



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30
AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Following the resignation of Mr D Craven, Mr S Ford and Mr D Robertson the Council is invited to note the following replacements:

Mr D Marchant – Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Ms J Wood – Surrey Working Trials Society
Mrs F McKenzie – Association of Bloodhound Breeders

The Council is also invited to note that following East Riding Working Trials Society being granted championship status a new representative has been appointed to represent the club:

Mrs J McOuat

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board, at its meeting held on 8 May 2024, approved the following amendment to regulations:

Regulation I(B)17.

TO:

The dog will be off lead beside the handler. The position of the dog and command given to send the dog must be the same as that for the Recall exercise. The 'protected steward' will be challenged and will reply in order to gain the dog's

attention before running away as directed by the judge. The handler will be told when to send his dog. A run-out point may be set by the judge. The dog must detain the 'protected steward' by holding him by the protected arm until commanded by the handler to release. **The protected steward should continue to try to escape if not detained by the dog.** If the dog fails to detain the 'protected steward', it shall lose any marks that it may have obtained for the Recall exercise, or it shall not be tested on the Recall.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from the office following the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group's meeting on 25 April 2024.
(Annex A refers)
- b. Following Mr Gilbert's retirement from the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group, the Council is requested to nominate a replacement.

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from the office following the Activities Judges Sub-Group's meeting on 9 April 2024.

(Annex B refers)

ITEM 7. COUNCIL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

The Council is requested to review the strategy document.

(Annex C refers)

At its last meeting Mrs Cottier had felt it necessary to step back from having ownership of the document and volunteers to take it up were requested. No one had been forthcoming, and it had been agreed that ownership of the document would be discussed outside the meeting and resolved.

The Council is requested to clarify who will be responsible for updating the document on a regular basis.

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

The Council is invited to note a written report from the panel.

(Annex D refers)

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PROGRESSION PANEL

Score sheets

The panel has been contacted by some working trials competitors and trials managers asking if the Working Trials Liaison Council could clarify the correct way of displaying the marks on the score sheets for the heelwork/down on the move exercise.

There have been a variety of different base score sheets from the first four months of this year's trials with the new 'down on the move' marks being shown differently by each society.

(Annex E refers)

According to the 2024 regulations, the heelwork marks are out of 10: 5 for heelwork and 5 for 'down on the move'. Some of this year's score sheets show the 'down on the move' as a completely separate exercise in the control section rather than as part of the heelwork marks.

The panel wishes the Council to clarify how the heelwork/down on the move marks should be presented on score sheets to allow for standardisation across all trials.

ITEM 10. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

East Riding Working Trials Society

Mrs J McQuat

Proposed amendment to regulation I(B)2

- a. East Riding Working Trials Society would like the Council to consider an amendment to the above regulation to clarify when the dog and handler proceed to move forward together during the exercise.

Regulation I(B)2

TO:

Heel work – The judge should test the ability of the dog to keep its shoulder reasonably close to the left knee of the handler who should walk smartly in a natural manner of normal, fast and slow paces through turns and among and around persons and obstacles. The halt, with the dog sitting to heel and a "figure of eight" may be included at any stage. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory and CD stakes.

Any act, signal or command by jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised.

Where required the lead must be attached to a close fitting smooth collar. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used. In TD And PD stakes, at some time during the test, while working at a normal pace, the dog shall be required to be left in the down position when directed by the judge. The handler shall continue forward alone, without hesitation, and proceed as directed by the judge until upon reaching the dog, **when the dog is on the handler's left hand side and both handler and dog are facing in the same direction**, both shall continue forward together in accordance with the instruction given.

(Insertion in bold.)

East Riding Working Trials Society

Mrs J McQuat

Proposed amendment to regulation I(B)9

- b. East Riding Working Trials Society would like the Council to consider an amendment to the above regulation to clarify that it is the handler that chooses the position of the dog in the exercise.

