

MINUTES OF THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2014

PRESENT:

Mrs A Benoist	North East
Mr D Garrett	Wales
Miss F Godfrey	South East and East Anglia
Mr R Harlow	South East and East Anglia
Mrs J Jessop	Wales
Mr A Kousourou	Scotland
Mrs D Lavender	North East
Mr P Lubbi	South East and East Anglia
Mr M McCartney	Northern Ireland
Mr J McIntosh	Scotland
Mr R Page	Midlands
Mrs M Ray	Midlands
Mr S Rutter	North West
Mrs B Smith	Midlands
Mrs L Turner	South and South West
Mr R Wakelin	North West

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss D Deuchar	Manager – Canine Activities
Mrs C Maguire	Team Leader – Working Dog Activities Team
Mrs A Mitchell	Committee Secretary – Working Dog Activities Team

The Sub-Committee noted that Mr Wynne, who had been a member of the Obedience Liaison Council, had recently passed away. A minute's silence was held in memory of Mr Wynne.

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

1. Following the resignation from the Council of Mrs Garner, Mr Rutter was proposed by Mr Kousourou, seconded by Mr Page and, there being no further nominations, was elected as Chairman.
2. Two nominations were made for the role of Vice Chairman. Mr Kousourou was proposed by Mrs Benoist and seconded by Mr Turner, and Mr Harlow was proposed by Mr Lubbi and seconded by Mr Page. Following a ballot, Mr Harlow was elected as Vice Chairman.

ITEM 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Henstridge.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 were signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulation G30.f.

5. The Council noted that the General Committee had approved the proposed movement and amendment of Regulation G30.f. from Management to become Regulation G33.b Judges and Judging.

Beginners Guide to Obedience

6. The Council considered the revised draft of the document which had been submitted by Mrs Garner to support new competitors entering into the discipline.
7. The Council agreed that the Guide, once finalised, should be available both as a printed hard copy and as a downloadable version available from the Kennel Club's website. It was confirmed that the Kennel Club would cover printing costs. An A5 format containing a maximum of six pages was considered to be most suitable. The Guide should be aimed at those handlers planning to compete at their first show, and it was important that it should be pitched at the correct level as too much information could be overwhelming. Detailed information was not necessary but the document should provide 'signposts' to assist new handlers to find further information regarding Rules and Regulations and specific information regarding the classes (Introductory and Pre-Beginner) in which they would be competing. It was noted that if illustrations were required, the Kennel Club would be able to supply stock photographs.
8. It was considered that the current draft contained too much information and needed substantial editing in order to produce a document which would be helpful to new competitors. Mrs Turner and Mrs Jessop agreed to carry out further work on the Guide, with additional assistance from Mrs Williams. It was noted that they would be able to draw on guidance given in similar documents previously published by other organisations. Assistance would be available from the office if required.
9. The Council requested that the finalised Guide be included in information sent to clubs running the Good Citizen Dog scheme. The office agreed to approach the department concerned.

Proposed Regulation amendments relating to Listed Status

10. The Council discussed the proposals relating to the introduction of Listed Status for Obedience.
11. It was noted that at its previous meeting the Council had recommended that Listed Status clubs be offered Limited shows only. The Council received a report from the office in which it was noted that Listed Status was successfully introduced for Agility in 2012 with the opportunity for organisations to hold both Open and Limited shows. This has resulted in an extra 188 shows being licensed

in 2014 of which 179 were Open and only 9 were Limited. It was accepted that interest in Limited Shows within Agility was generally higher than within Obedience and there was a concern that offering only Limited shows to Obedience Listed Status Clubs would not fully address the issue of the number of lost shows.

