



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

1. Judges nominated to judge at a Spaniel Championship Eastern Counties Spaniel Society

The Council proposed that judges nominated to judge at a Spaniel Championship should have competed in trials within the last 5 years. Whilst understanding the objective of the Council's proposal, the Committee was of the view that it was important to ensure that respected and capable judges were appointed to judge at the Championships, and that whether or not an individual had competed within a set period had no impact on their ability to judge. The Committee also highlighted that setting additional criteria would prove unduly restrictive.

Therefore the Committee did not agree that any amendment be made to the existing criteria for the selection of Championship judges.

Discussion Items

2. Attendance at J Regulations seminars Tay Valley Gundog Association, Lothian & Borders Gundog Association, and Strathmore Working Gundog Club

The Council discussed its disappointment surrounding the requirement for Panel Judges to take and pass the examination. It discussed a number of suggestions as to ways in which the matter may be addressed, including a concern regarding the potential loss of experienced and knowledgeable judges.

The Committee emphasised strongly that requiring judges to take the examination did not imply any doubt as to their integrity, or their ability to judge. It was also highlighted that the examination itself was not unduly difficult, and that special provisions were in place for those requiring assistance, for example extra time or the services of a reader for those with conditions such as dyslexia.

As a compromise, the Committee agreed that a policy should be adopted whereby the requirement for Panel judges to take and pass the examination would remain in place, but that 'grandfather' rights would be granted to those judges who were appointed to the 'A' Panel prior to the introduction of the examination, and/or were involved in the pilot scheme for the judges training programme and/or those who were, or had been a Kennel Club Approved Presenter.

The following amendment has now been agreed by the Board and is effective immediately.

Regulation J6.c.(6),

TO:

Before a judge can be added to a Panel he must have attended a Kennel Club Judges' Training Programme seminar on Kennel Club J Regulations for the appropriate sub-group and have passed the examination. With effect from 1 January 2022 to be included remain on a judging Panel, all judges must attend have attended a Kennel Club Judges' Training Programme seminar on Kennel Club J Regulations for the appropriate sub-group and must pass have passed the examination, unless the judge has "Grandfather rights" (see note).

(Note: Judges deemed to have "Grandfather rights" and who are therefore exempt from Regulation J6.c.(6) are: judges who were appointed to the 'A' Panel prior to 1 January



2010, and/or were involved in the pilot scheme for the judges training programme and/or those who are, or have been a Kennel Club Approved Presenter).

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective immediately)

3. Effective date of new or amended J Regulations

The Council raised a query as to why amended regulations came into force on 1 January each year when the trialling season began on 2 February. The Committee accepted the Council's rationale that it was unhelpful for new or amended J Regulations to come into force part way during the season. It has subsequently been approved by the Board that in general the effective date for Field Trial Regulations will be 2 February each year, with effect from 2020.

4. Refusal of entries

Yorkshire Retriever Field Trial Society

The Council addressed a concern regarding the possibility of anti-field sports campaigners entering trials.

Whilst the Committee was sympathetic to the Council's concerns, it did not support the suggestion from the Council that non-members would be required to state on their entry form the names of two people who could vouch for them, in order to enable the society to reassure itself that the entry had been made by a genuine competitor.

The Committee was of the view that the additional administration involved would be significant and undesirable and therefore did not consider that the suggestion was a practical one.

5. Clarification of Regulation J(A)4.b. Supervision of dogs during a trial

Bristol and West Working Gundog Society and the Hungarian Vizsla Club

The Committee clarified the position in relation to Regulation J(A)4.e. whereby when all judges were required to search the area of fall, dogs may be left unattended and may run in without being witnessed by any of the judges.

The Committee noted that Regulation J(A)4.e. did not state that all judges must go out to search, but where this did occur, the Committee was of the view that handlers should be instructed to put their dogs on a lead. It was not considered to be a frequent occurrence and the Committee did not conclude that it was necessary to add this to the guidance.

Guidance was included in the Summer 2019 Field Trial newsletter.

6. Safety at field trials

Mrs C Bridgewater

Following a discussion regarding the issue of safety at field trials, the Committee noted that a generic health and safety risk assessment document was available from the Kennel Club. A link to the document was included in the summer 2019 issue of the Field Trials newsletter.