Regulation I(B)9

TO:

'Speak on command' – In TD and PD, the number of barks is at the judge's discretion and after the cease "speaking" the handler may be instructed to make the dog speak again. "Speaking" should be sustained by the dog with the minimum of commands and/or signals. Continuous and/or excessive incitements to "speak" must be heavily penalised. This test must not be incorporated with any other test.

The judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog. In UD Stake and WD Stake, this position should be near and in sight of the dog. **The handler may place the dog** ~~The dog may be~~ in the stand, sit or down.

In TD and PD, the handler may be required to work the dog walking at heel. If the dog is not required to walk at heel, the handler may place the dog in the stand, sit or down.

In UD the number of barks should be 5, in WD the number of barks should be 10.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)

Southern Alsatian Training Society

Ms L Marlow

Votes to be recorded

- c. Southern Alsatian Training Society wishes the Council to consider having the outcome of votes recorded in the minutes to show how representatives voted.

At times voting on proposals has been very close and there has been some confusion at meetings. A decision based on show of hands may therefore be inaccurate. Given the narrow margins on some proposals this could make a material difference to the outcome of the vote.

Societies' members are entitled to know how their representative voted following discussions at the council meeting.

The wider working trials community would be able to see the degree of support for proposals and rule changes, making the process more transparent.

Association of Bloodhound Breeders

Mrs F McKenzie

Proposed amendment to regulation I(C)1.

- d. The Association of Bloodhound Breeders would like the Council to consider a proposed amendment to the above regulation which would revert the wording back to its original wording after it was changed in 2020.

Regulation I(C)1

TO:

A Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate may be awarded to a Bloodhound winning a senior stake without assistance at a Championship Bloodhound Trial if it has clearly identified the ~~runner~~ **line-walker** to the satisfaction of the judge or judges. A hound will be considered to have made a satisfactory identification if it is seen to approach and clearly select the ~~runner~~ **line-walker** from a group of three people at the end of the line. ~~Handlers who choose to work/hunt their hounds leashed must drop their leash within a minimum of 200yds/183m of the line up, so that a natural identification takes place~~ that is free from any handler interference.

Judges may award a Certificate of Merit in all stakes to any hound not being placed which has given a good performance.
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Rationale:

We have now held several trials since the introduction of the 200 yard rule and it is proving to be unserviceable for the following reasons:

- It is hard for the handler while hunting a hound to guess when they are 200 yards from the end as due to the terrain and weather conditions the line-walker may not be easily visible.
- Many of the sheep farmers who allow us on their land insist that hounds are leashed when in fields with sheep.
- If lines were able to be set to end where no sheep were present, we have no control if they have been moved there on the day of the trial.

Our last trial was held on fully stocked land and in order for the trial to go ahead the Activities Committee agreed to a special dispensation as a one off special circumstance as there was not time to source fresh land.

Reverting this regulation would allow handlers to choose whether to hunt their hounds free or leashed, as was previously the case, unless instructed by the farmer to leash in field with sheep.

If the hound is leashed at the identification, we believe with the expertise and experience our senior judges have they would recognise if the hound was influenced by its handler.

British Association of German Shepherd Dogs

Mr C Taylor

Proposed amendment to regulation I26.c

- e. BASGD would like the Council to consider an amendment to the above regulation to reduce the period between championship TD and PD stake judging appointments to three months.

Regulation I26.c

TO:

A person approved to judge a Championship Working Trial Certificate stake may not judge the same stake within a period of ~~six~~ **three** calendar months.

The relevant date being the last day of each trial.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

The period of six months is making it difficult for clubs/societies to appoint qualified judges. Although new judges are being brought through the system, there are fewer judges available for selection in recent times. The six month rule further compromises a judge's availability and often ends up in them being unavailable to a society for much longer than six months.

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items have been received from individuals/societies.

ITEM 12. 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 Chair.

ITEM 13. 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*