12. The Council was also concerned that allowing Listed Status clubs to run Open Shows was unfair on registered clubs who had to comply with a number of Kennel Club constraints which were not applicable to Listed Status clubs. Many Listed Status clubs were private clubs and there was a view that should they wish to run Open Shows they should be obliged to register with the Kennel Club. It was noted however that some safeguards were in place in that Listed Status clubs were required to provide references with their original application, and that they were required to provide risk assessments for their shows.
13. There was a concern that more Open Shows would result in date clashes which could potentially result in reduced entries at shows being run by registered clubs, with a subsequent negative impact on their finances which they could ill afford. Rising fuel costs meant that many handlers would select the show that was nearest to them, although it was accepted that competitors would travel further for a Championship Show. The Council also accepted that in some cases it was possible for entries at an Obedience Show to be affected by an Agility Show in the same area on the same day.
14. The Council acknowledged that there were regional differences in the number of shows being held. For example, in London and the south-east area there had been a serious decline in Open Shows and very few were currently being held. In some areas there were a number of free weekends in the show calendar but this was not the case in other areas.
15. It was confirmed that the 100-mile radius rule would still apply and that the normal procedure for objections would still be applicable whereby clubs could object to another show being held in the same area on the same day.
16. A suggestion was made that there should be a greater differential between the licence fee payable by a registered club and a Listed Status club. However, the differential was the same as for other disciplines, and as licence fees were subject to a vote at the Kennel Club's Annual General Meeting it was accepted that it was not practical to make any changes.
17. A concern was also expressed that some clubs would find it preferable to deregister in order to become Listed Status clubs. However, the office confirmed that this had not been the case in Agility where in fact a number of Listed Status clubs had applied for registration.
18. The Council accepted that it was not possible to predict with any accuracy the effect of allowing Listed Status clubs to hold Open Shows and that it may turn out to be the case that it did not result in a high number of new shows. Many Listed Status clubs were mainly concerned with running pet obedience classes and would not wish to run shows at all. The difficulty of finding enough people to help

at shows was acknowledged. Many clubs were being run by experienced committees but it appeared that younger people were not enthusiastic to serve on committees and were not available to replace older members wishing to retire.

19. A particular point of concern was that many private clubs were run on a 'for profit' basis and it was unclear as to whether people would voluntarily give up their time to assist at shows where the profit would go to the owner of the club rather than back into the sport.
20. A suggestion was made that Listed Status should not be granted in an area where an existing registered club was already in operation, however it was accepted that although there was a current Kennel Club procedure to allow a registered club to object to the registration of another club wishing to operate in the same area, the objection was often overruled. It would not be possible to refuse Listed Status on the grounds of the existence of a registered club in the same geographical area.
21. A trial period was suggested whereby Listed Status clubs be allowed to run Open Shows for a period of time after which the position would be reviewed. However, it was acknowledged that it would not be acceptable to offer the facility only to subsequently withdraw it.
22. Another possibility was to allow Listed Status clubs to hold Open Shows subject to restrictions on what classes they would be permitted to schedule, for example, up to Novice or 'A' only.
23. However the Council accepted that the main objective of the proposal was to promote Open Shows and to provide an opportunity for more of them to take place and thus address the issue of the declining number currently being held. It accepted the principle of Listed Status clubs being permitted to hold Open Shows and **recommended** by a majority that they should be permitted to do so, on an unrestricted basis.

Proposed amendment of Regulation G35.g

24. At its previous meeting, the Council considered whether the use of food/toys would be permissible if it was part of the rules of a special class as stated in a schedule. Following discussion it was agreed that under regulated conditions set out in the rules of a special class in the schedule, it would be acceptable.
25. The Council **recommended** approval of the above Regulation as follows:
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)
26. The Council noted that clubs must state in their schedules that toy and food rewards were allowed in Introductory classes, and if applicable, Special Classes.

Kennel Club International Obedience Festival

27. No further suggestions for the creation of an Obedience event similar to the Kennel Club International Agility Festival had been received.

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Proposal to amend Regulations G(A)10.b. Class B and Regulation G(A)11.d Class C

28. It was noted that the Activities Sub-Committee had not recommended for approval the above proposal.
29. 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. The Sub-Committee was anxious to ensure that standards of Obedience remained high and it was not of the view that the proposed amendments would achieve this.
30. The Council wished to record its disappointment with the decision made by the Sub-Committee, noting that the proposal had been made with the unanimous support of Council members. It was of the view that in not supporting the proposal, the Sub-Committee had undermined the credibility of the Council.
31. It requested that the matter be reconsidered by the Sub-Committee on the grounds of the health and welfare of dogs which was the main rationale behind the original proposal. Council representatives confirmed that the feedback received from the obedience community indicated strong support for the reduction of stay times and that although it had been noted that some individuals wished to have stays removed completely, this view had played no role in the Council's recommendation.
32. The Council also wished to make it clear that it did not support the view that a reduction in stay times would result in any lowering of standards within obedience.

Proposed change of Regulations regarding submission of all schedules and catalogues for Open Shows

33. The Sub-Committee 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.

34. Marked Championship Show catalogues would still be required in order for the various award certificates to be issued after each show and no change to the regulations was recommended in this respect.
35. 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.
36. Subject to approval by the General Committee, new Regulations would come into effect in January 2015.
37. The Council queried whether it was possible for schedules and catalogues to be submitted and stored electronically at the Kennel Club. The office clarified that it was not considered necessary to retain Open Show documentation at all as queries relating to schedules often arose before a copy had been formally submitted, and catalogues were only referred to in the event of an incident. In either case a copy could be obtained from the host club.
38. However, it was noted by the Council that Championship Show catalogues were retained indefinitely by the Library.

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

39. The Council noted a report detailing the work of the Activities Sub-Committee during 2013.

ITEM 7. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

40. Representatives were invited to propose further items for addition to the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan.
41. The Council agreed that Liaison Council Representatives should visit clubs in their own areas to discuss issues affecting Obedience, although this did not require any amendment to the current strategy as it was covered under the item 'Council engagement with grass-roots competitors.'
42. It was accepted that constructive action was required to take the sport forward. Attracting newcomers into Obedience was very important and all possible efforts should be made to do so.
43. It had previously been agreed as part of the strategy to contact participants in the Gold Good Citizen Dog Scheme to introduce them to competitive obedience. This item was still ongoing via provision of information packs but this was awaiting finalisation of the Beginners Guide as discussed earlier.

44. It was agreed that no new items were to be added to the existing strategy but that it was vital for Council Representatives to ensure that items already included were monitored and progressed. An updated list with completed items removed would be circulated by the office. All Council Representatives were requested to give further consideration to finding ways to take Obedience forward into the future.
45. A discussion took place regarding the desirability of a commentary being given during the Obedience Championships at Crufts, and whether this would be helpful in engaging the interest of spectators. Commentary had been introduced for the Inter-Regional competition and for the World Cup and had proved to be popular and informative for those new to the sport, but it was not considered that it would be appropriate during the Championships which was of more interest to an informed audience rather than to the general public.
46. This led to a discussion regarding applause between exercises during the Championships. There was some concern that although this should not disturb the dogs, some handlers may object. The Council was of the view that although allowing audiences to applaud to show their appreciation may increase their engagement, it was not normal practice to do so.

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS

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

47. Mr Page introduced the item on behalf of Mrs Porter, who considered that it had become apparent in recent years that many judges were using criteria not laid down in the regulations to deduct marks from dogs during stays. For instance, the phrase “showing daylight” was regularly used, but with no real idea of what exactly was meant by this. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Jessop.
48. Mrs Porter was of the view that Judges were 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 were complying with the Obedience G regulations, as they were actually remaining in position for the duration of the exercise, and were only committing minor indiscretions.
49. The Council was in agreement that minor movement within a stay should not be penalised by the dog losing the full mark for the exercise, but that the decision as to what constituted minor movement would be at the discretion of the judge. It therefore **recommended** approval of the following amendments:

Regulation G(C)4.f.(1) Sit Stay:

TO:

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 may only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise.

Regulation G(C)4.f.(2) Down Stay:

TO:

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 may only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise.

Introductory Class - Proposed Amendment of Regulation G(A)5. - Classes

50. Mr Page introduced a proposal on behalf of Mrs Garner. Following a review of the class and discussion at the January 2014 Obedience Council meeting, Mrs Garner wished to propose the following changes to the Introductory Class. She hoped these changes would make the class more appealing to show societies and competitors. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Turner.
51. It was noted that only a few societies had scheduled the Introductory class and that some handlers were of the view that the class represented a backward step and did not wish to enter it, and as a result may choose not to enter a show scheduling the class. Some handlers would prefer it to be scheduled as a Special class rather than as a compulsory standard class. However the Council considered that the class was a useful educational tool for new handlers which would give them confidence and that it would also encourage those new to the sport to take their first steps into competitive Obedience. It was noted that the proposed changes would make it easier for handlers to progress out of the class.
52. The Council supported the proposal in principle but wished to make some amendments to it, particularly in respect of the duration for the heelwork exercise where it was of the view that no time limit was necessary.
53. It noted that the objective of the 'play' exercise was for the handler and the dog to interact and for the handler to be able to maintain the dog's attention and interest.
54. It was noted that the guidance notes did not form a part of Kennel Club Regulations but were provided to assist judges and competitors.
55. After discussion, Mr McCartney proposed the following amendments to Regulations and to the guidance notes. Mr McIntosh seconded the following proposal which received the unanimous support of the Council:

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 or in any other class.

