
GSDCA Judges Committee Chair Report – Robyn Knuckey

GSDCA Judges Meeting July 2019

I would like to thank my fellow Executive for their support during the past twelve months, it has been a roller coaster time in work life in aged care with a Royal Commission and changing standards that are in place from July 1, 2019. With, and the support of a willing team, a number of achievements have been formalised within the Judges Portfolio and overall in the NBC Executive.

1. The education package for trainee GSD Judges has now been circulated to all GSDCA Judges and members of the fraternity that were ANKC aspirants.
2. State Breed Exhibition rules are in place and all clubs are abiding by these.
3. GSDCA Agreements have been redistributed as a generic focus to cover both Judges and Breed Surveyors. At the time of writing this report, the closing time of 30 June 2019 has not been reached. Reminders have been sent to those that have not returned signed copies to the GSDCA Secretary.
4. The workshops now completed at the NBC weekend have been very well received, this year the focus will be proportions and the breed standard, as well as other items under the NBC banner.
5. Education package completed by Jo Cathie on presenting dentition as a handler. This was required following the poor behaviour of a number of animals when the handler was trying to present dentition at the 2018 National. This was printed in the GSDCA National Quarterly Review. This should be highlighted at all clubs, as in Richard Brauch's summary of the National, he noted the poor behaviour of animals on dentition checks.
6. From January 2019, all Judges are required to provide a summary of the show to be a prelude to the critiques. Initially this was being completed by judges, but recently judges have needed a reminder to complete this task.
7. All educational material on the GSDCA website has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes and current breed issues. This has been sent to all judges.
8. Actions from the 2018 GSDCA Judges Meeting have been completed, except one. The revamp of PowerPoint for the GSD Extended Standard will be presented to the 2019 GSDCA Judges Meeting for comment. As the file is quite large, it is not able to be distributed prior to the Meeting.

Critiques

It is now a requirement to record the height and depth in all critiques for classes from Junior to Open. Please ensure it is noted in the critique if the animal is deep. In a number of critiques, the depth can be almost 50/50, and there is no mention that the animal is deep, or there have been some critiques to go on and say well proportioned, when they cannot be where the standard says 45-48% depth to height. With height, it is a requirement to use the appropriate descriptors for size, this is not always the case. An email has been sent to all judges to remind them of size descriptors, the requirement to complete a summary of the shows judged and to ensure depth is appropriately critiqued. This issue will be covered in the workshop over the weekend.

Clubs that have newer judges, please provide them with the opportunity to review their critiques prior to uploading onto websites. Please check that the show summary is completed prior to publishing as well. A further reminder to all Judges and Clubs that completed critiques are to be forwarded to the GSDCA Judges Committee Chair for distribution via the GSDCA Secretary. Also, if Clubs and Judges also keep me informed of shows that have been contracted to judge and also if these have changed later. This allows me to keep the Appointments Database up to date. These are updated on a three-monthly basis. The latest list as of 3 June 2019 is published on the GSDCA website.

2019 GSDCA National

The GSDCA National was held in Melbourne from 5 to 7 April 2019. The GSDCV, as always, did an excellent job overall, especially considering the adverse weather conditions, with a small band of dedicated workers who were on site to deal with the storm damage. It was evident, the Club had worked very hard on details to ensure it was a successful weekend. Well done to Tony Mercieca, Vince Ebejer and Cristine Begbie and the club crew for an excellent weekend. There were some very tired bodies at the end of the Sunday.

A special note of congratulations to Jacinta Poole, for her amazing work over the National weekend, running between the trial, taking photos in the show ring, handling dogs and being an active part of the organising committee. Then backing up to present the amazing GSDCA National Quarterly Review – National Addition. This was no mean feat.

The National Report, prepared by Ian Urie and Jenny DeLucia, as the GSDCA National Liaison Officer, in consultation with the GSDCV is under a separate section of the reports.

At the Official Opening of the GSDCA National German Shepherd Dog Show and Trial, both Jenny DeLucia and Salvatore Pittelli were both presented with their GSDCA judges' pins and certificates, having completed their GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course. We all wish Jenny and Salvatore the very best in the continuation of their judging careers.

Another presentation at the National was to Honey Gross-Richardson to honour her commitment to the German Shepherd Dog and dedication as a Breed Surveyor and GSDCA Specialist Judge. Honey retired from these activities at the end of 2018.

A breakdown of the excellent graded animals is presented as Tail Male charts for both males and females for the 2019 GSDCA National. Thank you again to Stephen Collins for his continued support and assistance in presenting these charts, these were printed in the National Edition of the GSDCA National Quarterly Review.

Database for Stock Coat Classes GSDCA National Entries

Judge	Year	BD		MD		PD		JD		ID		OD		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex										
Schweimer	2018	17	11	20	16	4	4	13	9	19	17	27	25	25	100	82
Hohmann	2019	11	6	14	9	7	4	14	11	19	15	37	30	29	102	75

Judge	Year	BB		MB		PB		JB		IB		OB		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex										
Mast	2018	35	28	41	30	20	15	28	24	51	39	68	53	53	243	189
Brauch	2019	40	33	33	20	20	17	39	31	45	31	71	51	48	248	183

Database for Long Stock Coat Classes GSDCA National Entries

Judge	Year	BD		MD		PD		JD		ID		OD		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex										
Schweimer	2018	10	10	4	3	3	3	6	6	13	12	10	10	10	46	44
Hohmann	2019	8	7	4	3	5	4	6	5	10	8	18	15	15	51	42

Judge	Year	BB		MB		PB		JB		IB		OB		Excs	Totals	
		Ent	Ex		Ent	Ex										
Schweimer	2018	7	6	8	8	4	4	8	8	13	12	16	15	15	56	53
Hohmann	2019	9	9	8	5	5	5	12	11	14	14	21	16	15	69	60

Totals of entries and exhibit numbers

Year	SC males		LSC males		SC females		LSC females		Totals	
2018	100	82	46	44	243	189	56	53	445	368
2019	102	75	51	42	248	183	69	60	470	360

An interesting point of note is the higher entries in both stock coat and long coats from 2018, but animals exhibited was lower in both varieties and sexes.

With clubs struggling to make ends meet with hosting the GSDCA National. We may need to review the number of animals placed on the pegs. In 2019, seven long stock coat classes have less than 10 animals. In addition, there were three male stock coat classes with less than 10 animals presented.

GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course

Jess Kada has completed her phase 1 mentor assessments with Melanie Groth, Karen Hedberg and Jenny Yuen. I will be working with Jess to set up the next phase in examination assessments, to fit in with her busy work life and her active participation in shows as an exhibitor. So far, the critiques I have read from Jess, are well formulated and describe the animals individually. Jess has been well supported with the clubs with appointments throughout Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to these judges, it is with pleasure that I inform the meeting that Sue Bruno has been reinstated as GSDCA Specialist Judge, Sue completed her first GSD specialist appointment in June at the championship show for the GSDCSA, feedback on her first appointment was very positive. All clubs and judges have been informed of this and the judges contact list has been updated on the GSDCA website to reflect this. Sue is a valued addition to our specialist judging panel.

We have endorsed Nicky McDermott (Vic), Kurt Morton (NSW) and Andrew O'Loughlin (SA) to commence in the GSDCA Judges Extension Course. All clubs have been notified of their commencement in the Course and their eligibility to award GSDCA gradings. I wish them the very best of luck as they commence this new phase of involvement in the German Shepherd Dog. Both Andrew and Kurt have mentor assessments completed and have more booked into the second half of 2019. I must congratulate both Andrew and Kurt to their proactive approach in working with me to set up mentoring sessions outside of their own state to broaden their knowledge and seek back from senior judges in our fraternity. I am working with Nicky to set up assessments in the coming months.

I would like to thank all the GSDCA specialist judges that have supported the participants in the scheme. It is quite a commitment and your support has been greatly appreciated, by me and the participants in the Extension Course. It often impacts on their ability to exhibit and/or handle animals in the show.

It is often difficult to get judges to act as mentor/assessor judges, as there is an expectation that they do not exhibit at the show. With this consideration, it is agreed that Mentor/Assessor Judges exhibit no more than 2 animals and the classes these animals are exhibited in are not a part of the assessment. If all other standing requirements for the relevant assessment/examination are met, as per the regulations, then

Shows for 2019

We currently have 41 GSDCA Specialist judges able to award GSDCA gradings, of these, three are trainee GSDCA specialist judges. Ingo Kahl has notified the NBC Executive that he will no longer be continuing with his ANKC Judge's licence, so will not be continuing with his GSDCA Specialist Judge's accreditation. We wish Ingo the very best in his continued travels with Caron-Lee and look forward to seeing them both at various shows on the east coast.

The GSDCA 2019 show calendar has 40 specialist shows for 2019, this is 1 less than 2018 and 2017. These consist of the GSDCA National, 3 SBEs by a various number of judges, from 1 to 2, 21 Championship Shows, 12 Members Competitions and 2 Open Shows. There is are 2 additional shows were special judges have judged GSDs only, but no critiques are completed. There are several overseas shows where Australian GSDCA Judges have officiated at shows in New Zealand and Malaysia. This shows that 20 Australian Judges will have judged at least once this year.

