

BRIEFING NOTES FOR HOUND SHOW RING STEWARDS

INTRODUCTION

Ring Stewards should discreetly and without fuss control the smooth and efficient running of the show ring. While the Judges judge the entries and the Huntsmen show their hounds, the Steward is the ringmaster and oversees and controls the ring activities.

They must strive to please the Judges with the service provided and the Hunt Staff through fair and consistent actions and consistently exhibit the utmost courtesy.

DRESS CODE FOR GENTLEMEN AND LADIES

Khaki trousers, navy blazer, tie, straw hat.

RING CRAFT

1. Ensure that they, and their Judges, have in their possession, clearly marked class sheets with amendments/deletions/substitutions clearly annotated. Judges will have plain class sheets. Stewards will have a list of entries for each class.

2. Ensure the prompt start of Judging at the advertised time.

3. Ensure all hounds declared in any class are presented to the Judges and advise the Huntsmen of any particular requirements of the Judges, such as hounds off immediately; hold them on the leads on the side or on the boards.

4. Announce the Hunt and name the Hound(s) in a loud, clear voice.

The Ring Steward should identify each Hound after announcing the entry, e.g., "Blue Ridge Doctor, Demon & Dexter. Dexter is the darker Hound". Use colour & markings to identify.

- * Under no circumstances should a derogatory term be used, e.g., "Dexter is the stuffer Hound" (as has been heard).

- * An efficient Collecting Ring Steward is most important to alert the person showing hounds who is next in the ring. This reduces unnecessary delays and expedites the smooth running of the show.

- * The Ring Steward should be prepared to deviate from the running order as printed in the catalogue if a hunt's hounds are not forward exactly when required. Do not wait, if Hounds B & C are present. Emphasise to the people showing Hounds, that it is appreciated to have the entries forward in the catalogue order.

5. Keep discreetly out of the way, but be alert to the judges' instructions, i.e., loose the hound, take it up, etc.

6. Act as the channel for instructions between the Judges and Huntsmen.
Ask the Judges if they want the whole Hunt's entry back, or if not, which hounds should not be brought back.
7. Ensure that after Hounds have been seen individually, all Hounds, except the ones explicitly excused by the Judges, are brought back into the show ring upon the command "ALL IN PLEASE".
8. Order the ring so Hounds are spread out, or if possible, all along one or two ring sides.
9. Shadow the Judges and advise the Huntsmen which Hounds are to be excused from the ring.
10. Keep the catalogue clearly marked with Hounds out, so it is clear which Hounds are left in.
11. At the Judges' request, instruct the Huntsmen to release the Hounds for final decision-making.
12. Keep hounds in line together to assist final comparisons.
13. Have ribbons and the cup at the ready.
 - * Depending on the number of ribbons offered at the final decision time, do not leave excess hounds in the ring. The Staff hate waiting around and then leaving without a prize. It tires them and the Hounds for no good reason.
14. Give the marked Judges card to the announcer.
15. Assiduously record the results of each class and be aware that the Judges do not reverse or confuse decisions already made by pinning a hound over a hound that it has already been beaten by.
16. Get from the show's secretary/secretaries a list of hounds that should be eligible for the Championship. Remember that the hound that placed second to the Champion is eligible to be brought in to compete for the Reserve Champion.
 - * Reference to the Show Rules is essential here.
17. Find out which Hounds will be brought in for the Championship.
18. Advise the Judges which Hounds are forward, and alert them to previous judging decisions if they have doubt on precedence.

19. Alert the Judges if they appear to be moving to any decision that is not consistent with previous judging.
20. Produce ribbons, cup or trophy, and have the announcer, if different from the Ring Steward, announce the results.
21. Collect surplus biscuits from around the ring between classes.
22. Clear up hound droppings (as and when necessary, have equipment to hand).
23. If hot, be prepared to douse boards with cold water.
24. Refresh the Judges if the conditions require.
25. Always keep a sense of humor.
26. Enjoy yourself; it's supposed to be FUN!!! Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

CONCLUSION

Hound Shows should be informative and fun for all taking part and help improve the conformation of the Hound.

It should present our sport and our hounds in the best possible light to the general public.

An efficient Ring Steward can go a long way to helping a Show achieve these aims.