

Who's Picking Who To Judge?

By Dave Cooke

With the trials and tribulations of who will be judging at different shows, it has always boggled my mind as to how some judges are picked. You have the buddy system, the ones that like certain birds, the ones who pick certain colors or the ones who pick only patterned birds in the final line up. At times, we have all questioned why a certain judge was picked. Well, after being in this hobby for a while and as a former district director, you just won't believe how some judges are picked.

You will have those that call and politic for their boy to judge. You will have some calling willing to give you something only if you get that judge. Well folks, I think it is high time we step back and let the members who are planning to show at these shows decide who they would like to have judge their birds.

I mentioned this a little in a past article about wanting the support for the 4th district director's position next year. I will try to go over a plan I know will work for the host club and director if they are willing to do it. We all know who the majority of breeders will be showing at your show. Once the BOD of a host club get 3-4 judge's names who would like to judge if picked, the host club or director would mail a letter with a return postage paid letter to all the people the host club thinks would be coming to their show. This letter would highlight the names of the judges to pick. I always felt this would be the only fair way to do this and squelch a lot of the problems we have had with the buddy system.

I know this is how the national does it but there are those of us that for whatever reason can't always make it to a national. Why not give us a chance to vote on who we would like and not just let one or maybe two people from the whole district decide who they would like to judge their birds. I know there will be some thinking to man the cost and time of doing something like this is not worth it. Too them, I say step aside and let someone with some enthusiasm and kick to get it done.

As for the cost it would not be that much and if it's that bad I am sure the host club would make it right with the director by either getting donations or auctioning off some birds at the show. This is not rocket science just using a plain old fair system as best we can.

That's about all there is to it and, yes, I know there will be some tweaking but I think this will be a big step in the right direction for those districts that would like to implement something like this.