



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE
HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS AT 10.30 AM ON
THURSDAY 22 JULY 2021 – AGENDA**

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Board, at its meeting on 13 April 2021, approved the following amendment to the claim form for an Obedience Excellent qualification:

CLAIM FOR AN OBEDIENCE EXCELLENT QUALIFICATION

The required points to achieve each qualification are as follows:

...40 **20** points required for Pre-Beginners
(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

- b. Stay exercises

The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 18 March 2021, considered the Council's recommendation that all stays should be removed from the list of exercises. After careful consideration it concluded that the views of the Council should be supported, but that it would be a positive step to replace the stay exercise with a control element of some kind. It also noted that a proposal was being formulated for submission to the Council, which could be easily carried out as part of the usual ring exercises, and which would reflect day to day dog obedience training. For this reason it directed that any further consideration of the Council's recommendations should be deferred until such time as the Council had considered the proposal. The Council's recommendations would then be referred back to the Committee at its September meeting so that the issue of stays may be addressed as a whole.

The Activities Committee approved the Council's recommendation that in order to assist show organisers in running Covid-19 safe shows, stay exercises for all obedience shows held during 2021 should be suspended. The suspension would remain in effect until 31 December 2021.

- c. Run offs

The Committee also approved the Council's recommendation that Regulation G32.i., which stated 'in the event of dogs obtaining equality of marks, 'Run Offs' to decide the winning dogs will be judged one at a time by completing one or more of the tests for that class as set out in Annex A', should be subject to temporary suspension. In the case of two or more dogs obtaining equal marks, the judge would decide on placings without requiring a run-off, or that equal places may be awarded. It was anticipated that this would ensure that competitors were not required to remain at the show for unnecessarily long periods. However, show organisers may elect to carry out run-offs if they wished to do so, although where this was the case, it must be clearly stated on the schedule. The suspension would remain in place until 31 December 2021 with the proviso that it would not apply to Championship Class C, in which run offs would still be required to determine 1st-3rd placings.

- d. Training for commentators

At its previous meeting, the Council noted that a business case had been submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration, and funding had been approved by the Board. It is invited to note that it would be necessary for such training to take place on a face-to-face



basis, rather than via remote means. Until such time as this was possible, the training had been deferred and was unlikely to take place before late 2021/early 2022.

e. 25-day rule

The Council had agreed with the principle of the introduction of a 25-day rule, whereby all wins up to and including 25 days before the start of the competition would be counted when entering for any class. Should a dog become eligible for the next class at a particular show, after the entry for that show had been submitted, it would be the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary so that the dog may be moved into the appropriate class.

A proposal formulated by Mrs Le Fevre, Mr McCartney and Mrs Patrick appears on the agenda under item 7.b.

f. Height Classified Classes

At its meeting in February 2021, the Council expressed its full support for the introduction of height classified classes. A proposal submitted by Mrs Patrick, Mrs Le Fevre, and Mr McCartney appears on the agenda under item 7.c.

g. Progression on points

At its meeting on 21 January 2021, the Council expressed its full support for the introduction of progression on points. It is requested to consider the following proposal submitted by Mr Moxon, based on the details agreed at the January meeting, for the necessary amendments to G Regulations:

New Regulation G(A)4

TO:

***Progression.* Progression from each class will be determined by the eligibility for the class as referenced in Regulations G(A). To count for progression wins must be gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed Open, Premier or Championship Obedience shows. A first place will count towards progression.**

(Insertion in bold)

New Regulation G(A)5

TO:

***Obedience Record Book.* Any handler wishing to progress on points must have an Obedience Record Book as evidence of points gained at eligible shows and which must be available for inspection by the show management and/or the judge on the date of any competition entered by the owner/handler. This must include details of any wins, and any points, that allow for progression. Details will include show date, name and type of show (Open or Championship), judge, class, placing and points.**

(Insertion in bold)

New Regulation G(A)6

TO:

***Points progression.* At the handler's discretion a dog may progress up to the next class, up to and including into Open Class C by gaining points at each level, using the Obedience Excellent scale of points scheme as follows:**

- **Ten points for first prize**
- **Four points for second prize**
- **Two points for third prize**
- **One point for fourth prize**

If this method of progression is selected, the handler must ensure the show secretary / chief steward signs the dog's Obedience Record Book at the first show entered in the higher class. There is no time limit on this progression, however, once a dog or handler has progressed, they cannot return to the class that they had progressed



from. All wins and places to fourth since the 1st January 2019 can be included when calculating points. Points are specific to a particular class and cannot be used against a lower or higher class.

Points required for progression on points are as follows:

1. **20 points required for progression from Pre-Beginners.**
2. **20 points required for progression from Beginners.**
3. **20 points required for progression from Novice.**
4. **30 points required for progression from Class A.**
5. **30 points required for progression from Class B.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

Regulation G(A)5

Regulation G(A)6

TO:

6. **8.** Pre-Beginners.

- a. To compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won two first places in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other Obedience class (Introductory class excepted) **and havenot elected to progress on points from Pre-Beginners.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation G(A)7

TO:

7. **9.** Beginners.

- a. To compete in Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted) **and havenot elected to progress on points from Beginners.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation G(A)8.

TO:

8. **10.** Novice.

- a. For dogs which have not won 2 first places in Obedience classes (Introductory class, Pre-Beginners and Beginners excepted) **and where thehandler has not elected to progress on points from Novice.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation G(A)9.

TO:

~~9.~~**11.** Class A.

- a. For dogs which have not won 3 first prizes in Class A, B and Open Class C in total **and where the handler has not elected to progress on points from Class A.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation G(A)10.

TO:

~~10.~~ **12.** Class B.

- a. For dogs which have not won 3 first prizes in Class B and Open Class C in total **and where the handler has not elected to progress on points fromClass B.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

Regulation G(A)11.

TO:



~~11.~~ **13. Class C.**

a. For Championship Class C at Championship Shows, dogs must have won out of Novice, Class A and Class B, **or have progressed on points from those classes**, and have won Open Class C on one occasion and have been placed not lower than third on three further occasions; all Open Class

C places and wins must have been won under different judges at KennelClub licensed shows.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

h. Obedience Warrant

The Council had agreed at its meeting in January 2021 that the Obedience Warrant scheme may be reviewed. Accordingly, it is invited to consider a proposal submitted to Mr Moxon for amendments to K Regulations in relation to the scheme, as follows:

K REGULATIONS FOR ENTRIES IN THE STUD BOOK, CHAMPIONS AND WARRANTS

3. Warrants.

c. 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 ~~44-100 progression~~ **100 progression** points **(as defined in General Regulations G Annex A)** ~~whilst ineligible to compete in Championship Class C.~~ The points are to be gained at Championship, Premier or Open Obedience Shows, ~~as follows and must include the following:~~

~~(1) Two points for a first prize in Novice Class on two occasions only. (2) Two points for a first prize in Class A on two occasions only.~~

~~(3) Two points for a first prize in Class B on two occasions only.~~

~~(4) Two points for a first prize in Open Class C on one occasion only.~~

(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.

(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.

~~(5) (7) The title 'OW' may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.~~

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)

Rationale

The Obedience Warrant does not appear attractive based on recent figures. 11 were awarded in 2017, 21 in 2018 and 18 in 2019. There are 895 dogs in total with their Obedience Warrant going back to the 1990s, which would average circa 30 per year but appears to have tailed off.

The proposed wording is to bring it into line with Progression on Points whilst trying to retain the principle that a dog must work through the classes to obtain an Obedience Warrant and achieve the standard of a First in Open Class C. There is the flexibility that allows for a Novice dog that wins out of A, before it has Points within Novice. They can utilise points subsequently acquired at a higher level to make up the deficit. The proposal also allows a dog to continue to collect points and achieve an Obedience Warrant even when eligible to compete in Championship Class C, which is not currently the case. This is an award before and different to achieving a Challenge Certificate.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Rutter following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 22 April 2021.

