

## Judges Survey

With the exception of Judges on the Emeritus list and those living abroad, each was sent a questionnaire. The return was 83%. As there is a multiple cross over in sections it was not realistic to work out a percentage of which Judges voted from which sections.

Under each question are the responses. Additional comments are overleaf. Unmarked means there was no clear response to the options given for that particular question.

- Q2 As a Full Judge do you currently write up on all cats placed in Open, Breeders and Miscellaneous classes?**  
YES = 55%      NO = 42%      Unmarked = 3%
- Q3 Do you limit the number by Open class only? (responses from those who answered 'no')**  
YES = 45%      NO = 55%
- Q4 Do you consider the Open class includes Olympian, Imperial and Grand classes?**  
YES = 79%      NO = 5%      Unmarked = 18%
- Q5 Do you write up on the Best of Breed?**  
YES = 91%      NO = 4%      Unmarked = 5%
- Q6 Do you write on all exhibits considered for Best of Breed or just the winner?**  
ALL = 28%      WINNER ONLY = 72%
- Q7 How many cats do you feel is a reasonable number to write critiques on?**  
10-20 = 14%      20-30 = 49%      30-40 = 26%      50+ = 8%      Unmarked = 3%
- Q8 If it is recommended a Judge write up on 50+ cats would you be able to do this?**  
YES = 14%      YES BUT WOULD FIND IT HARD = 54%      NO = 32%
- Q9 Do you feel the number of written critiques per Judges should be more balanced? .e. A Judge who is on 10 lists will naturally have more exhibits than a Judge on 5 lists)**  
YES = 41%      NO = 36%      Unmarked = 23%
- Q10 Do you feel Judges who have a small number of Open classes should undertake writing Miscellaneous critiques if they are not already doing so?**  
YES = 54%      NO = 16%      Unmarked = 29%
- Q11 If it were recommended that critiques should be written for every exhibit placed in Open and Miscellaneous classes would you consider reducing the amount of engagements at shows you undertake each year?**  
YES = 78%      NO = 22%
- Q12 If it were decided that critiques need only be written for exhibits placed in Open classes (including Best of Breed) would you still be able to provide comments on other exhibits Judged if asked for by an exhibitor? (This would not necessarily be in a write up; it could be given verbally or via email based on notes made on the day)**  
YES = 99%      NO = 1%

Additional Comments: (Where comments have been made each bullet point gives an answer and follow on comment from each person)

**Q2 As a Full Judge do you currently write up on all cats placed in Open, Breeders and Miscellaneous classes?**

- Unmarked: I am using the method we used for Our Cats 1-4 in Open, 1-3 in Breeders and 1-2 with just the name of 3<sup>rd</sup> in Miscellaneous.
- Yes: I thought I was the 'norm' Full Judges had to write up Opens (Breed Class now) Breeder Classes and Miscellaneous – Club classes being exempt.
- Unmarked: It really depends on whether I have a large number of Open classes but usually yes.
- Yes: I think Judges should.
- Yes: Usually. If there is an excessive number in Miscellaneous – No.
- Yes: On the whole yes unless there are large numbers of reports to do for a particular show in which case I just report on the names of the winners in Miscellaneous classes but this occurs rarely.
- Yes: But only 1<sup>st</sup> 3 / 4
- Yes: 9 times out of 10
- Yes: On the whole, yes unless there are a large number of reports to do for a particular show in which case I just report on the names of the winners in Miscellaneous classes but this occurs rarely.

**Q3 Do you limit the number by Open class only?**

- Yes: An alternative is that Miscellaneous classes are abolished. Only have Breeders classes as this would reduce the number of Judges required for most shows and costs.
- No: Write up all in Open class. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> full write ups and name of 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the way I was trained.
- No: I always do Breeders classes and depending on the number of cats in my book, tutorials, assessments and BAC critiques I sometimes do all cats entered under me except club classes.
- No: An alternative is to just write up on the Open and Breeders classes.
- No: An alternative is to write up on all Opens and BoBs (all entered) and if less than about 30. I do short critiques for all in Miscellaneous classes.
- No: Time permitting I like to write up on as many as possible but I feel it should not be mandatory but more the individuals choice.
- No: Exhibitors have to enter 4 classes which includes an Open-If Judges are only being asked to write up the Opens/Breed Class. What is the point of exhibitors having to enter 4 classes when the Judge of the Breeders & Miscellaneous are not written up and the suggestion that exhibitors pay is outrageous. If it is agreed we go along these lines perhaps it would be better if changes are to be made. We should judge as at the Supreme i.e. one class only and then BOV.
- Not always: An alternative would be Opens and outstanding entries worth a special mention.
- No: An alternative would be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> in Open classes. BoB. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Breeder classes.
- No: An alternative would be Opens 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> place. Breeder's 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place. Some Miscellaneous.
- Unmarked: Full reports on Opens and Breeders and brief reports on Miscellaneous unless there are a great many Opens (which recently has not been the case.) I do not write up the mixed classes e.g. any blue cat, any cat born in a given month etc.
- No: I use the old 'Our Cats' guidelines – all cats placed in Opens, placed 1-3 in Breeders, 1 and 2 in other Miscellaneous classes.
- No: I write up all Open class cats and Miscellaneous class places 1-2, name 3<sup>rd</sup> placed cat and I often write up first two placed cats in Club classes if not too overburdened.
- Unmarked: I only write up my reports on my Opens and will provide a report for every single cat regardless as to whether there are 4 cats or 14 cats.
- Yes: An alternative would be to write up on Opens, Miscellaneous but not Club.
- No: An alternative would be to write up on Open, BoB, Breeders classes.
- No: An alternative would be to write up Open, Breeders and 1<sup>st</sup> place in side classes.
- Yes: Open classes should include Grand, Imperial and Olympian
- Yes: I write up Grand, Reserve or 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> if certificates not awarded. Breed classes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Miscellaneous classes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> if Breeders Class, name of 3<sup>rd</sup> place if not a breeder classes. If I award an extra 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> I will write these up.
- Unmarked: An alternative will be Imperial, Grand, Reserves, BoB winner, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Opens at all breed shows. Some Miscellaneous if low entry for above.
- Unmarked: I write up fully on the Opens and just a couple of lines on the Miscellaneous classes.

- Yes: This includes Imperial and Grand.
- Yes: It's not unreasonable to write up on Breed club classes and Breeders classes.
- Unmarked: I usually report on all Open and the Miscellaneous but a few times I have not reported on some of the Miscellaneous classes.
- No: Full report on Open classes, briefer ones on Miscellaneous classes. Only very few times have not written up reports on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, naming the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Miscellaneous classes.
- I write up the first 3 exhibits in Opens and the BoB if not among the placed cats, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Miscellaneous with name of 3<sup>rd</sup> and first three cats in Breeders class.
- I write critiques on my Open classes and try to include all entries if I can but would restrict it to the first 4 if there were many more (if there were 5 or 6, I would write about them all) I write up 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Side classes and name the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Breeders classes. This was the rule when I started and I have stuck with it.
- Yes: However, it does depend on the number of cats I have in Open classes, and other workload on the day (Tutorials/Assessments etc.)
- No: I do short write ups on all Miscellaneous classes.
- Yes: I also like to write up the BoB and any Breeders classes.
- No: Open including BoB. Breeder's classes.
- No: Depends on the number of Open cats I have Judged – I write 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Grands & reserves where applicable.

**Q4 Do you consider the Open class includes Olympian, Imperial and Grand classes?**

- Yes: Written critiques on the day for Open classes only.
- No: The Olympian, Imperial & Grand classes up until now only have 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes only. If other prizes are given I will write them up.
- Yes: I report on 1<sup>st</sup> and Reserve.
- Yes: and all entered under BoB
- Yes: I frequently feel that the higher awards are being given too readily and that as Judges we should be extremely critical, and act as guardians of our breed.
- Yes: For goodness sake let's not have another Rule!! A recommendation is quite enough. Judges should be allowed to write up what is reasonable to their lifestyles. Many will have other heavy commitments and responsibilities.
- As an exhibitor Yes I do but I do not expect a critique on an unplaced cat. In this instance I would seek to speak to the Judge on the day if inclined.
- No: I have always written up all Opens, Grands, Imperials, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and the name of 3<sup>rd</sup> in all side classes. Exhibitors are paying for our opinion and I feel as a Judge it is important to provide this service to the exhibitor.
- Unmarked: I am only currently writing up the winner and Reserve in these classes, but I'm aware that this seems inconsistent with what I do in Open classes! I think I'll wait for a general consensus before making changes though.

**Q5 Do you write up on the Best of Breed?**

- No: I do report their award.
- No: Only if a cat wins in my Open class.
- No: Not currently but I should probably change this as there are increasing numbers entered for BoB only – if they don't get written up as winners in the higher classes they may not get a write up.

**Q6 Do you write on all exhibits considered for Best of Breed or just the winner?**

- Unmarked: I don't write up Best of Breed
- Winner only: Also write on others to be considered if they have been entered under me again in Miscellaneous and Club classes.
- Winner always sometimes others.
- Winner: I make notes on the others in case a report is required.
- Winner: Unless strong competition. Same applies for Grands and Imperials if strong competition then comments on more than just the winners.
- Winner: Then mention others but not a full critique.
- Winner. Unless I specifically want to make specific mention, if the quality is wonderful for example.
- Winner: Currently doesn't really apply, but I would expect to only do the winner if I was a Full Judge

- Unmarked: Normally All entered but it depends on number entered. I recently stewarded for a senior Judge who had a total 26 cats entered in the Burmese Grand! She also had an Imperial and several breed classes to Judge as well as Miscellaneous classes. In a case such as this it is impossible

**Q7 How many cats do you feel is a reasonable number to write critiques on?**

- 50+: I have more than 50 when shows were larger.
- Unmarked: Every single cat entered in an Open, Grand, Imperial or Olympian but not side classes.
- 10/20 20/30 It depends on the Judge, new Judges may struggle at first with the higher number. Personally I would be happy with 20-30
- Unmarked: 30/40 at a push. I would object strongly to the idea of 50+ critiques for any particular show. To write 50 in longhand would be out of the question.

**Q8 If it is recommended a Judge write up on 50+ cats would you be able to do this?**

- No: I would find it most difficult when judging every week.
- Yes but would find it hard: We had in the past cards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Reserve, 4<sup>th</sup>, HC and C.
- No: To write full reports on 50 cats would take much too long it takes long enough doing 30.
- Yes but would find it hard: So much depends on one's personal circumstances & how much "spare" time one has available. Those of us who work full time (40 hours per week plus travelling time & overtime) can only do so much in the time left to us. My husband & I are also active members of our Church thus on Sundays from 0900hrs-12.30hrs we are at our morning service followed by Choir Practice (with a further Choir Practice from 1915hrs-2030hrs on Thursdays). I also have a home to run & all that entails, my own cats to attend to plus family commitments. The majority of my reports are written in the hours available to me after I've finished work & have shopped, cooked & had supper etc.
- Yes but would find it hard: I have done this on a busy day and as a PJ, but more time should be allowed if this many critiques are to be written after every show.
- Unmarked: I would rather not I do not think exhibitors are really all that interested and if I have time I always make myself available at the end of a show.
- No: Some of us have lives outside the Cat Fancy!
- No: For 50 cats the write up would be a brief synopsis of each cat.
- Yes but would find it hard: but would only to one or two shows.
- No: A critique should be pleasing reading reasonably put together and well thought out, this takes time.
- No: Time given at a show does not allow sufficient time to write full notes on which to base a report.
- Yes: I feel it inadvisable to recommend a number.
- Yes: I would definitely cut down the number of judging engagements I accept if I had to write 50 cats for each one. Probably reduce by a half the number I accept.
- Yes but would find it hard: This would take time.
- Yes but would find it hard: It would be interesting to know how many people/exhibitors bother to look at all their reports.
- Yes but would find it hard: I already write up Opens, BoB winners and 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Miscellaneous classes. I would rather write up Opens on the day of the show.
- Yes but would find it hard: Not unless I had more time,
- If we had to write up on 50+ cats this would be extremely time consuming and may affect the quality of the critiques provided.
- Unmarked: The problem is not so much with the producing of the reports, as with taking adequate notes to produce them from.
- No!: Please can people remember we are volunteers. We do not get paid for this and give up our free time to Judge. We realise many shows have financial problems and thus do not ask for full reimbursement for expenses to get there. Write ups take a huge amount of time to do properly and if more were written up then results slips would be much slower to produce during the show and thus delay finishing judging then talking to exhibitors and potentially shows would close much later. Typing up show reports would also take much longer and as most of us 'younger' Judges also have to work have family commitments then this might affect our willingness to accept judging engagements. We are just judging on the day but may also be doing Tutorials, Assessments or teaching our Stewards.

