

GCCF Judges Appointment Scheme Review Group

Minutes

March 20th 2022 @ 10.30pm via ZOOM

Item 1: Apologies for absence

- PC

Item 2: minutes of the last meeting - 28th November 2021

- Agreed as a true record 4/0, CL abstained

Item 3: Corrections

- None

Item 4: Matters arising.

- None

Item 5: Correspondence

- Letter received from the Oriental Cat Association expressing concerns over the lack of new applications from people to become GCCF judges and requesting an update on the work of the JASRG to encourage take up and improve judge training.

In reply the JASRG would point out that:

- Progress is reported regularly to Board and Council with all reports available for any to access and read on the GCCF website.
- Clubs have a responsibility to encourage their members to pass on their knowledge and experience of the breed by becoming judges.

Item 6: Board Queries

- A member of the board raised a concern that all FJ(P)s were breaking GCCF rules when awarding certificates to exhibits of breeds they are not "Full" on. It was ascertained that when Council had agreed to the adoption of the Accelerated Judges Scheme that it had also agreed to the promotion of all Accelerated Scheme Judges to the status of Full Judge - albeit with provisional status thereby allowing BAC's to assist these judges to build upon their acknowledged experience of these breeds to which they are already qualified to award much higher awards - therefore no rules had been broken.

Item 7: Development of a basic blueprint for Judge training in the future (Generic Heading)

- This continues to be on going and, we need to ensure that it is acknowledged in all areas of the Cat Fancy beyond this forum, that it is a far more complicated process than was original thought.

- HD presented the work that she and KK had done to date on parts 1 -3 and 15 - 18 of the current Judge Appointment Scheme for both agreement in principle to any changes and input from the wider group.
- There was considerable discussion over the elements that it is proposed to either eliminate, enhance or leave as is with those presented and further changes, additions and eliminations agreed.
- There was discussion over the role of specialist judges. It was accepted that the new system will see judges train in more than one breed therefore in the future there will be no specialist judges as we currently know them.
- It was felt that it was confusing to refer to the combined Grand Group meeting as Grand Group **BAC** meetings as it has a specific, dedicated role in the sharing of information and promotion of judges. Therefore, it was agreed to refer to this element of meeting as the Grand Group Committee.
- The discussion highlighted a need for a definition of terms and possibly a flow chart to accompany the final document for ease of understanding.
- There was a suggestion that Show Managers could assist by inviting judges to undertake all the relevant grand breed classes. KK/SD to take this to the SRG for discussion.
- A query was raised over the payments of fees which led to a discussion around the fees and costs surrounding the provision of seminars/webinars for the purpose of judge training plus highlighting that it is the breed clubs who carry these costs and yet it is the area clubs that hugely benefit at no cost to themselves. The group has, highlighted at Board level on more than one occasion, that there is a need for GCCF as a whole to raise its profile and to encourage new blood into the Cat Fancy.
- Discussions around - How do we determine what constitutes a rare breed?

Item 8: AOB

- The JASRG will continue highlight the need for the GCCF to market the company in order to encourage new blood into the Cat Fancy.
- Does the GCCF have the ability and/or knowledge to create webinars/online testing as this would be a very useful addition to any training programmes?
- KK will request assistance to provide online testing/webinars etc. at the next board meeting.

Item 9: Date of next meeting

- 16th April 2022