

**MEETING OF THE AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 13 JULY 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 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

(Pages 11 - 16)

- a. Decision making process within the Kennel Club
The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 23 March 2017, noted the Council's dissatisfaction regarding the way in which the decision to remove the Collapsible Tunnel from the list of obstacles had been made.
- b. Use of external show management companies
The Activities Committee was in agreement with the Council's views on the above matter that a formal procedure to approve such contractors was unnecessary, but that guidance should be published on the Kennel Club website, with the proviso that it be reiterated that ultimate responsibility for proper management of the show remained with the licence holder.
- c. Use of treat bags
The Committee noted that the Council had debated the issue at length but that in view of the difficulty in providing a clear definition of a 'training aid' it had agreed to seek the views of the agility community with a view to a formal proposal being submitted to the Council at its next meeting.
Note: a proposal appears on the agenda under item 12.b.
- d. Introduction of new Panels
The Council is invited to note that the Board has approved the introduction of three new Panels, the Agility Governance Panel, the Height Classification Panel, and the Judging Panel.
- e. Recognition of Agility as a sport
The Council is invited to note that the pre-application submitted to Sport England for recognition of agility as a sport had received a negative response. It is requested to consider how the issues identified by Sport England may be addressed should it be agreed to resubmit a revised application in due course.

The pre-application had been unsuccessful in that it had not fully met the following criteria for recognising sports and National Governing Bodies:

- Description of the sporting activity – the sporting activity must meet the definition of sport contained in the Council of Europe’s European Sports Charter
- Essential purpose – the purpose of the activity must be sporting and not a means to another end
- Governance structure – the governing body should have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association relevant to the jurisdiction in which it operates (i.e. England, Scotland and Wales). The governing body should show robust management and governance procedures in accordance with good practice promoted by the Sports Councils
- Affiliation – the organisation must demonstrate direct or indirect affiliation to the UK (or Irish) international governing body for the sport (as appropriate to the sport) if such a body exists
- Membership – the organisation must be able to evidence a current membership level (individual members) in excess of 1,650 for organisations with a UK-wide remit

(Annex A refers)

f. Issues reported in Incident Books

At its previous meeting, the office was requested to provide a list of issues which had been reported in Incident Books during 2016 as it was considered this may provide useful information as to any recurring problems which it may be possible for the Council to address.

It is invited to consider the list compiled by the office.

(Annex B refers)

ITEM 4. KENNEL CLUB ACCREDITED INSTRUCTOR SCHEME

The Council is invited to receive a presentation regarding the Kennel Club Accredited Instructor Scheme.

ITEM 5. JUDGES WORKING PARTY (ACTIVITIES) (Pages 17 - 18)

To note a written report from Mr Huckle on the progress of the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 4 April 2017.

(Annex C refers)

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a report from Mr S Chandler on the progress of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group following its meetings on 22 February 2017 and 17 May 2017.
(Annex D refers – to be tabled)

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL (Pages 19 - 22)

To receive a written report from the Equipment Panel regarding any issues which had been referred to it.
(Annex E refers)

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE GRADING PANEL (Pages 23 - 24)

To receive a written report from the Grading Panel regarding its activities since the Council's previous meeting, and to consider the issues raised.
(Annex F refers)

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE AGILITY GOVERNANCE PANEL

To receive a written report from the Agility Governance Panel.
(Annex G refers – to be tabled)

ITEM 10. REPORT FROM THE HEIGHT CLASSIFICATION PANEL

To receive a written report from the Height Classification Panel.
(Annex H refers – to be tabled)

ITEM 11. REPORT FROM THE JUDGING PANEL

To receive a written report from the Judging Panel.
(Annex I refers – to be tabled)

ITEM 12. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. Proposal to amend Regulation H(1)(B)3.d
Mr M Hallam

Miss N Wildman

Miss Wildman, an individual, wishes to propose the following amendment to H Regulations in respect of the hoop/tyre:

Regulation H(1)(B)3.d. Hoop-(Tyre)

TO:

Aperture diameter 533mm (1ft 9ins) minimum. Aperture centre from the ground: Large Dogs - 800mm ((2ft 7.5ins). Medium Dogs - 550mm (1ft 9.6ins). Small Dogs - 490mm (1ft 7.3ins). The hoop to be of a consistent shape, constructed of an impact-absorbing material **with an approved breakaway mechanism**. The height of the hoop should not be lowered. The tyre/hoop must be directly mounted in a substantial frame structure which must be secured in such a way that dogs cannot knock the obstacle over from either direction; the frame shall not have a beam across the top.

(Insertion in bold)

Miss Wildman notes that an approved breakaway tyre has been in use at some shows for approximately twelve months. It had been anticipated that other equipment suppliers would follow suit with their own designs for a breakaway hoop/tyre, however as yet no others have been approved. Miss Wildman is keen to ensure that equipment suppliers prioritise tyre development for safety reasons and suggests that a time frame suitable for the approval of new designs of tyres be put into place.

At present a number of judges do not feel comfortable using tyres in courses due to the design, and this can result in a lack of experience for some dogs. It could soon become commonplace in some parts of the country for dogs not to encounter a tyre in competition until Championship classes, where it is a requirement. This places dogs in a situation where they could be faced with the tyre for the first time, in a competition situation.

- b. Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)10.e.
Mr S Chandler

Mr Chandler requests the Council to consider the following proposed amendment :

Regulation H(1)10.e.