- No: It would be very difficult as I work full time & if this was the case I would have to restrict my judging engagements further.
- Yes: But would find it hard week after week and might ultimately succumb to exhaustion and probably drink at least!
- Yes: I work full time, commute 4 hours per day but I can manage to write all my critiques although sometimes pretty close to the deadline.
- Yes: I do this at every show.
- No: If you do this all cats will get only 2/3 lines each. It's the only way to write than many critiques.
- No: Meeting the four week deadline can be very difficult with other commitments such as family and work.
- Yes but would find it hard: If I had to no doubt I would but I would be very far from happy.
- Yes but would find it hard: The more one has to write up on the briefer the critique.
- Yes but would find it hard: At the moment I write up as many cats as necessary.
- Yes but would find it hard: I think this could seriously impact on Judges being prepared to commit to shows.
- Yes but would find it hard: May try but it would be a lot less detailed reports. Would probably accept less engagements.
- Yes: It may take me longer to get my critique to GCCF.
- Yes: I have always had to write up all my cats when you go onto another list they have to be written up for the BACs so have always done so. In fact with entries declining at shows it is more important to give full critiques to encourage people to enter.
- Yes: People want to see your opinion. It need not be lengthy. I make them a little more light, less formal. Still the most important - type above all.
- No: If this became a rule I think that reports would turn into one liners which is not a good thing for PJs to learn about critique construction from.
- Yes but would find it hard: I think the QUALITY of reports needs to be considered as well as the quantity. If the quantity is realised, how will we monitor that quality is still there. Does 2 lines count as a report?!!
- Yes: My feeling is that exhibitors pay a lot of money for a Judges opinion and should get it. Some Judges these days don't even list the Miscellaneous classes. If a Judge feels unable to do a critique on the cats then perhaps they should consider less appointments.
- Yes but would find it hard: As I only Judge in one section this is unlikely to apply.
- Yes but would find it hard: Full reports on Grands, Opens etc. means shorter reports on Miscellaneous classes.
- Yes but would find it hard: If I had to, no doubt I would but I would be very far from happy.
- Yes but I would find it hard: I think it would also need consideration as to how full a critique one would get from Judges with this amount of cats to do a full report on.
- Yes: I have no problem in writing up ALL my Miscellaneous classes – not CLUB, but it is only BREEDERS that I write 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, all other Miscellaneous I write up first two placed and the name of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Yes: Full reports Open winners and BoB but briefer on Miscellaneous classes.
- No: It becomes too time consuming. I am happy to give up my Saturday and the time to write up the Open classes. I also list the Miscellaneous class winners places.
- Yes but would find it hard: I would do it if it was demanded but would certainly restrict the number of invitations I accepted because of the time it would consume to write the reports.
- No: Many Judges don't write up any side classes now but I always have. I couldn't do much more, particularly if work was busy and time was tight, or I had Judges several shows close together.
- No: It would be almost impossible to write sufficient notes at a show on 50+ cats to give a meaningful report to GCCF for the web page. At a show, my day not only consists of judging the cats in my allocated classes, I may also undertake a Tutorial for lists on which I am a Probationer. I may undertake Tutorials or (more lengthy) assessments for Probationer Judges on lists for which I am a Full Judge; I may take part in presentations for the YES scheme, I will try to talk to exhibitors when I have finished judging. I may also be judging a BoV or BiS. I may have a steward on a judging scheme that I spend time with talking through the exhibits. I will probably have had at least a 2+ hour journey to the show, plus the same going home and been on my feet all day. The writing of my show report will take several hours in the next day or so – exhibitors (of which I am one) should be realistic about what they expect Judges to do. Better to have full, descriptive reports for Open classes than a couple of scrappy lines because of times constraints.

- Yes but would find it hard: Unfortunately work must come first.
- Yes but would find it hard: I would expect that writing up a large number of cats would result in quite short critiques about each cat, while on a smaller number of cats it would be reasonable to require a decent amount of text
- Yes but would find it hard: Due to time constraints both at the show and at home
- No: If you Judge a few times a year you would write up more than if you were judging every week... If all open entries are written up every exhibit would get a critique. If you only write up 1-3<sup>rd</sup> and Miscellaneous some cats will get several reports and the poor quality cats (who are the ones whose owners need the report) will get nothing so won't know why they are not placed.)
- No: However I have written, in excess of 40 cats, especially at shows when it has been necessary to stay a second night and one would expect to have a heavy book.
- Yes but would find it hard: I would consider which shows to accept engagements from. I would not be able to accept shows close together.

**Q9 Do you feel the number of written critiques per Judges should be more balanced? .e. A Judge who is on 10 lists will naturally have more exhibits than a Judge on 5 lists)**