(Annex A refers)



ITEM 5. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Patrick following the Sub-Group's meeting which took place on 15 April 2021.
(Annex B refers)
- b. Heart rate recovery
The Sub-Group discussed the issue of heart rate recovery with a view to the potential for research into heart rates levels in dogs preparing to compete, with particular reference to physical and mental stress. It noted that there was considerable variability in anticipation levels in dogs prior to competing, some remaining calm and some becoming highly excited. It was likely that the degree of excitability would be dependent on the experience levels of both the dog, and the handler.

The Council is requested to consider whether it would support such research, and if so, to provide details as to its potential benefits.

ITEM 6. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB

The Council is requested to note a report from Mrs Lavender relating to YKC Obedience, as follows:

- YKC Artist of the Year has been announced
- Young Person of the Year deadline is now closed.
- YKC Running Challenge has been launched
- Online activities for YKC members will be available in May and June
- YKC Camp 2021 Sunday 1 August - Friday 6 August: Mrs Lavender was asked to recommend trainers for obedience and these have been confirmed. Currently 48 members are attending
- YKC Autumn Weekend has been rebooked at Newark for 2021. This will be discussed further in due course
- YKC Competitions 2021: The list of shows holding YKC competitions is currently being updated, and will be available soon
- YKC Training Days 2021: It is hoped that dates for training days will start to be booked again when Covid-19 related restrictions start to ease
- YKC Crufts 2022: The YKC Obedience Judge has been confirmed

ITEM 7. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. Reliability and Obedience Exercise and Removal of Stays
Mrs W Birch Mr R Harlow
Mrs Birch wishes the Council to consider the following proposal for the introduction of a test which is designed to test the reliability of the dog to be left whilst the handler collects and then returns the retrieve article. The dog is therefore under test, during this period, as a separate exercise, when normally this is not the case. It is also an effective way to introduce an exercise



that maybe a substitute for the stay exercises having been removed.

The dog must break off before being repositioned for this and the next exercise. Regulation

G14. Obedience Certificates.

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 ~~300~~ **230**, and provided also that the classes are open to all breeds.
 - b. Judges must also award a Reserve Best of Sex provided that the exhibit has not lost more than 15 points out of ~~300~~ **230**.
- (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

G(A) ELIGIBILITY AND SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Regulation G(A)5. Introductory.

TO:

- a. This class is to introduce and support newcomers to obedience competition. In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog by the handler.
- b. To compete in the Introductory Class a handler or dog must not have won one Introductory Class or have achieved a 4th place or above in Pre- Beginners or in any other class.
- c. Handlers will not be penalised for encouragement or extra commands in all exercises ~~except stays~~.
- d. ~~The stays to be completed on lead, handler facing sideways onto the dog in the designated stay ring.~~
- e. **d.** In any exercise attempted the competing team cannot lose all the allocated points for that exercise but must be awarded a minimum of two points for each exercise they have attempted.
- f. **e.** The detailed test will be:

(1) Play with dog for 15-30 seconds on or off lead at the handler's choice. Handlers may use a silent toy	10 points
(2) Heel on lead	10 points
(3) Recall with a finish on lead, off lead or long line, at the handler's choice	10 points
(4) 4 minute stay on lead in either the sit or down at handler's choice Control Exercise on lead	40 5 points
(5) TOTAL	40 35 points

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(A)6. Pre-Beginners.

TO:

- a. To compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won two first places in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other Obedience class (Introductory Class excepted).
- b. The detailed tests will be:

(1) Heel on lead	15 points
(2) Heel free	20 points
(3) Recall	10 points
(4) Sit one minute, handler in sight Control Exercise off lead	40 5 points
(5) Down two minutes, handler in sight	20 points
(6) 5 TOTAL	75 50 points



(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(A)7. Beginners.

