



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON
COUNCIL HELD AT 10.30 AM ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023
IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

PRESENT:

Mrs P Bann	Essex Working Trials Society
Miss J Carruthers*	North East Counties Working Trials Society
Miss L Cottier	Scottish Working Trials Society
Mr D Craven	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Mr S Ford	Surrey Dog Training Society
Mr B Gilbert	ASPADS Working Trials Society
Mr N Hines	Lincolnshire German Shepherd Dog & All Breeds Training Society
Mrs J Holt	North West Working Trials Society
Mrs J Howells	Hampshire Working Trials Society
Mrs D Ling*	East Anglian Working Trials Training Society
Ms L Marlow	Southern Alsatian Training Society
Mr D Robertson*	Association of Bloodhound Breeders (Item 9, paragraph 62 onwards)
Mr N Sutcliffe	Bloodhound Club (item 7, paragraph 41 onwards)
Mr C Taylor	British Association for German Shepherd Dogs
Mr J West	Wessex Working Trials Club
Mrs S Wright	Iceni Working Trials Club
Mr J Wykes	Leamington Dog Training Club

* Indicates attendance via Microsoft Teams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs A Bastick	Committee Secretary – Working Dog Activities Team
Miss R Mansfield	Senior Officer – Working Dog Activities Team
Miss C McHardy	Manager – Education, Training, and Working Dog Activities Team
Mrs A Mitchell	Senior Committee Secretary – Working Dog Activities Team

IN THE CHAIR: MR C TAYLOR

NOTE: any recommendations made by the Working Trials Liaison Council are subject to review by the Activities Committee and The Kennel Club Board, and will not come into effect unless and until Board approval has been confirmed.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Mr A Laws was not present.

ITEM 2. KENNEL CLUB RESEARCH PROJECT

2. It had been planned that the Council would receive a presentation from Mr M Bermingham (Interim Strategy & Implementation Executive) and Ms L Smith (Customer & Competitor Strategy Development Project Manager) which would provide an update on the research project into 'Organisers and Participants of Dog Activities'.
3. However, as there had been a delay to the Kennel Club Research Project, no findings were currently available to share. Accordingly, the presentation would be postponed until the Council's July meeting.
4. In the meantime the Council noted a short briefing note which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The Council noted that the Board, at its meeting on 13 September 2022, approved the following amendments to regulations:

Regulation I(B)8

TO:

~~Steadiness to gunshot.—No gun test will be held in buildings, or other confined areas, nor will shotguns be used at working trials. Guns used must be constructed to fire blanks only. Prior warning must be given to the handler, who will be instructed to work the dog 'heel free', or leave the dog within a controlling distance and where the handler has sight of their dog. The dog must not be provoked by excessive display of the gun, nor should the gun be pointed at the dog or handler except in Group IV Patrol. Any sign of fear, aggression or barking must be penalised. This test must not be incorporated into any other test.~~

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)10.g

TO:

g. Jumping heights and lengths:

(2) CD and UD stakes:

(b) Long Jump—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder 1.219m (4ft)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 1.828m (6ft)

Dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder ~~2.743m (9ft)~~

2.438m (8ft)

(3) WD, TD and PD stakes:

(b) Long Jump ~~2.743m (9ft)~~ **2.438m (8ft)**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2023)

Regulation I(B)10.g

TO:

g. Jumping heights and lengths:

(2) CD and UD stakes:

(c) Scale—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder 914.4mm (3ft)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 1.219m (4ft)

Dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder ~~1.828m (6ft)~~

1.677m (5ft 6in)

(3) WD, TD and PD stakes:

(c) Scale ~~1.828m (6ft)~~ **1.677m (5ft 6in)**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2023)

7. The meeting noted that Mr Ford expressed dissatisfaction with the above changes, being of the view that it would have been preferable to have carried out research on small dogs rather than making changes on a piecemeal basis.
8. It was highlighted that proposals for changes to the jump heights and lengths for dogs of 15 ins and below had not been included in the original proposal submitted to the Council. Such changes had subsequently been submitted to the Activities Committee but had been referred back to the Council, and proposals appeared later on the agenda for discussion by the Council. It was highlighted that the research, on the basis of which the above amendments to regulations had been made, only included dogs over 15 ins.
9. The Board, at its meeting on 13 September 2022, had also approved the following amendment to regulations:

Regulation I(B)10.(b)

TO:

The Clear Jump ~~should~~ **must** be so constructed that it will be obvious if the dog has exerted more than slight pressure upon it. **All poles or bars must be easily displaced by the dog.** ~~The rigid top bar may be fixed or rest in cups and the space below may be filled in but the filling should not project above the bottom of the top bar.~~ **There must be a further removable pole or bar approximately halfway below. No further pole or bar is required if the jump is lower than 3ft.** Appreciable pressure exerted by the dog on the clear jump shall be considered to be a failure.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2023)

10. Mr Ford also raised a concern regarding the above, with reference to the wording which stated that ‘All poles or bars must be easily displaced by the dog’ which was considered to be ambiguous as the objective of the obstacle was that the dog should ideally not displace any of the elements. Mr Ford wished to suggest that it be amended to state that ‘poles or bars may be capable of being displaced’. This was noted but no further action was to be taken at present.

11. The following amendment to regulations was also approved by the Board:

Regulation I25.d.

