



**MEETING OF THE AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024 AT 10.30 AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. KENNEL CLUB RESEARCH PROJECT

The Council is invited to receive a presentation from Mr M Bermingham (Interim Strategy & Implementation Executive) which will provide an update on the research project into 'Organisers and Participants of Dog Activities'.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that the Board, at its meeting on 22 November 2023, approved the following amendments to H Regulations:

Regulation H(1)(B)5.a.(18)

TO:

Contact areas

~~Contact area—5 faults for each failure to make contact.~~

'A' Frame and dog walk up contact: the dog must ascend onto the obstacle from the front and traverse over, but does not have to make contact with the contact area.

'A' Frame and dog walk down contact: the dog must touch the down contact with at least one paw or part of a paw. Failure to do so – 5 faults. The dog is considered to have left the obstacle when all four paws are on the ground.

See-saw: the dog must touch both the up and down contacts with at least one paw or part of a paw. Failure to do so – 5 faults each time it occurs. The dog is considered to have left the obstacle when all four paws are on the ground.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation H19.e

TO:

Judges at an agility show may not **judge** ~~enter for competition~~ a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership; or handle a dog at the show/competition at which they are judging.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)
(Effective 1 January 2024)

Regulation H27.a.(7)

TO:

Disqualification and forfeit of awards

A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been;

(7): **Judged by their registered owner or** ~~Entered for competition or~~ handled in the ring by a judge at that competition. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.

(Deletion struck through. Insertions in bold.)
(Effective dated 1 January 2024)

Regulation H(1)(B)4.(2)

TO:

(2) ~~Dogs competing in small, medium, or intermediate height categories~~
All dogs must be measured for competition and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)(B)4.(4)

TO:

(4) ~~Large dogs entered for competition will not require an official Kennel Club measurement. Once a dog has competed in any Class in the Large Height category at a Kennel Club licensed event it may not change to a different height.~~

(Deletion struck through and subsequent paragraphs renumbered)
(Effective 1 January 2025)

Note: The Activities Committee did not consider it feasible for the amendments to regulations H(1)(B)4.(2) and (4) to be effective from 1 January 2024. This was due to competitors with new dogs competing early in the year who could

not be made aware of the necessity to get their dogs measured until November due to the meeting date of the Board at which the recommendations would be considered. Therefore, it agreed that a year's grace be given to allow owners to get their dogs measured and as such the regulation amendments will not come into effect until 1 January 2025.

Regulation H(1)(B)3.b

TO:

Wall – The height of the wall must be 600mm for Large Dogs, 500mm for Intermediate Dogs, 400mm for Medium Dogs and 300mm for Small Dogs. Width: 1.2m minimum. All central units must be easily displaced by the dog and not interlocking with the pillars. Pillars with a minimum height of 900mm must be used. **Central elements should have a uniform depth of 200mm. The wall must be constructed of an impact-absorbing material.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective January 2025 to provide sufficient time for equipment suppliers to replace equipment)

Regulation H13 Removal of Dogs

TO:

Following discussion between the show management and/or a veterinary surgeon, a dog shall be prevented from competing and/or removed from an agility show if it is:

- a. A bitch which is in season (apart from dogs **attending the show to compete** ~~competing~~ in quarter finals, semi-finals and finals of Kennel Club Prestige Events, other than events held under YKC rules).

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2024)

Note: The amendment to the above regulation was made to clarify that a bitch in season would be able to attend the whole show at which it was competing not just the event at which it was competing.

Code of Best Practice for Agility Judges and Stewards and Guide to Agility Equipment

- b. At its last meeting the Council was advised that the document was in the process of being finalised. It is invited to note the final document which will be submitted to The Kennel Club marketing department for formatting and will be published on the website by the end of the year.

(Annex A refers – to follow)

Competition Manager's role

- c. At its meeting on 21 September 2023, the Activities Committee considered the regulations for the competition manager role to be formalised in the H Regulations that the Council proposed at its last meeting.

On considering the proposal the Committee was of the view that the idea had merit, however it did not agree that the wording sufficiently described the collaborative nature of the role. It was agreed that the agility representatives on

the Committee would review the regulations which would be submitted at a future Activities Committee meeting.

Measuring Issues

- d. At its meeting on 21 September 2023 the Activities Committee considered the proposed removal of regulation H(1)(B)4.(20) which would remove the opportunity for owners to move a dog into the next higher height category.

The Council is invited to note that the Committee considered the regulation and was of the view that it had only recently been introduced and the impact of its implementation had not been seen, and as such it did not support the removal of the regulation.

Introduction of a Micro Height

- e. The Council has previously discussed the above matter and an update is included in the Panel's report under item 7.a.

Non-slip tunnels

- f. The Council has previously discussed the above matter and an update is included in the Panel's report under item 7.a.

Course Design

- g. The Council has previously discussed the above matter and an update is included in the Panel's report under item 9.

Introduction of the yellow/red card system for conduct complaints

- h. The Council is invited to note the additional wording below which has been added to regulation H28 to introduce further regulatory support to help ensure all those taking part in or attending licensed events behave in a responsible and respectful manner.

For complaints of conduct whether at a licensed event or on social media, in addition to a warning issued - a short term fixed period of refusal of entry/attendance at Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures to be published from time to time to implement this regulation.

The implementation of this regulation does not impact competitors or societies directly, as it is an extra penalty imposed by The Kennel Club on incidents reported. Therefore, incidents should continue to be reported in the normal manner via the incident book.

ITEM 5. ACCREDITED TRAINERS ANNUAL SEMINAR

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Gardner following the above seminar which took place on 10 October 2023.
(Annex B refers)

ITEM 6. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Tait following the Sub-Group's meeting on 30 August 2023.

(Annex C refers)

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to consider a report from the Equipment Panel and to discuss any issues arising from it.

(Annex D refers)

Collapsible Poles

- b. The Equipment Panel has reviewed the collapsible jump poles available from Performance Agility and Galican and have approved these for use at Kennel Club licensed events. The Council is requested to ratify the Panel's decision and recommend the equipment for approval.

Obstacles fit for purpose

- c. The current obstacles regulation states:

H(1)(B) 3. Obstacles

The following obstacles meet with the approval of the Board of the Kennel Club. Any changes to current obstacles (such as materials used, structure or style) or any other new obstacles must be submitted for approval by the Kennel Club before being made available for use at its licensed events. All measurements of 1000mm or under may have a tolerance of plus or minus 5mm and measurements of over 1000mm may have a tolerance of plus or minus 10mm

The council is requested to consider whether additional wording should be added to the regulation:

Equipment used at licensed events should be regularly checked for damage or wear & tear. All equipment must be fit for purpose & well maintained.

Rationale

Equipment does not last forever and many problems could be avoided if more regular checks were done by equipment suppliers before show set up. There have been several incident book reports regarding poorly maintained equipment. This addition to the regulation puts the onus onto the equipment supplier to check equipment more often. It would also allow a judge to enter a report of unfit for purpose if they wished to remove a piece of equipment due to it being in a poor state of repair.

Long Jump

- d. The Panel would like the Council to discuss whether additional wording should be added to the long jump regulation in line with the recently amended wall regulation wording, to ensure the obstacle is safe for dogs.
The suggested wording to be added is as follows:

The units must be constructed of an impact-absorbing material. Each unit to be of a uniform depth and be a consistent shape. The units must be weighted to give stability in windy conditions.

Rationale

In the interests of dog safety, the long jump should be updated in line with the wall as it poses unique challenges that can result in a dog failing to complete it. Soft long jumps have been in use for the last 12-18 months at a number of outdoor shows and whilst there are some issues with the units toppling in the wind the overall benefit for the welfare of the dog outweighs this risk.

It should be discussed as to whether additional judges' guidance would be needed should this regulation change be approved as there have been instances of the first unit being nudged forward by a dog but it hasn't fallen. This seems to occur more often as the soft units are usually solid sections and therefore more stable.

Rising Spread Jump

- e. The Panel wishes the Council to discuss amending the rising spread jump regulations to add the following wording:

Regulation H(1)(B)3.c

TO:

Rising Spread Jump – A maximum of 2 single jumps as in item a-(Hurdle) placed together to form a double spread, there must be no more than 2 elements to this obstacle. The top bar on the first hurdle must be 400mm for Large Dogs, 300mm for Intermediate Dogs, 300mm for Medium Dogs and 200mm for Small Dogs. The maximum spread to be: Large Dogs – 550mm, Intermediate Dogs – 475mm, Medium Dogs – 400mm, Small Dogs – 300mm. There must be only one pole on each hurdle. The feet of the side supports (wings) should not be interlocking but touching and must not be out of line by more than 75mm.

