



**MINUTES OF THE KENNEL CLUB SHOWS LIAISON COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023 AT 11.00AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL  
CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

**PRESENT:**

|                        |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr S Bennett           | Midlands                             |
| Ms A Benoist*          | North East                           |
| Mr N Bryant            | South East and East Anglia           |
| Ms A Cawthera-Purdy    | General and Group Championship Shows |
| Mrs GC Chapman         | South East and East Anglia           |
| Miss J Cutler          | South East and East Anglia           |
| Mr P Davies            | North West                           |
| Mrs TL Harrison*       | Midlands                             |
| Mr P McClure           | North West                           |
| Miss J McLauchlan*     | North East                           |
| Mrs I McManus          | General and Group Championship Shows |
| Mr A Moss              | North West                           |
| Mr M Ord               | North East                           |
| Mr A Paisey*           | General and Group Championship Shows |
| Mr N Price*            | Wales                                |
| Mr J Purnell           | North West                           |
| Mrs D Rose             | Midlands                             |
| Mr N Salisbury*        | Midlands                             |
| Mrs A Scutcher*        | South East and East Anglia           |
| Miss F Snook           | South/South West                     |
| Mrs D Stewart-Ritchie* | Northern Ireland                     |
| Miss S Thomson         | Scotland                             |

\* Attended via Microsoft Teams

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

|                 |                                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs H Kerfoot   | Interim Chief Operations Officer (Canine Activities & Events) |
| Miss D Deuchar  | Head of Canine Activities                                     |
| Mr J Winnington | Breed Shows Team Manager                                      |
| Miss T Newson   | Senior Breed Shows Team Officer                               |

**IN THE CHAIR: MRS CAWThERA-PURDY**

**ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1. Apologies were received from Mr M Sanders. Mr K Greenland, Mr T Johnston, Mr J McCreath, Mrs C Smedley, Mr J Stubbs, Mrs J Walmsley were not present.
2. All members of the Council introduced themselves, Mrs Harrison was welcomed as a new Council member.

**ITEM 2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2022**

3. Paragraph 42 was amended to read "... by ~~Mrs~~ **Miss** Thomson..". Subject to this amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

**ITEM 3. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING**

4. The Council noted the following updates on outcomes arising from matters discussed at its previous meeting:

- a. Reserve Challenge Certificates (RCC)

**Proposal:** That 5 RCCs should be the equivalent of a Challenge Certificate (CC)

**Outcome:** The proposal was considered by the SEC and the Board and was currently progressing in line with the development of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The Council noted a verbal update in that the matter was still progressing and an announcement would be made in due course.

**[Afternote:** An announcement was published on 11 May 2023 stating that Reserve Challenge Certificates would count towards the title of a Champion/Show Champion.]

- b. Dogs eligible to compete at matches

**Proposal:** That dogs which had been awarded a Challenge Certificate (CC) or obtained any award that counts towards the title of a Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Kennel Club be eligible to enter a special class at matches. It was noted that dogs entered in this class would not be eligible to compete for Best in Match.

**Outcome:** The proposal and necessary regulation amendments had been referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2023.

- c. Eligibility of Imported Breed Register dogs and non-CC (rare) breeds to compete at matches and limited shows

**Proposal:** That Imported Register Breeds and non-CC breeds (rare breeds) should be eligible to compete at limited shows and in matches, whether or not a

dog had won any award that counted towards the title of a Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Kennel Club.

**Outcome:** The proposal and necessary regulation amendments had been referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2023.

d. Not counting Imported Breed Register classes in the class limit at limited shows

**Proposal:** That Imported Breed Register Breed classes not be included within the number of classes societies can schedule at limited shows.

**Outcome:** The proposal and necessary regulation amendments had been referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2023.

5. The above updates were welcomed by the Council. A query was raised regarding the possible amendment of regulations surrounding partnership shows. It was noted that views had been sought from Council members via email. The office confirmed that the matter was progressing through the relevant channels and that an update would be published and provided to the Council in due course.

#### ITEM 4. PROPOSALS

Completing of Challenge Certificate and Reserve Challenge Certificate cards in the ring

Proposed by: Mrs I McManus

6. Mrs McManus presented the following proposal:

‘That the steward in the ring be allowed to complete Challenge Certificates and Reserve Challenge Certificates whilst the judge completes their judging of the breed. On completion of the judging, the judge must verify that the correct details had been inserted, once the judge is confident that the details were correct, they must sign these and complete the Best of Breed certificate.’

F(1)23.d

“The judge shall decide on a Best of Sex and Reserve Best of Sex winner in each sex. Before deciding to award a Challenge Certificate the judge must be clearly of the opinion that the exhibit to which he is awarding the Challenge Certificate is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of Champion and that the exhibit to which he is awarding the Reserve Challenge Certificate is in his opinion worthy of being awarded the Challenge Certificate should the Challenge Certificate winner be disqualified. Should the Challenge Certificate not be awarded the Reserve Challenge Certificate cannot be awarded. The dog must be in the ring at the time the awards are made. The judge must complete and sign all certificates, in accordance with the catalogue details. **If requested by the judge, the steward may complete but must not sign certificates.**”

(Additions in bold)  
(Effective TBC)

7. The proposal was seconded by Miss Thomson.
8. A query was raised regarding the Best of Breed card, and it was confirmed that the intention of the proposal was that the steward would be able to complete the details upon this card too, however, the judge must sign the card.
9. It was noted that it was imperative that the judge must not sign any card until the details (dog name, etc) had been filled in. A suggestion was raised that this be clearly included within any regulation amendment as well as within the Requirements of a Dog Show Judge Seminar, Examination and within the Code of Best Practice for Judges, including the Guide for Stewards.
10. A further suggestion was raised that to prevent judges signing cards before the details had been completed, cards should be placed within the steward's boxes for the rings instead of within the judges' pack.
11. A view was expressed that should a steward notice that a card had been pre-signed by the judge, they should refuse to complete the details and request that the judge completes the card. It was noted that the custom and practice for this proposal would be much the same as the current process for stewards completing the absentees and duplicate slips within the judge's book, which would subsequently be checked and signed by the judge.
12. The Council concluded that the proposal was a sensible one and unanimously **recommended** it for approval by the Show Executive Committee. It was noted that this would require additional amendments to the necessary F Regulations.

Baby puppy classes

Proposed by: Mr A Moss

13. Mr Moss presented the following proposal:

‘That baby puppy classes be introduced at any breed club shows, and general open and limited shows. It was proposed that this class would be for dogs of 4-6 months old and could be scheduled in a breed (including AVNSC and AV Imported Breed Register) and/or Any Variety basis. There must be no progression to any group or best in show competition.

It was further suggested that the class be scheduled as normal with it being added to what a Level 1 judge can do (i.e., increase from 4 including a puppy to 5 including a ‘baby puppy’ and a puppy) in the case of breed classes.’

F1.c.

“Only dogs of ~~six~~ **four** calendar months of age and over on the first day of the show are eligible for exhibition at Kennel Club licensed shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. ~~and dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition at~~

~~all Kennel Club licensed shows. Furthermore, dogs aged four calendar months and over are eligible to enter match competitions.~~

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

F(1).8.a.

“Puppies under ~~6~~ **four** calendar months of age on the first day of the show are not eligible for exhibition.”

