



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD  
ON THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2019 AT 10.30AM IN THE  
BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET – AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FRO THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**ITEM 3. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ON TO THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 2019 TO MAY 2022**

**ITEM 4. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

**ITEM 5. 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 6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2018 (copies previously distributed).

**ITEM 8. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Pages 11 - 32)

a. Proposed amendment to Regulation P4.h.

The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 22 March 2018, considered the Council's recommendation for an amendment to the above Regulation which would provide for the use of proxy votes by Council representatives who were unable to attend a meeting in person.

However, it was concerned that the introduction of such a facility may result in reduced attendance at meetings. It also emphasised that those attending Council meetings did so in the role of representatives rather than as delegates, which meant that they were free to vote as they saw fit following discussion, rather than being obliged to vote as mandated. It was of the view that a representative not attending a meeting, and using a proxy vote, was unable to participate in the exchange of views, and could not therefore amend his or her vote having taken into account points raised during the discussion.



Having considered the matter carefully, the Committee did not recommend approval of the proposed amendment to Regulations, but wished to strongly recommend that, should a representative be unable to attend a meeting in person, he or she should take part via conference call if possible. It was highlighted that such facilities could be provided by the office but were only intended for use in exceptional circumstances. (**Note:** following the cancellation of the Council's meeting in July 2018, the Council had been advised of the Committee's decision via an email issued by the office on 24 April 2018).

b. Border Collie Database

The Council is invited to note that Miss Godfrey had once again contacted the owners of the Anadune Border Collie Database to request that they reconsider allowing working sheepdogs to be added to the database but that no response had been received.

c. Training for commentators

At its meeting on 20 July 2017, the Council noted that the Training Board had agreed there was a need for training for commentators at major events however no further update on the matter was available at the time.

It is invited to note that a commentary course may be considered provided it could be held on a break even basis, or alternatively an online educational video could be explored. Should the Council wish to proceed it would be necessary for a request, with a supporting paper, to be submitted to the Training Board.

d. Progression of obedience judges

At the Council's previous meeting, a suggestion was made that a system be introduced whereby a judge, having carried out three appointments in Novice, should be required to judge twice in Class A before judging Class B, and to judge twice in Class B before progressing to judging Class C. It was agreed that Council members would give further consideration as to how the suggestion how may be developed, and any feedback collated into a formal proposal for consideration by the Council.

Following consideration by the Activities Judges Sub-Group, and discussion at the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar on 9 October 2018, the Council is invited to note that a formal proposal has now been submitted and appears on the agenda under item 14.c.

e. Content of classes

At its previous meeting, the Council discussed a suggestion from Miss Godfrey regarding the content of classes which it was hoped would allow for a smoother progression through the classes. The Council had expressed the view that the feedback received from the obedience community did not indicate a significant level of support for the changes suggested by Miss Godfrey, however, it supported the issue of a survey which would request more detailed feedback on individual aspects of the suggestion.

It is invited to discuss the summary results of the survey and to discuss how the matter should be progressed.

**(Annex A refers)**

f. Judges and stewards competing at shows

At its previous meeting, the Council discussed the issue of judges and stewards competing at shows at which they were officiating, with particular reference to the difficulties faced by small clubs.



It had acknowledged that there may be practical difficulties in allowing judges to compete at a show at which they were competing, and it did not support any further progression of this part of the suggestion. However, the Council was strongly of the view that it would be a positive step to allow caller and scribe stewards to compete and officiate at shows where the entries were low

It is invited to note that a proposal has been submitted by Lisburn & District Dog Training Club, which appears under item 14.a. of the agenda.

### **ITEM 9. OBEDIENCE STRATEGY WORKING PARTY**

The Council is invited to note that, in view of the Sports Governance review which was currently in progress, the Board, at its meeting on 17 July 2018, agreed that the Obedience Strategy Working Party be disbanded.

### **ITEM 10. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Re-elected 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 11. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP**

(Pages 33 - 36)

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Rutter on the work of the Activities Judges Sub-Group following its meetings on 2 May 2018 and 1 November 2018.

**(Annex B refers)**

### **ITEM 12. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

The Council is invited to note a report from Mrs Patrick following the meetings of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group held on 16 January 2018 and 10 September 2018.