The highest pole must be placed at the back and 1.5m in length. The front pole must be 1.4m in length. It is recommended that collapsible/breakaway poles should be used if available.

Rationale

Spread jumps are hard for dogs to judge and require the dog to negotiate 4 wings. By ensuring a consistent format where the poles are always the same length, front wings are inside and the rear wings are outside it will be easier for dogs to judge. This removes the need for suppliers to carry 'half feet'. It also allows the widest possible exit point for the dog. Collapsible/breakaway poles prevent the dog from being injured due to not fully jumping both poles. There is

no desire to reduce the use of the spread therefore using collapsible poles is left as a recommendation currently as there are only two approved manufacturers of 1.5m collapsible poles & no manufacturer is currently making 1.4m collapsible poles.

It should be discussed as to whether it would be desirable to eventually make the use of collapsible poles on the spread mandatory, providing sufficient time is given to manufacturers to achieve this.

Pipe Tunnel Specifications

- f. The Panel would like the Council to discuss changes to the regulations relating to the specification of the pipe tunnel to ensure consistency in the equipment.

Regulation H(1)(B)3.i

TO:

Pipe Tunnel – This obstacle should have a diameter ~~of a minimum~~ of 600mm and should be a minimum of 3m in length. The tunnel may only curve in a single direction. **The inner surface of the tunnel should have the same finish throughout (and provide increased traction for the dog's feet).**

Rationale

The minimum implies a larger diameter tunnel could be used. This is not the case & should be removed to ensure dogs continue to only see 600mm diameter tunnels. This improves the consistency of experience for the dog.

The only dog slipping reports submitted to the KC via equipment incident reports or in the incident book so far this year have involved tunnels that do not have an inner surface with 'added traction' via indentations/embossing/other surface treatments. These reports were also all from one show.

It is requested that research around the 'anti-slip' element of tunnel material be carried out urgently through the research channels available to the Health & Welfare sub group in the interests of dog safety. The suggested regulation change in brackets needs to be thoroughly investigated via impartial, peer reviewed research before it can be introduced.

It is possible to have a material tested to establish its Coefficient of Friction (COF) using a standardised test (commonly used for safety flooring & boat deck coatings). Although it is also very difficult to establish a COF when the material is wet or has sand/fibre/mud on it a baseline figure would be useful. There is also the effect of wire pitch & diameter, as well as wire type. These factors have a large effect on the rigidity & structural stability of the tunnels & data collected from manufacturers in October 2023 via questionnaire show that tunnels currently in use have a wide range of pitches & wire diameters. It would be possible to set a minimum pitch & wire thickness with more research.

It should also be noted that improved CPD for judges would also reduce the number of slips in tunnels.

It has already been agreed that the half & half tunnels do not offer a consistent experience for dogs and equipment suppliers have been contacted to advise them that where possible they should not be used. However, stakeholders are keen to know the deadline for the mandatory removal of half & half tunnels as this has not yet been set due to research on 'anti-slip' surfaces not yet having been undertaken.

Weaving Pole Material

- g. The Panel would like the Council to discuss adding wording to the weaving pole regulation to specify the construction of the equipment.

Regulation H(1)(B)3.j

TO:

Weaving Poles – The number of poles should be six or twelve. The maximum number of weaves in a standard class is 12. They should be in a continuous line, as straight as possible and should be 600mm apart (between the poles). The poles must be of rigid construction and with a minimum height of 762mm and a diameter of 35mm. The base must have support bars at the bottom of each pole and they must be positioned away from the side a dog would normally negotiate each pole.

The base must be of rigid construction and poles must be made from a semi flexible PVC pipe. Wooden or metal poles are not acceptable.

Rationale

Most research indicates that the most common dog injuries are shoulder related. The weaves are cited as one of the more demanding obstacles & shoulder movement is key to successful negotiation. A brief analysis of the forces experienced by a dog when presented with the weaves suggests that the force exerted on the dog could be up to ten times greater with wooden poles compared to plastic PVC pipe poles. Wooden weave poles are still being used in a small minority of KC licensed events.

Whilst even the peer reviewed research is based on small studies it is reasonable to conclude that wooden poles exert considerably more force back into the dog's shoulder as the pole cannot flex. Therefore, for the dogs' health & wellbeing the removal of wooden weave poles for cheap, easy to replace PVC poles seems common sense.

