

MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT IN THE BOARDROOM AT THE KENNEL CLUB
ON TUESDAY 1 JULY 2014 AT 10.30AM

AGENDA

The Council is asked to note that Council member Mr H Wynne has recently passed away and that a minute's silence will be held in his memory before the commencement of the meeting.

ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL
(TO 31 DECEMBER 2015)

ITEM 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The General Committee had recommended approval of the proposed movement and amendment of Regulation G30.f. from Management to become Regulation G33.b Judges and Judging.
- b. Beginners Guide to Obedience
To consider the revised draft of the document.
(Annex A - to follow)
- c. Proposed Regulation amendments relating to Listed Status
The Council is requested to reconsider the proposals for the introduction of Listed Status for Obedience with a view to providing competitors more opportunities to compete in Open shows.
(Annexes B(i) & B(ii) refer)
- d. Proposed amendment of Regulation G35.g
To consider amendment of the above Regulation

TO:

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

e. Kennel Club International Obedience Festival

To consider further suggestions for the creation of an Obedience event similar to the Kennel Club International Agility Festival.

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

To note a report on recommendations made by the Activities Sub-Committee, as follows:

- a. The Sub-Committee did **not** recommend approval of the proposed amendment of Regulation G(A).10.b Class B and Regulation G(A).11.d. Class C.

The Sub-Committee had acknowledged that some individuals involved in obedience wished to have stays removed completely from the list of required exercises. It was accepted that some people were concerned that during out of sight stays the dogs could be considered to be out of control and that there may be a safety and welfare issue. However it was emphasised that this was not the issue which the Sub-Committee had been requested to address. The stated intention of the proposal submitted by the Council had been to support show management and to free up time at the end of a show.

However the Sub-Committee was anxious to ensure that standards of Obedience remained high and therefore did not recommend that the Regulation be amended.

- b. The Sub-Committee considered a proposed change of Regulations regarding submission of all schedules and catalogues for Open Shows. It heard that the space for storage at the new Kennel Club premises would be very limited and that the office had been tasked with considerably reducing paperwork and files. It had acknowledged that should it be necessary to refer to Show schedules or Open Show catalogues, the club or society could be asked to provide any information from their own retained copies of these documents. It was noted that a great deal of information was also available on show service company websites and on club websites.

Marked Championship Show/Trial catalogues would still be required in order for the various award certificates to be issued after each show/trial and no change to the regulations was recommended in this respect.

The Sub-Committee had agreed that it would be sensible to remove the requirement for open show schedules and catalogues to be submitted to the office; however clubs should be reminded of the necessity for them to retain a marked catalogue for at least one year.

Subject to approval by the General Committee, new Regulations would come into effect in January 2015.

**ITEM 6. TO NOTE THE TABLED REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE
ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE DURING 2013**

ITEM 7. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan.

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS

a. Mr R Page

Mrs C Porter

Proposed Amendment of Regulation G(C)4.f. - Stays

Mrs Porter considers that it has become apparent in recent years that many judges are using criteria not laid down in the regulations to deduct marks from dogs during stays. For instance, the phrase "showing daylight" is regularly used, but with no real idea of what exactly is meant by this.

Judges are deducting marks for paddling, sniffing, hip rolling and a myriad of other spurious activities as if the stay had been broken, when in reality these dogs are complying with the Obedience G regulations, as they are actually remaining in position for the duration of the exercise, and are only committing minor indiscretions.

A stay cannot be judged on its quality, only on whether it is carried out as stated, and if a dog sniffs the ground whilst in the sit, but maintains that sit, it should be judged as such and only marked a nominal amount for its minor indiscretion.

Mrs Porter therefore proposes that Regulation G(C).4.f. should be amended by the addition of the underlined wording as follows:

4.f.(1) Sit Stay: Dogs should remain in the sit position throughout the test. Barking, whining or minor movement such as sniffing the ground, shuffling or turning, without moving from the place where the dog was originally left, should not be considered to be a broken stay but should only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise.

4.f.(2) Down Stay: Dogs should remain in the down position throughout the test. Barking, whining or minor movement such as sniffing the ground, shuffling, hip rolling or turning, without moving from the place where the dog was originally left, should not be considered to be a broken stay but should only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise.

The remainder of G(C)4.f. to remain unchanged.

- b. Mr R Page Mrs S Garner
Introductory Class - Proposed Amendment of Regulation G(A)5. - Classes

Following a review of the class and discussion at the January 2014 Obedience Council meeting, Mrs Garner wishes to propose the following changes to the Introductory Class. She hopes these changes will make the class more appealing to show societies and competitors.

G(A)5. Introductory

TO:

- b. To compete in the Introductory Class a handler and dog must not have won ~~three~~ one Introductory Classes ~~and be eligible to compete in Pre-Beginners or have achieved a 4th place or above in Pre-Beginners.~~
- d. The stays to be completed on lead, handler facing sideways onto the dog in the ~~ring of the Introductory Class~~ designated stay ring.

