



## RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED TO THE FIELD TRIALS COMMITTEE FROM THE FIELD TRIAL LIAISON COUNCIL HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB ON 16 MAY 2019

### Proposals from Societies and individuals

#### 1. Guildford Working Gundog Club

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mrs Venturi Rose

#### **Proposed amendments to Regulations J4.a, J7.i.(1), J(B).2.(b) and K2.(c).(2)**

The Committee noted that the Council's recommendations were made in light of the challenges of getting runs in Open Retriever Stakes and that under the terms of the proposal, the maximum number of permitted competitors in a One-day Open Retriever stake would be increased to 16. This would be an optional maximum which would not be mandatory, and clubs may make the decision as to the number of competitors based on the likely availability of game, noting that it was important to ensure that there was sufficient game to provide adequate opportunities for the dogs to be tested.

The Committee was in agreement with the Council's views, and accordingly, recommended the amendments for approval. The following amendments were subsequently approved by the Board:

Regulation J4.a(2):

**TO:**

(2) One-day Open Stakes - maximum ~~42~~ **16**, minimum 10.  
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)  
(Effective 1 January 2019)

Regulation J7.i.(1):

**TO:**

(1) Retrievers A First, Second, Third or Fourth in a 24-Dog Open Stake. First, Second or Third in a ~~42-Dog~~ **One-day** Open Stake.  
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)  
(Effective 1 January 2019)

Regulation J(B).2.(b):

**TO:**

(b) One-day Open Stakes: maximum ~~42~~**16**, minimum 10.  
(Effective 1 January 2019)

Regulation K2.(c).(2):

**TO:**

(2) Retrievers  
(a) A dog placed first in the Retriever Championship.  
(b) A dog which gains two first awards in 24-dog Open Stakes under three different Panel A Judges.  
(c) A dog which gains a first award in one 24-dog and one ~~42-dog~~ **One-day** Open Stake under three different Panel A Judges.  
(d) A dog which gains a first award in three ~~42-dog~~ **One-day** Open Stakes under three different Panel A Judges.

In a 24-dog Stake there must be no fewer than 20 runners and in a ~~42-dog~~ **One-day** Stake no fewer than 10 runners. For a dog to be entitled to the title of Field Trial Champion one of its wins must be in a Stake open to all breeds of Retriever.



(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)  
(Effective 1 January 2019)

The Committee, and subsequently the Board, also approved the following consequential amendment to Regulation J(B)3.(e):

Regulation J(B)3.(e):

**TO:**

(e) Where the Trial is to be run under the three judge system, the dogs should be split equally, and in numerical order, between the three judges, i.e. 1,2,3,4 with the right hand judge, 5,6,7,8 with the middle judge and 9, 10, 11 and 12 with the left hand judge in a ~~12-dog~~ One-day stake and 1-8, 9-16 and 17-24 in a two day. Dogs should then rotate from right to left so that the dogs under the left hand judge in the first round should be seen by the right hand judge next and so on. The rotation should continue until a run-off when numerical order will resume.

## 2. Guildford Working Gundog Club

Proposed by Mrs Harrison, seconded by Mr Highfield

### **Proposed amendment to Regulation**

J7.k The Committee acknowledged that the proposed amendment was minor in nature and that clarification was necessary in order to remove any ambiguity, in relation to preference in the draw for All Aged stakes. It recommended for approval the following amendment which was subsequently approved by the Board.

Regulation J7.k

**TO:**

All Aged Stakes may be restricted by any conditions determined by the society (See J3.d(2)). In all cases members' dogs **which meet the conditions of entry** should take preference in the draw.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2019)

### **Discussion items**

## 3. Yorkshire Retriever Field Trial Society

### **Discussion item: Style of handling**

The Society sought clarification as to whether a judge had the right to enforce his or her handling techniques or preferences onto a competitor, and how the issue may be addressed by the Kennel Club.

It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Field Trial Judges Sub-Group for further consideration as to how it may be addressed, and appropriate guidance subsequently disseminated to all Panel and Non-Panel judges.

