



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM
ON THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2022 IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB,
CLARGES STREET**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Regulation K3.c. Obedience Warrants

At its previous meeting, the Council had raised a query regarding the inclusion of the following wording within the regulation relating to the criteria for claiming an Obedience Warrant: 'All wins and places to fourth since 1 January 2019 can be included when calculating points.' There was a concern that the inclusion of this wording, which had been added and recommended for approval by the Activities Committee, effectively precluded many dogs which would otherwise have been able to claim points from places won prior to 2019, from being able to achieve the award. The Council was of the view that this part of the regulation required review and it requested that its concerns be referred to the Activities Committee for further consideration, with a view to removing the relevant wording.

The Council is invited to note that the matter was discussed by the Committee at its meeting on 17 March 2022.

The Committee was understanding of the Council's views, and recommended for approval an amendment to Regulation K3.c. which would address the Council's concerns. Under the terms of the amendment, the regulation would now state that the 10 additional points required in Open Class C should be gained after 1 January 2022.

The following amendment was approved by the Board at its meeting on 5 April 2022, with immediate effect:

Regulation K3.c. Obedience Warrants

TO:

Obedience Warrants. An Obedience Warrant will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained 100 progression points (as defined in General Regulations G Annex A). The points are to be gained at Championship, Premier or Open Obedience Shows, as follows and must include the following:

- (1) 20 points in Novice Class.
 - (2) 30 points in Class A.
 - (3) 30 points in Class B.
 - (4) 10 points for a first prize in Open Class C on at least one occasion.
 - (5) 10 additional points in Open Class C, **which must be gained after 1 January 2022.**
 - (6) Where a dog had to progress because it had won a first prize, or first prizes, at a higher level, then additional points achieved at a higher class may be used to supplement points at a lower class to achieve the 100 points total.
 - (7) The title 'OW' may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.
 - (8) ~~All wins and places to fourth since 1 January 2019 can be included when calculating points.~~
- (Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)
(Effective immediately)

b. Training for commentators

At its last meeting, the Council was advised that it would be necessary for training for commentators to take place on a face-to-face basis, and that it was hoped that the training would take place during the course of 2022. It is invited to note that there has been no change to the situation since the previous update, and to consider whether there is still a requirement for such training.

c. Obedience Festival

The Council is invited to receive a verbal update on plans for the above event.

d. Eligibility for Introductory class

At its previous meeting, the Council discussed the following proposed amendment to G Regulations which would amend the eligibility criteria for the Introductory class:

Regulation G(A)5.b

TO:

To compete in the Introductory Class a handler or dog must not have ~~won one~~ **gained a 1st place in an** Introductory Class ~~or have achieved a 4th place or above in Pre-Beginners or in any other class.~~

(Deletions struck through, insertion in bold)

On discussion, the principle of adding an option for progression on points from the Introductory class was supported, and it was agreed that consideration of the proposal to amend the criteria for eligibility for the Introductory class should be deferred until the Council's next meeting, where a revised amendment

incorporating such an option could be considered. However no proposal for such a revised amendment has been submitted. Accordingly, the Council is requested to consider whether it wishes to recommend approval of the regulation amendment as outlined above.

e. Use of food rewards and toys

At its previous meeting, the Council had discussed the possibility of introducing food rewards into Pre-Beginner and Beginner classes. Noting the feedback received from representatives, the Council concluded that it would be a positive step to allow food rewards, and possibly the use of toys, in Pre-Beginners but not in Beginners. The Council is invited to note that Mrs Le Fevre will submit a firm proposal for consideration by the Council at its first meeting in 2023.

Note: a discussion item relating to the use of food and toys in Introductory, Pre-Beginners and Beginners is also included on the agenda under item 8.c.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr McCartney following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 5 May 2022.

(Annex A refers – to follow)

ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Le Fevre following the Sub-Group's meeting which took place on 4 April 2022.

