

**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 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 26 April 2017 (copies previously distributed).

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

a. Results of recommendations

Following recommendations made by the Council, the Board approved the following amendments to I Regulations at its meeting on 11 July 2017:

Regulation I2. Welfare of Dogs

**TO:**

An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at a Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. **The use of pinch collars, electronic shock collars, or prong collars, is not permitted at any Working Trials event licensed by the Kennel Club. This shall apply at the venue or within the precincts of the Trial.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2018)

Note: The Council is invited to note that similar amendments were also approved in relation to canicross, obedience, agility, heelwork to music, and rally.

The Board has also approved the following new Regulation:

**B25 Kennel Club registered dogs at Licensed Events**

**The use of electronic shock collars is not permitted at any event licensed by the Kennel Club; this includes all competitions, ie show classes, field trials, gundog working tests, obedience, working trials, agility, flyball, heelwork to music, rally and canicross races.**

**This must apply at the venue, ground or within the precincts of the such venue or ground.**

The above Regulation comes into effect immediately.

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. ~~Food 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.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2018)

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)

(Effective 1 January 2018)

b. Proposal for a new Regulation I(C)18

The Activities Committee considered the Council’s recommendation for a new Regulation relating to the use of covert sleeves, bite jackets and bite suits. However, it noted the advice, based on legal precedent, which indicated that should the Kennel Club direct/prescribe the use or non-use of a particular measure for health and safety and there was a subsequent injury because of the use, or non-use, of that safety measure, the Kennel Club may attract a liability. Accordingly it was in agreement that the new Regulation should not be recommended for approval.

c. Research project

The Council is invited to note that, following its request for research based on comparisons of dogs jumping a 5 foot scale versus a 6 foot scale; and an 8 foot long jump versus a 9 foot long jump, a formal proposal was in the process of being formulated by Dr Boyd, Dr Doyle, and Mr Gilbert, and would in due course be submitted to the Dog Health Group for approval.

- d. Raising awareness about the availability of training for working trials  
At its previous meeting the Council raised a concern that it appeared that new owners of registered dogs were receiving only minimal information regarding Working Trials, with the discipline not being referred to at all in a list of activities published within the booklet issued to such people. It is invited to note an update from the office.

#### **ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP**

The Council is invited to note that since the Council's last meeting on 26 April 2017, the Sub-Group has discussed content to be placed on the Kennel Club Academy in relation to Working Trials, and that a script for a 'Rules and Regulations' presentation is currently being reviewed.

#### **ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

##### Research project

This issue, which was discussed by the Sub-Group, appears earlier on the agenda under item 3.c.

#### **ITEM 6. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**

- a. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave  
Proposal to amend Regulation I(C)4

The Society wishes to propose the following amendment to the above Regulation, which is made with the intention of encouraging new competitors into Working Trials.

Regulation I(C)4.:

**TO**

Down (Introductory Stake **and CD** 5 Minutes. Other Stakes 10 Minutes).  
(Insertion in bold)

**Note:** should the above be recommended for approval, a consequential amendment to Regulation 19.a. as follows would also be necessary:

Regulation 19.a.

TO:

##### **9. Schedule of Exercises and Points.**

##### **a. INTRODUCTORY AND COMPANION DOG (CD) STAKE**

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
6. Down (Introductory Stake 5 Minutes; CD Stake <del>40</del> <b>5</b> Minutes) (Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)	10	50	35

Rationale

When a newcomer starts working towards entering a Working Trial it is very daunting to see all that is required. In the spirit of there being a progression through the stakes, it seems sensible to allow the stays to be slightly less difficult at the beginning. It may prove discouraging for newer competitors to see that the same is required in CD as in PD and TD. It would not compromise the integrity of Working Trials to have a slightly easier entry level into the sport. The introductory stake is not a certificated stake.

- b. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave  
Proposal to amend Regulation I(C)12.c.

The Society requests that the Council consider an amendment to Regulation I(C)12.c. in order to provide guidance to judges regarding the number of legs it is appropriate to use in each stake.

Regulation I(C)12.c.

**TO:**

.....to indicate the direction of the first leg. **The following limits on the number of legs, and the maximum length of tracks permissible in each of the four tracking stakes, shall apply:**

<b>UD – up to 10 legs</b>	<b>Maximum length 684m (750 yards)</b>
<b>WD – up to 15 legs</b>	<b>Maximum length 805m (880 yards)</b>
<b>TD/PD – up to 20 legs</b>	<b>Maximum length 911m (1000 yards)</b>

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The existing description and guidelines clearly state that there should be a progression through the stakes to the highest level. At present it is often the case that track patterns in the lower stakes have a higher level of difficulty than the higher ones. This is inevitable in the absence of clear guidelines.

It is suggested that there should be some limits on what may be included in any given stake so as to avoid undue complexity, and to ensure that track-layers are not discouraged by overly complex tracks. Patterns which require extra-large areas can also mean putting pressure on availability of land, which is becoming more and more of an issue.

- c. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave  
Proposal to amend Regulation I(C)12.c.

Yorkshire Working Trials Society wishes to offer an alternative proposal should the Council not support its previous proposal (item b. above). The proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)12.c is intended to clarify the lengths of tracks in Working Trials.

Regulation I(C)2.b.

**TO:**

The Track shall be a single line and may include turns. It shall be ~~approximately~~ **up to** 0.8046km (half a mile) long and should be laid as far as possible by a stranger to the dog. The article(s) should be well handled and placed, not dropped or buried on the track.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

#### Rationale

The word 'approximately' has become too wide an instruction whereby it has been interpreted that 1175/1200 yards is approximately half a mile, which is permissible under the terms of the existing I Regulations. There is also a problem with UD tracks which are often well short of half a mile due to lack of land (i.e. plots of 150 x 150) and a wish to not make UD tracks over complicated.

In general it is becoming more and more difficult to find enough land, and experienced track layers, to allow for undue extension of track limits.

- d. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave  
Proposal for new Regulation I29.and amendment to Regulation I(C)2

The Council is requested to consider the following new Regulations in the interests of ensuring the health and safety of competing dogs:

Regulation I29. Insert new Regulation i.

**Dogs must not wear any type of slip or half-slip collar when under test. A flat, close fitting, leather or webbing collar is permitted, providing the only attachment is a plain identification panel as an integral part of the collar i.e: not attached by a ring.**

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(C)2

**TO:**

2. Heelwork. - ... Where required the lead should be of a slip type (**slip chains may not be used**) or attached to a smooth collar ~~or slip chain~~. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used.

**(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)**

#### Rationale

Dogs should be identifiable at all times. Although most trials are on farm land there may be public rights of way anywhere on that land making it a requirement that dogs are identifiable. If a dog has a collar on it will allow a steward/judge/handler a better opportunity to control a dog which may be causing a problem of some sort during an exercise at the trial.

Further, the Society is of the view that chain slip leads and slip chains are used for negative re-enforcement and may be used as harsh training aids. The banning of chain slip leads and slip chains has been discussed recently, however, it has been brought to everyone's attention that each discipline may seek to include its own guidelines. Such equipment is

already banned in other disciplines under the jurisdiction of the Kennel Club.

- e. North East Counties Working Trials Society Miss J Carruthers  
Proposal to amend Regulation I(A)9

Regulation I(A)9. Schedule of Exercises and Points

**TO:**

a. INTRODUCTORY AND COMPANION DOG (CD) STAKE

Group II Agility

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
9. Scale (3) Stay ( <del>2</del> ) (1) <b>Position (1)</b> Recall (5)	10	20	14

b. UTILITY DOG (UD) STAKE

Group II Agility

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
8. Scale (3) Stay ( <del>2</del> ) (1) <b>Position (1)</b> Recall (5)	10	20	14

c. WORKING DOG (WD) STAKE

Group II Agility

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
8. Scale (3) Stay ( <del>2</del> ) (1) <b>Position (1)</b> Recall (5)	10	20	14

d. TRACKING DOG (TD) STAKE

Group II Agility

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
8. Scale (3) Stay ( <del>2</del> ) (1) <b>Position (1)</b> Recall (5)	10	20	14

e. PATROL DOG (PD) STAKE

Group II Agility

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
8. Scale (3) Stay ( <del>2</del> ) (1) <b>Position (1)</b> Recall (5)	10	20	14

Rationale

The Society notes that it has been custom and practice to award a point for a dog that has scaled and stayed steady on the other side, even if it does not hold the previously nominated position. It is of the view that if the dog stays steady on the other side of the scale it should be awarded one point. It proposes that the stay of 2 marks to be split into 1 for the dog staying steady and 1 for the previously nominated position.

**ITEM 7. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REGULATION P4.H**

The Council is requested to consider an amendment to P Regulations, which apply to all Liaison Councils, which was proposed by the Obedience Liaison Council in order to provide a facility for proxy votes for representatives unable to attend a meeting.

The proposal is intended to cover situations where a representative is genuinely unable to attend a meeting, and it is hoped that all representatives would continue to support as many meetings as possible in order to present their views and vote, in person. Further, in order to prevent any potential for misuse, the proposal includes provisos that proxy votes for any member may not be used at two consecutive meetings, and that all proxy votes must be submitted to the office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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 8. KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**a. Kennel Club Working Trials Championships 2019

The Committee is invited to note that Mr G Martin has withdrawn from his appointment to judge the above event, for medical reasons. It is invited to note a verbal update from the office regarding the appointment of a replacement judge.

b. Hosts for 2022 Kennel Club Working Trial Championships

The Council is requested to note that no applications to host the above event have been received so far.

- c. Ballot for judges for the 2021 Kennel Club Working Trial Championships  
The Council is invited to vote on the nominations for the Kennel Club Working Trial Championship 2021.

**(Ballot papers to follow – Representatives only)**

- d. Judges

The Council is requested to note that the following judges have been appointed for the 2020 Working Trial Championships:

TD - Ms J Owens-Poole

PD – Mr S Ford

Note: Judges for 2018 and 2019 are as follows:

2018

TD – Mr R Musgrave

PD – Miss T Park

2019

TD – To be confirmed

PD – Ms L Cottier

- e. Nomination process for judges

The Council is requested by the Activities Committee to review the nomination process for judges for the Kennel Club Championships, to ensure that it is robust and effective, and makes the best use of available judges.

At present, judges for the Championships are nominated by the Council and are selected following a ballot of representatives on the Council, subject to recommendation of approval by the Activities Committee, and the Board.

The Committee wished to recommend that judges at the Championship:

- Must not have judged the same stake at the Championship within the previous five years
- Must not have not judged the other stake at the Championship within the previous three years

The above criteria would be in addition to the current existing criteria which are as follows:

- The Judge has agreed to be nominated
- The Judge is currently actively involved in the relevant stake
- The Judge is physically capable of undertaking the appointment
- The Judge must have previously judged a Championship TD or PD Stake as appropriate
- The Judge must have attended the relevant Working Trial judges' seminar.

- The TD Judge must not have judged the Working Trial Championships within a period of 5 years

The Council is invited to consider a suggestion, under the terms of which nominating societies must have held a championship trial for that particular stake during the previous year (nominations would be permitted from societies which held PD and TD stakes in alternate years). Representatives would only be permitted to vote for the stake that their society held in the previous year (or the preceding year in case of societies that alternated stakes on an annual basis.)

f. Date of Kennel Club Working Trial Championship

The Council is requested to consider the possibility of changing the traditional date on which the Championship takes place, due to the clash with the Kennel Club's Discover Dogs event, as a result of which many Kennel Club executives and Board members are unable to attend the Championships.

Should the date of the Working Trial Championships be moved it may be necessary for exceptions to be made where arrangements were already in place.

**ITEM 9. WELSH KENNEL CLUB**

The Council is invited to note that the Welsh Kennel Club will no longer be running a Championship Working Trial, its last one having been run in 2017. The Club's representative, Miss R Cahill, will no longer be attending Council meetings.

The decision has been made for a number of reasons, including a lack of competitors and helpers. Further, the Club has experienced the withdrawal of support from local farmers and it has proved impossible to locate alternative grounds.

**ITEM 10. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY (Pages 13 - 14)**

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

**(Annex A refers)**

**ITEM 11. 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 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

## 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  
 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

### 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  
 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