TO:

d. Societies must be satisfied that the following minimum conditions have been met for the first appointment of judges for C.D., U.D. and W.D. stakes at a championship working trial:

- (1) For C.D. Stake—Must, **as a minimum**, have judged all groups in ~~at least two open working trials~~ **a C.D open or U.D. open trial or above**, and have as a handler qualified a dog **C.D. ‘Excellent’** ~~in a Championship C.D. Stake or higher stake~~ **above**.
- (2) For U.D. Stake – Must, **as a minimum**, have judged all groups in ~~U.D., W.D., P.D. or T.D. stakes at two Open Working Trials~~ **a U.D. open trial or above**, have judged C.D. **Excellent**, ~~stake at a championship working trial~~ and have as a handler qualified a dog **U.D. ‘Excellent’** ~~in a Championship U.D. stake or above~~.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2023)

Note: subsequent to the Council’s meeting on 7 June 2022, it had been noted by the office that due to incorrect transcription the wording above contained an error and did not accurately reflect the correct requirement for judges’ qualifications. Accordingly, following consultation with the chair and vice chair of the Activities Committee, and the chair and vice chair of the Working Trials Liaison Council, the following revised version of the regulation was approved by the Board at its meeting on 22 November 2022:

d.(2) For U.D. Stake – Must, **as a minimum**, have judged all groups in ~~U.D., W.D., P.D. or T.D. stakes at two Open Working Trials~~ **a U.D. open trial or above**, have judged **C.D.** at a championship working trial and have as a handler qualified a dog **U.D.** 'Excellent' ~~in a Championship U.D. stake or above.~~

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2023)

Kennel Club Working Trials Championships

12. The Council noted that the Board had approved the following judges for the 2024 Championships:

TD: Mr G Martin

PD: Mr D Olley

13. Further, the Activities Committee, at its meeting on 12 July 2022, had noted an offer from Essex Working Trials Society to host the 2024 Kennel Club Working Trials Championships. It had agreed that in the interest of fairness, applications would be sought from other societies who may wish to host the Championships, knowing who the judges would be.

14. The Council was now advised that it had been confirmed that Essex Working Trials Society should host the Championships.

Gun test

15. As noted above, the amendment to Regulation I(B)8, which removed the gun test from the list of exercises, was approved by the Board at its meeting on 13 September 2022. The amendment would come into effect on 1 January 2024.
16. The Council noted that proposals in respect of how the points should be reallocated had been submitted by the Equipment and Progression Panel, and were discussed later in the meeting (paragraphs 84-96 refer).

Long jump and scale

17. At its previous meeting, the Council had recommended amendments to regulations in respect of the length of the long jump and the height of the scale. As noted above, these amendments were subsequently approved by the Board and came into effect on 1 January 2023. A proposal for a reduction in jump heights/lengths for smaller dogs submitted by Mrs Cottier was discussed later in the meeting (paragraphs 55-67 refer).

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)1 Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates

18. The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 12 July 2022, considered an amendment to the above regulation which was recommended by the Council, taking into account the views of the Bloodhound community that it was not possible for a handler to interfere in the identification before the last five metres, and that from that distance it was possible for the

judge or assistant to see and hear whether there was interference from the handler by voice, leash or manoeuvres, whether the hound was still on a leash or not. Other minor amendments were also proposed in the interests of clarity.

19. However, the Committee noted that while the amendment had been recommended by the Council, there was a lack of knowledge regarding the issue on the part of the working trials representatives, and further, only one representative of the Bloodhound clubs was present at that point in the Council meeting. It therefore did not recommend the amendment for approval but requested that it be referred back to the two Bloodhound clubs for a consensus.
20. Neither Mr Sutcliffe or Mr Robertson were present at this stage of the meeting so no further update was available.
Note: the matter was raised by Mr Sutcliffe under Any Other Business but as Mr Robertson was not present at that point, it was agreed that the office would make arrangements for a discussion to take place at a later date to discuss the matter further.

Voting rights

21. The Activities Committee noted concerns raised by the Council in respect of the way in which Bloodhound Trials were governed, with particular reference to representatives from Working Trials, and from Bloodhound Working Trials, voting on each other's proposals. It accepted the Council's views that despite both disciplines being covered by the I regulations, they were very different and there was often little mutual understanding of the issues affecting each.
22. The Council noted that the Committee had agreed that the issue should be reviewed, and that its views should be highlighted both to the strategy group, as part of its ongoing review of issues relating to the whole organisation, and to the Board.
23. Mr Ford wished to highlight his dissatisfaction with the manner in which votes from the Bloodhound representatives had affected the outcome of matters considered at the Council's previous meeting. This was duly noted.
24. It was clarified by the office that the Bloodhound representatives were full members of the Council and were entitled to participate in voting as they saw fit. All members were reminded that they had an option to abstain from voting on any particular issues, if they considered it appropriate to do so.
Note: neither of the Bloodhound representatives were present at this point in the meeting.

Date of next meeting

25. Mr Ford wished to record his dissatisfaction that the date for the Council's next meeting had been selected without apparent

consideration to the fact that it would clash with either the set-up day, or the first day of the championship working trial due to be held by Surrey Dog Training Society.

26. It was noted that for other reasons it had now been necessary to change the date of the meeting, which would now be held on 18 July 2023.

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

27. The Council noted that the Sub-Group discussed the following issues at its meeting on 15 September 2022:

Heat mitigation

28. The Sub-Group noted that heat mitigation had been a key issue at events over the course of the summer, with some events experiencing very high temperatures.
29. It had undertaken to formulate a document which would offer guidance for all disciplines as to the way in which issues relating to extreme temperatures (high or low) should be addressed, and mitigated. This would provide a 'toolkit' which event organisers could use to ensure the welfare of all concerned.
30. A query was raised as to whether special provisions may be put into place for a single day as part of a longer event, and as to the circumstances under which such provisions should be implemented.
31. It was confirmed that the intention was to use wet bulb thermometers which would provide information to show organisers based on a wide range of parameters in order to assist the decision-making process. However it was highlighted that circumstances would vary greatly between different activities, and on different days, and the guidance to be provided by the Sub-Group would reflect that.

