



MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON 4 FEBRUARY 2021
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS – AGENDA

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that the following amendments to I Regulations were approved by the Board at its meeting on 7 April 2020:

Regulation I(B)13

TO:

The missing person, protected consistent with safety, ~~should~~ **must** remain motionless **in a seated or standing position** out of sight of the handler, but ~~should~~ **must** be accessible on investigation to the dog when 'winded'. **The protected steward must not be lying down.** The judge should satisfy himself that the dog has found the person and has given warning spontaneously and emphatically without being directed by the handler. A dog that bites the hidden person must be heavily penalised.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2021)

New Regulation I26i

TO:

Patrol Dog stake judges must, before commencement of the Patrol Dog test, provide Working Trials Managers with sufficient detail of the tests, the risks arising from them and measures to manage those risks, to be included within risk assessments completed in respect of the events.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2021)

- b. Risk assessments

At its previous meeting the Council had noted a draft risk assessment document, and had agreed that it may be published on the Kennel Club website for use on a generic basis by any host society, with the proviso that it must be updated as appropriate for the circumstances and environment at each trial, with careful consideration being given to each element and the associated level of risk, and ways in which such risks may be minimised.

It is invited to note that the document has been reviewed by Ms A Tohme, a health & safety professional and championship working trials judge. The Council is invited to note Ms Tohme's comments and suggested amendments to the document, and to consider their incorporation into a finalised version.

(Annexes A and B refer)



- c. Lock outs
The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 19 March 2020, noted the Board's view that the continuance of the custom and practice of including a 'lock out' in the Patrol section of working trials should be discontinued. As requested by the Board, the PD Stake Panel has been advised of the Board's views. A proposal from the PD Stake Panel is included on the agenda under Item 6.b.
- d. Clarification of judges' responsibilities
At its previous meeting, the Council was advised that Miss Carruthers would be submitting proposals for amendments to I Regulations, with the objective of clarifying and simplifying the responsibilities of judges. It is invited to note that proposals are included on the agenda under item 8.b.
- e. Out of sight stays
At its January meeting, the Council had noted concerns that a dog which was not within sight of the handler may be considered to be out of control, from a legal perspective, and all present were requested to email Mr Gilbert with their views on the matter as soon as possible.

Subsequently, the Activities Committee, at its meeting on 19 March 2020, had been advised of the Council's wish that no changes should be made to stays within working trials, although relevant provision should be made within the risk assessment for each event. The Committee was in agreement that no changes should be made in respect of working trials.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Gilbert on the work of the Sub-Group following its meetings on 13 January 2020 and 14 September 2020.
(Annex C refers)

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note the following update from the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting which took place on 18 November 2020:

Mr S Ford and Mrs J Meekings have retired from the roles of Accredited Trainers and therefore there is a vacancy for both a PD and a TD trainer. The office will be issuing an advertisement inviting applicants.

An update regarding progress on the launch of the Working Trials film on the Kennel Club Academy will be provided at the meeting.

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to note a report from the Panel
(Annex D refers)



b. Lock outs

Following a request by the Kennel Club Board, the matter of lock outs was reviewed by the PD Panel. The Panel wishes to propose the following amendment to Regulation I26(f):

Regulation I26(f):

TO:

~~Where a person is working more than one dog in the PD Stake, the judge must not prevent any competitors from watching the Patrol Round.~~

Judges must not prevent competitors from watching others in the Patrol round, with the exception of quartering the ground, which may be a 'lock out'. However, where any competitor is working more than one dog, other competitors must be allowed to watch the entire Patrol round.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The objective of the proposal is to enhance safety. Working trials tests are varied in how exercises are set. Judges, protected stewards, societies and competitors have a shared responsibility for the safety of those taking part. It is important that competitors have the same opportunity to plan how they approach tests. There are risks attached to handlers not understanding what is expected of them. They could send their dogs when not intended by judges, or not respond to scenarios in a way envisaged. Competitors should be able to understand the nature of tests and what is expected of them to manage any risks that they perceive.

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE PROGRESSION PANEL/ EQUIPMENT PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to note the following report, which covers issues which have been referred to both the Progression Panel and the Equipment Panel. The report has been combined due to crossover between matters relating to the two Panels:

There are currently two polls which were running via social media (paper versions also available for those without access to social media), firstly 'Should CD open be mandatory?' and secondly 'Should Introductory Stake remain in its current format?'

