

**GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG
ALLOCATION OF CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES
PROPOSALS FOR GSD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS**

The German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain (GSDL) is genuinely concerned about the considerable reduction in GSD entries at Championship Shows, both at General Championship Shows and Breed Club Championship Shows.

The GSD League understands this problem has developed over many years, some 15 years at least. There are multiple reasons for the continual decline in entries, and therefore no single or simple answer exists to reverse this trend.

We appreciate this opportunity to hold discussions with the Kennel Club on this matter.

Other breeds may also be suffering from a decline in entries, which may be caused by similar problems, however whilst the GSD League understands the Kennel Club has responsibility for all breeds, and will therefore assess any proposals very carefully indeed, especially for any wider implications, the GSD League has thoroughly examined the challenges that face the German Shepherd Dog breed and make these proposals to the Kennel Club with sincerity and with conviction that an urgent and broad approach is necessary.

The current rotation system of GSD Breed Clubs has served a very limited purpose, mainly that of preventing some GSD breed clubs losing their CC status because of poor entries. What it therefore encourages is APATHY, because when you remove the risk of losing CC status, you remove any worry about low entries, because the rotation system protects a club from any negative consequences of their low entries. If and when the Kennel Club reduce the number of CC's for our breed, the rotation system is simply stretched over even FEWER CC's, thus making the periods between holding Championship Shows for each club even greater. It also means that the most successful Club Shows in terms of entries are NOT receiving their HIGH entries EVERY year, in order to allow a LOW ENTRY Club to enjoy having a LOW ENTRY Show.

Striking a balance between the positives and the negatives of the rotation system should be the objective.

The stark reality hits home when you consider the highest entry club and the lowest entry club is sharing 1 set of CC's, giving each a CH. Show in alternate years. Ignoring the Two Day show, lets take Birmingham & District GSD (A) Association being 'paired' with GSD Club of Kent (Z), net entry for A = 180, net entry for Z = 56. Then take the NEXT highest 'net entry' Club and 'pair' it with the NEXT lowest 'net entry' Club, e.g. B = 177 & Y = 68. It is damaging to our Show scene to continue with such a scenario, and the worst scenario is exposed when a significantly higher number of LOW

ENTRY Club shows prevail in any particular year during the rotation pattern. This can have a demoralising impact on many exhibitors.

The rotation system also creates problems securing good venues, compared with the annual show, which can offer a preferred annual contract with a venue owner. The catering, stallholders, schedule & catalogue printers, and almost all other requirements and desirables for a successful Show, all benefit from an annual event, committees finish one Show and start on the next, giving continuity for the committee, developing valuable experience, and for all others connected with the Show, including the most important of all, the exhibitors.

The rotation system has for many exhibitors broken their habit of showing their dogs, they miss one show, or another, which is not being held, and they do something different. They used to know the schedule of CH. Shows held every year, the months they were held, the weekends of the month they were held, the venue's they were held at, the catering offered at each venue, the parking arrangements at each venue and were able plan accordingly. Frequently joining up with friend's en-route, sharing costs, sharing each others company, developing at each regular show a camaraderie and routine's which added to their showing experience. Club secretaries were always aware at which shows to have their schedules available for their own shows, distributing them at shows, saving postage costs, administrative time, and also achieving higher entries, especially because exhibitors, on being given a schedule would discuss with each other their mutual plans for entering and travelling etc.

There are so many benefits for Clubs holding annual Championship Shows which were taken for granted by so many and they have been substantially lost with the rotation system. We hope it is not too late to recover and progress our GSD show scene here in the United Kingdom. The Kennel Club and all GSD Clubs in the UK can be assured the GSD League of Great Britain, the oldest GSD Show Club in the UK, will play a leading role in focusing attention on all issues requiring attention, and most importantly offering its experience and expertise in identifying solutions and putting them into practice, along with supporting, wherever and whenever possible, all other GSD clubs.

We recognise that some of our proposals may present the need for very difficult decisions to be made; indeed the GSD League was faced with many very difficult issues when formulating our proposals. The overwhelming interest of our breeds future, here in the United Kingdom, made it absolutely essential for us to fully explore every area that requires attention, even those which others may be reluctant to acknowledge. The toughest decisions are often the correct decisions; our breed needs us all to make the correct decisions.

- 1) We propose the top 11 GSD Breed Clubs are allocated CC's on an annual basis – TABLE B
 - 2) We propose the bottom 6 GSD Breed Clubs have their CC allocation removed – TABLE B
- It may be considered appropriate initially, to write to each GSD Breed

Club with CC status, and ask them if they wish to retain their CC status, or give it up.

