Council Report - February 2023

The primary focus of the group's work since the last council meeting has been to complete the first element of the new JAS. This is the area within the rules that is lays out the process of governance and administration within the revised judges training programme. When this has been agreed by Council, it will allow us to instigate the first steps towards Pupil Judges training within multi-breeds rather than an individual breed. It has been agreed in principle by the Board but, although we had hoped it would be on today's agenda for acceptance, there still needs to be agreement between the Board/FC and JASRG over proposals around fees and overall funding.

The group has also updated the current AJS rules and advice. The system has now been in place for approximately 20 "working" months and like any new iniatives there have been unforeseen glitches and related issues. We took into consideration all the issues that have arisen and been highlighted to the JASRG by various interested parties and worked especially closely with members of the Appeals Committee to ensure clarification around the process of appeal, should the need arise, for all interested parties.

Overall, it was felt by the Board that the update of both the rules and advice documents, which are on the agenda for approval today, has made it a more precise, easier to follow process for both FJ(P)s and BACs as it clearly outlines the expectations from, and on, both parties as candidates move through the Accelerated Judges scheme.

We have now started on the core area of the new JAS – The Rules of Procedure for the Selection of Judges which will, although firmly centred around training in multi-breeds, also include an integrated means of training that will allow those who wish to solely judge exhibits of "their" breed to be able to do so.

The need for clarification and updating the Judges Panel is still a priority and how we move forward on this will also be high on our agenda. Given recent conversations around the need for clarity of wording to ensure that IC/DC and AC can carry out their roles effectively has highlighted – at least to me – the need to involve those volunteers who have an in depth understanding of such matters as we move forward.

The stewarding programme, which has been running in its current form for a couple of years, is also being reviewed to ensure it is still fit for purpose and to ensure it will link seamlessly with the newly revised Judges training programme.

Sadly, Peter Collin and Clare Lewis have, due to the pressures of work commitments, resigned from the group. However, we have been very happy to co-opt Susan Thorpe, Sandra Woodley and Lisa Robinson-Talboys. Given the current focus of the JASRG's work it is really appreciated that they are bringing specialist knowledge to the group in areas such as, an in-depth knowledge of BAC administration and procedures, the administration and overseeing of candidates of the stewarding scheme, GCCF show management and exhibitor experience in other registering bodies plus we will continue to invite "guests" to allow us to draw on their specialist knowledge/fields of experience, such as IT/legal knowledge, as these will not only enhance but also help drive our work forward in developing a totally new system of training.

We will continue to advise BACs and judges at all levels as and if required and are always open to new suggestions as we continue to move forward.

Kate Kaye

25th February 2023