



**MINUTES OF THE KENNEL CLUB SHOWS LIAISON COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2025 AT 11:00 AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL
CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

PRESENT

Mr S Bennett	Midlands
Ms A Benoist*	North East
Mrs A Cawthera-Purdy	General and Group Championship Shows
Mrs G C Chapman	South East and East Anglia
Miss J Cutler	South East and East Anglia
Mr K Greenland	South/South West
Mrs T Harrison*	Midlands
Mr T Johnston	Scotland
Mr A Moss*	North West
Mr M Ord*	North East
Mr A Paisey*	General and Group Championship Shows
Mr J Purnell	North West
Mr N Salisbury	Midlands
Miss F Snook	South/South West
Mrs J Walmsley	South/South West

*Attended via Microsoft Teams

IN ATTENDANCE

Miss D Deuchar	Senior Manager Canine Activities
Miss A Morley	Activities Liaison Manager
Miss S Hibbin	Breed Shows Liaison Advisor

**ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINING TERM OF THE
COUNCIL**

1. It was proposed and seconded that Mrs Cawthera-Purdy be elected as Chairperson for the term of the Council. No further nominations were received and Mrs Cawthera-Purdy was duly elected as Chairperson.

IN THE CHAIR : MRS CAWThERA-PURDY



ITEM 2. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINING TERM OF THE COUNCIL

2. It was proposed and seconded that Mr Bennett be elected as Vice-Chairman for the term of the Council. No further nominations were received and Mr Bennett was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

ITEM 3. TO ELECT ONE MEMBER FOR THE SHOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF THE COMMITTEE (2025-2028)

3. It was proposed and seconded that Mr Bennett be elected as a member of the Show Executive Committee for the term of the Committee. No further nominations were received and Mr Bennett was duly elected.

ITEM 4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. Apologies were received from Mr P Davies, Mr P McClure, Mrs I McManus, Mr J Purnell, Mr M Sanders and Ms C Smedley.

ITEM 5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2024

5. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

ITEM 6. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING

6. The Council noted the following results of recommendations from the previous meeting.

7. Scheduling of Best Puppy in Show relative to Best in Show
The Council noted that the Show Executive Committee had discussed the positives and negatives for the amendment and had been of the view that the decision should be up to the show management and clearly defined within show schedules, ensuring the best decision was made for the specific show. The following regulations were approved by the Board with effect from 1 January 2025.

F(1)26.c

~~Consequently, selection of Best Puppy in Breed, Best Puppy in Group and Best Puppy in Show must follow the selection of Best of Breed, Best of Group and Best in Show respectively.~~

(Deletions struck through)



(Effective 1 January 2025)

F(1)26

“Where a Best Puppy in Show competition is scheduled the Best Puppy in Show is a puppy which has been declared Best Puppy in Breed or Best Puppy in Group. A puppy is a dog of 6 and not exceeding 12 calendar months of age on the first day of the show. **The selection of Best in Show may follow the selection of Best Puppy in Show and Best Veteran in Show (if scheduled) respectively**”.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

8. The Council agreed that the decision should be up to the show management and clearly defined within show schedules, ensuring the best decision would be made for the specific show.
9. The proposal and necessary regulation amendment had been referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2025.
10. Best Puppy in Show Judging Timeframes
The Council noted that the Show Executive Committee and subsequently the Board had approved the following regulation, noting that it was the judges responsibility to abide by the Regulations and that formal approval of Best Puppy in Show appointments would not be undertaken by the Kennel Club and appointments would not appear on Find a Judge.

F(1)22.d.

(4) Judges for Best Puppy in Show (excluding single breed championship shows)

(a) There must be an interval of not less than 9 calendar months between appointments to judge Best Puppy in Show at a championship show.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

11. The Council noted that it was the judges responsibility to abide by the Regulations and that formal approval of Best Puppy in Show appointments would not be undertaken by The Kennel Club and appointments would not appear on Find A Juge.
12. The Council agreed that judges should not be judging best puppy more than once every nine months, and that judges were responsible to abide by the regulations. Any issues should be raised through the formal objection route.



The proposal and necessary regulation amendment had been referred to and recommended by the SEC and subsequently approved by the Board effective from 1 January 2025.

13. Addition to the Code of Best Practice for Judges and Stewards
The Council noted that the Shows Executive Committee did not support the proposed addition to state it was the stewards responsibility to give out promotional materials with the prize cards as directed by the society.
14. The Council noted that the Committee did not support the proposal, and that societies could request stewards to carry out additional duties, and may offer incentives for doing so.
15. Previous Minutes
A query was raised in relation to paragraph 35 in the 2024 minutes, as the vet who had been approached quoted £350. It was noted that a vet was found who was free of charge.
16. The Council referred to paragraph 3.c and requested an update on the Junior Awards for non-challenge certificate breeds. The office confirmed it would take effect from 1 July 2025, and was due to be announced in the next few weeks.

[**Afternote:** The press release was announced as of 1 May 2025, and can be found on the Kennel Club website here: [The Kennel Club introduces new Junior Award and Rally Veteran Warrant](#)]

ITEM 7. PROPOSALS

17. Special Beginners Eligibility
Proposed by Mrs Cawthera-Purdy
The Council considered a proposal from Mrs Cawthera-Purdy to discuss the eligibility for Special Beginners. It was noted that a similar proposal had been on the agenda for the Breeds Liaison Council. The chairs of both liaison councils requested the Council discuss the suggested amendment for this class, following their meeting on 22 April 2025. Mr Bennett seconded the proposal.
18. For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate, or for those breeds not allocated championship status, Best of Sex or Reserve Best of Sex at a championship show. **Owners or handlers who have exhibited or handled a dog at shows**



over the previous seven consecutive years are not eligible for this class.

(Insertion in bold)

19. It was noted the proposal aimed to limit seasoned exhibitors, who had been showing for a long period of time.
20. The term consecutive was highlighted, noting the requirement for consecutive years was to ensure the exhibitor had continued actively attending shows and had not had a large gap between dogs when they may not have been exhibiting. Concern was raised that consecutive may not be the correct term, due to the timeframes surrounding no-shows due to COVID restrictions.
21. It was highlighted that Special Beginners needed to be as open as possible, to ensure exhibitors were not excluded. The original suggestion had been five consecutive years, but it was raised to seven, to which there was no objection. It was noted that no owner or handler would currently reach the seven year limit due to COVID, and there being no shows.
22. Mr Moss raised concern with the inclusion of Best of Sex and Reserve Best of Sex for non CC breeds due to low entry numbers, meaning a first time handler could have a chance of winning Best of Sex due to those low entry numbers. A query was raised as to whether the eligibility should only relate to challenge certificate and reserve challenge certificate awards instead.
23. An alternative proposal was presented by Miss Cutler, and seconded by Mr Moss, as follows:

For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate, ~~or for those breeds not allocated championship status, Best of Sex or Reserve Best of Sex at a championship show.~~ **Owners or handlers who have exhibited or handled a dog at shows over the previous seven consecutive years are not eligible for this class.**

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)
24. The Council considered the removal of Best of Sex and Reserve Best of Sex from the Special Beginners regulation, however concern was raised that the proposal did not support the Shows Liaison Council's original proposal, and was more in support of the Breed Liaison Council's proposal. Concern was raised that some breeds were dominated by a few high calibre handlers who were often awarded the challenge certificates. There was concern that this proposal would exclude handlers who had been competing for years, but were often beaten by more successful owners or handlers.



25. The Council sought clarity on the term consecutive. It was confirmed that it must be seven years in a row. If an owner or handler had a year gap for breeding purposes for example, the seven years would restart. Consecutive would allow handlers to compete in Special Beginners for as long as they wished to, without excluding them.
26. The Council unanimously voted to **recommend** the amended proposal to the Show Executive Committee.

27. Proposed addition of Best Veteran in Show Regulations

Proposed by Mr Moss

The Council considered a proposal from Mr Moss to introduce a regulation which would reduce confusion from show to show as to which dogs could be declared Best Veteran in Breed and subsequently Best Veteran in Group and Best Veteran in Show.

Regulation F(1).27

Where a Best Veteran in Show competition is scheduled the Best Veteran in Show is a Veteran which has been declared Best Veteran in Breed or Best Veteran in Group. A Veteran is a dog of 7 years and above on the first day of the show.

At Championship Show, Breed Club Open Shows and Limited Shows.

(1) Best Veteran in Breed

A Best Veteran may be declared in each breed from Veterans entered in any breed class.

(2) Best Veteran in Group

Best Veteran in Group and subsequent Veteran group placings must be selected from:-

(a) Those veterans declared Best Veteran in Breed.

(b) The Veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.

(c) The Veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.

Best Veteran in Show

Best Veteran in Show must be selected from the Best Veteran in Group winners

(insertions in bold. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

28. The Council noted that the feedback from the Shows Liaison Council 2024 meeting stated it was better to style the veteran wording in the same format as puppy classes, and that this proposal had taken that on board.
29. It was raised that 'Breed Club Open Shows and Limited Shows' should be amended to 'Breed Club Open and Limited Shows' as General Open Shows



were not included. It was noted that if General Open Shows were to be included, then societies would have to hold a Veteran class for every classified breed which would not be financially viable.

30. It was noted that the proposal gave societies an alternative way to hold a Best Veteran in Show without having to classify each breed.
31. It was highlighted that a section had been missed off the proposal and General Open and General Limited Shows should be added as point (4).
32. It was noted that schedules must stipulate that dogs must be entered in the Any Variety Veteran class in order to progress through to the Best Veteran in Show competition.
33. The office was required to tidy up the wording. Best Veteran in Show should be point three, and Mr Moss's additional note should become point four.
34. Following some numbering amendments and the inclusion of General Open and General Limited shows, the council voted by a majority in favour of the following regulation amendments and it was subsequently recommended to the Show Executive Committee for approval.

Regulation F(1).27

Where a Best Veteran in Show competition is scheduled the Best Veteran in Show is a Veteran which has been declared Best Veteran in Breed or Best Veteran in Group. A Veteran is a dog of 7 years and above on the first day of the show.

At Championship Shows, Breed Club Open Shows and Limited Shows.

(1) Best Veteran in Breed

A Best Veteran may be declared in each breed from Veterans entered in any breed class.

(2) Best Veteran in Group

Best Veteran in Group and subsequent Veteran group placings must be selected from:-

(a) Those veterans declared Best Veteran in Breed.

(b) The Veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.

(c) The Veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.

(3) Best Veteran in Show

Best Veteran in Show must be selected from the Best Veteran in Group winners

(4) General Open and General Limited Shows



(a) At those shows where a Best Veteran in Show competition is scheduled the Best Veteran in Show is the exhibit which has been declared best from the Any Variety Veteran Classes for each group.
(insertions in bold. Subsequent paragraphs to renumbered)

35. Proposal to Ensure Fair Access to Dog Show Entries For Everyone
Proposed by Mr Davies
The Council considered a proposal from Mr Davies to reduce the number of show societies which were not offering postal entries to their shows. This has resulted in some exhibitors being unable to fully enjoy their hobby. Mr Moss presented the proposal in the absence of Mr Davies.
36. It was noted within the proposal that there were still many people who did not access the internet, whether due to the absence of domestic provision or lack of smart phone ownership. Many more refuse to use internet banking and were distrustful of online transactions.
37. The Council agreed that exhibitors should all have fair access to entering shows, and noted a number of shows only accepted online entries.
38. It was highlighted that in the UK, 4% of people have a lack of internet access, which is an increase since last year. It was also noted that there were exhibitors who still preferred to enter via postal entries. Miss Cutler seconded the proposal.
39. The Council agreed that postal entries should be left to the discretion of the society.
40. Regulation F(1)8.(b) was highlighted, as it stated societies had discretion to accept online entries only, postal entries only, or both online and postal entries. Schedules must clearly state the way in which entries may be made.
41. Mr Moss proposed the term discretion be amended to mandatory, however there was no seconder, and the proposal was not supported by the Council.
42. Limit Class Eligibility
Proposed by Mr Bennett on behalf of Ms James
The Council considered a proposal from Ms James to amend the Limit class criteria.
43. It was highlighted that once a dog had obtained seven first places the dog had to move into the Open class, potentially causing overloading in the Open Class.



44. A concern was raised that the proposal risked the Open class unofficially becoming a Champions class. Further concern was raised that the issue may not be resolved, but move down a class, as various challenge certificate winners would take places in the Limit class. It was noted that it was difficult to win an open class when the repeated winners continued competing to win breed records.
45. The Council queried whether it would be better to see if the Champions class was scheduled by societies, and if so, whether it was worth seeing the impact that had on Open classes before making any further amendments to Limit classes.
46. It was proposed whether the number of wins should be reviewed, potentially making it higher than seven. Ms Chapman seconded the amended proposal, and suggested ten. The Council agreed with the amended proposal. The amendment was carried unanimously and subsequently, following amendment, was **recommended** to the Show Executive Committee for approval.

Proposed Amendment:

LIMIT *For dogs which have not become Show Champions under Royal Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club or won 3 or more CC/CACIB/CAC/Green Stars or won ~~7~~ **10** or more first prizes in all, at championship shows in Limit or Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

** For dogs which have not won ~~7~~ **10** or more first prizes in all at open and championship shows in Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)

47. Removal of Award Boards
Presented by Ms Cawthera-Purdy on behalf of Ms Graham, secretary of Barrow & District Kennel Association
The Council considered a proposal from Ms Graham to request the relaxation of the use of Award Boards at General Open Shows.
48. Miss Cutler seconded the proposal, and the Council noted that results must be displayed, but it is up to the society how.
49. The Council was in agreement that this was a good practice to continue after the relaxation of the regulations during COVID.



