

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2014 AT
10.30AM**

AGENDA

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2013 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. ASSURED BREEDER SCHEME

To receive a presentation on the Assured Breeder Scheme by Mr B Lambert, Health & Breeder Services Manager.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Beginners Guide to Obedience
To consider the working copy of the 'Your First Obedience Show' document with the aim of issuing it to all societies for their members. (**Annex A refers – to follow**)
- b. Crufts 2014
 - i. Obedience Information stand at Crufts 2014
To receive an update from Mr Rutter on the Obedience Information stand at Crufts 2014.
 - ii. Improved promotion of Obedience at Crufts
To consider methods of improving the promotion of Obedience at Crufts with particular reference to the Crufts Show Guide and the official Kennel Club promotional video for the event.
 - iii. Obreedience
To receive information on the Obreedience Competition to be held at Crufts 2014.
- c. Promotion of Competitive Obedience in the regions
To consider methods to promote Competitive Obedience within the regions to increase awareness and opportunities to participate in the discipline, possibly through information sessions at Good Citizen Dog Scheme (GCDS) clubs.

- d. Listed Status
- i. To consider the introduction of Listed Status for Obedience following approval in principal by the Activities Sub-Committee.
 - ii. To consider the regulation amendments which would be required for the introduction of Listed Status for Obedience. (**Annex B refers**)

For further information on the proposed introduction of Listed Status please see the 'Obedience Listed Status Questions & Answers' document.

- e. Review of nominations process for Council Representatives
To consider methods of amending the process and requirements for nominations to the role of Council Representative.

ITEM 5. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. Mr S Rutter Mrs J Owen
The Council is requested to consider an amendment to Regulation G30.g(3) to manage the order of the draw for Open classes to ensure competitors working more than one dog are not drawn twice within the first 10 competitors in a class.

Regulation G30.g.(3) Ballot for Running Orders

To:

- (3) Where a draw for the complete running order of Classes other than Championship Class C is not made, Show Managements must conduct a ballot to determine a running order for at least the first 10 competitors/dogs in these classes: this may be reduced to 6 at shows with less than 200 dogs entered or where there are less than 25 dogs entered in a specific class.
Once a competitor is drawn they may not be drawn again with any dog they own in the same class or any other class at the same show.
Sub paragraph (3) does not apply to Limited Shows.
(Insertion underlined)

- b. Mr P Lubbi Mr P Driscoll
Mr Driscoll requests that the Obedience Council consider an amendment to Regulation G35.h to disallow the use of check-chains in the competition ring. Mr Driscoll states that check chains and other equipment whose sole use in the context of competitive obedience is to physically correct the dog reflects out of date, superseded training techniques which have no place in modern training. A number of studies have shown that they are a negative training tool which can harm a dog and their use gives Obedience a poor image and deters newcomers.

Regulation G35.h Competing

To:

- Dogs may only wear a smooth non-slip, buckled (or clip) collar when in the ring.
Check chains are not permitted.
(Amendments underlined)

- c. Mr P Lubbi
The Council is requested to consider moving Regulation G30.f from Management to become Regulation G33.b Judges and Judging. Mr Lubbi states that there have been numerous complaints that judges are leaving the ring whilst competitors are training which leaves themselves or the dog at risk if anything inappropriate was to occur. By moving this regulation to Judges and Judging it is considered that it will make it very clear that the dog must be observed all the time in the ring.

To:

Regulation 33.b Judges and Judging

- b. One judge only may officiate for each Class (or each part of a divided Class) and must be present and observe the dog in the ring at all times.
(Existing regulations to be renumbered accordingly)

ITEM 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Mrs S Garner Miss M Newman
Linking Obedience with GCDS

Mrs Newman has requested that the Council discuss encouraging Obedience societies to run a 'special' class at their shows for those who have been awarded the Gold Good Citizen Award. The aim of the class would be to bring new people into the sport by following their GCDS training through into Competitive Obedience.

- b. Mr M McCartney Lisburn Dog Training Club
Council Representative Nominations

Lisburn Dog Training Club requests that the Council consider amending the requirements for an individual to be nominated as a Council Representative to state that they should be a "working" member of a Kennel Club registered dog club.