- a. To compete in Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted).
- b. The detailed tests will be:
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (1) Heel on lead | 15 points |
| (2) Heel free | 20 points |
| (3) Recall | 10 points |
| (4) Retrieve any article | 25 points |
| (5) Sit one minute, handler in sight while handler collects or returns retrieve article from table | 10 points |
| (6) Down two minutes, handler in sight while handler collects or returns retrieve article to table | 20 10 points |
| (7) TOTAL | 100 90 points |

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(A)8. Novice.

TO:

- a. For dogs which have not won 2 first places in Obedience classes (Introductory class, Pre-Beginners and Beginners excepted).
- b. The detailed tests will be:
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (1) Heel on lead | 20 points |
| (2) Heel free | 25 points |
| (3) Recall | 10 points |
| (4) Retrieve a dumbbell | 15 points |
| (5) Sit one minute, handler in sight while handler collects or returns dumbbell from table | 10 points |
| (6) Down two minutes, handler in sight while handler collects or returns dumbbell to table | 20 10 points |
| (7) TOTAL | 100 90 points |

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(A)9. Class A.

TO:

- a For dogs which have not won 3 first prizes in Class A, B and Open Class C in total.
- b. The detailed tests will be:
- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| (1) Heel free | 30 points |
| (2) Recall | 15 points |
| (3) Retrieve a dumbbell, handlers will use their own dumbbell | 25 points |
| (4) Sit 2 minutes, handler in sight while handler collects or returns dumbbell from table | 20 10 points |
| (5) Down 3 minutes, handler out of sight while handler collects or returns dumbbell to table | 30 10 points |
| (6) Scent discrimination. The handler's scent and no decoys.
There must be a total of 6 scent cloths. | 30 points |
| (7) TOTAL | 150 120 points |

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(A) 10. Class B.

- a. For dogs which have not won 3 first prizes in Class B and Open Class C in total.
- b. The detailed tests will be:



- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (1) Heel work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free and shall also be tested at fast and slow pace. Each change of pace shall commence from the halt position | 40 points |
| (2) Send away, drop and recall | 40 points |
| (3) Retrieve any one article provided by the judge | 30 points |
| (4) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight while handler collects or returns retrieve article from table | 20 10 points |
| (5) Down 4 minutes, handler out of sight while handler collects or returns retrieve article to table | 30 10 points |
| (6) Scent discrimination. The handler's scent with one decoy. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to 10 scent cloths. | 40 points |
| (7) TOTAL | 200 170 points |
- (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(A)11. Class C.

TO:

- a. For Championship Class C at Championship Shows, dogs must have won out of Novice, Class A and Class B and have won Open Class C on one occasion and have been placed not lower than third on three further occasions; all Open Class C places and wins must have been won under different judges at Kennel Club licensed shows.
- b. At open and premier shows, and in the Open C Classes held at championship shows, open to all dogs.
- c. At limited shows, open to all dogs except Obedience Certificate winners and dogs which have obtained any award that counts towards the title of Obedience Champion or the equivalent thereof under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Kennel Club.
- d. The detailed tests will be:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (1) Heel work. The dog shall be required to walk at heel free, and also be tested at fast and slow pace. The dog shall also be required, whilst walking to heel at normal pace, to be left at the stand, sit and down position. | 60 points |
| (2) Send away, drop and recall. | 40 points |
| (3) Retrieve any one article provided by the judge. | 30 points |
| (4) Distant control. Dog to sit, stand and down. Six instructions to be given. | 50 points |
| (5) Sit 2 minutes, handler out of sight | 20 points |
| (6) Down 5 minutes, handler out of sight | 50 points |
| (7) Scent discrimination. The judge's scent and one or more decoys. There must be a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 10 scent cloths. | 50 points |
| (8) TOTAL | 300 230 points |

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation G(C)4.h.

