



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
 from The Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 01 November 2022

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	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 to prevent any potential allegations of bringing the discipline into disrepute.</p> <p>It wished to remind competitors of the provisions of Regulation L10.f which states: 'No costume or routine should bring discredit to heelwork to music,' and to raise awareness among competitors of the need to be mindful of sensitive issues, including cultural appropriation, and the risk of causing offence.</p> <p>The Working Party will issue guidance once finalised and will circulate it as a training resource and as pre-competition guidance as widely as possible.</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.
2.	Mentoring of Judges	<p>After the issue of two advertisements for potential mentors, a number of applications were received. The following candidates were approved as mentors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Ballard • Ali Buck • Lucy Creek • Carole Dodson • Michelle Dodson • Claire Giles • Kristine Hodgson • Irene Holt • Diane Jones <p>It was reiterated that all members of the Working Party with suitable judging experience as below would automatically be approved as mentors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Curtis • Ann DeRizzio • Kath Hardman 	Judges, competitors, and competition organisers to note.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Lyddon • Gina Pink • Pamela Ruscoe <p>As from 1 January 2023, prior to being fully qualified, a judge must undertake mentoring by an approved Heelwork to Music mentor on three separate occasions. Further details are available at: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/heelwork-to-music/judging-heelwork-to-music/</p> <p>Judges who require a mentor need to contact Ms A DeRizzio by email at ann.derizzio@gmail.com to have a mentor allocated.</p>	
3.	YKC	<p>The Working Party discussed the participation of YKC members in Heelwork to Music. It was keen to encourage YKC members to take part.</p> <p>Assistance from trainers and judges at YKC training events would be appreciated and any individuals wishing to offer their services were requested to contact a member of the Working Party.</p>	Judges, competitors, and competition organisers to note.
4.	Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group	<p>The Working Party noted a report on the work of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group following its meeting on 15 September 2022.</p> <p>It considered issues relating to excessive heat at competitions. It was noted by the Working Party that in general, heat was less of an issue for heelwork to music than for other disciplines as all competitions took place indoors. The Working Party discussed the issue of heat and risks involved and confirmed that the specimen risk assessment would now include provisions relating to excessive heat.</p> <p>Competition organisers may provide leaflets drawing to the attention of competitors information regarding heat distress and heatstroke in dogs and how it could be</p>	Competition organisers to note.



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		prevented, or if necessary, dealt with.	
5.	Heelwork to Music Team GB	<p>The Working Party considered applications from competitors wishing to be considered for Heelwork to Music, to compete in the FCI Dog Dance World Championships in Denmark from 18-21 May 2023. It expressed some disappointment at the low number of applications received.</p> <p>It noted that dogs not on the Kennel Club Breed Register were not eligible to compete at the World Championships.</p> <p>The HTM Team GB manager confirmed that the Development Plan was approved by The Kennel Club and should any handler wish to apply for a place on the Development Programme they may contact Mrs K Hardman by email on kath.hardman@btinternet.com.</p> <p>The Team selected:</p> <p>Heelwork to Music Team Lucy Creek with Deltamadog Pobyddion Cae Lucy Creek with JK's Amazing Xante Nicci Hindson with Comebyanaway What A Feeling Nicci Hindson with Comebyanaway Wildest Dream Reserve: Kristine Hodgson with Astra Sieva</p> <p>Freestyle Team Lucy Creek with JK's Amazing Xante Reserve: Lucy Creek with Deltamadog Pobyddion Cae Nicci Hindson with Comebyanaway Wildest Dream Kristine Hodgson with Astra Sieva Kim Lyddon with Elmleas Dance Out Loud</p>	Competitors to note.



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		The HTM GB website can be found here: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/events-and-activities/heelwork-to-music/already-competing-in-heelwork-to-music/heelwork-to-music-team-gb/	
6.	Premier Status Applications	<p>The Working Party noted that Aberystwyth Dog Training Club had decided not to hold a heelwork to music competition in 2023.</p> <p>Following the issue of an advertisement by the office, the Working Party considered applications from societies wishing to hold premier status.</p> <p>The Scottish Border Collie Club which had been granted premier status previously was approved to hold its second qualifier.</p>	Judges, competitors and competition organisers to note.
7.	Training Rounds	The Working Party discussed the issue of training rounds and wished to remind the heelwork to music community that allowing training rounds was at the discretion of judges, however, regulations regarding the welfare of dogs and harsh handling would still be applicable during a training round.	Judges, competitors, and competition organisers to note.
8.	Time frame between winning and moving up a level	<p>A competitor had suggested that once a dog had competed at a particular level, the dog should not be allowed to compete again at a lower level. There had been instances of this being the case during 2022 due to issues relating to closing dates.</p> <p>The Working Party was of the view that issues regarding closing dates were not likely to re-occur and therefore no action was necessary.</p> <p>Competition organisers would continue to have discretion to set their own closing dates subject to the proviso that the minimum should be 14 days prior to the competition and that closing dates may not be changed without permission of The Kennel Club.</p>	Judges, competitors, and competition organisers to note.



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9.	Lifetime achievement award	A competitor's suggestion of the introduction of a lifetime achievement award was considered, and the Working Party agreed that individual clubs may instigate their own lifetime achievement awards should they wish to do so.	Clubs and Societies to note.
10.	Out of control dogs	<p>A query was raised as to whether a judge may eliminate a dog which was out of control whilst in the ring.</p> <p>The Working Party agreed that the action taken should reflect the severity of the situation and depending on the circumstances it may be appropriate to just deduct marks.</p> <p>If the incident was serious in nature, then a Judge may elect to stop the routine. It was highlighted that judges had the final discretion in such matters. In severe circumstances, the dog may be removed from the competition under the provisions of Regulation L21.d Removal of dogs</p> <p>Judges were reminded that, where a dog was removed from a competition, a report should be made in the incident book</p>	Judges to note.
11.	Submission of results	All clubs and societies are requested to submit competition results to Mrs K Hardman to assist with the strategic review of HTM. kath.hardman@btinternet.com	Clubs and Societies to note
12.	Date of next meeting	The date for the Working Party's next meeting will be set in due course.	Judges, competitors, and competition organisers to note.