

Foreword

The British Police and Services Association was formed in May 1988 by a group of serving and ex-service members of various forces using dogs. One of its aims was to promote friendship and welfare of its serving and retired members from the various forces and services.

The first Service Dog of the Year competition was held in London in October 1991 and has since been run at Stoneleigh and Melton Mowbray. It is now held annually at HM Prison Services College at Newbold Revel.

This year we have invited competitors from:

MOD Guard Service	BT Police
MOD Police	UKAE Police
Army	RUC
RAF	Wandsworth Park Police
Civilian Police	Royal Parks Police
HM Prisons	United States Air Force
NI Prisons	Members of the BPSCA
Fire Service	HM Customs and Excise

The competition is open to representatives from the agencies and Services who use dogs and individual BPSCA members who will be competing in their own right

Handler and dogs entering the Service Dog of the year Competition must both be part of a currently serving dog team.

The principles and the concept behind these trials is to give both serving dog handlers and retired service dog handlers the opportunity to take part against each other and the Associate Members on an equal footing and to compete in friendly rivalry against their Fellow members and members of other outside uniformed Services and Arms.

Spectators and supporters are very welcome. Children and pet animals unentered or non –competing dogs must be kept under strict control for obvious reasons.

The format now includes the following disciplines:

Obedience
Manwork

Agility
Search

Special thanks go to HM Prison Service College at Newbold Revell for the use of their facilities at this splendid venue and especially to PURINA pro – Plan for their kind sponsorship of this event.

Competition Rules

There will be a designated Chief Judge appointed who will officiate at every Trials Competition until replaced. The current Chief Judge is Sam Perrie.

The Duties of the Chief Judge

The Duties of the Chief Judge will be to ensure that all competitors comply with the Dress Code and the Rules of the BSPCA Trials in general. He will adjudicate on all disputes and complaints appertaining to the Rules and Schedules of the trials that may arise on the day and will cover such items as eligibility of dogs and handlers to enter any of the competitions within the trials and their right to compete for the various trophies on offer. Any alleged infringements of the rules or queries appertaining to the interpretation of the different requirements of each discipline will be brought to his attention and decided upon by him. The decisions of the Chief Judge on the day will be final. All decisions and actions taken by him on the day will be brought to the attention of the Committee and discussed at the next meeting.

The brief of the Chief Judge will not extend to the alteration of any of the marks awarded by any of the individual appointed Judges, these must be accepted as being a reflection of their own personal opinion and, as such, will in all cases be final and may only be altered or amended by the individual Judges themselves and only then, if they feel that there are extenuating circumstances justifying such an action. The Chief Judge may call the attention of any of the other Judges to

any apparent irregularities or complaints he has received about any mark the Judge has given or penalty decision he has made whilst Judging and advise him of their correctness or otherwise within the current BPSCA Rules and invite him to comment upon them However the final decision must always be that of the Judge.

Show Secretaries

There will be two Show Secretaries appointed who will officiate at every future Trials until officially replaced. They will jointly control the general running of the competition. These two officials will usually consist of the BPSCA Secretary and one co-opted or volunteer member of the Committee. They will both be given the title of Show Secretary for the duration of the Show. The current holders of this office are The BPSCA Secretary Dave Fletcher and the Vice Chairman Ron. Stanley.

The Duties of the Show Secretaries

The function of the Show Secretaries will be to work together in order to accept and collate all the entries, make out the running orders and lists of entries, arrange for the Judges, Stewards and Baiters and all the necessary equipment such as Tannoy systems, tentage, agility items , roping off and arranging the seating for the spectators etc. on the day They will be in overall charge and will supervise such items as the catering arrangements, the procurement, availability and issue of all the necessary rosettes and trophies including the return of any which are presented annually. They will be responsible for delegating the setting up of the trophy table and ensure that the Rosettes for the BSPCA Office holders. Judges and Stewards are all ready to be picked up by their recipients before the Trials start and that it is ready for the presentation of trophies and rosettes at the end of the day and that They will also be required to set up the official scoreboards, keep the scores and declare the Official winners of each discipline..

The Show Secretaries will also select, arrange for and pay for the overnight accommodation for the visiting judges and select and purchase a suitable gift to be presented to each of the Judges, Stewards and other helpers from the BPSCA as a token of our appreciation.

NB.

It is realised that many of these duties may have been carried out voluntarily by different people in the past without any supervision being necessary. This is not expected to change. The only difference now will be that they will all be covered by these new Competition Rules thereby ensuring that someone is actually designated as being responsible for ensuring that they are all carried out and because of this they will have a much better overall picture of what is required, what has to be done and who is responsible for ensuring it is done.

Therefore, the Show Secretaries may delegate any of their responsibilities to volunteers or to co-opt any member of the committee should they feel the need so to do, in order to preserve the status quo and allow the previously accepted practises to continue.

