



GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC

JUDGES COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 21st July 2018, commencing at 1.00pm, held at
"Airport Motel & Convention Centre",
33 Ardlie Street, Attwood, Victoria.

MINUTES

1. Opening & Welcome:

Chair Mrs. Robyn Knuckey – GSDCA Judges Committee Chair
Meeting declared open at 1.05pm

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

2. Present & Apologies: As per the signature sheet.

PRESENT:	
NAME	POSITION
Vince Tantaro	President & BS/Judge
Robyn Knuckey	Judges Committee Chair & BS/Judge
Jane Pike	Treasurer & BS/Judge
Val Moody	Secretary
Julie Urie	Obedience Committee Chair
Jacinta Poole	Editor QNR
Barbara Blythe	Minutes Secretary
Frank Moody	GSDCA Database Coordinator
Fay Stokes	BS/Judge – GSDLeague Delegate
Ian Urie	BS/Judge – GSDCV Delegate
Stephen Collins	BS/Judge
John Fenner	BS/Judge
Jenny Yuen	BS/Judge
Jean Butterfield	BS/Judge
Carol O'Rourke	BS/Judge
Karen Hedberg	BS/Judge
Greg Green	BS/Judge
Melanie Groth	BS/Judge – NBC BS Registrar
Sharon Ballantyne	Aspiring Breed Surveyor/Judge – GSDCQ Delegate
Andrew Jones	Aspiring Breed Surveyor/Judge
Natalie Humphries	Aspiring Breed Surveyor/Judge – GSDAWA Delegate
Fran Farley	Judge
Jo Cathie	Judge
Jan Brabham	Judge
Melissa Adamson	Judge

Jenny DeLucia	Judge
Sue Bruno	Judge
Graham Saltiel	Judge - New Zealand
Nicky McDermott	Aspiring GSD Judge
Wolf Meffert	ACT President
John DeLucia	GSDCSA President
Tony Mercieca	GSDCV President
Janet Haase	GSDCT Delegate
Leanne Irvine	Visitor – Group 5 Judge/CAWA Group 5 Coordinator (Trainee Judges)
APOLOGIES	
Sean Lynch	N&HR GSDC President
Salvatore Pittelli	Trainee Specialist Judge
Doug West	Breed Surveyor
Terry Jarvis	BS/Judge
Peter Kotevich	Judge
Christine Collins	BS/Judge
Barry O'Rourke	Judge
Joylene Neddermeyer	Judge
Ian Cooke	Judge
Rod Vernon	Judge
Honey Gross-Richardson	BS/Judge
Dr. Candice Baker	BH&W Chair
Peter Flynn	BS/Judge
Graeme Stevenson	BS/Judge
Louis Donald	BS/Judge
Robert Zammit	Judge
Jan Saltiel	New Zealand

Motion: *“That apologies be accepted”.*

Moved: Melanie Groth Seconded: Karen Hedberg CARRIED

3. Adoption of the Agenda:

3.1 Adoption of the Agenda for the Judges Committee meeting.

“That the Agenda for the Judges Committee Meeting as circulated, be adopted”.

Moved: Greg Green Seconded: Karen Hedberg CARRIED

4. Confirmation of the Minutes:

4.1 *“That the minutes of the Judges Committee Meeting held on Saturday 29th July 2017 in Adelaide, South Australia be accepted as a true and accurate record”.*

Moved: Greg Green Seconded: Karen Hedberg CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the 2017 Minutes:

5.1 Education Pack:

Judges Chair to develop a package to send to people who start in the Judges Extension Course.

The GSDCA Aspirant Judges Education Pack

Completed

Action: Update the Education Pack to include the GSDCA Service Agreement and reflect only 1 assessor judge required for final examination.

5.2

8.7 – Presentation of animals in a natural stance for measuring and critiquing.

Chair to send out a Directive to all Judges and Surveyors, include in QNR to advise the membership that:

- *No touching, pulling collar down etc. presenting the dog in a natural stance.*
- *The up and back to be on a loose lead, stopping the dog pulling on the lead.*

Completed

Action: A methodology on how a dog is to be presented for measuring and critiquing will be sent to GSDCA Judges/Breed Surveyors detailing how to present an animal.

5.3

9.1 – The GSDCA Secretary will prepare a letter that is to be sent to Member Clubs confirming that Visiting Overseas Conformation Judges' Evaluation does not apply to specialist judges coming from overseas.

Completed

A number of states require such a letter to be sent to Member Clubs. This applies to Queensland, WA, ACT and Victoria.

The suggestion was put forward that the "methodology" be provided in a package to be sent to all overseas judges. This package could also be available on the website.

The President said that all clubs should attach the Judges Guidelines to the contract when sent to the overseas and Australian judges.

Action: The Judges Guidelines and methodology for measuring/critiquing to be translated into German for German judges.

5.4 Results of Motions presented to the 2018 GSDCA AGM:

7.1	Size – Not to award gradings	Lost
8.1	Aggressive Dog Reporting	Carried
8.5	Changes to Excellent Merit and Excellent at SBE's	Carried
8.6	Measuring and recording height and depth of chest in Junior, Intermediate and Open classes	Carried
8.8	Specialist Judges Extension Course:	
	6.2.1.4 include in regulation – "unable to handle and/or" and	
	6.2.3.2.3 include in regulation – "or previous NBC Executive members" both	Carried
9.3	SBE to be terminated	Lost
9.4	Judges Service Agreement	Carried
9.5	Specialist Judges Disciplinary & Appeals Procedures	Carried

6. Judges Committee Chair's Report

The Judges Committee Chair tabled her report along with the report as presented by the National Show Liaison Officer and then asked if there were any questions from the report.

7. Matters Arising from the Judges Committee Chair's Report

Comments and discussion from the Judges Chair report:

- ◆ The Chair congratulated Jenny DeLucia on passing her final examination. We are pleased to welcome Sue Bruno return as a GSD Specialist Judge.
- ◆ Jo Cathie has sat her first exam for the WUSV and the Chair asked Jo Cathie to provide a brief outline of what the process entailed, which Jo provided to the meeting. Firstly what is involved with the 3 day Judges Seminar in Augsburg with examinations and interviews with Lothar Quoll to pass this stage. Jo also provided an overview of the assessment process with Wolfgang Lauber in NZ. The requirement to provide her call out order to him for each class prior to him disclosing his. Answering questions on specifics of dogs and a meeting again at the conclusion of judging. The last part was completing critiques on all animals exhibited on the day. The SV provide a template for this and expect them to be quite 'bland' in the SV way.
- ◆ Executive suggested that the GSDCA Service Agreement for Specialist Judges agreements be combined into one document. Please sign and return the agreements in a timely manner. If you have any concerns please contact Robyn Knuckey.

Action: Following motion to go to AGM:

"That as of 1st July 2019 the revised GSDCA Service Agreement for GSDCA Breed & Trainee Surveyors & GDCA Judges and Trainees (version 07/2019) must be signed in order to maintain their assigned GSDCA status."

- ◆ The President advised that following Malcolm Griffith's judging in Melbourne he was told that the WUSV were going to hold a seminar of WUSV judges in South America. The GSDCA Executive sent a letter to the SV detailing the reasons why we thought it a perfect opportunity to hold a seminar at the Melbourne National in 2019. To date we haven't heard whether this is acceptable.

The feedback received from Prof. Messler was that in order to gauge the interest in such a seminar, the SV require from our judges a CV using the proforma document available, together with another document being a statement saying that all judges support *unequivocally* the Harmonisation Program in its entirety.

If there is any expression of interest, let the Executive know as soon as possible, but be aware of the regulation that the nominations need to come back to this meeting. It was suggested that the opportunity was lost for 2019. The WUSV office is trying to gauge how many people would be involved. The letter will be sent to you. Please check out the website and the requirements, and think about if you are interested in going down this path. Hopefully the seminar might be offered to our Asian and New Zealand neighbours who could attend thereby hopefully reducing costs further. At this point in time, the only date published on the WUSV website at the moment is November this year. The cost is E300. Applicants would also need to factor in the cost of the airfare and accommodation.

