

**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM  
ON THURSDAY 25 JULY 2024 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**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 27 February 2024 (copies previously distributed).

**ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a. The Council is invited to note that recommendations from its last meeting will be considered by the Activities Committee at its next meeting on 19 June 2024. Any recommendations from the Committee will then be submitted to the Board for consideration at its meeting on 16 July 2024.

A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Obedience Festival

- b. At its last meeting the Council agreed to prepare a proposal for the Activities Committee which would include approximate figures and organisation structure.

The Council is invited to note a verbal update on progress.

Suspension of Regulation G30.e

- c. At its meeting on 21 March 2024, the Activities Committee recommended the suspension of the above regulation. The suspension was approved by the Board at its meeting on 8 May 2024, for a period of 24 months with immediate effect and agreed that should it be necessary it could be reinstated earlier.

**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 9 April 2024.

**(Annex A refers)**

**ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

The Council is invited to note a report from Mrs Le Fevre following the Sub-Group's meeting which took place on 25 April 2024.

**(Annex B refers)**

**ITEM 6. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB**

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

**(Annex C refers – to follow)**

**ITEM 7. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**

Mrs K Allen

Mrs L Turner

Proposed amendment to Regulation G1.c

- a. At its last meeting the Council discussed the possibility of allowing dogs of 12 weeks to be entered not for competition at obedience shows. The Council was in agreement with the suggestion and Mrs Allen was requested to submit a proposal.

The Council is requested to consider the proposed amendment to the above regulation:

Regulation G1.c

**TO:**

c. Only dogs of six calendar months of age and over are eligible for competition at Kennel Club licensed obedience shows. However, show organisers may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. ~~Dogs four months and over are eligible to enter Not For Competition.~~ **Dogs 12 weeks and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.**

Mrs S Garner and Mr R Mitchell

Mr D Moxon

Proposed amendment to Regulations G15 and G33j & G33k

- b. Mrs Garner and Mr Mitchell would like the Council to consider removing the stipulation that an exhibit must not have lost more than 15 points out of 230 to be awarded the Obedience Certificate.

Regulation G15

**TO:**

- a. The Kennel Club will offer an Obedience Certificate (Dog) and an Obedience Certificate (Bitch) for winners of first prizes in Class C Dog and Class C Bitch at a championship show, provided ~~that the exhibits do not lose more than 15 points out of 230, and provided also that the classes are open to all breeds~~ **eligible dogs.**
- b. **Where an Obedience Certificate has been awarded a** Judges must also award a Reserve Best of Sex (**Reserve Obedience Certificate**) **subject to Regulation G33.j.**  
(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through.)

Regulation G33j & G33k

**TO:**

j. In classes with ~~40~~**20** or less entries the award of 1st place, **Obedience Certificate (OC) and Reserve Best of Sex (Reserve Obedience Certificate, ROC)** may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge the standard of work does not merit the award. **If the Obedience Certificate is withheld, then the Reserve Obedience Certificate cannot be awarded.** (This sub-paragraph **also applies** ~~does not apply~~ to Championship Class C).

k. A judge of Championship Class C must record ~~each dog awarded 215 points or more~~ **the top six highest placed dogs** in the judging book. The show secretary will record these in the official marked catalogue.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

#### Rationale

Currently, in order to be awarded an Obedience Certificate, exhibits must not lose more than 15 points from the total of 230 points available. This regulation was installed well over 30 years ago, as a way of maintaining a standard for achieving this award. It was originally set at 10 points but increased to 15 over 25 years ago. The belief is this no longer accomplishes what was originally intended. Scores within Championship Class C, where every error is being marked, appear to be frequently close to and indeed over the 15 points, especially at Crufts where a longer, more complex test is usually set. This is despite there being a high standard of exhibits within the class, some of whom are multiple obedience certificates winners and may well be the best on the day, for the conditions and test set.

Removing the 15 point regulation would also mean judges are free to mark as they see fit and differentiate accordingly. It would remove the concern of not having a team with less than 15 points lost and not being able to award the Obedience Certificate and Reserve Obedience Certificate, at the end of the class.