- Unmarked: If a Judge has been loaded correctly those who have the most Open classes should have fewer Miscellaneous classes (and vice versa), so it should be pretty fairly balanced anyway. GCCF recommended some long while ago that PJs should have no more than 50 (& this was in the days when one regularly had an entry of 120 plus!) exhibits in their books given that in the main they are expected to write a full report on every exhibit entered under them of their PJ breed whether placed or no.
- Yes: Judges should not take on more classes than they are prepared to write up.
- Unmarked: Only show managers would know if this was acceptable.
- Unmarked: Not relevant.
- Unmarked: Depends on number of cats booked to Judge- fewer cats means much more attention to detail – more cats means less time.
- No: It is up to the Judge how many breeds they Judge plus added work load.
- No: A Judge with few exhibits can hardly report on more than they have.
- No: Too complicated
- Unmarked: Don't agree with assumption.
- No: Judges make a conscious choice as to the number of lists they go on- more lists = more write ups!
- No: Recipe for confusion!
- Unmarked: I don't think the number of lists you are on necessarily affects how many cats you Judge. I have Judged 60-70 at a single breed show.
- Yes: But a Judge could refuse classes if they felt unable to cope.
- No: If Judges are not able to provide a service to exhibitors then perhaps they should not accept so many sections at shows.
- No: I think this should be part of the process of considering how many lists to go on i.e. How many can the Judge in question really commit to.
- No: Because though a Judge might be on that number of lists it doesn't necessarily follow they have more entries sometimes if the Judge on few lists has more Miscellaneous classes. There should be a greater onus on Show Managers to even out the load if a Judge on many lists has too many exhibits on the day – however, lets be honest most All-Breed shows are now only commanding an entry of 300 cats so no-one is over stretched and if they are then they should reduce the number of engagements!
- No: It's up to the Judge how many lists and Open classes they accept.
- No: I think whatever the number of lists a Judge is on, the upper limit for judging a show should be no greater than 70 cats, or there is not time to Judge them in the correct detail.
- Unmarked: I do not think that this is necessarily the case – entries can vary a lot depending on the Judge loadings for the show, repeats, popularity of the Judge etc. so one may not always have more entries than the other. Besides, it is our own choice to go on more lists – we know the risks!
- Yes: But I can't see how it can be achieved.
- No: I don't agree this is necessarily true; the show manager should be balancing the number of cats per Judge so it should be fairly balanced already (excepting single list probationers who will tend to have less cats)
- Unmarked: My opinion on this question is that if you only have a few Open classes, it is the duty of the Judge to write approximately 20 critiques as occurs even with Judges on a lot of lists, if the

show manager gives you minimum Opens, with only one or two entries, - just get on and write a few Miscellaneous results. The question of how many lists you are on should not arise. Yes: BUT It should not follow that a more senior Judge should have more critiques. The number of cats in "opens" should be limited, even if it means reallocating those classes to another Judge, with notification to exhibitors BEFORE show day. Reallocation of side classes to balance book sizes is the norm for a lot of shows.

**Q10 Do you feel Judges who have a small number of Open classes should undertake writing Miscellaneous critiques if they are not already doing so?**

- No: Should be one rule only – Open classes for every Judge.
- Yes: I only enter my cats under Judges who report on both Open & Miscellaneous classes. For as long as I can remember exhibitors have felt that their entry fees also cover the reports on their exhibits (though of course Judges are not paid for the hours spend writing the reports-if they were, there would be no shows), & even more so these days with fees being so high!
- Yes: Definitely as someone who exhibits as well as judging I put my cats and especially kittens under as many Judges as possible and look for critiques so I know which Judges like my cats, I therefore know what Judges to put my cats under in future shows. Showing is expensive and critiques are part of the 'package' in my opinion.
- Yes: I have always understood that one is required to fully report upon Open classes and that Miscellaneous classes are optional.
- No, I feel that this is a personal thing.
- No: It should be left up to the individual
- Unmarked: I cannot imagine how it would be possible to police this.
- Yes: I feel it is reasonable to be expected to write full critiques on between 15-25 per show, the occasional 30 or 30+ is OK.
- Yes: I feel strongly that at least the Breeders which is important.
- Yes: Breeders/Non Breeders classes especially.
- Unmarked: Not at present.
- Yes: In principle but it really depends on the number of Miscellaneous critiques required.
- No: I write up extensively, but I think these things are a matter for the conscience of each Judge and what they can cope with.
- Yes: In the days of 'Our Cats' this was always the case. As an exhibitor it is disappointing to have no reports from a show e.g. unplaced Olympian, no comment for BoB and no Miscellaneous classes.
- Unmarked: Maybe. If Judges wish to go on more lists they must expect to have more exhibits and more critiques to write.
- Unmarked: I think Open classes should be allocated to estimate up to 30. This way doesn't matter how many lists you are on.
- No: Those who chose to remain on limited number of lists should not be penalised for the sake of those who chose to be on multiple sections.
- No: Should be optional.
- Unmarked: Not on every exhibit.
- Yes in principle but it really depends on the number of Miscellaneous critiques required.
- Yes: Perhaps breeder classes only.
- Yes: Would give a fairer balance and more for exhibitors.
- Yes: There should be a rule from Council either everyone writes their Miscellaneous classes or nobody writes up Miscellaneous classes.
- Yes: I think the number of probationer and more junior Judges in a breed section tend not to get the variety of Open classes to report on and this is one way for general exhibitors to see how that Judge views their exhibitors. However, I can appreciate that it is very difficult to make a hard and fast rule over this as the numbers of cats entered in some sections is much smaller than in others. Perhaps a fairer way would be to consider all Opens and then up to a stated maximum of exhibits a bit like the recommendation that no Judge handles more than 70 cats per show.
- Yes: Any who aren't insulting the exhibitors who show under them to my mind.
- Unmarked: I feel that Judges who accept a large number of classes should write up Miscellaneous classes the same as anybody else. The exhibitors pay to enter them whatever the class and are entitled to comments to know if it is worth entering under the Judge again.
- I do think that Miscellaneous class critiques (other than Breeders classes) should not need to be so detailed as critiques for the Open classes.

