



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30
AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET ON
TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. KENNEL CLUB RESEARCH PROJECT

The Council is invited to receive a presentation from Mr M Bermingham (Head of Strategy, Planning and Insight) which will provide an update on the research project into 'Organisers and Participants of Dog Activities'.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023 (copies previously distributed).

The Council is invited to note that due to a transcription error the exercises listed for regulations I(A)9.d and e. were incorrect. The error was noted and fixed and will appear correctly in the 2024 regulation booklets.

ITEM 4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Following the resignation of Mr J West, the Council is invited to note that Mrs S Haim was approved as the representative on council for Wessex Working Trials Club.

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Board, at its meeting on 22 November 2023, approved the following amendment to regulations:

Regulation I(B)2. Heelwork

TO:

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 at 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.

Any act, signal or command or jerking of the lead which in the opinion of the Judge has given the dog unfair assistance shall be penalised. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory stake.

Where required the lead ~~should~~ **must** be attached to a close fitting smooth collar. Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Proposal to permit judges to enter dogs in their ownership/part ownership

- b. At its meeting on 21 September 2023, the Activities Committee discussed the Council proposal to permit judges to enter their dogs at working trials whilst recorded in their ownership or part ownership at the trial they were judging.

The Committee discussed the logistics surrounding the proposal and how it would be implemented and the impact that it would have on trials managers. It also considered whether it would be able to be applied fairly for all judges. The Committee came to the conclusion that it would put an undue burden on trials managers and that it would not be able to be applied fairly as it would not be possible for championship TD and PD judges to compete with their dogs due to the amount of judging required.

The Committee therefore did not approve the regulation amendment.

Voting rights at Council Meetings

- c. At its meeting on 21 September 2023, the Activities Committee discussed the Council's proposal that, at Working Trials Liaison Council meetings, societies may be represented by a nominated substitute should their usual representative be unable to attend. The substitute represented would need to be pre-approved by The Kennel Club Board and the Liaison Council Chair notified of their attendance in advance of the meeting.

The Committee noted that a strategy review was in progress by The Kennel Club which was particularly looking at the ways Liaison Councils were made up and how they worked. Due to this, it was not possible to affect any change to the Council structures until such time as the review was completed.

The Working Trials representatives appreciated the complexities of such a review and that such a change would affect all Councils and therefore it was not appropriate to implement the change. As such the proposal was not supported at this time.

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Gilbert following the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group's meeting on 30 August 2023
(Annex A refers – to follow)

- b. The Sub-Group discussed the Working Trials Research Group's recommendation for research that had been put to the Dog Health Group. There had been concerns raised from the Dog Health Group with respect to the benefit and the end purpose of the Working Trials research.

The Sub-Group noted that the original research had been undertaken in an equestrian centre which was not representative of Working Trials terrain and that the new proposal was to replicate the research on a grass surface. Concerns were raised as to the logistics of undertaking the research outside due to electricity in the field and possible wet grass.

As such, the Sub-Group requested that the Council review and discuss what its priority for the research is and ultimately the end purpose, noting that the jump height regulations had only recently been amended.

Therefore, the Council is requested to review and discuss the research and agree on the priorities and end purpose of the research. An update on the progress from the Working Trials Research Group has been provided.
(Annex B)

ITEM 7. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a verbal report from Mr Gilbert following the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting on 15 November 2023.

ITEM 8. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

The Council is requested to review the strategy document.
(Annex C refers)

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

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

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)17. Pursuit and detention of protected stewards

- b. The PD Stake Panel wishes to propose the following amendment to the above regulation:

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)

The Panel is of the view that the existing regulation does not make it sufficiently clear that the test involves detaining a fleeing protected steward.

ITEM 10. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PROGRESSION PANEL

The Council is invited to note a written report from the panel.
(Annex D refers)

ITEM 11. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

No items have been received from societies/private individuals.

ITEM 12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

British Association for German Shepherd Dogs (BAGSD) Mr Taylor
The Council is requested to discuss whether the time frame between championship TD and PD judging appointments should be reduced from six calendar months, even if on a temporary basis.

Rationale

It has become increasingly more difficult to obtain a championship Working Trials judge as the pool of qualified judges has reduced. It would help societies obtain a judge nearer to the trial venue which in turn would reduce the expense for both judge and society. This only needs to be for a given period of time until numbers have increased.

ITEM 13. 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 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council's next meeting will take place on 11 July 2024. All agenda items must be submitted by 12 April 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*

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
Banbury & District Dog 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 Riding Working Trials 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
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
Wakefield 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
Leamington Dog Training Club
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
Yorkshire Working Trials Society
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 Working Trials 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
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
Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Essex Working Trials Society
Scottish Working Trials Society
ASPADS Working Trials Society
Welsh Kennel Club