However, in order to ensure a high standard is maintained, especially when there is a small entry, judges must have a means of withholding the OC and Reserve OC. The proposal is to utilise regulation G33j which currently controls the awarding of first place where there are 10 or less entries. The intention is to change this to read that where there are 20 or less entries the Obedience Certificates may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge the standard of work does not merit the award. Thus, if the OC is withheld then the Reserve OC will also be withheld.

The proposal is also suggesting, for consistency, that the 20 or less also applies to first place in any class. The rationale being there are very few examples where there are 10 or less entries where the current regulation can be applied. Increasing to 20 or less would protect the quality of the winner, if the first place was awarded, especially if, for example, there had been several training rounds within the 20. This remains at the discretion of the judge on the day.

There is also a need to update G33k, if the 215 points is removed, for which it would seem good practice to record the six highest placed dogs.

**ITEM 8.      DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mrs L Turner

Renaming to 'Competitive Obedience'

Mrs Turner would like the Council to discuss asking for the name of the discipline to be changed to 'competitive obedience'.

Rationale

I would like the Council to consider the use of the word 'obedience' regarding our discipline.

I discovered when contacting the clubs in the South/SouthWest that, apart from those that said they definitely do not do obedience, many thought they did. However, upon further investigation I found they do not teach competitive obedience but one of the other disciplines. These ranged from pet training to any of the other activities.

We all know that obedience is the corner stone for all dog activities. A dog and handler having learnt the basic requirements for a dog to be a valued pet and member of society may then move on to a more structured set of requirements to enter the world of competitive dog activity. We have Rally, Agility, Good Citizens, Working Trials and Heelwork To Music clearly recognized and understood as standalone activities.

The recent survey carried out by The Kennel Club and shared with the Council refers to our discipline as obedience throughout and explains on the first page that there was some misunderstanding regarding that activity as some people thought any training was obedience. The Kennel Club website also refers to competitive obedience as obedience in the first and second instance.

The Kennel Club Year Book G Regulations refer to our activity as obedience as does the regulation booklet which most participants use.

We know we do competitive obedience, which is a particular set of actions unlike the other dog activities, but we are still referred to as the basic obedience that all disciplines undertake with their puppies.

I request that we ask The Kennel Club and all parties involved to refer to our discipline as competitive obedience going forward.

**ITEM 9.      STRATEGY DOCUMENT**

Representatives are invited to review the Strategic Plan, which has been updated in line with requests from the Council made at its previous meeting, and to discuss how the items may be progressed. It is also invited to propose further items.

**(Annex D refers)**

**ITEM 10. 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 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the Council's next meeting will be announced in September 2024.

