



**RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED TO THE FIELD TRIALS COMMITTEE
FROM THE FIELD TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB ON 12
JUNE 2024**

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Handlers with more than one dog and dogs entered at more than one trial on the same day

The Council requested that the Committee conduct an online survey of those participating in Retriever Field Trials, to establish whether societies should be given the discretion to reintroduce the One Dog One Handler regulation while reserves stood.

The Committee noted the detailed discussion held at the meeting on the subject of handlers with more than one dog and considered the request to conduct a survey. However, it was agreed that the survey would be retrospective and the individuals completing the survey would be replying based on their own bias and opinions rather than facts based on the report.

It was highlighted that there had been a significant amount of research undertaken to create the report, however it was recognised that the report had not been publicly released.

The Committee agreed that an online survey would not be undertaken and did not recommend the proposal.

It agreed to issue guidance on how to increase entry opportunities in a future edition of the field trials newsletter, as previous items about not changing a dog's owner in order to gain a run had been successful.

2. HPR Societies holding more than one open field trial.

The Council wished to highlight to the Committee that there appeared to have been a divergence from a previously agreed proposal on the number of open stakes an HPR field trial society was able to hold in one season.

The below was detailed on the Results of Recommendations from the Field Trials Liaison Council meeting held on 16 May 2023 which was issued following the September Field Trials Committee meeting.

It was agreed that there were currently enough Open Stakes available and for the foreseeable future no further clubs would be granted an additional or second Open Stake until such time as the Open Stakes could be filled with qualified dogs.

However, at its meeting in July 2023 the Field Trials Committee had approved the application by the German Longhaired Pointer Club to hold a second open field trial.

The Committee examined the timeline of events and concluded that it had not been aware of the request made by the Council at its meeting of 16 May 2023 as the minutes of that meeting were only approved at the September 2023 meeting of the Committee.

Therefore, when the decision was made in July 2023 to approve the German Longhaired Pointer Club's application to hold a second Open Stake, the Committee was not aware of the Council's request to provide a clear and defined route for HPR clubs to secure permission to host second Any Variety HPR Open field trials.

Any future applications to hold an HPR field trial would be considered on its own merit, including aspects such as the proposed trial grounds and supporting documentation.

3. Dogs of non-standard colour

The Council requested that the Committee review its policy for dogs of non-standard colours and to consider whether the statement 'only dogs which conformed to breed standard colours would be permitted to run in trials' be reinstated on the Labrador Retriever Club schedule.

The Committee discussed the request and noted that dogs that did not adhere to the breed standard in other elements were not excluded from entering field trials, therefore the colour should not be a consideration.

The Committee also highlighted that the breed standard should always be considered when in the show ring as that was the standard to which the dog should be judged. However, it was only the dog's working ability that should be assessed when in the field.

The Committee agreed that this was a complex issue that affected all breeds and all disciplines. However having considered the matter, the Committee was in agreement that the request to include 'only dogs which conformed to breed standard colours would be permitted to run in trials' on the Labrador Retriever Club schedule would not be recommended for approval and the policy would remain in place.

PROPOSALS

4. Proposed amendment to Regulation J6.e

Westward Gundog Society

The Council proposed that Regulation J6.e be amended to ensure that draw preferences are listed on the result of the draw.

Regulation J6.e

TO:

If entries or nominations exceed the number of permitted runners, the right to compete in a Trial shall be decided by ballot (subject to Regulation J6.i. which related to preference in the draw for open stakes). Societies must ensure that all eligible owners/members are given the opportunity of having their preferred dog entered into the first ballot (See J6.j). The society must publish the result of this ballot in full to all applicants. **This must include the draw preferences the dogs are entered under.** Where an online system, approved by the Kennel Club, has been used to take entries, the ballot must be carried

out using the same online system, and the result forwarded to the Kennel Club at the same time that competitors are notified. (Insertion in bold)

The Committee agreed that the amendment was a helpful suggestion and would add clarity and transparency to all draws for both secretaries and competitors, and therefore recommended the regulation which has subsequently been approved by the Board and would be effective from 2 February 2025.

5. Proposed amendment to Regulation K2.c.(3)

Yellow Labrador Club

The Council proposed that Regulation K2.c.(3) be amended so that before a dog was granted the title of Field Trial Champion, it would be required to have been issued a walked-up certificate.

Regulation K2.c.(3)

TO:

Before any Retriever is entitled to be described as a Field Trial Champion it must also have a Water, Drive **and Walked-Up Certificate**. The Water Certificate may, but not necessarily, be gained at a special water test. The special water test must have been conducted before two Panel judges, one of whom must be an A Panel, at one of the following: the Retriever Championship, a Field Trial Open Stake, or at a subsequent special test. (J(A)2 refers.) The Drive Certificate must be conducted before two Panel judges, one of whom must be an A Panel, at the Retriever Championship or a Field Trial Open Stake. **The Walked-Up Certificate must be issued by two Panel judges, one of whom must be an A Panel, at the Retriever Championship or a Field Trial Open Stake.**

(Insertion in bold.)

During the Committee's discussions it was raised that some areas of the country such as Northern Ireland, primarily held driven trials, and that the introduction of a walked-up certificate may disadvantage competitors living in those areas or prevent those competitors from achieving a walked-up certificate. It was highlighted that the judges appointed to officiate the trial should be assessing the skills of the dogs under them, including their walked-up ability and steadiness.

The Committee noted that trial shooting was more often walked up in style and therefore the drive certificate had been introduced to test that aspect of the dogs' abilities. It was subsequently queried whether the driven certificate could be altered to consider all aspects of the dog's performance.

After considering the proposal it was agreed that it was not clear what the walked-up certificate would cover, therefore the Committee did not recommend the regulation amendment for approval.

The Committee agreed that if the drive certificate required a review this could be proposed for discussion by the Field Trials Liaison Council at its next meeting.