



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO
BE HELD ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2020 AT 10.30 AM IN
THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET –
AGENDA**

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2019 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is invited to note that the following amendment to I Regulations was approved by the Board at its meeting on 16 July 2019:

Regulation I(C)1. Method of Handling

TO:

Although implicit obedience 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 person or speak on command should be penalised. The handler must not have food or a toy on their person whilst the dog is being tested. **In any exercise where the dog is required to bite a protected steward (protected consistent with safety), it must be on the right arm. Any indiscriminate biting must be severely penalised.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2020)

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a report from Mr Gilbert on the work of the Sub-Group following its meeting on 19 September 2019.
(Annex A refers)
- b. Study into the use of the scale jump at Kennel Club Working Trials
The Council is invited to note a paper from Penelope Bellis (MCHIRO, MMCA, IVCA, BVCA, Doctor of Chiropractic) regarding the scale jump.
The paper is provided for information only, with the permission of Ms Bellis, and will be forwarded to Nottingham Trent University for use as background to its own research into jumps next year.
(Annex B refers)

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a verbal report from Mr Gilbert on the Sub-Group's progress following its meeting on 14 November 2019.



ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

The Council is invited to note that the PD Stake Panel is due to meet on 15 December 2019, and will be discussing the following issues:

- Health & Safety Risk Assessment
- Marking of PD Exercises
- Views from Trials Managers & Judges
- Equipment & Clothing
- PD Helpers weekend
- Proposed new regulation I25.i
- Insurance cover
- 'Lockouts'

A report will be provided at the Council's meeting regarding recommendations made by the Panel.

(Annex C – to follow)

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE PROGRESSION PANEL

The Council is invited to note that the Progression Panel is in the process of carrying out two polls, via social media, as follows:

- Do you think the Introductory Stake should remain in its current format?
- Do you think the CD Open Stake should be mandatory?

An email address will be provided for those who wish to submit information or suggestions as to what the Introductory Stake should encompass, and of any changes which may be made to attract competitors to the discipline.

The polls will run into February/March 2020 to enable those without access to social media to contribute via the use of paper questionnaires.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL

a. (i) Removal of the gun test

At the Council's previous meeting, the Equipment Panel was requested to consider whether the gun test should be removed, and if so, whether the marks should be reallocated or a new test introduced to replace it.

The Council is invited to note the report from the Equipment Panel in relation to the matter.

(Annex D refers)

It is also requested to consider the following proposal for an amendment to I Regulations with the objective of removing the gun test from the schedule of exercises.

Regulation I(B)8. Steadiness to Gunshot.

TO:



~~8. Steadiness to Gunshot.—No gun test will be held in buildings, or other confined areas, nor will shotguns be used at Working Trials. Guns used must be constructed to fire blanks only. Prior warning must be given to the handler, who will be instructed to work the dog 'heel free', or leave the dog within a controlling distance and where the handler has sight of their dog. The dog must not be provoked by excessive display of the gun, nor should the gun be pointed at the dog or handler except in Group IV Patrol. Any sign of fear, aggression or barking must be penalised. This test must not be incorporated into any other test.~~

~~(Deletion struck through)~~

~~(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)~~

Rationale

A recent poll conducted by the Equipment Panel showed that most respondents were in favour of removing the gun test from the schedule of exercises within Working Trials. All the responses are detailed in the attached document.

(Annex E refers)

(ii) Reallocation of marks

The Council is also requested to discuss the potential reallocation of marks should the gun test be removed from the schedule of exercises.

Respondents were asked in the online poll whether, if the gun test was removed from the schedule of exercises, they would prefer the removal of the 5 marks allocated for the exercise in each Stake or whether the marks should be reallocated, and if so, in what way. Results from the poll indicated a preference for the points to be reallocated to a new element to be introduced to the schedule of exercises. Suggestions for this new element are as follows:

- UD Novice recall, WD Elementary speak, TD Retrieve judges article.
- Speak exercise in UD and WD and a retrieve in TD.
- Add an 'emergency' down on the recall for all stakes.
- UD Recall to front, WD Elementary speak (5 speaks in sight) TD/PD Retrieve dumbbell.

b. (i) Removal of requirement to qualify in every section

The Panel wishes the Council to discuss the requirement to qualify in every section which has been a fundamental part of trials. However a suggestion has been made to remove that requirement and replace it with just the overall qualifying mark for the respective stakes.

Rationale

Those individuals that do not wish to partake in the jumps or any part of them, or any other exercise (such as stays) would not have to do so. This would allow those individuals who object to certain exercises to still be able to qualify, providing they gained the overall qualifying mark, and to take a meaningful part in trials.

There would be no requirement to attempt any exercise and a competitor would not have to nominate which exercises they are or are not attempting prior to entering the field of competition.

The main benefit of this proposal would be to allow those triallists that wish to carry on jumping to do so, and to provide a choice for those who do not wish to undertake a particular jump or exercise.



If the idea is supported and, in due course, a relevant amendment made to I Regulations, it is suggested that it be for a trial period of perhaps three years, during which time data may be gathered to assist in considering the future direction of Trials.

- (ii) The Council is also requested to consider an alternative suggestion which has been submitted by Mrs J Holt, via the Equipment Panel:

Working Trials has always been aimed at dogs which are obedient, physically fit and able to use their noses effectively. Consequently the present qualification arrangements are paramount.

However the following suggestion may go a long way to meet the concerns regarding doing jumps, stays and overall qualifications without lowering the present standards or altering the marks assigned to individual exercises.

For CD, UD, WD and TD open and championship, the control and agility sections are marked separately. It is suggested that the marks of the two sections are amalgamated.