**(Annex C refers – to follow)**

### **ITEM 13. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB**

The Council is invited to note that a representative from the YKC has been invited to attend the meeting in order to discuss any issues, and to consider how obedience may be promoted to young handlers.

It is requested to consider a report from Mr Burbidge-Grant regarding developments relating to the YKC, as follows:

The YKC ran a training and Crufts qualifying event at Newark over 26 -28 October. Sue Shardlow and Polly Poulton ran training sessions with the YKC members. The classes were judged by Emma Lavender.

At its meeting in January 2018, the Council had expressed its view that there remained an urgent need for improved communications links with the YKC office. It is requested to consider ongoing concerns regarding communication between the Council and the YKC department.



## **ITEM 14. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**

- a. Lisburn & District Dog Training Club Mr M McCartney

Proposal for an amendment to Regulation G30.h.

At its previous meeting, and as referred to in item 8.f. above, the Council discussed the issue of stewards competing at shows at which they are officiating, with particular reference to the difficulties faced by small clubs.

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.

The Council is requested to consider the following proposal from Lisburn & District Dog Training Club:

Regulation G30.h.

**TO:**

Judges should whenever possible, provide their own Caller Stewards, but the Show Management shall provide any Caller Stewards if necessary. Caller and Scribe Stewards used by judges at the show must not work a dog on the same day., **with the exception that at a show with 10 scheduled classes or less, caller and scribe stewards may compete in a class other than the class they are officiating, provided that the class in which they are acting as caller or scribe steward has 20 entries or less. Caller and scribe stewards taking up this option will be exempt from any running order and may compete with their dogs at a convenient time and in agreement with the judges concerned.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold).

Rationale

The proposal is made with the objective of helping clubs in areas of the country where entries are low and competitors are not plentiful. It is anticipated that it could ease the burden on some clubs which are faced with the dilemma of trying to find both judges and stewards from a small pool of the same people. The Club is of the view that if the class numbers were small there would be enough scope to allow caller stewards and scribes to compete without any adverse effect on the class for which they are stewarding.

- b. Miss A Cornish Miss F Godfrey

Proposed amendment to Regulation G 32.d(1)

Miss Cornish, an individual, wishes the Council to consider a proposed amendment to Regulation G 32.d(1) as follows:

Regulation G 32.d(1)

**TO:**

On first appointment judges must satisfy the Show Committee that they:

(1) have judged a minimum of four appointments within at least ~~two years~~ **one year** at a lower level including Limited/Companion Obedience Shows and matches/club or fun competitions.

Rationale

The objective of the proposed amendment is to move the focus more on to the newly qualified Judges' personal development and allow them the opportunity to progressively move forward when they feel they are ready.



Miss Cornish notes that it is not necessarily the number of years' experience that is of value to a new judge but the experience of judging itself. Two years' experience could just be one year repeated twice. With reduced numbers of shows at lower levels it is hard to obtain valuable experience over the two years. Being able to judge Novice at open shows after one year will offer more valuable/meaningful/realistic opportunities and a progressive experience into open show judging.

This proposal is made taking into consideration the requirement to also have won out of Beginners and acted as a caller/scribe/marker steward on 6 occasions. It does not mean that if a newly qualified judge wants to take longer they cannot do so, but recognises that individuals learn at different rates and a capable individual can become a competent judge within one year.

- c. Kennel Club Accredited Trainers Mr R Harlow  
Proposed amendment to Regulation G32.e. Approval of Judges  
Further to previous discussions as outlined in item 8.d. of the agenda, the Council is requested to consider a proposal to amend Regulation G32.e. as follows:

Regulation G32.e.

**TO:**

A Judge's first three appointments for shows must be restricted to Novice.

**The next three appointments should be up to and including Class A.  
Before accepting an Open Class C appointment, a Judge must have completed the above six appointments plus another 6 appointments up to and including Class B. It is the individual's responsibility to retain proof of their judging appointments.**

(Insertions in bold)

Rationale

There is widespread feeling that with the current Regulations, there is too big a leap from judging three Novice classes to effectively being 'qualified' to judge Open Class C, and that there should be a graduation/qualification process leading to judging the higher classes.