Interested persons need to look at the SV website to check that the regulations pertaining to SV National Breed Judges, note that if your "primary" livelihood is made out of dogs, then you are excluded from participating. There is no age limit for this group of judges, unlike German SV judges.

We require the expressions of interest to enable us to try and convince the WUSV that there is a case to hold the seminar in this country. Louis Donald, Vince Tantaró, Robyn Knuckey and now Ian Urie have been approved by the GSDCA as fulfilling the GSDCA requirements to apply to be a participant in the SV program.

Action: Write to all judges to ascertain interest in attending the SV National Breed Judges Seminar if it can be organised in Australia.

- ◆ Code of Conduct: Judges were asked to be mindful of comments made about the judging of fellow judges on social media and in general. If any judge is unhappy with a placing, it is not acceptable to be critical in person or by any electronic contact. We need to ensure our actions enhance and not damage our credibility.
- ◆ A request came from the floor asking for the PowerPoint presentation on the Extended Breed Standard to be up dated. This has been in place since 2010 and could be refreshed.

Action: Chair to review and update PowerPoint presentation to be used as an Education Tool.

- ◆ The Executive's suggestions of four judges for the 2021 National was held over until the NBC meeting to be held tomorrow. The judges that will be put to the NBC meeting will be Malcolm Griffiths, Jens Becker-Olssen, Christoph Ludwig and Frank Goldlust.

(Chair's note: After the GSDCA Judges Meeting, it was communicated that Jens Becker-Olssen had been contracted by the ACT for 2020. The list was sent to GSDCQ with the 4th judge being Richard Brauch to replace Becker-Olssen).

Comments and discussion from the NSLO report:

- ◆ Aggressive Dogs: Ian was not made aware of an incident of aggressive dogs at this year's National. The rep concluded that there was no need to take it further as the dog was excused from the assembly area, but Ian believes that he should be made aware of these incidents as per the new addition to the National Show Manual passed at the recent AGM.
 - As a matter of courtesy and ensure correct reporting, Clubs that host the National must inform the NSLO of such incidents.
- ◆ Gradings at the National: Ian believes that when the German Judges judge at our National and are awarding the GSDCA awards, we need to formalise a process where we communicate quite clearly what our criteria is regarding awarding of gradings. This is noted as an action earlier in the meeting.
- ◆ Robyn Knuckey thanked Stephen Collins for preparing the Tail Male Charts. It was interesting to note that at one point there were 102 Long Stock Coats entered with only 5 scratchings. There were 343 stock coats entered with 271 shown: 72 scratchings.
- ◆ There are lots of shows being held on the same weekends in different states. We have a very congested show calendar. If we are looking at extending our national show list, can we look at bringing out judges who can go onto judge a National? Please provide your feedback to the Judges Chair. We want judges who will pull an entry; this can be implemented now as we have had a couple of new judges judging around the country.

Action: To be included as Agenda item from next year, to discuss new International Judges to give clubs feedback to see if other clubs wish to contract a judge that has received favourable feedback.

8. Matters Referred to the 2018 Judges Committee Meeting from GSDCA Member Clubs:

8.1 Moved – GSDCV

"That Malcolm Griffiths (UK/Colombia) be added to the National Judges List".

CARRIED

8.2 Moved – GSDCV

"That Mrs Heather MacDonald (UK) be added to the National Judges List".

CARRIED

The meeting was asked to vote on judges for the **2021 National**.

- Malcolm Griffiths CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Heather MacDonald CARRIED

8.3 Moved – GSDCV

"That Mr Luciano Mussolino (Italy) be added to the National Judges List".

MOTION WITHDRAWN

The following judges were put to the meeting as additions to the National Judges list.

Motion: "That Jens Becker-Olssen be added to the National Judges List".

Moved: NBC Executive Seconded: GSDCSA CARRIED

Abstain – 4.

Motion: "That Wolfgang Lauber be added to the National Judges List".

Moved: GSDCSA Seconded: Vince Tantaro CARRIED

The Chair said it is gratifying that we have expanded our Judges List. It is important the clubs look at the newly appointed German Judges or respected International Judges so they can be considered to expand our National List. It is important to continue to add to this group, as a number of SV judges leave due to reaching 70 years.