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

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 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.
- 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.

56. It was agreed that no amendment was necessary to G(C).4.B.(1) Tests - Introductory Class.

Proposed Amendment of Regulation G(C)4. – Tests

57. Mr Page, representing Mrs Garner, stated a concern that current Regulations did not stipulate a requirement for dogs to sit at the start and end of heelwork exercises.
58. Custom and practice for many years had meant that all heelwork tests started and finished with a halt. As the current regulations did not stipulate this it appeared that there was a trend to finish the exercise while the dog and handler were still moving, making the completion of the exercise more difficult to determine.

59. The Council discussed the matter, and following research carried out by the office and by Mr Page, accepted that Regulations requiring dogs to sit at the start and end of the heelwork exercises had been omitted in error by the Obedience Council 'G' Regulations Working Party following its meeting held on 23 November 2010 rather than having been transferred to Annex C as had been its intention.
60. The Council acknowledged that this was a genuine error and therefore recommended that the following amendments to Regulations be reinstated subject to approval by the Activities Sub-Committee.

Regulation G(C)1.d.

INSERT

d. In all classes the handler may use the dog's name with a command or signal without penalty. All tests shall commence and finish with the dog sitting at the handler's left side except in Distant Control and in Beginners, Novice and Class A Recall Tests when the dog may be left in either the Sit or Down position at the handler's choice. In the Stay Test a handler working more than one dog may choose to leave all dogs on his/her left hand side, with a reasonable distance between them, or to position the dogs on his/her left and right hand side.

Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.

61. In addition, it was noted that the requirement to start both the Sendaway and Scent exercises from the sit position had not been transferred to Annex C and, following a proposal from Mr Page which was seconded by Mr Harlow, to rectify matters completely the Council also **recommended** approval of the following amendments:

Regulation G(C)4. – Tests

TO:

b. In all classes the handler may use the dog's name with a command or signal without penalty.

c. 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)

Regulation G(C)4.g.(9) Scent Discrimination

TO:

At the commencement of the test the dog must be brought to a designated point. The dog must be facing away from the cloths while scented/decoy cloths are placed in position. When the cloths have been placed, the handler must give the dog scent, stand up straight facing the scent area with the dog in the sit position at the handler's left side and send the dog on command from the judge or steward to find the correct cloth. The dog, on finding the correct cloth must then complete the test as for the Retrieve Test.

Regulation G(C)4.h.(1) Send Away, Drop and Recall

TO:

On command of the judge, the handler to bring the dog to the place indicated, set up the dog and stand upright with the dog in the sit position at the handler's left

side. On further command, the handler to send the dog in the direction indicated by the judge; upon further command from the handler, the dog to drop at the designated area.

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Changes to classes

62. Mr Lubbi spoke on behalf of Mrs L Bennett. Mrs Bennett would like to see an addition within the current class structure whereby in Novice, 'A' and 'B' classes, handlers would be designated as either Open or Restricted in each class.
63. An Open handler was defined as one who had won out of that class at any time with any dog (under the current Kennel Club class system). A Restricted handler was one who had never won out of the class before with any dog. An Open handler would only be eligible to compete at Open level in that class whereas a Restricted handler would have the choice as to whether to compete at Open or Restricted.
64. Once a Restricted Handler had won at Restricted level they would have the choice whether to compete again at the same level but as an Open Handler, or to go up a class and compete as a Restricted (or Open) handler. Once a handler had won at Open level in any class they could never compete again as a Restricted handler in that class. Restricted wins would not count towards an Obedience Warrant award.
65. Mrs Bennett's reasons for the suggestion were to attempt to keep more people involved long term in Competitive Obedience rather than lose them.
66. The Council was of the view that Mrs Bennett was to be thanked for putting forward the idea and it noted and accepted the principle behind it. Mrs Bennett's willingness to promote the sport was appreciated.
67. However the Council accepted that the suggestion would place an unduly onerous burden on show administration and that it would not be workable on a practical level and it therefore was not able to support the suggestion. It also noted that it would not be instrumental in bringing new people into the sport.
68. It was accepted that there was a perception amongst the Obedience community that Novice was a difficult class for those handlers coming up from Beginners to progress out of. There was a concern that some handlers had given up competitive Obedience as a result, although it was noted that the sport was able to offer three protected classes where new handlers did not compete against those with more experience.
69. This led to a discussion regarding the future of Obedience. The Council acknowledged the concern that the sport was in decline and that it was necessary for it to take a pro-active stance. It was therefore suggested that a Working Party should be established with the object of considering the long term strategy. The Working Party should have a clear remit and all its work was to be treated as

