



**MEETING OF THE FIELD TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 1 MAY 2025 AT 10.30 AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**A G E N D A**

**ITEM 1.      TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE  
TERM OF COUNCIL - UNTIL DECEMBER 2025**

**ITEM 2.      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 3.      TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12  
JUNE 2024**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting.  
(Annex A refers)

**ITEM 4.      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
AND RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED TO THE  
FIELD TRIALS COMMITTEE (RESULTS OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS)**

The Council is invited to note the Results of Recommendations document.  
(Annex B refers)

**ITEM 5.      PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES**

- a.    East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club and the Eastern Counties Retriever  
Society Mrs J Reed  
Retriever's Trial Procedure J(B)7d(3)

The Council is requested to consider an amendment to regulation  
J(B)7d(3) to provide clarity in order of sending when there are dogs from  
different rounds in line at a Retriever trial.

Amendment to Regulation J(B)7d(3)

The chief steward should send in the ~~second~~ **next** round dogs to the  
appropriate judge when there is a vacancy in the line (paragraph J(B)3.c

refers). ~~Second~~ **Higher** round dogs should have their opportunity to be tried against first ~~lower~~ round dogs when the situation arises **but must have the first chance of an eyewipe over its partner dog.**

(Insertion in Bold. Deletion struck through)  
(Effective from 2 February 2026)

#### Rationale

Our understanding of this J regulation is that the “partner dog” always has first chance of an eyewipe on its partner’s failure, regardless of which “round” the dog is in, but this is not clear in the J regulations.

For instance, Number 3 (3rd round) and Number 5 (4th round) on the right, Number 15 (3rd round) and Number 21 (4th round) on the left – dog 3 sent and fails, dog 5 MUST have the chance of an eyewipe on its partner. The 3rd round dog from the other end must not have first chance of an eyewipe over the other 3rd round dog.

- b. North Western Counties Field Trial Association Mr S Richardson  
Judging of spouses or partners – Regulation J12.a.(6)

The Council is requested to consider an amendment to regulation J12.a.(6) to make it clear that it is unacceptable to run a dog at a trial or working test that is being judged by a spouse or partner.

#### Amendment to Regulation J12.a.(6)

TO:

~~To have been handled at a trial, boarded or prepared for competition by one of the scheduled judges within the previous twelve months prior to the trial.~~ **No person should enter or handle a dog for competition at a field trial or working test at which their spouse or partner is judging.**

This provision does not apply to judges appointed in an emergency.  
(Insertion in Bold. Deletion struck through)  
(Effective from 2 February 2026)

#### Rationale

Clarification was included in the Spring 2022 and Summer 2024 Newsletters stating as follows:

We would like to remind competitors and judges of regulation J12.a.(6), which states a dog may be disqualified if it has been ‘handled at a trial, boarded or prepared for competition by one of the scheduled judges within the previous 12 months prior to the trial. This provision does not apply to judges appointed in an emergency’.

It is advisable not to run under a partner or spouse at a trial or working test, as there may be a perception that the partner or spouse had played a role in preparing the dog for competition.

Despite these reminders, this situation was allowed to happen at a two-day open stake this season where a judge’s spouse featured in the awards.

The committee of North Western Counties Field Trial Association believe that a new regulation should be included in the J Regulations to prevent the proliferation of this situation in the future.

## **ITEM 6.      DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a.    East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club and the Eastern Counties Retriever Society  
Training Programmes Mrs J Reed

The Council is requested to discuss instigating an up to date, ongoing training programme for all judges.

### Rationale

The Kennel Club has upgraded the training programmes for all other disciplines, why not field trials. Starting at “Grass Roots” level this is for field trial judges only (not for Working Tests)

1. Clubs to be offered “help” by the Kennel Club to run Practical Judges Training Days.
2. Clubs to run “classroom” seminars with field trial scenarios with advice on how to behave at a trial, etiquette, respect for game, how to treat guns, competitors, stewards and Game carriers, keepers, shoot captains and hosts and how to ensure that all judges are fair and practical and have humility and foresight.
3. Clubs to offer “shadowing” to non-panel judges at field trials under a mentoring panel judge.
4. Clubs/the Kennel Club to offer “shooting field” experience days to ensure that non panel judges are able to spot wounded game and ensure that they are aware of the importance of picking it first and despatching it correctly.
5. J Regulations to be either emailed or sent to all panel judges each year to ensure that they are up to date with any changes.
6. A directive from the Kennel Club in the field trials newsletter to ensure that all panel judges make every effort to mentor and educate junior judges.