- c. Mrs S Garner Mrs J Hill
Use of food under test

Mrs Hill requests that the Obedience Council provide clarification on the interpretation of Regulation G35.g as food is often being allowed in the ring by judges, particularly in Special classes.

Regulation G35.g

Food and/or toys shall not be carried or given to a dog under test. Introductory Class excepted where toy and food rewards may be used between and after exercises. Competitors must not distract other dogs when rewarding their dog with food, toy or play. (Refer to Obedience Code of Conduct)

- d. Mr S Rutter Miss A Wilkinson
Number of turns in a class

The Council is requested to discuss the introduction of a limit to the number of turns permitted in each class. Miss Wilkinson advises that many consider that too many turns in a class, particularly the lower classes, is leading to a large amount of heelwork being required which is unnecessary and off putting for competitors. The following Regulation amendments are suggested for consideration:

G(A)5.f.(2) Introductory.

To:

Heel on Lead. The maximum number of turns for heel on lead must not exceed 3 turns 10 points

G(A)6.b.(2) Pre-Beginners.

To:

Heel free. The maximum number of turns for both sets of heelwork must not exceed 6 turns in total 20 points

G(A)7.b.(2) Beginners.

To:

Heel free. The maximum number of turns for both sets of heelwork must not exceed 6 turns in total 20 points

G(A)8.b.(2) Novice.

To:

Heel free. The maximum number of turns for both sets of heelwork must not exceed 8 turns in total 25 points

G(A)9.b.(1) Class A.

To:

Heel free. The maximum number of turns in heel free must not exceed 8 turns 30 points

G(A)10.b.(1) Class B.

To:

Heelwork. 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. The maximum number of turns for all the three paces must not exceed 12 turns 40 points

G(A)11.d.(1) Class C.

To:

Heel Work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free, and also be tested at fast and slow pace. The dog shall also be required, whilst walking to heel at normal pace, to be left at the stand, sit and down position. The total number of turns for all three paces must not exceed 25 turns (this number to exclude about turns during advanced stand, sit and down) 60 points

G(A)12.e.(1) Multi-Choice Class.

To:

Heel free. The dog shall be tested at two paces of the handler's choice. The change of pace is to take place on the move and the judge will be required to specify which part of the test will be at the faster pace. The total number of turns for both paces must not exceed 8 turns 20 points

(Amendments underlined)

- e. Mr M McCartney Lisburn Dog Training Club
Kennel Club International Obedience Festival

Lisburn Dog Training Club requests that the Obedience Council re-consider the creation of a Kennel Club International Obedience Festival to be run back to back with the Kennel Club International Agility Festival. The Agility Festival is very successful and it is considered that it would be of great benefit to Obedience to try and 'piggy back' on to the idea and organisational set up. It is suggested that Championship Classes and a World Cup event could be included and that the event would assist to put Obedience back on the map. It is understood that it has taken time to build up the success of the Agility Festival and that it would take time for the Obedience Festival to reach that level of success however it is felt that it would be worth the effort.

- f. Mrs B Smith Mr B McGovern
Barrier Fencing

Mr McGovern requests that the Obedience Council consider the introduction of a requirement that barrier fencing is used for YKC, Introductory, Pre-Beginners and Beginners classes. Concern has been raised at the number of instances of dogs running out of the ring during these classes and the possibility of them then entering other competition rings. Mr McGovern feels that constructing an enclosure of barrier fencing around each of the aforementioned rings would make the handler feel more comfortable and confident knowing that their dog would be prevented from running off, possibly to other dogs or into other rings. It would also prevent disruption and possible incidents with dogs in adjacent rings and would keep the "escapee" safe and free from harm, especially if the venue is on public property and without other fencing. It is considered that placing an outer barrier of fencing surrounding the conventional ring would prevent all of the above without giving the feeling of constriction for either handler or dog.