Working Trials Research

32. The Council noted that, following the Working Trials Liaison Council meeting held on 7 June 2022, the Sub-Group considered a proposal from the Council that further research should be conducted, with the purpose of obtaining data in relation to impact and joint stress experienced by working trials dogs. This data could be used to determine if the design or structure of the scale or long jump should be altered or replaced to adequately protect the health and welfare of the dogs.
33. The Sub-Group noted concerns raised by the Council's Equipment Panel regarding the working trials research which had already been carried out, as it had not replicated real-life conditions at working trials, particularly in respect to the surface on which the measuring sensor had been placed. The Panel was therefore keen for further research to be

carried out on a more realistic surface and it had proposed that research be undertaken to obtain data in relation to impact and joint stress experienced by working trials dogs.

34. Objectives of the suggested research would be as follows:
- Determine the forces experienced by the hindlimbs when ascending the scale and agility A-ramp.
 - Determine the forces experienced by the forelimbs on landing on grass from:
 - The scale
 - The A-ramp (KC agility & IGP versions)
 - Determine the range of motion experienced at the following joints when landing from the scale and the two types of A-ramp:
 - Carpus
 - Glenohumeral joint
 - Spine – cervical, thoracic, lumbar, lumbosacral
 - Determine the peak vertical force experienced by the forelimbs on landing over the long jump at differing lengths.
 - Determine the range of motion experienced at the following joints when traversing the long jump at each length:
 - Carpus
 - Glenohumeral joint
 - Spine – cervical, thoracic, lumbar, lumbosacral
 - Discussion and likely metanalysis could be carried out in respect of the risks of a scale with a slope descent or platform.
35. The Council noted that a student had come forward wishing to undertake appropriate research. This was welcomed, although it was in agreement with the views expressed by the Sub-Group that the suggested list of objectives suggested by the Panel was quite lengthy, and that although the individual elements were achievable, overall it would be a large project involving a considerable amount of research. It was therefore agreed that it would be a positive step to limit the scope of the research in order to focus on the most important issues.
36. A suggestion was made that a small working group should be set up in order to consider what research should be carried out. The working group would collaborate with Dr Boyd, chair of the Sub-Group. It was agreed that doing so would allow for productive progress to be made, and that the working group should consist of members of the Council who wished to be involved, together with external expertise as appropriate.
37. Following a request for volunteers, it was agreed that initially the working group would consist of Mrs Cottier, Mrs Ling, and Ms Marlow, with the addition of further members in the future as appropriate.
38. Suggestions noted were as follows:

- That any research into the potential use of an A frame, as used in agility, should not be progressed, as the use of such an obstacle in working trials would not be practical due to cost and the logistics of transport, and that it would not constitute a good test for dogs.
 - That the research carried out into jump heights and lengths be repeated but on a grass surface. However it was hoped that rather than repeat the original research, it could be extended so as to provide additional valuable data.
39. All Council members were requested to notify members of the working group with further suggestions and views as to what research would be of value.

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

40. The Council noted a brief verbal report from Mr Gilbert following the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting on 24 November 2022. No issues of particular relevance to working trials had been discussed.

ITEM 7. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

41. The Council reviewed the strategy document. It was hoped that the document would reflect issues raised by members of the working trials community. All Council members were requested to consult with those in their areas to discuss ways in which working trials could be promoted in order to raise awareness and encourage participation.
42. The Council went on to consider the individual issues covered within the strategy:
- a. To ensure the health, fitness, safety and welfare of dogs taking part in WT are at the forefront of the sport, specifically researching the scale and long jump.**
43. This issue had been covered during earlier discussions.
- b. To update and improve the information available about working trials on Kennel Club leaflets, KC Website and Academy, highlighting the nosework and other elements and encourage more interest and participation.**
44. It was hoped that information would be available to visitors to Crufts. The office was in the process of developing additional resources for The Kennel Club Academy and for the website.
- c. To create a leaflet to promote WT specifically targeting those doing UK Tracking and UK Dog Sport.**
45. Development of a suitable leaflet by Mrs Cottier was in progress.

- d. To assist and encourage WT Societies to raise awareness of their existence in the area they cover to those involved in other dogs sports (i.e. clubs and trainers offering mantrailing, scentwork, rally, obedience and agility), encouraging membership, promoting details of the trials they are running each year and any training that they offer or can offer on behalf of others known to them.**
46. All working trial societies were encouraged to take positive steps to raise awareness within their own localities. It was particularly highlighted that Dog Sports UK (a monthly magazine and website covering a wide range of dog activities) now included a section specifically relating to working trials, and it was hoped that societies would provide information for inclusion in the publication, and that they would also pass information to their members, in order to promote working trials.
- e. To develop Kennel Club WT as a more attractive product to newcomers, increase numbers in the discipline, as well as looking after its customer base, specifically looking at the early stakes for consideration of changes that would encourage newcomers to compete.**
47. This was an ongoing process, and was essential to halt the drop in the number of participants in working trials. A number of proposals had been submitted to the Council with the objective of attracting new members and retaining existing ones. These would be discussed later in the meeting.
- f. To create more channels of communication with a wider audience, using social media and canine newspapers to promote WT events and news.**
48. It was acknowledged that this objective was a difficult one, and any suggestions as to ways in which it could be achieved would be welcomed.
- g. To look at the feasibility of small dogs being able to progress to TD Stake with their reduced jumps.**
49. A number of proposals had been submitted to the Council and would be discussed later in the meeting.
- h. To update the Kennel Club 'Find a Club' function so it is effective and current on the website. To compile a list of WT Societies, Clubs and Individuals who offer WT training for general access.**
50. There was a concern as to the accuracy of the previous 'Find a Club' service, in that some clubs shown as offering facilities for working trials did not in reality do so. It was acknowledged the listing reflected the stated interests of registered clubs, and it was not possible for the office to simply remove details without authority from the clubs involved. The office did not have resources available to make ongoing checks, and members of the Council were requested to assist in making such checks. [**Afternote:** development of the new Find A Club

service has progressed and all clubs have been contacted to check and update their details to ensure accuracy.]

51. The Council noted that Ms Marlow had compiled a directory of individuals and organisations offering training for working trials. At present there were only 15 individuals/organisations listed, but further names would be added if notified to Ms Marlow. The information would be used to assist those seeking working trials training.

i. Improve WTLC engagement with grass roots competitors to encourage wider participation in Council matters.