Additional Evidence Provided:

ROM report on Weave Pole Flexibility by J Woolridge (agility competitor & engineer)

Internet-based survey evaluating the impact of ground substrate on injury and performance in canine agility athletes, Isabel A. Jimenez, Sherman O. Canapp Jr. and Monica L. Percival

(Annexes E and F refer – to follow)

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE AGILITY GOVERNANCE PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to consider a report from the Agility Governance Panel and to discuss any issues arising.

(Annex G refers)

Micro Height research

- b. The Panel would like the Council to consider asking the Activities Health and Welfare Sub Group to discuss what other concerns with equipment there are for 'micro' height dogs competing in agility other than the jump heights.

ITEM 9. REPORT FROM THE JUDGING PANEL AND OTHER JUDGING ISSUES

- a. The Council is invited to consider a report from the Judging Panel and to discuss any issues arising.

(Annex H refers)

Activities Judges Sub Group

- b. The Council is invited to consider a written report from Mrs Gardner following the meeting of the Sub-Group which took place on 15 November 2023.

(Annex I refers – to follow)

ITEM 10. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Mr G Usher

Ms S Robinson

Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)5.a.(5)

- a. Mr Usher wishes the Council to consider a proposal to amend the regulation relating to marking of the hurdle/wall to account for situations where a dog dislodges the cups but the pole does not fall to the floor.

Regulation H(1)(B)5.a.(5)

TO:

Hurdle/Wall – a dog should not be faulted if ~~any part of the obstacle is touched and does not fall.~~ the dog touches the pole or wing causing the cups to fall or move downwards or sideways but not causing the pole to fall to the floor. The dog should be faulted if the pole falls to the floor.

Rationale

This amendment would remove the onus on the judge to be vigilant in marking whether or not a cup has moved fractionally or more as a result of the dog taking the jump. If there are ten jumps on a course with some being jumped more than once this could mean a minimum of 20 cups per run for the judge to be expected to watch.

It would remove discretion of the judge to fault when the cups drop as they will only be able to fault when the pole falls to the floor. It would also ensure that

dogs are not faulted if they hit the wing or pole and it does not fall, as is currently the case.

Ms E Bostock

Proposed amendment to Regulations H(1)11.e & H(1)(D)9.e

- b. Ms Bostock wishes the Council to consider a proposal to amend the regulations relating to food being given to a dog in the ring to include carrying food into the ring.

Regulation H(1)11.e

TO:

e. Except for mobility aids, nothing shall be carried in the hand while the dog is under test and food shall not be **carried in the hand or** given to a dog whilst in the ring. Competitors are prohibited from wearing bags or leads whilst under test – elimination.

(Insertion in bold)

Regulation H(1)(D)9.e

TO:

e. Silent toys may be used in the ring, at the discretion of the organisers, but must be used with consideration for other competitors. Except for mobility aids or silent toys, nothing shall be carried in the hand while the dog is under test and food shall not be **carried in the hand or** given to a dog whilst in the ring – elimination.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

Being able to carry food into the ring poses the risk of food being dropped and dogs being distracted by it. The regulation exists to say dogs cannot be fed in the ring, so there is no need for food to be carried in the hand at any time whilst in the ring. Unlike toys that are visible if dropped, food is not and the residue that is left if food is dropped is unfair on dogs competing later in the ring.

Mr A Dornford-Smith

Overseas measurements

- c. Mr Dornford-Smith, on behalf of the Northern Ireland region, would like the Council to consider a proposal to regulation H(1)(B)4.(2), which would negate the current confused situation that dogs from other countries, and specifically the Republic of Ireland, may use their own country's measurement of the dog to compete in UK Kennel Club competitions.

Regulation H(1)(B)4.(2)

TO:

All dogs, **whether Kennel Club registered or with an Authority to Compete (ATC) number**, must be measured for competition **at an official Kennel Club measurement session** and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.

(Insertions in bold.)

Rationale

The exemption from Kennel Club measurement for FCI countries is not specified in the H regulations and overrules regulation H(1)(B)4. This is inconsistent.

FCI height for large dogs is 480mm and over at the withers, the UK height is over 500mm at the withers.

FCI measurers are appointed in different ways in different countries and may not have had the level of training required for Kennel Club measurers.

The methodology for FCI measuring (for example the use of measuring devices rather than hoops) is not consistent with KC measurement procedures.

With the current position some dogs competing at Kennel Club competitions would be allowed to run at a handler chosen size, something the Council have already considered unacceptable.