However, there is an equally valid argument that being too restrictive on the classes that new judges are allowed to officiate in would make it more difficult than it already is for show secretaries to secure enough judges for their shows. The Accredited Trainers are of the view that the above amendment strikes a reasonable balance between the two arguments.

- d. Burnbank Dog Training Club Mrs C Patrick  
Proposed amendment to Regulation G(A)6  
The Club wishes the Council to consider a proposed amendment to the above Regulation.

It notes that over the most recent season several new handlers have come in to competitive obedience and, due to low entries in Pre-Beginners and Beginners, they have won out of these classes too quickly and therefore find themselves in Novice with very little ring experience.

They have then lost confidence due to not being ready to compete at this level and the Club is concerned that there is a high risk of losing such people to obedience.

The current Regulation G(A)6 a. states that to compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a First place in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other Obedience class (Introductory class excepted).

The Club wishes to propose that the Regulation be amended to:



Regulation G(A)6.a.

**TO:**

- a. To compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won ~~two~~ **a** First places in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other Obedience class (Introductory Class excepted).  
(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

Further, as a number of shows do not run a Pre-Beginners class, the Club wishes the Council to consider the following amendment to Regulation G(A)7:

Regulation G(A)7.a.

**TO:**

- a. To compete in Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a total of ~~two~~ **three** or more First places in Beginners Class or one First place in any other Obedience class (Introductory Class and Pre-Beginners excepted).  
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

e. Ms D Davies

Mr D Moxon

Proposed amendment to Regulation G30.g.

Ms Davies wishes the Council to consider the following proposed amendment:

Regulation G30.g.

**TO:**

Where timed stays will take place it must be announced in the schedule that they take priority over other tests. The times of such tests to be published at the show and in the catalogue, **if available. Details of timed stays may also be published with running orders by post and/or through social media. Published stay times may not be changed, except in exceptional circumstances to be decided by the show management.** In the case of Championship Class C stays must not be judged before 12 noon. In all other cases, timed stays must not commence before one hour after the published time for the commencement of judging.

(Insertions in bold)

Rationale

The existing Regulation does not take into account that a catalogue no longer needs to be produced. Further, the publication of the timed stays with the running orders is becoming common practice, and is welcome, but may cause issues where competitors see them before the day of the show and do not agree with the timing of their stays.

## **ITEM 15. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. Lune Valley Dog Training Club

Mrs K Russell

Allocation of Championship show dates

The Club wishes the Council to consider that the allocation of Championship show dates be made on a week number basis e.g. Hatchford Brook would be Saturday week 31 and Lune Valley would be Sunday week 31.

The system at the moment leaves some clubs unable to use the date originally allocated to them, for example, Lune Valley was given the first Sunday in August but, when there are not five weekends in July, Halstead move to the first Sunday in August, leaving Lune Valley nowhere to go!

If week numbers were used 1 – 52 (there are always 52 weeks in the year) Lune Valley would be Sunday week 31 and Halstead would be Sunday week 30.

No Club would have to move their weekend or clash with another Championship Show.



b. Burnbank Dog Training Club  
Qualifying for Championship Class C

Mr J McIntosh

The Club notes that over a period of time there have been a considerable number of occasions where qualifiers to compete in Championship Class C (wins in Open C or gaining a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ) have been gained with the competing team making a considerable number of errors and therefore on very high scores. The Club is of the view that this is impacting on the quality of handler/dog partnerships being able to compete in Championship Class C.

It notes that that Regulation G(A)11.a. states:

For Championship Class C at Championship Shows, dogs must have won out of Novice, Class A, and Class B and have won open class C on one occasion and have been placed not lower than third on three further occasions; all Open Class C places and wins must have been won under different Judges at Kennel Club licensed shows.

The Club wishes the Council to discuss an amendment which would state that all qualifying open class C wins and places must be awarded on 285 points or more, and must have been won under different judges at Kennel Club licensed shows.

**ITEM 16. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY**

(Pages 37 - 42)

Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan.  
(Annex D refers)

**ITEM 17. OBEDIENCE INFORMATION STAND AT CRUFTS**

(Pages 43-44)

The Council is invited to receive a report from Miss Benoist and Mrs Lavender regarding the Obedience Information Stand at Crufts.  
(Annex E refers)

**ITEM 18. 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 19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held in January 2020 at a date to be agreed.



### **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.