So, for UD, WD, and TD the maximum marks would be 55 of which 70% is 39 (25 plus 14)

CD would result in a total of C/A of 70 of which 70% is 49.

In all cases the 70% could be achieved even if jumps or stays were failed or declined provided enough marks had been achieved elsewhere in the section.

Overall marks of 80% (Minimum 176 in TD, 160 in WD and UD, 80 in CD) would still be achievable by a dog of a good standard.

This rule change to the score sheets could be easily implemented without major alterations to the basic principle of qualification.

ITEM 9. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. Southern Alsatian Training Society Mrs L Marlow
Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)13 Quartering the Ground

The Southern Alsatian Training Society (SATS) wishes to propose the following amendment to I Regulations:

Regulation I(B)13

TO:

The missing person, protected consistent with safety, ~~should~~ **must** remain motionless **in a seated or standing position** out of sight of the handler, but ~~should~~ **must** be accessible on investigation to the dog when 'winded'. **The protected helper must not be lying down.**

(Deletions struck through, insertions in bold)

Rationale:

The objective of the proposal is to enhance helper safety. The helper is able to see the dog on approach and is able to move if necessary. The dog is able to see the sleeve and is less likely to bite anywhere else. Helpers in a prone position are vulnerable, and not able to move to protect themselves.



- b. East Anglia Working Trials Training Society Mrs D Ling
Proposed new Regulation I26i

Following preliminary discussions with the PD Panel, the Society wishes to propose an additional Regulation, as follows:

New Regulation I26i

TO:

Patrol Dog stake judges must, before their Patrol Dog tests, provide Working Trials Managers with sufficient detail of the tests, the risks arising from them and measures to manage those risks, to be included within risk assessments completed in respect of the events.

If the Trials Manager has insufficient experience of PD tests the Society must nominate an appropriate person with PD experience to assist him/her.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

Trials Managers are obliged to complete risk assessments for trials. PD tests inherently involve risks. However if Trials Managers are unaware of plans for PD tests, they are unable to address potential risks arising from the tests.

Judges are responsible for their tests, although Trials Managers should advise as to potential risks. Whilst the Trials Manager has a responsibility, the overall responsibility must rest with the Society. The Society appoints the Trials Manager and therefore the Society is responsible for the actions of the Trials Manager and the judge.

- c. Proposed amendment to Regulation I(A)9 Mr J Wykes

Mr Wykes requests the Council to consider a proposal to increase the track mark in PD from 60 to 90, to bring it in line with the other stakes.

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

TO:

e. PATROL DOG (PD) STAKE

		Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
9.	Search	35		
10.	Track (60 90) Articles (10+10=20)	80 110	115 145	80 102

The minimum Qualifying Mark for the Stake i.e. 70% would increase from 224 to 245 and 80% would increase from 256 to 280. The Overall Mark would increase from 320 to 350.

ITEM 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave
Progression through the stakes

The Society requests that the Council discuss making the progression through the stakes more obvious and ways in which this may be achieved.

Rationale



The Society feels it is important that there is a clear progression from the initial stakes through to the later ones. At present it is not obvious, with some tests on the face of it appearing to be more difficult at a given trial in the lower stakes than in the upper ones, for example the number of legs/angles in track patterns and the size of articles in the nosework section. The length/type of sendaways can be longer in the lower stakes. The agility section could benefit from having a less difficult test, such as removal of the scale from CD, instead of the present system which requires the same from the CD as in the TD. It should be that the agility is targeted at the level of the stake, i.e. much less difficult at the beginning. The Society feels that there should be a very clear, albeit gradual, increase in difficulty through the stakes.

b. Yorkshire Working Trials Society

Mr R Musgrave

Encouragement of new competitors

The Society invites the Council to consider having two certificated stakes prior to CD in order to facilitate new dogs/handlers to start in trials.

Rationale

Trials should start at a level which is not as daunting as CD. There could be a stake without jumps at all which would allow dogs into a trial environment at a much lower age than at present. At a recent trial there were two excellent stakes provided for newcomers which proved to be popular and successful. The Society feels it is important to have a consistent and ever-present stake in the same way as the ones we have now to allow new handlers to join in the sport. Special stakes are working well but are not always available and vary in what they offer. In order to encourage entry into the sport, the Society feels it needs to be a fully certificated Kennel Club test. The idea is to do as other disciplines have done, such as obedience where pre-beginners, beginners and novice are on offer to allow handlers to come to terms with what is required at a simpler level. The new stakes would follow the same format as the existing ones with open and championship levels. The dog could stay in the stake until it qualifies the one above.

The Council is invited to consider the following examples:

Working Trials Beginners Stake.

- Heel work on the lead
- Heel work off the lead, normal pace only, no more than 25 paces
- Recall, handler to be no more than 15 paces away.
- Retrieve a dumbbell/handler's choice of article.
- Sendaway to a clearly defined target, no more than 25 paces away.
- 12m square with three large articles (e.g. 8cm x 8cm square of carpet). One to be recovered.
- Sit Stay, in sight, one minute.
- Down Stay, in sight, two minutes.

Working Trials Novice Stake.

- Heel work on lead, no more than 75 paces
- Heel work off lead, no more than 75 paces
- Recall, handler to be no more than 20 paces away.
- Retrieve a dumbbell.
- Sendaway to clearly defined target, no more than 30 paces away.
- 15m square, three large articles (e.g. 8cm x 8cm square of carpet) two to be found
- Track. No more than 400 paces, 15 to 30 minutes old, only right angles to be used, two large articles, one to be recovered.
- Sit Stay, in sight, one minute.
- Down Stay, in sight, two minutes.



ITEM 11. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

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

(Annex F refers)

ITEM 12. 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 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council's next meeting will take place on 16 July 2020. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 17 April 2020.

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
Iceni 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