Non panel judges upon interest in judging a field trial should receive a logbook. In it should be the following, before they judge a field trial, all should be signed either by the field trials Secretary or a Panel Judge...

- (a) Should show a minimum of 10 “helping appointments” at trials
- (b) Two “shadowing” appointments at trials.
- (c) Completion of J regulations seminar and passed the examination
- (d) Proven experience in the shooting field (signed by either Gamekeepers or Shoot Captains at more than one shoot over a two-year period).
- (e) To have attended a Club Practical Judges Training Day.
- (f) To have attended a Classroom Scenario Day.
- (g) To have attended a Club “shooting field” experience day.

(h) Awards in field trials over a 5-year period.

- b. East Anglian Labrador Retriever Club and the Eastern Counties Retriever Society Mrs J Reed  
Judge Reporting Systems

The Council is requested to discuss bringing in a reporting system for all Judges, so that non-panel judges can report on panel judges and B panel judges can report on A panel judges.

Rationale

This would help the Kennel Club when judges are put forward for the panel or elevated from the B panel to the A panel, to make sure they had been fairly treated by their co judges.

- c. Burns and Becks Gundog Club Mrs F Joint  
Handlers of two dogs

The Council is requested to discuss a Health and Safety issue which has come to prominence with the increasing number of triallers handling more than one dog at trials. The club suggests that this should not be a decision made by the Field Trials Committee, but by Field Trial Club committees alone who understand and know the ground on which their trials are held.

They should have the freedom to insist on their schedules that handlers of two dogs bring a deputy to hold onto their second dog, whilst the first is being handled in line, unless unavoidable by being called forward at the last minute.

Rationale

This would avoid other handlers and club officials being put in difficult situations, by not wishing to upset someone handling two dogs by a refusal or not wishing their own dog to be distressed by an aggressive or noisy dog and also to protect their volunteers having to hold on to unknown and distressed dogs trying to reach their handlers.

- d. The South Western Golden Retriever Club Mrs H Ford  
Regulation J6.f.

The Council is requested to discuss whether the rule allowing a refund of an entry fee where a dog withdraws from a trial 7 days prior to the stake be amended or reconsidered.

Rationale

As members of the Liaison Council we will be aware the cost of field trials & working tests is getting more expensive to run, and in many cases, clubs are now charging a nomination fee of around £3-£5 on top of the entry fee for field trials.

The club can hold onto entry fees when a competitor pulls out within 7 days but not when they've paid & withdraw outside the 7 days. The South Western Golden Retriever Club has noticed competitors are leaving it to the last minute to pay entry fees for Open stakes. This is because the handler is hoping to get a run in another trial they've entered, which may be nearer to them or a 2-day Stake, carrying better qualification.

With working tests, we believe it is up to individual clubs to decide how to handle entry fees but understand some clubs withhold the entry fee whatever the reason for withdrawing from the event.

One of the reasons driving this enquiry is that our bank is now charging £4.25 per month, 50p for every cheque banked or paid out (we believe the banks wish to phase these options out and make all transactions digital,) 10p per Bacs payments over £100, 50p cash payments & 10p for on line payments.

- e. The Dukeries [Notts] Gundog Club Mrs M Asbury  
Nominations of Spaniel Judges for the Championship

The Council is requested to discuss the nomination of spaniel judges for the Championship. No judge named to be judging a breed championship, should be allowed to judge an Open qualifying Stake for that same breed, in that qualifying season.

## **ITEM 7.      ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **THIS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

Please give at least three weeks' advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required.

### **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.

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#### ***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*