

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON  
14 JULY 2016 AT 10.30AM IN THE BOARDROOM AT  
THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

**AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016 (copies previously distributed).

**ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a. No recommendations were made by the Council at its previous meeting.
- b. Recognition of Agility as a sport  
The Council is invited to note an update from the office regarding the pre-application submitted to the Sports Council.

**ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

- a. The Council is invited to note a report from Mr D Jolly on the progress of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group following its meetings on 27 January and 1 June 2016.  
**(Annex A refers)**
- b. Current research  
The Council is invited to receive presentations from Dr J Boyd on the following:
  - (i) Summary report on Canine Jumping Kinematics Research conducted at Nottingham Trent University provided by Dr Boyd in September 2015.
  - (ii) Findings of research relating to small and medium dogs with regard to minimum distances between jumps
  - (iii) A progress report provided by Dr Thilo Pfau regarding research undertaken by the Royal Veterinary College
- c. KC Guidelines for the Management & Training Of Dogs Taking Part In Canine Activities  
The Council is requested to note that use of the finalised version of the above document has been approved by the General Committee and was available on the Kennel Club's website at

[http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/742852/guidelines\\_2016\\_for\\_owners\\_and\\_handlers\\_with\\_dogs\\_taking\\_part\\_in\\_canine\\_activities.pdf](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/742852/guidelines_2016_for_owners_and_handlers_with_dogs_taking_part_in_canine_activities.pdf)

**(Annex B refers)**

A Press Release has been issued to draw it to the attention of all competitors.

d. Numbers of participants

The Sub-Group wished to draw the attention of the Council to a report which detailed the number of competitors taking part in different disciplines over the course of a typical weekend. The numbers were as follows:

- Agility: approximately 4,000
- Working Trials: approximately 190
- Obedience: approximately 1000
- Heelwork to Music: approximately 150

The Sub-Group considered that the above information provided a valuable context to the number of injuries reported.

## **ITEM 5. JUDGES WORKING PARTY (ACTIVITIES)**

To note a written report from Mr Huckle on the progress of the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 19 April 2016.

**(Annex C refers)**

## **ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL**

a. To note a document confirming the formal remit for the Equipment Panel.  
**(Annex D refers)**

b. The Equipment Panel's main focus has been issues surrounding the collapsible tunnel for which a proposal has been submitted. It has also been in contact with an equipment supplier who is designing a breakaway tyre and the Panel is in discussion with them on the requirements.

c. Collapsible tunnel

The Council is requested to consider a proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)3.i. as follows:

Regulation H(1)(B)3.i.

TO:

~~Collapsible Tunnel—Diameter: 609mm (2ft) minimum. 762mm (2ft 6ins) maximum. Length 3.048m (10ft) minimum. Circular of non-rigid material construction. It must have an entrance of rigid construction with a depth of at least 457mm (1ft 6ins) that can be fixed or weighted to the ground. Minimum entrance height 483mm (1ft 7ins) clear (with suitable padding), if entrance has a floor this must have a non-slip surface.~~

To consist of 2 elements: a rigid entrance and a fabric chute.

### **Rigid Entrance**

The entrance must be of rigid construction which can be weighted or fixed to the ground. The entrance lead edge must be padded, there must be no sharp protrusions or obstructions within the overall build. The rigid area must consist of a flat base with a non-slip surface and a rounded top. The entrance dimensions should be: Height - 609mm (2ft), Width - 609mm (2ft), Depth - 609mm (2ft) excluding padding. These should be the internal measurements.

### **Fabric Chute**

#### **Construction Material**

Constructed from lightweight, slightly rigid non slip, water resistant material. Light colours should be prominent and all seams should, where possible, be external to the chute. Chute to be fitted with anchor tabs to the exit to create a flat floor, minimum distance between tabs 550mm.

#### **Shape**

Chute shape should be constructed with a gradual flare from the entrance to the exit.

#### **Measurement**

**Length of chute to be 6ft (1830 mm) with a tolerance of 2ins (51mm)**  
**Entrance circumference to match the diameter of the rigid exit and the exit to gradually flare to a circumference at least 8ins (203mm) greater than the entrance.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

#### **Rationale**

Key to the proposal is that up until the last 5 years there did not appear to be major issues with the Cloth Tunnel. Data and suggestions from Mr Mallabar have been taken into account as well as information gathered from incidents reported to the Kennel Club.

