

I was asked to speak about the role of the Breed Club within a Breed Advisory Committee for the Judges' Guild Seminar and have highlighted the relevant information from the GCCF Philosophy, Principles and Constitution regarding this matter.

PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE GCCF JUDGE APPOINTMENT SCHEME

1. THE SYSTEM

- a) There shall be one unified system for the appointment of Judges applied throughout the Cat Fancy.
- b) It shall be open and fair to all who participate, and operate within identified procedures.
- c) It shall clearly define requirements of applicants and provide them with guidance and assessment of progress.
- d) The system shall be administered by Breed Advisory Committees (BACs).

2 THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

- a) The appointment and dismissal of Judges are the prerogatives of Council.

3. BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- a) A BAC exists to work in the interests of the cats of its Breed List by monitoring the training and performance of the Judges on its list and candidates within its scheme, and by reviewing its Standard of Points and Registration Policy and amending them if and when required, with due consideration to the health and future of the breed(s)
- b) Breed Advisory Committees will consist of representatives of the Specialist Breed Clubs, affiliated to GCCF, catering for breeds included in the Judge list.
- d) A BAC is the forum for discussion between its Constituent Clubs. The Club representatives, who shall be appointed according to the rules of their respective Clubs, must represent the views of their Club Committee to the BAC. In order to do so it is desirable that representatives are Committee members or attend Club Committee meetings. Representatives should not normally be mandated by their Club since any discussion during the meeting must be taken into consideration when voting. Any decision as to the extent of consultation with the individual Club members is the responsibility of the Club Committee.
- e) Once a BAC has been formed and its Constitution has been approved by the Executive Committee, no other group will be recognised as the advisory/recommending body to Council for the breed(s) concerned. Should any of the Clubs involved be unable to participate in the business meetings of the BAC then that Club will forfeit its right to make proposals to Council relating to judges, standards or points, registration policies and new breeds of the Breed List, which are the sole prerogatives of BACs. Such a Club will not, however, lose its right to speak on any matter relating to the breed(s) for which it caters.

BAC CONSTITUTION

7. GENERAL

- a) The Constitution of each BAC must adhere to the core Constitution, without additional clauses.

8. MEMBERSHIP

- a) The Committee will be composed of representatives of all specialist Breed Clubs, affiliated to the GCCF, catering for breeds within the Breed List of that BAC.
- b) All Clubs eligible for membership will automatically have the right to participate upon payment of the required levy. See Section 11 (Finance)
- c) Any eligible Club whose Affiliation is approved during the calendar year shall, upon payment of the full required levy (see Section 11), be entitled to send representatives to the next meeting of the BAC and shall be entitled to receive paperwork circulated since the start of the calendar year, to enable them to participate fully in discussion at the next meeting. Alternatively the Club may wish to delay membership of the BAC until the following 1st January.
- d) Any Club which does not wish to participate fully in the BAC may elect to be an Associate Member and pay a reduced levy. See Section 11 (Finance). Any such Club will receive only Agendas and Minutes and may make written representation upon any matter under discussion but will have no vote. Any such Club will forfeit its right to make proposals to Council on matters which are the sole prerogatives of BACs but will not, however, lose its right to speak on any such proposal in Council.
- e) Each participating constituent Club shall have equal representation. It is the responsibility of representatives to make themselves aware of matters pertaining to the breeds catered for by their BAC and the candidates within their scheme, to represent the views of their Club Committee to the BAC and to represent the views of the BAC to their Club Committee.
- f)
 - (i) In the case of BACs or Joint BACs with ten or more participating constituent Clubs each Club shall have one or two representatives. Each participating constituent Club of the ...BAC shall have ... representatives.
 - (ii) In the case of BACs or Joint BACs with five or more participating constituent Clubs each Club shall have two representatives.
 - (iii) In the case of BACs or Joint BACs with four participating constituent Clubs each Club shall have three representatives.
 - (iv) In the case of BACs or Joint BACs with two or three participating constituent Clubs the BAC may choose to have three, four or five representatives per Club such that the total number of representatives shall be not less than 8 and not more than 15. Each participating constituent Club of the ...BAC shall have ... representatives.
 - (v) In the case of BACs with only a single constituent Club the Club Committee shall constitute the BAC.
- g) Where BACs meet together as a Joint BAC the Clubs shall still send only the permitted number of Club representatives, who shall represent their Club on each relevant Breed List within the Joint BAC.
- h) Where each Club has two representatives the BAC may choose to allow each Club to have two votes notwithstanding that only one representative may be present at any meeting. Where permitted representation is by three or more per Club then there will be only one vote per representative present.
- i) In the case of BACs with more than one constituent Club, all representatives must have had a minimum of two years membership of a Club catering for the BAC breed(s). At least 50% of the representatives of each constituent Club must have had a minimum of three years current active involvement (i.e. breeding, showing, stewarding, judging) with the BAC breed(s).
- j) Any constituent Club which fails to be represented at a meeting of the BAC, without sufficient warning or justifiable reason, and thereby renders the meeting inquorate (see clause 12.i of this Constitution), shall automatically forfeit membership of the relevant BAC for a period of one year. (NB any levy paid will not be refunded)

NOTE: In the case of a two Club BAC this means that BAC meetings held during this period would be conducted by the Committee of the remaining Club.

- k) No representative shall attend a BAC meeting at which his/her own application or that of a member of his/her household is to be considered. No Probationer Judge, Steward within the ...BAC Scheme, or Trainee Steward completing their training with the ... BAC shall be present at a BAC meeting during the discussion of Stewards or Probationer Judges within this Scheme or of Full Judges of the Breed List.

Trainee Stewards may, if they so wish, apply to a different BAC to complete their final stewarding requirements. If it is their intention to progress to the Judge Appointment Scheme they may then submit their application to the BAC of their own breed and should not be penalised or asked to do additional assessments as a result. Copies of documents should be passed to the nominated BAC for information.

9. OBJECTIVES

- a) To work, in conjunction with the Full Judges of the Breed, to maintain and improve the health, well-being and beauty of their breed(s) by educating candidates and reviewing Standards of Points, Breeding and Registration Policies.
- b) To operate, within the Philosophy and Principles of the GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme, Rules of Procedure for the Selection of Judges for the breeds catered for by the member Clubs.
- c) To nominate persons who have satisfied the BAC as to their suitability, to the Council of the GCCF for appointment as Probationer or Full Judge.
- d) To maintain contact with Judges on their Breed Judge List and to keep them aware of any objectives in the development of the breed(s) and any amendments to the Standards of Points.
- e) To monitor the ability and progress of Stewards and Probationer Judges in their BAC Scheme and to provide advice, training and tuition as required.
- f) To organise seminars to communicate and debate current affairs with all Judges on their Breed Judge List and to facilitate practical demonstrations and training for stewards and Judges.
- g) In relation to breeds for which the BAC caters, to discuss and make proposals to the GCCF Executive Committee on matters relating to Standards of Points, Registration Policies, advancement of status and applications for new breeds. Such proposals are the sole prerogative of the BAC.
- h) To discuss and make proposals to the GCCF on any other matters relating either to breeds for which the BAC caters or to Judges on the BAC Breed Judge List.