



MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL

Date and venue to be confirmed - Agenda

Note: this meeting was originally due to take place on Thursday 16 July 2020 but has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will be rescheduled as soon as Government directives and advice allow, and Council members will be advised of the new date and venue in due course.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The Council is invited to note that the following amendments to I Regulations were approved by the Board at its meeting on 7 April 2020:

Regulation I(B)13

TO:

The missing person, protected consistent with safety, ~~should~~ **must** remain motionless **in a seated or standing position** out of sight of the handler, but ~~should~~ **must** be accessible on investigation to the dog when 'winded'. **The protected steward must not be lying down.** The judge should satisfy himself that the dog has found the person and has given warning spontaneously and emphatically without being directed by the handler. A dog that bites the hidden person must be heavily penalised. (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2021)

New Regulation I26i

TO:

Patrol Dog stake judges must, before commencement of the Patrol Dog test, provide Working Trials Managers with sufficient detail of the tests, the risks arising from them and measures to manage those risks, to be included within risk assessments completed in respect of the events.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2021)

b. Risk assessments

At its previous meeting the Council had noted a draft risk assessment document, and had agreed that it may be published on the Kennel Club website for use on a generic basis by any host society, with the proviso that it must be updated as appropriate for the circumstances and environment at each trial, with careful consideration being given to each element and the associated level of risk, and ways in which such risks may be minimised.

It is invited to note that the document has been reviewed by Ms A Tohme, a health & safety professional and championship working trials judge. The Council is invited to note Ms Tohme's comments and suggested amendments to the document, and to consider their incorporation into a finalised version. **(Annexes A and B refer)**



c. Lockouts

The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 19 March 2020, noted the Board's view that the continuance of the custom and practice of including a 'lock out' in the Patrol section of working trials should be discontinued. As requested by the Board, the PD Stake Panel has been advised of the Board's views.

d. Clarification of judges' responsibilities

At its previous meeting, the Council was advised that Miss Carruthers would be submitting proposals for amendments to I Regulations, with the objective of clarifying and simplifying the responsibilities of judges. It is invited to note that proposals are included on the agenda under item 8.b.

e. Out of sight stays

At its January meeting, the Council had noted concerns that a dog which was not within sight of the handler may be considered to be out of control, from a legal perspective, and all present were requested to email Mr Gilbert with their views on the matter as soon as possible.

Subsequently, the Activities Committee, at its meeting on 19 March 2020, had been advised of the Council's wish that no changes should be made to stays within working trials, although relevant provision should be made within the risk assessment for each event. The Committee was in agreement that no changes should be made in respect of working trials.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note the following report from Mr Gilbert on the work of the Sub-Group following its meeting on 13 January 2020:

The Working Trials Jumping Study pilot filming took place on 4 March 2020 at Nottingham Trent University Equine Unit. This reviewed the equipment use, camera positioning and the implications regarding the positioning of the force mat. The day was successful and arrangements were made for the first filming day which was to be on 13 May 2020. This would involve 12 dogs split into small groups to stagger arrival times through the day.

Unfortunately the lock-down has meant that the initial date has had to be postponed.

A further verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note that the meeting of the Activities Judges SubGroup meeting scheduled to take place on 22 April 2020 was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Sub-Group's next meeting is due to take place on 18 November 2020 and a report will be provided to the Council at its next meeting.

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

a. The Council is invited to note a report from the Panel (Annex C refers)



meeting, it was agreed that a formal proposal be brought forward. Accordingly, the Council is requested to consider a proposal to withdraw the necessity to qualify in all sections at a trial, but to be able to qualify having attained the 80% overall mark as it currently stands.

It is proposed that as long as the competitor attains the qualifying mark they would not have to attempt all exercises to do so. They would have to nominate to the judge which exercises they wish to omit, prior to commencement of their round.

The proposal is that this would only apply to open trials, and for a trial period of three years which would allow evaluation, and would provide data on new individuals coming into the sport and the exercises that are being omitted.

Regulation I18.c.

TO:

The judge or judges of Introductory, CD, UD, WD, TD and PD stakes at open working trials shall award Certificates of Merit for those dogs ~~whose marks would have gained them a qualification 'Excellent' at a championship working trial, or in the case of the Introductory stake, for those dogs which have obtained 70% or more marks in each group of exercises and~~ **which have attained 80%** or more of the total marks.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

If approved, consequential amendments would be required to Regulation I(A) Definition of Stakes in order to delete the requirement for group and minimum totals in respect of open trials. Only the 80% overall qualifying mark would be retained in the tables in relation to open trials.

Rationale

It is anticipated that this may encourage people into trials, especially those that have concerns about certain elements such as jumps or stays, whilst allowing for working trials to remain in their current format with all exercises to be attempted for competitors wishing to do so.

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

a. Southern Alsatian Training Society - Ms L Marlow

Proposed new Regulations I(B)18.a, b, and c.

The Society wishes the Council to consider the following three new Regulations. Although all three are closely related, the Society wishes each to be considered as a separate proposal:

Regulation I(B)18.a.