**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.

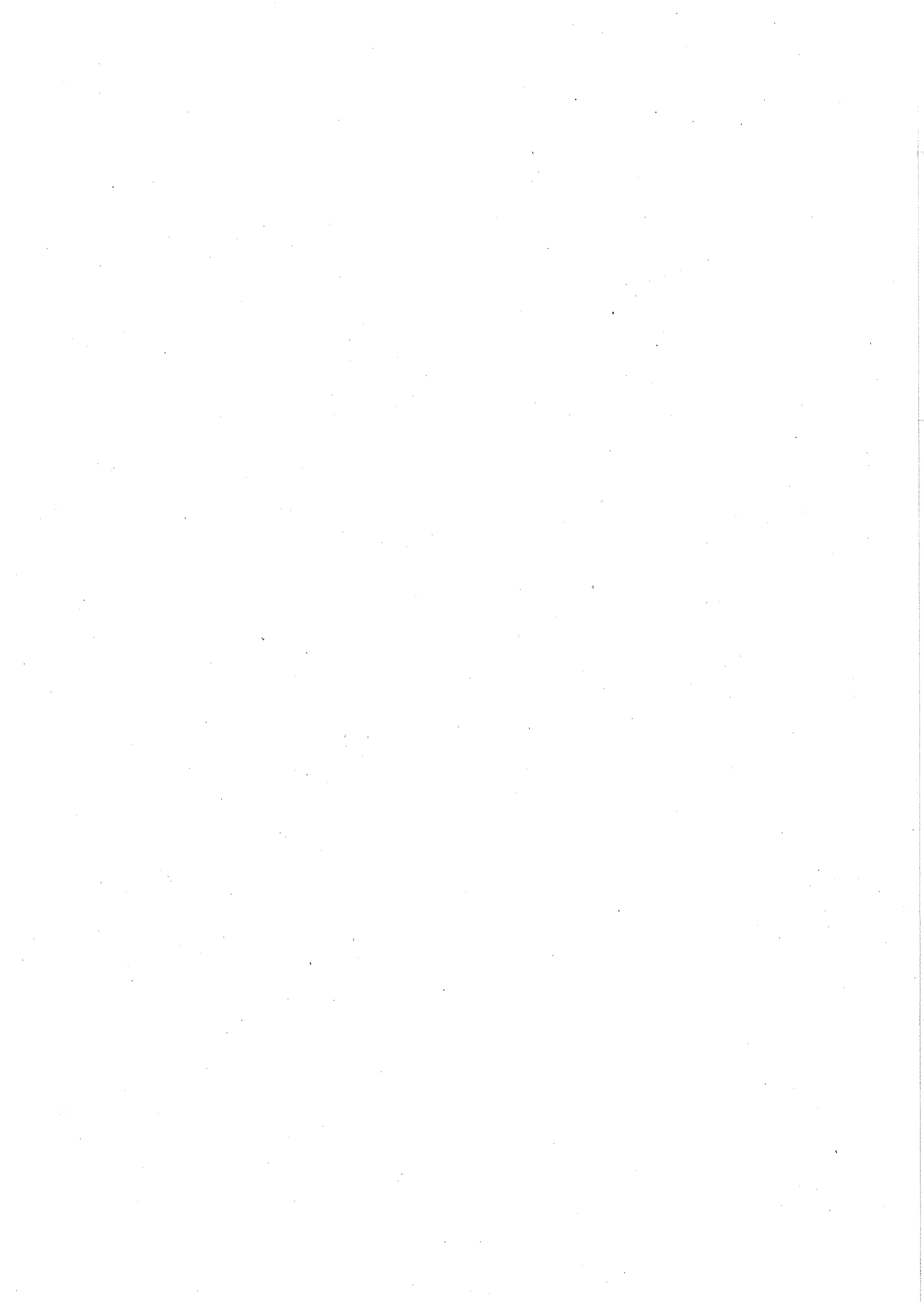
THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- 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



Activities Judges Sub-Group Report - Obedience

*The Obedience Accredited Trainers discussed the possibility of offering the Champ judges seminar online as well as face to face. It was agreed that given the small numbers requiring this course it would not always be feasible to hire a venue etc for one or two persons. It was agreed that this should be a service that should be made available to potential champ judges.*





The AHWSG met on 25/4/2024 via Microsoft teams.