In particular it is requested to consider a suggestion from the Sub-Group whereby a small levy could be placed on entries for Kennel Club licensed shows in all activities disciplines. This levy would be used for specific purposes, such as to provide funding for research that would benefit all disciplines, The Council is requested to consider the principle of such a levy, and whether it would be perceived by the obedience community as a positive step. It is invited to note that similar consultations will be held with representatives of other activities disciplines as to the possibility on the placing of levies on entries for licensed shows and competitions in order to provide funding for research. Such research may be of benefit to their own disciplines, or may be more generalised in nature, and potentially of benefit to all disciplines.

(Annex B refers – to follow)

ITEM 6. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB

The Council is requested to note a written report from Mrs Lavender.

(Annex C refers)

ITEM 7. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

No proposals have been received.

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Ms L Tozer

Mrs S Hyde

Introduction of a new 'Progressive C' class

Ms Tozer wishes the Council to consider ways to increase the number of competitors eligible to compete in Championship Class C.

Ms Tozer notes that in recent years the number of competitors in Championship Class C has fallen, and this has been made considerably worse by the pandemic over the last two years due to dogs retiring, and fewer opportunities to qualify new dogs.

Accordingly it is proposed that a second Class C could be scheduled, a new class called 'Progressive C'. Eligibility for this class would be for dogs that have not won Open C and have been placed no lower than 3rd on three occasions in Open Class C. The test and qualifications to remain the same as the existing scheduled Open C.

The existing Open Class C would still be scheduled as normal and would remain open to all dogs.

Ms Tozer is of the view that this would give inexperienced dogs a chance to qualify, as it can be difficult to achieve this when competing against obedience champions, and that it would not detract from the overall standard in Championship Class C as all dogs qualified would be on a level playing field.

Noting that there are sometimes difficulties in appointing judges for class Cs, societies could possibly consider running this proposed 'Progressive Class C' and Open Class C as mixed classes.

The definition for the class would be as follows:

Progressive Class C

For dogs who have not won an Open C but have been placed 2nd or 3rd on three occasions under different judges

Rationale

Inexperienced dogs which are placed 2nd or 3rd on three occasions in an Open C class would have the opportunity to qualify without competing against obedience champions. While it creates the need for an extra judge, Ms Tozer considers that this would bring in additional income for clubs and would mean that more dogs qualify for Championship C.

b. Ms D Kay

Mrs D Lavender

Qualifications for judges

Ms Kay wishes the Council to discuss the following suggested changes to G Regulations in relation to the qualifications for judges.

G31.c

TO:

Qualifications for judges at premier and open shows and for the non certificate classes at championship shows-

On first appointment judges must satisfy the show committee that they:

- (1) have judged a minimum of ~~four~~ **two** appointments within at least two years at a lower level including limited/companion obedience shows and matches/club or fun competitions.
- (2) have won out of Beginners at a licensed championship, premier or open obedience show as a handler, and have acted as a caller, scribe or marker steward on six occasions at licensed shows; and
- (3) have completed and passed an Obedience Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on the Kennel Club Academy ~~prior to attending a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging seminar~~ **prior to accompanying a qualified KC judge at an open or championship show.**
- (4) ~~have attended a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging Seminar and passed the assessment~~ **accompany/shadow a qualified judge (who has fulfilled at least six judging appointments) at a Kennel Club licensed show to oversee the judging procedure, test design and marking techniques. Class Novice, A or B can be chosen to fulfil this task.**
- (5) **have reviewed the document containing example test design for each class from the KC website.**

Ms Kay notes that a simple document containing example test designs and useful information, such as turns allowed in each class could be created.

Rationale

There are a large number of judges on the circuit who are retired people in their sixties and early seventies who will be ceasing to judge over the next few years. This will create a serious problem as the number of new younger judges coming forward at the moment will not compensate for this loss.

There are two specific parts of the current judging regulations that have become problematic for those wanting to achieve judging status: the judging seminars, and judging at limited/companion shows and matches. Ms Kay is of the view that it is necessary to simplify these sections to make it quicker and easier for people to get qualified, and at the same time retain their motivation and enthusiasm. This will encourage more competitors to step up to the judging role.