9. Any Other Business:

9.1 Discussion Item - National Show Regulations – NBC Executive

1. Judges must insist that handlers:

- Let the dog stand 4 square;
- Handlers do not manipulate in any way;
- Must stand back from the animal;
- Hold the lead only;
- No food, balls etc allowed to attract the dog.

Victoria suggested that we change the wording to add: *When measuring the dogs* Judges must insist that handlers let the dog stand 4 square and handlers do not manipulate and must stand back from the animals and only hold the lead. It was also suggested that the wording include no food, balls etc be allowed to attract the dog.

2. Should a formal approach be made to the ANKC that would see the following apply at National shows?

- That Open Class is only eligible for animals that are 2 years and over.

Discussion and comments included but were not limited to the following:

- ⊕ At the last National 50% of animals presented in the Intermediate class were over 2 years of age. This happens more at Nationals than other shows.
- ⊕ When the question was asked if this might cause a problem with the ANKC as Championship shows allow up to 3 years of age to be entered in the intermediate class, Karen Hedberg is of the opinion that there would not be an issue with the ANKC as the National is specific to our breed.
- ⊕ The ideal is we follow the German system. There is nothing to stop us asking that that class structure be applied to the National.
- ⊕ If you have an immature dog who is 2 years 2 weeks of age, most people would prefer to enter him in intermediate class.

Action: The comments to be finetuned and taken to the AGM.

- Animals exhibited that are not GSDCA Breed Survey or equivalent as recognised by GSDCA and shown in the Open Class will be at best placed in the Very Good grouping.

Victoria put the following suggestion forward: *Breed Survey Classified (BSC) is a pre requisite for entry into the conformation Open classes at the GSDCA National Show and Trials.*

- Animals exhibited that are 18 months and above that do not have both A, Z or equivalent as recognised by GSDCA will be ungraded.

Victoria suggests the following amendment:

A pre requisite for exhibits in the conformation Intermediate classes at the GSDCA National Show and Trials must have both the A, Z or equivalent grading as recognised by the GSDCA.

- That animals exhibited in Open Class be subject to a gun test.

Despite some state issues, usually the National is the only show being held on the ground. The gun test requirement is printed in the Schedule.

Action: Tidy up this proposal and take to the AGM. CARRIED

Against: ACTGSDA

9.2 Discussion Item - Update to GSDCA Medals – NBC Executive

Mementos: - GSDCA Treasurer to provide an update regarding costings for the new memento's.

Generic National Excellents: - An approximate cost for the new generic National Excellents which will have the new head, copied from the memento, and on the back the clubs will be removed and replaced with GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA.

The Treasurer presented the memento showing the new head. She said that we will need to have Lega produce the first batch of medals providing a decent template, and then we can look at sending them offshore for production. We will adopt the same head on all of the medals. She suggested we have a minimum quantity pressed.

9.3 Amendment to Regulation - National President's Dinner – NBC Executive

Current Regulation:

25 Social Functions - Friday Night

The President's Dinner Opportunity for the Host Club President to welcome the Judges, GSDCA Executive/Representatives and other Club Officials.
This Function is open to all exhibitors.

Proposed Amendment:

25 Social Functions – Friday Night

The President's Dinner Opportunity for the Host Club President to welcome the Judges, GSDCA Executive/Representatives and other Club Officials.

- This Function is open to all exhibitors.
- ***That the holding of the GSDCA National Show & Trial President's Dinner by the host Club be optional.***
 - ***If the dinner is not held, it is expected that the host Club will hold a dinner on the Thursday evening that will see all Judges (both conformation and Obedience), GSDCA Executive and Club Committee members invited.***

Action: It was agreed that this item go forward to the AGM.

9.4 Discussion Item - National Judges List - Vince Tantaro

Should GSDCA Judges who are also GSDCA Breed Surveyors be considered to be added to the National Judges List?

- Judge ALL puppy classes
- Cost benefit analysis
- Credibility?
- Members decide?

