

Judge Training Review Group

10 October 2017

In attendance: Dr Peter Collin (Chair), Mrs. Val Anderson, Mrs. Sue Dalton-Hobbs, Mrs. Hilary Dean, Mrs. Shelagh Heavens, Mrs. Val Kilby (Apologies: Mrs. Helen Marriott-Power, Mr. Peter Williams).

Also in attendance: Mr. John Hansson, Mrs. Kate Kaye

Input from Judges:

- Stewards should not automatically become Pupil Judges
- A scarcity of cats will hinder fast tracking judges
- Olympian judges should be full on all lists. A probationary period of one year for 'training' on the lists for which the above is not full.
- If a judge can award an Imperial or Grand they should be allowed to award a CC or PC to the breeds within that group
- Automatically putting a Judge on a list he/she is not qualified will downgrade the quality of judging
- Seminars are poorly attended, hard to organise and expensive
- Report writing is deteriorating with judges being on more lists
- Anything that speeds up the process has to be an improvement
- The system is too personal and personality driven
- Judges should be allowed to 'specialise' in one or two sections should they wish
- A lot of judges only wish to judge 'their own' Breed or Grand
- The length of time to achieve Full Judge status can be off putting to prospective candidates
- There should not be representatives unqualified/on other lists speaking on the breed the BAC caters for
- Pupil judges need to be assessed on ability not numbers
- Pupil judges should receive a tutorial on the areas required or needed
- Group tuition is a good idea if time allows
- Exams: Who sets it? Who marks it?
- Mentors are a good idea but who chooses the mentors and what is their role?
- Assessments with BAC 'preferred' judges are unrealistic with minority breeds
- Judges should be full on all breeds within the Grands they judge after twelve months.
- Getting new judges is the issue rather than extending the lists for the judges we already have
- Current system is too long and too expensive. Too cumbersome and jumping through hoops
- Some stewards want to get there too fast. In fact some judges want it too fast and too easy
- It's a now society. People aren't prepared to work for it. In the past to become a judge you would travel all over Great Britain to steward. Now, some stewards just want to reach the end goal and aren't prepared to steward for somebody who does not have the breed(s) they want
- Progress should be about ability not the length of time you are on a scheme
- Need to encourage new judges by speeding up the time.
- Would like to see judges better informed on genetics and the basic physiology of the cat
- Need to fast track the current people to cover the shows. Then get new people in
- The rules are over complicated.
- The majority of cats are 'minority' breeds

Discussion points and conclusions:

Judges Panel versus Breed Advisory Committee

The BACs had replaced the Judges Panel as the latter had not worked well. The majority of BACs already have full Judge(s) as representatives.

Conclusion: BACs to remain but the number of meetings (either electronic or physical) to increase

Stewards

Although training is in place to achieve Full Steward status, there is nothing to prepare an individual who wishes to progress to become a Pupil Judge. There is a need to move to a more educational system.

Conclusion: All stewards to show a working knowledge of all sections and the administration required on a show day. For those wishing to progress, the final five certificates to be taken over by the relevant BAC. 'Knowledge and skills' to be completed before application to Pupil Judge is made.

Assessing Pupil Judges

Under the current system a judge is evaluated on all written critiques of the breed. Often, too much emphasis is placed on terminology. Placings and the justification of the same should be of prime importance. Some judges differ in opinions, with good reason, when placing a cat.

Conclusion: With the exception of Breed classes, replace full critiques for the BAC with a list of 'pointers' on each cat of the breed justifying the reason for the placing.

Mentors

Mentors to be the choice of a BAC, and not mandatory. Mentors need to be considered for their ability, consistency and understanding of the role and not because they sit on a BAC and its impolite not to ask them. It is preferable a Mentor is an experienced breeder judge or a consistently successful breeder. There should be a wide choice of Mentors for the Pupil Judge to choose from.

Conclusion: BACs should give core topics (four?) relevant to the judging of its breed. The Mentor (and Pupil Judge) should be fully aware of these topics and competent in communicating them to the Pupil Judge and vice versa.

Candidate Progress:

Costs:

The expense of becoming a judge is prohibitive to those wishing to go on several lists.

Conclusion: Reduce the cost for those applying to become Judges

Examinations:

Although some Pupil Judges may shine in a test situation, they might not be so proficient when it comes to a hands on approach. The opposite also applies; Pupil Judges who have a natural understanding of a breed(s) may experience 'exam anxiety'

Conclusion: No written test for Judges to be included in requirements

Time Limits:

Judges showing ability should not be held back because they had not met the obligatory time period.

Conclusion: No time frames to be applied.

Stewarding

Stewarding engagements (Pupil Judge from another list) prior to application added little value.

Conclusion: Remove stewarding requirements for judges coming from another list.

Seminars

It is very hard to get exhibits for a seminar plus it is unrealistic to expect Judges to attend a seminar for every list they are on. An alternative would be to have a breed demonstration at a show.

Conclusion: The current requirements to remain in place for the time being with the addition a 'show demonstration'. Full attendance at one or the other to count towards requirements.

Tutorials

The current tutorial process is lacking. The current forms give little, if any, information on what a Pupil Judge has learned or what instructions the Full Judge is giving. The Tutorial should be conducted by a Judge who has full knowledge of the BACs breed and its core topics. There should be a wide choice of such judges.

Conclusion: Change the form so a Pupil Judge can write what he/she has learned from his/her experience at a show. Each form should include the BACs core topics and give the opportunity for the Pupil Judge to make evident that he/she understands what those represent. These Tutorials can be done on a one to one basis or by group.

Assessments

There is little value in the current assessment forms as they can be too personality driven. Some judges will only give good feedback regardless whether it is warranted or the opposite if they are not on good terms with a candidate.

Conclusion: The new tutorials should give enough information on the progress of a candidate. Remove assessments and replace them with a viable alternative

Parallel/Shadow judging

Format: Both Full and Pupil Judge consider a limited number of cats with a minimum of three per Grand group. Cats, preferably Adults and Neuters, to be chosen from the show, not necessarily from the Full or Pupil Judges books. Kittens to be included only if there are insufficient numbers of Adults and Neuters.

A candidate must be judging at the show.

Conclusion: Parallel judging to replace assessments

Addressing the current situation of the lack of judges

Too few judge choices for Show Managers and exhibitors. Very often the same judges keep doing the same classes as there are not enough options. It is a ridiculous situation where a judge can grant a high award such as a Grand Certificate of Imperial Certificate to a cat but is unable to give it a Challenge or Premier Certificate.

Conclusion: An Accelerated Scheme to be put in place. All Judges who are able to judge a Grand or Imperial class to be given the option of being made up to Full on all breeds within those groups on completion of requirements, e.g. Complete three Tutorials and one Parallel/Shadow Judging on cats of the breed during a twelve month period. If the BAC is happy with the judge's placings/progress, upon payment of a standard fee the judge is promoted. In some cases it might be felt a candidate needs to learn more about the intricacies of a breed. Further time is given to achieve this.