

REPORT OF 2nd PUBLIC MEETING:

Once again yesterday's meeting was well attended.

The meeting opened with Sarah Liddy reading the IKC response to our request of a meeting between the IKC Board of Directors and the appointed agility delegates (Response is posted below). A short discussion took place, the outcome of which was that the majority felt the situation with the IKC wasn't going to change & not worth pursuing. However it was agreed that the club reps on the AOWT Council would continue to try & may some headway with the IKC.

Then there was a presentation from Diana Collie with the help of Mary Dolan & Jenny Hale on the UKI:

They had emailed the UKI the "Wish List" questions as follows-

- 1) Be fully involved with Irish agility and commit to forwarding the sport in Ireland.
- 2) There must be a open & transparent system for agility where committee can issue agreed reports in text to the agility community.
- 3) It must be made possible for individuals & groups to run shows, not just clubs.
- 4) There must be a list of recognised effective judges domicile in Southern Ireland
- 4a) Training for judges, Judges active in agility & a criteria for judges.
- 5) A % of monies taken in from registration fees/licence fees/show fees etc must be put back into agility, eg training for ring crew/judges, equipment, support for teams representing Ireland in international competitions.

The Replies to question are as follows;

1. UKI will be fully involved with Irish Agility and commit to forwarding the sport in Ireland
2. UKI have an open and transparent system for agility where a committee can issue agreed reports in text to thier agility community....through the Internet
Show and dog results are available online for ocpetitors to track
3. UKI shows can be run by individuals or clubs
4. There is a list of recognised judges domiciled in Southern Ireland already in place
- 4.a Judges training, criteria for judges, could be set up on local basis with UKI help if needed

5. UKI charges Stg£3.05 entry fee per dog of which Stg£2.00 goes back to the show organiser

Main points of interest that UKI provide for their fee of Stg£1.05:-

UKI handle all entries

Competitors can enter online or by post

Produces the schedule and all paperwork

Handles phone, email and postal enquiries

Computerised scoring system

Traceable online results

Provides management packs which include templates for letters and forms

Facility for late entry @ an extra cost

Insurance

Approval of all judges courses by UKI in advance of a show

A brief questions & answers section followed, with some questions remaining unanswered due to needing further indept discussion with the UKI.

I then gave the following presentation on IADSA:

Intro: (for those with no previous knowledge of IADSA)

IADSA was setup in May 2007 following an open public meeting by Irish Agility Competitors for running Agility shows in Ireland.

It was set up to allow clubs to run shows with 3 heights, with a progressive grading system and to run Champ shows (all things that weren't possible with the IKC at that time). It was also intended to put pressure on the Kennel club to implement the same.

People involved are people who are mostly here.

IADSA has fallen away in recent years, as the Kennel club has adopted the same features and clubs and competitors have chosen to run shows under IKC with the perceived advantage of being able to qualify for foreign competitions (eg Crufts, EO etc). IADSA struggled to get volunteers for its committee.

IADSA infrastructure is still in place to authorise and run Agility Shows:

Grading System

Set of Rules

Database of Members & Dogs (obviously out of date)

Constitution & Bylaws

Templates of Schedules, Record Books etc

Insurance cover

IADSA is under complete control of its members, and so can be changed to suit the changing requirements of Irish Agility by consent of its members alone. For example to allow rule changes, changes to equipment specs etc. or we could decide to promote for example ABC classes.

Overhead cost of IADSA is low, keeping entry costs low. Any profits are put back into Irish Agility. In the past this has bought competition equipment & timing equipment.

The advantages of running our own agility organisation/shows

- We can run shows in the best interest of agility
- Money made at shows can be used towards training judges, stewards, scrutineers etc
- Money made at shows can be used towards sending teams to compete abroad to represent Ireland
- We can do more to promote our Junior Handlers
- We can also promote ABC's more

Disadvantages of not running our own shows:

- Nobody at the (IKC sanctioned) shows is actually responsible for running the agility ring
- Rosettes are often in short supply or none at all
- Overseas judges are never brought in (the IKC Celtic Winners show is the only exception)
- Our money is not being put back into agility from any of these shows

Again another Q & A section followed and then a discussion on where/who we should go to. It was suggested & agreed by the majority vote that we should conduct a Market research poll through social media to get the views of all those who are involved in agility in Ireland. Jenny Hale has kindly agreed to conduct this poll through the WTCl website on the Events page, notice of which will follow shortly.