TO:

~~Stays in ALL classes. The judge or steward will direct handlers to positions in the ring. The command 'last command' will be given and handlers should then instantly give their final command to their dogs. Any further commands or signals to the dogs after this 'last command' will be penalised. Handlers will then be instructed to leave their dogs and walk to positions indicated until ordered to return to them. These are group tests and all dogs must compete together, but where this is impracticable at any show, the class may be equally divided but the judging for the groups must be consecutive. The stay ring shall be large enough to cater for the largest expected attendance for each class.~~

- (1) ~~Sit stay: Dogs should remain in the sit position throughout the test. Barking, whining or minor movement such as sniffing the ground, shuffling or turning, without moving from the place where the dog was originally left, should not be considered to be a broken stay but may only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise. Marks must be~~



- ~~graduated in accordance with The Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.~~
- ~~(2) Down stay: Dogs should remain in the down position throughout the test. Barking, whining or minor movement such as sniffing the ground, shuffling, hip rolling or turning, without moving from the place where the dog was originally left, should not be considered to be a broken stay but may only be marked a nominal amount for minor movement or noise. Marks must be graduated in accordance with The Kennel Club's specimen stay chart.~~
- ~~(3) All classes: When a handler has more than one dog present in the same set of stays, the dogs may be placed together on the left hand side of the handler, or on either side of the handler, at the choice of the handler. It should be noted that the dogs must be placed apart with a reasonable space between them. At the conclusion of the stays, the handler should return to the same position they were in at the commencement of the test before the end of the test is indicated.~~
- ~~(4) The timing of the stays shall commence when the handlers have been~~
(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

New Regulation G(C)4.h. Reliability and Control Exercise.

TO:

In all classes, up to and including novice, additional commands are permitted throughout the exercise. In classes A and B there are no additional commands permitted after leaving the dog until the completion of each of the exercises.

- (1) In Introductory and Pre-Beginners classes, where there is no retrieve exercise, this exercise must follow the same format but must be carried out only once, with the dog being left in either the sit or the down at the handler's discretion. The exercise can be completed at any time during the round at the judge's discretion.**
- (2) In Introductory the handler will choose to place the dog on lead in either the sit or down position. Then on the steward's command will step away from the dog to the right to a little more than arm's length. After a short pause, the handler returns to their dogs' side.**
- (3) In Pre-Beginners the test remains the same as per Introductory Class with the exception that the dog is off lead.**
- (4) For Beginners and above, prior to the retrieve exercise being carried out, the handler, at the direction of the ring Steward, will set the dog up in the centre of the ring, facing the designated retrieve article station, in a sit or down position (as decided by the judge) with the dog on the handler's left side. The handler is instructed to leave the dog, to collect their retrieve article and return to the dog's side. At the steward's direction of "exercise finished" the dog may be released.**
- (5) Retrieve exercise will then be carried out as per regulations from any part of the ring at the Judge's discretion.**
- (6) After the retrieve exercise is completed the handler should, at the ring Steward's direction, set the dog up in the centre of the ring facing the designated retrieve article station in a sit or down position (whichever was not carried out prior to the retrieve). The handler returns their retrieve article to the designated article station and returns to the dog's side. At the steward's direction of "exercise finished" the dog may be released.**
- (7) Complete change of the dog's position from the sit to stand or down and from the down to sit or stand or rolling, must be penalised and marks must be graduated dependent on the distance the handler has travelled from the dog before the dog moves.**
- (8) The exercise will not be timed.**
- (9) If the dog should move from the designated set up place by following the handler, leaving the ring or moving to another part of the ring, this must be penalised as a failure. Barking or noise without change of the set-up position may be nominally penalised at the judge's**



discretion.

Minor front foot movement, looking around or sniffing must not be penalised. Should the dog scratch and resume the same position without going through another position or moving from the set-up place they must not be penalised. Dog shifting from one hip to the other in the sit or down without breaking the position or moving from the set-up place must not be penalised.

(Insertions in bold.)

- b. b.Mrs J Le Fevre, Mr M McCartney & Mrs C Patrick
Class Eligibility – 25 day rule

The Council is requested to consider a proposal for a new Regulation G34.m.,as follows:

New Regulation G34.m.

