

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2016 AT 10.30 AM
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 THE MINUTES

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

ITEM 7. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Review of Jump Heights/Lengths
- (i) At the Council's previous meeting it had been agreed that the office would investigate whether any existing research had been undertaken by organisations, such as the Defence Animal Centre (part of the Ministry of Defence), the WUSV (World Union for German Shepherd Dogs), the FCI, those responsible for training police dogs, and IPO (formerly Schutzhund) organisations. The Council is requested to note an update from the office.
 - (ii) As agreed at its previous meeting, the Council is requested to review the issue of jump heights and lengths and how best to proceed.

- b. Proposed Amendment to Regulation I(A)6.b
The Activities Sub-Committee considered the proposed amendment to the above Regulation which would require that for a dog to qualify for entry in CD Championship it must have obtained a Certificate of Merit at CD Open, noting the Council's view was that this would give value to the CD Open Stake by making it a part of the qualification 'ladder'.

However, it did not consider that it was advisable that any restriction should be placed on the number of events available to competitors and also expressed a concern that the proposed amendment may result in a reduction in overall entries. Accordingly, it did not recommend the amendment for approval. The Sub-Committee subsequently agreed that in future the office would be permitted to advise the relevant Liaison Council representative of its decision.

- c. Proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)10.e.
The General Committee, at its meeting held on 14 July 2015, approved the following:
Regulation I(C)10.e.

TO:

The scale should be a vertical wall of wooden planks which ~~may~~ **must** be grooved or chamfered along their bottom edge to assist the dog.

- d. Proposal for introduction of an introductory test for nosework and related amendments of Regulations relating to a Novice Stake
At the Council's previous meeting it was agreed that further consideration of the proposal should be deferred until the Council's next meeting when a revised proposal could be submitted.

The Council is requested to note that Surrey Dog Training Society does not wish to progress the proposal at this stage.

ITEM 8. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

- a. Development of the Five Year Strategy
Mr M Lewindon
Mr Lewindon wishes the Council to consider ways in which the Five Year Strategy may be developed, supported by tactical plans, business plans and performance measures to assess success in meeting those goals. Mr Lewindon has submitted a preliminary document setting out broad objectives as a basis for further discussion.
(Annex A refers)
- b. Activities Sub-Committee
(i) The Sub-Committee welcomed the Council's suggestion that an objective be set to achieve a 10% increase in entries in Introductory and other early Stakes, but the Council is requested by the Sub-

Committee to provide a more detailed plan as to how this would be achieved.

- (ii) The Council is requested to note the Sub-Committee's views. It had noted that the Council was considering ways of attracting new competitors and hoped that some would come into the discipline via other activities, but it was hoped that more people could be encouraged to take part who did not currently participate in any canine activities.

It had noted that the Council had not supported any amendment to current stay times, but expressed a concern that although it was important to maintain high standards, stays could often be a daunting exercise for new competitors and having to achieve a 10 minute stay in the lower stakes may be discouraging for some. It also highlighted that tracking was a particularly attractive part of the discipline for many newcomers.

The Sub-Committee also wished to suggest that the profile of Working Trials should be raised within Kennel Club Registered Clubs. Most clubs were very well aware of both Obedience and Agility but were less familiar with Working Trials.

ITEM 9. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. Mr J Wykes
Proposed Amendments to Regulations I1.c., I21.c.(12) and I(A)9.a.
Mr Wykes wishes to propose the following amendments to Regulations which would remove the jumps and scale from the Introductory Stake, and lower the minimum age at which a dog can be entered for the Introductory Stake:

Regulation I(A)9.a.

TO:

- a. INTRODUCTORY AND COMPANION DOG (CD) STAKE

	Maximum Marks	Group Total	Minimum Group Qualifying Mark
Group II. Agility			
7. Clear Jump	5		
8. Long Jump	5		
9. Scale (3) Stay (2) Recall (5) (Deletion struck through)	10	20	14

Rationale

The objective is to encourage competitors into Working Trials earlier. By removing the jumps, handlers would be able to begin competing with their dogs of under 18 months of age by just doing the nose work and control exercises. It is hoped that this would also have the effect of preventing competitors being concerned about the jumps.

Regulation I1.c.