(Additions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective TBC)

F(1)26.g

**“A baby puppy is a dog of four and not exceeding six calendar months of age on the first day of the show.**

**(1) Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled at any breed club show or general open and limited shows**

**(2) Any Variety Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled**

**(3) Best Baby Puppy in Breed may be declared in each breed from the dogs entered in the Baby Puppy breed classes. There must be no progression in competition to any Group or Best in Show/Best Puppy in Show or Best Baby Puppy in Show”**

(Additions in bold)

(Effective TBC)

F(A)

**\*\*\* applies to breed club shows and general open and limited shows only**

**\*\*\*BABY PUPPY**

**A baby puppy is a dog of four and not exceeding six calendar months of age on the first day of the show.”**

(Additions in bold)

(Effective TBC)

14. The proposal was seconded by Mr McClure.
15. A view was expressed that this proposal would create another avenue for exhibitors to train younger dogs, noting that there had been a reduction in weekly ringcraft training sessions. The Council was of the opinion that creating additional training and socialisation opportunities was positive. It was also noted that many exhibitors already took baby puppies to shows as spectator dogs or entered not for competition for socialisation and introducing this class would increase entries for shows.
16. A query was raised that the proposal appeared to have a greater benefit for breed club shows than general open or limited shows. It was highlighted that some open shows struggle for venues and additional dogs could be problematic for some societies. On discussion, the Council agreed that it was at the discretion of the individual club as to whether it wished to schedule the

classes and therefore the potential issue regarding venue size should be mitigated as a show management decision. It was further noted that the age would be lowered from 6 months to 4 months and therefore it was not anticipated that there would be a significant increase in entries especially at breed club shows.

17. A query was raised as to whether it would be expected that a baby puppy class be scheduled per breed, group, or show at general shows. On discussion, the Council agreed that it was at the discretion of the individual club.
18. A number of Council members agreed that the proposal may be better to only be introduced for breed club shows. A view was expressed that this may be the 'thin edge of the wedge' and be the catalyst for a major change and review that may not be desirable. The Council agreed in its view that there should be no progression in competition from the baby puppy classes to a baby puppy group or best baby puppy in show etc. It was noted that this could end up being the next step in 15-20 years and it was thought that this would not be good for the show scene.
19. It was noted that there was facility for baby puppies to be shown in Ireland and under FCI rules. It was further noted that should we introduce this the welfare aspect of bringing young puppies to shows must be carefully considered. It would not be the intention for breeders/owners to campaign young puppies without allowing adequate time for sleeping, growing and socialisation.
20. It was noted that currently, puppies of 4 months of age could be brought to a show not for competition or as a spectator dog. A concern was raised that if a baby puppy class was introduced, puppies from four months would be permitted to enter and therefore a request could be made to allow younger dogs to be brought into shows for socialisation as not for competition or spectator dogs.
21. Mr Ord and Mr Moss proposed an amendment to the proposal in the introduction of a baby puppy class, with no further competition, at breed club shows only. Mrs Snook seconded the revised proposal.
22. A query was raised as to whether a trial at a number of breed clubs would be advantageous. If successful, this could then be used to show best practice for a further widespread introduction. It was noted that breed club show judges would have more experience in handling/'going over' dogs compared to a general open show judge who may be undertaking their first appointment and therefore this would further support the proposal being introduced at breed club shows only.
23. A query was raised whether class numbers could be restricted, however, the Council was of the view that this would not be easy to enforce and should be left to the show management. A further suggestion was raised as to whether a

baby puppy class could be added as a Special Award Class during the lunch break, the Council was not in support of this suggestion.

24. The revised proposal was unanimously **recommended** for approval noting that the precise regulation wording would be formulated by the office in conjunction with the Show Executive Committee.

Junior Certificate of Excellence

Proposed by: Mr A Moss

25. Mr Moss presented the following proposal, further to discussions at previous Council meetings on 7 April 2021 and 3 May 2022:

'At its previous meetings, the Council discussed whether Imported Breed Register breeds and non-CC breeds should be eligible for the Junior Warrant (JW) or a similar award, it had noted that currently these breeds had no way of gaining a Stud Book Number (SBN). A new criterion is presented which as far as possible reflects the JW scheme.

