



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2022 IN
THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET –
AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL ON KENNEL CLUB
STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES**

The office will give a presentation to Council representatives giving details of the Kennel Club and Liaison Council structure and procedures and the role of Council representatives.

ITEM 2. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

ITEM 3. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

**ITEM 4. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 2022 TO MAY 2025**

**ITEM 5. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES HEALTH
AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

ITEM 6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 8. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board, at its meeting on 12 October 2021, approved the following amendments to regulations:

Regulation I(B)1. Method of handling **TO:**

Although implicit obedience is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural a 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 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. Any indiscriminate biting must be severely penalised.~~

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

New Regulation I(B)18. **Health and Safety, Bite Exercises TO:**



In any exercise where the dog is required to bite a protected steward (protected consistent with safety), it must be on the right arm. Any indiscriminate biting will result in the dog being excluded from the remainder of the test. At no time in any exercise should the sleeve be presented to the dog in an obvious and exaggerated manner, but equally it must not be obscured in such a way as to make it inaccessible to the dog. A protected steward shall, for both their safety and that of the dog, take the energy impact of the bite, landing all of the dog's feet as soon as possible, and without any such movement that causes the dog to be swung or lifted up in a circular motion.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation I(B)14. Test of Courage **TO:**

This is a test of courage rather than of control, and the method of testing is at the Judge's discretion. Handlers must be prepared to have the dog tested when off the lead by a protected steward. **The protected arm must be accessible. The dog must be judged on its courage and attitude.** (Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation I(B)16. Recall from protected stewards **TO:**

~~The 'protected steward' protected consistent with safety, will be introduced to the handler whose dog will be free at heel. After an unheated conversation the 'protected steward' will run away. At a reasonable distance the handler will be ordered to send his dog. When the dog is approximately half way between handler and the 'protected steward' he will be ordered to be recalled. The recall may be by whistle or voice. The 'protected steward' should continue running until the dog returns or closes. If the dog continues to run alongside the 'protected steward', the 'protected steward' should run a further ten or dozen paces to indicate this.~~

The dog will be off lead beside the handler. The position of the dog and the command given to send the dog must be the same as that for the Pursuit exercise. The 'protected steward' will be challenged and will reply in order to gain the dog's attention before running away as directed by the judge. The handler will be told when to send his dog. When the dog is approximately half way between the handler and the 'protected steward' the judge will signal to recall the dog. The 'protected steward' should continue running until the dog returns to the handler or bites the sleeve. The recall may be by whistle or voice.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation I(B) 17. Pursuit and detention of protected stewards. **TO:**

~~The 'protected steward' (a different one for choice) and handler should be introduced as above, and the dog sent forward under similar conditions. The 'protected steward' must continue to attempt to escape and, if possible, should do so through an exit or into a vehicle once the dog has had a chance to catch up with him. The dog must be regarded as having succeeded if it clearly prevents the 'protected steward' from continuing to flee by holding him by the protected arm. If the dog fails to make a convincing attempt to detain the 'protected steward', it shall lose any marks that it may have obtained for the recall from 'protected stewards' exercise or alternatively, it shall not be tested on the recall that follows the pursuit and detention of protected stewards exercise. **The dog will be off lead beside the handler. The position of the dog and the command given to send the dog must be the same as that for the Recall exercise. The 'protected steward' will be challenged and will reply in order to**~~



gain the dog's attention before running away as directed by the judge. The handler will be told when to send his dog.
A run-out point may be set by the judge.
The dog must detain the protected steward by holding him by the protected arm until commanded by the handler to release. If the dog fails to detain the 'protected steward', it shall lose any marks that it may have obtained for the Recall exercise, or it shall not be tested on the Recall.
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)
(Effective 1 January 2022)

ITEM 9. REVIEW OF PANEL REMITS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Council is invited to review the remits and membership of the Panels, as follows:

PD Stake Panel

Remit: To consider issues facing PD Stakes

Members: Mr M Lewindon
Mrs D Ling
Mrs L Marlow
Mr J Wykes

Progression Panel

Remit: To consider progression and eligibility issues, and ways in which new competitors may be attracted

Members: Mrs P Bann
Mr N Hines
Mrs J Holt
Mr G Martin (no longer on Council)

Equipment Panel

Remit: To consider any issues relating to equipment, with particular reference to jumps

Members: Mrs P Bann
Miss J Carruthers
Mrs J Howells
Mr G Martin (no longer on Council)
Mr J Wykes

ITEM 10. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Gilbert, on the work of the Sub-Group following its meeting on 16 September 2021. **(Annex A refers)**
- b. Working Trials research
The Council is invited to discuss the recommendations arising from the working trials research. Dr Anne Carter, the lead researcher and coauthor of the paper, will be joining the meeting in order to address any queries. **(Annex B refers)**



c. Future research

At its previous meeting, the Council had noted that Mr Martin was in the process of formulating a proposal for research into the way in which PD exercises were delivered, and that once the PD Stake Panel had discussed the issue, Mr Martin would prepare a finalised proposal which would be submitted to the AHWSG at its September meeting without further reference to the Council.