The judging seminars to be run by an accredited trainer are not taking place. As of 15 March 2022, no seminars have been booked for 2022 in the seminar diary on the Kennel Club website which means the likelihood of new judges qualifying this year looks very bleak. There are six Accredited Trainers in the UK and two in Northern Ireland. To provide seminars for the whole of the UK, travel and overnight accommodation will be required for trainers to reach many regions. Coupled with venue hire this means a number of around 10 attendees would be needed to make the seminar affordable which could result

in new people waiting a considerable amount of time, even months to finalise their qualification criteria, by which time their enthusiasm and motivation has been totally lost. Organising a date for 10 attendees, venue, trainer, accommodation, meals etc for a 2-day event over a weekend is a task few would be able to take on especially in areas where no dog training clubs exist. Plus it should be borne in mind that family commitments, work commitments and of course cost all come into play here.

Therefore this part of the qualification criteria needs to be handed back to the individual applying for judging status and for them alone to be responsible for its organisation and completion. It would also be better if this qualification criteria took place in the show environment where practical experience in the ring can be gained. This would enable them to qualify more easily, without waiting for a group event to be organised elsewhere, and would also keep their motivation running on a high. This is reflected in the suggested amendment to the regulation.

Judging at limited/companion shows or matches on four occasions when these types of events are few and far between, especially where there is no active Kennel Club registered club could be problematic for many. Therefore it is suggested this is changed to 2 occasions.

c. Knightswood Dog Training Club Mr J McIntosh

Use of food and toys in Introductory, Pre-Beginners and Beginners

The Club wishes the Council to discuss suggestions that the following provisions be incorporated into the regulations applying to Introductory, Pre-Beginners and Beginners.

Introductory, Pre-Beginners and Beginners.

- Food or toy or both may be carried by the handler in the ring, carried either in hand or pocket or training bag, in the same way as at a training club.
- Two halts in heelwork where handler may give food or toy or both as a reward, before continuing with the heelwork round.

Introductory and Pre-Beginners

- No sit or finish at end of heelwork, just break off and play.

Beginners

- Commence heelwork with heel free, followed by heel on lead. Reward may be carried but not given to the dog until the end of the heelwork round. With the finish and sit in this part of the round there would be three sits, after which the dog may receive praise and a reward. This would help prepare dogs for Novice.
- Recall: handler may use food or toy for present and finish.
- Retrieve: Handler may use food or toy for present and finish, although this would be at handler's choice. If he or she wishes not to use any rewards in any part of the round, then that is acceptable.

Rationale

Many efforts have been made via other Kennel Club disciplines to encourage people to come into obedience but with little success. Lots of clubs have stopped running shows but are still functioning in this way, so it is suggested that the training style and methods used in such clubs are used to start people off in obedience. This would not be such a big jump for these handlers, as they would be using methods that they are familiar with. This would create new competitive handlers via existing clubs.

d. Mrs S Hyde
Area revision for Obedience Liaison Council (OLC) and Inter Regional teams

Mrs Hyde wishes the Council to consider issues relating to designated geographical areas relating to the Council and to Inter Regional teams. It is highlighted that the question of which area someone is in has been raised on quite a few occasions and it is very confusing for both new and experienced competitors. Some counties differ between the Council and the Inter Regional Teams e.g. Derbyshire (which is classed as East Midlands) comes under Midlands for the Inter Regional but North East for the Council. Mrs Hyde is of the view that consistency would be more logical.

There are also some discrepancies:

- Kent & Somerset are both mentioned under Council but not for the Inter Regionals
- Humberside became East Riding of Yorkshire but still shows as Humberside under the Northern Inter Regional Team
- Bristol should be shown as Avon under South & South West (Western) OLC
- Sussex – this is showing as East & West Sussex for Inter Regional but just Sussex for OLC.

Details of the current areas for the OLC and Inter Regionals are as per the attached documents together with Mrs Hyde's suggested amendments.
(Annex D refers)

ITEM 9. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

- a. Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Strategic Plan.
(Annex E refers)
- b. At its previous meeting, the Council was in agreement that the Strategic Plan should be more dynamic in nature, with specific action points highlighted to ensure ongoing progress. It is invited to consider how best this may be progressed.

ITEM 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Council will be announced in September 2022.

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.