- Yes: If I have very few cats in Open classes then I take the initiative to write up on Miscellaneous classes as well. Every show can be different in terms of workload and it's difficult to have a blanket rule for this.
  - No: I think that should be the Judges choice
  - Unmarked: Possibly. There needs to be a clear rule or it will be difficult to monitor
  - Unmarked: Possibly. However I think it is important to have a uniform system irrespective of the number of Open and Miscellaneous classes.
  - Unmarked: This is a little baffling. The recommended number of exhibits for a Judge is, I believe 60/70 so the number of lists a judge is on is surely irrelevant. Presumably the question is asked on the assumption that one usually writes more for Open class exhibits (I do anyway) but the question does not make that clear.
  - Unmarked: Apart from the Olympian, Imperial, Grands ,Open Classes and Merit classes, other additional reports should be left to the discretion of the individual Judges" Some Judges including myself, have a far heavier loading than others for the above classes and therefore have to spend many precious and long hours writing their reports to fulfil their obligations. I have often reported on 35-40 cats for these classes for a single show. I endeavour to give a full report to every cat and I feel that I cannot give any more than that! Due to a heavy loading on Show day and the writing up of notes for the above classes, I am unable to also write up lengthy reports on cats in the side classes in the allocated time. I do not do reports from "memory" nor fabricate reports in order to submit a complete report to the G.C.C.F site. I appreciate that at some Shows I have a lighter work load than at others but I think that some exhibitors would feel hard done by if I gave them a full report on their side classes at some shows while others were ignored at other shows.
- Yes: Flexibility is the important thing. Judges have lives outside the Cat Fancy. There are occasions when a Judge may not have the time to do more than the "Open" classes within the "4 Week" timescale

**Q11 If it were recommended that critiques should be written for every exhibit placed in Open and Miscellaneous classes would you consider reducing the amount of engagements at shows you undertake each year?**

- Yes: I already limit my engagements because of writing these reports. I would happily Judge more often if writing critiques were reduced. Many years ago the rule was change to Open classes only and then it reverted back to Open plus first 2 in Miscellaneous. Unlike other organisation GCCF Judges do not get paid for writing reports and it is very time consuming if it is done properly.
- No: I already write these critiques.
- Yes: If I were to have a lot of engagements
- Unmarked: I don't currently get enough invitations to feel able to answer this question.
- No: I would not change what I currently report on if the requirement was for less.
- No: I already turn down engagements so I can keep up with the writing of critiques.
- Yes: Not because I couldn't do it, but because it would be a quite unreasonable demand for all Judges, and yet another rule might start me on the road to lunacy!
- No: I do not get many engagements.
- Yes: Does this mean every exhibit in Miscellaneous classes?
- No: Not as a recommendation but if it were a rule possibly.
- Yes: If full reports were requested for the Miscellaneous I would be happy to do a few lines.
- No: This is what I do now so it would not alter however I feel some Judges should as they are not giving value for money to the exhibitor!
- Yes: I will often place more exhibits – up to 6<sup>th</sup> – than is required because I feel that the exhibitors like to know that their cats were actually considered, even it they don't get a rosette. I would cease that immediately if that was the rule – which would be a shame.
- No: I always thought that this was already the requirement
- Yes: Possibly
- No: but I would try and space them out more which would probably reduce the number of invitations and effectively produce a Yes answer to this question. If this came into force I would probably not place down to six in side classes

**Q12 If it were decided that critiques need only be written for exhibits placed in Open classes (including Best of Breed) would you still be able to provide comments on other exhibits**

**Judged if asked for by an exhibitor? (This would not necessarily be in a write up; it could be given verbally or via email based on notes made on the day)**