It is invited to note that following submission of a proposal for an amendment to I Regulations relating to bite exercises which had been submitted to the Activities Committee (and subsequently approved by the Board), the Panel considered that the input of resources which would be required to undertake the research was no longer warranted. No further discussion by the Sub-Group was therefore necessary.

ITEM 11. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Gilbert following the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting on 18 November 2021.

(Annex C refers – to follow)

ITEM 12. ACCREDITED TRAINERS ANNUAL SEMINAR

The Council is invited to note that the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar took place on 26 October 2021. Following discussion by the Accredited Trainers for working trials during the seminar, the Council is requested to consider a proposal submitted by Mr Gilbert for an addition to Regulation I(B)1 as follows:

Regulation I(B)1 Method of Handling **TO:**

1. Method of handling.—Although implicit obedience is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural a 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. **As far as reasonably practical, competitors must not watch any dog working the nosework in the same stake, prior to competing.**

Rationale

The objective of the proposal is that it regularises a long-standing and unwritten understanding that competitors should not watch the nosework test in the stake they are competing in before working their own dog.

ITEM 13. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

The Council is invited to note the report received from the Panel.

(Annex D refers)



ITEM 14. REPORT FROM THE PROGRESSION PANEL/ EQUIPMENT PANEL

The Council is invited to note the following report, which combines issues relating both to progression and equipment as the two matters are closely related.

Now trials are back up and running, the combined Panel is continuing the poll on whether the CD Open stake should be mandatory, and if the Introductory stake should remain in Working Trials. As these polls were paused due to trials being cancelled because of Covid-19, there were some people, particularly those who did not use social media, whose votes were still required. The Panel plans to once again ask competitors attending trials to fill out the forms, making sure that no one individual completed the forms twice, which would skew the numbers. The Panel proposes to run this poll until April 2022, and the results would be submitted to the Council's next meeting.

The Panel is also proposing to run another poll looking into the standardisation of the build of the long jump and the hurdle as currently there is no description within Kennel Club regulations as to how each of the jumps should be constructed: colour, materials etc. This poll will be started in December 2021 and will run until the end of April 2022. The results will be referred to the Council at its next meeting alongside the CD/Introductory poll.

ITEM 15. KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. The Council is invited to note that following discussion by the Activities Committee, it has been agreed that there is no necessity to appoint a specific individual to attend the Championships, as a Kennel Club representative. It is hoped that one or more Board members, or senior members of The Kennel Club, would continue to attend.
- b. The Council is requested by the Activities Committee to carry out a review of the current process for the selection of judges for the Working Trials Championships, with particular reference as to whether the views of the host society should be given special consideration when selecting judges.

Under the terms of the current process, all societies which run championship working trials may nominate judges for both the TD and PD stake. Societies may nominate a judge for the PD Stake regardless of whether they hold a championship PD stake themselves. A ballot then takes place in which these societies may vote to determine the Council's nomination of judges for the Championships.

c. Judges

The Council is invited to note that requests for nominations for judges for the championships in 2024 will be issued by the office via email to Council representatives. Judges for coming years are as follows:

2021	TD Mr M Williams	PD Mr J Wykes
2022	TD Miss J Carruthers	PD Mrs L Cottier
2023	TD Mr L Newman	PD Mr S Ford

d. Host societies

Societies wishing to host the championships in 2024 are requested to notify the office of their interest in doing so.

Host societies for 2021, 2022 and 2023 are as follows:



2021	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
2022	Hampshire Working Trials Society
2023	Surrey Dog Training Society

ITEM 16. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Southern Alsatian Training Society

Ms L Marlow Proposed

amendment to Regulation I24.b. to improve the management of safety at working trials

In drafting the Safety Risk Assessments for its own trials, the Society identified a possible hazard in the current wording of regulation I24.b as it causes a potential conflict between a Trials Manager's (TM) and a Judge's responsibilities. The main wording that causes the contradiction is:

'he' [the TM] may not interfere with the judges decisions which shall be final' and 'he shall decide upon any matter not related to judging'.