Entries

The maximum number of entrants in each section will be 24 unless agreed to by a simple majority vote by the Chief Judge and the Show Secretaries.

NB.

It is realised that the most entries we can reasonably be expected to accommodate is nearer 20 than 24 but do not allow yourself to be confused between applications and those who actually turn up on the day. By allowing the Show Secretaries a little flexibility in this matter no one will be disappointed by having their entry turned down, and turn up on the day only to find that five competitors have not been able to make it.

Order of Acceptance

All entries for the BPSCA Dog Trials will be accepted in strict order in accordance with the postmark of the day on which they were posted and received by the Show Secretary.

In the unlikely event of there being more than 24 entries received by the closing date according to the postmark, Service Dog entries will be given priority over any other entries.

Late Arrival of entries

If there are any late entries to be considered and there are still enough places to be filled. The Show Secretaries together with the Chief Judge will decide by a simple majority which of the late entries they are prepared to accept.

With late entries there will be no priority granted to anyone, whether they are Full Members or Associate Members. Those that are accepted will be accepted strictly in the date order of the postmark on which they were posted.

When accepting any late entries the Show Secretaries will explain to each of them that because of the limited number of places imposed by the rules, unless there is a cancellation, or one of the entries forfeits their place by turning up too late on the day, there may not be sufficient time to fit them all into the trials. If this does happen, then the next team in line will be invited to fill the vacant spot. These individuals will be known as “waiting men”

Late arrival on the day

Any competitor who in the opinion of the Show Secretaries and Chief Judge has arrived too late on the day of the trials to take part, will forfeit their place to any “waiting man” entry. If there are no “waiting men” waiting to take the forfeited places then the late entries may still be allowed to participate if agreed by a simple majority vote by the Show Secretaries and Chief Judge.

List of entries

A list of all competitors and their identifying entry numbers will be made available to all spectators to enable them to identify each handler and to follow their progress more easily.

Health and Safety

Modern health and safety issues dictate that the BSPCA cannot afford to risk allowing any dog to take part in these trials unless it is certified to be “right arm true” and under the complete control of its handler the whole of the time.

For this reason an indemnity certificate absolving the BPSCA of any responsibility must be signed by every competitor taking part and must be an integral part of the entry form. There is a copy of this indemnity certificate shown at Appendix III of these Rules.

Besides this, during all of the exercises where there is any element of risk at all and the dog is working free, decoy criminals wearing covert padded arms will be posted inconspicuously in the spectator area, in case of any sort of emergency caused by loose dogs.

In addition, should any dog appear to present any sort of safety hazard during any of the exercises, it must be brought to the attention of one of the Judges who will be empowered to order the handler to remove the dog from the vicinity and to take no further part in the competition.

Dress

The Dress code for competitors will be as follows:-

Service Personnel -

Best Dress Uniform

Other Competitors will be given a choice of dress from the following options.

Dark trousers or slacks worn with either a white shirt or blouse with a black tie. Or a dark sweater or polo shirt bearing the badge or logo of their own Organisation or Training Club.

Clean black footwear of a suitably appropriate nature.

Headwear which will be optional , to consist of either a specially designed peak cap a beret or a dark coloured baseball cap bearing the badge or insignia of their own Training Club or Organisation.

All dog equipment to be of a standard issue.

NB Denims, coloured or white training shoes, or any kind of dress which in the opinion of the Chief Judge may reflect unfavourably upon themselves or their organisation will not be acceptable. The Chief Judge will be empowered to refuse anyone entry whom he considers to be unsuitably,improperly or untidily dressed. They will not be allowed to take any part in the trials. Any competitor who has any doubts as to the suitability of their preferred dress is strongly advised to ask beforehand.

Rosettes

Designated Rosettes (e.g., rosettes which have the designation printed upon their centres and tails showing to which Office they refer or other information such as the title of the Sponsors and the name and date of the competition.) of a suitable pattern and style, will be made available by the Show Secretaries for the President, the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Secretary the Membership Secretary, and The Treasurer of the BPSCA No rosettes will be provided for any other Officers of the Association who will not be actively concerned with the running of the Trials in their official capacity

Further designated Rosettes for the Officials on the day will be made available as follows, the Show Secretaries (2) The Chief Judge (1) , the individual Competition Judges (4) and The Stewards (7)

Designated Rosettes will also be awarded for the winning teams of every competition held within the trials as well as the runners-up and the third highest scoring teams.

No other rosettes for any other duties or Offices will be initiated or added to the list of those already officially named in these rules unless such duties or offices have been proposed, seconded, voted upon and carried at a Committee meeting.

In cases where one of the Officers of the Association is also carrying out another function on the day he may, if he so wishes, wear both of the rosettes provided.