- 3) We propose the bottom 5 General CH. Shows have their CC allocation for GSD removed – TABLE C
It may be considered appropriate initially, to write to each General CH. Show Club with CC's for GSD, and ask them if they wish to retain their CC's for GSD, or give them up.
- 4) We propose that these 5 sets of CC's are allocated to the GSD Breed Clubs
- 5) We propose that the remaining 'rotation' 16 GSD Breed Clubs (includes Cambridge GSD Club) have CC allocation on alternate years. (8 sets of CC's per year)
- 6) We propose that the Cambridge Branch of the GSD League, becomes the Cambridge GSD Club, and is allocated the CC's from the Icenis GSD Club, on a rotational basis. This Club is close to the geographical position of the Icenis GSD Club, and has held a Spectacular Open Show for each of the last 3 years, which has achieved net entries in excess of 150 each and every year. This is a truly remarkable achievement brought about by a dynamic committee committed to identifying GSD exhibitor's needs and desires, and providing them. Every year they have carefully examined their show, with a view to introducing changes which will make a positive effect on their next show, and removing aspects which they considered may have had a negative effect. Continual monitoring, brainstorming sessions, and most importantly a determination to succeed - all the ingredients we need to instil in each and every GSD Club, to invigorate our GSD Show scene. Couple this with dynamic leadership from the Kennel Club and the leading breed club's and we have a recipe for success.
- 7) The above proposals will result in GSD Breed Clubs having 19 sets of CC's annually, and the General CH. Shows having 14 sets of CC's annually.
- 8) The overall effect of these proposals is forecast to be, from year one as follows:
 - loss of entries for the 5 General CH. Shows no longer having CC's = approx. 200 – Table A & C
 - loss of entries for the 6 Breed CH. Shows no longer having CC's (@ 3 shows per year rotation) approx. 200
 - rise in entries for 11 Breed Clubs having CC's annually = approx. 800
 - rise in entries by allocating Cambridge GSD Club CC's (rotation) = 150+ each ShowThis offers the opportunity of an annual net rise of approx. 500+ from year one.
Surely for approx. net entry of 2000, the provision of 19 sets of CC's is reasonable for BCS.
At the same time for a net entry of approx. 1400 the provision of 14 sets of CC's is reasonable for GCS.
It could be argued for 34 sets of CC's - 20 for BCS & 14 for GCS. We

ask the Kennel Club to be as generous as possible at this 'watershed' time for our breed's future; a few extra CC's could reduce the pain, and contribute towards a positive attitude towards these proposals. Ideas and principles, formulated into proposals are one thing, commitment and the broadest determination to make them succeed is another, we definitely need both.

- 9) There are other areas which need addressing to bring about the reversal of the falling entries.
It is not good enough to "stop the rot"; we recognise the need to invigorate our CH. Show scene.
- 10) We propose jointly assessing the GSD CH. Show net entries every two years.
During these assessments consideration is given to the following,
With regard to the GSD Breed Clubs with CC allocation on alternative years. (Rotation)
- a) The Breed Club with the lowest net entry has their CC allocation removed.
 - b) The Breed Club with the highest net entry is allocated CC's on an annual basis.

With regard to the GSD Breed Clubs allocated CC's annually.

The Breed Club with the lowest net entry is considered for alternate year's allocation.

This would also allow consideration of the GSD Breed Club (on alternate year's rotation) with the second highest net entry, being compared and considered for annual allocation.

There are many benefits of the above proposals, in particular it provides incentive for Clubs to do all they can to attract the highest entries, with the clear knowledge of the benefits or risks to their future CC allocation in the event of their failure.

The GSD League went on to consider further proposals for the benefit of our GSD Championship Shows.

- 11) The Two Day Show is clearly a huge success, however the 4 year rotation could be reduced to maximise its benefit on our Show scene. We therefore propose the following:

The GSD League & GSD Club of Wales to host a Two Day Show on alternate years and the GSD Club of Northern Ireland & the GSD Club of Scotland host a Two Day Show on alternate years. The GSD League & GSD NI on the same year and the GSD Wales & GSD Scotland on the same year, with a minimum period of 2 months between the Shows.