**Annex A to the minutes refers'**

26. The Council noted information presented by Mr Moss in relation to the scale of points for the proposed new award. It was noted that:
- The number of points required was proposed to be 20 as opposed to the 25 required for a JW due to the anticipated lower entries for these breeds
  - Points would be available from Any Variety (AV) classes at championship shows, which would mean points could be won against dogs of different breeds
  - Should a breed be removed from the Imported Breed Register the points would carry over as the criteria and proposed award was the same for non CC breeds and Imported Register Breeds
  - Should a breed be granted CC status there was a transition to the JW to allow exhibitors to continue gaining points with the chance of achieving an award. It was noted that as the award and the JW were time sensitive it would be undesirable for exhibitors to miss out on an award due to a breed gaining CC status part way through the time period for gaining points (whilst the dog was between 6-18 months of age.)
27. Mrs Cawthera-Purdy issued a vote of thanks to Mr Moss for the work completed on the proposal. It was noted that the conversion to the JW was commendatory.
28. A view was expressed that the name of the award needed to be revisited and could be improved. The Council suggested alternative names of Junior Certificate of Merit and Junior Certificate award, it was anticipated that the Show Executive Committee in association with the office would consider an appropriate name for the award. The office reminded Council members that the term 'rare breed' was colloquially used however this was not an official term and these breeds were known as breeds which are not allocated championship status. It was noted that it would be preferable to not include the word 'warrant' in the name of the award to avoid confusion between this award and the JW. It

was further noted that this award would not provide the dog with a Stud Book Number as was on offer with the JW.

29. A further view was expressed that the exhibitors of breeds upon the Imported Breed Register had requested an award specifically for these breeds and therefore may not be supportive of a joint award for Imported Breed Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status. It was noted that the number of dogs that this award would serve would be small and should any award be introduced it was thought that this would be positive. The Council was reminded about consequential factors such as development of a form and/or online system.
30. A query was raised about the conversion aspect and whether any dog could be disenfranchised should a breed be granted CC status. It was clarified that there was usually a long lead time on breeds being granted CC status, however it was likely that there would be some dogs between 6-18 months old when a breed gained CC status. It was highlighted that although the number of dogs that this would impact was perceived to be very small this had been considered and the points criteria had been proposed to avoid disenfranchising any exhibits.
31. A concern was raised that there may be some negative feedback from numerically small breeds that were allocated championship status, including many vulnerable breeds. It was thought that exhibitors of these breeds often struggled to achieve a JW due to low class numbers. It was noted that on occasion numerically high breeds do struggle to have the needed number of dogs in the class and this was unavoidable depending on the age of dogs.
32. The Council offered a great deal of support for the proposal. Mrs Cawthera-Purdy seconded the proposal. It was noted that the mechanics could appear confusing and that it would need to be communicated clearly. It was noted that some exhibitors still found the JW confusing.
33. It was further noted that the award would provide exhibitors with eligible dogs an award to aim for and a reason to enter shows with their puppies and juniors. Currently there was no award for these exhibitors to aim for and this could be a great way of encouraging entries in these breeds.
34. The proposal was unanimously **recommended** for approval noting that the precise name would be formulated by the office in conjunction with the Show Executive Committee. A preference was expressed for a name of the non-CC Junior Award (JA).

## **ITEM 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### Order of Best in Show/Best Puppy in Show Competition

35. Mr Bennett submitted and presented the following item for discussion:



'It was noted that the current regulations do not allow best in show to be the highlight of the show as it is not the last competition to be judged and other competitions may be an anti-climax. Given that if a puppy at present wins a group/best in show etc it would no longer be automatically the group/best in show winner, it may be more proportionate to allow shows to decide their own order of competition. It is noted that in Europe best in show is always the last award made.'

36. On discussion, the Council agreed that this was a good suggestion. It was noted that Crufts have permission to award Reserve Best in Show prior to Best in Show and it was often seen as a positive.
37. Mr Bennett, supported by Mr Paisey undertook to bring the matter back to the next meeting as a proposal including any necessary regulation amendments.

