

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
21 JANUARY 2016 AT 10.30AM IN THE BOARDROOM AT
THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

AGENDA

ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

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

ITEM 3. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 2016 TO MAY 2019

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL ON KENNEL CLUB STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

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

ITEM 5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2015 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 7. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that at its meeting on 6 October 2015, the General Committee approved the following changes to the regulations, with effect from 1 January 2016:
 - (i) Regulation H(1)9.e Appointment of an additional judge in Championship classes
 - (ii) Regulation K3.c. Agility Warrants
- b. Recognition of Agility as a sport
The Council is invited to receive a verbal report regarding progress on this issue.

- c. Proposed Amendment of Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)
 The Sub-Committee noted the Council's deep disappointment with its decision not to recommend for approval the proposed amendment, which would allow a judge to judge dogs handled by his or her spouse, immediate family or resident at the same address as the scheduled judge, other than in Championship Classes and Kennel Club sponsored events. The Sub-Committee wished to record its dissatisfaction that the matter had been referred back to it for further consideration. It did not accept the Council's view that agility judging was not subjective in its nature and it did not consider it appropriate that the Council should request the Show Executive Sub-Committee and the Field Trials Sub-Committee to review the relevant 'F' and 'J' Regulations respectively as these areas were not within its remit. The Sub-Committee strongly reiterated its original decision not to recommend the proposed amendment for approval.
- d. Structure of the Council
 The Council had requested the Sub-Committee to consider reducing the three-year embargo on Regulation changes to two and a half years, on the basis that a three-year embargo would not enable it to bring to fruition any proposals made as a result of its consideration of strategic issues, within a single term of office. The Sub-Committee accepted the Council's views, and clarified that its intention was to allow it to make recommendations within a single term of office.
- e. Grade changes
 The Council is invited to consider the formation of a Grading Panel consisting of a sub-group of Council members to carry out a review of the grading structure.
- f. Breakaway Tyre
 Following its discussion regarding the breakaway tyre at its meeting on 22 January 2015, the Council is requested to note that the Equipment Panel has seen and approved the breakaway tyre manufactured by Jaycee Jumps, and that the Activities Sub-Committee had approved its use. Designs by other manufacturers would be subject to the approval of the Equipment Panel. A Press Release has been issued.

ITEM 8. REVIEW OF HURDLE HEIGHTS

As a result of the open letter sent to the Kennel Club Chairman regarding the review of hurdle heights, the Chairman requested the Activities Sub-Committee review the matter and an update will be provided on the day.

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL

To receive a report from the Equipment Panel regarding any issues which had been referred to it.

(Annex A refers – to follow)

ITEM 10. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a report from Mr S Croxford on the progress of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group following a meeting on 2 September 2015.
(Annex B refers – to be tabled)
- b. Dog Agility Incident Forms
At its meeting on 2 September 2015, the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group had discussed the use of Dog Agility Incident Forms (as used at the International Agility Festival) at other shows in order to enable a fuller picture of equipment-related incidents at agility shows to be understood. It was agreed that the suggestion for use of the forms at shows had originated with the Agility Liaison Council and that therefore completed forms should be returned to show secretaries who could, if they wished, collate the information and forward it to the Kennel Club should they wish to draw a particular issue to its attention. It was agreed that the form was to be made available from the Kennel Club's website for use by show organisers. The Council is asked to note that the form is available to download from the Kennel Club website at:
http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/718294/agility_2015_incident_report_form_for_website.pdf

ITEM 11. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

No proposals had been received.

ITEM 12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Collapsible Tunnel - Mr I Mallabar Miss L Olden

Mr Mallabar requests that the Council revisit the issue of the Collapsible Tunnel. He is aware that this was considered at the last meeting of the Council on 13 July 2015. He also accepts the reasoning behind the decision reached at that meeting given the lack of available research or data.

There have been calls to change the tunnel including some to shorten the length of the chute but without any evidence that this would help or indeed if it would cause any further issues.

Mr Mallabar believes that recent research may give the Council more evidence with which to consider the specification of the tunnel. He asks that Council consider if modifying the specification would be beneficial to the comfort and safety of the agility dog.

(Annex C refers)

b. Timing Failures – Mr M Bacon

Mr C Huckle

Mr Bacon wishes to raise concerns regarding dogs being stopped by the ring party in mid run due to timing failure, and requests that the Council discuss and clarify the procedure to be followed where a timing failure occurs.

At the judging seminar attended by Mr Bacon it was stated that it was not the correct procedure for the dog to be stopped in mid run by the ring party, for the following reasons:

- It may be dangerous, particularly if the dog is on the dog walk, seesaw, or in a tunnel.
- The scribe should be watching the judge not the timing.
- The judge is in charge of what happens in the ring not the ring party.
- Roughly 10% of dogs will get a clear round so for approximately 90% a timing failure is not relevant.

It was recommended at the seminar that in the event of a timing failure the judge should be informed after the run is completed, and that the judge should decide if there should be a re-run which would be from scratch. The ring party should be briefed by the judge regarding this issue.

c. Startline Rule – Mr M Bacon

Mr C Huckle

The Council is invited to consider the practice by some competitors of starting the dog by taking it past the first jump, setting it up and then sending it back around the jump, which appears to be becoming more common. Some judges accept this practice as there is no clear rule about it. Others fault it, or say in their briefings that they will fault it as a refusal, as the dog has passed the line of the jump. In some cases this has led to disagreement between competitors, judge and ring party.

The Council is requested to clarify the matter.

d. Control of scoring tickets – Mr M Bacon

Mr C Huckle

Mr Bacon notes that it has become common practice for score tickets to be handed to competitors when booking in with the collecting ring steward, and in some cases, a number of tickets (4-6) are collected from competitors whilst in the queue, and handed to the scribe. In other cases the ticket is handed to the scribe by the competitor shortly before his or her run, or is taken from the competitor by another member of the ring party and handed to the scribe.

Mr Bacon is concerned that these practices may give rise to considerable confusion and greatly increase the possibility of errors occurring, such as competitors running on the wrong ticket, particularly if weather conditions are poor. It also increases the opportunity for cheating or accusations of cheating. He wishes to suggest that score tickets should only be handled by the ring party and not by competitors.

The Council is requested to clarify the correct procedure.

ITEM 13. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

To note the items on the Council's five year strategic plan.
(Annex D refers)

ITEM 14. ACTIVITIES JUDGES WORKING PARTY

To note a written report on the progress of the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 10 November 2015.
(Annex E refers)

ITEM 15. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY TEAMS

The Council is invited to note a report on Agility Team GB's attendance at the 2015 European Open Championships and World Championships.
(Annex F refers)

ITEM 16. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL

To note a written report on the arrangements for the Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 11-14 August 2016.
(Annex G refers)

ITEM 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be 14 July 2016 and any items for the agenda must be submitted by 15 April 2016.

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.*

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.’