- g. Mrs S Garner Mrs H Troth
Introductory Class

Mrs Troth requests that the Obedience Council review the requirements of the exercises in the Introductory Class. It is suggested that the length of the play exercise should be increased and be completed off lead as some dogs find it difficult to 'get going' and many competitors find it hard to hold the lead and use

a toy. It is requested that the requirement to only have a turn in one direction is reviewed as this can be unfair to different sizes of dog. Mrs Troth suggests that a circle in each direction and one about turn could be included without difficulty to handlers, as a straight line with no turn does not allow larger breeds to get into their stride. It is further suggested that the recall on lead is amended to off lead with a finish as most handlers object to leaving the lead on their dog and many finish their dogs to heel regardless of not needing to. Mrs Troth also suggests that the stay exercise takes place in the stay ring rather than the working ring due to the often large number of entries in the class. It is suggested that the class should be a 'special class' rather than a scheduled class as many Pre-Beginner and Beginner handlers do not want to have to enter the class at shows. It is also considered that one win should be sufficient and perhaps a class similar to special pre-beginners could be introduced to bridge the gap and move handlers forward.

ITEM 7. STAYS

Discussion Items

- a. Mrs G Garner Mrs V Howarth
Survey for Stays

Mrs Howarth requests that the Council consider the requirement to carry out a survey of all those who currently compete in Obedience to ascertain whether a change to the current format of stays is required. Mrs Howarth considers that the survey should be designed and administered by a group drawn from all levels of competition and the results of the poll should be implemented and supported by the Council and competitors.

- b. Mr R Page Mrs C Porter
Clarification of Judging criteria

Mrs Porter requests that the Council provide clarification for judges when applying the stay Regulations. It is stated that it has become apparent that Judges are using criteria that does not exist in the Regulations to deduct marks from dogs during the exercise. Judges are deducting marks for paddling, sniffing, hip rolling and many other activities, when in reality these dogs are complying with the Regulations, as they are remaining in position for the duration of the exercise. Judges also often use the phrase "showing daylight" when assessing the dog but with no real idea of what exactly is meant by this. Mrs Porter states that a stay cannot be judged on the quality of the stay only on whether it is carried out as stated. For example, if a dog sniffs the ground whilst in the sit, but maintains that sit, it should be judged as clear. The following Regulation amendments are suggested to clarify the judging criteria:

Regulation G(C)4.f Stays

To:

1) Sit Stay - Dogs should remain in the sit position throughout the test, and may only be judged to have broken the stay if they move from the sit to another position.

2) Down Stay - Dogs should remain in the down position throughout the test, and may only be judged to have broken the stay if they move from the down to another position.

(Amendment underlined)

Proposals

a. Mr H Wynne

Mr Wynne requests that the Council consider amending the stay Regulations as there would appear to be an increased number of incidents occurring within the stay ring. It is felt that there are a number of reasons as to why this is occurring, such as size or location of the rings or training of the dogs however the problem needs to be addressed particularly for the health and welfare of the dogs. The following Regulation amendments are proposed to decrease the length of the stay time and the number of points awarded for the exercise.

Regulation G(A).11.d Class C

To:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (1) Heel Work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free, and also be tested at fast and slow pace. The dog shall also be required, whilst walking to heel at normal pace, to be left at the stand, sit and down position. | 60 points |
| (2) Send Away, Drop and Recall. | <u>45</u> points |
| (3) Retrieve any one article provided by the Judge. | <u>40</u> points |
| (4) Distant Control. Dog to sit, stand and down. Six instructions to be given. | 50 points |
| (5) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight | 20 points |
| (6) Down <u>7</u> minutes, handler out of sight | <u>35</u> points |
| (7) Scent discrimination. The Judge's scent and one or more decoys. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 10 scent cloths. | 50 points |
| (8) TOTAL | 300 points |
- (Amendments underlined)

This proposal would give a progression of the time of the Down out of sight stay in Class A – 3 minutes, Class B – 5 minutes and Class C – 7 minutes.

