heelwork to Music Team GB to participate in international competitions taking place in 2022.</p> <p>It noted that the World Championships in France were held in April, but the following events were still due to take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCI European Open Championships - Stuttgart, Germany, 17– 20 November 2022 • Open European Championship - The Netherlands 28 September – 2 October 2022 <p>The Working Party reiterated that the decision had been made in view of a lack of suitable competitors from which to select a full team. However it clarified that</p>	Competitors to note.



	Proposed	Recommended	Action
		<p>individuals may enter international competitions in their own right, although in the case of FCI competitions, such individuals were subject to approval by the kennel club in their own country. It also confirmed that The Kennel Club would wish to ratify individual competitors wishing to represent Great Britain in other overseas competitions.</p> <p>In respect of competitions in 2023, it was confirmed that the FCI Dog Dance World Championship was due to take place in Denmark 18-21 May 2023. It was likely that other overseas competitions would also take place during 2023, but details were not as yet available. Advertisements for competitors wishing to compete as part of Heelwork to Music Team GB would be issued by the office as soon as possible. It also wished to clarify that the selection of team members for overseas competitions was made by the Working Party as a whole and not by any one individual.</p> <p>The Working Party had previously discussed a suggestion that it could be more proactive when selecting Team GB members. It supported the development of an initiative whereby, subject to there being sufficient interest from potential competitors, a training day may be provided, to which competitors considered to have potential to compete overseas as part of Heelwork to Music Team GB would be invited. As The Kennel Club would not be able to offer financial support, such a day would need to be self-financing, but it was anticipated that competitors would be willing to pay for a day of workshop-style training.</p>	
8.	Inclusivity for those with disabilities	The Working Party wished to remind show organisers and judges that, in order to maximise the inclusivity of the discipline in relation to disabled competitors, competition organisers and judges should be encouraged to maintain a good general awareness of issues faced by disabled competitors and should take all possible steps to address them. This would include matters related to the accessibility of venues, and the way in which routines were assessed and marked.	Judges and competition organisers to note.
9.	Proposed new heelwork position	The Working Party considered a proposal that the position of the dog in between the handler's legs be reclassified as a heelwork position. However, it was not in agreement that the position was an easy one, noting that there were particular difficulties for disabled handlers, and those with very large or very small dogs. Further, it was not of the view that there was significant support for classifying the	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.



	Proposed	Recommended	Action
		position as a heelwork position, and it considered that doing so may have a negative impact on freestyle routines. For these reasons the Working Party did not support the proposal, and agreed that it should not be progressed.	
10.	Inappropriate routines	<p>The Working Party considered ways of ensuring that competitors did not include any elements in their routines which may be considered inappropriate in terms of historical, cultural, or racial issues, in order to prevent any potential allegations of bringing the discipline into disrepute. It was reminded that Regulation L10.f. stated: 'No costume or routine should bring discredit to heelwork to music.'</p> <p>It wished to raise awareness among competitors of the need to be mindful of sensitive issues, including cultural appropriation, and the risk of causing offence.</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.
11.	Provision of music	<p>A brief discussion took place regarding the way in which music was provided. It was noted that most competition organisers currently requested music to be provided on a CD, although there had been instances of music being played from a competitor's mobile phone when the CD did not play correctly.</p> <p>The Working Party considered whether the use of memory sticks should be encouraged as an alternative to CDs, however, there were concerns that some competition organisers may not have suitable facilities to use them. Further, some competitors may not be able to provide music via a memory stick, and the Working Party concluded that the use of CDs was simpler and easily understood by most competitors.</p> <p>Competitors are reminded that competition organisers are free to stipulate the provision of music by any means that they consider suitable, with the proviso that clear instructions are provided to competitors within the schedule.</p>	Competitors and competition organisers to note.
12.	Timeframe between winning and moving up a level	At the request of a competitor, the Working Party discussed the time frame between winning and moving up a level, with particular reference to a suggestion that this should be amended to be in line with agility and obedience where all wins up to and including 25 days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class, with a requirement to notify the competition organisers at least 14	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.



	Proposed	Recommended	Action
		<p>days before the date of a competition at which the competitor is entered should he or she no longer be eligible for the class entered.</p> <p>However, it was not of the view that the issue was a significant one, and did not consider that there was evidence to support any concerns that heelwork to music competitors were being 'blocked' from progressing due to other competitors taking part in 'freebie' classes, having previously qualified out. Further, competitors who had qualified out of a class of a competition were free to change their entry to move into the next class prior to the closing date, if they wished to do so.</p> <p>Having reviewed the issue, the Working Party concluded that no action was necessary on the issue.</p>	
13.	Date of next meeting	The Working Party's next meeting will take place on 1 November 2022. Any items for the agenda should be submitted via a member of the Working Party, and must be with the office by 11 October 2022.	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.