Both polls commenced in early January. It was the intention to let them run through to the end of April when the spring trials were over. However during lockdown, trials were cancelled and opportunities to participate were limited. The figures obtained so far are listed below. As it will not be possible to gather opinion from as many people as wished, the polls have been frozen until such time as trials are up and running again.

Currently, the polls indicate the following:

CD Stake: 93 against making it mandatory
27 in favour.

Introductory Stake: 62 in favour of its removal
27 favouring its retention.

Whilst not wishing to pre-empt the outcome of the polls, the Panel will be considering what would replace the Introductory Stake if final results indicate the desire to remove it from the schedule. One suggestion to be considered by the Panel is that submitted by Yorkshire Working Trials Society at the Council's previous meeting, to structure in



two certificated stakes prior to CD. This piece of work is in its infancy and will be developed. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

b. Proposed amendment to Regulation I18 (c).

Following on from a discussion item at the Council's previous meeting, it was agreed that a formal proposal be brought forward. Accordingly, the Council is requested to consider a proposal to withdraw the necessity to qualify in all sections at a trial, but to be able to qualify having attained the 80% overall mark as it currently stands.

It is proposed that as long as the competitor attains the qualifying mark they would not have to attempt all exercises to do so. They would have to nominate to the judge which exercises they wish to omit, prior to commencement of their round.

The proposal is that this would only apply to open trials, and for a trial period of three years which would allow evaluation, and would provide data on new individuals coming into the sport and the exercises that were being omitted.

Regulation I18.c.

TO:

The judge or judges of Introductory, CD, UD, WD, TD and PD stakes at open working trials shall award Certificates of Merit for those dogs ~~whose marks would have gained them a qualification 'Excellent' at a championship working trial, or in the case of the Introductory stake, for those dogs which have obtained 70% or more marks in each group of exercises and~~ **which have attained 80% or more of the total marks.**
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

If approved, consequential amendments would be required to Regulation I(A) Definition of Stakes in order to delete the requirement for group and minimum totals in respect of open trials. Only the 80% overall qualifying mark would be retained in the tables in relation to open trials.

Rationale

It is anticipated that this may encourage people into trials, especially those that have concerns about certain elements such as jumps or stays, whilst allowing for working trials to remain in their current format with all exercises to be attempted for competitors wishing to do so.

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

a. Southern Alsatian Training Society

Ms L Marlow

Proposed new Regulations I(B)18.a, b, and c.

The Society wishes the Council to consider the following three new Regulations. Although all three are closely related, the Society wishes each to be considered as a separate proposal:

Regulation I(B)18.a.

TO:

Patrol Dog - Equipment and Protective Clothing

- a. **The judge must either provide the equipment or check its suitability. Sleeves must have a tapered edge, and a jute cover. The cover must not be brand new, nor frayed. There must be a hand grip inside the sleeve. Close weave covers must not be used. There must not be external buckles, or a joint in the sleeve which leaves a gap. The sleeve must not be obscured by clothing or anything else. Puppy sleeves may not be used. 'Scratch pants'**



which protect the helper from dogs' nails may be worn. The sleeve must be accessible should the dog bite.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)18.b.

TO:

- b. For Quartering the ground, Search and Escort, Recall from protected stewards, and Pursuit and Detention of protected stewards, protected stewards must wear a sleeve as described in the Equipment and Protective Clothing regulation on the right arm.**

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)18.c.

TO:

- c. For the Test of courage, protected stewards must wear a sleeve on the right arm as described in the Equipment and Protective Clothing regulation, or a 'bite jacket' with a light-coloured jute area on the right arm. Items used in the Test of courage must be designed to be non-injurious to the dogs, with no sharp points or hard objects inside any sacks used.**

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The proposals above have been discussed with the PD Stake Panel, and are part of the work being done (along with risk assessments) to enhance safety. They are intended to standardise equipment used in order to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of protected stewards and dogs.

b.

Miss J Carruthers

Proposed amendments to Regulation I(B)5, 6, 7, 9 & 10

Miss Carruthers, on behalf of the Accredited Trainers for working trials, requests the Council to consider the following amendments which were formulated following the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar in October 2019:

Regulation I(B)5.

