



**MEETING OF THE FIELD TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019 AT 10.30 AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE
KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

**ITEM 2. TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE
COUNCIL**

**ITEM 3. TO ELECT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIELD TRIALS
COMMITTEE FOR THE VARIOUS SUB GROUPS EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE
2019 TO MAY 2022**

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL ON KENNEL CLUB
STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES**

The office will give a presentation to Council representatives giving details of the Kennel Club and Liaison Council structure and procedures and the role of Council representatives.

ITEM 5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**ITEM 6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27
JUNE 2018**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting.
(Annex A refers)

**ITEM 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING AND
RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED TO THE FIELD TRIALS
COMMITTEE (RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS PREVIOUSLY
CIRCULATED)**

The Council is invited to note an update on the results of recommendations from the meeting held on 27 June 2018.
(Annex B refers – to follow)

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES

Eastern Counties Spaniel Society
Judges nominated to judge at a Spaniel Championship

Mrs W Knight

The Society wishes to propose that judges nominated to judge at a Spaniel Championship should have competed in trials within the last 5 years.



The existing criteria states that a nominee must have been an 'A' Panel judge for a minimum of three years at the time of nomination and must not have judged the relevant championship within the previous three years at the time of nomination.

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Tay Valley Gundog Association Ms A Faulds
Lothian & Borders Gundog Association
Strathmore Working Gundog Club
Attendance at J Regulations seminars

The above Clubs note that the Kennel Club has changed the criteria for existing 'A' and 'B' Panel judges and from 1 January 2022 all judges must attend a Kennel Club Judges' Training Programme seminar on Kennel Club J Regulations for the appropriate sub-group and must pass the examination. The Council is requested to discuss how best to address any issues arising as a result of some judges not wishing to take the examination, and to consider ways in which these may be minimised.

Rationale

This Regulation change was announced with little or no consultation with member clubs. The above Clubs state that in Scotland there are currently 27 'A' Panel judges, 9 of whom have passed the J Regulations examination. The remainder have shown no appetite to sit the test. 10 'B' Panel judges currently have passed the examination. In Scotland there are 17 open stake trials and 19 novice trials. Therefore to fulfil these trials 43 'A' Panel and 43 'B' Panel judges are required. Currently these trials cannot be fulfilled without bringing judges from elsewhere in the UK. To do so would place an undue financial burden on clubs. This will mean that due to lack of funds, clubs will either fold or become test only clubs.

- b. Moray Firth Spaniel and Retriever Club Mr J Castle
Attendance at J Regulations seminars

The publicised revision in the J Regulations, J6.c.(6) would appear to have been implemented without prior consultation or discussion with either member Societies or Panel Judges. The objective of having all existing A and B Panel Judges, who have not previously passed the requisite Kennel Club examination, now retrospectively submit to the exam process is likely to give rise to the loss of Panel Judges with significant judging experience. This in turn will exacerbate the universal problems of securing field trial Judges.

While acknowledging the desirability of education in all areas of gundog activity, it is felt that other options need to be explored in this matter, to avoid the loss of Panel Judges who have otherwise contributed their wisdom and experience over past years.

- c. Labrador Retriever Club Mr S Cullis
Mock examination papers

The Club is of the view that, as it becomes a requirement for all Panel Judges to have passed the Judges' examination, the Kennel Club should put a mock Judges' Examination paper on its website for judges to try out - as is already the case for the Kennel Club Accredited Instructors Scheme. This would enable any senior judges who may be currently afraid of failure, to familiarise themselves with the examination and type of question asked, to give them the confidence to attend a seminar and take the examination. It could also be of interest to the non-Panel judges wishing to further their knowledge.

Rationale



To prevent senior A Panel judges from withdrawing from the Panel list and giving judges the confidence to take the Judges' Examination.

- d. Yorkshire Retriever Field Trial Society Ms S Whyte
Refusal of entries

The Council is invited to discuss the circumstances under which an entry may be refused. The Society particularly wishes to address concerns regarding the possibility of anti-field sports campaigners entering trials and thus receiving draw information detailing meet location and time. **Note:** a copy of the Kennel Club's advisory document on the exercise of the right of Societies to refuse entries to Kennel Club Licensed Events is provided to assist the discussion.
(Annex C refers)

- e. Bristol and West Working Gundog Society Mrs C Carpenter
Hungarian Vizsla Club
Clarification of Regulation J(A)4.b.

The above Clubs seek clarification on Regulation J(A)4.b. For all Sub-groups Required to Retrieve. The Regulation states:

'Judges at Open Stakes and Championships should ask their guns not to shoot directly over a dog when it is already out working on a retrieve. In other stakes, Judges should ask their guns not to shoot when a dog is already out working on a retrieve unless by so doing, they are certain there would be no chance of distracting the dog from its task.'

The Council is requested to consider whether this Regulation requires revision as it can be interpreted two different ways. It is either inconsistent and puts Novice dogs at a disadvantage as they may be more easily distracted than an experienced dog in an Open Stake or

Championship Stake, or if the final sentence after the comma actually includes Open and Championship stake, the regulation is badly constructed.

