

Judge Appointment Scheme Review Group (JASRG)

With Board approval the group changed its title in April 2021 to better reflect the newly updated and agreed Terms of Reference (TOR) governing the Group's purpose. This also coincided with a change of Chair as the previous chair's stepped down due to heavily increased work commitments.

Outlined below is an approximate timeline of the work the group has so far undertaken and plans in the future to undertake.

The work of the JASRG has been arranged in 4 stages each with specific foci of development that builds on previous work -

Stage One:

- To fully understand the responsibilities of the Group as governed by the TOR
- To gather information, evidence for and consider all previous initiatives/proposals generated by all prior review groups having had a focus on shows and judge training
- Ascertain which initiatives/proposals (if any) had been presented to Council and if agreed or referred back for further discussion
- Consider if any proposals referred back were still relevant

Successful prior proposals by preceding Show Review, Judge Training and Breed Advisory Committee review groups (2014 - 21) passed by Council are:

- Reorganisation of the sections - agreed (June 2017) by council and instigated (June 2018)
- February 2019 - A reorganised system for training of stewards
- February 2019 - The Accelerated Judge Training Scheme. (AJS)

Stage Two:

- To visit all points within the current JAS to ascertain what/if any elements are still relevant and fit for purpose given that it was written some 25plus years ago.
- Ascertain, if significantly revised, if suitable to provide a basis upon which to construct a new training format for GCCF judges
- Devise and propose a new format for the training of judges in a more productive manner and time frame without loss of rigour
- Divide the proposed changes into specific periods of development to allow for the AJS to run its course so that the majority of Judges will be on a level playing field when applying to a new Grand Group for training.
- Given that a move towards training by Grand Group rather than breed by breed was agreed in principle by council - determine methods that will facilitate this and trial with selected Grand Group Committee's (GGC).

N.B. we are using the term Grand Group Committee to ensure that it is understood that the role of this committee stands alone and is different from that of a Breed Advisory committee.

To facilitate this:

- determine and differentiate the areas of responsibility for a BAC/GGC.
- Act upon any issues that arise during trials to ensure that all written documentation has clarity and purpose.
- Propose changes/rewording/updates/advice etc. to all interested parties as required and relevant following trials
- Present the first draft of the proposed new judge training scheme to Council with an outline of the changes to be added after the work proposed in stage three is completed. (October 2022)
- It is hoped, that if agreed by Council, that stage one will "go live" to coincide with the new Show Year (January 2023).
- The revised stewarding scheme will also be fully "live" in tandem with stage one of the new judge training scheme.
- Monitor the AJS and advise/propose updates - if appropriate - given that this is a new initiative and is likely to "throw up" some issues that were not fully accounted for, thought of or as a result of misinterpretation of wording/ intent or in implementation.

Stage Three:

This is a transitional stage between the implementation of the first part - if agreed by Council - that will allow for the completion of the AJS and development of the remaining elements as outlined here.

- Facilitate the means for online, multi-choice, open book testing that is remotely marked
- Determine in consultation with BAC's/Genetic and Veterinary committees relevant content/questions/etc. for these
- To develop - within the new training programme - PJ presentations (breed specific/comparison) to assess a PJ's knowledge of the breeds and ability to place them
- To determine the requirements needed to qualify a PJ to be in a position to apply for promotion to FJ.
- Confirm and move all training to new scheme
- Consideration of appointment/training/role surrounding the viability of retaining specialist judges
- Facilitate with GCCF and BACs the development of online virtual breed specific training videos that will be available on the GCCF website with open access.
- Complete and disband the AJS (asap after March 2026)

Stage Four:

- To monitor all new initiatives and adapt if appropriate.

- To advise all BACs/GGC/PJ/FJ/stewards etc. as and when necessary.
- To propose any additions/updates etc as/if required as the scheme beds in.
- Monitor the stewarding scheme in conjunction with the new training programme for judges to ensure a seamless transition from the stewarding scheme to PJ status.

The group also looks forward to the GCCF instigating the marketing (via use of social media forums such as Facebook/Instagram etc.) all new initiatives to encourage candidates to come forward to join the training programme...but we need to remember that old saying - "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink" - ditto people and judging!