Rationale

This is a safety issue.

Regulation I6 states: *'The Officers....holding a license are deemed responsible for organising and conducting the trial safely and...'*. Under the provisions of Regulation I24.b the committee must appoint a TM 'who shall be responsible for ensuring that the regulations are observed'. Logically, the TM is now responsible for running a trial safely.

Issue 1: What is meant by *'the judges decisions which shall be final'*. It is vague and unclear. In reality a judge sets a test (before the trial) and he awards marks (during a test). In planning a test, he is usually in conversation with the TM regarding land, venue etc. However, only a judge can award marks on what he observes during his test. Therefore:

- **the judge's awarding of marks must be final.**

Issue 2: There is nothing in the regulations to give the TM the ability to review, comment on or scrutinise a judge's test for safety. Additionally, in this day and age of Duty of Care, external scrutiny and legal challenge a judge must not have the final say if there are safety concerns with an exercise or test. As the TM is responsible for safety. The TM must:

- **be able to review a judge's test for safety and**
- **have the authority to suspend or stop any exercise or test after discussion with the judge until it is safe to continue.**

Issue 3: If issues 1 and 2 above are accepted the part of I24.b relating to *'any matter not related to judging'* is now not required and should be deleted. If these issues are accepted it is now possible to re-present regulations I24.b in a way that removes ambiguity and conflict and makes clear who is responsible for what. Original regulation intentions should not be affected.

The Council is therefore requested to consider the following proposed amendment:

Regulation I24.b **TO:**

(1) A working trial manager must be appointed by the committee of the society.



- (2) ~~who~~ **He** shall be responsible for ensuring that the regulations are **implemented and observed. He is responsible for ensuring the trial is organised and conducted safely. He is authorised to suspend or stop any exercise or test considered to be unsafe until it is safe to continue.**
- (3) He shall decide upon any matter ~~not related to judging and not~~ provided for in the Rules and Regulations and may call upon the judge or judges to assist with the decision.
- (4) **He shall not interfere with the judge's decision in the award of marks which shall be final.**
- (5) **In all other matters the TM's decision is final.**
- (6) The manager or his deputy, ~~one of whom~~ should be present throughout **the trial.**
- (7) **They** must not enter or work a dog at the trial.
(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)

This proposal removes any ambiguity of 'decisions' especially relating to judging and clarifies the TM's responsibility for safety. Any potential conflicts between a Judge and TM are removed.

ITEM 17. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Southern Alsatian Training Society Ms L Marlow
Qualification for championship TD and PD stakes
The Society requests that the Council discuss whether the requirement for competitors to qualify WD Ex twice and TD or PD open twice should be returned to a single qualification in each stake. Regulation I(A)6 (Championship Working Trials) currently states:
- e. Tracking dog (TD) stake—For dogs which have been awarded two Certificates of Merit in Open TD stakes and have qualified WD Ex at two championship trials.
- f. Patrol dog (PD) stake—For dogs which have been awarded two Certificates of Merit in Open PD stakes, and have qualified WD Ex at two championship trials.

Rationale

The requirement for 2 WD Ex, and 2 TD or PD opens in order to qualify to enter championship TD or PD stakes was to control the large numbers of entries. Numbers are now much smaller in the qualifying and championship stakes, and there are fewer trials for people to enter.

- b. Southern Alsatian Training Society Ms L Marlow
Judging qualifications
The Council is requested to discuss whether qualifications to judge should be simplified, with particular reference to the requirement for judges for a CD Stake at a championship working trial to have judged all groups in at least two working trials, and whether this should be reduced to any combination of one nosework round and one control round at CD open or UD open, plus having qualified CEx or above.

Rationale

If societies have separate judges for nosework and control in Open trials, it can be difficult and take a long time for a would-be judge to be offered the required appointments.



ITEM 18. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

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

(Annex E refers)

ITEM 19. 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 20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council's next meeting will take place on 7 June 2022 and it is likely that it will be held via Microsoft Teams. This will be confirmed nearer the date of the meeting, Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 9 March 2022.

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
East Riding Working Trials Society
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
Wakefield 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
Yorkshire Working Trials Society
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
Iceni 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
Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Essex Working Trials Society
Scottish Working Trials Society
ASPADS Working Trials Society
Welsh Kennel Club