50. The Council unanimously supported the proposal and therefore **recommended** it for approval.

(Ms T Harrison left the meeting 12:34)

51. Proposal to amend AVNSC Group Qualifiers
Proposed by Miss J Cutler

The Council considered the proposal to allow variety breeds to be eligible for the relevant Group at General Limited or Open Shows. The matter was discussed at last year's meeting, but the proposal has since been reviewed and re-submitted for further discussion.

52. It was suggested that where a society schedules AVNSC classes at Limited or Open Shows for varieties, that the dog or puppy declared 'Best' is allowed to compete in the relevant Group or Puppy Group, without first having to compete with the winner of AVNSC in that group.
53. It was noted that this would cut down the number of breeds that needed to be scheduled. It was agreed that this should only apply to the breeds recognised in the proposal: Dachshund, Poodle, German Spitz, Chihuahua, Belgian Shepherd Dog, Fox Terrier and Bull Terrier. Mr Bennett seconded the proposal.
54. Concern was raised that this would mean entries from AVNSC and AVNSC variety would both be eligible to be exhibited in the group, and wouldn't need to challenge each other for the group, but could potentially have two dogs of the same breed in the group if they had entered different classes.
55. It was queried whether under the new JEP system that the AVNSC classes would be accepted as breed judging appointments. It was raised that this did not appear to be relevant to the discussion on the proposal, as nothing was changing as far as judging was concerned.
56. The Council unanimously voted to **recommend** to the Show Executive Committee for approval.

(Ms Harrison rejoined the meeting 12:37)

(Ms Harrison left the meeting 12:41)

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

57. Introduction of a Grand Champion Class



Presented by Mr Bennett on behalf of Ms James

The Council considered the discussion item from Ms James, to introduce a Grand Champion class.

- 58. A concern was raised that there needed to be more thought and explanation on the item before proper consideration could be given.
- 59. There were mixed views as to whether the item was being considered from the angle of removing good dogs to give others a chance, or as a reward for Champions.
- 60. It was highlighted that this may be a good award, rather than a class. It was raised that exhibitors may not be willing to join the Grand Champion class, unless required to.
- 61. Concern was raised that this could not be discussed without a definition of what a Grand Champion was. A class cannot be introduced without a definition and specifying criteria, noting who can enter.
- 62. The Council agreed that no further action would be taken at the current time.
- 63. Discussion about the eligibility for non-Challenge Certificate Breeds and Imported Register Breeds
Presented by Mrs Walmsley
The Council considered a discussion item from Mrs Walmsley, regarding the eligibility for Graduate, Post Graduate and Limit classes in relation to non-Challenge Certificate Breeds and Imported Register Breeds.
- 64. The Council agreed that the discussion item had valid points, and requested that it be brought back as a proposal for further consideration at the Council's next meeting.
- 65. It was noted that the classification did not work for breeds which did not have champion status, and would exclude some exhibitors who entered multiple dogs at shows.
- 66. The Council suggested including a number limit on wins into those classes, as previously discussed for the Limit classes.

ITEM 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 67. Judges wearing body cameras



A Concern was raised that a judge wore a bodycam at a recent show in Scotland. The judge confirmed that the society had agreed it was acceptable, however exhibitors were not in agreement that it was appropriate as children were present at the show, and therefore being recorded.

- 68. It was noted that the judge had felt threatened at the show, and felt the need to wear the bodycam as protection.
- 69. The Council noted that the societies photography agreement would have been clearly stated on the schedule when exhibitors entered the show.
- 70. A concern was raised as to whether societies were aware of the practice. The office agreed to seek guidance from the legal team with regards to guidance being issued on the matter.
- 72. Merseyside Gundog show
It was raised that following an incident report which had been submitted to the office from Merseyside Gundog at a show in February, the society had still not heard anything further on the matter. The office agreed to look into the matter following the meeting.
- 73. DBS checks
It was queried whether there was a requirement for DBS checks to be carried out throughout societies, as it was raised that this had been done for staff and volunteers working at Crufts.
- 74. A concern was raised that the checks were only up to date to the date they were carried out, and it was highlighted that children should be in the care of the parent or guardian, therefore it wasn't deemed necessary to require all society members carry out a DBS check.
- 75. The meeting closed at 13:13pm.

Mrs A CAWThERA-PURDY
Chairperson