

**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017 AT 10.30 AM IN THE BOARDROOM,
THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Paragraph 85 of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2016 (copies previously distributed) should be amended to read as follows:

The Bloodhound Trial Regulations and Judging Procedure seminar presentation had been reviewed to reflect the current practice of running the practical session in the morning and the Rules and Regulations presentation seminar, followed by the paper, during the afternoon.

Subject to the above amendment, the Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting.

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

(Pages 13 - 14)

a. Attracting new competitors and increasing entries

At its previous meeting the Council had agreed that there should be further discussion regarding ways in which new competitors could be attracted into the discipline and how entries could be increased.

It was suggested that information be requested from Mr M Skillin, the Editor of Working Trials Monthly to provide baseline data for the overall number of current participants against which future progress could be measured.

The Council is invited to note that the information obtained by Mr Gilbert indicated that there were currently approximately 300 active triallists, and to continue its discussion on how to attract new competitors and increase entries, noting a discussion document submitted by Mrs L Cottier.

(Annex A refers)

b. Young Kennel Club

At the Council's previous meeting it was highlighted that it appeared new members joining the Young Kennel Club (YKC) did not receive information regarding Working Trials in their Welcome Pack, and the office had agreed to investigate this issue.

The Council is invited to note the response from the YKC department that it is willing to publicise any young handlers' days or events on its website and on social media. In addition, the Working Trials Beginners Guide will be added to information contained on the new memory stick available to YKC members.

- c. Use of electric collars, pinch/prong collars, and check/choke chains
At its previous meeting, the Council had discussed the use of the above devices and whether in the interests of welfare, all societies should be required by the Kennel Club to ban the use of electric collars and pinch/prong collars at all club events and training, and rules regarding their use written into the constitution of all societies.

As there was a range of views on the issue, it was agreed that further consultation was necessary before any recommendation could be made for consideration by the Activities Committee. Accordingly, following consultation with the Working Trials community, the Council is invited to consider the following proposal formulated by Mr Martin, noting that it did not alter or replace any existing Regulations:

New Regulation

The use of pinch collars, electric/remote collars, or prong collars, or similar devices is not permitted at any event licensed by the Kennel Club, or at training events held by Kennel Club Registered or Affiliated Societies or other organisations approved by the Board. This shall apply at the venue or within its precincts, including car and caravan parks and approaches. A rule to this effect shall be included in the constitution of such societies.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

This proposal would bring all affiliated societies into line with the Kennel Club ethos on this subject and enshrine that ethos into the constitution of each club. It is surely counter to all that the Kennel Club stands for to allow such devices to be used in any Kennel Club discipline, especially when it promotes the use of positive training methods and actively discourages the use of aversives. There is a wealth of evidence that shows that the use of such devices is detrimental to the welfare of dogs both physically and mentally.

- d. Gun tests
The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 23 June 2016, noted the Council's suggested guidance for the office regarding a course of action to be implemented where the use of guns was no longer permitted due to legislation. Under these circumstances the Council suggested that the gun test should be deleted and the qualifying marks adjusted accordingly so that the group total for Control would be reduced from 35 to 30 with a mark of 21 needed to qualify. Total marks for the Stake would also be amended.

A query was raised by the Committee as to the position regarding the Test of Courage and the Council is requested to consider how this would be affected should the use of guns no longer be permitted due to legislation.

e. Emblehope Estate

At its previous meeting the Council noted that the Kennel Club had purchased the Emblehope Estate in the north-east of England. It is invited to note a report regarding progress in development of the estate.

The Bloodhound Club will be holding its Championship Working Trial on the estate 25-29 February 2017. A keeper has been appointed and will commence his duties in March/April. Pheasant and partridge will be brought in during the summer and shooting on the estate will commence in early autumn 2017. Bookings may be made via the office in conjunction with the keeper.

ITEM 4. KENNEL CLUB ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR INSTRUCTORS

The Council is invited to receive a presentation regarding the Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme for Instructors.

ITEM 5. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

a. Southern Alsatian Training Society

Mrs F Webb

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)4

The Southern Alsatian Training Society wishes to propose the following amendment to the above Regulation so that, at Open Trials, where a mix of stakes is judged by a single control judge, the down stay is judged in two groups. (Note: discussion of this proposal was deferred at the Council's previous meeting as due to travel issues Mrs Webb was not able to be present.)