confidential with reports only being made back to the Council. Any items referred to the Council were to be made as discussion items and not as proposals.

70. Mrs Turner, Mr Harlow and Mr Lubbi all volunteered their services for the Working Party, the remit of which was to consider the five-year strategy for Obedience. All meetings of the proposed Working Party would be minuted by the Kennel Club.
71. It was agreed that it was important that all items included on the Council's strategy should be carefully monitored and progressed.

Rewarding of dogs during ring work

72. Mr Lubbi introduced the item on behalf of Thurrock Dog Training Society which wished to propose that a competitor should 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.
73. Rewarding in all classes could be done between exercises only.
74. Rewards should be given in a timely manner, for example rewarding a dog for 5 minutes in between exercises would not be considered timely.
75. The matter was discussed and the Council's view was that it should only be permissible to reward dogs during competition in Special and Introductory classes. It therefore did not support the suggestion.

ITEM 10. ACTIVITIES HEALTH & WELFARE SUB-GROUP

Report on the work of the Sub-Group

76. The Council noted the written report from Mrs Garner on the recent work of the Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group.
77. It noted that the next meeting of the Sub-Group would take place on 18 September 2014.

Election of Council Representative for the Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group

78. It was necessary for the Council to elect an Obedience representative for the Sub-Group in replacement of Mrs Garner.
79. Mr Harlow was proposed by Mr Rutter and seconded by Mr McCartney. Mrs Ray was proposed by Mrs Godfrey and seconded Mr Lubbi. A ballot took place and Mr Harlow was elected.

ITEM 11. JUDGES WORKING PARTY

80. It was noted that due to the tube strike which was held on the day when the Judges Working Party meeting had been due to take place, the meeting had been postponed until 3 July 2014. A report would be given to the Council at its next meeting.

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Inaugural AKC Obedience Classic Event

81. The Council noted that an invitation had been received from the American Kennel Club for a UK team to compete at the two-day Inaugural AKC Obedience Classic Event to be held in Orlando, Florida, USA on 13 and 14 December 2014. A press release had been issued inviting handlers interested in taking part to contact the office.

England World Cup Team

82. It was noted that Mr H Watson had been confirmed as the manager for the England World Cup Team competing at Crufts 2015.

Playing with dogs in the stay ring

83. Concerns were raised regarding handlers playing with their dogs in the stay ring at shows. Some handlers and their dogs found this to be unsettling. The Council accepted that the stay ring was not an appropriate place for play to be taking place. A query was also raised as to whether it was acceptable for a handler to be asked to move to a different part of the stay ring. It was confirmed that it might be necessary to do so under some circumstances, for example if the handler was too close to another. It was acknowledged that the stay ring was under the control of the judge and that he or she had responsibility for ensuring that standards of behaviour in the stay ring were acceptable.

Collective responsibility

84. The issue of collective responsibility was raised, and the Chairman confirmed that Council representatives should not comment on any matters discussed until the minutes had been published. The office would publish minutes as soon as possible after the meeting and they would appear on the Kennel Club's website. A press release would also be issued stating that the minutes were available on the website. However the office did not send copies to show societies or to publications such as Dog Training Weekly which, it was noted, was now under new ownership. Mr Harlow agreed to send a copy of the finalised minutes to Dog Training Weekly and also to Obedience UK for publication on its website.

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

85. The Council noted that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed in September 2014.
86. The meeting closed at 4.25 pm.

S RUTTER
Chairman

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.**

Kennel Club Obedience Liaison Council Representatives

1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015

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