#### Difficulty in obtaining Stewards

38. Mr Bennett submitted and presented the following item for discussion:

'There was a significant decrease in the number of stewards, which was causing major concerns for the organisers of shows. It was therefore suggested that:

- All judges approved to award Challenge Certificates must steward at any general limited, open or championship show at least once a year or;
- Any judge that wishes to be approved for an additional breed must steward on a further two occasions before approval

It was suggested that any judge that assists a society as a committee member and/or helps in the running of a show on the day would be exempt from the above requirement.'

39. A concern was raised that established CC judges may not know the current rules and therefore would struggle to accurately steward.
40. A query was raised regarding the quality or quantity of 'help' that would be required on the day of a show to be deemed acceptable to be exempt from the suggested requirement. It was clarified that this would need to be considered if a proposal was requested.
41. A further query was raised as to whether a judge would be able to steward for any breed or specifically the breed in which they wished to award CCs. Mr Bennett confirmed that the suggestion was for a judge to steward any breed to give back to the hobby as a large number of shows were struggling. The Council was of the view that a large number of societies did have problems with obtaining stewards however was of the view that this was not an appropriate way to attempt to resolve the lack of stewards.

42. It was noted that many judges, alongside personal commitments may not have adequate time to attend additional shows for the sole purpose of stewarding. The Council agreed that it did not want to prevent entries by enforcing a requirement for people to steward. It was further noted that a high number of regular judges were members of committees and therefore would be exempt from the requirement so the suggestion may not meet its aims. A view was expressed that it would not be fair to introduce this requirement for established CC judges and not up and coming judges.
43. It was noted that the suggestion would be extremely difficult for the office to monitor and information regarding the stewards at each show was not currently obtained by the office. Mr Moss offered an alternative suggestion that all judges be requested to steward at least once a year. It was highlighted that although easier, this would still be incredibly difficult for the office to monitor, and that additional information would be required from show societies and/or judges.
44. A view was expressed that this would be problematic in Northern Ireland as the number of shows held under Kennel Club regulations was small, and there may be a need to travel to the mainland which posed additional financial constraints. It was noted that this suggestion could be beneficial for Belfast Dog Show Society's championship show.
45. An additional view was expressed that the suggestion in its current form did not appear to be able to meet the aims of encouraging people to steward and put back into the hobby. It was noted that other methods, including encouraging younger people needed to be considered. The Council noted that societies often struggled to get committee members as well as stewards, and this was a wider issue.
46. It was noted that the Scottish community had an active communication route for societies that required assistance and that other regions could look to this to implement a similar structure. It was further noted that the North West representatives were in the process of communicating with societies.
47. On discussion, the Council was of the view that although small changes in communication would assist a number of societies there needed to be more widespread action to encourage people, including younger people, into the hobby and, to join committees and assist at shows, including by stewarding.
48. It was thought that the problem was not as widespread in Europe and that stewards overseas were much more valued and often were paid. The Council was in agreement that people needed to feel valued and supported to want to offer their time to help.
49. A suggestion was raised that societies be encouraged to promote their stewards by running steward raffles, or offering a certificate for people who steward at so many shows per year etc. It was noted that many people steward to meet judging requirements and then never again, a way of encouraging the

continuation of stewarding was necessary. It was further noted that dog enthusiasts who may not show would be able to assist in stewarding and this should be considered by societies. It was noted that many people attend Discover Dogs each year for the love of dogs and opening up the hobby to other people would be beneficial.

50. To conclude, the Council undertook to speak to people within the regions to ascertain whether there were any specific ideas that could improve the perceived issue of a lack of stewards. It was noted that individual societies needed to communicate with the people in their areas. It was noted that the item would not be brought back to the next meeting unless a proposal from a region was submitted.

