



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

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) and Ms L Smith (Education and Training Portfolio Manager) 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 19 January 2023 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 4. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Following a request via email for nominations and a subsequent ballot, the Council is invited to note that Mr N Hines was elected for the role of representative on the Activities Committee.

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that at its meeting held on 10 May 2023, the Board approved its recommendations for regulation amendments. **(Annex A refers)**
- b. Working Trials Research - Long Jump and Scale
At the January 2023 Council meeting, a working group was formed, initially with representatives Ms 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.

The aim of this research is to quantify kinetic and kinematic parameters for the obstacles traversed in working trials to conduct a risk-based analysis and ascertain if there are any concerning ground reaction forces or joint stress.

The Council is invited to note the research proposal which was submitted to the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group.
(Annex B refers)

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.

- c. Down stay progression through the stakes
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 this will be discussed under Item 10.b.

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Gilbert following its meeting held on 17 April 2023.
(Annex C refers)

ITEM 7. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Gilbert following its meeting held on 25 April 2023.
(Annex D refers)

ITEM 8. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

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

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

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

- b. The PD Stake Panel continues to meet via Zoom regularly. Further research has taken place with input from experienced Protected Stewards to produce the Protected Steward's Guide to PD Stakes document for consideration.
(Annex G refers)
- c. The Council is requested to note Ms Cottier has decided to step down from the panel and is invited to discuss whether it wishes to appoint a replacement.

The PD Panel have proposed to invite Mr D Marchant and Ms J Quick to the membership of the Panel. It is noted that neither are members of the Council and it is therefore invited to discuss these additions.

ITEM 10. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT AND PROGRESSION PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from the panel.
(Annex H refers)
- b. Proposals for the down stay to have progression through the stakes
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.

The Council is invited to consider the revised proposals below:

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)

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)

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)

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.

(Insertions in bold)

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

The Panel seeks to involve all Societies in contributing to developing a plan for how the discipline of working trials progresses and grows, in light of concerns raised over the reduced number of entries in trials over the past few years.

A list of positive suggestions is requested from each Society and all the responses and suggestions will then be used as a basis for further discussion.

- d. Discussion item on improving communication within the Working Trials community over Liaison Council matters
 The Council is invited to discuss the creation of facebook groups in order to facilitate better communication between the Council and the Working Trials community. Further discussion and comparisons with other disciplines facebook communications may be found in the annex.
(Annex I refers)
- e. Membership of the Panel
 The Panel has expressed a wish to invite new members who are keen to positively discuss the progression of working trials, therefore an invitation is extended to anyone willing to participate on the panel.

ITEM 11. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. North East Counties Working Trials Society Ms J Carruthers
Proposal to permit judges to enter dogs in their ownership/part ownership
 The society wishes 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 are judging.

Therefore the Council is invited to consider the following amendment:

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)

Rationale

Entry numbers at trials are very low possibly due to the high cost of fuel and accommodation. It is also noted that judges sometimes prefer to work their dogs rather than accept judging appointments.

- b. Accredited Judges Trainers Group Ms Cottier
 There are currently two regulations which refer to the type of leads for dogs whilst competing. It is proposed that I(B)2 be amended to match I30.i.

Therefore the Council is requested to consider the following amendment:

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).

ITEM 12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. East Anglian Working Trials Training Society Mrs Ling
Judges entering dogs registered in their ownership or co-ownership at trials

Mr P Morling requests the Council to discuss a suggestion to amend regulation I 27.b. to allow judges to enter their dogs in another stake at a trial they are judging.

'Judges may enter another stake with their dog at the same trial they are judging, if the society running the trial deems it possible.'

Due to increased cost of living, travelling and accommodation, many societies are unable or will not offer expenses. If a judge can work their dog as well as judge, they may be inclined to judge more and it will save them on costs especially in the qualifying stakes, as they will only be going to one trial instead of two.

- b. Southern Alsatian Training Society Ms L Marlow
Voting

The Council is invited to discuss if, 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 a meeting.

Rationale

At times voting on proposals has 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 are arranged 6 months in advance unforeseen circumstances may arise which prevent representatives from attending the Council meeting in person or via 'Teams'.

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 date of the next Council meeting will be announced in September 2023.

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
 Icen 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