Discussion and comments included but were not limited to the following:

- ◆ Strongly believe there must be at least 4 judges in Australia who could do a job equal to any foreign judge. What is lacking is the maturity or resolve to appoint these judges. After 50 years, we are still unable to have one of our own judges, judge our premier event.
- ◆ Some members did not think the fraternity would accept the change.
- ◆ Discussion then veered to: More than half the entries of stock coats are in baby up to puppy class. Has there been any discussion how we can manage 24 classes over the 3 days?
 - Should we revisit the discussion paper from a couple of years ago and divide the ring for the critiquing. This means handlers are close to each ring. It works really well in Italy.
 - Allow out of order for the individuals.
- ◆ Jenny DeLucia. In favour of the motion. Let's put Australian judges on the list and see what happens. There was no support from the meeting to see this put forward. However a Club could do so if they wish.

As an exercise to gauge peer group opinion on this matter, the President asked all present to list 4 Australian Judges that they believe will have the support of the fraternity. The 4 judges that polled as the top 4 without reference to actual votes were: Jenny Yuen, Vince Tantaro Louis Donald, Melanie Groth. The President expressed disappointment that the matter did not receive overwhelming support from the peer group.

This matter will not proceed to the AGM.

9.5 Discussion Item - Main Breed Exhibition - Vince Tantaro

Should the Main Breed Exhibition be re- introduced?

- Real benefits?
- Utilise SBE better?
- Additional GSDCA Grading to be offered in OPEN CLASSES: Excellent Select, [Excellent Merit](#), Excellent, Very Good, Good?
- Have we matured?
- Judges vs popularity test?
- Credibility?

Discussion and comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Pointless having a Main Breed Exhibition without a State Breed Exhibition.
- It was acknowledged that members probably would not accept Australian judges at a National and we are now talking about Main Breed Exhibitions. State Breed Exhibitions are local and are supported.
- Victoria and South Australia were the two main states that supported the Main Breed Exhibition and the running of the show. Most of the members do not want a Main Breed Exhibition. South Australia do not want to hold a State Breed Exhibition.
- The Main Breed Exhibition is supposedly about giving breed direction. As we cannot convince people to breed survey their animals these days, how can we expect to get support for a breed show.
- If we do not trust our local judges and some states do not support a State Breed Exhibition then why do you think a Main Breed Exhibition would be acceptable to the fraternity?
- Perhaps look at a German judge together with a panel of NBC Executive to judge?
- Like the panel idea to judge the baby. Minor and puppy classes. Perhaps put this to the members.
- The biggest problem we have is the logistics. Entries are declining at our National show. To enter 2 major shows each year financially, is a real problem. Not many states will want to run a Main Breed and a National in the same year.
- German Judges cannot award an Excellent Select without undertaking the courage test.
- If it is “an Australian” grading, the SV judges could award an excellent merit.
- Put the running of the Main Breed Exhibition in a new concept to the members.
- Could those clubs who run members comps – perhaps run the members comp as a trial with a panel judge concept and see how it is accepted?
- As a first step we could trial it at an SBE.
- As far as breed direction is concerned, the judge looks at siblings, progeny, the family, show results and does a lot of homework to look at the family of the animal and if they have produced. This is done now for SBE.

Action: Despite serious concerns raised with respect to viability and/or desire for the return of this event, the meeting did see a need to investigate different concepts for the running of a “breed direction show”.
Chair asked for further feedback.
Robyn Knuckey and Vince Tantaro to consider options and report back on possible concepts.

10.1 NBC Meeting Dates.

Due to changing the dates that the NBC meeting is held, the current dates fall in the middle of the school holidays. This timing increases the cost of the air fares for interstate delegates greatly.

The Chair agreed to investigate the dates going forward.

Post Meeting Action:

NBC Executive has investigated the best date and will be set for the 27th & 28th July 2019.

11. Date & Venue for 2019:

Date and Venue for the 2019 National Breed Commission Meeting.

Weekend of 27th & 28th July 2019 in Sydney, New South Wales.

12. Close of Meeting:

Meeting closed at 3.31pm.