

Bob Hawkins On The Hawkin's System

1. **Does the Hawkins' System (HS) need revision?** Does the CCofA need to adopt a revised HS or create a new system? Yes, the HS needs revision. The CCofA is welcome to revise the HS. The definition of a new system would be the extent of revision. There is no need to continue to call it the HS. The HS was a private creation and its administration has been my contribution to the CCofA in lieu of other duties.

2. **Why does the CCofA need either of the above?** The original HS was created to provide objectivity, which was missing in the Collie Review awards. However, the current concern by many is with the validity of the system. The HS was modeled on the successful records of Ch. Parader's Bold Venture and Ch. Hazeljane's Bright Future. It was created to reward the specialty winner that could win seriously in all-breed competition. It also aimed to allow dogs that were, either all-round dogs or specialty winners exclusively, to place highly, IF they had spectacular records. The HS has been revised over the years to maintain the original aim. Current show demographics have changed to make that aim difficult to achieve under the system as it exists today. There are very small specialty entries and an expansion in the number of all-breed shows (many with 20 or more roughs and 8 or more smooth collies). Good dogs with good handlers and the proper financial backing can dominate the rankings. The specialist collie with only a modest number of group wins cannot now compete as equally for the top spot as was the intention of the HS. The CCofA will have to decide what balance and what type of success they want to reward. I have never had a collie in top twenty competition and had no conflict of interest with my own dogs. However, the HS was based on my view of what was a valid record of success. The trust and backing of the fancy has been a great personal reward and different opinions have always been respected and used to challenge the HS.

3. **Why are you not continuing with the HS?** First, the HS needs revision. A great deal of modeling or testing MUST be done. Modeling is applying a system to a specific year's data and seeing how the theoretical system works WITH ALL THE DOGS COMPETING. I could not do the modeling and can not do it now. I promised Mike Esch that I would do 2003 and I did it within a short period after the publication of the December wins. I will assist the club and the committee with advice, but I cannot promise work that I can not guarantee. Second, I want the time to work with my own dogs and the time to pursue judging in other breeds. The CCofA also needs a monthly or quarterly accounting and that is impossible for me to do. Monthly administration requires the accounting of approximately 1500 collies a year, while a yearly accounting only requires accounting for approximately 65 collies.

4. **Should any system be computerized?** Yes. However, automation or difficulties in administration should not dictate the system. Getting the AKC to provide a database will not be easy, but a determined individual with CCofA empowerment and finances could get them to provide appropriate data.

5. **Who should be doing all this?** I believe Pati Merrill will do a great job of getting the right people involved. It is my understanding that the new proposal is currently tabled. The Committee created to come up with a new system worked hard and their product looked good except for a small part that worried me. Since seeing it briefly and not being able to model it, I could not question it. Since that time, I have heard from others that there is a possible flaw that might favor the all-round dog out of all proportion. The Committee got off to a bad start with a lot of competitors. I hope the fancy will give them some slack. Many of the members were perceived as having a conflict of interest, their work was not open to all members of the club (especially those that were planning show campaigns for 2004), and there may not have been a member with enough experience in to the everyday problems of administration. The addition of computer competence and accounting experience might have made it easier for the members of the committee to do their work.

6. **What should the CCA do for 2004?** If a new system cannot be developed and TESTED, I would recommend either using the current HS or quickly revising it to triple the bonus points for inter-variety specialty wins. This is not modeled, but is just a quick fix that might work while a more tested system can be devised. The explanation needs to be clarified.

7. THANKS FOR THE OVER 40 YEARS OF HAVING THE HS USED BY THE CCA. The pleasure was mine.