



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL
TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON 6 JULY 2021
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2021 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Risk assessment

The risk assessment document was approved by the Activities Committee, at its meeting on 18 March 2021, for publication on The Kennel Club's website.

b. Lock outs

The Committee noted the Council's views regarding lock outs, and that in the light of queries which had been raised by the Council in relation to 'quarterming the ground' and 'search and escort' exercises it had deferred further consideration of a proposal relating to lock outs, and had referred it back to the PD Stake Panel with a view to a revised proposal being submitted.

However, in view of the Committee's concern that it was taking an undue length of time to implement the Board's recommendations, it was agreed that Mr Ford and Mr Martin, in consultation with the PD Stake Panel, would formulate a suitably-worded proposal for consideration by the Committee at its meeting in June 2021.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

c. Amendments to I Regulations

The following amendments to I Regulations were approved by the Board at its meeting on 13 April 2021:

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, and must be suitable for all dogs entered. The cover must not be brand new, nor frayed. There must be a hand grip inside the sleeve. Close weave covers 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. 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)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

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 in the Equipment and Protective Clothing regulation on the right arm.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation I(B)18.c.

TO:

- c. For the Test of courage, protected stewards must wear a sleeve on the right arm as described in the Equipment and Protective Clothing regulation, 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)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

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 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 stake.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

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~~ **will** 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).

(Effective 1 January 2022)

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~~ **the instruction** 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).

(Effective 1 January 2022)

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 be 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).
(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation I24.a Management

TO:

Societies must schedule one other tracking stake in addition to the working trial certificate stake. **Societies may schedule a single Championship CD, UD or WD stake, provided there is no Championship TD or PD stake on the same dates.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a report from Mr Gilbert, as follows, on the work of the Sub-Group following its meeting on 15 April 2021.

a. Working Trial research

Data collection on research into the scale and the long jump had been undertaken at Nottingham Trent University in August 2020 and is currently undergoing analysis by researchers. The Council is invited to note a preliminary report issued by the researchers. A full report will follow once analysis is complete.

(Annex A refers)

b. Future research

Opportunities exist for future studies and the Council is invited to submit suggestions for suitable projects. Ideas need to be debated and presented in the form of a business case which sets out clear objectives and benefits which would justify funding and inclusion in future budgets.

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note the following report from Mr Gilbert following the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting which took place on 22 April 2021:.

There are five candidates for the current vacancies as Accredited Working Trials Judges Trainers. The selection process has previously consisted of a face-to-face interview where the candidates present part of the syllabus and then are asked a few questions on judging in general. It has not been possible to arrange such a meeting yet and other alternative methods are being considered.

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE PD STAKE PANEL

No report has been received from the Panel.

**ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE PROGRESSION PANEL/
EQUIPMENT PANEL**

The Council is invited to note that as there have been very few trials, no issues have been referred to the Progression Panel or the Equipment Panel.

In respect of the poll which had sought views on 'Should CD open be mandatory?' and 'Should Introductory Stake remain in its current format?', there was no progress to report as not all participants in the discipline had access to social media and therefore there was a concern that some individuals had not yet had an opportunity to complete the survey.

ITEM 8. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Mr J Wykes

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)1.

Mr Wykes wishes to propose the following amendments to the above Regulation as follows:

Regulation I(B)1. Method of handling

TO:

Although implicit obedience is necessary, dogs and handlers must operate in as free and natural a manner as possible; persistent barking, whining, etc. in any exercise other than location of person or speak on command should be penalised. The handler must not have food or a toy on their person whilst being tested. ~~In any exercise where the dog is required to bite a protected steward (protected consistent with safety), it must be on the right arm. Any indiscriminate biting must be severely penalised.~~

(Deletion struck through)

New Regulation I(B)18. **Health and Safety, Biting Exercises**

TO:

In any exercise where the dog is required to bite a protected steward (protected consistent with safety), it must be on the right arm. Any indiscriminate biting will result in the dog being excluded from the remainder of the test. At no time in any exercise should the sleeve be presented to the dog in an obvious and exaggerated manner, but equally it must not be obscured in such a way as to make it inaccessible to the dog. A protected steward shall, for both their safety and that of the dog, take the energy impact of the bite landing all of the dogs feet as soon as possible, and without any such movement that causes the dog to be swung or lifted up in a circular motion.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The objective of the above amendments is to bring together the regulations dealing with how the biting exercises should be conducted in order to keep dogs and protected stewards safe.

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 ? 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 announced in September 2021.

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 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.**

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
 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
 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
 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 German Shepherd Dog 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
 Essex Working Trials Society
 Scottish Working Trials Society
 ASPADS Working Trials Society
 Welsh Kennel Club