Regulation I(C)4.

TO:

Down (Introductory Stake 5 Minutes. Other Stakes 10 Minutes).—
 Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. **At Open Working Trials, where a mix of stakes is judged by a single control judge, the Down Stay should be judged in two groups: Group 1: CD & UD and Group 2: WD & TD.**
 The Judge or Steward will give the command "last command" and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs.
 (Insertion in bold)

b. ASPADS Working Trials Society

Mr B Gilbert

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(A)9.d

ASPADS Working Trials Society wishes to propose the following amendment to the above Regulation in order to correct a mathematical error in the existing Regulation:

Regulation I(A)9.d

TO:

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel Free	5		
2. Sending the dog away	10		
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5		
4. Down (10 Minutes)	10		
5. Steadiness to Gunshot	5	35	25 24.5

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

- c. ASPADS Working Trials Society
Proposed amendment to Regulation I18.b

Mr B Gilbert

ASPADS Working Trials Society wishes to propose the following amendment to the above regulation in order to bring Championship Trial qualifications into line with Open Trials so that only 'Excellent' certificates would be presented at Championship Trials.

Regulation I18.b

TO:

b. Certificates will be awarded **with the qualification "Excellent"** by the Judge or Judges at Championship Working Trial PD (Patrol Dog), TD (Tracking Dog), WD (Working Dog), UD (Utility Dog), and CD (Companion Dog) Stake to dogs which have obtained 70% or more marks in each group of exercises in the Stake entered, provided that the dog has **obtained 80% or more marks of the total for the Stake and** complied with any additional requirements for that Stake. ~~The added qualification "Excellent" shall be awarded should the dog also obtain 80% or more marks of the total for the Stake.~~
(Insertions in bold. Deletion struck through.)

- d. North East Counties Working Trials Society
Proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)1.

Mrs J Carruthers

Mrs Carruthers wishes to propose the following amendment:

Regulation I(C)1. Description of exercises & guidance for judges

TO:

Method of Handling.

Although implicit obedience to all orders is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural a manner as possible; persistent barking, whining, etc. in any exercise other than location of articles, person or speak on command should be penalised. ~~Feed must not be given to the dog by the handler whilst being tested.~~ **The handler must not have food or a toy on their person whilst the dog is being tested.**

Rationale

The current Regulation states that food must not be given to the dog by the handler whilst being tested. However if a handler has food or a toy on their person whilst the dog is working, the dog is not being tested but is being trained for the food/toy reward and that in order to allow the dog to be properly tested, the Regulation should be amended to state that handlers must not carry food or toys whilst under test.

- e. Ms J Hall Miss J Carruthers
Proposed Amendment to Regulation I.26.b

Ms Hall wishes to propose an amendment to Regulation I26.b Judging as follows:

TO:

~~b. Judges at Working Trials may not enter a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership; or handle a dog at the trial at which they are judging.~~

(Deletions struck through. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered accordingly.)

Rationale

Ms Hall wishes to propose removing the regulatory requirement that judges are not allowed to enter a dog at a trial they are judging. She is of the view that this rule is discouraging judges from accepting appointments and that there are enough witnesses to a round to ensure that marking is both fair and appropriate.

A discussion item has also been submitted by Mr G Martin requesting the Council to discuss whether, in light of the apparent falling numbers in Working Trials, consideration should be given to allow an individual who has judged at an event and completed their judging to enter a different stake at that trial.

Mr Martin is of the view that whilst this may not in itself go any great way to remedying the numbers it would allow those who judge and put themselves out, and travel some distance, to make even better use of the time at the event. There would be no conflict of interest as their judging had been completed.

- f. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave

Proposal for a new Regulation regarding protective equipment

Insert New Regulation I(C)18:

Protective Equipment - For all exercises where the dog is expected to bite, protected stewards should wear a single-arm protective sleeve on the right arm. The sleeve should be clear and obvious to the dog and handler. Covert sleeves, bite jackets and bite suits must not be used unless, for a location exercise, the judge deems it necessary to ensure the safety of the protected steward.

(Insertions in bold. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.)

Yorkshire Working Trials Society proposes the addition of this paragraph to the regulations in the belief that it reflects the views of a significant majority of competitors and judges within the sport. Judges should set tests using only protected stewards with single-arm sleeves. The use of bite jackets and bite suits is more appropriate to "civil" bite work, rather than working trials, and there can be a risk of dogs trained on such equipment biting in inappropriate circumstances.