#### Venue costs

51. Mr Bennett submitted and presented the following item for discussion:

'The cost of venues continues to rise as well as the number of suitable available venues that allow dog events falling. Could The Kennel Club consider setting up a further venue like the Stoneleigh building in another area.'

52. On discussion, the Council acknowledged the difficulties faced by societies in finding an appropriately priced venue, noting that many societies hold shows at the same venues. It was further noted that tentage was a significant cost to societies and that this had dramatically increased in the last few years post pandemic.
53. Mrs Cawthera-Purdy, with support of the office, advised the Council that the purchase of an additional property or land was not in its remit. It was noted that The Kennel Club Annual General Meeting may be a better place for discussion of this nature. It was highlighted that The Kennel Club was aware of the issue that societies faced regarding venue costs. The Council was welcomed to submit suggestions of ways to mitigate the issue to the office.

### **ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Special Beginners Competition

54. Mrs Chapman queried that the definition of the Special Beginners class did not appear within the definitions of classes within the F regulations.
55. The office clarified that as this was a Special class it was correct that there was no definition within the regulations. It was further clarified that the definition that appeared on The Kennel Club website was specifically for The Kennel Club Special Beginners Competition, and that should any society wish to schedule a Special Beginners class with a different definition, providing that this was clearly stated within the show schedule, the society would be permitted to do so.

56. The importance of encouraging exhibitors to read schedules was highlighted.

Judges Education Programme (JEP) (Breed Shows) - Mentoring

57. Mr Moss stated that currently it was not possible to hold mentoring sessions under the JEP for breeds included within the Imported Breed Register, it was queried whether it was possible to amend this.

58. The office confirmed that it was not possible for judges to undergo mentoring sessions for such breeds as they were not allocated separately classified breed classes.

**ITEM 7.      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

59. An announcement confirming the date of the next meeting would be confirmed in September 2023.

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the office.

**MRS A CAWThERA-PURDY  
CHAIRMAN**

**Eligibility criteria for the Junior Certificate of Excellence Proposal**

- The Junior Certificate of Excellence is an award available to all breeds not allocated championship status (including those breeds on the Imported Breed Register)
- A Junior Certificate of Excellence will be issued to a dog achieving 20 points at championship and open shows including breed club open shows
- Points may be claimed from breed (including Any Variety Not Separately Classified (AVNSC)), Any Variety Imported Breed Register Classes (AV Imp BR) & Any Variety/Stakes Classes (AV)
- A dog must gain 20 points whilst it is between the age of 6-18 months old
- An application for a Junior Certificate of Excellence should be made by the dog's registered owner at the time of qualification
- An application will be considered up to six months after the date of qualification
- A minimum of 3 points must be won at championship shows and a minimum of 3 points from open shows
- A minimum of 7 points must be won from Breed/AVNSC or AV Imp BR classes
- Multiple points may be claimed from any one championship or open show
- The title 'JCeX' may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues

**Breed Classes (including AVNSC and AV Imp BR) – scale of points**

Junior Certificate of Excellence points may be claimed at both championship shows and Open Show as long as two or more dogs were present in the class.

Available points:

- 1 point for each 1<sup>st</sup> prize awarded as long as there are more than 2 dogs present in the class
- 1 point awarded for Best of Breed or Best of Sex (only valid if no points are gained by the dog by winning a breed class or breed classes at the show and the dog has beaten one other)
- 1 point for Best Puppy in Breed or Best Puppy of Sex (only valid if no points are gained by the dog by winning a breed class or breed classes at the show and provided the puppy has beaten one other puppy of any sex)

**AV/Stakes Classes – scale of points**

Junior Certificate of Excellence points can be claimed from AV/Stakes classes at either championship or open shows. Junior Certificate of Excellence points are only valid if the dog has beaten one other dog in the class.

Available points:

- 1 point for a 1<sup>st</sup> prize awarded in an any class