



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD
ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2019 AT 10.30AM 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 10 January 2019 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that the Board, at its meeting on 9 April 2019, approved the following amendments to G Regulations:

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 6 scheduled classes or less, caller and scribe stewards may compete in one class, other than the class in which they are officiating, provided that the class has 20 entries or less. Caller and scribe stewards taking up this option will be exempt from any running order and may compete at a convenient time agreed by the judges concerned.** (Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold).

(Effective 1 January 2020)

Regulation G32.e.

TO:

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

The next three appointments must be up to and including Class A. Before accepting an Open Class C appointment, a Judge must have completed at least a further nine appointments. These must include a minimum of three Class A and three Class B appointments. It is the individual's responsibility to retain proof of their judging appointments.

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2020)

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.)

(Effective 1 January 2020)

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, and may also be published with running orders. Published stay times must not be changed, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of 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)



(Effective 1 January 2020)

b. Training for commentators

At its previous meeting, the Council reiterated its view that the provision of a training course for commentators at major events would be very useful and should be progressed. It accepted that an online video may be a helpful first step, but also emphasised that practical training on a face to face basis, to include feedback, would also be necessary.

Noting that other departments within the Kennel Club had a requirement for such training, it was suggested that an option for training via an external supplier should be considered. It had agreed that the matter should be referred to the Activities Committee for further consideration as to whether a bid for funding should be submitted to the Finance Committee.

It is invited to note a verbal update on progress.

c. Allocation of Championship show dates

At its January meeting, the Council discussed issues relating to the allocation of Championship show dates and how these may be addressed. It had agreed that Mrs Russell, with assistance from Mrs Benoist, would prepare a plan of future show dates, and would submit a proposal to the Council at its next meeting as to the best way to progress the matter.

It is invited to note that following consideration by Mrs Russell and Mrs Benoist it has not been possible to formulate a suitable proposal which would effectively address the issue.

This is due to the fact that there are a number of championship show societies which need to keep the same date each year as they hold their obedience shows in conjunction with other disciplines such as agility or breed showing. Some hold shows on bank holiday weekends. The allocation of a week number would mean that in some years such societies would no longer be able to hold their shows on their usual dates.

Accordingly, the proposal will not be progressed further.

ITEM 4. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES

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. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

(Pages 11 - 12)

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Rutter on the work of the Activities Judges Sub-Group following its meeting on 11 April 2019.

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Sub-Group's meeting due to be held on 14 January 2019 was cancelled due to lack of business but matters requiring attention in the intervening period would be addressed via email. The Sub- Group's next meeting will be on 19 September 2019.

ITEM 7. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB

The Council is requested to consider a verbal report from Mr Burbidge-Grant regarding developments relating to the YKC.

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Ms K Woodgreaves

Miss G Godfrey

Proposed amendment to Regulations G(C)4.e.(3) and G(C)4.e.(4)(i)

Ms Woodgreaves, an individual, wishes the Council to consider the following proposed amendments:



Regulation G(C)4.e.(3)

TO:

Class B. In this class at normal and slow pace the only permissible turns are turns of 90° to the left or right, 180° about turns to the right or the left and diagonal turns to the right and left. Medium or large circles and arcs can be included. At fast-pace the only permissible turns are turns of 90° to the left or right, **diagonal turns to the right** and 180° about turns to the right. Medium or large circles and arcs can be included.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation G(C)4.e.(4)(i)

TO:

Class C (i) Permitted turns

At normal and slow pace the permissible turns are 90° to the left or right, 180° about turns to the left or right, diagonal turns to the left or right, and circles or arcs. At fast pace, the only permissible turns are 90° to the left or right, **diagonal turns to the right** and 180° about turns to the right, and circles or arcs.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

At present turns may be either 90° or 180° to the right but not a diagonal right which is a lesser turn than 180° being approximately 135° dependent on the shape and size of the ring. The inclusion of diagonal turns would not be detrimental to the dogs or handler and would add further scope for judges when setting rounds. Many competitors believe that diagonal turns to the right are already permissible.

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Mrs D Lavender
Qualification to compete at Crufts

The Council is requested to consider a suggestion that, where the winner of an Obedience Certificate is a Champion and has already qualified to compete at Crufts the following year, the winner of the Reserve Obedience Certificate should qualify.

- b. Ms C Eley Mrs J Le Fevre

Distance between dogs during stays

Ms Eley, an individual, requests that the Council discuss suggested amendments to the G Regulations, as follows:

Regulation G(C) 4.h.