- g. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave
Proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)15

Regulation I(C)15

TO:

15. Search and Escort.—The “protected steward” will be searched by the handler with the dog off the lead at the sit, stand or down. The Judge will assess whether the dog is well placed tactically and ready to defend if called to do so. The handler will be told to escort the “protected steward” at least 27.432m (30 yds) in a given direction, he will give at least one turn on the direction of the Judge. During the exercise the “protected steward” will turn and attempt to overpower the handler. The dog may defend spontaneously or on command and must release the “protected steward” at once, ~~both where he stands still and~~ when the handler calls him off.

(Deletion struck through)

Yorkshire Working Trials Society wishes to propose this amendment to bring the rules into line with current custom and practice. On the pursuit and detention exercise some judges will ask the "protected steward" to become passive, and expect the dog to retain its grip on the protected arm. It is not realistic to expect the dog to differentiate between the pursuit exercise and the attack on the handler. At present judges do not penalise dogs that retain their hold of a passive protected steward until called off, so the proposal, in essence, brings the regulation into line with current custom and practice.

ITEM 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs A Coles

Mr B Russell

Health effects of Working Trials jumps

Mrs Coles wishes the Council to discuss concerns expressed by some owners in respect of the style and height of the jumps in Working Trials. She is of the view that such concerns are preventing some potential competitors from taking part in Working Trials who would otherwise enjoy participating in the discipline and entering competitions.

The Council is requested to consider whether there are alternative methods of testing the obedience and working abilities of dogs without the risk of potential health implications.

ITEM 7. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY (Pages 15 - 16)

The Council is invited to consider the Five Year Strategy document and to discuss how it may be implemented.

(Annex B refers)

ITEM 8. JUDGES WORKING PARTY

The Council is invited to note the following report from Mr Gilbert on the progress of the Judges Working Party since the Council's last meeting, on 27 April 2016 together with a verbal report following the Working Party's meeting on 4 April 2017:.

Work has started on the production of a video to be included on the Kennel Club Academy website. This will include a track for candidates to view before attending the judging seminar and also video clips of the other exercises to be used as discussion items during the practical judging sessions.

ITEM 9. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Liaison Council is invited to consider the possibility of filming several dogs jumping with a view to analyse the factors which combine to make a successful jump. This could include the dog's position relative to the jump, its position on take off and landing and how this changes when the height or length of the jump is altered. Volunteers would be invited to ensure there was a large enough sample of dogs to analyse.
- b. At its meeting on 1 June 2016, the Sub-Group noted the Council's view that research similar to that undertaken by the Royal Veterinary College to analyse forces on the dog's body during take-off and landing in agility dogs may be of value.

It was suggested that more valid information may be obtained from videoing dogs jumping and analysing the positions of anatomical

landmarks together with data regarding take off and landing distances relative to the jump and that such research may provide useful evidence regarding the factors which contributed towards the success of a dog competing in Working Trials, such as body shape.

Mr Gilbert offered to obtain video material of dogs competing at a trial, and the Council is invited to note a verbal update on progress.

It is also requested to consider a suggestion from Poole & District Dog Training Society that 'The survey should concentrate on the Health and Welfare of the dogs that take part in the sport. This is in line with Point 1 of the suggested Five Year Strategy - Ensuring the Health, Fitness, Safety and Welfare of dogs taking part in Working Trials.'

ITEM 10. KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. Hosts for 2021 Kennel Club Working Trial Championships
The Council is requested to consider an application from Yorkshire Working Trials Society to host the 2021 Kennel Club Championships.

Note: the following host societies have previously been approved:

2018: North West Working Trials Society

2019: ASPADS Working Trials Society

2020: Surrey Dog Training Society

- b. Ballot for Judges for the 2020 Kennel Club Working Trial Championships
The Council is invited to vote on the nominations for the Kennel Club Working Trial Championship 2020.
(Ballot papers to follow – Representatives only)

- c. Judges
The Council is requested to note that the following judges have been appointed for the 2019 Working Trial Championships:

TD - Mr G Martin

PD - Ms L Cottier

Note: Judges for 2017 and 2018 are as follows:

2017

TD – Mrs L Newbold

PD – Mr G Martin

2018

TD – Mr R Musgrave

PD – Miss T Park

- d. The Activities Committee requests the Council to discuss the situation where the judge of the Patrol Dog Stake at the Championships requires a lock out prior to the Patrol round.

