

English Setter Joint Judges Committee

2014/15 Report

The English Setter Joint Judges Committee (JJC) was formed in 1998 with the main objectives to;

1. Produce and maintain a common Judging List to be used by English Setter breed clubs
2. Co-ordinate an integrated education programme to deliver breed specific seminars
3. Encourage all canine societies to use the JJC Judging Lists.

The JJC, which includes representatives from all six breed clubs, has been very successful in providing a consistent and unbiased approach for agreeing Judging List criteria and an effective format for education / training programmes. It is also a single body for English Setters when dealing with the Kennel Club on all judging related matters.

1. **Judging List** – the JJC reviews the judging list criteria annually. A number of factors are taken into account such as; falling entries at open shows, Kennel Club directives (e.g. attending Field Trials), judging experience, comparison with other gundog breeds in similar stud book bands, attendance and passing of breed specific seminars and the need to encourage new judges onto the lists.

In 2015 the criteria for “number of dogs judged” has been reduced for both the A3 and B Lists. The A3 List has been reduced from 200 to 160 dogs and the B List from 50 to 40 dogs. *Interestingly in 1998 when the JJC was formed the A3 List was 320 dogs and B List was 160 dogs.....how times have changed!*

It is hoped that this change will help judges move quicker onto B and A3 Lists due to the reduced number of classes now required.

Please continue to send updated judging CV's to the JJC secretary on a regular basis.

2. **Breed Specific Seminars** – the JJC has been running consistent breed specific seminars in accordance with the Kennel Club best practice guidelines (Modules 1, 2 and 3) that have been linked to the various judging lists since 2001. In this time 292 people have attended 25 modules organised by the English Setter breed clubs.

Given the falling entries at shows and reducing hands-on criteria it is important that judges are assessed to ensure they fully understand the breed characteristics before awarding CC's in the breed. Therefore the JJC places significant emphasis on judges needing to attend and pass breed specific seminars, especially Module 3 which is designed to assess potential judges before moving onto the A3 List awarding CC's.

There were no English Setter Modules held in 2014 due to concerns and a disagreement between the JJC and the Kennel Club over people being passed to award CC's in English

Setters who had failed the Module 3 assessment and therefore did not fulfil the A3 list criteria for the breed. **All 6 breed clubs will only support prospective judges who fulfil the agreed A3 list criteria.**

Whilst it is the Kennel Club's prerogative to approve who awards CC's in any breed, it is extremely disappointing that they have ignored the JJC on these occasions, undermining the successful and respected education programme established by the English Setter breed clubs over the past 13 years.

After lengthy discussions a reasonable outcome was reached between the JJC and Kennel Club, so the breed clubs have decided to continue running English Setter breed specific Modules in 2015. The dates and venues are still to be confirmed (check breed club web sites for details) but it is intended to run both a Module 2 and Module 3 breed specific seminar in 2015. Anyone wishing to go on one of these seminars should contact the JJC secretary.

3. **Canine Societies** – all the breed clubs and JJC are constantly sending out judging lists to canine societies asking them to select names from the published judging lists. We would also encourage individuals to actively lobby canine societies (either directly or through the JJC) to select judges from the breed club lists. The lists are constantly maintained and published on all the breed club web sites. Please contact the JJC secretary if you have any changes or corrections to the current judging lists.

Several breed clubs diligently promote open show judges, who are selected from the breed club lists, on their web sites. The use of social media is also being investigated by some of the breed clubs to promote open shows with English setter judges selected from the breed club lists.

All the breed clubs will continue to schedule special classes at both their Open and Championship shows to promote / support breed judges to gain more experience of judging larger classes.

Anyone with any questions relating to this report should contact one of the English Setter breed clubs or the JJC secretary (contact details are available on the web sites).

English Setter Joint Judges Committee (JJC)
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