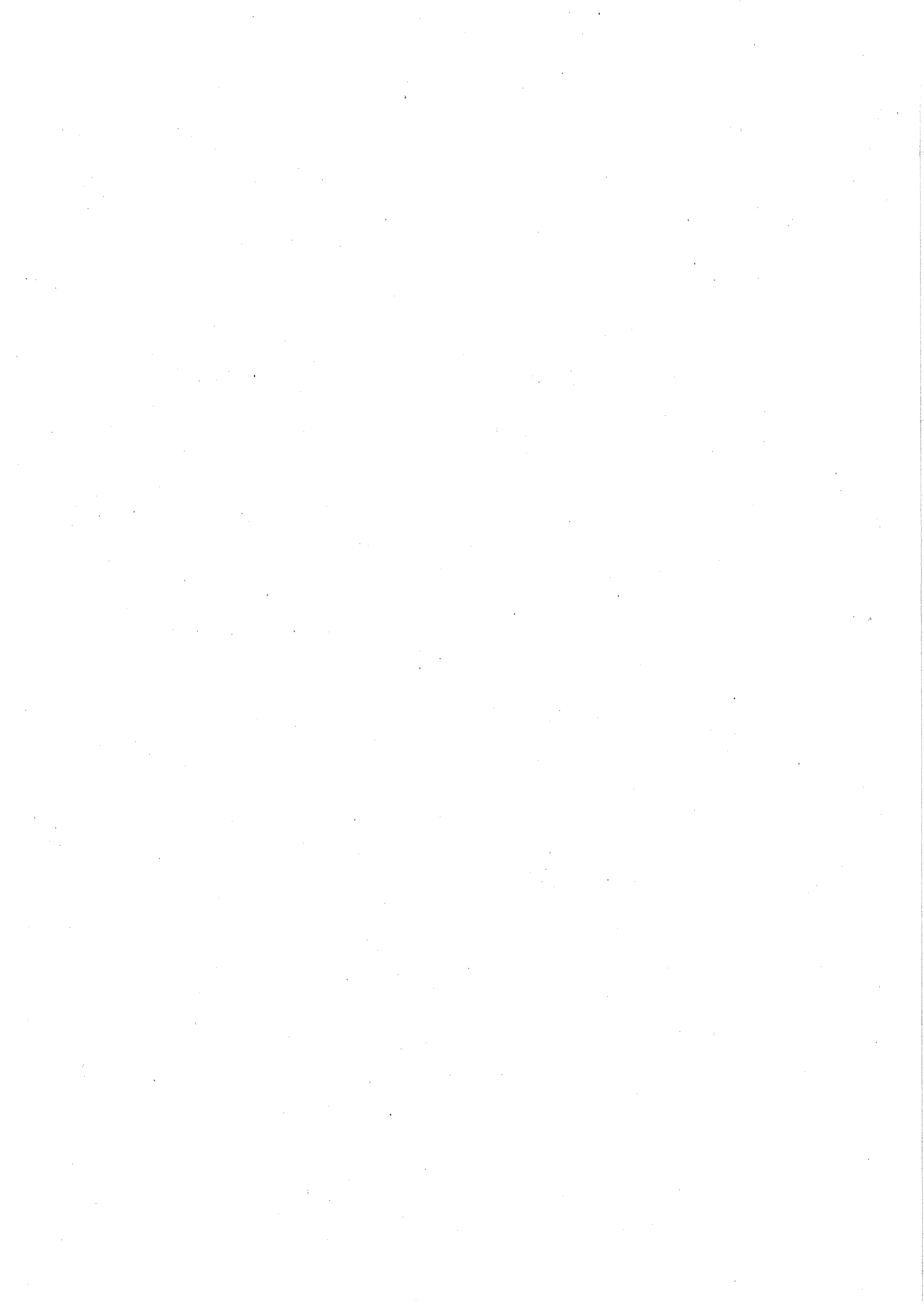
The items on the agenda which either do OR may have an impact on the obedience council members and participants are as follows :-

1. Obesity in dogs – this is to stay on the agenda and the KC will refer back to the guidance on “Body Condition Scoring” as and when they disseminate information relating to health and welfare of our competitors dogs.
2. I have requested to undertake some “informal” research into how obedience dogs distribute their weight whilst competing. The current guidance is based on a binary result of “dogs head up high position” vs a more neutral position. The current information does not consider the head position of a “wrapped around” head position. I will be undertaking some stance analysis with dogs which meet a very strict criteria. Representatives from the AHWSG have potentially offered help and resources of specialist equipment. At this stage the research is very much a “starter for ten” and based on stance weight distribution not dynamic distribution. Jacqueline Boyd has asked if I would be prepared to turn the initial project into an official study opportunity for a university student, which I have agreed to subject to the outcome of the initial findings.
3. I asked for clarification of the vet check process during Crufts 2024 and whether it occurred for other disciplines as I had concerns regarding one of the obedience dogs suffering from muscle fatigue and intermittently knuckling.

