

National Agility Sub-Committee



of the Federal Council of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa

National Convener's Report – June 2022

The last 12 months saw COVID-19 related restrictions easing up, and a return to more normal agility events. During the last year, the NAgSC make-up has changed with WC and DOGSPC representatives being changed with Annaret Meintjes (WC) and Carolyn Chelchinsky (DOGSPC) joining in 2022.

Over the past 12 months the NAgSC has been working on a number of projects including updating of agility schedules, a national agility judges refresher and a national new agility judges training course.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 epidemic continued to have negative impacts on agility over the past 12 months with the cancellation of AWC 2021, which was scheduled to be held in Estonia in September. Thankfully the EO 2022 (Belgium) and AWC 2022 (Austria) events are scheduled to take place.

Some of the most notable newsworthy items over the past 12 months including the following.

- **National Agility League 2021**

We were able to hold the NAL2021 event, and congratulations to all those who participated. Carmen van der Merwe did an outstanding job as National Coordinator and her hard work was appreciated. Advanced planning and trial dates are already in place for NAL 2022. Carmen van der Merwe has kindly agreed to fulfil the National Coordinator role again in 2022.

- **South African Agility Championships Trials 2022**

I am pleased to report that the SAAC 2022 was not impacted by COVID-19. All trials nationally were able to be completed by the end of March, with Tracey Lander acting in the role as National Coordinator. I would like to thank all the provincial agility-sub-committees, provincial co-ordinators and Tracey Lander, the National Coordinator for their perseverance and patience in completing the trials in time.

We also need to thank all handlers who participated and congratulate all of those who entered the SAC trials 2021.

- **South African Agility Championships 2022**

The KZN agility sub-committee hosted SAC 2022 at the Shongweni Club in KZN from the 10th to 12th June. Tracey Lander and Carmen van der Merwe were the judges for the SAAC 2022 finals. The event was a success, with only a few minor issues that were dealt with efficiently by the organizing committee. I would like to thank the KZN agility sub-committee, all the helpers, judges and competitors for their contributions towards the success of the event.

Congratulations to all the competitors, and those who achieved their goals at SAC 2022. Of notable interest we had 2 “new” breeds claiming the title of South African Agility champion in 2022 a Chinese Crested in small category (Michelle Howard, Bobbitt) and a Australian Kelpie in large category (Lindsay King, L-E-it). Chantal Karyta and Splash won the medium category.

- **Nutribyte – sponsor for SAAC 2022**

Nutribyte Feeds renewed their sponsorship for SAC 2022. Nutribyte provided goodie bags to all competitors, covered the costs of all trophies and rosettes, and lovely prizes to all the winners. A special mention to the KZN agility sub-committee and to all competitors for their social media posts thanking and promoting Nutribyte and all other sponsors. Without their assistance we could not host an event at this level.

We look forward to continuing with the relationship with Nutribyte into the future. Our sincere thanks go out to Marko Botha, MD of Nutribyte Feeds.

- **South African AWC Trials 2022**

The South African Trials for AWC 2022 were held in conjunction with SAAC 2022. Unfortunately, due to several challenging circumstances the number of handlers and dogs who tried out for the event was limited.

Some of the issues faced included the fact that Russia was originally the designated host country for AWC 2022. Russia was expected to be a very challenging and expensive destination venue. A late change to the host country – now Austria, occurred in Feb 2022. In addition, the costs of international (for both handlers and dogs) is significantly higher in 2022 than previous years.

We still await confirmation of which of the eligible handlers & dogs will be attending the AWC 2022 event. We wish these teams the best of luck.

- **Northern Areas Bumper Weekend – April 2022**

The NAPC Bumper weekend was held again in 2022, with over 250 dogs competing in a total of 7 Championship shows including KUSA Nationals and an FCI Champ show. This was an increase of 20% versus 2021, which was a previous record. The event also included flyball, dog jumping, CGC, and obedience. Thank you to Mr Richard Wright, Ms Renee Prinsloo, Ms. Helena Immelman, and Ms Yolanda Bakker for their significant contributions in assisting the NAPC agility sub-committee in organizing the event.

- **Agility Judges Refresher**

The NAgSC held a joint online agility judges refresher course from mid-November 2021 to end-January 2022. All agility judges were required to attend 2 online sessions that covered agility rules, agility judging and course design aspects.

- **New Agility Judges Course**

The NAgSC also held a joint online new agility judges course between mid-November 2021 to end-January 2022. This was the first time we held a national new judges course and hopefully we have established a baseline for the future. We did experience some initial hiccups, but are confident that these can be improved on in future.

Thank you to all those judges who participated and particularly to Carolyn Chelchinskey, Taryn Murphy, Annaret Meintjes, Alett Reed, Jenny Hatton and Tracey Lander who gave up their time to facilitate the agility judge's refresher and new agility judges sessions.

Yours Faithfully,

Rob Hall

National Convener - NAgSC