TO:

- c. Dogs under 18 calendar months of age on the closing date are ineligible for competition at Kennel Club licensed Working Trials, **except for the Introductory Stake, where dogs of 12 calendar months on the first day of the trial are eligible.** ~~—except that~~ Bloodhounds may be entered for Bloodhound Trials at 12 Calendar months on the first day of the trial. However, societies may accept Not For Competition entries at their discretion. Dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter Not For Competition.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)

Regulation I21.c.(12)

TO:

- (12) An announcement that dogs under the ages of 18 months on the closing date for the Trial are not eligible for entry, **except for the Introductory Stake where dogs of 12 calendar months on the first day of the trial are eligible.**

(Insertion in bold)

b. Southern Alsatian Training Society

Mrs F Webb

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(C)4

The Southern Alsatian Training Society wishes to propose the following amendment to the above Regulation so that, at Open Trials, where a mix of stakes is judged by a single control judge, the down stay is judged in two groups.

Regulation I(C)4.

TO:

Down (Introductory 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. **At Open Working Trials, where a mix of stakes is judged by a single control judge, the Down Stay should be judged in two groups: Group 1: CD & UD and Group 2: WD & TD.** 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.

(Insertion in bold)

ITEM 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. East Anglian Working Trials Training Society Mr G Martin
Use of electric collars

The East Anglian Working Trials Training Society requests that the Council discuss whether all societies should be required by the Kennel Club to ban the use of electric collars and pinch/prong collars at all club events and training, and that rules regarding their use should be written into the constitution of all societies.

- b. Mr G Martin
Introduction of new Stakes

Mr Martin, an individual, wishes to suggest that in order to encourage newcomers into the discipline, three new graduated Stakes should be offered which would give a meaningful qualification and potential encouragement to progress. Mr Martin suggests the following as a starting point for discussion within societies:

- Three stakes to be introduced: WT1, WT2 and WT3
- Qualifications may be cited on pedigrees
- Dogs may enter from 12 months of age
- A qualifying score must be achieved in each Stake before progressing to the next
- A dog may still enter CD regardless of having achieved qualifying marks in the proposed new Stakes
- Stakes to consist of the following exercises:
 - WT1 - Search Square, Heelwork, Retrieve, sendaway, recall. Sit and down stay.
 - WT 2 - Track 300m long- 1 /2 articles 10 mins old. Search Square, Heelwork, Retrieve, sendaway, recall, sit and down stay
 - WT 3 - Track 500m long 1/ 2 articles 20 mins old. Search square, Heelwork, Retrieve, sendaway, recall, sit and down stay

The Council is requested to consider if experienced handlers should be excluded or whether these Stakes would be provided as an opportunity to allow younger dogs to compete regardless of the experience level of the handler.

It is suggested that the Introductory Stake be discontinued and replaced with the above which offers a structured and progressive introduction to competitive Working Trials.

- c. East Anglian Working Trials Training Society Mr G Martin
Small dogs competing in Working Trials
The Council is requested to discuss the issue of 'small' dogs competing in Working Trials and whether societies should be permitted to run 'small dog' Stakes CD through to TD, with their own awards and Working Trial Certificates.
- d. Ms Y Carpenter Mr G Martin
Correlation of markers in relation to the height of the Scale
Ms Carpenter wishes the Council to discuss the correlation of the 9 ft markers at the scale jump to the height of the Scale. The markers for the scale relate to the distance for large dogs, however smaller dogs are afforded the same distance but for smaller height jumps. This seems an anomaly as the reason this rule was brought in was to stop dogs running at the jump from any distance and thus preventing injury.
- e. ASPADS Working Trials Society Mr B Gilbert
Gun tests
The Council is requested to discuss the provision of a plan as to what should be done in the event of the gun test having to be removed from the schedule due to legislative pressure. This item only relates to the situation where the gun test has to be removed due to outside pressures.
- ASPADS Working Trials Society wishes to suggest that one possible solution would be to delete the exercise and adjust the qualifying marks accordingly, i.e. that the group total for Control would be reduced from 35 to 30 with a mark of 21 needed to qualify. Total marks for the Stake would also be amended.
- f. Yorkshire Working Trials Society Mr R Musgrave
Gun tests
The Society wishes the Council to discuss the possibility of removing the gun test from the Control section of Working Trials. If agreed, a further discussion would be necessary in order to re-assign the five points. A suggestion could be to add the points to the heelwork mark, making it ten points instead of five.
- Arguments against the gun test include:
- That it is not an effective test as the dog is just commanded to stay so that a dog which is gun shy would still get five points for staying while under command.
 - Guns should not form part of a civilian trial where it is not necessary, as in Field Trials, where it is part of the testing.
 - Guns are unreliable and often misfire.
- g. North West Working Trials Society Mrs J Holt
Competing in PD Open
The North West Working Trials Society requests the Council to consider whether if, after obtaining a PD Ex, competitors should be allowed to

continue to enter PD Open for a further 12 months from the qualifying date with the same dog. The suggestion is made in view of the nature of the PD stake and the numbers involved.