52. It was noted that The Kennel Club's strategy review was an ongoing project, and therefore engagement with grass roots competitors should continue. All Council members were therefore requested to maintain such engagement, including advising members of the working trials community of the processes involved in the Council.

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

53. It was noted that the PD Stake Panel continued to meet at regular intervals, but at the time of agenda issue, had no specific matters to submit to the Council for consideration. However the Panel was happy to consider any issues the Council wished to refer to it.
54. The Council confirmed its wish that the Panel should remain in place.

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PROGRESSION PANEL

Proposal to progress jumps through the stakes

55. Noting that there were a number of proposals on the agenda relating to jump heights and lengths, it was agreed that these would be considered together in the interests of simplicity.
56. As a first step, the Council considered the principles underlying the Panel's proposal to progress the jumps through the stakes, thus reducing them in Introductory, CD and UD stakes. The Panel was of the view that most dog-related disciplines progressed their tests through the levels from the lower level to the higher levels, but that there was no such progression in place in relation to working trials jumps.
57. Under the terms of the proposal, the heights of the jumps and the scale would be reduced in CD (to the same as Introductory Stake) and progressively increased in UD to as they were currently in WD & TD/PD. Heights and lengths for small dogs would be reduced accordingly. The heights/lengths would be as follows:

Clear jump

From: Introductory – 2ft 6” CD, UD, WD, TD, PD – 3ft

To: Introductory/CD – 2ft 6” UD – 2ft 6” WD, TD, PD – 3ft

Long jump

From: Introductory – 6ft CD, UD, WD, TD, PD – 8ft

To: Introductory/CD – 6ft UD – 7ft WD, TD, PD – 8ft

Scale

From: Introductory – 5ft CD, UD, WD, TD, PD – 5ft 6”

To: Introductory/CD – 5ft UD – 5ft WD, TD, PD – 5ft 6”

58. There were mixed views on the matter. Some representatives expressed an opinion that as some changes to jump heights and lengths had already been put into place, it would not be desirable to make any further changes until it was possible to review the effects of the amendments already made. Others considered that in view of the necessity to attract new competitors, and to retain them within the discipline, progression through the stakes would be a positive step.
59. A concern was also noted whereby if the height of the scale was reduced for smaller dogs, it may become a jump exercise for some dogs, and the exercise would therefore not be consistent for all competitors.
60. It was also highlighted that societies already had the ability to schedule special stakes, the parameters of which could be set to suit newer competitors.
61. A show of hands took place in respect of the principle of amending jump heights to provide progression through Introductory, CD and UD stakes. By a majority, it was not supported, and accordingly no further discussion of the Panel’s proposal took place.
62. The Council then turned to the proposal for a reduction in jump heights/lengths for smaller dogs submitted by Mrs Cottier, as noted earlier in the meeting. These proposals had been made in the interests of the welfare of such dogs. Under the terms of the proposals, the jump heights and lengths would be amended pro-rata to the revised heights for dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) and above, which came into effect on 1 January 2023 (as set out in paragraph 6 above).
63. These amendments had been formulated subsequent to the Council’s previous meeting, by Mrs Cottier, member of the Council’s Equipment Panel, in respect of the length of the long jump, and the height of the scale, for those dogs below 10ins and 15ins at the shoulder. The proposals were considered by the Activities Committee at its meeting on 12 July 2022, but it had been of the view that the proposed amendments should be presented to the Council for discussion to ensure they were suitable, and to ensure that there was no implication that small dogs were being excluded.

64. **Long jump**

The following amendment was proposed by Mrs Cottier and seconded by Mrs Bann:

Regulation I(B)10.g

TO:

g. Jumping heights and lengths:

(2) CD and UD stakes:

(b) Long Jump—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder ~~1.219m (4ft)~~

1.092m (3ft 7in)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder ~~1.828m (6ft)~~

1.626m (5ft 4in)

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

65. A vote took place, and by a majority, the proposal was **recommended** for approval.

66. **Scale**

The amendment was proposed by Mrs Cottier, but Mr West wished to submit a revised proposal that the scale height for dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder should be 1.143m (3ft 9in), rather than 1.118m (3ft 8in) as per the original proposal. Mrs Cottier seconded the revised version, and by a majority, the Council supported it.

67. A vote took place, and by a majority, the following amendment was **recommended** for approval:

Regulation I(B)10.g

TO:

g. Jumping heights and lengths:

(2) CD and UD stakes:

(c) Scale—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder ~~914.4mm (3ft)~~

0.838m (2ft 9in)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder ~~1.219m (4ft)~~

1.143m (3ft 9in)

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Proposals for the down stay to have progression through the stakes

68. The Council discussed a proposal from the Panel for the Down Stay exercise to have progression through the stakes. The proposal was submitted with the objective of fulfilling one of the topics on the Council's 5 year strategy i.e.: To develop Kennel Club working trials as a more attractive product to newcomers, increase numbers in the sport, as well as looking after its customer base, specifically looking at the early stakes for consideration of changes that would encourage newcomers to compete.'

69. Based on feedback received from societies and individuals, three options were submitted by the Panel. Option 1 was a proposal to progress the Down Stay exercise through Introductory, CD and UD Stakes. Options 2 and 3 consisted of slightly different proposals to create a graded marking system in the Down Stay exercise in Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes.
70. As an initial step, and prior to specific consideration of the above options, the Council considered whether it wished to progress any change to down stays to have progression through the stakes. A show of hands took place, and by a majority, the Council indicated its support for such a change. It then went on to consider the three options submitted by the Panel.

71. **OPTION 1**
Proposal to progress the Down Stay exercise through Introductory, CD and UD Stakes

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

~~DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)~~

Introductory Stake, 2 minutes (handlers in sight)

C.D. Stake, 5 minutes (handlers in sight)

U.D. Stake 5 minutes (handlers out of sight)

W.D., T.D. & P.D. Stakes 10 minutes (handlers out of sight)

~~Handlers must be out of sight of the~~ **The** dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.

