



**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**A G E N D A**

**ITEM 1. TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL TERM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2028, FOLLOWING A SECRET BALLOT CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

**ITEM 2. TO CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL TERM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2028, FOLLOWING A SECRET BALLOT CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

**ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 4. HEALTH AND WELFARE**

The Council will receive a presentation from Ms C McNamara (Head of Health & Breeding) to discuss health initiatives at the Royal Kennel Club and explain the Health and Breeding Advisory Group.

**ITEM 5. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB & DOG TRAINING**

The Council is invited to note a verbal update from Mrs H Lawrence (Head of Education and Dog Training)

**ITEM 6. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council is invited to note that the Board, at its meeting on 21 October 2025, approved the following amendments to I Regulations from 1 January 2026:

Amendment to regulations I6 and I9

Regulation I6 – Societies are required to apply for permission to hold special events

**TO:**

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

#### Regulation I9 - Application

**TO:**

The application for a licence to hold a working trial must be made to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club, and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee, at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the date of the working trial.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

#### Amendment to regulation I.27.f

Regulation I.27.f

**TO:**

Lockouts are ~~not permitted for any of the Patrol exercises~~ **permitted for the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercises only**. There must be a run through of the complete Patrol test **except the Quartering the ground and Search and Escort exercise (if there is a Lockout of those exercises)** in the presence of the competitors before judging of the Patrol exercises commences. **If a handler has more than one dog to work in the patrol round section of the stake, then a lockout is not permitted.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### **ITEM 7.     PANELS**

The Council is invited to consider the continued use of panels including identifying which panels may be beneficial moving forward and to discuss the membership of these panels for the duration of the Council term.

Previous panels have included the Equipment and Progression Panel and the PD Stake Panel.

### **ITEM 8.     ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP**

The Council is invited to note that there is no update from the October meeting of the Activities Judges Sub Group.

### **ITEM 9.     CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES**

The Council is invited to note that at the December meeting of the Activities Committee it was noted that Working Trials societies and Accredited Trainers require a reminder of the correct procedure for submitting applications for Championship judges. Applications must be submitted to the office together with a list of any

forthcoming appointments, after which the office will arrange the necessary assessment.

## ITEM 10. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. The Working Trials community are invited to share any ideas which might help to improve or develop Working Trials.

To submit a proposal or discussion item, please use our online form so the Working Trials Liaison Council can discuss and review the suggestion further prior to the next meeting in July. Submissions are accepted at any time of year via the online form: [Liaison Council Agenda Item](#).

Mr R Cornwell on behalf of the PD panel  
Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)12

- b. The Southern Alsatian Training Society wishes the Council to consider a proposed amendment to the above regulation to ensure that the exercise remains that of quartering the ground and not of sendaways or redirection.

Regulation I(B)12. Quartering the ground

**To:**

The missing person, protected consistent with safety, must remain motionless in a seated or standing position out of sight of the handler but must be accessible on investigation to the dog when 'winded'. The protected steward must not be lying down. The judge should satisfy himself that the dog has found the person and given warning spontaneously and emphatically without being directed by the handler. A dog that bites the hidden person must be heavily penalised.

**Excessive commands when the dog is quartering the ground must be penalised. The dog should have a positive attitude when searching for the protected steward/s. Dogs that do not respond to directions and return close to the handler must be treated as having finished the exercise.**

(Insertion in bold.)

### Rationale

The quartering the ground exercise should be conducted independently by the dog, demonstrating the dogs tracking and problem-solving ability. The handler's role should be limited, without the use of repeated directional cues and redirects to guide the dog. This change ensures the exercise is one of accurately assessing the dogs natural search capability rather than handler guidance.

**ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

No discussion items have been received for this meeting.

**ITEM 12. STRATEGIC 5 YEAR PLAN**

Representatives are invited to develop a new Strategic 5 Year Plan, to align with the needs of Working Trials, and to discuss how ideas may be progressed.

The Strategic 5 year plan will be shared with the community and published with the minutes of the meeting.

**ITEM 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the Council's next meeting will be on 1 July 2026.

THE ROYAL 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