With the trend of Members Competitions being taken up by most clubs to provide show opportunities for their members, we see at times a very congested show calendar across the states. We had 7 weekends were shows were held on the same weekend in different states. On 2 of these occasions involved German judges that probably impacted on entries with people choosing a show to travel to against staying in their state or would have travelled if the dates didn't clash.

We are also seeing some judges officiating at shows reasonably close together that again could impact on entries. I believe this is an area we need to look at, with the table presented below it shows the changes from 2017 to 2019, by each club. We have a number of Australian Judges that receive very few appointments, and others that receive multiple appointments throughout the year. Please remember to refer to the complete list on the website and give some of our judges that don't judge very often a chance.

The contact list for Specialist Judges is updated at least twice a year, or if an additional judge becomes available as a trainee for GSDCA Specialist Judges Extension Course.

The breakups of the 40 shows and comparison to the previous 2 years, are as follows:

CLUB	INTER JUDGES 2017	INTER JUDGES 2018	INTER JUDGES 2019	AUST JUDGES 2017	AUST JUDGES 2018	AUST JUDGES 2019
ACT GSDA	2	2	1	0	0	1
GSDA WA	1	1	1	6	6	8
GSDCQ	National	1	1	4	4	6
GSDC SA	1	National + 1	1	4	4	3
GSDCT	0	0	0	4	5	
GSDL	2	1	1	5	6	5
GSDCV	2	2	1 + National	7	5	5
NHRGSDC	0	0	1	2	2	1
Totals	8 + National	8 + National	7 + National	32	32	32

WUSV Judging Accreditation – SV National Judge

The updated criteria for this Accreditation was passed at the 2018 AGM and is listed on the GSDCA website. On reviewing the SV website, there is no notification of planned seminars in 2019 or 2020 at this stage.

We have 4 current applicants, 3 were accepted a couple of years ago, they were Vince Tantarò, Louis Donald Ian Urie and Robyn Knuckey. To date none of these judges have commenced in the programme with the SV.

Jo Cathie has completed her first show for her SV International Breed Judge's licence with Frau Margit van Dorssen in Belgium in May 2019 and is still awaiting the results of that examination. This is an additional process on top of her already recognised SV National Breed Judge. Once the results of that examination are completed, Jo still has 2 more examinations to go.

Judges for Nationals

The judges from 2014 are listed so all are aware of the SV judges that have judged the recent GSDCA Nationals for rotations with sexes and time since last judged a GSDCA National. We now have several non-German judges approved to judge our National. These are Malcom Griffiths (UK/Colombia) Heather McDonald (UK) and Jens Becker-Olsen (Spain). A further SV judge, Herr Wolfgang Lauber was added to National list. The 4 judges for the 2022 GSDCA National, will be presented by the NBC Executive to the 2019 GSDCA Judges Meeting.

Confirmed list of judges for GSDCA Nationals:		
2014 Canberra	J Stiegler (males)	F Goldlust (females)
2015 Melbourne	L Quoll (LSCs & SC males)	H Scheerer (SC females)
2016 Sydney	H Buss (LSCs & SC males)	M van Dorssen (SC females)
2017 Queensland	J Stiegler (SC females)	F Goldlust (LSC & SC males)
2018 South Australia	H Schweimer (LSC & males)	R Mast (SC females)
2019 Melbourne	R Brauch (SC females)	H Hohmann (LSC & SC males)
2020 Sydney	E Bosl (SC females)	H Buss (SC males & LSCs)
2021 Queensland	C Ludwig (SC males & LSCs)	M Griffiths (SC females) F Goldlust (Reserve)

In conclusion, it has been a busy year with Judges and NBC responsibilities, but progress has been made and with some younger judges coming through, we can look to the future with succession planning. Looking forward to a productive and interactive NBC weekend.

National Show Liaison Officer – Mr. Ian Urie

I wish to thank Jenny Delucia for standing in for me at the Victorian National and agreeing to write the report to Council.

In my report to the 2019 AGM, I stated *“One problem for the National is the bigger numbers in the LSC classes and running out of time if no lighting is available. Classes have run out of time and needed to continue again next day. Ian suggested that we look at measuring during individuals to save time and let handlers go into the other rings.”* - This was done at the 2019 National, and proved to be successful, reducing the amount of time spent waiting for handlers to arrive from the opposite ring to commence classes.

Also, from the AGM, *“The Chair said it is the duty of the Chief Ring Steward to keep on top of timelines. Handlers who are involved in both rings should be fast tracked for measuring and critiquing. Someone needs to be in charge of time management/handler management.”*

- This was also taken on board by GSDCV, who appointed me to oversee this task. I believe the adoption of these recommendations proved to be a success, and I wish to stress that where a person is appointed by the host Club to do this, it obviates the need for stewards to go back and forth between the rings to co-ordinate timing and progress of judging. It is much more efficient to have one person in charge of this and avoids any confusion.

Re. concerns about the “early entry closing date” raised at the AGM, it should be noted that the Host Club did extend the published closing date by a couple of weeks to accommodate the inevitable late entries, whilst still allowing a reasonable time for completion of the catalogue.

It is also my strong recommendation that for future Nationals, where a Host Club does not have adequate lighting available on their grounds to continue judging under failing daylight, that consideration be given to scheduling the show date to fall before the end of Daylight Savings time. There will be other suggestions put forward by the Executive as time-saving measures, which include the scheduling of Junior Handler classes and the Opening Ceremony.

I join with Jenny in congratulating the GSDCV on running a very successful event this year and look forward to progress reports from the GSDL regarding the 2012 National in Sydney.

Acting National Show Liaison Officer – Mrs. Jenny DeLucia

I write this report as acting National Show Liaison Officer (NSLO), on behalf of Mr. Ian Urie due to his being on the Organising Committee of the host club thereby precluding him from acting as NSLO for this event.

The GSDC of Victoria Inc. were the host club for the GSDCA National this year. The Management Committee and National Show and Trial Committee are first and foremost to be congratulated for their efforts in organising an event of this magnitude in such a professional manner.

Vest collection was made very easy and every competitor received a 3kg bag of Royal Canin dry food thanks to the generosity of the major sponsor, Royal Canin. The competitor bags were also well thought out and contained several usable items. The catalogue was of very good quality and well set out.

The Chief, Ring and Assembly Stewards in both rings worked together well despite being challenged by some of the classes due to the large amount of exhibitors present. The process of assembling competitors and getting them into the ring could of perhaps been completed quicker if checking of numbers was not carried out three times – once outside the assembly area, again when entering the ring and then finally when all competitors were standing in the ring. Classes started at the scheduled time over the three days with announcements made well in advance of start times to enable competitors to get their dogs ready. Music was being played before commencement of classes which made for a relaxed atmosphere. Both Conformation judges Herr Harald Hohmann and Herr Richard Brauch seemed popular with exhibitors and required no interpreters as they both critiqued their placed animals in English over the microphone.

Entries consisted of 471 Conformation (26% LSC), 55 Obedience, 44 Rally, making a total of 570. There were 20 Dual Performance Exhibits. Announcements were made over the PA system during the day including thanking sponsors however, could not be clearly heard from some areas around both rings. Junior Showmanship Class was held on the Friday and judge by, Mr Andrew O'Loughlin from SA and was well attended and received. Once again, the GSDCA Patron, Dawn Fraser was in attendance.

Ring sizes fell short of the regulation as set due to limited space on the grounds. The Progeny Groups ran smoothly but some were not presented in catalogue order. The Breeders Groups also ran smoothly. There was one Retirement animal presented following the Breeders Group.

Hire tents were available for hire but unfortunately, all were sold out within hours of becoming available. The host club did make additional tents available but without a view of the rings. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather early on Saturday morning, several of the hire tents were destroyed. New hire tents were erected but not as many as were destroyed resulting in some competitors being asked to share tent space. There was still room around the rings for competitors to set up their own tents/gazebos.

The Obedience rings were set well away from the Conformation rings and were well set out on very green and maintained grass. The Official Opening Ceremony was well attended with GSDCA Executive and dignitaries in attendance. The Saturday Night dinner was very well attended, and the quality of the food was quite good. The band, "Fake News" was arranged however only a few people decided to stay after the meal. No President's Dinner was organised which the Host club made known well before.

Merchandise was available for purchase and several other marquees were erected selling a variety of items which all made for a good atmosphere. Catering was available with a good variety on offer from the food vans however some stock was running low by Sunday morning. Winner of Winners was conducted in the Dog ring and was well attended by observers. Sunday presentation commenced at approximately 6.15pm. The trophy table was very impressive and free nibbles were offered by the host club to those who attended.

Results were made available at the conclusion of classes via the "Team App" which was very well received by competitors and spectators alike.

In conclusion, a very well organised event which was blessed with three days of fine weather. Congratulations to all involved.