



**RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED TO THE FIELD TRIALS COMMITTEE
FROM THE FIELD TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB ON 16
MAY 2023**

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Handlers with more than one dog and Dog entered at more than one trial on the same day
Following the formation of the Retriever Field Trials Working Party in 2022, it was noted that research into the Retriever cards and draws from the 2022/23 season was still ongoing.

The Council reviewed a report submitted by the Working Party whereby it was advised that analysis of all the data over the last 5 years was required and it was taking time to obtain all the statistics.

The Working Party would submit its report and recommendations to the Committee as soon as possible.

PROPOSALS

2. Proposed amendment to Regulation J4.c.(1)(iv)
Bristol and West Working Gundog Society

The Council proposed that Regulation J4.c.(1)(iv) be amended to include the locality and county of the field trial on the schedule, to ensure that competitors would be aware of the venue of field trials prior to entry.

The Committee discussed the proposal however did not recommend the regulation amendment, as it was felt that competitors could contact the organiser of the trial before entering if they were unclear on the location of the ground.

The Committee recommended that guidance be issued in the field trials newsletter which provided clarity that "place" should refer to the place and county of the ground.

3. Proposed amendment to Regulation J4.c.(1)(xii)
Bristol and West Working Gundog Society

The Council proposed that Regulation J4.c.(1)(xii) be amended to include the contact details of the Field Trial Secretary to ensure that all schedules were aligned with The Kennel Club Specimen Schedule.

The Committee queried whether it was always the Field Trial Secretary that organised the trial and would be the person to contact. After discussing the proposal, the Committee did not recommend the regulation amendment for approval.

4. Proposed amendment to Regulation J(F)1
Bristol and West Working Gundog Society

The Council proposed that regulation J(F)1 be amended to ensure that the qualification criteria between a field trial qualification and one gained via a Show Gundog Working

Certificate (SGWC) was clearly defined. It recommended that a dog gaining champion status via the Show Gundog Working Certificate must include the letters SGWC after a dog's name.

The Committee discussed the proposal at length, however it was noted that whilst the SGWC was used to demonstrate the dog's natural working ability the achievement of the award was not necessarily easier than gaining an award at a field trial.

The Committee agreed that it was important to be as inclusive as possible across both the showing and working disciplines, therefore did not recommend the proposed regulation amendment for approval.

5. Proposed amendment to Regulation J(D)2

Dukeries [Notts] Gundog Club

The Council proposed that the minimum number of dogs be lowered for Pointer and Setter Novice/All Aged Stakes.

The Committee agreed with the Council's concerns regarding the lack of entries and therefore recommended the following regulation amendment for approval:

Regulation J(D)2.

TO:

Number of runners

To qualify for entry in The Kennel Club Stud Book, the number of runners permitted in stakes is:

- a. Open stakes: maximum 40, minimum 16.
- b. Novice/All Aged Stakes: maximum ~~42~~ **10**, minimum 10.
- c. Puppy Stakes: maximum 45, minimum 8

Where an open and any other type of stake are to run on the same day, the maximum number of runners over the whole day is 45.

(Insertions in bold. Deletion struck through)

(Effective 2 February 2024)

6. Proposed amendment to Regulation J(E)2

Mr N Wroe

The Council proposed that the maximum number of dogs be increased for HPR trials.

The Committee agreed with the Council's views and recommended the following regulation amendment for approval:

Regulation J(E)2.

TO:

Number of runners

To qualify for entry in the Kennel Club Stud Book, the number of runners permitted in stakes is:

- a. Open stakes: maximum ~~42~~ **16**, minimum 10.
- b. Other stakes: maximum ~~42~~, **16** minimum 8.
- c. Championship - no maximum number

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 2 February 2024)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Examination of game
Midland Gundog Society
The Council discussed concerns with the wording of Regulation J(A)4.i. regarding the examination of game for signs of hard mouth.
- The Committee confirmed that the Retriever seminar script had previously been amended to include a more detailed description of the methods for examination of game. The Committee recommended that the Spaniel and HPR seminar scripts would also be updated with the information, and these would be published on the Kennel Club website shortly.
8. Elimination of competitors by non-Panel judges
Mr B Smith, presented by Mr S McGrath
The Council discussed a suggestion that inexperienced non-panel judges should be prevented from eliminating competitors without prior consultation with the Panel judge with whom they were paired. The Council requested that guidance be provided in the newsletter.
- The Committee agreed that if a judge was in a position to judge the trial, then they should be able to officiate over all aspects of that event, including eliminating competitors if required. It also agreed that communication was vital, and it was the responsibility of the panel judge to fully support non-Panel and beginner judges.
- The Committee was in agreement not to progress the matter further.
9. Information on HPR judges
Mr N Wroe
The Council discussed the suggestion of the enhancement of data capture and information sharing of HPR judges' background being made available to field trial secretaries. Some concerns were also expressed that there was a reduction in the number of new judges coming through the system and it should be addressed.
- The Committee noted the concerns of the Council however were in agreement that in order to become a Panel judge, the requirements in the J Regulations needed to be met and therefore the request to provide more details to field trial secretaries was not needed.
- The Committee was in agreement not to progress the matter further.
10. HPR Open field trials
Mr N Wroe
The Council requested that a clear and defined route for Open field trial status clubs to secure permission to host a second Open AV HPR field trial be established by the Committee.
- The matter was discussed by the Committee, whereby it was agreed that there were currently enough Open Stakes available and for the foreseeable future no further clubs would be granted an additional or second Open Stake until such time as the Open Stakes could be filled with qualified dogs.
- The Committee confirmed that clubs requesting permission for a new Open Stake would still be reviewed in line with the current processes.
11. Conducting a Re-draw
Bristol & West Working Gundog Society
The Council raised concerns with the number of field trial draws which were required to be re-drawn and a request was made for official documentation and clarification on how to

undertake re-draws to remove any ambiguity and ensure consistency. It was suggested that a field trial secretary handbook should be prepared.

The Committee noted that any re-draws should be undertaken according to the Regulations and there were Committee members available for queries with re-draws if guidance was required. The Committee also noted that there was a significant volume of information available for secretaries on the website as well as in the J Regulation booklet.

It was recommended that new secretaries attend the field trial secretaries seminar, the date for 2024 would be published in the winter field trials newsletter.

12. Regulation Booklets and Retrospective Regulations
Bristol & West Working Gundog Society

The Council agreed that it had become apparent that for any new field trial secretaries the regulation booklet was not sufficiently comprehensive. It requested that regulations that held a retrospective application be published with guidance on the Kennel Club website to make it easily accessible.

The Committee was in agreement that the new regulations included in the back of the booklet was sufficient and therefore did not progress this matter further.

13. Incident Books
Bristol & West Working Gundog Society

The Council discussed the different time-frames for reporting incidents and were of the opinion that there should be one time-frame rather than three different time-frames, it requested that the Committee standardise these.

The Committee noted that whilst the regulations appeared to be linked in nature, they were in fact not, and the three paragraphs related to separate issues.

It was agreed that these regulations would remain as currently published.

Regulation J4.h.

Incident Book

A copy of the Kennel Club Incident Book, containing details of any incidents occurring at the trial, must be submitted to the Kennel Club within 14 days.

Regulation J11.a.

An objection must be lodged directly with the Kennel Club within seven days after the last day of the trial.

Regulation J13.a.

The organising society of a trial must immediately report in writing to the Secretary of the Kennel Club any case of alleged fraudulent or discreditable conduct, or any default, omission or incident at, or in connection with, the trial which may come to its notice, even where parties concerned have indicated that they intend taking no action.