

**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018 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**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 (copies previously distributed).

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

- a. The Council is invited to note that the Board approved the following amendments to G Regulations:

Regulation G(A)3

**TO:**

A dog not qualified to enter Championship Class C must be entered in the lowest available class for which it is eligible and may also be entered in another class if desired plus one additional class at the society's discretion. Only qualified dogs may be entered in Championship Class C and these dogs may also enter Open Class C and one additional class at the society's discretion. (Note the qualifications for Championship Class C and Obedience Warrant.)

Exemptions from this regulation are:-

A dog entered in a Good Citizen Dog Scheme Special Pre-Beginner Obedience Stakes Class or

**A dog entered into a Young Kennel Club (YKC) Obedience Class** which may also be entered in a maximum of two other scheduled classes (including YKC classes) for which it is eligible **or**

**A dog entered only into a Special class (or classes) provided that such classes are listed within the schedule, and are subject to entry by the closing date specified on the schedule.**

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2018)]

Regulation G.35.h

**TO:**

Dogs may only wear ~~a slip chain~~, a half-check collar or a smooth collar when in the ring.

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2018)

Regulation G(A)10.b Class B

**TO:**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| (4) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight.                      | 20 points |
| (5) Down <del>5</del> <b>4</b> minutes, handler out of sight. | 30 points |

Regulation G(A)11.d. Class C

**TO:**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| (4) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight.                      | 20 points |
| (5) Down <del>4</del> <b>5</b> minutes, Handler out of sight. | 50 points |
- (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)  
(Effective 1 January 2018)

**Note:** an update will be provided to the Council by the office regarding relevant amendments made to the specimen stay sheet.

b. Dogs on the Activity Register

At its July meeting, a query was raised regarding the availability of information online regarding the breeding of individual dogs. The office undertook to investigate whether a search facility could be made available in respect of dogs on the Kennel Club's Activity Register, in the same manner as was currently the case for dogs on the Breed Register.

It is invited to note that there are currently no plans to offer such a facility due to differences in the structure and purpose of the two Registers. The Activity Register is a single dog registry for application by the owner, whereas the Breed Register is designed specifically for the breeding and registration of litters by the breeder. Any development work relating to the Activity Register would be considered to be a new requirement, for which the purpose and benefit would need to be clearly defined in order to justify the necessary investment.

c. Border Collie Database

At its previous meeting, Miss Godfrey advised the Council that she had been in touch with the owners of the Anadune Border Collie Database to request that they reconsider allowing working sheepdogs to be added to the database. However, the Council is invited to note that no response has as yet been received.

d. Obedience Catalogues

The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 14 September 2017, noted the Council's request that the requirement for the names of sires and dams to be included on the entry form be reinstated, in order to allow for the inclusion of this information in catalogues should a show organiser wish to provide them.

However, it was of the view that as show organisers may request the inclusion of information regarding sires and dams on entry forms if they wished to do so, it did not consider that it was necessary to reinstate the mandatory requirement for these details to be included on an entry form.

**ITEM 4. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

All Council representatives are requested to provide a short verbal report of activities undertaken in their area to gain feedback from competitors since the previous meeting.

**ITEM 5. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB**

- a. The Council is invited to note Mr Burbidge-Grant's report that there have been no developments in respect of the YKC since the Council's previous meeting.
- b. At its meeting in July 2017, the Council agreed that Mr Harlow would hold discussions with the YKC office to see how any issues may be addressed, and to identify ways of strengthening links between YKC and the Council, to their mutual advantage. It is invited to note an update from Mr Harlow.

**ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

The Council is invited to note a report from Mrs Patrick following the meeting of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group held on 18 September 2017. **(Annex A to follow)**

**ITEM 7. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP (Pages 9 - 12)**

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Rutter on the work of the Activities Judges Sub-Group (formerly known as the Activities Judges Working Party) following its meeting on 8 November 2017. **(Annex B refers)**
- b. Progression of obedience judges  
At its meeting on 4 April 2017, the Sub-Group discussed concerns that there was currently no restriction on the classes which may be judged by newly-qualified judges once they had completed three appointments at Novice level. At present, once a judge had done so, he/she was then permitted to judge at any level, up to and including Open Class C. It suggested that progression should be at a more gradual level. The Accredited Trainers for obedience, at their annual seminar on 24 October 2017, discussed the issue and had requested that it be referred to the Council for further consideration.