(Deletion struck through. Insertions in bold)

72. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Bann. A vote took place, and by a majority, the Council did **not** recommend the proposal for approval.
73. **OPTION 2**
Proposal to create a graded marking system in the Down Stay exercise in Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)

Introductory and CD Stakes stay – 2 points per minute

UD and WD stay – 1 point per minute

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.

In Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes, the timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to leave their dogs. Marks must be graduated in accordance with the Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.

(Insertions in bold)

74. Some discussion took place in respect of the proposed new wording regarding the timing of the stays. Mr Gilbert proposed that the wording should be amended to state:

 '...the timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to give a last command and to leave their dogs.'
75. The revised wording was seconded by Mrs Wright, and approved by a majority vote.
76. However, a further concern was raised that both the original wording and the revised wording would remove flexibility from the judge in terms of whether he or she wished timing to commence when the handler left the dog, or when the handler went out of sight. Noting that the existing regulations did not state when the timing should start, Mr Taylor proposed an amendment to the original proposal whereby the line 'In Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes, the timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to leave their dogs.' would be removed from the proposal. This was seconded by Mrs Bann, and was approved by a majority, superseding the amendment proposed by Mr Gilbert.
77. A vote then took place on the revised proposal. By a majority, the proposal was **not** recommended for approval.

78. **OPTION 3****Proposal to create a graded marking system in the Down Stay exercise in Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes**

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)

Introductory Stake & CD - 5 points for 3 minutes, 10 points for 5 minutes

UD & WD graded stays – no points awarded until at least 50% of the test has been completed. Subsequently, points would be allocated as follows: 1 point for 6 minutes, 2 points for 7 minutes, 3 points for 8 minutes, 4 points for 9 minutes and 10 points for 10 minutes.

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.

In Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes, the timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to leave their dogs. Marks must be graduated in accordance with the Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.

(Insertions in bold)

79. As per option 2, the Council agreed that the wording 'In Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes, the timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to leave their dogs.' be removed from the proposal.
80. Subject to the above, a vote took place, and the proposal was **not** recommended for approval.
81. In view of the Council's earlier show of hands indicating its support for change to down stays to have progression through the stakes (paragraph 70 refers), a discussion took place as to how best to proceed, noting that none of the three specific options submitted by the Panel had been recommended for approval.
82. After careful consideration, it was agreed that as a conclusion had not been reached as to the precise way in which such progression could be achieved, the matter would be considered as **deferred** to allow for a revised proposal to be submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

83. Mr Ford wished for his objection to this course of action to be recorded as he considered it to be constitutionally incorrect.

Proposal for reallocation of Steadiness to Gunshot marks

84. As noted earlier in the meeting, the Board, at its meeting on 13 September 2022, had approved the deletion of regulation I(B)8 with effect from 1 January 2024, whereby the steadiness to gunshot test would be removed.
85. In view of this, the Panel had considered feedback from societies and individuals in respect of the replacement of the Steadiness to Gunshot's 5 marks and it wished the Council to consider options for the way in which the marks should be allocated. It had submitted two options in respect of UD and WD stakes, and three options in relation to TD and PD stakes. Its proposals were seconded by Mrs Bann.
86. Mr Ford wished for his concerns regarding the way in which the Panel's consultation had been carried out to be recorded. This was noted.
87. The Chair had requested that representatives gave careful consideration prior to the meeting as to which options they would prefer in order to focus the discussion. In view of this, the Council was requested to vote on the available options.

88. **UD and WD Stakes OPTION 1**

New exercise – Stop on Recall

Proposal to reallocate Steadiness to Gunshot 5 marks in UD and WD to UD & WD – stop on a recall (5 marks):

New regulation (location within regulations to be agreed)

TO:

The dog should be recalled from the 'down' or 'sit' position. The handler should be approximately 14 paces from the dog when they halt and face the dog. The dog should return at a smart pace and on the judge's signal will be stopped about halfway, in any position, by the handler. The dog must remain until given the signal or command to return and sit in front of the handler, afterwards going smartly to heel on command or signal. Handler to await commands of the judge or steward.

(Insertion in bold)

89. **UD and WD Stakes OPTION 2**

Speak on Command

Proposal to reallocate Steadiness to Gunshot 5 marks in UD and WD to UD – speak to be maximum of a series of no more than 5 barks (5 marks) and WD – speak to be maximum of 1 series of no more than 10 barks (5 marks)

Regulation I(B)9. Speak on Command

TO:

~~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 the instruction of the judge or steward who may 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" must be heavily penalised. This test must not be incorporated with any other test.~~

In TD and PD, the number of barks is at the judge's discretion and after the cease 'speaking' the handler may be instructed to make the dog speak again. 'Speaking' should be sustained by the dog with the minimum of commands and/or signals. Continuous and/or excessive incitements to 'speak' must be heavily penalised. This test must not be incorporated with any other test.

The judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog. In UD Stake and WD Stake, this position should be near and in sight of the dog. The dog may be in the stand, sit or down.

In TD and PD, the handler may be required 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.

In UD the number of barks should be a maximum of 5, in WD a maximum of 10 barks.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

90. An initial show of hands did not indicate full support for either of the above options, but the Council was requested to reconsider in view of the fact that the removal of the gun test had been approved by the Board and would come into effect on 1 January 2024. This being the case, the Council was not being requested to discuss whether or not the gun test should be removed, but only how the marks should be reallocated.
91. A second vote took place whereby representatives were asked to select their preference for options 1 or 2. By a majority, option 2, whereby the marks for UD and WD stakes would be reallocated to a 'Speak on Command' test, was **recommended** for approval.
92. **TD & PD Stakes OPTION 1:**
Additional criteria to heel work exercise - 'Down on the move' during heel work in TD and PD (10 marks)
 Proposal to reallocate Steadiness to Gunshot 5 marks to an additional criteria, a down on the move, within heel work in TD & PD (adding the 5 marks onto the current 5 allocated for heel work.)