TO:

Patrol Dog - Equipment and Protective Clothing

a. The Judge must either provide the equipment or check its suitability. Sleeves must have a tapered edge, and a jute cover. The cover must not be brand new, nor frayed. There must be a hand grip inside the sleeve. Close weave covers (those used for bite development) must not be used. There must not be external buckles, or a joint in the sleeve which leaves a gap. The sleeve must not be obscured by clothing or anything else (such as shrubbery). Puppy sleeves may not be used. 'Scratch pants' which protect the helper from dogs' nails may be worn. The sleeve must be accessible should the dog bite.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)18.b.

TO:

b. For Quartering the ground, Search and Escort, Recall from protected stewards, and Pursuit



and Detention of protected stewards, protected stewards must wear a sleeve as described above on the right arm.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)18.c.

TO:

c. For the Test of courage, protected stewards must wear a sleeve on the right arm as described above, or a 'bite jacket' with a light-coloured jute area on the right arm. Items used in the Test of courage must be designed to be non-injurious to the dogs, with no sharp points or hard objects inside any sacks used.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The proposals above have been discussed with the PD Stake Panel, and are part of the work being done (along with risk assessments) to enhance safety. They are intended to standardise equipment used in order to ensure, as far as possible, the safety of protected stewards and dogs, taking into account the various breeds competing.

b. Miss J Carruthers

Proposed amendments to Regulation I(B)5, 6, 7, 9 & 10

Miss Carruthers, on behalf of the Accredited Trainers for working trials, requests the Council to consider the following amendments which were formulated following the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar in October 2019:

Regulation I(B)5.

TO:

5. Recall to handler.—The dog ~~should~~ **must** 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 stake.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)6

TO:

6. 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 must 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 stake.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation I(B)7.

TO:

7. Send away and directional control.—The minimum distance that the judge shall set for the send away shall be 18.288m (20 yds) for the Introductory stake and the CD stake and 45.72m (50 yds) for all other stakes. In the Introductory stake the maximum distance that the judge shall set for the send away shall be 45.72m (50 yds). The TD and PD stakes shall also include change of direction or directions of a minimum of 45.72m (50 yds). When the dog has reached the designated point or the judge is satisfied that after a reasonable time the handler cannot improve the position of the dog by any further commands the dog should be stopped in either the stand, sit or down position at the



discretion of the handler. At this point in the TD or PD stakes the judge or steward ~~shall~~ **must** instruct the handler to redirect the dog. In all stakes, whilst the judge should take into account the number of commands used during the exercise, importance should be placed upon the handler's ability to direct the dog to the place indicated.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold).

Regulation I(B)9.

TO:

9. 'Speak on command'.—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 command of the judge or steward who may then 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' ~~shall~~ **must** be heavily penalised. This test ~~should~~ **must** not be incorporated with any other test.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold).

Regulation I(B)10.

TO:

10. Agility.—the descriptions below should be followed for agility: a. No part of the clear, long jump or scale equipment to be traversed by the dog shall be less than 914.4mm (3ft) wide nor be in any way injurious to the dog. ~~The tests shall be followed in any sequence decided by the judge Clear Jump, Long Jump, Scale, commencing with Clear Jump.~~ **The test must commence with the clear jump and then followed in any sequence of the long jump and scale.**

e. The scale should be a vertical wall of wooden planks which must be grooved, or chamfered along their bottom edge, to assist the dog. Slats are not permitted. The top surface of the scale may be slightly padded. The handler and dog ~~should~~ **must** approach the **face of the** scale at a walking pace with the dog at heel.

(Deletion struck through. Insertions in bold).

Rationale

The amendments are proposed with the objective of clarifying and simplifying the responsibilities of judges.

c. Mrs J Holt

Amalgamation of marks for control and agility sections – proposed amendments to Regulation I(A)9a, b, c, & d

In order to address growing concerns regarding the jumps and stays in working trials it is proposed that the marks for the control and agility sections of Intro, CD, UD, WD and TD open trials be amalgamated with the proviso that competitors would have the option of declining any exercise or part exercise which they felt might be detrimental to their particular dog.

This proposal would retain the important original requirement that a dog should demonstrate its obedience, fitness, and the ability to use its nose. The flexibility would however attract more newcomers to trials, and also allow experienced handlers with older dogs which have become less agile to continue to compete.

It is suggested that the proposal, if accepted should be introduced on a three year trial basis at the end of which a full review may be carried out.

If the proposal is successful, Regulation I 29.f. which states that 'failure to participate in all exercises shall result in the dog being ineligible for any placing or qualification' will not apply at Open Trials, and



a consequential amendment would be required. Other consequential amendments to I Regulations would also be required. **(Annex D refers)**

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items have been received.

ITEM 10. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

The Council is invited to consider the Five Year Strategy document and to discuss how it may be implemented. **(Annex E refers)**

ITEM 11. 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 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in September 2020.

Notes

1. 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 MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

'The Kennel Club is the national body which exists to promote the general improvement, health and well-being of all dogs through responsible breeding and ownership' this is to be achieved through:

- **Promoting the Kennel Club as the leading national organisation for referral and advice regarding all canine related matters**
- **Encouraging the responsible breeding of pedigree dogs**
- **Encourage the responsible ownership of dogs**
- **Facilitating the breeding of healthy dogs**
- **Promoting the positive benefits of dogs in society**
- **Promoting and regulating canine activities and competitions**
- **Providing opportunities for education and training through Kennel Club led initiatives**
- **Investing in canine health and welfare**
- **Engaging with the wider dog owning audience/fraternity**