

# Obedience Festival Proposal

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# Proposal

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**To hold the first Obedience Festival event in the UK in 2023**

**Two-day prestigious outdoor event that would celebrate British Obedience**

**Aimed at dogs and handlers at every level**

**To lay the foundation for an international Obedience event in the UK**



# Vision

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**To create an annual event in the calendar that celebrates all aspects of Obedience**

**A different type of Obedience event that would encourage competitors to travel miles to attend**

**Bringing something new to the Obedience table**

**An event that would offer a series of finals for all levels**

**Inspire new and current competitors to take part**

**Have an international involvement which could develop over time**



# Considerations

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**Cost effective**

**Self financing where possible**

**An event that clubs would want to be part of**

**There would be sufficient support to run the event**

**An event that would gain momentum each year**

**Would have a long- term positive impact for  
British Obedience**

**Realistically achievable**

**Minimal administration**





# International Agility Festival

- Held in 2005 and introduced to promote Agility
- Located in the midlands and developed over time
- Held in August before Dogs in Need Agility Society's week long show
- This first show didn't have CC status
- Has final competitions at each level and an international class
- In 2024 the European Open Agility Championship will be held in the UK under FCI rules



# Background

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- **The working group looked extensively at many options and ideas**
- **After taking into consideration the show diary, costs, preparation, required helpers etc. the most viable option would be to hold this event initially alongside another one**
- **This event could then form a cluster of shows making it more attractive for those attending**
- **The venue would need to be large enough and suitable for camping**
- **The venue would need to be located centrally and easily accessible to attract entries**
- **Held in the summer months and during the summer holiday period**
- **No pre-qualification requirement to enter so that no additional administration is required**

## First steps

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*A journey of 1000 miles  
starts with one small step !*

# Potential date

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- **In 2022 Hatchford Brook DTC and Solihull DTC have worked together to run five days of shows**
- **Potential for a mid-week 2-day Obedience Festival to be scheduled alongside these shows in 2023**
- **There are no current shows due to be held on these days**
- **Venue- Solihull Bees Rugby Ground, Foreshaw Heath Lane, Solihull, West Midlands**
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August & Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023**



# Proposed schedule of events

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1. **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Hatchford Brook DTC – Championship Obedience Show**
2. **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Hatchford Brook DTC - Open show & KCGCDS SPBOS qualifier**
3. **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Solihull DTC Ch C - Championship Obedience Show, Obreedience heat & KCGCDS SPBOS qualifier**
4. **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Solihull DTC - Open show**
5. **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 1<sup>st</sup> KC Obedience Festival – Open show & qualifying rounds**
6. **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 1<sup>st</sup> KC Obedience Festival – Open show & Finals Day**

# Cup Competitions

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- Introduce a Cup Final competition at each level of progression
- Dogs would be allowed to be entered in one cup competition (lowest class)
- Qualifying for the respective Cup Final would be calculated from points gained over two rounds in standard classes on day one (not current practice but permissible)
- All Cup Finals would be held on day two of the event
- All standard classes would be a mixed sex class with a separate set of awards for dogs and bitches in each
- Classes would be split equally (if required)
- *Note the Cup Final names are used as an example to show progression and subject to change*

# Cup Final levels

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1. Fledgling Cup Final (Pre-Beginners)
2. Starters Cup Final (Beginners)
3. Novice Cup Final (Novice)
4. Apprentice Cup Final (A)
5. Graduate Cup Final (B)
6. High Flyers Cup Final (C only)
7. British Open Cup Final (Ch C)
8. YKC Obedience Cup Final (YKC)



# How would it work?

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- **Each standard class would be scheduled twice**
- **Each standard class would also be a qualifying class (lowest class applies)**
- **Dogs could win out or gain progression points in these classes as well as gaining qualification for their respective Cup Final**
- **Each dog could be entered in up to 3 classes (including special classes) + FCI tbc**
- **Dogs would only be eligible for one Cup Final competition applicable to their lowest class as of the show closing date (25 day rule applies)**
- **The YKC Cup Final(s) would be based on YKC obedience classes (via YKC)**
- **Handlers & dogs don't have to take part in the Cup Finals – you can just enter the open show as per normal**

# Qualifying classes – day 1

- **Class 1 Pre-Beginners (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 2 Pre-Beginners (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 3 Beginners (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 4 Beginners (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 5 Novice (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 6 Novice (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 7 Class A (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 8 Class A (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 9 Class B (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 10 Class B (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 11 Open C (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 12 Open C (incl. qualifier)**
- **Class 13, 14 & 15 YKC classes (incl. qualifiers) TBC**



- **All standard classes would be a mixed sex class with a separate set of awards for dogs and bitches in each, Classes would be split equally (if required) i.e. Class 3a Beginners & Class 3b Beginners**

# Other classes

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- Scheduled on one or both days (tbc)
- Special ABC Tyro class
- Special ABC Advanced class
- Pairs class
- 'Have a Go' Newcomers' class (enter on the day)
- Obreedience
- All Breedience
- Introduce FCI Obedience classes





# Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI)

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## International Federation of Kennel Clubs

Potential for FCI Obedience Classes 1, 2 and 3 to be included as part of the Obedience Festival classes (*subject to permission*)

Would attract additional competitors

Option for a Beginners FCI class for UK competitors

Run under FCI Obedience rules

Would need an FCI Judge

Potential growth for a future competition

Other precedents in Agility and Breed shows have already been set



# Classes & Cup Finals - day 2

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- **Standard classes**
  - **Class 1 Pre-Beginners**
  - **Class 2 Beginners**
  - **Class 3 Novice**
  - **Class 4 Class A**
  - **Class 5 Class B**
  - **Class 6 Open C**
  