TO:

Except for mobility aids, nothing shall be carried in the hand while the dog is under test and food shall not be given to a dog whilst in the ring. **Competitors are prohibited from wearing treat bags or leads around their bodies whilst under test** – elimination.

Rationale

The proposal is made due to an increasing number of queries about the wearing of treat bags, and in respect of leads worn about the competitors' person being construed as being training aids.

ITEM 13. DISCUSSION ITEMSa. Scribing at showsMr K SmithMr I Mallabar

Mr Mallabar requests that the Council discuss the issue of scribing at shows, noting that the role is an important one and it is essential that it is carried out to a high standard. The Council is requested to consider whether there is a necessity for official guidance notes to be produced by the Kennel Club in order to address issues arising at shows, including the following:

- Illegible hand writing for scores
- Illegible hand writing for times
- Scribe watching dog with only a cursory glance at the judge
- Scribe missing last pole going down as already writing time down.
- Scribe incorrectly assuming a round has finished – all judges should indicate to the scribe when they are ready to judge but how many judges signal to the scribe that the dog has finished? If not how does the scribe know a round has finished if they are watching the judge? A scribe may think a dog has finished as the judge is moving back to his start position but he could be doing so a couple of jumps from the end.
- Lack of consistency regarding refusals, with some scribes writing 'R' and others '5R' which may be problematic where there is more than one scribe in a class. It is noted that the Kennel Club has no standard recommendations so long as it is consistent and legible.

b. Proof of postingMr K SmithMr I Mallabar

Mr Mallabar requests that the Council consider whether, with the increase in the use of digital technology for all aspects of running an agility competition, there is any necessity for proof of posting to remain in use as evidence of an entry having been made, especially as the proof of posting system is open to abuse. He is of the view that competitors who have not received running orders prior to the event either online or by post should query this with the organisers before the event. Entries made 'on the day' using proof of posting present practical difficulties to show organisers using digital systems for scoring or scribe input where it is necessary for all class information to be on the system prior to commencement of the event.

c. Distance between ringsMrs L OldenMr M Bacon

Mr Bacon wishes the Council to consider reviewing guidelines on the distance between rings and options for ensuring the safety of dogs, competitors, and spectators moving around the rings, and to reissue suitable guidance to show organisers.

He considers that a review is necessary due to increases in the

size of agility shows, and the numbers of dogs and people attending. He is also of the view that lower jump heights and longer distances between obstacles may result in dogs running faster and turning wider and possibly leaving the ring. Many shows currently provide relatively small thoroughfares between rings which may become crowded with competitors, spectators and dogs.

Such guidance should include a minimum distance between rings and type of suitable barrier. Mr Bacon suggests a minimum distance of 10m if the space between the rings is a thoroughfare, or 5m if there is no access. Where the gap is less than 5m there should be a barrier.

Mr Bacon also requests that the Council considers the inclusion of guidance for judges regarding the position and distance of the final obstacle in relation to the ring exit to make it less likely that dogs run out of the ring when finishing the course.

d. Fixed Jump Cups as Unnecessary Protrusions
Mr C Huckle

The Council is requested to discuss this issue in light of the outcome of discussions in 2012 by the Activities Committee to the effect that fixed jump cups form unnecessary protrusions.

Mr Huckle has received representations from many clubs in the South West as it has recently been clarified, following a query made to the office, that fixed jump cups that are unused are not deemed to be an integral part of the jump and are actually deemed to form an unnecessary protrusion. It is noted that Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(5) states: 'Safety—Obstacles and equipment in the test area must not include unnecessary protrusions...'

Many clubs in the South West have their own equipment and use this equipment to hold smaller open shows and limit shows throughout the winter and queries have been raised particularly by some new judges.

Some clubs have only just become aware of the outcome of these discussions, as a result of which they have an extremely limited time to rectify the situation. Many of these clubs are questioning the advantages of being registered societies, which is not helpful in preventing the decline in registered societies. This strength of feeling is also reflected in comments that it may well be better to have unaffiliated shows, rather than KC Licensed Limited or Open shows. Some clubs have been inspected by Kennel Club Field Officers and have received the highest grading despite having fixed cups on jump wings.

e. Use of medicated collars to control fleas and ticks
Mr C Huckle

With the rise in incidence of tick borne diseases such as Lyme's Disease, many members of the veterinary profession are recommending the use of medicated collars to control fleas and ticks. Such collars are not designed to be removed and replaced frequently, however, if left on during a round they do not meet the criteria of a flat leather or webbing collar. The Council's view is sought as to whether such collars comply with the spirit of the H Regulations, or whether a suitable amendment to Regulations is necessary to allow their use, noting that they are made of a light impregnated plastic material which would break easily should a dog become entangled.

ITEM 14. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AGILITY PARTICIPANTS (Pages 25 - 26)

At its meeting on 23 March 2017, the Agility Strategic Review Working Party noted that a Code of Conduct for Agility participants was in place but it had been some time since it was updated. It wishes to request that the Agility Liaison Council carry out a review in order to ensure that the Code of Conduct is up to date, and to raise its profile within the agility community.

It noted that compliance would be achieved via the use of Regulation H2. Code of Conduct which stated: 'Those taking part in Kennel Club licensed/approved events are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards, in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Conduct as published from time to time.'
(Annex J refers)

ITEM 15. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL (Pages 27 - 28)

To note a written report on the arrangements for the Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 10 - 13 August 2017.
(Annex K refers)

ITEM 16. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY (Pages 29 - 30)

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

ITEM 17. 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 Chairman.

ITEM 18. 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.**

Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council Representatives

1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018

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