Regulation I(B)2

TO:

The judge should test the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly

in a natural manner at normal, fast and slow paces through turns and among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel and a 'figure of eight' may be included at any stage.

Any act, signal or command or jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory stake.

Where required the lead should be attached to a close fitting smooth collar. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used.

In TD and PD Stakes, at some time during the test, while working at normal pace, the dog shall be required to be left in the down position when directed by the judge. The handler shall continue forward alone, without hesitation, and proceed as directed by the judge until upon reaching the dog, both shall continue forward together in accordance with the instructions given.

(Insertion in bold)

93. **TD & PD Stakes OPTION 2**

Additional criteria to heel work exercise – A Recall during heel work in TD and PD (10 marks)

Proposal to reallocate Steadiness to Gunshot 5 marks to an additional criteria, an A Recall, within heel work in TD & PD (adding the 5 marks onto the current 5 allocated for heel work.)

Regulation I(B)2

TO:

The judge should test the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly in a natural manner at normal, fast and slow paces through turns and among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel and a 'figure of eight' may be included at any stage.

Any act, signal or command or jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory stake.

Where required the lead should be attached to a close-fitting smooth collar. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used.

In TD and PD Stakes, at some time during the test, the handler will be instructed to leave the dog in the sit or down position (handler's choice of position) and walk away from the dog. Upon further instruction, whilst the handler is walking away from the dog, the handler shall command the dog to come to the heel position and continue the heel work until instructed to stop. The point at which the dog is called to heel and the halt point shall be the same for all dogs. After calling the dog to heel at no time shall the handler walk directly towards it.

(Insertion in bold)

94. **TD & PD Stakes OPTION 3**

Marks to be added on to current control exercises of Speak, Sendaway and Heel work in TD and PD

Proposal to reallocate Steadiness to Gunshot 5 marks to be added on to current TD & PD exercises

Speak - 2 marks

Sendaway - 2 marks

Heel work - 1 mark

95. It was clarified that for Option 1, it should be made clear that 5 marks would be available for heel work as at present, and the additional 5 reallocated marks for the down on the move. This amendment was proposed by Mr West and seconded by Mrs Cottier, and was approved via a majority vote. A corresponding amendment to option 2 was also agreed.
96. A vote took place on the three options, which indicated equal preference for options 1 (as amended above) and option 3. A further vote was carried out to select between options 1 and 3, and by a majority, option 1 was **recommended** for approval.

[**Afternote:** the office would formulate relevant amendments to Regulations I(A)9. required to support the above recommendations.]

Proposal to allow extra commands in CD heel work, retrieve and recall.

97. The Panel wished to propose that extra commands were permitted in CD heel work, retrieve and recall. It was of the view that allowing extra commands would provide a more positive experience for a beginner dog and more in line with early levels of obedience, as well as encouraging new handlers.
98. In response to a query as to how many extra commands would be permitted, it was noted that it would be up to the judge to decide how to mark additional commands.
99. The proposal was seconded by Miss Carruthers.
100. The Council was in agreement with the views of the Panel, and via a majority vote, it **recommended** the following amendments for approval:

Regulation I(B)2

TO:

Heel work – The judge should test the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly in a natural manner at normal, fast and slow paces through turns and among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel, and a ‘figure of eight’ may be included at any stage.

Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory and CD Stakes.

Any act, signal or command or jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised. ~~Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory stake.~~

Where required the lead should be attached to a close fitting smooth collar. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used.
(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

Regulation I(B)5.

TO:

Recall to handler – The dog should 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 **and CD** stakes.
(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)6.

TO:

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 should 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 **and CD** Stakes.
(Insertion in bold)

Proposal to allow small dogs reduced jump heights in WD and TD Stakes

101. The Panel wished the Council to consider a proposal under the terms of which reduced heights/lengths of the clear jump, long jump and scale, currently shown for small dogs in CD and UD Stakes, would also be shown in WD and TD Stakes.
102. The Panel was of the view that there was considerable support within the working trials community for allowing small dogs to work through to TD on reduced jumps. More people were choosing to have smaller dogs, and it was hoped that the proposal would encourage them to compete in working trials. At present, being limited to the lower stakes was disincentivising for many people who enjoyed training their dogs for competition.
103. It was suggested that should the proposal be agreed, measuring procedures, similar to those used in agility may be introduced, although a view was expressed that competitors would self-police and there would be no necessity to introduce formal measuring. It was agreed that this could be considered later should the proposal be supported.
104. A query was raised as to whether the proposal would cause difficulties for judges in having to raise and lower jumps several times during the

course of a competition. It was agreed that although this would be necessary, it was not anticipated that it would cause a major issue.

105. It was noted that at time of preparation of the agenda, Board approval of other amendments to the relevant regulation had not been confirmed. As these had now been approved, the proposal considered by the Council was therefore amended to reflect the changes for dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder in the length of the long jump from 2.743m (9ft) to 2.438m (8ft), and to the height of the scale from 1.828m (6ft) to 1.677m (5ft 6in).
106. The proposal under consideration was therefore as follows:

Regulation I(B)10.g.

TO:

Jumping heights and lengths:

(2) ~~CD and UD stakes:~~ **CD, UD, WD and TD stakes**

(a) Clear Jump—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder 457.2mm (1ft 6ins)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 609.6mm (2ft)

Dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 914.4mm (3ft)

(b) Long Jump—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder 1.219m (4ft)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 1.828m (6ft)

Dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 2.438m (8ft)

(c) Scale—

Dogs not exceeding 254mm (10in) at shoulder 914.4mm (3ft)

Dogs not exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 1.219m (4ft)

Dogs exceeding 381mm (15in) at shoulder 1.677m (5ft 6in).