Note: Although the facility would be open to all, it is primarily designed to assist new PD competitors. This would allow the standard of work and the experience of the handler to be consolidated, if necessary, before a competitor is confined to working PD Championship only.

ITEM 11. KENNEL CLUB WORKING TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. Date of the Working Trials Championships
The Activities Sub-Committee noted the Council's wish to allow for some flexibility in the date of the Working Trials Championships due to the difficulties involved in obtaining suitable land. It considered a proposal to Regulation I20.f. to allow for this but considered that the existing wording already allowed for flexibility and accordingly did not recommend any amendment. It was of the view that should it be necessary for the Championships to take place in November, this could be achieved by means of liaison with other societies and with the office but there would be no necessity for formal approval by the Sub-Committee, although it would be necessary to ensure that there was no clash of dates with other societies.
- b. Hosts for 2018 and 2020 Kennel Club Working Trial Championships
Applications are invited from Societies wishing to host the 2018 and 2020 Kennel Club Championships (note: ASPADS Working Trials Society has been approved to host the 2019 Kennel Club Championships). Interested Societies are requested to apply in writing as soon as possible, so these applications can be discussed.
- c. Ballot for Judges for the 2019 Kennel Club Working Trial Championships
The Council is invited to vote on the nominations for the Kennel Club Working Trial Championship 2019.
(Ballot papers to follow – Representatives only)
- d. Judges
The Council is requested to note that the following judges have been appointed for the 2018 Working Trial Championships:

TD - Mr R Musgrave

PD - Mr G Martin

ITEM 12. ESSEX WORKING TRIALS SOCIETY

At its meeting on 30 April 2015, the Council noted that the General Committee had considered a proposal from Essex Working Trials Society to run both

Tracking Dog and Patrol Dog Championship stakes at the same trial. The General Committee had agreed that the Society may do so, but that the agreement was only valid for Essex Working Trials Society until such time as a review could be carried out to assess the results of the arrangement.

The Essex Working Trials Society wishes the Council to note that its Tracking Dog and Patrol Dog Championship Stakes took place at the same trial in November 2015. The event had proved highly successful and the Society had received only positive feedback. Consequently, it requests the Council consider its proposal that a Regulation be introduced which would permit all Societies to run Tracking Dog and Patrol Dog Championship Stakes at the same trial should they wish to do so.

ITEM 13. JUDGES WORKING PARTY

The Council is invited to note a report from Mr Gilbert on the progress of the Judges Working Party since the Council's last meeting on 30 April 2015 together with a verbal report following the Working Party's meeting on 19 April 2016.

Annex B refers

ITEM 14. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a report from Mr Gilbert on the progress of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group since the Council's last meeting on 30 April 2015.
(Annex C to follow)
- b. The Sub-Group had agreed that issues relating to the Scale in Working Trials would be added to the list of areas for future research, but requested that the Working Trials Liaison Council provide specific details of what issues were to be investigated and how the research should be framed.

ITEM 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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.

ITEM 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in September 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. *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. 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.' This objective to be achieved through:-

- **Ensuring that the Kennel Club is the first port of call on all canine matters.**
- **Recognising the importance of 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.**

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
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 Anglian Working Trials Training 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
Ranmore 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
Weimaraner Club Of Great Britain
Weimaraner Club Of Scotland
Working Belgian Shepherd Dog Society
Ynys Mon Dog Training Society

Representative Society

Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Essex Working Trials Society
Wessex Working Trials Club
ASPADS Working Trials Society
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
Lincolnshire German Shepherd Dog & All Breeds
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
Iceni German Shepherd Dog 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
Surrey 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
Essex Working Trials Society
Scottish Working Trials Society
ASPADS Working Trials Society
Welsh Kennel Club