- It is proposed that the material used should have some rigidity. Currently based on the suppliers this would be sail cloth, but it would not be desirable to restrict the use of materials if something better was available. The material needs to have a slight amount of rigidity to allow for the dog to push through without increasing the weight significantly. Currently nylon chutes fail on non-slip surface and rigidity which allows the Chute to collapse behind and in front of the dog.
- Length is key and using the data supplied from Mr Mallabar and the US, 6ft seems to be the appropriate length. It appears from videos from the US that there is still a challenge to the dog but this reduces the chance of the dog getting tangled.
- A gradual flare to the chute is proposed as this was the previous solution and most of the issues have arisen since the manufacturers moved to a parallel design. It also gives the dog more room to exit.

- Weight of the material is difficult. The sail cloth is just over 300gm/sqm and the nylon is about 220gm/sqm. The nylon weight is preferable to allow smaller dogs to push through but it also allows easier collapsing of the material. Weight and material is key hence the inclusion of some rigidity, it is also suggested that it should be non-slip, which does not appear to be the case for the nylon chute which fails this specification.
- Sail cloth can be purchased in many weights. It is suggested that if it agreed that a specification be made, this should be between 250gm/sqm to 340gm/sqm. It should be taken into account that the current nylon chute fails the current specification for non-slip.
- It is accepted that suppliers will always try to reduce costs and as a result, tunnel entrances are always at the minimum.
- To cover venues where the Chute exit cannot be secured or weighted then a special tunnel should be supplied which allows the insertion of a rigid rubber base to achieve a flat surface with semi rigid construction to stop the chance of the tunnel wrapping the dog.
- The use of light colours is suggested, as well as having the seams on the outside where possible which reduces the chance of material burn for the dogs.

In all cases it would be necessary to emphasise the importance of good positioning of the obstacle within the course.

## **ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE GRADING PANEL**

The grading panel has initiated some work collating background data to inform its discussion and will present its findings to date to the Council  
**(Report to be tabled)**

## **ITEM 8. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**

Miss C Harding

Miss L Olden

Minimum Distance between jumps

In 2015, Nottingham Trent University released some research on jump distances. The research showed that:

- A more acute apparent neck angulation was evident at 3.6m and 4m hurdle spacing, at both take-off and landing
- Increased flexion of the neck was evident at the 3.6m and 4m spacing, compared to 5m
- Lumbar spine angulation showed increased flexion at 4m spacing compared to 5m spacing.
- Apparent shoulder angulation showed increased flexion at 4m spacing, compared to 5m.

“Repeated hyperflexion and extension of this joint could be detrimental to the health and welfare of the dog, and might explain why shoulders present as a common location for injury in agility dogs” (Budras et al., 2007; Giacomo et al., 2008; 269 Cullen et al., 2013a, b).

Therefore, due to health and welfare, it is proposed to increase the minimum distance between obstacles that the large dog is required to clear, from 2.7/3.6metres, to 5 metres. There is a second proposal to widen the ruling to all obstacles preceding/following a 'jump obstacle'.

**Current:**

Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3) – Design: The course should require a dog to traverse at least 10 obstacles, but not more than 20 and all jump obstacles should be the same height. Obstacles which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 3.6m (4yds) between centres except that this may be reduced to 2.74m (3yds) when the following obstacle is placed at 90 degrees or more to the preceding one.

**To: (proposal 1)**

Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3)

Obstacles which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 3.6m for small and medium dogs, and 5m for large dogs, between centres.

**Or to: (proposal 2)**

Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3)

Where a dog is required to clear an obstacle, a minimum of 3.6m for small and medium dogs, and 5m for large dogs must be given before and after the obstacle.

**Or to: (proposal 3)**

Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3)

Where a dog is required to clear an obstacle, the obstacle preceding and following must be a minimum of 3.6m for small/medium dogs, and 5m for large dogs. A maximum distance between obstacles (for small/medium/large dogs) of 7 metres is permitted.

Proposal 1 covers "jump to jump" i.e. between any two jump obstacles (hurdle, long jump, rising spread jump, tyre, wishing well, wall)

Proposal 2 covers "obstacle (non-jump) to jump", and "jump to obstacle (non-jump)". As examples this will include tunnel to hurdle, jump to tunnel, jump to weaves, weaves to jump

Proposal 3 is as per Proposal 2 with the addition of a maximum distance of 7m between obstacles

What these proposals do not cover: minimum distance between obstacles (non-jump to non-jump) i.e. A frame to tunnel, tunnel to weaves, weaves to seesaw

**Indoor Venues**

It is noted that a minimum distance of 5 metres for large dogs may cause an issue for indoor shows due to space limitations. After discussion with numerous championship level judges, it is recognised that with careful course design, such as using jumps more than once, it is still possible to comply with the proposed new Regulation.

