



Introduction

The OLC have been asked by several members of the Obedience Community to look at the qualification for Championship C (Ticket), specifically the difficulty in achieving the required win in Open C needed to qualify, with the aim to increase the numbers able to compete in that class, motivate competitors to stay in the sport, to make the class more financially viable but at the same time maintain an acceptable standard for qualification.

This is the second phase of the consultation. The views you gave in the first phase have been consolidated into this paper, which we ask you to consider in line with the associated Proposal.

Summary

- The responses to the consultation showed that the majority supported change in the qualification for Championship C (Ticket).
- The thoughts left by the Obedience Community on the most popular options suggest that Option 4 'Progression on Points' and Option 5 'Progression on Places' would be the most supported change.
- We asked people to suggest the number of places they thought would be equivalent to a win in Open C. Most respondents thought that three second places would be a fair equivalent to a C win.
- We asked people to suggest the number of points they thought would be a fair number to qualify for Championship C. 60% of respondents suggested between 16 and 20 points would be fair.

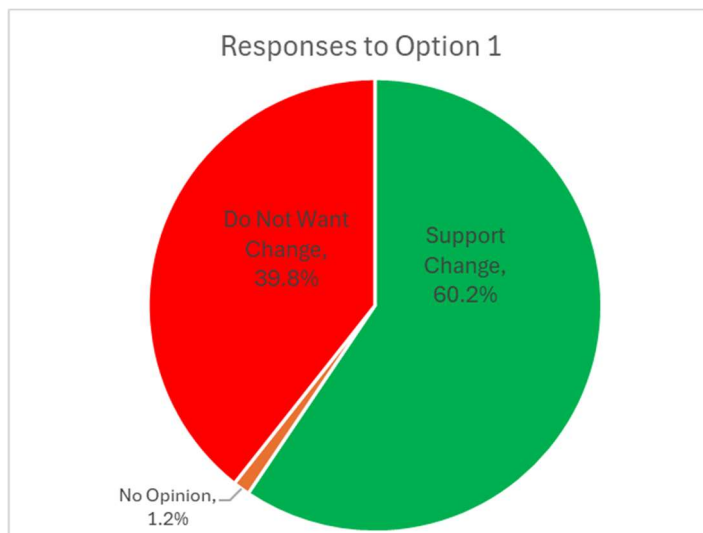
Detailed information about the feedback on all the options is given below:



OPTION 1 – Do Nothing

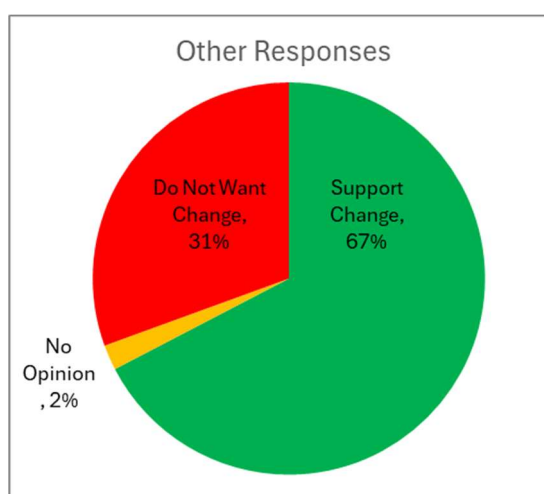
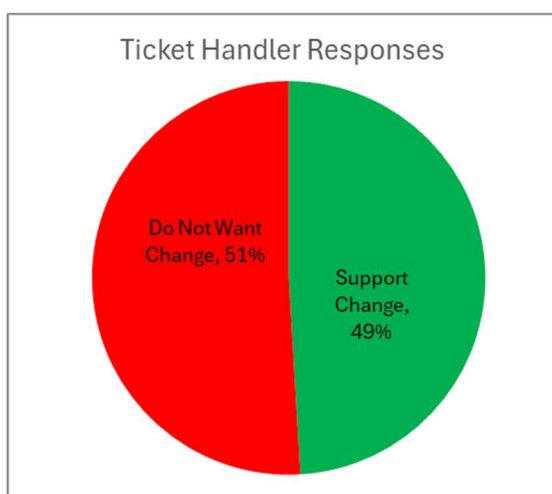
The current requirements to qualify for Ticket are one win at Open C plus three 1st to 3rd places in Open C, all under different judges. The ‘Do Nothing’ option would leave this the same.

The response to this was that 60.2% supported making a change to Championship C qualification whilst only 39.8% supported Option 1 - to not make a change.



It was felt the level that people were competing at may have a bearing on their responses and so was further split out:

Level	Support Change	No Opinion	Do Not Want Change	Total
Not Stated	18	2	16	36
Up to A	20	0	8	28
Up to B	21	0	7	28
Up to C	37	1	13	51
Ticket	52	0	54	106
	148	3	98	249



It is felt that these responses suggest that the majority of the Obedience Community DOES support a change to the qualification for Championship C (Ticket) and therefore give the OLC a mandate to investigate what change would be preferred.



OPTION 2 – Introduce a Graded C Class

A Graded C Class would be where 2 sets of awards are given out:

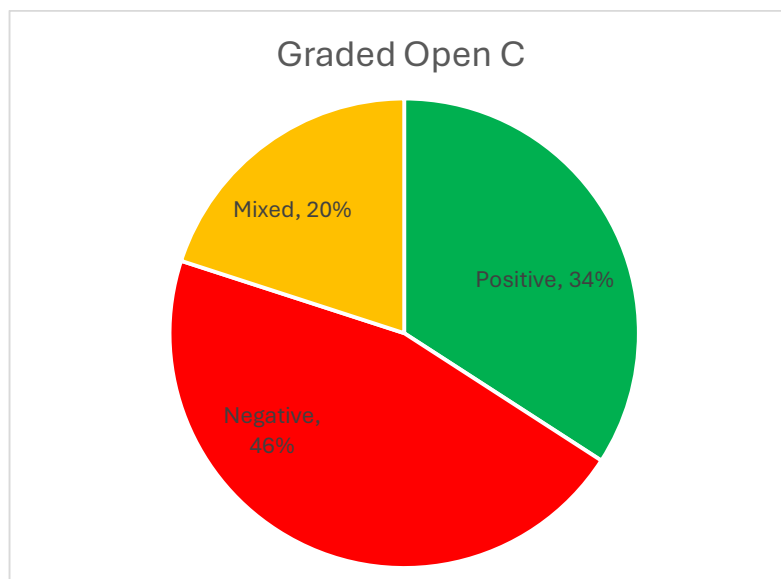
- One set of awards (from 1st to 6th place) for those already qualified for Championship C
- Another set of awards (from 1st to 6th place) for those yet to qualify for Championship C
 - Where a first place could count as a win for Championship C qualification
 - Where second and third place could count as qualifiers for Championship C

The Community’s responses to this option were reviewed, and consolidated in the following way:

For
Offers more options to get placed
Stops the Open C class being a Ticket class
Potentially the biggest impact on entries.
Fair way to recognise different levels of competition
Allows Ticket teams to compete without feeling guilty about winning
Top handlers can still win whilst letting new teams through
Grades those trying to move on in a fair way
Keeps standards high & tied to head-to-head performance in C.
Introduces structure similar to Agility Grade 6/7

Against
Extra burden on clubs for rosettes
Extra burden and complication for judges
Complex for Scoreboard
Non-qualified numbers in Open C may not support two set of prizes
Would the 'non-qualified' lineup feel like a second string
Potential arguments about merit e.g. Did they truly “win”?
Creates a “two-tier” system
Standard may be lower than anticipated
With training rounds hard enough to get one line-up

All the responses were assessed as being positive towards the option, negative towards the option or being a mixed type of feedback, this gives a broad idea of what the Community feel about it:



The response to this option could be said to be mainly on the negative or mixed side and therefore it is felt that this is not generally supported by the Obedience Community and not taken forward.



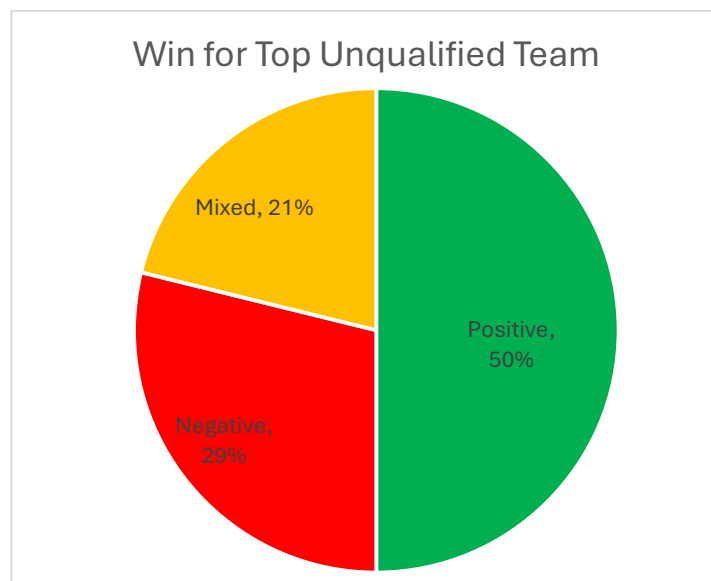
OPTION 3 – Introduce a C Class Win for top unqualified team

An additional 1st place is awarded to the highest non-qualified team if the overall class winner is a team already qualified for Championship C.

The Community’s responses to this option were reviewed, and consolidated in the following way:

For	Against
Keeps integrity of qualifying by requiring a 'win' of non-qualified teams	Admin messy
Levels the playing field for unqualified jobs	Complex if an unplaced dog is placed 2nd or 3rd (what happens to the qualifier)
Not a complex system	Could be unplaced and still win
Only one additional card	Favours well established teams and their young dogs
Only requires one rosette	Might encourage tactical thinking
Removes inequalities	Not helpful for those who also need qualifiers
Simple change	
Still keeps standard high as only higher placed dogs are Ticket dogs	
Targets qualification bottleneck	
Would encourage handlers who see Ticket teams constantly winning Open C	

All the responses were assessed as being positive towards the option, negative towards the option or being a mixed type of feedback, this gives a broad idea of what the Community feel about it:



The response to this option could be said to be balanced between positive and negative/mixed. There was a strong feeling in the comments from the Community that this option could affect standards and a worry that an unplaced team could receive a qualifier for Ticket. As such this option has not been taken forward.



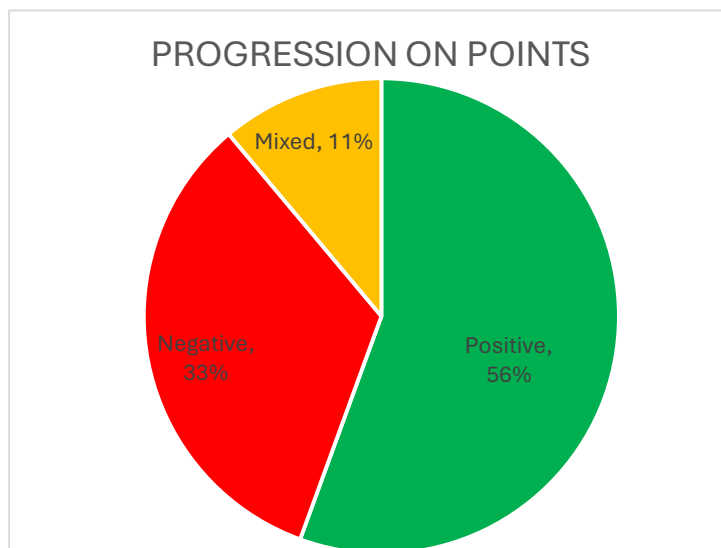
OPTION 4 – Introduce a Progression on Points system

A ‘Progression on Points’ system for C would work along similar lines to the other classes where progression into Ticket could be possible when a defined number of points (obtained through placings in Open C) were achieved. Required points to be determined.

The Community’s responses to this option were reviewed, and consolidated in the following way:

For	Against
Consistent with other levels of Obedience	Could make Ticket feel inevitable rather than earned
Could be optional - you could choose to wait for your win if this is important to you	Doesn't deal with main issue of Ticket dogs taking the places in Open C
Still have to obtain a place in competition with Ticket dogs - proving ability	May advantage those who enter more shows
Should Ticket classes have high average entries again it is simply a matter of increasing the required points for progression	Open to abuse
Simple to put into practice	Too complicated
Enables those who cannot get win because of more experienced ticket handlers keeping them down	
Helps dogs who are consistently placed	
No changes for Shows Administrators	
Reduces risk of high scoring/non-placed dogs getting qualifiers	
Rewards consistent performance	
Doesn't require any changes to management of classes	

All the responses were assessed as being positive towards the option, negative towards the option or being a mixed type of feedback, this gives a broad idea of what the Community feel about it:



The response to this option could be said to be mainly on the positive side. The respondents offered a number of suggestions on level of points that could be appropriate, the most popular being 16 to 20. This option was considered further (see below).



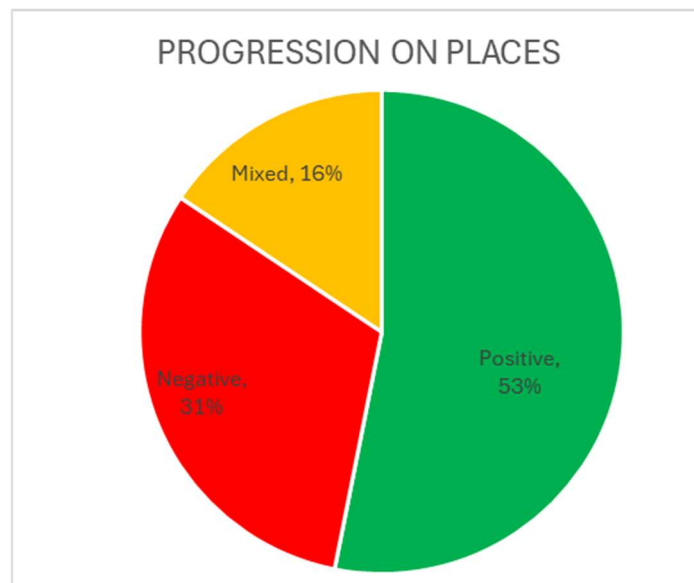
OPTION 5 – Introduce a Progression on Places system

A ‘Progression on Places’ system does not require a win but otherwise reflects the current requirements for Ticket qualification. The win required in C could be substituted for a set number of second or third places (under different judges and in addition to the other three qualifiers already required). For example, you could ‘swap’ the required win for an additional three 2nd places or, say, six 3rd places.

The Community’s responses to this option were reviewed, and consolidated in the following way:

For	Against
Multiple places deem worthy to qualify	Admit dogs not meeting a standard
Opens up Championship C to new teams	Can be obtained by default in smaller classes
Easy to administer	Complicated
No changes for Show Organisers	Difficult if cannot get different judges
Allows teams to progress quickly	Does not remove problems
	Too many would qualify

All the responses were assessed as being positive towards the option, negative towards the option or being a mixed type of feedback, this gives a broad idea of what the Community feel about it:



The response to this option could be said to be mainly positive. The respondents offered suggestions on the number of places that could be substituted for a win, the most popular being three second places being equivalent to one win. There was also a clear feeling that fourth places and below should not be used for progression. This option was considered further (See below).



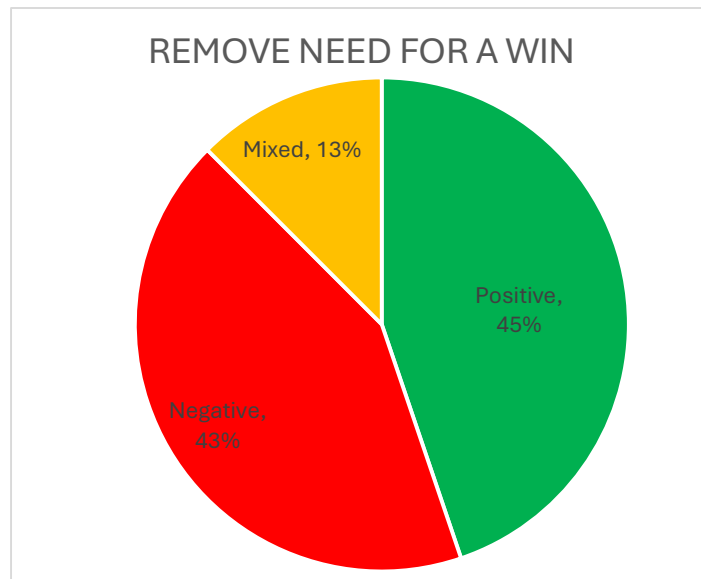
OPTION 6 – Introduce a Progression on ANY 4 Places in Open C

Qualification with ANY four places 1st to 3rd in Open C, under different judges, removing the need for a C win.

The Community’s responses to this option were reviewed, and consolidated in the following way:

For	Against
Easy to implement	Not challenging enough
Encourages those disincentivised by the Ticket handlers taking Open C wins	Places could be earned over a number of years and in small classes
Removes Inequalities	Open to abuse
Straightforward	Quality may be lost
	Too many in Ticket
	I don’t feel four 3rd places are enough to qualify

All the responses were assessed as being positive towards the option, negative towards the option or being a mixed type of feedback, this gives a broad idea of what the Community feel about it:



The response to this option could be said to be mainly negative and mixed. There was concern in the comments that this option would reduce the standard of teams competing in Championship C. This option has not been taken forward any further.



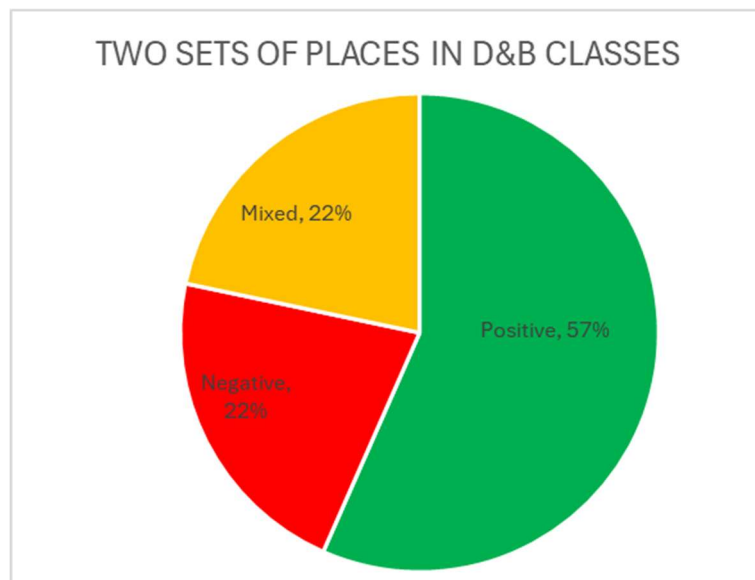
OPTION 7 – Placing for each sex in mixed sex Open C classes

A requirement for shows to award places for both dogs and bitches in a mixed sex Open C class, creating double the opportunity to win Open C and removing some of the potential disadvantages of competing with bitches against dogs. This is already something shows can opt to do. This option would make it compulsory.

The Community’s responses to this option were reviewed, and consolidated in the following way:

For	Against
Can be done anyway - could go hand in hand with other options	Could still be all qualified teams winning
Doubles winning potential	Doesn't help where classes already split by sex
Gives the females a better chance to qualify in mixed classes	Higher cost for shows
Helps issue of getting C judges	Smaller / capped shows could struggle with extra rosettes
Keeps existing qualification criteria	Limited impact on small classes
Seems reasonable as Ticket is judged in sexed classes	Too much organising for shows
Stops unfairness of trying to get qualifiers against dogs you wont compete against in Ticket	Just disagree. Never been a problem in lower classes. The whole system would need to change through the classes to make this fair.

All the responses were assessed as being positive towards the option, negative towards the option or being a mixed type of feedback, this gives a broad idea of what the Community feel about it:



The response to this option could be said to be mainly on the positive side. This option was seen as being fair but more costly for Show Organisers. The option is available now and it was felt that encouragement would be more appropriate than a rule change at the moment. As such a discussion will be started with Show Organisers to promote this option.



Royal Kennel Club

Obedience Liaison Council

Discussion on Qualification for Championship C

Next Steps

We will now:

- Produce a draft proposal based on the responses given above
- Poll the Obedience Community to confirm your wishes on this topic – by 19th April 2026

**G Regs, Annexe A, 15.a For Championship Class C at Championship Shows, dogs must have won out of Novice, Class A and Class B, or have progressed on points from those classes, and have won Open Class C on one occasion and have been placed not lower than third on three further occasions; all Open Class C places and wins must have been won under different judges at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows.*



Appendix A - Comments unable to be actioned

There were a number of general comments made by the Community that covered several of the options and are therefore noted separately. The following are unable to be actioned in this review:

"Prevent Ticket handlers entering Open C at Champ Shows", "Recognise the placing of Ticket teams separately", "Remove Ticket Handlers from Open C", "Ticket teams should get separate award in Open C", "Fairer if you don't enter the C if working the Ticket", "I would prefer an additional open C class to be put on at shows which exempt Champions entering thus giving a better chance of qualifying. When this was discussed in our area show Secretaries were in favour."

Note: Preventing Ticket teams from entering Open C would create a limited class, which is not allowed at Open and Championship shows.

"Qualification for ticket shouldn't be on really high scores", "Unqualified dogs on high scores could win the class", "Does not take into account high scores or failed scent", "Should not be qualifying losing high points", "Should be 'points loss' criteria"

Note: The G Regs current qualification* does not have a restriction on maximum points that can be lost when gaining a win or qualifiers in Open C, therefore it is possible within the current regulations that a team with high scores, including those failing scent, could obtain qualifiers for Ticket. As such this proposal cannot introduce a minimum score for qualifiers.

"May award a win that would otherwise not be good enough", "Prizes may go to dogs who would otherwise not be good enough for Ticket", "Meet a certain standard"

Note: As it stands, a qualifier for Ticket (including the win) cannot be withheld unless that class has fewer than 10 entries, no matter what the quality of the team taking that qualifier. It is therefore possible for a team 'not good enough for Ticket' to qualify at the moment. This proposal cannot introduce a rule to enable any prize to be withheld in any size class.

"Don't agree to points full stop", "Points devalue competition",

Note: Progression on points is a structure supported by the RKC in the G Regulations.

"Who is going to check the points are correct", "Open to abuse as self-certification of qualifiers"

Note: Open C qualifying wins and places are already "self-certified" and must be proven should a team win Championship C. Similarly, teams winning a Ticket would have to prove they have won out of B, which now could include providing evidence of progression on points. This proposal is not seeking to introduce proof of progression when a class is entered.



Appendix B - Other Comments taken into account

There were other comments by the community, which can be encompassed in the following:

"To be the best you need to beat the best. Ticket should be for the elite in our sport, not someone that has come fourth and qualifies by default."

"I think it should be left alone it's a competition and they will still be competing against the best when they get into ticket so it will keep standards high"

"Some ticket handlers openly win open C's and state they do it to keep the competition levels down whilst other ticket handlers don't feel fair to win a C they do not need and thus stop other people qualifying"

"I think lack of numbers in some ticket numbers, especially in Scotland or far North/South, are more down to environmental factors, cost of living, and people being more picky over which shows they attend, than actual numbers qualified."

"Many teams are unable to qualify as the 'wins' are always taken by the same handler week after week. Preventing other teams to progress"

"There are now multiple capped C classes held through the winter which enables competitors to more easily obtain qualifiers. "

"We see this proposal by the OLC of changing Open C classes, in a nutshell - attempting to dumb down the standard instead of celebrating the successes - the best of the best."

"The current system allows dogs to be effectively kept out of ticket by continually being beaten by dogs that have won tickets, are obedience champions, or even crufts champions. It's often said "well, they have to beat them in Ticket" but why should they have to beat them to even compete in a Ticket class? You don't have to beat a B or a C dog to win a Novice."

"Don't know of any other sport where you have to beat the best to be able to compete with the best"

"If more dogs qualified, then we would have to reintroduce balloting out and merit points again which likely would mean people would then start working open Cs more rather than training, to ensure they had enough merit points, which would mean even less new dogs qualify for ticket."

"Over the years I have constantly seen outstanding C dogs fail to get into ticket, by that one win! How many dogs have numerous seconds and thirds, to attain these positions over Crufts winners (I have seen had this in a class I have judged), yet that dog retires shy of one win!"

"We need CC classes to be the best of the best not filled up with handlers/dogs who will never win a ticket just to increase numbers."

"As a judge and competitor I often find that there are not enough scores on the board to even give enough places and dogs are getting qualifiers quite often having faults and even failing scent."

"As a show secretary, the struggle is to find judges, bigger classes put off judges, judging dogs and handlers out of their depth put off judges. Let's sort out the issue of getting enough judges before we make those running shows lives any more difficult."

"Personally I would not feel comfortable judging open C if the rules changed"

"My opinion is that Ticket handlers who compete in Open C at Championship shows are putting those unqualified at a distinct disadvantage. Week after week you have those either winning a ticket or being placed in ticket taking the wins and qualifier places in the open Cs at the Championship shows and this cannot be fair!"

"I think we should get rid of top dog/bitch competition, this does nothing to help the situation"

"We are of the opinion that part of the problem with low entries in CC classes is the CC judges picked - it is well known that some people will not travel to shows with Judges they know they will not win under."

"Over the years I have constantly seen outstanding C dogs fail to get into ticket, by that one win! How many dogs have numerous seconds and thirds, to attain these positions over Crufts winners (I have seen had this in a class I have judged), yet that dog retires shy of one win!"

"I think it important to give competitors a choice. This is why I support the points system. It is also the least complicated to implement also because already in play the least controversial."

"There are some great ideas, Perhaps more than one could be progressed"

"Then you have the issue of certain competitors, a small minority, taking up all the places that would be qualifiers when they don't need them to fulfil their ego"

"It is valuable to be asked. Thank you"