- 12) There are many issues which can affect the success or otherwise of a GSD Championship Show. The GSD League fully recognises the need to introduce training in order to address these issues.
- a) GSD Clubs to establish weekly training arrangements for show

training and basic obedience.

b) Seminars for Show Managers & Show Secretary's & Show committees

c) Central support for GSD Clubs regarding many aspects of running a successful Show.

d) Seminars for CH. Show Judges to raise their awareness of ALL of their responsibilities, with particular attention being paid to current breed faults which need addressing, and to the vital importance of the highest level of integrity when Judging our breed.

e) Workshops for Show Judges to highlight the major influence their Judging has on our breed, and on the morale of exhibitors, not forgetting their effect on the appeal of showing GSD to the GSD owner. The impact of using of foreign Judges compared with British Judges on entries, and their appeal to GSD exhibitors.

f) Seminars on the way our breed is Judged, the amount of fast gaiting, the levels of outside attraction, the time taken to Judge minor puppy & puppy classes, the length of time it takes Judges to Judge, and the finishing time of most GSD Breed Club CH. Shows which is currently around 6pm or 7pm. The importance of handlers in exhibiting our breed, can this be reduced, by a modified style of Judging. All of which affect the appeal of GSD exhibiting.

g) The way GSD exhibitors conduct themselves at Shows, participation in General Championship shows, including Group competition.

h) Greater accountability within our breed to constantly monitor all GSD Shows, particularly GSD CH. Shows, with a view to identifying the many negatives and positives, then proposing changes or alterations which will enhance our sport.

i) Having at least a maiden or Novice class at each Championship Show which encourages new exhibitors.

j) Having a junior handling class at each Show to encourage youngsters into our Show scene.

k) Holding regular "brainstorming" sessions within our breed, within clubs, to draw out ideas for progress.

l) CH. Show Judges should retire at 70 years of age, or earlier.

The GSD League of Great Britain presents these proposals in a genuine attempt to bring about the changes necessary to radically improve and re-invigorate our GSD Show Scene. We sincerely believe these proposals offer a great opportunity. We understand they will be difficult for some to fully accept, we ask that they put the interest of our breed ahead of any local or particular club interest. We hope they will be fully

supported by the Kennel Club and the whole of our breed.

GSD League Chairman: **Graham Stephens**

GCS = GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW – BCS = BREED CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

TABLE A

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
GCS. NET & CC	2171 =19	1957 =19	2000 =22	1922 =20	1702 =21	1493 =21	1654 =21	1397 =21	1500 =20	1257 =20	1386 =19
BCS. NET & CC	2541 =14	2221 =14	1829 =14	2061 =14	1683 =14	1836 =14	1713 =15	1516 =14	1508 =13	1455 =13	1443 =13
TOTAL NET & CC	4712 =33	4178 =33	3829 =35	3983 =34	3385 =35	3329 =35	3367 =35	2913 =35	3008 =33	2712 =33	2751 =32
TOTAL AVER.	143	127	109	117	97	95	96	83	91	82	86
GCS AVERAGE	114	103	91	96	81	71	79	67	75	63	73
BCS AVERAGE	181	159	141	147	120	131	114	108	116	112	111
LOWEST FIVE	62	59	35	32	19	30	40	22	23	26	32
NET ENTRIES	67	62	40	41	38	48	50	39=2	40=2	37	35
FOR GENERAL	69	69=2	46	64=2	50	60	51	49	42	41	42
CHAMPION SHOWS - GCS	79	74=2	53	67	55=2	61=2	57	50	46	43	51
	95	81	58	68	58	64	63	53=2	58	44	53
TOTAL LOW.5	362	333	232	268	217	260	261	199	191	191	213
LOWEST FIVE	94	88	94	93	27	83	64	47	68	48	57
NET ENTRIES	115	110	98	94	85	86	74	81	72	63	64
FOR BREED	122	116	99	98	89	93	96	85	73	73	72
CHAMPION SHOWS - BCS	124	125	106	102	108=2	96	99=2	87	77	74	84
	126	136	125	105	109	104	100	89	89	85	88
TOTAL LOW.5	581	575	522	492	417	462	432	389	379	343	365
HIGHEST FIVE	175*	175*	147	199*	162*	149*	128*	137*	148*	132*	191*
NET ENTRIES	161	158	128	141	117	107	106	115	110	105	102
FOR GCS	147	150	127	129	113	96=2	102	109	107	91=2	98
*= CRUFTS	144	132	125	127	110=2	93	101	85	101	84=2	96
	140	120	122	120	107	89	96	84	100	66	87
1998 = 120											
TOTAL HIGH 5	767	735	649	716	612	541	533	530	566	503	574
HIGHEST FIVE	310	293*W	310*E	235	232*S	284*W	209*E	181	172	268*W	203*E
NET ENTRIES	246	197	204	202	142	183	131	150*NI	151*S	130	179
FOR BCS	237	195	193	187	139	172	130	137	149	116	157
*= 2 DAY	219*S	179	178	186	138	149	129	129	143	107	122
	217	175	161	161	133	139	122	121	142	103	120
1999 = 157 NI											
TOTAL HIGH 5	1229	1039	1046	971	784	927	721	718	757	724	781

