

# NZDJA

## Conference Review

A very successful and positive conference was held in Wellington on 26th June. The day kicked off with the AGM. A good attendance ensured lively and robust discussion. The President's and Treasurer's reports were well received with the Annual Financial statements revealing a sound financial position. The Budget for the 2016-17 year was also approved.

The board is in its second year of the elected two year term so there were no changes. Annette Buxton was re-appointed as Patroness. There were three notices of motion.

1. The Board successfully moved an amendment to the constitution that allowed for membership to be terminated if the subs are unpaid for a period of 90 days beyond due date. Previously, an additional 90 days written notice was required of the board's intention to terminate membership which meant the process could drag on for a long period.
2. Waikato Branch sought to get a regulation change to allow credit points to be earned when entering and exhibiting at the Show Judges Exams. This was passed after amendment to allow a maximum of five points per day.
3. Pam Douglas presented a motion to include a Certificate of Practice for all judges. The rationale behind this was to ensure all judges, including those that are not involved with activities at branch level, are kept up to date with their breed knowledge and changes to rules and regulations. This invoked a lot of discussion and the consensus of the conference was that it be looked at further and was referred to the subcommittee for further research.

Lavina Diamanti updated the conference on the communication changes that had been implemented recently, in particular the new Facebook page, the regular Dog World page, and also gave us a sneak preview of the new website which is due to go live in the coming weeks.

Ray Greer gave his very popular presentation on critiquing. This is a skill that all judges need but many struggle with. Ray had some good tips on how to construct a meaningful critique, which was particularly helpful to the judges who are sitting practical exams.

Becky Murphy, NZKC Canine Health and Welfare Officer led a discussion on what health issues we, as judges, can be expected to observe when judging and what should we be doing about it. Some good discussion followed including the subject of declining Challenge Certificates. It was resolved that Becky work with NZDJA to formulate some guidelines for judges when presented with exhibits that were unsound or displayed health concerns.

All the sub committee's presented updates to the conference and then there was an opportunity for general business from the floor. Points to be noted from the discussion that followed:

- The Board will review the current structure of Regional Committees as it was felt that the structure wasn't working well.
- It was suggested that the re-introduction of show reps would help with some of the issues that arise from poor behavior at shows as this works very well overseas.
- It was suggested that we develop a method to evaluate New Zealand judges to ensure their competency, health and ability to judge a full day.
- The same suggestion was made of overseas judges.
- The theory examination committee will investigate sitting papers online. Formats other than multi choice questions were mooted.
- This year's theory exam papers, which have been the subject of some comment, have been reviewed by several parties and were deemed to be fair. It was noted that examination papers from previous years were circulating and in some cases may have been relied upon as the sole source of study by some candidates when in fact the questions had been rewritten. It was recommended that candidates should only use these old examination papers as one of a number of study tools in their preparation for the theory examinations.

Overall the day was very successful and it was great to see good engagement from those present and everyone's contribution was appreciated.

## National Board

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