The exemption is not reciprocal, and an FCI measurement is required for Kennel Club registered dogs in some FCI countries.

To make the situation clear, consistent and fair, it is considered imperative that all dogs competing at Kennel Club competitions should be Kennel Club measured. There will be some additional work for measurers and competitions attracting international competitors may need to have additional measuring sessions, however, this is not considered to be unfeasible.

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr S Seale

Mrs J Gardner

Timing Display for Qualifiers

- a. Mr Seale wishes the council to consider making it a requirement for all Kennel Club qualifiers to have a timing display for the crowd, competitors and scribe to see the time.

Mr Seale feels that this would give the benefit of:

- Making it transparently fair and open;
- If the timing fails it is obvious to the judge and all of the above that it is not working, and it can then be reset;
- It would make the event a spectator sporting event, generating excitement and more drama;
- Reduces the chance of transcription errors by the scribe, helping the judge to ensure the correct results were recorded.

Mr S Seale

Mrs J Gardner

Re-runs

- b. Mr Seale wishes the council to consider introducing a stipulation where re-runs are awarded due to a timing failure or scores not being recorded correctly that the re-run should be for time only, except for contact fault marking. The course would still need to be completed correctly.

Mr Seale believes that it is unfair that a competitor who has previously run a clear round should then be penalised on a second run for something such as knocking a jump pole. All obstacles would need to be completed correctly but would only cost time and not incur faults. Not marking the contact obstacles, however, could provide a time advantage and as such it is suggested that these are still marked.

Ms J Holness

Mr M Tait

Collars

- c. Ms Holness wishes the council to discuss allowing dogs to wear a medicated flat collar as well as the currently regulated flat, close fitting collar.

Ms Holness believes this is a necessary change as a tick and flea disease is on the rise and continued handling of medicated collars is not advised. This change would allow handlers to not have to choose between keeping their dog safe from disease or keeping them safe with a collar with contact details on.

Ms J Wood

Ms E Bostock

Awarding of warrant points to a minimum of third place

- d. Ms Wood would like the council to discuss awarding warrant points down to a minimum of third place in classes where awards stop at first or second. This would ensure that dogs that are consistent are not losing out on warrant points due to small class sizes.

Mr A Sully

Ms E Bostock

Competitors influencing courses

- e. Mr Sully would like the council to discuss whether competitors should be able to compete in classes where they have had a significant input into the changing of a course.

Mr Sully feels this is needed to reduce instances of competitors pressuring judges to change courses to their benefit. This would not prevent competitors raising a safety concern with the judge and ring manager as long as they were not involved in the way the course was subsequently changed.

Mr M Tait

Progression to the Championship Agility Class Final

- f. Mr Tait would like the council to discuss changing the championship class regulations so that the winner of each qualifying round automatically qualifies for the final, providing they compete in both rounds.

Mr Tait feels that the current way of qualifying for the championship class final allows handlers in the agility round to 'play it safe' or for handlers who have been eliminated in the jumping round being disinterested in competing in the agility round. By taking the winner of each round through to the final it would make the rounds more interesting for those taking part.

The Council is invited to note the same discussion item was also submitted by Ms G Lott.

Mr M Tait

Securing the tunnel

- g. Mr Tait would like the council to discuss introducing regulations which determine the minimum coverage by sand bags and straps on the tunnel.

Current guidance is that a tunnel should have 1 strap per metre of tunnel and best practice is 1 per metre plus 1. However, there is no definition of a tunnel strap and therefore how well a tunnel is secured varies depending on the size of the tunnel strap.

For example, a 5 metre tunnel with best practice of 6 straps that are 300mm wide gives 1800mm of coverage i.e. 36% but the same tunnel with 4 straps that are 500mm wide gives 2000mm of coverage, i.e. 40% but does not conform to best practice.

Mr Tait suggests that a minimum coverage of 50% of a tunnel should be covered by secured straps and where unsecured tunnel bags are used then 75% of the tunnel should be covered. Sand bags per side should have an approximate weight of 10kg.

Mr Tait

Start and finish gates

- h. Mr Tait would like the council to discuss increasing the distance at which the timing gate may be placed from the tyre when it is used as the last obstacle to 40cm.

The intention is to reduce the risk of damage to expensive timing equipment by reducing the potential for the tyre to swing into the timing gates. It also reduces a potential risk of increasing a judge's day and increased operating costs for shows to cover damage.