TO:

In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including 25 days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class. For these purposes a competition shall be defined as all classes covered within the same schedule. In the event that a dog becomes eligible for the next class at a particular show, after the entry for that show has been sent, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor at least 14 days before the date of the show. The dog should then be moved into the appropriate class(es) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower class. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next class the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees.

The show organiser is not required to split a class should entries exceed the maximum of 60 as a result of this notification process.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

As discussed at the Council's previous meeting, the objective of the proposal is to reduce the timescale in which a competitor can accumulate wins at a particular level before progressing to the next level, therefore reducing the progression bottle neck in some of the classes.

- c. Mrs J Le Fevre, Mr M McCartney & Mrs C Patrick
Introduction of height based classification scheme

The proposal is based upon the Obedience Working Party's final recommendations taken from the meeting dated 11 February 2020.

The system would be purely optional for show organisers, and provides them with the opportunity to be fully flexible and tailor their classes to gain more entries/increase newcomers into the sport. The competitors can also choose if they wish to compete within the new height classified structure or remain competing in 'non-height classified classes', in which case they would compete in 'standard' height classification.

Details of the proposal are as follows:

Introduction of an optional height classified class system

Show organisers will be able to elect to schedule height classified classes. If a show organiser wishes to host height classified classes they may do so for some or all of the classes scheduled at the show. These classes once scheduled cannot be reverted to a non-height classified class once listed in the schedule nor can non-height classified classes be height classified once listed in the schedule.

Height Classifications

Small – For dogs measuring 35cm or under at the withers

Medium – For dogs measuring over 35cm and under 43cm at the withers

Standard – For dogs which have not been measured, or measuring over 43cm and less than 60cm at the withers



Giant – For dogs measuring over 60cm at the withers

Initially the eligibility to compete under one of the above height classifications will be taken on a trust basis from the owner/handler of the dog. The need for a formal measure will be discussed further at a later stage pending the success of the new system.

It should be noted that once a handler has elected which height classification they wish to work under they may only change it once, with that change being to compete in the “Standard” height classification.

Splitting of entries: In the event that the total entries for a class exceed a total of 60 then the class should be split, but that split must ensure all dogs of the same height classification compete together. As an example if a total of 80 entries were received the split would be as follows:

40 Standard, 10 Small, 20 Medium, 10 Giant then the split should be undertaken as follows:

Ring 1 – Judge 1 will judge the 40 Standard dogs whilst in Ring 2 – Judge 2 will judge 10 Small, 20 Medium and 10 Giant dogs.

Each class may be run concurrently with a different section of the scoresheet completed for each height category.

It should be noted that to enable maximum flexibility for show organisers and judges the rounds for each height classification can be run concurrently or consecutively and the round for each height classification may be different to accommodate their size requirements i.e. a round for a small dog may (if the judge wishes) have a shorter heelwork pattern than the round for a Giant dog.

Awards

Where height classified classes are hosted they must include separate awards for all four heights.

Placings will be awarded for 1st to 6th place in each height classification
1st place may be withheld in a class with 10 or less entries in that height classification in accordance with regulation G32.j. which states “In classes with 10 or less entries the award of 1st place may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge the standard of work does not merit the award. (This sub paragraph does not apply to Championship Class C)”

To maintain a consistent level of proficiency if a winning team loses more than 20% of the marks available then that win would not qualify as a win, nor would it qualify to gain points for progression purposes. In turn anyone placed 2nd to 6th (or below) in the same height classification will also not be eligible to claim points for progression purposes, should the relevant proposal for the introduction of such a provision be approved.

Progression

Progression is based on actual wins or on a points basis in line with Mr Moxon’s proposal. Progression through the classes on points would only be permissible up to Open Class C.

Rationale

To attract owners of differing breeds/sizes of dog to compete within obedience alongside/against similar sized dogs. This should encourage new competitors as they will feel that it is possible to achieve on a level playing field therefore increasing the number of new competitors coming into the discipline.

An initial draft of the regulation amendments necessary to facilitate the introduction of height classified classes is attached. The Council is requested to note that further work is necessary to



finalise the proposed amendments prior to submission to the Activities Committee and, subsequently, to the Board, for approval.

Further, the Council is requested to confirm its approval of the principle of the proposal, and to agree that the necessary regulation amendments may be submitted to the Activities Committee without further reference to it, subject to the approval of the Council's Chair and Vice Chair.

(Annex C refers)

d. Obedience Excellent Award

Mr D Moxon

Mr Moxon wishes to propose a regulation amendment whereby details of the Obedience Excellent Award would be included as an annex within the Obedience Regulations booklet from 2022 onwards, with the objective of promoting awareness of the award among competitors.

New Regulation G(D)

TO:

On application by the registered owner(s), an "Obedience Excellent Qualification" will be issued for a dog that has obtained the required amount of points for places gained at Open and Championship Obedience Shows. The scale of the points is as follows:

- 1. 10 points for a first prize.**
- 2. 4 points for second prize.**
- 3. 2 points for a third prize.**
- 4. 1 point for a fourth prize.**

The required points to achieve each qualification are as follows:

- 1. 10 points required for Introductory**
- 2. 20 points required for Pre-Beginners.**
- 3. 20 points required for Beginners.**
- 4. 20 points required for Novice.**
- 5. 30 points required for Class A.**
- 6. 30 points required for Class B.**
- 7. 40 points required for Class C.**

This qualification may be used on entry forms for dogs qualified and will be shown in Show Catalogues. Only one such qualification may be shown so that as a dog progresses to a higher qualification, the lower one may no longer be used. Points towards the required excellent qualification in any particular Class will be awarded as a result of gaining places in that Class and/or any higher class.

(Insertions in bold)

(Subsequent Regulation annexes to be renumbered)

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mrs C Patrick and Mr M McCartney

Competing internationally

Mr McCartney has a wealth of experience and competes to the highest level in agility. Mrs Patrick has represented the Council at the Activities Health and Welfare Sub Group (AHWSG) since 2016. During this time she has noticed a number of discussions about the Kennel Club (KC) International 'Agility Team GB'.

On discussion with Mr McCartney, Mrs Patrick has become aware that one reason there is an International Agility Team is because the Kennel Club's H regulations for agility closely resemble those of many other countries around the world.

The Council is reminded of the Obedience World Cup competition which was held at Crufts, and of the support it received from Holland, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, New Zealand, USA and other countries. Handlers from other countries have subsequently travelled to the UK and have qualified their dogs to compete in the Crufts Obedience Championships.



Mrs Patrick and Mr McCartney wish the Council to consider the way in which obedience competitions are regulated across the world, and to discuss how competitions in the UK, and consequently, G Regulations may be gradually changed to be more like them. This would make UK competitions more acceptable and accessible for competitors from other countries, and would also make it easier for UK competitors to compete overseas.

It is understood that this cannot be done overnight or too quickly, but the long-term objective would be to assemble an Obedience Team GB to compete in obedience on the international stage along with agility and heelwork to music, and thus promote obedience across the UK and the world.

The Council is also reminded that the Kennel Club holds an International Agility Festival on an annual basis, and it is suggested that the Council should set as an objective the organisation of an Obedience Festival as a standalone event, or initially as part of the International Agility Festival.

Agility is not the only discipline to have a KC International Team, so there is no reason why this should not also be possible for obedience. Mrs Patrick and Mr McCartney are of the view that this would be beneficial for the development of Kennel Club obedience.

ITEM 9. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

- a. At its meeting on 21 January 2021, the Council agreed that further consideration should be given to 'Reviewing the structure of obedience classes' as listed within the Strategic Plan. Accordingly, it is requested to do so.
- b. Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Council's Five Year Strategic Plan. **(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 for the next meeting of the Council 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.