The matter would be referred to the Sub-Group at its next meeting in February 2019 and subsequently to the Field Trials Committee. An update would be provided in due course.

## 4. Golden Retriever Club of Northumbria

### **Discussion item: Judges Assessment Forms**

The Club had sought the views of the Council on the possibility of non-Panel and 'B' Panel judges completing assessment forms on their co- judges if they wished to comment on their experience of judging alongside them. The suggestion was made in view of concerns that, in



some instances, non-Panel and 'B' Panel judges had felt intimidated by their senior judges, and were concerned that this could lead to their non-progression onto either the 'B' or 'A' Panel.

It was noted that in such circumstances the junior judge may make a report in the trial's Incident Book should he or she feel the conduct of the senior judge was not acceptable. However it was suggested that it would be preferable for a specific form to be available for use by junior judges, which may be used to supply feedback, positive or negative, on the senior judge. It was also suggested that should the office receive a set number of adverse reports concerning a particular judge, the matter should be referred to the Field Trials Committee for consideration as to whether any action was necessary.

It was agreed that the suggestion would be referred to the Field Trial Judges Sub-Group at its next meeting in February 2019 and subsequently to the Field Trials Committee. An update would be provided in due course.

#### 5. United Retriever Club

##### **Discussion item: J Regulation booklet**

The Club wished to suggest that a copy of the current J Regulations booklet should be sent automatically to every field trial panel judge, free of charge. The Council did not support the discussion item, but agreed that a reminder should be placed in the Field Trials Newsletter to all judges that they should ensure they were familiar with the current J Regulations prior to each judging appointment, and that these were available for download at no cost.

The matter would be referred to the Field Trials Committee at its meeting in February 2019 and if appropriate suitable guidance would be published in the Field Trials Newsletter.

#### 6. Cambridge Field Trial Society

##### **Discussion item: Errors in draws**

The Society requested clarification regarding the correct procedure to be followed where an accidental error was made by a club when conducting the draw for a field trial, such as competitors having been omitted from the draw, competitors having two entries in the first draw, or preferences having been incorrectly entered. It was clarified by the office that the Kennel Club was not prescriptive on these issues as long as the regulations had been adhered to, and that club committees had discretion as to how to proceed, based on the circumstances. The Kennel Club office was available to provide guidance on the matter but it was noted that the final decision lay with the club committee as a whole. The matter would be referred to the Field Trials Committee at its meeting in February 2019 and if appropriate suitable guidance would be published in the Field Trials Newsletter.

#### 7. Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club

##### **Discussion item: Number of Council meetings**

The Club requested that the Council discuss whether, in order for the Council to truly represent the trialling community, and to be more effective at a grassroots level, it should meet twice a year instead of once. It was suggested that the Council could consider a reduction of size if necessary for cost reasons. The Council did not support the suggestion for reasons of practicality, but considered ways in which its time may be used in an effective manner.



The office was requested to publish suitable guidance in the Field Trials Newsletter as to the remit of the Council and the criteria for submissions to the agenda, and how the Council should be used to ensure its maximum effectiveness.

The issue would be referred to the Field Trials Committee at its meeting in February 2019 and if appropriate suitable guidance would be published in the Field Trials Newsletter.

#### 8. Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club

##### **Discussion item: Incident Book**

The Club wished to suggest that the Kennel Club rename the Incident Book for use by the field trialling community, and that it publish an article on its purpose, giving examples on how and when it can be used. The matter had been raised due to concerns that many within the field trialling community were unaware of the existence of the Incident Book, or its purpose.

The Council did not conclude that it was necessary for the Incident Book to be renamed, but it was agreed that an item would be placed in the Field Trials Newsletter drawing the attention of clubs, judges and competitors to the existence of the Incident Book and the way in which it should be used.

The issue would be discussed by the Field Trials Committee at its meeting in February 2019 and if appropriate suitable guidance would be published in the Field Trials Newsletter.