## **ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr K Smith

Leaving the ring after deliberate elimination or fouling in the ring

The Council is requested to discuss whether it is necessary to add an item to the Code of Conduct to state that a handler should leave the ring after they have deliberately eliminated themselves, or if their dog had fouled in the ring.

In the past it has been normal practice for a handler to leave the ring after deliberately eliminating himself or herself, by redoing a jump sequence or contact. But it is now normal for handlers to complete the course even redoing every contact. It also appears that in some cases handlers are finishing the course after their dog had fouled in the ring, whilst the judge checked that the area had been cleaned.

## **ITEM 10. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY**

To note the items on the Council's five year strategic plan.  
(Annex E refers)

## **ITEM 11. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL**

To note a written report on the arrangements for the Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 11-14 August 2016.  
(Annex F refers)

## **ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Please give at least two weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the Office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council.

## **ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be in January 2017 and will be confirmed in September 2016.

**NOTES:**

1. *The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at the Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.*
2. *Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare. Although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.*
3. *Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business'. This assists the Office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council.*
4. *Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that the Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to the Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.*

**THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

***"To raise the relevance of the Kennel Club in the eyes of the public at large, dog owners and those who take part in canine events, so as to be better able 'to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs.'***

**Agility Liaison Council Representatives**  
**1 January 2016 – 31 December 2018**

Listed below are the Area Liaison Council Representatives that can be contacted should further information be required on any of the items.

**SCOTLAND**

Ms Sara Hawkswell, 4 Woodbank Crofts, Westfield, Bathgate EH48 3AT  
Tel: 07960 953925 Email: [hawkswells@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hawkswells@yahoo.co.uk)

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Mr Adrian Dornford-Smith, 4 Rusheyhill Road, Lisburn, County Antrim, BT28 3TD  
Tel: 07817 217265 Email: [adrian@agilityni.org.uk](mailto:adrian@agilityni.org.uk)

**WALES**

Mr Martin Cavill, 15 Gerbera Drive, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9JD  
Tel: 07866 438719 Email: [martin.cavill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martin.cavill@yahoo.co.uk)

**NORTH WEST**

Mrs Pauline Baltes, 45 Well Orchard, Bamber Bridge, Preston, Lancs, PR5 8HJ  
Tel: 01772 494852 / 07803 261808 Email: [pabq@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pabq@blueyonder.co.uk)

Mr Mike Hallam, Hollins View, Leek Road, Bosley, Macclesfield, SK11 0PP  
Tel: 01260 223190 / 07711 058910 Email: [m.hallam@btconnect.com](mailto:m.hallam@btconnect.com)

**NORTH EAST**

Mr Kevin Smith – 30 Holland Park Drive, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear, NE32 4LL, Email:  
[kevsmithagility@gmail.com](mailto:kevsmithagility@gmail.com).

Ms Joanne Harker, 23 Dale Road, Darlington DL3 8LX  
Mob: 07590 080387 Email: [joanne\\_harker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanne_harker@yahoo.co.uk)

**MIDLANDS**

Mrs Jackie Gardner, 17 Middlesmoor, Wilnecote, Tamworth, B77 4PL  
Tel: 07787 686806 Email: [jackiegagility@hotmail.com](mailto:jackiegagility@hotmail.com)

Mrs Yvonne Croxford, Shade Cottage, Coventry Road, Wigston Parva, Hinckley, LE10 3AP  
Tel: 01455 220245 Email: [MeisterMansion@aol.com](mailto:MeisterMansion@aol.com)

**SOUTH EAST & EAST ANGLIA**

Mr Simon Chandler, 16 Hawth Hill, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 2RW  
Tel: 07772 670086 Email: [sjabbaman@aol.com](mailto:sjabbaman@aol.com)

Mr Iain McDonald, Silvermere Lodge, Redhill Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1EQ  
Tel: 07810 353544 Email: [iainmac77@sky.com](mailto:iainmac77@sky.com)

**SOUTH & SOUTH WEST**

Mr Chris Huckle, Kingswold, Glenmore, Roborough, Devon, EX19 8TE  
Tel: 01769 560190 Email: [Chris.Huckle@kingswold.com](mailto:Chris.Huckle@kingswold.com)

Miss Lesley Olden, Birchwood House Cottage, Sheffield English, Nr Romsey, Hants, SO51 6FF  
Tel: 01794 323037 Email: [lesleysolden@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleysolden@btinternet.com)