All dogs must be given the opportunity to do well. The wording of this Regulation may also put unnecessary pressure on a gun to make a split-second decision as to whether it would distract a dog whilst on a retrieve, which is not ideal, especially in Novice Stakes.

- f. Bristol and West Working Gundog Society Mrs C Carpenter
Hungarian Vizsla Club
Review of Regulation J(A)4.e.

The above Clubs request that the Council review Regulation J(A) 4.e. which states:

'Handlers should be instructed where to try from and be given reasonable directions as to where the game fell. If the dogs tried fail to complete the retrieve, the Judges should search the area of fall and, if they find the game, the dogs tried, save in exceptional circumstances, will be eliminated. However, should a dog or dogs prove to have been tried in the wrong area they should not be so penalised.'

Rationale

During a trial, when all the judges are out looking for a bird, dogs may be left unattended. Two cases have been witnessed of dogs 'running in' and other cases are



known of. Each time the dog(s) concerned have been recalled before the judges have seen the incidents and returned to the line and the dogs have continued to run in the stake.

It is hoped that a review of this regulation where either dog(s) are put on leads or a judge remains with the dogs will make the procedure clear to avoid the possibility of such mistakes occurring in future and help all concerned.

- g. Labrador Retriever Club Mr S Cullis
Use of All Aged Stakes as an extra tier of qualification for Retriever Open Stakes

The Club wishes the Council to discuss the use of All Aged Stakes as an extra tier of qualification for Retriever Open Stakes in order to reduce the number of dogs entering. Should the Council support such a step, relevant amendments to J Regulations would be necessary.

It suggests that:

1. Societies which hold more than one Novice Stake in a season must run an All Aged Stake that season.
2. In order to gain first preference in Open Stakes, a dog must have gained First or Second in an All Aged Stake or a place in an Open Stake.
3. Dogs which have gained a First place in a Novice Stake prior to 2nd February 2019 (and in subsequent years) will be given first preference in Open Stakes.
4. Preference in the draw for All Aged Stakes would be in the following order:
 - i. Members' dogs which have gained First in a Novice Stake and do not have first preference in Open Stakes
 - ii. Members' dogs which have gained Second, Third or Fourth in a Novice Stake and do not have first preference in Open Stakes
 - iii. Members' other dogs
 - iv. Members' dogs which have first preference in Open Stakes

- h. Labrador Retriever Club Mr S Cullis
Swapping of places in draws

The Club wishes to suggest that competitors should be able to swap their place in the draw with another who has a run in another part of the country, so that neither competitor would be required to travel unnecessary distances and therefore allowing competitors to trial more locally to their home. Each competitor would need to be a member of both clubs and would only be able to swap once.

Rationale

To prevent unnecessary journeys for those that trial and to lower the sports' contribution to carbon emissions.

- i. Chiltern Gundog Society Mrs B Kuen
Entry to Field Trials and Working Tests

The Society wishes to suggest that it should be made mandatory that entries for field trials and working tests may be made online only.

It is of the view the online services currently available make the entry process easier and less time consuming. With the removal of paper-based systems in other fields such as banking, prescriptions, taxing of motor vehicles, etc., it considers that it is counter intuitive to continue to make the facility for paper entries available on an ongoing basis.

- j. Westward Gundog Society Ms S Chichester



Game falling in close proximity to a dog

The views of the Council are sought on the following:

If game that has been shot and, on its trajectory, strikes a dog and remains in close proximity of (i.e. touching) the dog, the dog should not be eliminated if it picks the bird **without having to move** as it would if making a retrieve.

The Society is of the view that this scenario is not as uncommon as it may seem. It is a scene of extreme temptation for a dog, especially if the bird is wounded. If the bird is picked, the dog is merely responding to its learned behaviour (conditioning). The Society considers that the dog should be credited for adding to the bag, because the bird would not then be used for another dog as a retrieve. This need not be classed as 'a retrieve', but would allow an indication of the quality of a dog's mouth and the bird should be checked for damage.

At present Judges interpret this differently; some crediting the dog, whilst others see it as a reason to eliminate. The Society notes that as it stands, the position is 'open to interpretation' and thus, the way in which a competitor is judged on one occasion may be different on another. The views of the Council are sought in the interests of clarity and consistency.

- k. Utility Gundog Society
Number of Spaniel trials

Mr P Askew

The Council is requested to discuss the possibility of imposing a restriction on the number of Spaniel trials of the same denomination taking place on the same day.

The Society is concerned that filling such stakes is proving extremely time consuming for field trial secretaries. Competitors are being invited to run a second dog in order to make up the card. It is of the view that there is a risk that such clashes dilute the overall quality of the stakes.

It wishes to suggest that a minimum distance/travel time should be considered before a licence is granted for a stake on the same day.

ITEM 10. EVALUATION FORMS

The Council is invited to note guidance from the office regarding the way in which evaluation forms relating to co-judges should be completed by Panel judges, and the way in which they are used to make decisions about a judge's progression on to the next Panel.

(Annex D refers)

ITEM 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council is invited to note that the next meeting will take place in June 2020. The exact date will be confirmed in due course.

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THIS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Please give at least three weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required.



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.**