Accordingly, the Council is requested to discuss the views of the Accredited Trainers, as follows:

'The Accredited Trainers would like to hear the opinion of Council, Obedience judges, and competitors on the subject of introducing a system of continuous development for Obedience judges. Currently all new judges must make their first three appointments in novice, but

having completed those appointments they can accept invitations to judge any class from Introductory to Open C. There is a feeling that there should be a more structured progression through the classes for judges, and suggestions are being sought as to how this might be best achieved. We would also welcome opinions regarding ongoing judges training – for judges who are already judging but would perhaps benefit from ongoing training and re-assessment.’

**ITEM 8. OBEDIENCE STRATEGY WORKING PARTY**

The Council is invited to consider the following issues which were discussed by the Obedience Strategy Working Party at its meeting on 4 July 2017.

- a. Membership and Composition of the Working Party  
The Working Party considered its membership and composition in the light of the concerns expressed by the Obedience Liaison Council at its meeting on 12 January 2017. At the Council’s meeting on 20 July 2017, it was highlighted that should any Council member wish to join the Working Party he or she would be welcome to do so, subject to approval by the Activities Committee.
  
- b. Proposals made by the Working Party  
The Working Party was in agreement with the Council’s suggestion that any proposals made by it should be submitted to Council representatives prior to their being published on the agenda for a Council meeting, in order to assist in proposals made by the Working Party being more carefully considered, and to allow for balanced discussions and feedback from regional meetings.

The Working Party also agreed that, in future, a document summarising its discussions and any proposals, including the rationale, would be prepared following each meeting, and circulated to all Council representatives. However, it was also of the view that Council representatives should not have any power of veto over proposals to be placed on the agenda for Council meetings.

**ITEM 9. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**

Proposed amendment to Regulation P4.h.  
Miss B Smith

At the Council’s previous meeting, a concern had been raised that there was no facility for proxy votes as a result of which, although their views may be reported, there was no mechanism by which their vote may be counted.

Miss Smith wishes the Council to consider the following proposed amendment which would allow provision for proxy votes. It should be noted that P Regulations apply to all Kennel Club Liaison Councils, hence as well as approval by the Activities Committee, consultation with the Show Executive

Committee and the Field Trials Liaison Council may also be necessary prior to approval of any amendments.

Regulation P4.h.

**TO:**

Each representative present at a Council Meeting shall be entitled to one vote on each motion except, in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or a casting vote. **If a member is unable to attend the meeting in person or via conference call, then he/she may cast a proxy vote on any proposal as it appears on the agenda. A proxy vote must be submitted in writing to the office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. No member shall be allowed to cast proxy votes at two consecutive meetings.**

(Insertion in bold)

**ITEM 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS** (Pages 13 - 14)

a. Miss F Godfrey

Content of classes

At its previous meeting, the Council noted that Miss Godfrey had formulated a suggestion regarding content of classes which it was hoped would allow for a smoother progression through the classes. A copy of the document was circulated to Council members for their review and feedback, and Miss Godfrey now wishes the Council to discuss the suggestions.

**(Annex C refers)**

b. Lisburn & District Dog Training Club

Mr M McCartney

Judges and stewards competing at shows

The Club requests that the Council discuss the issue of judges and stewards competing at shows at which they are officiating. Currently, under the terms of Regulations G30.(h), Caller and Scribe Stewards used by judges at the show must not work a dog on the same day. Regulation G33.(d) states that judges must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their sole ownership or part ownership, or handle a dog, at the Show at which they are judging.

The Club wishes to highlight the issues faced by some small clubs, especially those in remote areas of the UK, which struggle to appoint judges and stewards. This appears to be in part because such individuals may not have access to many shows and are reluctant to give up opportunities to compete.

At shows where entries are low, societies would like the option to allow judges and stewards to be able to compete. This would make it easier to appoint judges and stewards and would also raise more funds for the show and in some part help cover judges' expenses. The Club wishes to emphasise that there is a precedent for this in other countries where there are lower entries and smaller shows, but not within the UK even though show societies in some areas, such as the Scottish Islands,

Northern Ireland, Cornwall, Isle of Wight, and the Isle of Man have the same issues due to their geographical position.

**ITEM 11. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY** (Pages 15 - 18)

Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan, noting that all members of the Council had been requested to submit to the Chairman of the Council, by 1 September 2017, a list of positive suggestions as to ways in which this may be achieved. All such suggestions would be used as a basis for further discussion with a view to developing a plan for ongoing strategic development of the discipline.  
**(Annex D refers)**

**ITEM 12. OBEDIENCE STAND AT CRUFTS 2018**

To discuss plans for running the Obedience stand at Crufts in 2018.

**ITEM 13. 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 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will take place on 19 July 2018 and any items for the agenda must be submitted by 20 April 2018.

**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.**

