



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30
AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2025**

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 11 July 2024 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Following the resignation of Mrs J Holt, the Council is invited to note the following replacement:

Mrs C Davis – North West Working Trials Society

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that the Board, at its meeting held on 18 November 2024, approved the following amendments to regulations:

Regulation I(B)2

TO:

Heel work – The judge should test the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly in a natural manner of normal, fast and slow paces through turns and among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel and a “figure of eight” may be included at any stage. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory and CD stakes.

Any act, signal or command by jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised.

Where required the lead must be attached to a close fitting smooth collar.

Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used. In TD And PD stakes, at some time during the test, while working at a normal pace, the dog shall be

required to be left in the down position when directed by the judge. The handler shall continue forward alone, without hesitation, and proceed as directed by the judge until upon reaching the dog, **when the dog is on the handler's left hand side and both handler and dog are facing in the same direction**, both shall continue forward together in accordance with the instruction given.

(Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation I(B)8

TO:

'Speak on command' – In TD and PD, the number of barks is at the judge's discretion and after the cease "speaking" the handler may be instructed to make the dog speak again. "Speaking" should be sustained by the dog with the minimum of commands and/or signals. Continuous and/or excessive incitements to "speak" must be heavily penalised. This test must not be incorporated with any other test.

The judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog. In UD Stake and WD Stake, this position should be near and in sight of the dog. **The handler may place the dog** The dog may be in the stand, sit or down.

In TD and PD, the handler may be required to work the dog walking at heel. If the dog is not required to walk at heel, the handler may place the dog in the stand, sit or down.

In UD the number of barks should be 5, in WD the number of barks should be 10.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation I26.c

TO: A person approved to judge a Championship Working Trial Certificate stake may not judge the same stake within a period of six **four** calendar months. The relevant date being the last day of each trial.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

- b. The Council is invited to note the amendment to regulation I1.c regarding the minimum age of dogs entered Not For Competition. This had been recommended by the Obedience Liaison Council. The Activities Committee agreed that the regulation amendment should be recommended for approval across all activity disciplines.

Regulation I1.c

TO:

c. Dogs under 18 calendar months of age on the closing date are ineligible for competition at Kennel Club licensed working trials, except that dogs of 6 calendar months of age on the closing date of the trial may be entered for Special Stakes, which do not include the long jump, clear jump and scale. Bloodhounds may be entered for Bloodhound Trials at 12 calendar months on the first day of the trial. However, societies may accept Not for Competition

entries at their discretion. Dogs four months and over are eligible to enter Not For Competition. **Dogs 12 weeks and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.**

(Effective 1 January 2025)

- c. The following regulations suggested by the office relate to when an appeal may be permitted, and to provide further clarity when handler information may be required.

Regulation I20

TO:

Penalties

The Board shall have power to impose any of the following penalties upon any person for any breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulations subject to a right of appeal, notice of intention of which must be lodged within 14 days from the date on which the decision is given and subject to the prescribed appeals process as shall be determined by the Board from time to time.

- a. Warn
- b. Censure/Reprimand
- c. Apology directive (Conduct Regulation or the Control of Dog Regulation)
- d. Fine
- e. Award disqualified

In addition, the Board may make the following directives;

- f. A dog's registration record may be marked 'incident recorded'
- g. A dog's registration record may be endorsed 'not eligible for entry in any event held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, nor any unlicensed event recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.'

The right of appeal against directives f) and g) listed above extends to an appeal on the finding of fact of a deliberate dog bite only, but does not extend to an appeal against those directives f) and g) in terms of cancellation or modification of such directives if there is a finding of fact of an intentional dog bite.

In the event of any fine not being paid, or non compliance with any apology directive issued within the time stipulated by the Board, then that person may, at the discretion of the Board, be dealt with as if a complaint under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

For complaints of conduct whether at a licensed event or on social media, in addition to a warning issued - a short term fixed period of refusal of entry/attendance at Royal Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures to be published from time to time to implement this regulation.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation I29

TO:

The owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Royal Kennel Club licensed events must at all times ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches. This Regulation applies before (at any time during the set up period at the venue), during the event and afterwards (at any time during the breakdown of the event). The mating of bitches within the precincts of the competition, as stipulated above, is forbidden

An exhibitor or competitor should ensure that contact details for any handler are available and must be provided upon request in any investigation of a breach of this regulation by such handler.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation I30.c

TO:

No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time within the precincts of the show **whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

- d. The council's proposal to have the outcome of votes recorded in the minutes to show how representatives had voted was not supported by the committee.

The committee felt that each representative was nominated by a Championship Working Trials Society, however that person was also there to represent a number of open trial societies and take on their views for each proposal. Discussions at Council may also provide evidence to formulate the final decision.

- e. The amendment to regulation I(C)1. Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates to revert the regulation to previous wording, removing the 200-yard rule and allowing handlers to choose whether to hunt their hounds free or leashed, unless instructed by the farmer to leash in fields with livestock was not supported by the committee.

ITEM 5. WORKING TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Council is invited to receive a presentation from Mr G Martin and Mrs S Garner regarding an update on the status of the Working Trial Championships.

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr J Wykes following the Activities Judges Sub-Group's meeting on 24 October 2024.

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 7. COUNCIL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

The Council is requested to review the strategy document.
(Annex B refers)

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from the panel.
(Annex C refers)

b. Proposed amendment to regulation I.27.f

The PD Stake Panel would like the Council to consider an amendment to the above regulation to ensure the exercise remains that of search and escort and not of sendaways and redirections.

Regulation I.27.f

TO:

Lockouts are ~~not permitted for any of the Patrol exercises~~ **permitted for the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercises only**. There must be a run through of the complete Patrol test **except the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercise (if there is a Lockout of those exercises)** in the presence of the competitors before judging of the Patrol exercises commences. **If a handler has more than one dog in the stake then a lockout is not permitted.**

Rationale:

The purpose of the exercise is for the dog to perform a search of a given area in order to find a hidden person/s. If a handler is aware of the location in which the person is hidden, they may be bias to direct the dog to certain areas in order to make the search easier. This then becomes an exercise of sendaways and redirections as the handler has the majority of input.

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PROGRESSION PANEL

There are no updates from the panel to note at this time.

ITEM 10. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

No items have been received from societies/private individuals.

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Scottish Working Trials Society (SWTS)

Ms Lorna Cottier

The Council is requested to discuss the difficulties being faced by SWTS when organising trials including low entry numbers, which may have an impact on the future of Working Trials in Scotland.

Rationale

SWTS have recently found issues with filling crucial roles at trials, including trial managers, low entry numbers and rising running costs. There have also been issues noted with availability of suitable land to hold trials on. This has meant a reduction in the number of trials being held by the society, which is now down to 3 trials being held annually from the 5 trials that were being held previously. The size of the Scottish Working Trials Society has decreased hugely and a long-term future for Working Trials in Scotland is considered under threat by the society.

If similar issues are being experienced by Working Trials Societies across the UK, a further discussion may be required to ascertain how Working Trials can move forward and ensure the future of the sport.

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 Chair.

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the Council's next meeting will be held on 5 June 2025. All Agenda items must be submitted by 7 March 2025.

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 STRATEGIC AIMS

- *Champion the wellbeing of dogs*
- *Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues*
- *Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network*
- *Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact*
- *Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community*
- *Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable*