



MINUTES OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 18 JULY 2023 AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT:

Mrs P Bann	Essex Working Trials Society
Miss J Carruthers	North East Counties Working Trials Society
Mrs L Cottier	Scottish Working Trials Society
Mr D Craven	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Mr S Ford	Surrey Dog Training Society
Mr B Gilbert	ASPADS Working Trials Society
Mr N Hines	Lincolnshire German Shepherd Dog & All Breeds Training Society
Mrs J Holt	North West Working Trials Society
Mrs J Howells	Hampshire Working Trials Society
Mrs D Ling	East Anglian Working Trials Society
Ms L Marlow	Southern Alsatian Training Society
Ms L Newbold	Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
Mr C Taylor	British Association for German Shepherd Dogs
Mr J West	Wessex Working Trials Club
Mrs S Wright	Iceni Working Trials Club
Mr J Wykes	Leamington Dog Training Club

IN ATTENDANCE

Miss D Deuchar	Head of Canine Activities
Miss C McHardy	Manager – Education, Training and Working Dog Activities Team
Miss R Mansfield	Senior Officer – Working Dog Activities Team

NOTE: any recommendations made by the Working Trials Liaison Council are subject to review by the Activities Committee and The Kennel Club Board, and would not come into effect unless and until Board approval has been confirmed.

IN THE CHAIR:

MR C TAYLOR

1. The Chair welcomed Ms L Newbold to her first meeting of the Council as Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association's representative.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. Mr D Robertson and Mr N Sutcliffe were not present.

ITEM 2. KENNEL CLUB RESEARCH PROJECT

3. A presentation had been planned to be given by Mr M Bermingham (Head of Strategy, Planning and Insight) and Ms L Smith (Education and Training Portfolio Manager) to provide an update on the research project into 'Organisers and Participants of Dog Activities'.
4. The Council was advised that there was currently no update to share, and as such the presentation was not given. It was advised that an update would be provided at a later date when information became available.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

ITEM 4. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

6. The Council noted that following a request for nominations and a subsequent ballot, Mr N Hines had been elected for the role of representative on the Activities Committee.

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The Council noted that the Board, at its meeting held on 10 May 2023, approved the following amendments to I Regulations:

Regulation I(B)2

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 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 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, both shall continue forward together in accordance with the instructions given.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)9. Speak on Command

TO:

~~The judge will control the position of the handler in relation to the dog and may require the handler 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. The dog will be ordered to ‘speak’ and cease ‘speaking’ on the instruction of the judge or steward who may instruct the handler to make the dog ‘speak’ again.~~

~~“Speaking” should be sustained by the dog whilst required 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.~~

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 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.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulations I(A)9b,c, and d.

TO:

b. UTILITY DOG (UD) STAKE

	Maximum Marks	Group total	Minimum Group Qualifying mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel free	5		
2. Sending the dog away	10		
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10		

5. Steadiness to gunshot Speak on command	5	35	25
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c. **WORKING DOG (WD) STAKE**

	Maximum Marks	Group total	Minimum Group Qualifying mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel free	5		
2. Sending the dog away	10		
3. Retrieve a dumb-bell	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10		
5. Steadiness to gunshot Speak on command	5	35	25

d. **TRACKING DOG (TD) STAKE**

	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum Group Qualifying mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel free (5) Down on the move (5)	5 10		
2. Send away and directional control	10		
3. Speak on command	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10		
5. Steadiness to gunshot	5	35	25

e. **PATROL DOG (PD) STAKE**

	Maximum marks	Group total	Minimum Group Qualifying mark
Group I. Control			
1. Heel free (5) Down on the move (5)	5 10		
2. Send away and directional control	10		
3. Speak on command	5		
4. Down (10 minutes)	10		
5. Steadiness to gunshot	5	35	25

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

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 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. **Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory and CD Stake.**

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 be attached to a close fitting smooth collar.

Retractable leads or head collars are not to be used.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)5

TO:

Recall to handler – The dog should be recalled from the 'down' or 'sit' position. The handler being a reasonable distance from the dog at the discretion of the judge. The dog should return at a smart pace and sit in front of the handler, afterwards going smartly to heel on command or signal. Handler to await command of the judge or steward. Extra commands shall be permitted in the introductory **and CD stakes.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)6

TO:

Retrieve a dumb-bell

The dog should not move forward to retrieve nor deliver to hand on return until ordered by the handler on the judge or stewards' instructions. The retrieve should be executed at a smart pace without mouthing or playing with the dumb-bell and the dog should sit in front of the handler. After delivery, the handler will send the dog to heel on the instruction of the Judge or Steward. Extra commands shall be permitted in the Introductory **and CD Stakes.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)3

TO:

SIT Introductory – 1 minute CD – 2 minutes **In sight**

Dogs may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The judge or steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to the dogs. Any further commands or signals will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. †

~~the Introductory Stake, these positions should be in in sight, but in the CD stake, where possible, such positions should be out of sight for the dogs but bearing in mind the short duration of the exercise this may not be practical.~~
Dogs must remain in the sit position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. The judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)12.b

TO:

Track—The descriptions below should be followed for the track:

b) The track shall be a single line and may include turns. It shall be approximately 0.8046km (half a mile) long and should be laid as far as possible by a stranger to the dog. **In UD, it shall be a minimum of 550 metres long.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

Down (Introductory and CD stake 5 minutes. Other stakes 10 minutes) – Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The judge or steward will give the command 'last command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the judge or steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the judge or steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause the dog to move. ~~The judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.~~

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation I1.c.

TO:

Dogs under 18 calendar months of age on the closing date are ineligible for competition at Kennel Club licensed working trials **except that dogs of 6 calendar months of age on the closing date of the trial may be entered for Special Stakes, which do not include the long jump, clear jump and scale.** Bloodhounds may be entered for Bloodhound Trials at 12 calendar months on the first day of the trial.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

8. Mr Ford wished it to be reflected in the minutes that he was dissatisfied with the approval of the reallocation of the marks for the gun test. The process that occurred at the last meeting which resulted in the recommendation going through to the Activities Committee and its subsequent approval by the Board was queried.
9. Mr Ford wished to recommend that the implementation of the new regulation be suspended until such time as the Council could resolve the matter. A discussion followed during which Mr Ford was reminded that the Chair and Vice Chair had approved the minutes and the Council had not queried the accuracy of the minutes earlier in the meeting. It was suggested that as the new regulation had been approved it would be reasonable to allow it to come into effect on 1 January 2024 and should it be found to not be a suitable change then an alternative could be proposed to the Council in two years' time. It was agreed that this was the best way forward.

Working Trials Research - Long Jump and Scale

10. At the January 2023 Council meeting, a working group was formed, initially with representatives Mrs Cottier, Mrs Ling and Ms Marlow, to consider what research should be carried out in respect of working trials jumps. Thereafter, Ms Sharkey and Mrs Tibbets joined, bringing their experience and knowledge in biomechanics and the veterinary profession to the working group. The group met, and subsequently all agreed to an amended research proposal which was submitted to the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group.
11. The aim of this research was to quantify kinetic and kinematic parameters for the obstacles traversed in working trials to conduct a risk-based analysis and ascertain if there were any concerning ground reaction forces or joint stresses.
12. At its meeting held on 17 April 2023, the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group agreed to include the research into the proposed length of the Long Jump and height of the Scale for small dogs into its broad working trials jump research.
13. The Council noted the research proposal and also noted that the next step in the process was to secure funding.

Down stay progression through the stakes

14. At its previous meeting, the Council discussed various options to amend Regulation I(B)4, however, after careful consideration a decision had not been reached as to the precise way in which such progression could be achieved. The matter had been deferred to allow for a revised proposal to be submitted and was discussed later in the meeting during the Equipment and Progression Panel discussions. (Paragraphs 29-43 refer).

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

15. The Council noted a written report from Mr Gilbert following the meeting of the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group's meeting held on 17 April 2023.

ITEM 7. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

16. The Council noted a written report from Mr Gilbert following the meeting of the Activities Judges Sub-Group held on 25 April 2023.

ITEM 8. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

17. The Council noted the five year strategy document. No amendments were suggested. It was noted that there was still a lack of progress on items submitted to the office for progression, such as changes to the website and the creation of a PD resource on The Kennel Club Academy. The office endeavoured to review these items and ensure they were made a priority.

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

18. The Council noted a written report from the panel.
19. It considered the Protected Steward's Guide to PD Stakes document created by the panel with input from experienced protected stewards.
20. A query was raised as to whose responsibility it was to provide sleeves for protected stewards at trials. It was suggested that the trials society should provide them so that it could be ensured that it was happy with the equipment in the same way that the agility equipment was provided. It would ensure that the sleeves were of a uniform type. It would also remove a financial burden from protected stewards who may be required to repair damaged sleeves after a trial.
21. It was noted that a lot of work had gone into updating the description of exercises for the patrol stake including a clear description of the sleeve type that should be used. It was agreed that whoever provided the sleeve, there needed to be an agreement between the judge, society and protected steward that it complied with regulations.
22. Following the discussion, the Council accepted the document which stated that the judge should provide the equipment or check its suitability if provided by another party.
23. The Council noted that Mrs Cottier had decided to step down from the panel and discussed whether it wished to appoint a replacement. The PD Stake Panel had proposed to invite Mr D Marchant and Ms J Quick to the membership of the panel, however it was noted that neither were members of the Council. A query was raised as to the validity of non-council members being on a council panel.
24. Ms Ling stated that when the panels were being created the question as to whether it would be possible to invite external members was raised and it was indicated that this would be allowed. However, the Equipment and Progression

Panel raised that it had been told differently and had not been allowed to do the same.

25. The office clarified that due to the limited available pool of experts in PD on the Council it was more appropriate to recruit external expertise onto the panel, whereas with the Equipment and Progression Panel every member of the council should be able to provide expertise on any matters relevant to that panel.
26. The Council concluded that it would be acceptable to allow external members on the PD Stake Panel and as such Mr D Marchant and Ms J Quick would be invited to join the panel.

ITEM 10. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PROGRESSION PANEL

27. The Council noted a written report from the panel.

Recruitment of additional members to the panel

28. Volunteers were requested to join the panel to provide additional support to the current members. Subsequently, Mr Taylor volunteered and there being no further names put forward, was invited onto the panel.

Proposals for the down stay to have progression through the stakes

29. At the Council meeting held on 19 January 2023, the above had been discussed. The Council had indicated its support to the changes through Introductory, CD and UD Stakes. It was agreed that consideration of the above proposal should be deferred so that all proposals/options on the same issue could be considered together.
30. Four options had been submitted by the panel for consideration, however there were queries on the process and consequences of voting for the proposals. A query was raised as to what would happen if none of the options were chosen and it was clarified that should this happen then the down stay exercise would remain as it currently stood and no further proposals to change it would be accepted for two years.
31. A further query was raised as to why this seemed to differ from the voting for the gun test replacement, as it had been made clear that an option had to be chosen for that, whereas it did not for this one. It was clarified that it was due to the Council voting to remove the gun test as an exercise meaning that it was necessary to reallocate the marks, making it necessary to choose a suitable option. It had not been voted to remove the down stay as an exercise and as such, failure to choose an option to have progression through the stakes would not affect the current exercises or marks.
32. A concern was raised that the number of changes being proposed and recommended by the Council was causing concern among the trialling community and was potentially responsible for triallists stopping competing in trials. A discussion followed as to the various ways it may be possible to attract

new members while retaining existing triallists. It was accepted that working trials faced a number of barriers to recruitment including the need for a significant amount of land and time in order to train. It was suggested that providing training may be a better way to attract new people to the discipline as opposed to changing the regulations.

33. It was raised that, at its previous meeting, the Council had only agreed to progress the stakes in the Introductory, CD and UD stakes, however some of the options submitted included the TD and PD stakes as well. It was queried whether these options should be considered as it had not been agreed to include the higher stakes in the progression.
34. It was decided that all the options would be voted on, but those referring to the higher stakes would be considered first, as it was felt there was no appetite for them from the Council and it would help to focus the discussion. The Council went on to consider the four options.

OPTION 4

Proposal to create a graded marking system in the Down Stay exercise in all stakes.

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)

**Introductory Stake & CD – 5 points for 3 minutes, 10 points for 5 minutes
UD, WD, TD & PD graded stays – no points awarded until at least 50% of the test had been completed. Subsequently, points would be allocated as follows: 1 point for 6 minutes, 2 points for 7 minutes, 3 points for 8 minutes, 4 points for 9 minutes and 10 points for 10 minutes.**

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.

(Insertion in bold)

35. There was no seconder to support the proposal and as such it was not discussed.
36. The Council then went on to consider option three:

OPTION 3

Proposal to create a graded marking system in the Down Stay exercise in Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)

**Introductory Stakes & CD – 5 points for 3 minutes, 10 points for 5 minutes
UD & WD graded stays – no point awarded until at least 50% of the test
has been completed**

**Subsequently, points would be allocated as follows: 1 point for 6 minutes,
2 points for 7 minutes, 3 points for 8 minutes, 4 points for 9 minutes and
10 points for 10 minutes**

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.

(Insertions in bold)

37. There was no seconder to support the proposal and as such it was not discussed.
38. The Council then went on to consider option two:

OPTION 2

Proposal to create a graded marking system in the Down Stay exercise in Introductory, CD, UD and WD Stakes

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

DOWN (Introductory and CD Stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)

Introductory and CD Stakes stay – 2 points per minute

UD and WD stay – 1 point per minute

**Marks must be graduated in accordance with The Kennel Club's
specimen stay chart.**

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the

'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.
(Insertions in bold)

39. There was no seconder to support the proposal and as such it was not discussed.
40. Finally, the Council considered option one:

OPTION 1

Proposal to progress the Down Stay exercise through Introductory, CD and UD Stakes

Regulation I(B)4

TO:

DOWN (Introductory and CD stake 5 minutes, other stakes 10 minutes)

Introductory Stake, 2 minutes (handlers in sight)

C.D. Stake, 5 minutes (handlers in sight)

U.D. Stake, 5 minutes (handlers out of sight)

W.D., T.D. & P.D. Stakes 10 minutes (handlers out of sight)

Handlers must be out of sight of the dogs who may be tested individually or in a group or groups. The Judge or Steward will give the command 'Last Command' and handlers should then instantly give their final commands to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and proceed to positions indicated by the Judge or Steward until ordered to return to them. Dogs must remain in the 'down' position throughout the test until the Judge or Steward indicates that the test has finished. Minor movements may be penalised. No dog will be awarded any marks that sits, stands or crawls more than its approximate body length in any direction. The Judge however may use discretion should interference by another dog cause a dog to move. The Judge may test the dogs by using distractions but may not call them by name.
(Insertions in bold)

41. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Cottier.
42. It was queried whether there would be a distinction between open and championship trials when implementing the progression through the stays. It was clarified that it would be the same for both levels of trial.
43. A vote took place, and, by a majority, the proposal was **not** supported. Therefore, there would be no change to the down stay regulations.

Discussion item requesting involvement from Societies to help develop Working Trials.

44. The Panel sought to involve all societies in contributing to developing a plan for how the discipline of working trials would progress and grow, in light of concerns raised over the reduced number of entries in trials over the past few years.
45. A list of positive suggestions was requested from each society represented on the Council. All responses and suggestions would then be used as a basis for further discussion.
46. It was explained that the discussion item stemmed from a perception that there was minimal engagement from the working trials societies represented on the Council and that it was hoped this discussion item would stimulate submissions for the agenda.
47. Following a discussion during which it was reiterated that The Kennel Club website was inadequate for promoting working trials, which the office once again endeavoured to rectify, the item was closed as there were no responses or suggestions from any of the Council representatives.

Discussion item on improving communication within the Working Trials community over Liaison Council matters

48. The Council discussed the creation of Facebook groups in order to facilitate better communication between the Council and the working trials community. An annex had been provided to give examples of how such groups worked for other disciplines and their council discussions.
49. It was accepted that there was an existing working trials Facebook group, however it did not facilitate fair and open communication and was not specifically for Council matters. It was explained that the groups being used for the agility and obedience liaison councils was not used as a discussion forum but allowed for feedback on specific items and as such was a more controlled environment. It was felt that a similar format could work for engagement for the working trials liaison council.
50. It was pointed out that the obedience and agility liaison council representatives were elected to represent a specific area, which was not the case for the working trials representatives. It was agreed that this was something that would need to be considered and it may be possible to allocate areas to the existing representatives to facilitate the creation of the Facebook groups.
51. A query was raised as to who would be able to access the groups as it was not felt it would be appropriate to have people who were not current in the discipline making contributions. It was agreed that criteria could be set by the Council to focus the membership of the groups.
52. It was agreed that the idea had some merit and could be progressed by the Council and all representatives would liaise externally to create the groups.

