

Dogs NZ Scent Work Committee Minutes for 5th November 2023

Commenced 7:30pm

1. **Roll:** Arend van den Bos (AvdB) (Chair), Karen Magorian (KM), Joanna Upton (JU), Fiona Hodgson (FH), Clare Groom (CG), Amerillis Farmer (AF), Jo Searle (JS)
2. **Apologies:** Lyn Clearwater (LC)
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Recorded as accepted **Moved:** Karen **Seconded:** Joanna
4. **Matters Arising from previous Minutes:**
 - Travel subsidies for SW Judges attending the 2024 Judges Conf in Auckland – AvdB has discussed with Steven Thomson & Clive Phillips. The following will apply:-
South Island = \$200 / Lower North Island /East Cape \$150 / Central Nth Island \$100
Those attending to supply copies receipts & complete a claim form.

AP – KM will post to Facebook Judges Group subsidy info and create a Claim Form and attach to page

 - FH asked for clarification regarding the discussion around the EC proposed selection/election process changes in 2025. The committee felt that it is premature to change the structure of the SW committee especially as the new Classes and regulation changes will only have been introduced and there is limited time to ensure these are run successfully/bedded down before the Committee changes. There is a risk of losing extensive SW knowledge /expertise from the committee and the ability to ensure the continued development/direction of this sport in NZ. Concern also raised over who would be able to engage in the selection/voting process, especially if they had current knowledge or participation in the Sport.
 - FH said the Committee will likely consist of 7-person committee & ½ members elected alternative years/terms
The Chairperson would be a separate person – either elected/chosen by the Committee (like Agility Chair) or could be an elected position like (Dog Training Committee)

AP – FH will draft format of proposed changes
5. **Report from EC meetings:** –Nil
6. **Email votes:** – Nil - no urgent Scent Work matters that required a vote.
7. **Regulations:**

Rework of the following regulations:

9.7.2 – Indication Parameters

The Judge may use their discretion to allow for environmental factors, such as wind, but the following size parameters should be applied in ideal conditions:

For all classes the dog must indicate within the Judges prescribed discretion.

9.8.1 Search Finish

The “Finish” call is used in classes that contain an unknown number of multiple hides and is required to stop timing of the search.

9.8.1.1 The competitor is required to call “Finish” when they believe all hides have been located for the search area
If the competitor fails to correctly call “Finish” prior to the expiration of the search time, the team will receive a non-qualifying score (NQ).

AP – AvdB will email these changes and to Steven /Fiona & request inclusion /be read at the EC Meeting this month
8. **General Business:**
 - a) Qualifying Scent Work Trials approvals –
Canterbury Kennel Association – 2nd/3rd March 2024 – Remove Jane Morgan / add Rachael Rait - Endorsed
English Setter/Southern Golden Retriever Club – 27th/28th April 2024 - Endorsed
Selwyn Dog Training Club – 13th/14th April 2024 -Endorsed
North Shore DTC/Counties DTC – 29th January (Auckland Anniversary Day) - Endorsed
 - b) Judges Appointments/Promotions: Nil as yet some underway – Discussed the option to request EC to vote via Email prior to Xmas as next EC meeting is not until February 2024. FH stated this is possible/acceptable.
 - c) Scent Work Judge’s Application – Nil Applications
9. **Other Matters:**
 - Guideline for conducting a SW Trial - review of the document submitted by AF as a reference tool for clubs considering holding a DNZ SW Trial – all in favour of inclusion onto SW Page of DNZ website.

AP – AvdB will email this to Sue Connor to place on DNZ SW page

- Email from Bernadette Thompson regarding some suggestion for inclusion at a SW Trial
 1. Use of a Whistle – to call competitors up to search area – Some on committee felt that is not a good idea as many handlers have gun dogs who are trained to respond a certain way to the whistle.
 2. Judges Sheets – standardising these.... Committee felt this was up to the Judge and organising society to discuss
 3. Dogs fouling - \$20 fine – if not paid dog cannot compete in further searches. Committee not in favour

Topic to be added to Agenda for Judges Conference next year

AF – raised concern regarding the size/types of vehicles being used at some trials – feels we need to consider regulating some guideline – suggested this should be discussed at Judges Conference in March next year.

AF – questioned the current Criteria for probationary assessments – defer to Judges Conference next year.

FH – Noted the SW Committee minutes have been added to the website

JS – Noted that many queries the use of the Gun cleaning product (cleans lead out of a barrel) used as her distraction in Excellent Containers. A completely different substance (from Gun Oil) was intentionally used. Jo was disappointed that a Judge had to justify their choice of distraction, which was chosen within the parameters of the DNZ SW regulations.

KM – No matters

JU - No matters

CG – No matters

10. Next meeting:

Wednesday 6th December 2023 (7.30 PM via Zoom) –

Due to: AvdB/LC/KM/JU will be at OCTC SW Trial in Dunedin on Sunday 3rd December

Finished 9.22 PM