The detailed test will be:

(1)	Play with dog for <u>15-30 seconds on or off lead at the handler's choice</u>	10 points
(2)	Heel on Lead	10 points
(3)	Recall <u>with a finish on lead, off lead or long line, at the handler's choice</u>	10 points
(4)	1 minute stay on lead either in the sit or down at the handler's choice	10 points
	TOTAL	40 points

G(C).4.B.(1) Tests - Introductory Class

TO:

Heelwork to be on lead and will be a large circle and/or straight line but must not be of more than 1 minute 30 seconds duration.

Guidance notes (to be issued to assist judges)

- Rewards. The handler may carry a toy or small food pot in their hand while competing. Once the steward has given an exercise over command, the handler may either play with their dog or move to the designated area of the ring and remove a piece of food from the pot and reward the dog. Thus, a reward may be given after each exercise and at the end.
At all times the handler can encourage and command the dog verbally and with signals as much as they feel necessary. As with all other classes they cannot touch the dog during an exercise.
- Play with the dog. The steward will time this exercise with a stopwatch. The judge will look for the handler to show they can motivate their dog in preparation for obedience work. Handler may use a toy for this exercise. The play should be under the handler's control and if it involves articles, they should be readily given up on request. The play should be appropriate to the dog under test and must not include play fighting. Any formal exercises are not appropriate and any sign of aggression must be penalised.

- Heel on lead. The idea is to have a short stretch of heelwork only.
- Recall. The dog can be left either in sit or down position. The lead will then be dropped to the floor while still attached to the dog, removed completely or on a long line. The handler will be asked to walk away a short distance, and call the dog as per a novice recall. Should the handler prefer to use a long line, the end of the lead will be dropped at the handlers feet as they turn to call the dog.
- Stay. As in KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze and Silver levels the lead remains attached to the dog but is dropped to the ground in a line in front of the dog. The handler will stand 3 to 5 paces from the dog.

c. Mr Roy Page
Proposed Amendment of Regulation G(C)4. – Tests

Mrs S Garner

b. Heelwork - in all classes at the start and end of the test the dog should be sitting straight at the handler's side.

(Insertion underlined. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

Custom and practice for many years has meant that all heelwork tests start and finish with a halt. It would seem that as the current regulations do not stipulate this there is a trend to finish the exercise while the dog and handler are still moving.

This would seem to make the completion of the exercise more difficult to determine and goes against what the majority are accustomed to.

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Mr P Lubbi
Changes to classes

Mrs L Bennett

Mrs Bennett would like to see an addition within the current class structure and explains her reasons & thoughts behind this further below.

Pre-Beginner and Beginner remain unchanged

Novice (within the same class) – Open and Restricted

'A' (within the same class) – Open & Restricted

'B' (within the same class) – Open & Restricted

'C' remains unchanged

Championship 'C' remains unchanged

Open & Restricted – this reference is with regards to the Handler. An Open handler is one who has won out of the class at any time with any dog (under the current Kennel Club class system). A Restricted handler is one who has never won out of the class before with any dog.

An Open handler can only compete at Open level in that class whereas a Restricted handler has the choice whether to compete at Open or Restricted. Once a Restricted Handler has won at Restricted level they have the choice whether to compete again at the same level but as an Open Handler or to go up a class & compete as a Restricted (or Open) handler. Once a handler has won at Open level in any class they can never compete again as a Restricted handler in that class. Restricted wins do not count towards the title Obedience Warrant.

A brief example is someone who has won out of Beginners but has never won out of Novice with any dog has the opportunity to compete at Novice Restricted. When they win 2 Novice Restricted classes they can either enter 'A' Restricted or stay in Novice Open until they win 2 Novice Opens. If they win 2 Novice Opens but have never won out of 'A' they can then compete in 'A' as a Restricted handler again if they wish.

Mrs Bennett's reasons for proposing this are to hopefully keep more people involved long term in Competitive Obedience rather than lose them.

For the Show Secretaries sadly it would involve more work on their part but this would be minimal. Open & Restricted handlers would be competing in the same class although they would have an 'O' or an 'R' next to their name. The show society would need two sets of rosettes per class. The cost of Judges' expenses etc. would not increase as extra Judges would not be needed (unless the entries increased because more people stayed in Obedience or came into Obedience in the first place).

b. Mr P Lubbi Thurrock Dog Training Society
Rewarding of dogs during ring work

Thurrock D.T.S. would like to propose that a competitor be able to leave the ring and reward their dog (in a suitable place) at any time during the ring work. Rewards would be allowed twice in Pre-Beginners and Beginners and once in Novice.

Rewarding in all classes could be done between exercises only.

Rewards should be given in a timely manner, for example rewarding your dog for 5 minutes in between exercises would not be considered timely.

ITEM 10. ACTIVITIES HEALTH & WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note the written report from Mrs Garner on the recent work of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group.
(Annex C)

The Council is invited to note that the next meeting of the Sub-Group will take place on 18 September 2014 (subject to confirmation).

- b. Election of Council Representative for the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group.

ITEM 11. JUDGES WORKING PARTY

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Garner on the Judges Working Party meeting (date to be confirmed).
(Annex D - to follow)

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council will be confirmed in September 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."