TO:

5. Recall to handler.—The dog ~~should~~ **must** be recalled from the 'down' or 'sit' position. The handler being a reasonable distance from the dog at the discretion of the judge. The dog should return at a smart pace and sit in front of the handler, afterwards going smartly to heel on command or signal. Handler to await command of the judge or steward. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory stake.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)6.

TO:

6. Retrieve a dumb-bell.—The dog should not move forward to retrieve nor deliver to hand on return until ordered by the handler on the judge or stewards' instructions. The retrieve should be executed at a smart pace without mouthing or playing with the dumb-bell **and the dog must sit in front of the handler**. After delivery the handler will send the dog to heel on the instruction of the Judge or Steward. Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory stake.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)7.

TO:

7. Send away and directional control.—The minimum distance that the judge shall set for the send away shall be 18.288m (20 yds) for the Introductory stake and the



CD stake and 45.72m (50 yds) for all other stakes. In the Introductory stake the maximum distance that the judge shall set for the send away shall be 45.72m (50 yds). The TD and PD stakes shall also include change of direction or directions of a minimum of 45.72m (50 yds). When the dog has reached the designated point or the judge is satisfied that after a reasonable time the handler cannot improve the position of the dog by any further commands the dog should be stopped in either the stand, sit or down position at the discretion of the handler. At this point in the TD or PD stakes the judge or steward shall **must** instruct the handler to redirect the dog. In all stakes, whilst the judge should take into account the number of commands used during the exercise, importance should be placed upon the handler's ability to direct the dog to the place indicated.
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold).

Regulation I(B)9.

TO:

9. 'Speak on command'.—The judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog and may require the handler 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. The dog will be ordered to 'speak' and cease 'speaking' on command of the judge or steward who may then instruct the handler to make the dog 'speak' again. 'Speaking' should be sustained by the dog whilst required with the minimum of commands and/or signals. Continuous and/or excessive incitements to 'speak' shall **must** be heavily penalised. This test ~~should~~ **must** not be incorporated with any other test.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold).

Regulation I(B)10.

TO:

10. Agility.—the descriptions below should be followed for agility:

- a. No part of the clear, long jump or scale equipment to be traversed by the dog shall be less than 914.4mm (3ft) wide nor be in any way injurious to the dog. ~~The tests shall be followed in any sequence decided by the judge Clear Jump, Long Jump, Scale, commencing with Clear Jump. The test must commence with the clear jump and then be followed in any sequence of the long jump and scale.~~
- e. The scale should be a vertical wall of wooden planks which must be grooved, or chamfered along their bottom edge, to assist the dog. Slats are not permitted. The top surface of the scale may be slightly padded. The handler and dog ~~should~~ **must** approach the **face of the** scale at a walking pace with the dog at heel.

(Deletion struck through. Insertions in bold).

Rationale

The amendments are proposed with the objective of clarifying and simplifying the responsibilities of judges.

c. Mrs J Holt

Amalgamation of marks for control and agility sections – proposed amendments to Regulation I(A)9a, b, c, & d

In order to address growing concerns regarding the jumps and stays in working trials it is proposed that the marks for the control and agility sections of Intro, CD, UD, WD and TD open trials be amalgamated with the proviso that competitors would have the



option of declining any exercise or part exercise which they felt might be detrimental to their particular dog.

This proposal would retain the important original requirement that a dog should demonstrate its obedience, fitness, and the ability to use its nose. The flexibility would however attract more newcomers to trials, and also allow experienced handlers with older dogs which have become less agile to continue to compete.

It is suggested that the proposal, if accepted should be introduced on a three year trial basis at the end of which a full review may be carried out.

If the proposal is successful, Regulation I 29.f. which states that 'failure to participate in all exercises shall result in the dog being ineligible for any placing or qualification' will not apply at Open Trials, and a consequential amendment would be required. Other consequential amendments to I Regulations would also be required.

(Annex E refers)

- d. Southern Alsatian Training Society Ms L Marlow
Proposed amendment to Regulation I24.a.