  - **Class 7,8 & 9 YKC**
  - **Cup Finals**
  - **Fledgling Cup Final**
  - **Starters Cup Final**
  - **Novice Cup Final**
  - **Apprentice Cup Final**
  - **Graduate Cup Final**
  - **High Flyers Cup Final**
  - **British Open Cup Final**
  - **YKC Cup Final**
  - **Other Classes (tbc)**
  - **Special ABC Tyro class**
  - **Special ABC Advanced class**
  - **Pairs class**
  - **'Have a Go' Newcomers' class (enter on the day)**
  - **Obreedience & All Breedience**
  
  - **FCI Classes ( Class 1, 2 and 3) and a Beginner class (tbc)**
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- **All standard classes would be a mixed sex class with a separate set of awards for dogs and bitches. Standard classes would be split if required.**

# Fledgling Cup Final (Pre-Beginners)

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- For handlers and dogs eligible for Pre-Beginners as of the show closing date
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class Pre-Beginners
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- Each class counts towards progression out of Pre- Beginners
- Each class also counts as a qualifier towards the Fledgling Cup Final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it could gain points towards entry in the final
- Points Example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on.
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge on day 2
- The top 10 dogs or 10% of total class entry would qualify for the Fledgling Cup Final

# Starters Cup Final (Beginners)

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- For handlers and dogs eligible for Beginners as of the show closing date
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class Beginners
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- Each class counts towards progression out of Beginners
- Each class also counts as a qualifier towards the Starters Cup Final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it could gain points towards entry in the final
- Points example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on.
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge on day 2
- The top 10 dogs or 10% of total class entry would qualify for the Starters Cup Final

# Novice Cup Final (Novice)

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- For dogs eligible for Novice as of the show closing date.
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class Novice
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- Each class counts towards progression out of Novice
- Each class also counts as a qualifier towards the Novice Cup final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it would gain points towards entry in the final
- Points Example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge
- The top 10 dogs or 10% of total class entry would qualify for the Novice Cup Final

# Apprentice Cup Final (A)

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- For dogs eligible for Class A as of the show closing date
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class A
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- Each class counts towards progression out of A
- Each class also counts as a qualifier towards the Apprentice Cup Final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it would gain points towards entry in the final
- Points Example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge
- The top 10 dogs or 10% of total class entry would qualify for the Apprentice Cup Final



# Graduate Cup Final (B)

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- For dogs eligible for Class B as of the show closing date
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class B
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- Each class counts towards progression out of class B
- Each class also counts as a qualifier towards the Graduate Cup Final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it would gain points towards entry in the final
- Points Example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge
- The top 10 dogs or 10% of total class entry would qualify for the Graduate Cup Final

# High Flyers Cup Final (C only)

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- For dogs that have qualified out of Class B but have not qualified for Championship C as of the show closing date i.e. C only
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class C- judged in conjunction with the British Open qualifier (separate points apply)
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- Each class counts towards progression towards Championship C
- Each class also counts as a qualifier towards the High Flyers Cup Final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it would gain points towards entry in the final
- Points Example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge
- The top 10 dogs or 10% of total class entry would qualify for the High Flyers Cup Final

# British Open Cup Final (Ch C or equivalent)

- For dogs eligible for Championship C (UK) or dogs qualified in the highest class achievable in their domiciled country/nation e.g. Irish Kennel Club , Dutch Obedience Society, Belgium Kennel Club, Jersey Kennel Club, Guernsey Kennel Club , IOM or any Kennel Club that runs UK Obedience classes. Will include Home Nations.
- Day 1 - two scheduled classes of G regulation class C – judged in conjunction with the High Flyers qualifier
- (separate points apply)
- Day 2 – final (held in conjunction with the day 2 open show)
- 2 different Judges appointed, one for each class (or split part)
- The final would consist of 1 round with a different judge
- Each class offers points for entry into Championship C and counts as a qualifier for this Cup Final
- Providing a dog completes the test, it would gain points towards entry in the final
- Points Example 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> place e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> =19 pts and so on
- Based on points the top dogs would qualify for the British Open Cup Final and would represent themselves and their country/nation (further details tbc)

# Building an event for the future

- **2- year plan initially that could develop into a long- term annual event**
- **Develop final competitions that have a value**
- **Develop a future International Obedience event**
- **Creating other aspects to the event that would bring people together**
- **It would be different to any other Obedience show**



# Social programme

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- **Create a social programme on 1 or 2 evenings that would celebrate Obedience and encourage engagement between competitors.**



# Sponsorship

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- **The event would look for sponsorship to support it**
- **Dog Training Clubs & others would be approached to sponsor, classes, and rosettes etc**
- **Cup competitions would be sponsored**
- **A special events ring would be created for all finals and prize giving which would promote the sponsors**





# Staffing the event

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- The event would look for support help but would outsource where possible
- Venue – rings already set up and break down accounted for
- Judges & Stewards lunches - appoint caterer
- Entries would be outsourced to a show services provider
- Identify roles and requirements
- Support from the Obedience fraternity



# Next stage

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- **Require Agreement & KC Approval**
- **Business Plan**
- **Management team**
- **Identify sponsorship opportunities**
- **Appoint judges**
- **Engage helpers**
- **Announce date**



# *'If you build it they will come'*





**THE KENNEL CLUB**