

The Hungarian Puli Club of Great Britain



Press Release - 16th June 2016

Response to "Speaker's Corner" - Our Dogs 20th May 2016



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The Officers and Committee of the HPC of GB (Hungarian Puli Club of Great Britain) are not often left both astounded and offended at the same time, but they were left so, given Mr David Cavill's comments in his "Speaker's Corner" in the 20th May 2016 edition of Our Dogs.

Mr Cavill opened his diatribe with Lady Hale's definition of 'Reasonableness'. What he fails to disclose in the case of the judge who was removed from our judging list is this; the society he spoke about was that of Southern Counties Canine Association of which his wife is Secretary and that it was he, in his capacity of Chairman, who chose to communicate with the HPC of GB on this matter as Mrs Cavill was too busy. Mr Cavill also failed to clarify just whom he thinks should decide who is "sensible and responsible" enough to be allowed to bend or break the rules. Rules are there for a reason, to hopefully make the process of taking part the same for all participants. Some rules can be vague and open to interpretation whilst others are quite exact in their meaning; such as the Kennel Club Rule that states that the judge "must" be on the breed Club's B List to judge a specific number of classes in a breed. It is difficult enough for those genuinely interested in the numerically smaller breeds to get judging appointments without people like Mr Cavill who think that they can manipulate the rules without consequence.

Mr Cavill is completely correct in his assertion that the judge concerned was not removed from our judges list because the HPC of GB had lost confidence in them, nor were they convicted of any offence under common law. It is also worth pointing out that to date, the judge concerned has at no time written or communicated verbally with the HPC of GB since being told that their application could not be re-submitted until 2017. However, it seems that it is only Mr Cavill who wants to make an issue of the matter. It is also the case that the judge concerned hadn't noticed, or bothered to find out, that their name hasn't been included on the Club's judges list since 2008.

The HPC of GB compile and maintain their Judges List in complete accordance with the Kennel Club's guidelines. Mr Cavill is correct in that we give judges a 3 years' grace period in which to update their details, but we also have a duty to our membership to ensure that the judges we include on our lists have an interest in the breed and feel it is more than reasonable to accept that if a judge fails to respond in a 3-year period, that they no longer have an interest in judging our breed. In addition, in order to promote judges who have not had an appointment the past 3 years, we highlight them on the HPC of GB's Judges List in order that Secretaries of Societies are aware of this fact. We have a policy of sending a letter out each year prior to the compilation of our Judges List, therefore the judge concerned has had, on three separate occasions, the opportunity to update their details but for whatever reason chose not to. Mr Cavill would appear to think that all-breed judges are too busy to fill in a form each year, but the committee members of breed clubs have the time to go "talent spotting".

What Mr Cavill seems to have ignored completely is that it is the prospective Judge's responsibility to check that they are on the appropriate Breed Club list before accepting the appointment and that his Society would have had confirmation of this before going to the printers with the schedule. This would have saved them from having to appoint a replacement judge at the last minute.

The HPC of GB do not feel that it is reasonable to take a retrospective request to be included on our list simply because a judge has taken an appointment without checking they are on the appropriate list. We feel this would do a disservice to those who are on the Judges List, have met the criteria, have taken the time to update their details, are in need of classes to progress to the next level and to exhibitors who want to enter under a judge who has maintained an interest in the breed. Perhaps Mr Cavill would wish to reconsider his stance on 'reasonableness' in regard to this matter and apportion blame where it rightly lies given the above facts; and if Mr Cavill has a problem with the Kennel Club's rules then he should take it up with them rather than belittling the clubs that adhere to them.

Officers & Committee of the Hungarian Puli Club of Great Britain.

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