- Yes: I always give comments when asked whatever the placing.
- Yes: I am already available to exhibitors for this.
- Yes: But not via email. OK with verbally on the day.
- Yes: I do this anyway.
- Yes: It's all in the book so no problem
- Yes: I do not mind personal contact with exhibitors by phone, letter or email or on the day.
- Yes: I would speak to exhibitors on the day but probably not have notes for any exhibits I knew I didn't have to do a write up for.
- Yes: I am always happy to be approached at the show. Failing this I would be willing for my email address to be published for the benefit of exhibitors.
- Yes: But they might be brief as when the hall is full in the afternoon it is difficult to write as there is no room for a table.
- Yes: This is always possible as I am very detailed in my Judge's book.
- Yes: But when does an email become a letter.
- Yes: Providing I had sufficient time on the day or via email.
- Yes: I am always happy to give an opinion on a cat I have judged either at the show or soon after.
- Yes: It is good practice to make notes on each cat and most Judges I know do this.
- No: Not in such detail. If I did not have to write up side classes then my notes would be much more brief.
- Yes: I always make myself available after judging, in the section, for exhibitors to ask me any questions or seek an opinion. I much prefer the system of instant/on-the-day feed back to exhibitors as used at the Supreme or the Continent. But realise that no one is going to get rid of the Miscellaneous classes that would be necessary to allow the slightly longer time it would take to write them in front of the pens.
- Yes; I already do this either on the day with the owner and cat in front of me or I respond to emails. I do try to stay at the show for at least an hour after judging to talk to exhibitors. I have to say some email requests have not always been very polite e.g. demanding in depth report of cats which have not been placed in large club classes. Disputing placings of cats and even why I took time to have lunch on one occasion! Exhibitors need also to be reminded what is reasonable to ask and at the end of the day we are all unpaid volunteers doing this for the love of our cats.
- Yes: At present I am always happy to speak to exhibitors as I feel this is hands on and more personal. I think this course of actions, as well as via email would also lessen written reports for Judges at weekly shows.
- Yes: Every cat I handle is given a full critique in my book.
- Yes: I would continue to submit full reports for all cats handled as I feel the exhibitors deserve comments for every class entered and placed in.
- Yes: I would have my brief notes.
- Yes: All entries in Open should be written up, not just placed cats.
- Yes: Email addresses should be available on the GCCF website.
- Yes: I am quite prepared to write brief critiques e.g. 1-3 in all classes giving the salient points on how I made my Judgement – but not a full dedicated write up.
- Yes: I normally write up most of my cats, in my Judge's book except for club classes.
- Yes. On a personal level though on occasion pressurised I am happy enough to continue reporting as at present but I do appreciate that this could be extremely difficult for some Judges. That said, if Judges are reluctant to submit reports perhaps they should seriously review the number of classes they accept that element is in the hands of the Judges. This would also make the availability of classes more variable for some Judges.
- Yes: Quite happy to speak on the day, time permitting. Reply to sae or email with brief report.
- Yes: Although I do prefer to do my write up at the time for the Miscellaneous classes - done and dusted.
- Yes: Again I have always made myself available on the day to exhibitors and have had exhibitors email me in the past and I have sent a full critique to them via email and would happily do so in the future. Again I reiterate we are providing a service to exhibitors and feel it is an important service that we offer by writing critiques.
- Yes: This would only be available up to 21 days after the show as I tend to dispose of my judging books when I have done my show critique for the GCCF.

- Yes: These wouldn't be as full as those given for placed cats – however, they should be able to understand my reasons for not placing higher.
- Yes: As already exists.
- Yes: But I don't see how it could be managed to speak to exhibitors on the day when one has trains to catch and long journeys to do.
- Yes: Each Judge knows the more lists they go on the more critiques they have to write – it is their choice.
- Yes: However it would be a severe retrograde step to not have published WRITTEN REPORTS on Miscellaneous classes. You can find out from a Judge about your exhibit but it doesn't give an overview of the class and how yours compared with others who might have beaten you. If no Miscellaneous classes are to be reported on then I feel there will be ground sway from exhibitors to totally do away with Miscellaneous/Club classes and ONLY pay for their OPENS. Why should exhibitors who pay an awful lot of money to enter a show have to chase round after a Judge to get a verbal few words or have to hunt out emails and take time to request a written one?
- Yes: If they approached I would be pleased to look at their exhibit with them. If they sent me a stamped address envelope or email address I would answer them but I understand GCCF do not give out information about Judges.
- Yes: I always try to stay after judging and make myself available to exhibitors that wish to speak to me.
- Yes: But, This has been tried before with a potential to have to write up on 10+ cats in one Open class alone. It was thrown out eventually, but I do not know why. It could open up a flood of email enquiries from exhibitors to Judges asking for mini-reports all over the place which would add to the Judges' pressure, all unseen by the GCCF and blissfully ignore. I would not appreciate having to look up notes for a number of cats (in my own private free time) and then have to draft out critiques in emails, over and above my standard show reports. If it's an email request it's a write up however you look at it. If a time restriction was placed on how long after the show an exhibitor could apply to the Judge for a critique, it would place further pressure on the Judge if there were a number of requests. I do not think that a change like this should be encouraged to impinge on a Judge's free time and if we did not choose to do it, or did not have the time, would that generate a whole new disciplinary opportunity against us? If it is verbal, then does that only apply to the day of the show or would we be expected to receive calls for the information? If so and an exhibitor leaves a message to which we are expected to reply can we claim the call costs back from the show manager or the GCCF!!! Finally, what about the legality? Are we covered by the GCCF for the show reports we publish on the GCCFs sue? If we send out additional reports in emails to an exhibitor is there any scope to take action against us if the exhibitor feels that we have been libellous or unfair about their cat. Are we protected?
- Yes: If for example I withhold I always try to explain to the exhibitor in person why I have done so. I try and respond if I received a written request for comments on a cat placed in a side class, or I'm happy to discuss on the phone.
- Yes: I already do full write ups on all Open classes and short write ups in Miscellaneous classes which given reasons for not placing higher.
- Yes: I would much prefer to set aside half an hour on show day to talk to interested exhibitors.
- Yes: The practicality of this is less clear; verbally on the day is always risky logistically if it became more comment (because it was the only way to get comments) that might make it difficult to get away from the show, but I don't see a problem with providing comments by email.
- Yes: Could easily do this either on the day or later.
- Yes: We do that anyhow don't we as Judges??? With the current "witch-hunt" on Judges, will the next suggestion be the counting of how many word per critique! I was amazed recently on checking a cat's progress – some critiques were painfully short and full of negative comments. With the present "madness" it may be something else that will be addressed. Is it taken into consideration that most people live extremely busy live, there is "life outside the cat fancy" that has to be sorted? How is it envisaged to the monitoring of Judges, will this be done by members of the Judges Guild?? I quote the current Chairman having very recently rung a lady and asked why she hadn't written critiques for a certain show and she wasn't even there!!! How appalling that the Chairman was put in such a horrible situation – people understandably get upset. The regular "defaulters" in failing to send critiques will not change. Will there be compassion from the "scrutinisers" for example – illnesses, home crisis, breakdown of computers – any other reasonable reasoning's for not completing critiques for a show???
- Yes: If Judges were not overloaded and were able to finish for 2pm then it would be possible for them to give an hour or more to be available formally to speak to exhibitors. I am sure that most exhibitors would like the opportunity to speak to a Judge on the day. This is important to

