

Agility



The Agility Committee welcomed Greg Derrett and Lee Gibson to New Zealand in January this year to present The Global Judging Programme to our judges. With Seminars at two venues available for judges to attend, in Feilding and Christchurch, 40 of our judges took up this opportunity.

Greg and Lee are two of the most distinguished and respected judges and Agility Handlers in the UK. They have developed the GJP to enable judges to maximise their learning and development of vital judging skills that stretch much further than the ring rope. The Programme is comprised of many separate learning areas and modules that have been designed to help give a greater understanding of factors that help to make a good judge into an excellent one. Greg and Lee presented these in an enjoyable and interactive way.

- Expectations of a Show Manager
- Judging in 2019
- Skill Setting
- Safety and Judges Position
- Confrontation and Social Media
- Refusal Clarification
- Video Judging
- Judging Scenarios
- Quick Fire Questions
- Adapting Course Plans

Some important things I took from the initial talk on judging agility in 2019 was that we, as judges, are the fabric of agility who shape

the future of the sport with our course design and are role models, who should always act and dress in a professional manner.

The Module on skill setting involved us all supplying a course (of varying grades) prior to the commencement of the Seminar. Each course was built on a whiteboard using model agility equipment and we were all encouraged to analyse the course for safety, number and type of challenges, judges line and use of all available equipment. I found this one of the best parts of the Seminar and really got us all thinking about what we put on the ground and what we want to achieve with our course design.

Confrontation and Social media were covered, along with how easy it is to get involved in a discussion on social media and how this can escalate.

Safety and Judges path were discussed and was quite thought provoking. Detailed discussions about safety issues that may not be so obvious and actual safety versus perceived safety. The importance of an effective judges path and how the judge must have the best view at all times.

Video judging was an opportunity to look at dogs runs and make calls on whether we would fault or not. We then watched the video in slow motion and discussed the calls we had made and why. It was extremely useful to clarify why we would or wouldn't make a particular call. The videos showed some challenging decisions which made for some great discussions.

The judges were then all given different judging scenarios where we had to make a decision given the circumstances and situation we found ourselves in. This was enhanced by the presenters reacting



to our decision as another competitor might. Unfortunately as judges we will all at some point find ourselves in a situation where a competitor challenges a decision and this module really helped to clarify how to deal with this.

We were then put in a high stress situation of answering quick fire questions in front of the other judges. We had one minute to answer as many questions as possible, answering with 5, 5R, Elimination or no fault. One thing I think a lot of us learnt from this was not to dwell on a mistake as it can affect our performance. It was great practice to make the quick decisions required of us as judges.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Seminar and came out of it determined to improve my judging skills and incorporate everything I have learnt into my course design and preparation for future appointments. I am sure all the judges who attended are as grateful as I am to the Agility Committee for this amazing opportunity. Thanks must also go to Libby Ellery for organising the North Island venue and Susan Tansey for the South Island venue.

Sallie Remon

Certificate of Appreciation

In early February, Lyn Sayers was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Agility Committee at the Taupo Championship Show.

Lyn has been involved in agility for over 20 years. He first began in 1998 when he started training his first miniature Schnauzer, Jasper at the Upper Hutt DTS. Like all of us, Lyn was quickly bitten by the agility bug and became involved with the club, and attending events around the country. Lyn has trained and competed with a number of schnauzers, and has enjoyed significant success. Both Jenna and Jayme qualified as Agility Grand Champions, and Jayme as a Jumpers Champion. Lyn has taken a number of his dogs to Australia to compete in national events since being a part of the first "Paw Blacks" team to compete in Australia in 2007.

Lyn has been involved in many roles in the agility world. He served on the very first Agility Committee in 2007-2009, receiving the highest number of votes in the first election. He assumed the role of chair partway through the term and continued this role into the second Committee term. Lyn was also the Agility representative on the NZKC Executive Council, and managed the 2006 "Northern Classic" event in Taupo. During his time on committee, the sport saw the introduction of Jumpers and the micro height. Lyn's enthusiasm and his support for fellow committee members resulted in him being highly respected both by the committee and the NZ Agility Community.

Lyn has also been a judge for over 15 years. He has judged up and down the country, at several NZDAC's and has judged in Australia several times as well. Lyn is a valued and trusted senior judge, and is always willing to offer advice and suggestions to new judges.

Agility in NZ has fundamentally changed because of Lyn's involvement. Lyn's desire to solve a problem and to be innovative has led to his now famous "Contactacoat" Rubber Chip surface for contact equipment, and the adoption of electronic timers. It is hard to believe that both of these developments have happened in the last 15 years or so, as they are now such a commonly accepted part of the sport, that have significantly increased the safety and efficiency of agility and really led to Kiwi agility being at the forefront of technological development. Lyn has also pioneered a large number of other innovations, including everything from wing jumps to weave bases and measuring sticks.

Lyn has shown a keen desire to make the sport of agility better for everyone. He has been an enthusiastic sponsor of many ventures in agility, and is frequently one of the first to offer



sponsorship for major events such as the NZDAC. Competitors at the 2018 event in Fielding enjoyed the use of his wing jumps. He has always been willing to help people to fix and adjust gear, and this can be seen most recently through the assistance he has offered to the community to adjust jumps to the new heights that came into effect in 2019. Lyn's assistance with new equipment rarely ends at the point of sale – he is always willing to go above and beyond to help ensure clubs and individuals get the best use out of products that they purchase from him. Lyn's overall contribution to the sport has been huge over the last 20 years. His desire to constantly search for new and better ways to do things, and to share this with others has unquestionably made the sport better. We are all much better off for Lyn's presence and involvement in the sport and it is fitting that his contribution is acknowledged and celebrated.