

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD AT IN THE BOARDROOM AT THE KENNEL CLUB  
ON TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2015 AT 10.30 AM**

**AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 (copies previously distributed).

**ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a. Mrs L Turner Mr R Becque

Proposed amendment to Regulation G33.d Judges and Judging

At the Council's previous meeting a proposal for an amendment to Regulation G33.d. from Mr R Becque was considered. Mr Becque was requested to clarify his proposal and the Council is requested to consider the revised proposal which is as follows:

**TO:**

G33.d Judges and Judging.

Judges at Obedience Shows must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their **sole** ownership or part ownership, or handle a dog, at the Show at which they are judging. **A dog recorded in part ownership with the Judge may be entered for competition in any class other than the class in which the judge is judging.**

(Insertions in bold.)

Mr Becque requests the Council to consider the above amendment which would allow for dogs recorded as part owned by a judge to be entered at shows where the co-owner is judging. Many dogs are co-owned for practical reasons and Mr Becque considers that it is unnecessary to prevent such dogs being entered at a show where a co-owner is judging, as judging of Obedience competitions is not subjective in nature and that due to the number of judges officiating at any one show there is no opportunity for a judge judging one class to influence judging in another class.

- b. Commentary for obedience competitions at Crufts

Following discussion at its meeting in January 2015, the Council is requested to give further consideration to the introduction of commentary for the Obedience Championships at Crufts.

**ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

- a. To note a report from Mr Rutter on recommendations made by the Activities Sub-Committee.
- b. Kennel Club Code of Practice for Owners and Handlers with Dogs Taking Part in Canine Activities  
The Council's views on the document had been noted and a revised version will be produced in due course.
- c. Retrieve over hurdle  
The Council's concerns regarding the use of a solid hurdle in the retrieve over hurdle exercise in the Obedience World Cup and the Inter-Regional competitions held at Crufts had been referred to the Crufts Sub-Committee.
- d. Amendment to Regulation G(C)4.f.(1)  
The Council is invited to note that at its meeting on 14 April 2015, the General Committee approved an amendment to Regulation G(C)4.f.(1). The proposal for the amendment had been submitted by the office in view of the Council's wishes and in the interests of consistency, and brings the Regulation into line with Regulation G(A)5.(3) which states that the detailed test would include 'Recall with a finish on lead, off lead or long line, at the handler's choice.'

Regulation G(C)4.f.(1) would now read as follows:

f. Recall-

(1) Introductory Class to Novice: At the start of the exercise the dog should be in the sit or down position (handler's choice of position) at the handler's left side. On command, the handler shall leave the dog in the direction instructed. When instructed, the handler will halt and then turn to face the dog. When instructed, the handler will recall the dog which must return briskly to the "present" position and sit. When instructed, the handler will command the dog to go to the heel position on the handler's left side and sit in the "heel" position. ~~In the Introductory Class finishing the dog to the "heel" position is not included in the exercise.~~  
(Deletion struck through)

**ITEM 5. TO NOTE THE TABLED REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE  
ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE DURING 2014**  
(Annex A refers – to be tabled)

**ITEM 6. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY**

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

**(Annex B refers)**

**ITEM 7. PROPOSALS**

a. Mrs F Godfrey

Ms S Budgen

Proposed amendments to Regulations G(A)5.f(1) and G35(g)

Regulation G(A)5.f(1) Introductory

**TO:**

Play with dog for 15-30 seconds on or off lead at the handler's choice. **Handlers may use a toy if they wish.**

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation G35(g)

**TO:**

Food and/or toys shall not be carried or given to a dog under test except in Introductory Class where silent toy and food rewards may be used ~~between and after exercises~~ **in accordance with the Introductory class Regulation** 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).

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

Ms Budgen, an individual, wishes to propose the above amendments in order to address ambiguities within the G Regulations which refer to the Introductory class. The proposed amendments would ensure consistency with Regulation G(A)5a which states that 'In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises.'

b. Mrs F Godfrey

Ms S Budgen

Proposed amendment to Regulation G.35.d. Competing

Regulation G35.d. Competing

**TO:**

Nothing may be carried, worn or displayed by a handler or a dog during judging which is capable of indicating the identity of the dog or owner nor must anything be said or any action taken which identifies the dog other than by exhibit number.

**If asked for by the judge or ring steward a handler may (at their choice) disclose their first name and dog's pet name for possible show report use.**

(Insertion in bold)

c. Mr S Rutter

Proposed amendment to Regulation G(C)4.h.

