



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM
ON THURSDAY 25 JULY 2024 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that recommendations from its last meeting will be considered by the Activities Committee at its next meeting on 19 June 2024. Any recommendations from the Committee will then be submitted to the Board for consideration at its meeting on 16 July 2024.

A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Obedience Festival

- b. At its last meeting the Council agreed to prepare a proposal for the Activities Committee which would include approximate figures and organisation structure.

The Council is invited to note a verbal update on progress.

Suspension of Regulation G30.e

- c. At its meeting on 21 March 2024, the Activities Committee recommended the suspension of the above regulation. The suspension was approved by the Board at its meeting on 8 May 2024, for a period of 24 months with immediate effect and agreed that should it be necessary it could be reinstated earlier.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr McCartney following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 9 April 2024.

(Annex A refers)

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a report from Mrs Le Fevre following the Sub-Group's meeting which took place on 25 April 2024.

(Annex B refers)

ITEM 6. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Lavender.

(Annex C refers – to follow)

ITEM 7. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Mrs K Allen

Mrs L Turner

Proposed amendment to Regulation G1.c

- a. At its last meeting the Council discussed the possibility of allowing dogs of 12 weeks to be entered not for competition at obedience shows. The Council was in agreement with the suggestion and Mrs Allen was requested to submit a proposal.

The Council is requested to consider the proposed amendment to the above regulation:

Regulation G1.c

TO:

c. Only dogs of six calendar months of age and over are eligible for competition at Kennel Club licensed obedience shows. However, show organisers may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. ~~Dogs four months and over are eligible to enter Not For Competition.~~ **Dogs 12 weeks and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.**

Mrs S Garner and Mr R Mitchell

Mr D Moxon

Proposed amendment to Regulations G15 and G33j & G33k

- b. Mrs Garner and Mr Mitchell would like the Council to consider removing the stipulation that an exhibit must not have lost more than 15 points out of 230 to be awarded the Obedience Certificate.

Regulation G15

TO:

- a. The Kennel Club will offer an Obedience Certificate (Dog) and an Obedience Certificate (Bitch) for winners of first prizes in Class C Dog and Class C Bitch at a championship show, provided ~~that the exhibits do not lose more than 15 points out of 230, and provided also that the classes are open to all breeds~~ **eligible dogs.**
- b. **Where an Obedience Certificate has been awarded a** judges must also award a Reserve Best of Sex **(Reserve Obedience Certificate) subject to Regulation G33.j.**
(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)

Regulation G33j & G33k

TO:

j. In classes with ~~40~~**20** or less entries the award of 1st place, **Obedience Certificate (OC) and Reserve Best of Sex (Reserve Obedience Certificate, ROC)** may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge the standard of work does not merit the award. **If the Obedience Certificate is withheld, then the Reserve Obedience Certificate cannot be awarded.** (This sub-paragraph **also applies** ~~does not apply~~ to Championship Class C).

k. A judge of Championship Class C must record ~~each dog awarded 215 points or more~~ **the top six highest placed dogs** in the judging book. The show secretary will record these in the official marked catalogue.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

Rationale

Currently, in order to be awarded an Obedience Certificate, exhibits must not lose more than 15 points from the total of 230 points available. This regulation was installed well over 30 years ago, as a way of maintaining a standard for achieving this award. It was originally set at 10 points but increased to 15 over 25 years ago. The belief is this no longer accomplishes what was originally intended. Scores within Championship Class C, where every error is being marked, appear to be frequently close to and indeed over the 15 points, especially at Crufts where a longer, more complex test is usually set. This is despite there being a high standard of exhibits within the class, some of whom are multiple obedience certificates winners and may well be the best on the day, for the conditions and test set.

Removing the 15 point regulation would also mean judges are free to mark as they see fit and differentiate accordingly. It would remove the concern of not having a team with less than 15 points lost and not being able to award the Obedience Certificate and Reserve Obedience Certificate, at the end of the class.

However, in order to ensure a high standard is maintained, especially when there is a small entry, judges must have a means of withholding the OC and Reserve OC. The proposal is to utilise regulation G33j which currently controls the awarding of first place where there are 10 or less entries. The intention is to change this to read that where there are 20 or less entries the Obedience Certificates may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge the standard of work does not merit the award. Thus, if the OC is withheld then the Reserve OC will also be withheld.

The proposal is also suggesting, for consistency, that the 20 or less also applies to first place in any class. The rationale being there are very few examples where there are 10 or less entries where the current regulation can be applied. Increasing to 20 or less would protect the quality of the winner, if the first place was awarded, especially if, for example, there had been several training rounds within the 20. This remains at the discretion of the judge on the day.

There is also a need to update G33k, if the 215 points is removed, for which it would seem good practice to record the six highest placed dogs.

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs L Turner

Renaming to 'Competitive Obedience'

Mrs Turner would like the Council to discuss asking for the name of the discipline to be changed to 'competitive obedience'.

Rationale

I would like the Council to consider the use of the word 'obedience' regarding our discipline.

I discovered when contacting the clubs in the South/SouthWest that, apart from those that said they definitely do not do obedience, many thought they did. However, upon further investigation I found they do not teach competitive obedience but one of the other disciplines. These ranged from pet training to any of the other activities.

We all know that obedience is the corner stone for all dog activities. A dog and handler having learnt the basic requirements for a dog to be a valued pet and member of society may then move on to a more structured set of requirements to enter the world of competitive dog activity. We have Rally, Agility, Good Citizens, Working Trials and Heelwork To Music clearly recognized and understood as standalone activities.

The recent survey carried out by The Kennel Club and shared with the Council refers to our discipline as obedience throughout and explains on the first page that there was some misunderstanding regarding that activity as some people thought any training was obedience. The Kennel Club website also refers to competitive obedience as obedience in the first and second instance.

The Kennel Club Year Book G Regulations refer to our activity as obedience as does the regulation booklet which most participants use.

We know we do competitive obedience, which is a particular set of actions unlike the other dog activities, but we are still referred to as the basic obedience that all disciplines undertake with their puppies.

I request that we ask The Kennel Club and all parties involved to refer to our discipline as competitive obedience going forward.

ITEM 9. STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Representatives are invited to review the Strategic Plan, which has been updated in line with requests from the Council made at its previous meeting, and to discuss how the items may be progressed. It is also invited to propose further items.

(Annex D refers)

ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks' advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

ITEM 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the Council's next meeting will be announced in September 2024.

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 AIMS

- Champion the wellbeing of dogs
- Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues
- Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network
- Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact
- Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community
- Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable