

Damien Hutton-Baber (Babtonkelpie) - Show Secretary



I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Show Secretary for the London Cocker Spaniel Society. I know that John Hartnett performed the role with great pride and professionalism and that he will be sadly missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to meet him.

I got my first orange roan Cocker Spaniel eight years ago and very soon after, entered my first dog show. Dog shows very quickly became a hobby with me and my partner entering

shows most weekends. Three years ago, I got a blue roan bitch and at the same time, I became interested in other aspects of the dog show world which include stewarding, judging and running dog shows. I have been involved in running three KC registered companion shows where a total of approximately £4000 has been raised for charity.

Looking back, it is hard to think that up until I got my first Cocker that I was terrified of dogs due to a bad experience as a child. This just goes to show how gentle and loving the breed can be and I do not hesitate now at recommending the breed as an ideal family pet.

Due to the Kennel Club stating that they will be implementing the JCF, I focused my attention on working towards completing this. I have completed the required seminars/examinations and stewarding appointments to meet the criteria of the now JEP Level 2 in Cocker Spaniels and American Cockers.

I was fortunate enough to fulfill my first open show judging appointment in Cockers, American Cockers and Handling Classes at Hampshire

Gundog in March 2020. Very soon after, as we all know, the Coronavirus Pandemic forced all of us into lockdown and all dog shows were cancelled.

Away from the dog show scene, I am a Civil Servant. During lockdown, I worked on a team dealing with Covid-19 related deaths. I spent a lot of time talking to grieving relatives and predominantly worked from home, where both of my Cockers sat by my feet when I was working and were there to comfort me after making some quite upsetting telephone calls. I am not sure how I would have coped with this challenging yet rewarding role if it were not for my dogs.

The last year has made me all too familiar with how the Coronavirus can spread, but equally how dog shows can be run in a way to reduce the chances of spreading the virus. It also highlights the importance of having my Cocker Spaniel's in my life as they are of great comfort in difficult times. Please stay safe and I look forward to welcoming and meeting you at our next dog show.

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