

OBEDIENCE CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competitors in the championship C class currently have the opportunity to compete at Crufts by winning 1 championship C class (ticket) but, at present, there is no corresponding recognition for anyone working any of the lower obedience classes. The Obedience Class Championships aim to change that and are to be run alongside the existing class structure already in place, but with a championship for each of the classes; Pre-beginners, Beginners, Novice, A, B and C.

The class definitions and exercises will be as detailed in the current KC Obedience Regulations (G Regulations) but will take the current system one step further by offering an opportunity for everyone competing in the mentioned classes to qualify for the chance to compete in the finals of their class championship.

The Class Championships will not affect nor count towards class progression.

Each handler and dog team will compete at the class level they last won at under KC rules and will only be eligible to compete in 1 class at the class championship semi final / final per calendar year. A subsequent win at a higher level will preclude that team from competing at the lower level and they should then compete at the higher level. (*eg. A win in class A will preclude competing in the novice level championship*)

Handlers who have won a championship C class (ticket) during the qualifying period for that year are not eligible to compete in the class championships at any level.

It is anticipated that the class championships will commence in 2014, with a slimmed down trial version, in order to reduce risk, costs involved and establish whether there is sufficient demand for the competition. If the 2014 Championships are a success, they can be expanded to accommodate larger numbers of competitors in subsequent years and probably incorporate regional semi finals before the Final.

For 2014, we are proposing to hold the final in early November at the KC Building in Stoneleigh. Our ultimate vision would be that the class championships would run alongside the existing Obedience Championships, showcasing the very best teams at every level in one prestigious, glittering event. There is obviously the potential for the final to be held at Crufts once the Class Championships become established, with semi-finals being held in the November of the qualifying year.

Qualifying

The qualifying period is from mid March to early/mid October. All handlers/owners should keep records of their dogs' wins and places in their classes as this information will be needed to apply for a place in the finals.

In order to apply to compete in the final in the first year, a dog and handler will need to have 1 win and 2 places in the same class. On your entry, you will be required to provide full details of your win and places and this information will be verified to confirm eligibility. The dates for entries and costs involved along with more details about the Finals will be published later this year.

THE FINAL - 2014

It is anticipated that this will be a prestigious event, with competitors donning their glad rags and judges and their teams rising to the occasion, this being the culmination of all the competitors have worked hard for and an exceedingly special day for all concerned.

There will be large commemorative rosettes and place cards to 10th place, with stunning retainable trophies for 1st and 2nd places. All remaining competitors will receive a commemorative rosette and certificate.

The winner of each class will be crowned as the class champion for that year (*eg Novice Champion 2014*) but as per the title of Crufts Obedience Champion, this will not be a title attached to the dogs KC name, but the title will be recorded on the rosette and in the official records for the class championships. The 2nd placed team will be crowned the Reserve class champion for that year (*eg Novice Reserve Champion 2014*).

Competitors at the final will be charged an entry fee and spectators will be charged a nominal fee too, to generate income to fund the Final, and further funds may be needed from commercial or private sponsorship. Competitors will each receive 2 free entry passes.

For the first, very special Grand Final, we will be capping entries. Should any class be oversubscribed, entries will be balloted similar to the entries in Championship Class C at KC Licensed shows. Entries will be limited in each class as follows:

Pre-beginners	30	Beginners	30	Novice	100
A	100	B	100	C	50

It will be necessary to run 2 parts of each of Novice, A and B and then we will take the top 5 teams from each part and a different judge will preside over a run-off class for each of these levels to determine the final lineup and an overall winner– the Class Champion for 2014.

In order to fit everything into 1 day, we will need to start judging early, say at 8.30am, with a full running order for every class, shorter set breaks and lunch times and aim for an early evening presentation ceremony.

We plan to have trade stands for your pre Christmas shopping, and would also be happy for annual results and/or presentations for breed leagues for obedience, ABC league or similar to take place during the evening presentation ceremony.

We would also like to hear from any individuals, clubs, groups or companies who are interested in sponsoring a class at the final – the class would be suitably named after the sponsor and a representative of the sponsors could present the awards in that class. Any dog related companies that sponsor a class may bring a trade stand to the finals free of charge. There are only 6 classes, so it will be first come first served basis!

Dog Training Weekly have pledged their full support to the class championships, including printing all details and information in the magazine, sponsoring a class at the final, attending the final with a trade stand and possibly even producing a special edition to cover the finals with competitor profiles.

**We see this as a glittering event to celebrate and promote competitive obedience,
a gala occasion to conclude to the show season,
with judges and their teams and all competitors shedding waterproofs,
donning their glad rags and rising to the occasion,
as the best teams from the year in each class will be
competing for brand new titles and
the prestige attached to becoming one of the
6 NEW Class Champions and Reserve Class Champions for 2014.**

**These winning teams will be the first such champions in UK Obedience
and this event is surely one that will be remembered and enshrined in the
halls of obedience history and –**

IT COULD BE YOU!!