The Committee was of the view that a considerable number of spectators attended the Championships each year, and that it was highly desirable for them to be aware of what was expected of the competitors during the test. It suggested that in the event of a lock out, judges should notify officials of the details of the test so that an explanation may be provided to spectators. It wishes to seek the views of the Council on this issue.

ITEM 11. REFUSAL OF ENTRIES (Pages 17 - 18)

In response to queries received by the office, the Council is requested to note advice issued by the Kennel Club in respect of the right of Societies to refuse entries to Kennel Club Licensed Events.

It should be noted that Regulation 124(f) states that the Committee of a society may reserve to themselves the right to refuse any entries and that Regulation. 121.c(15) requires that the schedule must contain a statement to that effect.

(Annex C refers)

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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.

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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 Chairman.
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 MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

'The Kennel Club is the national body which exists to promote the general improvement, health and well-being of all dogs through responsible breeding and ownership' *This is to be achieved through:-*

- **Promoting the Kennel Club as the leading national organisation for referral and advice regarding all canine related matters.**
- **Encouraging the responsible breeding of pedigree dogs.**
- **Encourage the responsible ownership of dogs.**
- **Facilitating the breeding of healthy dogs**
- **Promoting the positive benefits of dogs in society.**
- **Promoting and regulating canine activities and competitions.**
- **Providing opportunities for education and training through Kennel Club led initiatives.**
- **Investing in canine health and welfare.**
- **Engaging with the wider dog owning audience/fraternity.**

Liaison Societies for Non-Championship Working Trials Societies

Working Trials Society

Australian Shepherd Club Of The United Kingdom
 Aveley Obedience & Working Trials Society
 Avon Working Trials Training Society
 Aylesbury Canine Training Society
 Banbury & District Dog Training Society
 Billingshurst Dog Training Club
 Birmingham & District German Shepherd Dog Association
 Central Bernese Mountain Dog Club
 Chipping Norton & District Dog Training Club
 Cynllan Lodge Dog Training Club
 Deveron Dog Training Club
 Donyatt Dog Training Club
 Grampian Gundog Club
 Haslemere & District Dog Training Club
 High Peak Dog Training Society
 Hucknall & District Canine Training Society
 Lochaber & District Canine Society
 Midlands Border Collie Club
 Mid Wales Working Gundog Society
 National Australian Shepherd Association
 Newlands Working Dog Society
 North Of England Weimaraner Society
 Northants & Bedfordshire Working Trials Dog Training
 Northern Alsatian & All Breeds Training Society
 Northern Newfoundland Club
 Portland Dog Training Club

Representative Society

Yorkshire Working Trials Society
 Essex Working Trials Society
 Wessex Working Trials Club
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 Leamington Dog Training Club
 Southern Alsatian Training Society
 Leamington Dog Training Club
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 British Association For German Shepherd Dogs
 Welsh Kennel Club
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 Wessex Working Trials Club
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 Surrey Dog Training Society
 North West Working Trials Society
 Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
 Welsh Kennel Club
 Icen German Shepherd Dog Club
 Surrey Dog Training Society
 North East Counties Working Trials Society
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 Yorkshire Working Trials Society
 British Association For German Shepherd Dogs
 Poole & District Dog Training Society

Rough & Smooth Collie Training Association
Scottish Kennel Club
Six Counties Working Trials Society
Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer Club (Provisional)
South Devon Agility & Dog Training Club
South Leeds Working Trials Dog Training Club
Spanish Water Dog Club (Provisional)
Spey Valley Dog Training Club
Sporting Irish Water Spaniel Club
Stonehouse Dog Training Club
Weimaraner Club Of Great Britain
Weimaraner Club Of Scotland
Working Belgian Shepherd Dog Society
Ynys Mon Dog Training Society

Leamington Dog Training Club
Scottish Working Trials Society
North West Working Trials Society
Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Poole & District Dog Training Society
Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Lincolnshire German Shepherd Dog & All Breeds
Scottish Working Trials Society
North West Working Trials Society
British Association For German Shepherd Dogs
Essex Working Trials Society
Scottish Working Trials Society
ASPADS Working Trials Society
Welsh Kennel Club