



National Agility Sub-Committee of the Kennel Union of South Africa



National Convenor Report 2020

I would like to thank the respective Provincial Representatives and their Agility Sub-Committees for the support, involvement and commitment during this past years. A special thank-you to Rob Hall and Alett Reed who were instrumental in an online judges refresher course which came in hand with the Lockdown regulations.

Thank you to the sponsors and clubs who supported and hosted Agility competitions. To every dedicated handler who ensures the sport is thriving and every official (judges and stewards) who give up your time for our sport we appreciate everything you do for us.

Fortunately, the 2020 trials for the Agility World Championships qualifiers and the South African Championships were completed just prior to the 21 day lockdown. The extension of the lockdown and subsequent postponement of the Agility World Championships/South African Championships forced the Eastern Province Agility Sub-Committee to cancel the event in Port Elizabeth however the Agility World Championships/South African Championships Sub-Committee are still trying to find a willing host now that the lockdown regulations have eased.

I would like to thank the Eastern Province Agility Sub-committee for all their hard work and time spent on arrangements, pity these were in vain. If the event is held in the latter half of 2020 we hope that the appointed judges Nadine Shortland (EP) and Patrick Scott (NAPC) will still be available to officiate.

We would like to congratulate Bronwyn Prytz van Dyk and Epic (Border Collie) on their performance in March at Crufts. They are the first South African's who have participated in the Agility Invitational event. They placed 13th in the Jumping (Non-Contact) run.

2020 did not start off as well as hoped, with the turmoil we are currently going through with the cancellation of many shows and our country wide lockdown that we experienced.

The first two Bumper / Cluster weekends for Agility have been cancelled and postponed. We had hoped that the NAPC weekend will still be able to be held in combination with the KUSA Nationals but this was not to be.

I would like to thank the NAPC committee for all their hard work in planning Sergio Sousa to come and judge and present workshops to enhance our skills, unfortunately the restriction on world-wide travel put a hold on these arrangements for end of April but we have faith that this will still happen in future.

Sadly, the 2020 European Open and Junior Open Agility World Championships that were to be held in Rutland, United Kingdom and Vaanta, Finland respectively in July were cancelled. Shortly thereafter the Agility World Championships which was to be held in Tallinn, Estonia in September was cancelled.

The rule changes effective from 1 April were implemented earlier as allowed by Fedco. These however have not been received well in the agility community causing a significant drop in show entries as well as a shift of handlers rather participating in the alternate association's events which do not have such a big focus on speed and where the costs of entries are considerably less.

The reflection of this time has allowed handlers to consider their goals and reasons for doing the sport. We can only hope that our handlers come back well rested and motivated to participate in our sport again.

I wish the committee all the best for the year ahead. To continue to strive for the better of agility as a whole, to build the numbers as where there are numbers there is pressure to improve performance while maintaining the passion of having fun with our dogs.

I look forward to seeing you all in and around the ring in 2021.

Rory Shortland
National Agility Convenor

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