Kind regards

June Le Fevre, ProfDip Small Animal Physiotherapy, MIRVAP (VP) (ICH), CCFT, FP-MT,  
RCH

Positive Pawformance Ltd  
Veterinary Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Rehabilitation & Fitness



**Five Year Strategy Status  
LAST UPDATED: 11 April 2024**

Subject	Detail	Actions	Action By	Action Date and status	Next action date
<p><b>Young Kennel Club Obedience</b></p>	<p><u>List of Judges</u> Compile a list, over time, of Judges who are interested in judging YKC classes and who have appropriate experience.</p> <p><u>Training</u> Encourage a larger number of experienced Obedience participants to become involved with YKC training in order to help younger competitors to have realistic expectations and to be aware that things can often go wrong when under test.</p> <p><u>Improved integration</u> Identify actions to get Obedience participants more involved with YKC activities, in order to break down the 'us and them' attitude that is prevalent.</p> <p><u>Judges Guidance</u> Produce guidance for judges on YKC structures and regulations and what is expected of judges in YKC classes, with the guidance incorporated into Judges' Seminars and training.</p>	<p>Collect the names of experienced Obedience participants who are willing to be involved as judges, instructors and in other roles, and send them into the Kennel Club office to prepare a list.</p>	<p>Debra Lavender</p>	<p>Ongoing Debra Lavender to be point of liaison between the OLC and YKC in her role as the Council's YKC representative. Update to be provided at every Council meeting.</p>	<p>25 July 2024</p>

<p><b>Reviewing the structure of obedience classes</b></p>	<p>To consider ways in which the discipline could progress and develop in the future, in light of concerns over low entry numbers.</p>		<p>All Council members</p>	<p>Suggestions for ways in which the structure of classes may be amended are considered on an ad hoc basis.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Council engagement with grass-roots competitors</b></p>	<p>Improve methods of Council engagement and communication with grass-roots competitors to encourage wider participation in Council matters.</p>	<p>Review effectiveness of current communication methods and consider improvements. Area meetings to be publicised to clubs when Council agendas are issued to increase attendance. Survey Monkey used to garner views on agenda items with competitors.</p>	<p>All Council members</p>	<p>Noted improvement in engagement at shows and via social media, discussed surveys by area to provide feedback (17 January 2023)</p>	<p>Ongoing review</p>
	<p>Clubs to be provided with an explanation of the Council process and committee structure within the Kennel Club.</p>		<p>All Council members</p>	<p>To be reviewed</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
	<p>Review the process of Council nominations and consider methods of implementation to promote better involvement of grass-roots competitors in the procedure.</p>		<p>All Council members</p>	<p>To be reviewed</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>

<p><b>Attract newcomers into Obedience</b></p>	<p>Provide additional opportunities and incentives for Pre-Beginners level competitors in order to continue attracting new people into the discipline.</p>	<p>Discuss innovative ideas and review the effectiveness of existing initiatives such as the Special Pre-Beginners Stakes.</p>	<p>All Council members</p>	<p>Eligibility for Beginners and review of Introductory Class discussed</p>	<p>Eligibility for Beginners Proposal agreed upon and put forward from the 27 February 2024 meeting</p>
		<p>Promotion of Obedience within the regions by providing demonstrations at clubs to allow more people access to the discipline.</p>	<p>All Council members</p>	<p>To be reviewed</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
		<p>Make facilities available for newcomers to obedience, especially if they previously progressed through the Good Citizen Dog Scheme, to ensure they continued to engage with The Kennel Club.</p>	<p>All Council members</p>	<p>New point added as a result of February 2024 meeting</p>	
	<p>Development of Obedience Festival</p>	<p>Report regarding venues provided by Mrs Cox, Mrs Hyde &amp; Mrs Smith on 27 February 2024.</p>	<p>Michael McCartney with support from OLC members</p>	<p>Prepare a proposal to submit to the Activities Committee</p>	<p>Possible update for 25 July 2024</p>
<p><b>Encouraging more smaller shows</b></p>	<p>To address concerns relating to the costs of travel and climate change issues</p>	<p>To be agreed  Suggestion made for a database of non-ticket judges to be made available to help shows find judges.</p>	<p>All Council members  The office</p>	<p>To be reviewed</p>	<p>25 July 2024</p>