exhibitors if a cat has been withheld on. I can understand the frustration of exhibitors when a Judge writes up on a very small number of cats. I have seen that number as low as one cat! The problem has been exacerbated by the change in the class structure. Many cats that are entered in the higher awards, if unplaced 1 or 2<sup>nd</sup>, do not get any write up by the "open" they are entered in. If they do not win the Bob they may well not get a write up from the Breed class Judge either. (Some Judges do not even write up on BoB winners if they are not in the Breed Class.) Rather than force Judges to write up Miscellaneous classes, it would probably be more attractive to exhibitors to change the placing and recording of results in Olympian, Imperial, Grand and Breed classes so that Judges place and write up on say the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 cats in those classes. This would make more exhibitors aware of the "open" class Judge's opinion. This could have a positive side effect for PJs and BACs. Occasionally a PJ has marked down a highly titled cat, but at present if the cat is not placed and written up by a higher class Judge then The BAC will not have anything to compare the PJ's write-up to. In the Semi Longhair and Foreign Sections, it is not unusual for a Miscellaneous class Judge not to be on the list of several of the breeds entered, unless the Judge is able to give a Grand or Higher award to a cat the exhibitor may well have little real interest in a Judge's opinion of their cat. In the end much of the problem resolves down to cost. Show managers find senior Judges, on many lists attractive and enabling them to minimize the number of Judges they invite. I can understand this, a show has to be viable. This can however result in Judges with 50+ cats in "opens" and thus could pressure them into writing up on the least number they have to and produce briefer reports. Whilst a solution that gives exhibitors at least one write-up needs to be found, it must be remembered that the cat fancy is a Judge's hobby, and in the main they subsidise shows far more than any single exhibitor. Many claim a fraction of the mileage allowance they are entitled to, some often refuse all expenses. Those Judges who work may often give up a day's holiday to travel to a show. It would prove counterproductive in the long run alienate Judges and discourage them from accepting their current level of engagements. Senior Judges are vital for training new probationers and stewards, they have a great deal of experience that they can pass on and it would be a tragedy if the number of occasions that they were able to pass it on were to be limited. If senior Judges who are on multiple lists, feel that they have to reduce the number of shows they can Judge at, then show managers may have to invite several other Judges to cover all classes, this will increase costs and result in higher entry fees.

Not all Judges are elegant word-smiths, some of us struggle with reports and take a lot of time over them especially if one is a PJ of that breed. Write-ups can take many hours, if one is forced to write up many more cats it will discourage Judges from accepting engagements and going on more lists. Personally I do make the effort to see all the exhibitors if possible on show day especially if I have had to withhold an award. However exhibitors do have to be reasonable and not disappear for the day then turn up at 4 pm and start asking for Judges, then complain if they have left.