Ms G Lott

Ms R Sargent

Review of the use of the brush fence (H(1)(B)3.d), water jump (H(1)(B)3.g) and wishing well (H(1)(B)3.h)

- i. Ms Lott would like the council to discuss whether the above pieces of equipment are still safe and fit for function in an agility course.

These pieces of equipment are rarely used and as such dogs do not have experience in negotiating them which could potentially pose a safety risk. Ms

Lott would like it to be discussed whether they should be removed from the standard list of agility equipment.

Should it be decided to keep the equipment then Ms Lott wishes the Council to review the equipment and how it is constructed to ensure the materials and specifications are safe.

Areas for concern are the wishing well's solid base and wooden poles supporting the roof as well as the filler on the brush fence often being sharp and dense sticks. It is suggested if this is of concern then all filler types should be reviewed.

Ms G Lott

Ms R Sargent

Judges Database

- j. Ms Lott would like the Council to discuss the creation of a judge's database to aid with judge selection by show organisers.
(Annex J refers)

Ms G Lott

Ms R Sargent

Online Database

- k. Ms Lott would like the Council to consider the creation of an online database for dog results which would include:
- Height measurement and allocation of dog with automated reminders of when to get the dog measured
 - Automatic allocation of Warrant points
 - Judges tracking system so that judges can keep a record of all judging appointments to make championship judge applications easier.

Ms G Lott

Ms R Sargent

Grade progression timescale

- l. Ms Lott would like the Council to discuss whether the grade progression time should be reduced from 25 days to 10 days as grade changes could be automatically forwarded to show processors to reallocate classes entered.

Ms G Lott

Ms R Sargent

Minimum class size for grade progression

- m. Ms Lott also requests the Council to discuss wins eligible for progression having a minimum entry of dogs, so that classes with fewer than 'x' dogs should count for 'half wins'.

Ms Lott has recommended a regulation amendment to aide the discussion:

Regulation H(1)(A)9

TO:

Only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed agility shows may be used for progression through the classes. (A dog is only eligible for one class). **There must be a minimum of 'X' dogs in the class for a win to count towards progression. Classes with less than 'X' dogs in the class will count towards progression points but only a 'half win'. Two 'half wins' are needed to count towards a progression win.** In defining the eligibility of the owner or handler for grade 1, the two wins and points

progression referred to in the definition apply only to one dog and not an accumulation of dogs.
(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

- With a high number of shows on offer each weekend class sizes are smaller – this means some dogs are winning at huge champ shows with 80-150 dogs in their class competing against dogs from all across the country, in comparison to other shows where there are less than 10 dogs in a class all from within a local area.
- This is creating a skew in grades with grades 2, 6 and 7 having the highest numbers
- Even with the increased number of wins needed for progression this still isn't slowing down the numbers of dogs progressing to grade 7 due to the high number of shows each weekend with minimal entries.

Mr A Dornford-Smith

IKC grade equivalence

- n. Mr Dornford-Smith, on behalf of the Northern Ireland region, would like the Council to discuss the situation regarding dog grade equivalence between the Irish Kennel Club (and other countries) and UK Kennel Club grades in order to clarify the situation.

The current regulations state:

H(1)(A)9.

Standard Classes

Only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed agility shows may be used for progression through the classes.

The regulations do not otherwise state any progression methods or grade equivalences other than from the stated Kennel Club licensed shows.

Therefore, any qualifications gained from other countries affecting Kennel Club grade qualifications overrule the H regulations.

The allowance for grade equivalence is determined by the Activities Committee, however this is not currently widely publicised and as such is not well known in the agility community. This has led to a great deal of confusion and conflicting advice.

There are many issues of a complex nature over which there seems to be no definitive rule. For example, if a dog is registered with the Irish Kennel Club, can they opt to progress up UK Kennel Club grades with just one win per grade (as under IKC rules) then apply these single wins to their progression up UK Kennel Club grades?

Does this include dogs from Northern Ireland who are registered with both Kennel Clubs?

The inequity in grade progression merely based on which kennel club a dog is registered with is considered by many to be unfair.

The view of the Northern Ireland region is that the grade progression equivalence should be detailed in the H regulations so that these are not overridden and the rules are transparent.

ITEM 12. STRATEGY DOCUMENT

To note and review the current strategy document.
(Annex K refers)

ITEM 13. 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 Chair.

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council's next meeting will take place at the Kennel Club in Clarges Street on 4 July 2024. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 5 April 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*