NB

However, notwithstanding the above observations, if any of the Officers of the Committee are taking part in the competition on the day, it is to be hoped that they will not actually wear their Official Rosettes whilst they are actively competing .

Trophies

There will be several Permanent Trophies on offer. These will be held for a year by the winners and returned to the Secretary in time for the next trials

Every winner of a trophy which has to be returned will also be presented with a replica trophy which they may keep permanently.

All the replica cups and all those that are intended to be won by the winners outright and kept by them will be designated cups, ie fully engraved to show the name of the actual competition and the date on which they were awarded

It will be the joint responsibility of the Show Secretaries to maintain a Trophy Record Book. This book will show the winner's names and addresses, the dates on which the Permanent trophies were awarded to them and the date on which they returned them to the Secretary

It will also be the joint responsibility of the Show Secretaries to select and purchase the presentation Dog Coats which are to be awarded to the winners of the Service Dog of the Year competition and the Mick Smith Working Dog Competition.

They will also be responsible for the selection and purchase of the designated replica trophies and any others which the winning competitors will be allowed to keep, of the quality, size, and numbers required and arrange for them to be suitably engraved wherever necessary.

The selection and purchase of the designated rosettes of the quality, sizes, colours, and numbers required will be yet another of their responsibilities.

Distribution of awards

The title of “**Victor Ludorum** “ **The Editors Cup**, a small designated replica cup and a Winners Rosette will be awarded to the highest scoring handler and dog team out of ALL the competitors of

the Service Dog Of The Year competition and those competing in the Mick Smith Working Dog competition on the day..

The Editor's Cup may only be held for one year before being returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials. There will also be a small designated replica cup and winners rosette presented to the winners which they will keep permanently.

The runners up will be awarded the **Reserve Championship Trophy**, which may only be held for one year before being returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials.

They will also be presented with a small designated replica cup and a Runners up rosette which they will keep permanently.

There will be no third prize

These awards will only be available to be won by fully paid up members of the BPSCA.

Service Dog of the Year

The title of "Service Dog of the Year" and the accompanying trophies will be awarded to the currently serving dog and handler team who score the highest number of marks in the competition. It is only open to dog and handler teams who are both currently serving.

The competition will consist of Man-Work, Obedience, Agility and Property Search. An entry form and a copy of the schedules showing all the specific tests in full detail will be sent to every contestant on request, on receipt of a stamped self addressed envelope.

Alternatively they may also be seen on the BPSCA website

The highest scoring handler and dog team will be awarded the "**Service Dog Of The Year**" trophy which will be held for one year then returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials

They will also be presented with a presentation Dog Coat a small designated replica cup and Winners rosette which they will keep permanently.

There will be a designated **Service Dog of the Year. Runners-up** trophy awarded to the next highest scoring team. This too will be held for one year and returned to the Secretary in time for the following

year's trials. They will also be presented with a small dedicated replica cup and runners up rosette which they will keep permanently. A third prize winner's rosette will be awarded to the team scoring the next highest number of marks.

The cups and trophies awarded will only be available to fully paid up members of the BPSCA

The Mick Smith Working Dog Trophy

This competition will be open solely to those fully paid up members of the BPSCA who are ineligible to enter the Service Dog of the Year competition.

The competition will consist of Manwork, Obedience Agility and Property Search. A copy of the schedules showing all the specific tests in full detail will be sent to every contestant.

The highest scoring handler and dog team will be awarded the **Mick Smith Trophy** which they will hold for one year before returning it to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials, they will also receive a presentation Dog Coat and a small designated replica cup and rosette which they will keep permanently.

The **Mick Smith Working Dog Runner-up** trophy will be awarded to the next highest scoring team. This too will be held for one year and returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials . They will also receive a small designated replica cup and rosette which they will keep permanently .

A third prize winners designated rosette will be awarded to the team scoring the next highest number of marks.

Other Trophies

Separate additional designated trophies and rosettes will be awarded to the highest scoring handler and dog out of ALL competitors taking part in each of the following disciplines on the day.

Obedience

The highest scoring handler and dog team on Obedience out of all the entries on the day will be presented with the **President's Cup** which will be held for one year before being returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials .A small designated replica trophy and rosette will also be awarded to the winners which they will keep permanently..

Designated rosettes will be awarded to the second and third placed teams.

Manwork

The highest scoring handler and dog team in Manwork on the day will be presented with the **Neil Yates Trophy** which will be held for one year, before being returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials A small designated replica trophy and rosette will also be awarded to the winners which they will keep permanently.

Designated rosettes will be awarded to the second and third placed teams

Property Search

The highest scoring handler and dog team in this discipline on the day will be presented with the **Property Search Cup** which will be held for one year before being returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials. A small designated replica trophy and rosette will also be awarded to the winners which they will keep permanently.

