



THE KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 1 AUTUMN 2013

Exciting times yes our very first newsletter which on regular basis will keep you updated on the what is happening in the sport and how that could affect you, all your representatives are elected from active members of the sport and all have a full understanding of the our sport, We include names and contact details for your area council member. Remember we are here to represent you and to do so we need your opinions.

Before we get to the serious agenda items and for those who are not familiar with the council system we start this time with a brief outline of how it all works.



So how does it all work ??

The Kennel Club Liaison Council meets twice a year, the last meeting was on 16 May 2013. Since then representatives have continued to work with and for the obedience community. The agenda for the meeting in January will be put together in the coming weeks. So if you have an item you would like added to the agenda please make contact with one of your area representatives.

Anyone, either individuals or clubs, can submit agenda items for inclusion on the Obedience Council agenda. There are two ways to do it, either by a formal correctly worded proposal or in a less formal way as a "discussion item" this latter way is sometimes best as it get the subject into discussions before putting a formal proposal together involving regulation changes. Other items may be more about policy and as such will usually be for discussion only. All items require a supporting explanation of why it is there and what outcome is sought. It is always best to talk things through with your rep before formally submitting an item.

Should a proposal fail to gain sufficient support, through more votes against than for at the Council meeting, it cannot be re-presented for 2 years. This is KC General Committee policy to avoid items being resubmitted time and again with the same outcome. For this reason, it is sometimes best to take the discussion item route first and then perhaps refine your ideas before wording and submitting a formal proposal.

So what happens next if the Council all agree a change to the rules, this is sent on as a recommendation to the next level up which is the Activities Sub Committee, this comprises of representatives of the other 'activity' disciplines including from Obedience, the reason for this is that decisions made in one discipline can have an effect on other, the ASC has five obedience members on it, it is quite unusual for a recommendation to be rejected at this stage but not unknown, then finally if approved the proposal goes forward to the General Committee, again it would very unusual for it to fall at the final stage unless there were implications for other disciplines.

Just remember that all Kennel Club Obedience changes start with your democratically elected representatives who can only do their job if you have made them aware of your opinions.



Obedience Council agenda items

Some items have already been received for inclusion in January's agenda. Items need to be submitted by **25 October** so if you wish to send an item to one of your representative please do so by this date.

The full agenda will be published in November where full details are included on all items. Once the agenda is published all Council Representatives will seek the views of those in their area. It is important that you make your views known so that a true picture can be seen on the whole agenda.

These include:

- Linking Good Citizen with Obedience – shows to run a 'special' class for people who have achieved Gold award
- Regulation G34.g – Judges/shows flouting the regulations in 'special' classes
- Items from Activities Health Group:
 - "It was noted that the Obedience regulation G(c) 1c "In all tests the left hand side of the handler will be regarded as the "working side"". As competitors have enquired as to whether this could be changed to both sides. It was noted that this should be referred to the relevant Obedience committee."
- Obedience Questionnaire
- Obedience newsletter, updating everyone on matters relating to obedience in general.
- Listed Status, a scheme in place for Agility, Rally and HTM for Listed Status organisations to register to run lower level licenced events
- Booklet - Guide for New Obedience competitors, a more extensive booklet akin to that already in existence for Agility.
- Obedience information sessions as GCDS clubs
- Improved promotion of Obedience as a discipline through Crufts
- Inclusion of Obedience events in Crufts show guide
- Review of nomination process for Council Representatives.
- Obedience Class Championships with finals at Crufts
- Amendment to the process for Championship Class C draws
- Review the new classes, Introductory and Multi-choice. Receive feedback from judges, competitors and show organisers.

Stays Exercise

1. keeping stay times as they are
2. reducing the down out of sight stays in Class C from 10 to 7 minutes. That would give a progression of Class A 3 minutes, Class B 5 minutes and Class C 7 minutes
3. reducing the down out of sight stays in Class B from 5 to 4 minutes and in Class C from 10 to 5 minutes. That would give a progression of Class A 3 minutes, Class B 4 minutes and Class C 5 minutes. (From Hugh)
4. Plus 2 other submissions on stays, full details will be on the agenda

Some other news items are:

Crufts 2014 will see some changes to the Obedience Competitions taking place over the four days.

Nigel Slater will now judge the Obedience Championships on Friday and Saturday. John Verrill will judge the Inter-Regional Competition on Thursday. This will be the first year of the new test content, so should be interesting to see how all the competitors cope with the new exercises. We also have two new team managers this year, Lou Jackson for the Midlands team and Jenny Lunn for the Southern team. The full list and contact details are below.

Scotland, Carole Patrick, email, carole.patrick@nhs.net

Northern Ireland, Michael McCartney, email, glencraigdogs@hotmail.com

Northern, Pat Wilson, email, patwilson142@btinternet.com

Midlands, Lou Jackson, email, johnjackson123@btinternet.com

Wales, Jen Jessop, email, jenniferjessop@aol.com

West, Stephanie Woollam, email, Stephanie.woollam@blueyonder.co.uk

South, Jenny Lunn, email, lenkalass@yahoo.co.uk



Stella Henstridge will judge the Obedience World Cup on Sunday. Countries from recent previous years have been invited to attend, so hopefully we will see another good turnout. The UK team Managers are, Scotland, Carole Patrick; Northern Ireland, Michael McCartney; Wales, Jen Jessop; and England, Herbie Watson. Herbie has stepped in for 2014 as the usual team manager, Stella Henstridge, is judging the event.

The new Kennel Club Web site is now launched.

It is certainly much easier to navigate and has information on all aspects of obedience.

Specimen show schedules are available to download for Limit, Open and Championship shows. These are currently under review and updated versions effective from January 2014 will be posted in the next few weeks. Thus, if possible it is best to wait for these before preparing your 2014 schedule.



Crufts Obedience Information Stand

Steve Rutter will be in charge of setting up the stand for Crufts 2014. He will be looking for volunteers to help him man the stand over the four days. Entry tickets for one day can be made available to those who are willing to give at least 2 hours on that day.

This has grown since its introduction and has become a popular focal point in the obedience area on Hall 5. It is a busy area now with many using it as an information point.

It is our opportunity to sell obedience to others attending Crufts, so please, if you can support this venture.

Kennel Club 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015

Obedience Liaison Council Representatives

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Remember that we will all be pleased to receive your opinions and comments via all channels but an area meeting will still give us all the chance to fully debate any proposed changes or indeed any subject that concerns you as a competitor