

The Budgerigar Society

Summarised Minutes of the BS General Council meeting held on Thursday 14th November and continued on Sunday 1st December 2024

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – The Chairman began the meeting by welcoming everyone and explained that this meeting is to focus on patronage for the 2025 show season and due to the amount of ideas that have come in from the membership it is unlikely there would be time to cover all agenda items and a follow up meeting would most likely be needed.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – 14th November – None and 1st December – Chris Snell (Family Commitment), Maurice Roberts (Family Commitment), John Cosby (Family Commitment), Pete Smith (Family Commitment)
3. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 10th October 2024** – the General Council were informed that a member had been in contact asking under what rule was the general Council authorised to ban the use of the comb by judges. A brief discussion was had and it was agreed that the decision made at the last GC meeting still stands with this direction to the judges to be captured within the *Guidelines for Show Promoters, Exhibitors and Judges* which would not require a change to the Society rules.

Upon conclusion of this discussion the minutes were accepted.

4. **Minutes of Board meeting held 17th October 2024** – an update was provided to the General Council on discussion held by the Board in relation to the website and Northampton property and it was their recommendation that an audit be undertaken of the website and the necessary spend, currently totalling £900, is authorised for urgent remedial works at the property. Both of these recommendations were approved by the General Council.
5. **Patronage Secretary Report** – the Patronage Secretary provided an update to the General Council which included the current state of patronage returns. He advised that he was only awaiting returns from two recent bronze patronage shows and 4 rosette shows. All others had been received however some of these have had paperwork returns missing which is effecting the members data within the league tables.
6. **Proposals for changes to 2025 Patronage** – The General Council were provided prior to the meeting with ideas and suggestions that had been received from 24 members which were used to inform views as each of the various topics were discussed and decisions made.
 - a) **BS Patronage Fees for 2025** – a detailed discussion was had with regards to whether the price of patronage packages should be increased to help offset the current financial situation of the Society as was being suggested by a number of members.
Following this discussion the following changes to patronage prices for the 2025 show season were agreed.

Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Area	Rosette	S&R (Area & Gold)	S&R Area
£40	£50	£70	£80	£70	£10	£80	£70

- b) Colour Budgerigar Patronage Changes** – after a brief discussion it was agreed to leave the colour budgerigar patronage packs the same as were in 2024.
- c) Benched Numbers to Qualify for Patronage** – an in depth discussion was had around whether we should drop the benched figure to qualify for each patronage type, with the Patronage Secretary providing what each club would qualify for in 2025 based on their 2024 benched entries. The conclusion of this was to leave the benched quantities required to qualify for 2025 patronage the same.
- d) Option to Purchase Higher Patronage Packages** – a number of members had written in suggesting there be an option for clubs to purchase the level of patronage they wanted, irrespective of benched numbers. This led to a lengthy discussion with the following being agreed.

From the 2025 Show Season, clubs are permitted to purchase a patronage package 1 tier higher than they qualified for, up to and including gold, at an additional fee of £30 on top of the standard fee for the requested patronage package. A club can only purchase this higher tier for 2 consecutive years. If after this time the club has not achieved the required benched entry to maintain the level they will be required to drop back to the tier they qualify for. They shall not be able to re-purchase a higher tier for a further 2 year period.

At this point the meeting was adjourned to be reconvened on 1st December

- 7. Minutes of Club Show Sub Committee Meeting held 22nd October** – an in depth discussion was held in relation to the most recent meeting of the club show subcommittee. This covered topics relating to century memorabilia, current sponsorship, patronage, arrangements for staging, photography and live streaming of the event, raffles and entry fees. A discussion was also had around the potential for special rosettes and challenge certificates for the other shows through 2025 and the entry fee for the event was agreed at £8 for one day or £15 for two days which also includes entrance to the seminars.
- 8. Other membership suggestions to change patronage awards** – the meeting then continues from the point it ended on 14th November with further discussions based upon the suggestions with regards to changes to patronage.
- a) Challenge Certificate Points, Classification & CC points** – a large number of suggestions had been received in relation to changes to the standard classification and challenge certificates. The merits of making any changes or not were debated with the following decisions reached
- i. the standard 50 class classification for exhibition birds be left as is
 - ii. the number of CC's awarded shall remain as per 2024 however the GC

- shall be looking to consolidate the number of CC's based on the benched numbers in each colour in the 2025 show season
- iii. the following changes to challenge certificate points shall be in effect from the 2025 show season

Type of Show	CC Points
Bronze	1 Point
Silver	Min 1 point awarded on the day
Gold (inc. National Shows)	Min 2 points awarded on the day
Area	Min 5 points awarded on the day
Platinum	Min 7 pts awarded on the day
BS Club Show	Min 10 pts awarded on the day
BS S&R Show	Min 7 pts awarded on the day
Area S&R Show	Min 1 point awarded on the day
Gold S&R Show	Min 2 points awarded on the day

In addition it was also agreed to introduce an additional Specialist & Rare patronage type which all clubs could apply for with the following criteria

Introduction of a Standard Specialist & Rare patronage package open to any society that has benched a minimum of 100 birds at a Specialist and Rare show the previous year at a cost as per that charged for an Area Specialist & Rare patronage pack. All challenge certificates to be awarded 1 point.

- b) **Colour Budgerigar Classification** – following a specific suggestion from a member it was agreed that the colour budgerigar classes be moved to the 800/900 numbering sequence.
- c) **Introduction of Blackwing & Blackface to Rare Class** – a brief discussion was held over whether these, now recognised varieties, should be added into the rare classification or if they should remain in AOC. The conclusion was to leave both varieties in the AOC class for now however this shall be revisited after the 2025 show season.
- d) **Procedure for Judging Colour Budgerigars** – due to confusions during the 2024 show season it was suggested that a procedure be documented for the judging of colour budgerigars. Consequently it was agreed for the following procedure be documented for the judging of colour budgerigars at BS patronage shows.
1. Colour budgerigars to be awarded blue and orange dots for best young bird in colour and best any age in colour respectively.
 2. Red dot then awarded to the best of colour.
 3. Best in Show to be judged from all of the red dots
 4. Followed by best any age or young bird depending upon winner of best in show.

Blue and orange dots to be included within the patronage packs.

9. **Date(s) and subject(s) of next meeting** – It was agreed the next meeting of the GC will be held on 9th January 2025, online through the Zoom application.