TABLE B

33 BREED CLUBS WITH CC's	1996 to 2006 Shows	Total entry	Ave. entry	Place	TOP 11	2002 to 2006 Shows	Total NET entry	Ave. NET entry	Place	TOP 11
Allertonshire GSD Club	5	639	128	12		2	182	92	25	R
Birmingham & Dist. GSD Assoc.	5	886	177	3	3	2	360	180	2	2
Bolton & District Alsatian Club	4	577	144	=7	7	2	259	130	7	7
British Association for GSD	6	958	160	5	5	2	388	129	8	8
British GSD Training Club *	4	393	98	28		*2	267	134	6	6
Clyde Valley GSD Club	4	442	110	22		2	197	99	21	R
Crewe & North Staffs GSD Club	5	814	136	10	10	2	279	140	5	5
Derbyshire GSD Club	5	454	91	28		3	240	80	27	X
Fife GSD Club	4	464	116	18		2	205	103	++18	R
GSD (Alsatian) Club of U.K.	5	714	143	9	9	2	169	85	26	R
GSD Club of Devon	3	346	115	20		2	216	108	16	R
GSD Club of Essex	4	488	122	14		2	245	123	10	10
GSD Club of Kent	4	236	59	33		2	111	56	33	X
GSD Club of Northern Ireland	5	578	116	18		*2	243	122	=11	=11
GSD Club of Scotland	6	879	147	6	6	3	334	111	15	R
GSD Club of Wales	5	1081	216	1	1	2	353	177	3	3
GSD League of Great Britain	6	1214	202	2	2	3	561	187	1	1
Heads of the Valley GSD Club	1	117	117	16		*1	117	117	14	R
Leicestershire GSD Club	5	846	169	4	4	2	235	118	13	13
Midland Counties GSD Assoc.	*3	345	115	20		2	203	102	19	R
Norfolk GSD Club	5	548	110	23		2	149	75	28	X
North Eastern GSD Club	*3	340	113	22		2	202	101	20	R
North Wales Alsatian Club	5	509	102	27		2	187	94	24	R
North Yorks & S. Durham GSD.	3	351	117	16		2	243	122	=11	=11
Northumberland & Durham GSD	5	604	121	15		3	299	99	21	R
Preston & Fylde GSD Club	4	638	128	12		*1	143	143	4	4
Sheffield GSD Society	4	526	132	11		2	235	128	9	9
South of Scotland GSD & A B T S	5	538	108	=24		2	197	99	21	R
++South Western GSD Club	4	433	108	=24		2	142	71	31	R
South York's Alsatian Association	5	454	91	29		2	144	72	30	X
Southern Alsatian Training Soc.	5	446	89	32		2	135	68	32	X
Southern GSD Club	*3	308	103	26		*1	74	74	29	X
West York's GSD Club	4	574	144	=7	7	++2	213	107	17	R

++ ERRORS ON PREVIOUS TABLE
*** = REFER TO KENNEL CLUB STATS.**

It is a very close call between 4 Clubs, for annual CC'S & rotational CC's when considering their position over the two periods, 1996 to 2006 and 2002 to 2006. Highlighted in RED - **British GSD Training Club, GSD Club of Northern Ireland, Leicestershire GSD Club, & North Yorks & S. Durham GSD**

The Kennel Club view may differ in regards to which Club benefits from annual CC's. If the Kennel Club agreed to 20 sets of CC's for Breed Clubs, we could have more clubs with annual CC's, and include most of these four Clubs.

TABLE C

19 GENERAL CH. SHOWS WITH CC's FOR GSD	2002 to 2006 Shows	Total NET entry	Ave. NET entry	Place	
Manchester	5	453	91	3	
Crufts	5	736	147	1	
W.E.L.K.S	5	367	73	9	
Birmingham (Rep'tive)	5	319	64	11	
Scottish Kennel Club (Rep'tive)	5	248	50	16	X
Southern Counties Canine Association	5	291	58	14	
Three Counties Agricultural Society	5	484	97	2	
Border Union	5	218	44	17	X
Blackpool	5	297	59	13	
East of England Agricultural Society	5	403	81	6	
Leeds	5	327	65	10	
Welsh Kennel Club	5	391	78	8	
Scottish Kennel Club (2nd)	5	194	39	18	X
Birmingham (2nd)	5	416	83	5	
Richmond	5	396	79	7	
Belfast	5	184	37	19	X
National Working & Pastoral Breeds Dog Society	5	317	63	12	
Working & Pastoral Breeds Association of Scotland	5	282	56	15	X
Working & Pastoral Breeds Association of Wales	5	431	86	4	