Designated rosettes will be awarded to the second and third placed teams

Agility.

The highest scoring handler and dog team in Agility on the day will be presented with the **Zak and Scuff Cup** which will be held for one year before being returned to the Secretary in time for the following year's trials. A small designated replica trophy and rosette will also be awarded to the winners which they will keep permanently.

There will also be a designated first prize trophy and rosette, a runners up rosette and a third prize rosette awarded to the winners runners up and the team placed third in the Drugs Detection competition.,

NB.

If any of these disciplines do not have at least five entries before the closing date they will be cancelled and the trophies withheld.

Acceptable Breeds

The only breeds of dogs acceptable for entry into the Service Dog of the Year competition are as follows:-

German Shepherd Dogs, Malinois, Rottweilers and Dobermanns.

Any serving member who wishes to use any other breed of dog must first prove that it is being currently used on Manwork duty as a *bona fide* Service Dog and have their application cleared by the Chief Judge and Show Secretaries by a simple majority vote. This is done in order to ensure that only breeds of an acceptable height weight and size are accepted for dogs undertaking practical manwork.

In order to ensure that the same criteria apply equally to both sides of the competition the same rule must apply to the Mick Smith Working Dog competition

All dogs entered must be presented in a healthy, clean and well groomed condition . There is no excuse for any handler having an

unkempt and scruffy dog and any of the Judges coming across such an animal is empowered to refuse it entry..

Exercising Dogs

Dogs must only be exercised in the dog exercise area provided.

Vehicle Parking

Only officially sanctioned vehicles will be allowed on to the trials ground itself and they must be parked in the properly designated areas. Parking for competitors and spectators will be provided on the Pavilion car park.

Obedience

It will be seen from our schedule that we have included obedience heel work at three different speeds.

It has been logically decided that if all the contestants are capable of working their dogs off the lead, then there can be no real point in including “heel on the lead” as well. All it does is to waste time. Therefore all the heelwork will be carried out off the lead.

Manwork

The Manwork exercises have been devised so that they are fairly similar to actual conditions which could very easily be encountered by a serving dog handler whilst on operational duty.

Taking into consideration that this is only a competition and, as such is not meant to reflect the full spectrum of the duties and applications of the capabilities of every working dog in every dog user Service or Arm within the membership of the BPSCA. Obviously this would be impossible to cover. However, we as a responsible

organisation acknowledge that every association member must be, at least aware, that there are legal Rules and Regulations which govern and control the use of our dogs especially those trained in Manwork. To this end, for information only, a copy of the current Legal Rules of Engagement is shown at Appendix I of these rules

Search

The Search exercises have all been re-designed so that the execution of every search is carried out in exactly the same way, irrespective of the different substances involved. They have been so updated and modified in order to ensure that every “specialist” search and detection dog is catered for and that the format has been structured in such a way that there will be no possibility of any dog succeeding in any of them unless that dog is 100% dedicated to the substance for which it is searching to the exclusion of all others .

Because the entrants all come from different Arms and Services and because the search exercises are such highly specialised disciplines the judges will be selected from as wide a cross section of the various Services concerned as is humanly possible.

In addition to this a new rule has been introduced to the effect that unless there is a minimum of five entrants in any of the search disciplines then that part of the competition will be cancelled and the trophies and rosettes withheld.

The performance of the handler as well as that of the dog will be taken into consideration. However, in this respect the spirit of the competition must also be of paramount importance. The handler’s brief must be to handle the dog in such a way that its training and natural ability are allowed to produce a successful result.

Should any handlers attempt to take unfair advantage by deliberately steering or directing their dog towards the item they are seeking they will be penalised accordingly.

To put it a little more clearly these Judges will all have worked detection dogs many times before They will all be fully aware of precisely **how** the dog is working toward its goal and will be more

than just capable of recognising the **exact moment** at which the dog picks up the odour which will lead it in to the item.

It will be no use whatsoever any handler trying to bluff them because they will all want to **see** the dog finding the substance on its own and not some clumsy attempt by the handler to trick them into thinking that the dog is actually working. Any handler attempting to do so will almost certainly lose vital marks.

Substance Detection

Because these substance detection dogs are meant to be dedicated to the detection of specific odours only, and to ignore all others, it is entirely possible to deploy them all in the same search area.

The fact that, the ground is going to be a “fouled” or “contaminated” area, because of all the other odours being present, should have no bearing whatever upon the performance of a really good dog and his handler.

Because of the lack of entries over the years a new rule has had to be introduced to the effect that unless there are at least five entries into any of the detection competitions , that particular competition will be cancelled.

All the separate disciplines of Obedience, Agility, Manwork and Substance Detection will a be carried out in accordance with the Schedules laid down herewith.

It must be clearly understood that these schedules must be strictly adhered to by the Judges and Stewards as well as by the contestants.