OR

Regulation G(A).10.b Class B

To:

- (1) Heelwork. 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.	<u>35</u> points
(4) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight	20 points
(5) Down <u>4</u> minutes, handler out of sight	<u>25</u> points
(6) 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 points

(Amendments underlined)

Regulation G(A).11.d Class C

To:

(1) Heel Work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free, and also be tested at fast and slow pace. The dog shall also be required, whilst walking to heel at normal pace, to be left at the stand, sit and down position.	60 points
(2) Send Away, Drop and Recall.	<u>50</u> points
(3) Retrieve any one article provided by the Judge.	<u>45</u> points
(4) Distant Control. Dog to sit, stand and down. Six instructions to be given.	50 points
(5) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight	20 points
(6) Down <u>5</u> minutes, handler out of sight	<u>25</u> points
(7) Scent discrimination. The Judge's scent and one or more decoys. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 10 scent cloths.	50 points
(8) TOTAL	300 points

(Amendments underlined)

This proposal would give a progression of the time of the Down out of sight stay in Class A – 3 minutes, Class B – 4 minutes and Class C – 5 minutes.

b. Mr S Rutter

Mr Rutter requests that the Council consider amending the stay Regulations to modernise the exercise whilst maintaining it as an integral part of Obedience tests. The proposed amendments would maintain the graduation between classes, reduce the time both dogs and handlers spend in the stay ring and reduce the time requirement for stay stewards to be at the ring. They would also allow Pre-Beginner handlers the option to choose the dog's position and assist to bridge the gap with the Special Pre-Beginners classes.

Regulation G(A).6.b Pre-Beginners.

To

(1) Heel on lead	<u>20</u> points
(2) Heel free	<u>25</u> points
(3) Recall	<u>15</u> points
(4) <u>Sit or Down 1 minute (Handlers' Choice).</u>	

Handler in sight. Handlers may face their dogs should they wish 15 points

Regulation G(A).7.b Beginners.

To

(5) Sit one minute, Handler in sight. Handlers may face their dogs should they wish. 10 points

(6) Down 1 minute, Handler in sight. 20 points

Regulation G(A).8.b Novice.

To

(5) Sit 1 minute, Handler in sight. Handlers may face their dogs should they wish. 10 points

Regulation G(A).9.b Class A.

To

(1) Heel free 35 points

(2) Recall 20 points

(3) Retrieve a dumbbell, handlers will use their own dumbbell 30 points

~~(4) Sit 2 minutes, handler in sight 20 points~~

(4) Down 3 minutes, handler out of sight 30 points

(5) Scent discrimination. The handler's scent and no decoys. There must be a total of 6 scent cloths. 35 points

(6) TOTAL 150 points

Regulation G(A).10.b Class B.

To

(4) Sit 2 minutes, Handler in sight. 20 points

(5) Down 3 minutes, Handler out of sight. 30 points

Regulation G(A).11.d Class C.

To

(6) Down 5 minutes, handler out of sight. 50 points

(Amendments underlined. Deletion struckthrough)

ITEM 8. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

a. To consider the creation of an online Obedience newsletter.

b. Progress Review

The Council is invited to note that all of the items are either in review or resolved. Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's five year strategic plan.

ITEM 9. ACTIVITIES HEALTH & WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council will receive a verbal update from Mrs Garner on the 11 December 2013 meeting of the Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group.
- b. The Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group has raised a concern over the long term physical effects on a dog of the position required for heelwork in Obedience. The Council is requested to consider amending Regulation G(C)1.c. to allow the 'working side' of the handler to be both sides rather than just the left side.

ITEM 10. JUDGES WORKING PARTY

Mrs Garner will update the Council on the Judges Working Party meeting held on 26 November 2013.

ITEM 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council will Tuesday 1 July 2014.

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 OBJECTIVES

“To raise the relevance of the Kennel Club in the eyes of the public at large, dog owners and those who take part in canine events, so as to be better able ‘to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs.’ This objective to be achieved through:-

- Ensuring that the Kennel Club is the first port of call on all canine matters.
- Improving canine health and welfare.
- Popularising canine events focusing on the retention of existing participants and the attracting of new.
- Achieving a widening of the Kennel Club membership base.
- Encouraging the development of all those concerned with dogs through education and training.
- Encouraging more people to provide input in the Kennel Club's decision making process.”