TO:

Stays in ALL classes - The Judge or Steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. The command 'Last Command' will be given and handlers should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs after this 'Last Command' will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to positions indicated until ordered to return to them. These are group tests and all dogs must compete together, but where this is impracticable at an indoor show, the class may be equally divided but the judging for the groups must be consecutive. **A minimum distance of 1.5 metres should be left between dogs with a recommended gap of 2 metres where possible.** (Insertion in bold)

Regulation G19. Facilities

TO:

...Stay rings must be of an adequate size to cope with the largest expected entry **and to comply with a minimum distance of 1.5 metres between dogs.**

(Insertion in bold)



Rationale

From a welfare and safety point of view stays would be safer and less stressful if a larger gap was left between dogs. Although at the moment it is at the discretion of the show and the judge, a stated minimum would encourage consideration of the issue. Most shows could easily accommodate larger stay rings. Including 'where possible' allows for indoor shows, which may have limited space, to relax the rule. Indoor shows already have dispensation to divide stays if they wish to encourage greater spacing (Regulation G(C) 4.h. refers).

It is noted that FCI regulations for obedience state that 3 metres should be left between dogs which indicates the FCI's view that there is a necessity to space the dogs out.

c. Miss F Godfrey

Introduction of Distant Control into Class B

Miss Godfrey requests that the Council discuss a number of suggested amendments to G Regulations in order to introduce the Distant Control exercise into Class B.

Regulation G(A)10

TO:

Class B.

a. For dogs which have not won 3 First Prizes in Class B and Open Class C in total.

b. The detailed tests will be:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| (1) | Heel work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free and shall also be tested at fast and slow pace. Each change of pace shall commence from the halt position | 40 points |
| (2) | Send Away, Drop and Recall. | 40 points |
| (3) | Retrieve any one article provided by the Judge. | 30 points |
| (4) | Distant Control. Dog to sit, stand and down. Three instructions to be given | 25 points |
| (4) (5) | Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight | 20 points |
| (5) (6) | Down 4 minutes, handler out of sight | 30 points |
| (6) (7) | Scent discrimination. The handler's scent with one decoy. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to 10 scent cloths. | 40 points |
| (7) | TOTAL | 200 225 points |

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

Regulation G(C)3.c.

TO:

c. Class B and Class C - one command or signal may be used for each exercise except in the send away **and in Distant Control in B only**. The use of the dog's name will not constitute an extra command if used simultaneously with the command or signal.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

Regulation G(C)4.k.

TO:

k. Distant control –

- (1) The dog shall be positioned in the stand, sit or down at a marked place. Then upon further instruction the handler shall leave the dog and walk to a designated point a minimum of 10 paces and a maximum of 20 paces from the dog. The handler will then turn and face the dog. When commanded the handler shall instruct the dog to change position on six occasions (the order for each dog shall be the same). The position from which the handler commands the dog must remain the same. Upon completion of the position changes the handler upon instruction will return to the side of the dog and upon a further command 'test finished' will break the exercise.
- (2) In Class B the dog's distance from the handler to be between 3 and 4 paces (a steward's normal paces to be used)**



Three instructions to be given in the same order for each dog
The judge to decide which position the dog is to be left in
Simultaneous command and signal is permitted to instruct the dog on each position change.

(Subsequent sub-paragraphs to be renumbered)
(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

Rationale

In 2018 a questionnaire was published by the Kennel Club with a number of ideas to improve progression of some exercises. 570 people completed the questionnaire, and the suggestion of adding a basic Distant Control exercise to Class B received substantial support: 247 Agreed, 146 Disagreed, 70 had No Opinion (17 did not answer that question).

Furthermore, with the results split into Regions, every region had more people in favour than not. Another suggestion of introducing a further simplified Distant Control into A was NOT so well supported and there is no intention to pursue this.

This suggestion to bring Distant Control into B would therefore be entry-level for the dog and as such has been constructed to make the exercise simple as a preparation for a more difficult Distant Control in Class C. Many dogs struggle with this exercise at the level of difficulty required in C and it is felt that a simpler form in B would allow dogs to become familiar with the exercise in the ring at a more comfortable level.

ITEM 10. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

(Pages 13 - 18)

- a. Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan.
(Annex B refers)
- b. Good Citizen Dog Scheme

At the Council's January meeting it was suggested that it may be a positive step to open a channel of communication with the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) department. It is invited to note that a representative of the GCDS department will attend the meeting in order to discuss ways in which Obedience may be promoted.

ITEM 11. OBEDIENCE INFORMATION STAND

The Council is invited to discuss arrangements for the Obedience Information Stand at Crufts.

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 next meeting of the Council will be held in February 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.