(3) ~~WD, TD and PD stakes:~~

(a) Clear Jump 914.4mm (3ft)

(b) Long Jump 2.438m (8ft)

(c) Scale 1.677m (5ft 6in)

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Note: further amendments to this regulation had been recommended for approval earlier in the meeting (paragraphs 64-67 refer). Should the proposal currently under discussion be recommended for approval, these would be taken into account.

107. There was some concern that lowering the height of the scale to 3 ft would change the nature of the test, as the handler would be visible to the dog and it would therefore not be consistent with the test for larger dogs, which were not able to see the handler at all times during the test.
108. A view was also expressed that some members of the working trials community saw such changes as a lowering of standards, which was not desirable.

109. A vote took place, and, by a majority, the proposal was **not** supported.

Proposal to alter the sit stay to be 'in sight'

110. The Council considered a proposal to change the sit stay exercise to make it part of the progression of the stay exercises (including the down stay), and to more accurately reflect the way in which it was usually conducted.

111. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Wright.

112. The Panel noted that it was currently stated that in the Introductory Stake, the sit stay should be in sight, but in the CD stake, where possible, it should be out of sight of the dogs. However, the Panel was of the view that it was rarely practical for the sit stay to be out of sight, and that consistency as to what was required would be of benefit to beginner handlers, and dogs especially. It also highlighted that a similar measure had recently been agreed by the Irish Kennel Club and was now being successfully implemented.

113. A very brief discussion took place after which a vote was carried out. By a majority, the following amendment was **recommended** for approval:

Regulation I(B)3

TO:

SIT Introductory – 1 minute CD – 2 minutes **In sight**

Dogs may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to the dogs. Any further commands or signals will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. ~~In the Introductory Stake, these positions should be in in sight, but in the CD stake, where possible, such positions should be out of sight for the dogs but bearing in mind the short duration of the exercise this may not be practical.~~ Dogs must remain in the sit position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. The judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

Proposal to amend track lengths

114. The Panel wished to propose amendments to the lengths of tracks noting that ½ mile was equal to 880 yards, however in many cases, UD, WD and PD tracks were shorter than this. It was of the view that the proposal would set a more realistic length of track and give clarity to judges, as well as to trials managers who were sourcing land.

115. The proposal, which was seconded by Mr Gilbert, was as follows:

Regulation I(B)12.b

TO:

Track.—The descriptions below should be followed for the track:

- b) The track shall be a single line and may include turns. ~~It shall be approximately 0.8046km (half a mile) long and should be laid as far as possible by a stranger to the dog.~~ **In UD, it shall be approximately 600 yards long, in WD and PD 700 yards and TD 880 yards long and should be laid as far as possible by a stranger to the dog.**
 (Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

116. A discussion took place during which the Council agreed that it would be acceptable for the track length for UD stakes to be shorter, but that track lengths for other stakes should not be reduced.
117. A revised proposal was made by Mr Ford and seconded by Ms Marlow, and was agreed by the Council. A vote took place and, by a majority, the revised amendment was **recommended** for approval, as follows:

Regulation I(B)12.b

TO:

Track.—The descriptions below should be followed for the track:

- b) The track shall be a single line and may include turns. It shall be approximately 0.8046km (half a mile) long and should be laid as far as possible by a stranger to the dog. **In UD, it shall be a minimum of 600 yards long.**
 (Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Encouragement of new competitors - proposal to allow dogs to enter at 12 months of age

118. The Council considered a proposal submitted by the Panel for the introduction of two pre-CD stakes (Beginners and Novice) in order to facilitate new dog/handlers to start competing in trials by allowing dogs to enter at 12 months of age.
119. The proposal included details of exercises and points, as below. If approved, a number of other amendments to regulations would be necessary and details of these were included within the proposal.

Regulation I(A)9. Schedule of Exercises and Points.

(a) Add: **Beginners & Novice**

Add:

a. BEGINNER STAKE

	Maximum	Group	Qualifying
		marks	total mark
1. Heel on leash (normal pace)	10		
2. Heel free	10		
3. Recall to handler	10		
4. Sending the dog away	10		
5. Sit 1 minute (in sight)	10		
6. Down 2 minutes (in sight)	10		

7. Retrieve a Toy/article (handlers choice)	10		
8. Elementary search	20	90	72

Minimum qualifying mark 80%

Add:

b. NOVICE STAKE

	Maximum	Group marks	Qualifying total mark
1. Heel on leash	10		
2. Heel free	10		
3. Recall to handler	10		
4. Retrieve a dumb-bell	10		
5. Sending the dog away	10		
6. Sit stay 1 minute (in sight)	10		
7. Down stay 2 minutes (in sight)	10		
8. Elementary search	20		
Track (60) Articles (10+10=20)	80	170	136

Minimum qualifying mark 80%

120. Noting that there were other activities in which dogs may compete from a much earlier age, the Panel was of the view that these stakes (which would not include jumps) would be attractive to competitors and would encourage them to participate in working trials.
121. The proposal was seconded by Mr Craven.
122. It was acknowledged that many dog owners wished to start competing as early as possible, and that the existing requirement for dogs to be 18 months old on the closing date before competing in working trials meant that some potential competitors were lost to other disciplines in which they could begin competing much earlier.
123. It was noted that there was a facility in place whereby dogs could compete in special stakes, although as stated above, dogs under 18 months of age on the closing date were not eligible to do so. There was also a view that special stakes were not always attractive to competitors as they did not count towards progression. Further, the content of such stakes was not consistent. However, it was also acknowledged that it was up to societies to ensure that special stakes were made as attractive as possible, for example with the inclusion of a short track, which was an appealing exercise for new competitors.
124. In response to a query, it was confirmed that the proposed Beginners and Novice stakes would not be compulsory but would be optional.
125. A suggestion was made that a pilot scheme be introduced for the two new stakes, but it was not considered that it would be practical to do so.
126. Having considered the matter carefully, a vote was conducted, and, by majority, the proposal was not supported.