Regulation I24.a Management

TO:

Societies must schedule one other tracking stake in addition to the working trial certificate stake, **however societies may schedule a single Championship CD, UD or WD stake.**

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The Kennel Club has stated that 'In the current circumstances it is not necessary for any activity to schedule a full range of classes.' The one-stake (CD) SATS Championship Trial held on 18 October 2020 was widely supported, with calls to make the option of single-stake championship trials permanent. This would give societies flexibility to hold smaller trials where they feel unable to offer larger events, due to land availability or other constraints.

- e. Mr J Wykes
Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)1.

Mr Wykes wishes to propose an amendment to the above Regulation as follows:

Regulation I(B)1. Method of Handling

TO:

Although implicit obedience is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural manner as possible, persistent barking, whining, etc. in any exercise other than location of person or speak on command should be penalised. The handler must not have food or a toy on their person whilst the dog is being tested. In any exercise where the dog is required to bite a protected steward (protected consistent with safety), it must be on the right arm. **At no time should the protected right arm be presented to the dog.** Any indiscriminate biting must be severely penalised.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

Mr Wykes wishes to raise a concern regarding a practice which has been observed recently during the chase exercise, whereby the protected chase steward puts out his protected right arm as the dog catches up with him thus giving the dog an easy bite.



Because the arm is put out in this way, the dog hits it without having to slow down, and the steward at this stage swings the dog round in front of him with the whole dog airborne, thus putting all the force of the dog onto its neck and spine. Mr Wykes is of the view that this is a health and welfare issue as there is a significant risk of serious harm the dog, and that the practice should cease as soon as possible.

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items have been received.

ITEM 10. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

The Council is invited to consider the Five Year Strategy document and to discuss how it may be implemented.

(Annex F refers)

ITEM 11. 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 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

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.



Liaison Societies for Non-Championship Working Trials Societies

Working Trials Society

Australian Shepherd Club Of The United Kingdom
 Aveley Obedience & Working Trials Society
 Avon Working Trials Training Society
 Aylesbury Canine Training Society
 Banbury & District Dog Training Society
 Billingshurst Dog Training Club
 Birmingham & District German Shepherd Dog Association
 Central Bernese Mountain Dog Club
 Chipping Norton & District Dog Training Club
 Cynllan Lodge Dog Training Club
 Deveron Dog Training Club
 Donyatt Dog Training Club
 Grampian Gundog Club
 Haslemere & District Dog Training Club
 High Peak Dog Training Society
 Hucknall & District Canine Training Society
 Lochaber & District Canine Society
 Midlands Border Collie Club
 Mid Wales Working Gundog Society
 National Australian Shepherd Association
 Newlands Working Dog Society
 North Of England Weimaraner Society
 Northants & Bedfordshire Working Trials Dog Training
 Northern Alsatian & All Breeds Training Society
 Northern Newfoundland Club
 Portland Dog Training Club
 Rough & Smooth Collie Training Association
 Scottish Kennel Club
 Six Counties Working Trials Society
 Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer Club (Provisional)
 South Devon Agility & Dog Training Club
 South Leeds Working Trials Dog Training Club
 Spanish Water Dog Club (Provisional)
 Spey Valley Dog Training Club
 Sporting Irish Water Spaniel Club
 Stonehouse Dog Training Club
 Weimaraner Club Of Great Britain
 Weimaraner Club Of Scotland
 Working Belgian Shepherd Dog Society
 Ynys Mon Dog Training Society

Representative Society

Yorkshire Working Trials Society
 Essex Working Trials Society
 Wessex Working Trials Club
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 Leamington Dog Training Club
 Southern Alsatian Training Society
 Leamington Dog Training Club
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 British Association For German Shepherd Dogs
 Welsh Kennel Club
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 Wessex Working Trials Club
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 Surrey Dog Training Society
 North West Working Trials Society
 Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
 Welsh Kennel Club
 Icení German Shepherd Dog Club
 Surrey Dog Training Society
 North East Counties Working Trials Society
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 Yorkshire Working Trials Society
 British Association For German Shepherd Dogs
 Poole & District Dog Training Society
 Leamington Dog Training Club
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 North West Working Trials Society
 Yorkshire Working Trials Society
 Poole & District Dog Training Society
 Yorkshire Working Trials Society
 Lincolnshire German Shepherd Dog & All Breeds
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 North West Working Trials Society
 British Association For German Shepherd Dogs
 Essex Working Trials Society
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 Welsh Kennel Club