**TO:**

Stays **in ALL** classes - The Judge or Steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. The command "Last Command" will be given and handlers should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs after this "Last Command" will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to positions indicated until ordered to return to them. These are group tests and all dogs must compete together, but where this is impracticable at an indoor show, the class may be equally divided but the judging for the groups must be consecutive.  
(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

Mr Rutter proposes the above amendment as, because Introductory class stays now take place in the stay ring, the possible use of food & toys as prescribed in the class should not extend to the stay ring, where their use may present problems for other competitors in other classes.

d. Mr S Rutter

Miss Audrey Wilkinson & Mrs Margaret Ward

Proposed amendment to Regulation G16.a. Obedience Championships

16. Obedience Championships.

a. The Kennel Club will offer at Crufts Dog Show each year the Kennel Club Obedience Championship - Dog and the Kennel Club Obedience Championship - Bitch. A dog awarded one or more Obedience Certificates **or three or more Reserve Obedience Certificates losing 15 marks or less** during the calendar year preceding Crufts Dog Show shall be entitled to compete.  
**Should the reserve qualifier win at Crufts it would NOT become an Obedience Champion unless it had previously won one or more Obedience Certificates.**

(Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

There have been many very good dogs which have won a number of Reserve Obedience Certificates but have never won an Obedience Certificate. The proposed amendment would give those dogs the opportunity to compete at Crufts. There are very few dogs which win three Reserve Obedience Certificates in a year therefore the standard of competition at Crufts would not be lowered.

- e. Mr S Rutter Miss Audrey Wilkinson & Mrs Margaret Ward

Proposed new Regulation G16.d. Obedience Championships

TO:

**d. Where the winner of an Obedience Certificate is unable to take his or her place in the Obedience Championship - Dog or Obedience Championship - Bitch, due to circumstances beyond their control, the Reserve Obedience Certificate winner would take their place at Crufts. Should a dog qualifying in this way win at Crufts, it would NOT become an Obedience Champion unless it had previously won one or more Obedience Certificates.**

(Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

At present, being awarded a Reserve Obedience Certificate has no practical significance. This year as in previous years there were Obedience Certificate winners who were unable to compete at Crufts because of injury. The above proposal would address both of the above issues. Note: if a competitor chose not to enter/work at Crufts this rule would not come into force, and this would ensure that the place was taken honestly. The Reserve must also have lost 15 points or less in order to be eligible to compete in the Championship.

In the case of Inter-Regional & World Cup Competitions, a Reserve dog would take part should another competitor drop out so it is suggested that the same should apply to the Championships. The word 'reserve' would suggest that a dog having been awarded a Reserve Obedience Certificate would replace an injured dog as in other sports, but in the case of the Championship it is not so, the Reserve Obedience Certificate only being equivalent, in effect, to a second place.

- f. Mr S Rutter Miss Audrey Wilkinson & Mrs Margaret Ward

Proposed amendment to Regulation G24. Entry for Competition.

TO:

g. In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including the ~~seventh day before the closing date of entries~~ shall be counted when entering for any class. ~~Therefore, should a dog qualify out of a class within the six days before the closing date of entries, the entry must be treated as though the dog had not gained this qualification.~~

Rationale

With the advent of on-line entries, and to cut down on the number of extra wins taken, the above proposal is logical and would ensure that those who are progressing through the classes would not be held back working a class they had already won out of.

## **ITEM 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. Mr S Rutter

Stays In Introductory Class

The Council is requested to discuss the apparent ambiguity in G Regulations relating to stays in the Introductory class. Regulation G(A)5.c. states that ' Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands in all exercises.' However, in the explanatory notes there is no reference to any exception for the Introductory class in respect of further commands or signals after the 'Last Command' has been given.

The Council is therefore requested to consider whether it wishes to recommend an amendment to Regulations in order to allow encouragement or extra commands to be permitted during stays in the Introductory class.

For reference, Regulation G(C)4.h currently reads as follows:

Stays - The Judge or Steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. The command "Last Command" will be given and handlers should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs after this "Last Command" will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to positions indicated until ordered to return to them. These are group tests and all dogs must compete together, but where this is impracticable at an indoor show, the class may be equally divided but the judging for the groups must be consecutive.

b. Mr S Rutter

Draws for Championship Classes

The Council is requested to discuss the way in which draws for Championship classes are conducted, with particular reference to the issue of handlers with multiple dogs being drawn consecutively.

## **ITEM 9. ACTIVITIES HEALTH & WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

- a. The Council is invited to note the written report from Mr Harlow on the recent work of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group.  
**(Annex C refers – to follow)**
- b. The Council is invited to note that the next meeting of the Sub-Group will take place on 1 or 2 September 2015 (subject to confirmation).

**ITEM 10. JUDGES WORKING PARTY**

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Page on the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 28 April 2015.  
**(Annex D refers - to follow)**

**ITEM 11. OBEDIENCE INFORMATION STAND AT CRUFTS**

The Council is invited to receive a report from Miss Benoist and Mrs Lavender regarding the Obedience Information Stand at Crufts.  
**(Annex E refers)**

**ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the Council will be confirmed in September 2015.

**NOTES:**

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at the Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the Office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that the Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to the Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

**THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

***“To raise the relevance of the Kennel Club in the eyes of the public at large, dog owners and those who take part in canine events, so as to be better able ‘to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs.’***