ITEM 10. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Proposal to add the element of recall to the sendaway

127. The Scottish Working Trials Society, represented by Mrs Cottier, wished to propose that the sendaway regulation should include reference to the recall part of the exercise. It was of the view that the amendment would allow the judge to take the recall into account when marking the sendaway.

Regulation I(B)7 Send away and directional control

TO:

...At this point in the TD or PD stakes the judge or steward will instruct the handler to redirect the dog. **The dog will thereafter be recalled by the handler on instruction of the judge or steward.**

(Insertion in bold)

128. The Council was of the view that the amendment was unnecessary as under existing regulations judges may remove marks overall should a dog not be under control and not return from the sendaway.

129. There being no seconder for the proposal, it was not discussed further.

Proposal to create a graded marking system in the down stay exercise

130. The Scottish Working Trials Society, represented by Mrs Cottier, had submitted the following proposal for the down stay exercise to be graded through the stakes:

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

~~DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)~~

Introductory Stake & CD - 5 points for 3 minutes, 10 points for 5 mins

UD, WD, TD & PD graded stays – no points awarded until at least 50% of the test had been completed. Subsequently, points would be allocated as follows: 1 point for 6 minutes, 2 points for 7 minutes, 3 points for 8 minutes, 4 points for 9 minutes and 10 points for 10 minutes.

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by

another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.

The timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been instructed to leave their dogs. Marks must be graduated in accordance with the Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.

131. Noting that there had been discussion earlier in the meeting in respect of proposals for a graded marking system for down stays (paragraphs 68-83 refer), it was agreed that consideration of the above proposal should also be deferred so that all proposals on the same issue could be considered together at the Council's next meeting.

Proposal to reduce jumps in CD and UD

132. Mrs Cottier, on behalf of the Scottish Working Trials Society, agreed to withdraw a proposal to reduce jumps in CD and UD to progress jumps through the stakes, in view of discussions on the same topic earlier in the meeting.

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)4

133. Ms Marlow, representing Southern Alsatian Training Society, presented a proposal to amend the above regulation to remove the provision for a judge to use distractions as part of the 'down' exercise.
134. The Society was of the view that distractions were rarely used, and that should a dog be caused to move as a result of a distraction, it may potentially interfere with another dog. Further, it also noted that it was difficult to apply a distraction equally to all dogs.
135. The proposal was seconded by Mr Ford.
136. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed that the proposal was a sensible one, and following a vote, by a majority it was **recommended** for approval:

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

Down (Introductory and CD stake 5 minutes. Other stakes 10 minutes).— Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The judge or steward will give the command 'last command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the judge or steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the judge or steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause the dog to move. ~~The judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.~~

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMSWorking Trials Warrant

137. Mrs Cottier presented a suggestion that an application should be made to The Kennel Club for the introduction of a Working Trials warrant, similar to the Junior Warrant (available within breed showing) and the Obedience and Agility Warrants.
138. Mrs Cottier noted that in 2019, 706 Junior Warrants, 19 Obedience Warrants, and 966 Agility Warrants were awarded by The Kennel Club, and in 2021, The Kennel Club announced the introduction of the Rally Warrant (RW), with the intention of encouraging new competitors into the discipline, as well as encouraging existing competitors at every level. Successful competitors were permitted to use the title after their dog's name in entries and in catalogues. It was anticipated that the introduction of a Working Trials Warrant would encourage newcomers and give them something to aim for.
139. However it was highlighted that there were differences between disciplines, in that for obedience and the higher grades in agility a dog had to achieve class placings in order to progress through the classes, thereby beating other dogs, which was not the case for working trials, in which progression was achieved by gaining qualifying marks.
140. In the case of rally, wins were not necessary to progress, however the Rally Warrant was only available for those competing at the highest level, and had been introduced with the objective of retaining competitors at that level, there currently being no championship status for the discipline.
141. Having considered the matter, the Council was not of the view that there was merit in the principle of a Working Trials Warrant, however, any further feedback from members of the working trials community would be welcomed by Mrs Cottier.

Societies' involvement in contributing to Working Trials Info website

142. Mrs Cottier wished to remind the Council of the importance of the Working Trials Info website, run by Mr M Skillin, to ensure relevant information regarding individual working trials and events was available, such as trial results and photographs, judges' reports, trial details, training articles etc.
143. Mrs Cottier wished to suggest that an individual from each society be given the 'PR' role, of taking photographs, compiling the results and submitting them directly to Working Trials Info. If necessary, the person undertaking this role could also ensure that reports from judges were received and published. Other information such as photographs of track and search square patterns, articles etc. would also create interest, especially for newcomers but also for current trialists.

144. The Council was in agreement that such activity would assist in the promotion of working trials, and wished to encourage societies to engage in the submission of information to the website.
145. It was also reminded that similar information should also be submitted to Dog Sport UK magazine, which covered a range of disciplines, but which would also be helpful in the promotion of working trials.

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Incident Book

146. Mr Ford wished to raise a concern regarding the provision for incidents to be noted up to seven days after a trial, being of the view that this was not acceptable as any reports should be made on a contemporaneous basis and not after the event. Mr Ford's views were noted.

Submission of matters for Any Other Business

147. Members of the Council were reminded that matters for Any Other Business should be submitted to the office two weeks prior to the meeting.

Members of staff

148. It was noted that Mrs Mitchell would be retiring from The Kennel Club in the near future. Mrs Bastick, who would be taking over the role of Committee Secretary, was welcomed.

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

149. It was noted that the date for the Council's next meeting had been changed and that it would now take place on 18 July 2023. All agenda items must be submitted by 19 April 2023.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm with thanks to all present.

MR C TAYLOR
Chairman

THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- *Champion the wellbeing of dogs*
- *Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues*
- *Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network*
- *Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact*
- *Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community*
- *Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable*

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

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
 Icen Working Trials 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