



**MEETING OF THE SHOWS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY
22 APRIL 2025 AT 11.00AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE KENNEL CLUB,
CLARGES STREET**

AGENDA

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

The Council is invited to note Committee elections will take place in May 2025.

**ITEM 2. TO ELECT ONE MEMBER FOR THE SHOW EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE FOR THE TERM OF THE COMMITTEE (2025-
2028)**

ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**ITEM 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD
ON 23 APRIL 2024**

The Council is requested to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024.
(Annex A refers)

ITEM 5. RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS/MATTERS ARISING

a. Scheduling of Best Puppy in Show relative to Best in Show

The Show Executive Committee discussed the positives and negatives for the amendment and was of the view 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. 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)

b. Best Puppy in Show Judging Timeframes

The Show Executive Committee and subsequently the Board approved the following regulation, noting that it was the judge’s 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)

c. Proposed addition to the Code of Best Practice for Judges and Stewards

The Show Executive Committee did not support the proposed addition to state it was the steward’s responsibility to give out promotional materials with the prize cards as directed by the society.

The Committee considered the proposal and was strong in its view that it needed to encourage stewards. It did not wish to introduce anything which may prevent people wishing to steward. It was confirmed that societies could request stewards to carry out additional duties and may wish to offer incentives for doing so.

ITEM 6. PROPOSALS

a. Special Beginners Eligibility

Proposed by Mrs A Cawthera-Purdy

At its previous meeting the Shows Liaison Council had discussed the eligibility for Special Beginners, noting that a similar proposal had been

on the agenda for the Breeds Liaison Council. The chairs of both liaison councils now wish the Council to discuss the suggested amendment for this class:

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)

Rationale

It is noted that one of the main concerns was exhibitors who had been showing for a number of years but had not had particular success to make them ineligible for the class, but they were not deemed to be beginners by their peers. The requirement for consecutive years is to ensure the exhibitor has remained actively attending shows and had not had a large gap between dogs when they may not have been exhibiting.

b. Proposed addition of Best Veteran in Show regulations.

Proposed by Mr A Moss

At its last meeting the Council discussed creating standard wording for Best Veteran in Show. The Council is invited to discuss the following proposal.

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 renumbered)

Rationale:

- There is currently confusion from show to show as to which dogs can be declared Best Veteran in Breed and subsequently Best Veteran in Group and Best Veteran in Show

c. Proposal to Ensure Fair Access to Dog Show Entries For Everyone.

Proposed by Mr P Davies

Mr Davies wishes the Council to discuss the increasing number of show societies which are not offering postal entries to their shows. This has resulted in some exhibitors being unable to fully enjoy their hobby.

Mr Davies states there are still many people who do 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 are distrustful of online transactions.

Regulation F(1)7.c(6) and Regulations F(1)8(b, e, f) give societies the discretion to allow postal entries. Postal entries need not be received by society secretaries since the major show printers accept them directly. It is proposed that these sections be amended to make mandatory the acceptance of postal entries.

d. Limit Class Eligibility

Presented by Mr S Bennett on behalf of Ms S James

Ms James suggests that the Limit class criteria is amended. Currently once a dog has obtained seven first places the dog has to move into the Open class potentially causing overloading in the Open Class.

The suggestion is that the seven win restriction is removed and dogs can obtain three CC/CACIB/CAC/Green Stars making the dog into a champion in Limit, prior to the requirement to move into open. Ms James suggests this would encourage more exhibitors to show as so many exhibitors are put off when moving up to open and competing against Champions or current winning dogs which are collecting multiple Challenge Certificates in the breed, driving entries down to an all-time low. Ms James states the seven wins has never made much sense to her and times need to change encouraging exhibitors to have a chance of winning a prize

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 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 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)

e. Removal of Award Boards

Presented by Mr P McClure on behalf of Ms J Graham, secretary of Barrow & District Kennel Association

Ms Graham on behalf of other Open Show Secretaries requests the relaxation of the use of Award Boards at General Open Shows.

Regulation F(1)3.f(2) states: Breed club championship shows, open and limited shows:- An area for the display of awards.

Rationale

The rationale for this is the amount of paper wasted in a time of sustainability and conservation and the time taken to collect the slips and sort them is felt to be a waste of resources and everybody's time. At the Club's last Open show, with an entry of over 400 dogs, the club added the slips as required and kept a note of exhibitors who went to look. Only 1 person looked at them.

As a secretary Ms Graham states she would be happy for anyone to ask her for the results and could have a marked up catalogue available throughout the day for exhibitors use. With more societies using the facility to put results online this is a good opportunity to relax the regulation so it is optional for Societies to have award boards.

It has also been noted that free standing award boards can be a risk to exhibitors and spectators as they are prone to fall over, especially outdoors on a breezy day.

Indoor venues do not like societies sticking or pinning the sheets to the walls. The regulation was relaxed after Covid and it is not believed any issues occurred.

f. Proposal to amend AVNSC Group qualifiers

Proposed by Mrs J Cutler

At its meeting last year the Council discussed allowing variety breeds to be eligible for the relevant Group at General Limited or Open Shows, the proposal has been reviewed and re-submitted for further discussion.

It is suggested that where a society schedules AVNSC classes at Limited or Open Shows for varieties e.g. AVNSC Dachshund, AVNSC Poodle etc that the dog/puppy declared 'Best' is allowed to compete in the relevant Group/Puppy Group, without first having to compete with the winner of AVNSC in that Group.

There are only a few recognised varieties (Dachshund, Poodle, German Spitz, Chihuahua, Belgian Shepherd Dog, Fox Terrier and Bull Terrier).

Rationale

To encourage more entries from breeds that do not have their own classes and are often reluctant to enter AVNSC and also reduce the time taken to further decide on which dogs are eligible for the Group.

It would also prevent disappointment for those declared Best AVNSC who would assume they were automatically eligible for the Group, but could find themselves beaten by the winner of an AVNSC variety breed before the Group takes place.

ITEM 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Introduction of a Grand Champion Class

Presented by Mr S Bennett on behalf of Ms S James

Ms James feels there should be serious thought given to a grand champions class. Dogs collecting multiple Challenge Certificates, 50-60 in some breeds, is driving entries down, she states it is not healthy for any breed, as people will not bring their dogs to be exhibited as costs are rising, Ms James feels the Kennel Club needs to encourage their existing customer base and encourage new people to the world of showing.

b. Discussion about the eligibility for non Challenge Certificate Breeds and Imported Register Breeds

Presented by Mrs J Walmsley

Mrs Walmsley requests the Council discuss the eligibility for Graduate, Post Graduate and Limit classes in relation to non Challenge Certificate Breeds and Imported Register Breeds.

In the current regulations dogs in the categories above can never win out of Graduate, Post Graduate or Limit. Mrs Walmsley knows of a number of breeds, where dogs have either had Group Places, or even won a Group, at a Championship Show, that are still shown in Graduate and asks whether the classification needs reviewing to cover these dogs.

GRADUATE:	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 4 or more first prizes at championship shows in Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
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POST GRADUATE	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 5 or more first prizes at championship shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
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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 five or more first prizes in all at championship shows in Mid Limit, Limit or Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

NOTES:

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at The Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that The Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to The Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- ***Champion the wellbeing of dogs***
- ***Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues***
- ***Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network***
- ***Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact***
- ***Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community***
- ***Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable***