

Kennel Club Judges Education Programme (JEP) 2023



The Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows)

Updated August 2023

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2023 was an interesting year for the Judges Education Programme the highlight being in April, when we were lucky enough to be asked by the KC to take part in the first Pilot Level 4 Breed Specific Assessment (BSA) at Stoneleigh. Border Terriers were one of the few breeds who actually had judges ready at Level 3 and we were the first breed ever to take the assessment, so it was quite a historic occasion for Borders and the judges. The JEP journey has been a learning curve for all of us involved. To experience the whole JEP process right from the beginning with judges starting at Level 1 until now, witnessing three new Border Terrier Breed Specialists emerge as pre-approved CC judges at Level 4, has been very rewarding.

All the Level 4 BSA will be organised by the KC, but in the future it's unlikely they will all continue to be held at Stoneleigh as was originally planned. Going forward they may take place at various venues around the UK, some may even be held at Championship Shows. The format is on the lines of a Judges Development Programme breed assessment (JDP) and similar to the Judges Competency Assessment (often called a Hands On assessment) which are organised by Breed Clubs.

Breed Appreciation Day & Multiple Choice Exam (BAD & MCE) - The KC request that Breed Clubs hold a BAD & MCE every two years. No BAD & MCE were held in 2022, but so far this year most Clubs have fulfilled this requirement. Two Clubs having held them online in January and July and three Clubs have dates set on the KC Events Diary for October and November. These will be attended events with an opportunity to take part in Group mentoring for those who pass the MCE. Hopefully the two remaining Clubs will hold a joint event sometime in the early part of 2024. This year 48 judges have passed the Multiple Choice Exam following a Breed Appreciation Day to become Level 2. This makes them eligible to judge any number of classes at Limit, Open or Non CC shows, the same as B list judges.

This may seem quite a high figure but since JEP first started not all the breed Clubs have held a BAD & MCE so we had many participants eager to take the opportunity this year. It's interesting that once the BAD & MCE is passed, some judges and in particular the non breed specialist judges, choose to stay at Level 2, preferring to use the BAD & MCE as a tool to learn more about the breed rather than having any aspirations to start Mentoring or continue further to CC level, so it will be interesting to see how this develops in the future.

I should add here that whilst the 5 year transitional period is in effect, currently until 31st December 2025, judges who have attended a Breed Specific Seminar and passed a Judges Competency Assessment under the traditional route, can use this criteria to complete Level 2 rather than a BAD & MCE. Several judges met this criteria prior to JEP and therefore were able to start Mentoring in the early stages of the programme.

Mentoring – Prior to Mentoring, judges must first complete all criteria for Level 2. There are four Mentoring options for eligible judges: Student Judge, Special Awards Classes, Group Mentoring and the popular One-to-One sessions. The first two have never been asked for, as Mentees and Mentors seem to prefer the One to One Sessions. Group Mentoring is planned for the first time following the BAD & MCE in October and November and will be available to those passing the exam on the day, this type of Mentoring can only be used once. Border Terriers have 31 Mentors, with two new ones joining the list this year; David Shields and Margaret Sneddon. So far this year I have arranged 21 One-to-One mentoring sessions with a few more booked before the end of the year.

The input from Mentors is really appreciated by the Mentees and as a breed we are really lucky that we have so many good senior judges who are happy to help out and take an interest in training new judges. Mentors volunteer as and when they are available and both parties can show their dogs on the day. Some mentor maybe once a year, some haven't started yet and others have completed several sessions.

Those who have been a great help this year, which has been particularly busy are: Jayne Alpe, Rebecca Barber, Trak Fryer, Hilary Gilpin, Jimmy Gilpin, Mike Hollingsbee, Ronnie Irving, Janet Lee, Betty Judge, Mark Ord, Elspeth Jackson, Graham Pickering, Jane Roberts, David Shields, Bill Shorthose, and Marian Reeves, with Jean Singh and Margaret Sneddon lined up to Mentor before the end of the year.

Mentors are always needed and if you would like to become a Mentor and you meet the KC Criteria (To have bred/owned at least 2 UK Champions in the breed and awarded CCs at least twice), please drop me a line and you can automatically be put on the KC list. If you don't meet the criteria but would still like to be considered as a Mentor and you receive 50% of the vote from the seven Breed Clubs, you can also be added to the KC list.

Observation –An Observation must be passed, when a judge is completing criteria for Level 3. Currently only a handful of judges are ready each year, with four passing Observations in 2023. Observations can only take place at either a Breed Club Show or a Supported Show where 15 dogs minimum are in attendance.

The KC criteria for Observers are, they must have bred/owned at least 3 UK Champions in the breed and awarded CCs at least three times, any new Observers who are eligible and willing be involved with JEP can be automatically added to the KC Observers list which can found on the KC Website., along with our Mentor list.

We currently have 17 Observers, all of whom are also Mentors. Of those, 6 Observers are either spouses or partners which narrows down their availability to Observe, as they cannot Observe a judge they have Mentored, nor can their spouse or partner. The geographic spread of our Observers is rather restricted, as we don't have any Observers resident in Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Lincolnshire or East Anglia and this can sometimes prove a bit tricky to arrange if judges request an Observation in those areas.

KC Announcement August 2023 – A review of the JEP was expected 2023/2024, and the KC announced that the JEP Review Panel had made a minor change to Level 1: Points of a Dog and the RDSJ Exam are being moved from Level 2 criteria to Level 1, this will take effect from 1st January 2024.

Looking ahead -

- It is the judges responsibility to meet the relevant criteria and be able to produce certificates of achievement, judges should keep good records of certificates, mentoring record forms etc, It is good practise to keep both hard and digital copies. The KC **will** need to see the evidence, for you to proceed to CC level.
- The KC has not yet installed the software for judges to store their judging information on the KC Academy, in the meantime the KC advice is for judges to keep the Breed Education Co-ordinator (BEC) regularly updated with what level they have achieved.
- If you would like to start Mentoring or you have an Observation opportunity coming up, these must be arranged via the BEC, so please get in touch.
- It should be noted that judges who are currently on B lists, should ensure they have attended either a BAD & passed the MCE OR a Breed Specific Seminar and passed a "Hands On" Judges Competency Assessment before the end of the transitional period on 31st December 2025 to meet Level 2 requirements. Thus retaining their eligibility to judge an unlimited number of classes for the respective breed at limited, open or championship shows (no CCs). The advice I have received from the KC is that judges without this, will only be eligible to go on a Level 1 list and therefore only able to judge upto three classes (four if one is a puppy class) for any breed at limited or open shows.

For all enquiries regarding the Judges Education Programme please contact me below:

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