Membership of the Panel

53. Membership of the Panel had been discussed at the beginning of the Item. Paragraph 28 refers.

ITEM 11. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

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

54. North East Counties Working Trials Society (NECWTS), represented by Ms J Carruthers, wished to propose that judges be permitted to enter their dogs at working trials whilst recorded in their ownership or part ownership at the trial they were judging.
55. NECWTS was of the view that with entry numbers at trials being very low, possibly due to high cost of fuel and accommodation that this amendment would provide an incentive for a judge to accept an appointment. It was noted that sometimes judges would prefer to run their dogs rather than judge and this would allow for both. The society proposed the following amendment to the regulation:

Regulation I27.b Judging

Judges at working trials may ~~not~~ enter a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership, ~~or handle a dog~~ at a trial which they are judging.

They can enter any other stake they are qualified to at the trial, not the stake they are judging.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

56. East Anglian Working Trials Society had submitted a similar discussion item and as such Ms Ling seconded the proposal.
57. A concern was raised that there may be a conflict between a judge fulfilling their appointment and managing to compete successfully at the same trial. It was suggested that it should be made clear in the regulation that priority should be given to the judging appointment responsibilities over competing.
58. A further concern was highlighted as to the additional work this may cause for organisers of trials, particularly if stakes ran on the same days. It was suggested that it would be made clear that it was at the organising society's discretion to allow a judge to compete.
59. Ms Cottier proposed an amendment to the proposal:

Regulation I27.b Judging

If the organising society deems it possible judges at working trials may ~~not~~ enter a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership, ~~or handle a dog at~~ in a trial at which they are judging. **They may enter any stake which they are qualified for at the trial, except the stake they are judging. The judging appointment must be prioritised over entering or competing.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

60. Ms Ling seconded the amendment. A vote took place and, by a small majority, the regulation amendments were **recommended** for approval.

Accredited Judges Trainers Group

61. The working trials accredited trainers suggested a regulation amendment that would tidy up two regulations which referred to the type of leads that should be worn whilst competing. It was proposed that Regulation I(B)2 be amended to match I30.i.
62. Mr Gilbert seconded the proposal and after a quick vote the following regulation amendment was unanimously **recommended** for approval:

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).

Voting

63. An error meant that an item submitted by Southern Alsatian Training Society had been listed as a discussion item instead of a proposal as intended. It was agreed that this item could be moved and considered as a proposal.
64. Southern Alsatian Training Society, represented by Ms L Marlow, wished to propose 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 representative must be pre-approved by The Kennel Club Board, and the Liaison Council Chair notified of their attendance in advance of the meeting.
65. At times voting on proposals had been very close. At one recent vote, 3 representatives were unable to attend, meaning about a fifth of societies and therefore their memberships were not represented when the vote took place. Given the narrow margins on some proposals, this could make a material difference to the outcome of a vote. Although meetings were arranged 6 months in advance unforeseen circumstances may arise which prevented representatives from attending the Council meeting in person or via Microsoft Teams.
66. Mr Ford seconded the proposal.

67. A query was raised with the office as to whether the proposal would be prevented from going through at the higher levels and whether it would be setting a precedent. The office noted that similar suggestions had not been approved, however those suggestions related more to proxy voting. This proposal was similar to the Shows Liaison Council at which substitutes were appointed for the General Championship Societies represented on the Council and as such may have more traction for approval.
68. It was also queried why it was possible for members to have a proxy vote for items discussed at The Kennel Club AGM but not for Council meetings. It was suggested that there was a difference in the kinds of items being voted on and more discussion took place at Council meetings which may alter the way a representative may wish to vote.
69. It was agreed that the proposal had merit and a vote took place. By a strong majority the proposal was **recommended** for approval.

ITEM 12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Judges entering dogs registered in their ownership or co-ownership at trials
70. Due to a similar item being proposed by North East Counties Working Trials Society, Mr Morling, represented by Ms Ling, had agreed prior to the meeting that the item could be withdrawn.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Kennel Club Working Trials Championships
71. An update was requested from Mr Ford, as trials manager of Surrey Dog Training Society which would be hosting the Kennel Club Working Trials Championships in October 2023.
 72. Mr Ford confirmed that the trial had been advertised at the weekend after encountering a problem with the venue for the base and having to source an alternative. It was confirmed that this had been resolved and a new venue had been found within the same area as the original.
 73. It was also queried when the draw would be done and Mr Ford confirmed that this would happen after Hampshire Working Trials Society's championship trial in August.
 74. It was also requested that the information be provided for inclusion on the Working Trials Info website. Mr Ford confirmed that he had sent the information to Mr M Skillin who looked after the website, but it had not been uploaded yet. Mrs P Bann volunteered to ensure it would be uploaded.
- Seconders for proposals
75. Mr Ford wished to suggest that it would be helpful if representatives could ensure there was a seconder for their proposals before they reached the council for discussion as it would help streamline the meetings.

76. A short discussion took place and it was not felt that this would be feasible or helpful in promoting engagement with the council. As proposals could also be submitted by individuals, not just societies, this would provide an obstacle for submissions.

Reallocation of marks for the gun test exercise

77. Ms Marlow raised a concern that there was confusion about what the replacement for the gun test would be. It was due to come into effect on 1 January 2024, however there was no information published about it. It was felt that it was a significant change that competitors may be anxious about and would appreciate more notice of the change.
78. The office agreed that information could be released earlier than October which is when regulation changes for the next year would normally be published.

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

79. It was noted that the date of the next Council meeting would be announced in September 2023.
80. The Chair thanked all the representatives for attending the meeting and thanked the office for its hard work.

The meeting closed at 12.53pm.

MR C TAYLOR
Chairman

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

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

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Central Bernese Mountain Dog Club	ASPADS Working Trials Society
Chipping Norton & District Dog Training Club	British Association for German Shepherd Dogs
Cynllan Lodge Dog Training Club	Welsh Kennel Club
Deveron Dog Training Club	Scottish Working Trials Society
Donyatt Dog Training Club	Wessex Working Trials Club
East Riding Working Trials Society	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Grampian Gundog Club	Scottish Working Trials Society
Haslemere & District Dog Training Club	Surrey Dog Training Society
High Peak Dog Training Society	North West Working Trials Society
Hucknall & District Canine Training Society	Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
Lochaber & District Canine Society	Scottish Working Trials Society
Midlands Border Collie Club	Midland Counties German Shepherd Dog Association
Mid Wales Working Gundog Society	Welsh Kennel Club
National Australian Shepherd Association	Iceni Working Trials Club
Newlands Working Dog Society	Surrey Dog Training Society
North of England Weimaraner Society	North East Counties Working Trials Society
Northants & Bedfordshire Working Trials Dog Training	ASPADS Working Trials Society
Northern Alsatian & All Breeds Training Society	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Northern Newfoundland Club	British Association for German Shepherd Dogs
Portland Dog Training Club	Poole & District Dog Training Society
Rough & Smooth Collie Training Association	Leamington Dog Training Club
Scottish Kennel Club	Scottish Working Trials Society
Six Counties Working Trials Society	North West Working Trials Society
Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer Club (Provisional)	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
South Devon Agility & Dog Training Club	Poole & District Dog Training Society
South Leeds Working Trials Dog Training Club	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Spanish Water Dog Club (Provisional)	Lincolnshire German Shepherd Dog & All Breeds
Spey Valley Dog Training Club	Scottish Working Trials Society
Sporting Irish Water Spaniel Club	North West Working Trials Society
Stonehouse Dog Training Club	British Association for German Shepherd Dogs
Wakefield Dog Training Club	Yorkshire Working Trials Society
Weimaraner Club of Great Britain	Essex Working Trials Society
Weimaraner Club of Scotland	Scottish Working Trials Society
Working Belgian Shepherd Dog Society	ASPADS Working Trials Society