

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM AT THE KENNEL CLUB
ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016 AT 10.30 AM**

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. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

ITEM 5. 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 6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2015 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 8. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Amendments to Regulations

The General Committee has approved a number of amendments to the following Regulations which had been recommended for approval by the Council at its meeting on 30 June 2015:

- (i) Regulation G33.d Dogs recorded in part ownership with the Judge
- (ii) Regulation G(A)5.f(1) Use of a silent toy in Introductory class
- (iii) Regulation G35(g) Use of food and/or toys
- (iv) Regulation G(C)4.h. Stays in all classes

- (v) Regulation G(A)5.c Extra commands or encouragement in stays in Introductory class
- (vi) In addition, the General Committee had approved an amendment to Regulation G35.d. with the proviso that the amended wording should read as follows:

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 requested 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)

b. Commentary for obedience competitions at Crufts

At its previous meeting, the Council had agreed that that commentary for the Obedience Championships should be introduced, if possible from 2016 onwards, subject to the agreement of the Crufts Sub-Committee. The Council is invited to note that the matter remains under consideration, but is requested to provide suggestions as to suitable individuals who may be able to provide commentary for possible consideration by the Crufts Sub-Committee.

c. Participation of YKC Members in Obedience

The Council is invited to give further consideration to the issues involved in attracting its members to participate in Obedience. A representative from the YKC has been invited to attend the meeting.

d. Clashes of shows

At its previous meeting, the Council had discussed the issue of competing shows being held on the same weekend but a short distance apart, and a suggestion had been made that it should be permissible to hold two shows on the same day and at the same venue if a partnership was agreed between two clubs. Each show would be separately licensed by the Kennel Club.

The Council is invited to note a verbal update on the issue following consideration by the Activities Sub-Committee.

ITEM 9. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

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

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 10. PROPOSALS

a. Mrs L Turner

Mr R Becque

Proposed amendment to Regulation G35.c Competing and consequent amendment to the wording of 6.6.1 in The Guide for Obedience Judges.

Regulation G35.c

No dog shall be allowed in the judging ring other than those **entered**/competing in the class being judged. **However should the judge feel it necessary to prepare his or her round with the use of a dog, prior to the commencement of judging, it is acceptable for a handler and a dog not entered/competing in the class to enter the ring solely for this purpose.**

(Insertions in bold.)

Rationale

Mr Becque is of the view that that being allowed to use a dog in the planning of the test round benefits the judge, the steward, and competitors, especially in the higher classes. Using a dog enables the position of the judge in relation to the dog to be worked out and sorts out any potential blind spots. It helps the steward to place him/her self in the best position so as to avoid impeding either the Judge or competitors. The set exercises can be tested as suitable. The competitor will know that it is fairly planned with as much objectivity as possible.

If the proposed amendment above were to be agreed, then the wording in the Kennel Club Guide for Obedience Judges would require adjustment.

The Council's attention is drawn, by way of comparison, to the Guide for Agility Judges and Stewards which states that at the show, all judges must:

5.4 Check that the course is laid out as required, and that it is safe, and suitable for the standard of dog being run. Set the course time. To assist the judge it is permissible to run his/her own dog round the course.

Mr Becque is of the view that, although this goes some way to the required changes it does not allow for the Judge to fully test the round from an objective point of view in obedience.

b. Mrs F Godfrey

Mrs L Bennett

Proposed amendment to Regulation G19.a. Facilities

TO:

Judging rings shall not in any circumstances contain less than 83 sq m (900 sq ft) of clear floor space and shall not be less than 6m (20ft) in width except that for Championship Class C the ring must contain not less than 148 sq m (1600 sq ft). Ring sizes should, where possible, be considerably larger. Stay rings must be of an adequate size to ~~cope with~~ **allow for a 2m (6ft) gap between dogs and to accommodate** the largest expected entry.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The Council is requested to consider this amendment on the grounds that there are Regulations which state minimums for ring size, size of scent cloths and the distances between them, and the distance for Distant Control, but only the wording 'adequate' for stay ring sizes. Mrs Bennett's view is that if dogs were allowed more space between them, some of the stresses involved with the stay exercise could be alleviated.

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Mrs L Turner

Harsh handling

The Council is requested to discuss the issue of harsh handling and how concerns on this issue should be addressed. Mrs Turner's view is that there are many different training methods currently available, and a number of ways of handling and correcting a dog that may or may not be considered to be legitimate ways of training, depending on each individual's point of view.

In the ring a Judge's decision is paramount, as it should be. Some behaviours are obviously harsh and should not be tolerated anywhere, but the question of what constitutes harsh handling may be very subjective, and in some cases handlers may be accused of hurting their dog when they genuinely believe they are not doing so. The Council is invited to consider what constitutes harsh handling and whether guidance could be provided to judges and competitors.

b. Mrs D Steadman and Mrs C Moss

Mrs L Turner

Length of heelwork in Novice and other classes

Mrs Delia Steadman and Mrs Chris Moss have observed that some judges are setting Novice rounds that are, in their opinion, very long. It is acknowledged that, as judges do not communicate with other judges as to the round they will be setting, it is not possible to graduate the tests, especially in respect to heelwork. This means that in some cases, Pre-Beginner heelwork may be longer than that in a Beginner class, with the same applying through the classes up to and including A.

Mrs Steadman and Mrs Moss accept that it is up to a Judge to set his or her own test, within Kennel Club regulations, and do not wish this to change, however the Council is requested to discuss the concerns raised, and to consider whether additional guidance could be provided via further discussion and judges' training.

c. Ms P Hirsch

Mrs J Jessop

Dogs being entered under their breeder

Ms Hirsch requests that the Council discuss a suggestion that a new Regulation be introduced, similar to that which applies to breed showing, which would prevent a dog being entered under its breeder, or its breeder's spouse. Ms Hirsch's research indicates that over the past four years an undue number of Obedience Certificates have been awarded to dogs which were of a judge's own breeding and that this may be perceived as being unfair. She accepts that the application of such a Regulation may cause difficulties in the lower classes but that it should certainly be applied in Class C and Championship Class C.

For reference, the relevant Regulation relating to breed showing is as follows:
Regulation F(1) 30.a. Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards... a. A dog may be disqualified by the General Committee from any award, whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been: (14)
Registered or recorded as having been bred by the scheduled Judge. This shall not apply to a Judge appointed in an emergency.

Should the Council be in agreement, a formal proposal for an amendment to G Regulations may be made at the Council's July meeting.

ITEM 12. ACTIVITIES HEALTH & WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note the written report from the office on the recent work of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group.
(Annex B refers)
- b. The Council is invited to note that the next meeting of the Sub-Group will take place on 27 January 2016.

ITEM 13. ACTIVITIES JUDGES WORKING PARTY

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Garner on the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 10 November 2015.
(Annex C refers)

ITEM 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council will take place on 6 July 2016 and any items for the agenda must be submitted by 7 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 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.’