

BEC report for March 2026

Each year, March to March should include two BAD and MCE, one online and one in person. March is the end of the year, and September/ October is 6 months.

This end-of-year report will add to the brief report sent out for October 2025.

We've had 9 observations for 2025, 3 additional observations weren't able to go ahead due to no observers being able to attend. We have a few on the horizon for 2026.

In 2025, we also held 30 mentoring sessions, and 2026 has a number of sessions planned. I'm always thankful to the mentors who can assist. We've had 12 individuals assisting with mentoring sessions during 2025. Again, thank you for your assistance. 12 mentoring sessions couldn't go ahead because mentors weren't available. Some shows had a greater desire for mentoring, yet mentors weren't available.

As previously mentioned, an intake of 30/ year would be sustainable; with this amount of mentoring, an intake of 10 is more realistic. Each person requires 3 mentoring sessions before an observation, so 3 observations and 30 completed mentoring sessions = 10 people able to progress each year. We know not everyone wants mentoring and they may be happy on JEP 2, but if they want to progress, we can only really accommodate 10/ year.

With fewer mentoring sessions available, people become disappointed and drop out after 1-2 sessions because they can't seem to get things to align for the next session. I want to see judging coming in and for judges to be able to progress; for this, we need more mentoring and more mentors. As more clubs become involved with BAD and MCE, they should naturally start mentoring more. As that club invited those judges in, they started the commitment for that judge to progress. On this note, I would like to commend the British and Midland clubs for an intake of 6, 21 mentoring sessions, and 9 observations in 2025, through their committee's work. They've done more than they've taken in.

I know BAD, mentoring, and observations are for the breed and not about individual clubs, but we all need to work together, realising this capacity. I put everything into a report in March for a reason.

All going well, we now have over 300 mentoring/ observation interactions being desired - if every candidate on JEP/ who will be on JEP wants to progress. During 2025, as a breed, we've managed to do less than 40 (interactions)... that's over 7.5 years for everyone on this JEP system to progress. Ethically, I know I can't help them at this intake-to-output rate. But as clubs, you need to decide what is best; the KC states a BEC is here to assist. I can only assist when heard.

If, while reading this, you know of others who could mentor or observe who aren't on the KC list, let me know, as we need more mentors, as opposed to more candidates.

Observations, these have gone well, in my opinion. Special awards classes offer the best opportunity for observations. Each show could have 2 judges for special award classes: one for dogs (3 classes) and one for bitches (3 classes). Club shows are good, but observers do not really want to attend without the ability to exhibit at an open show because of travel. Some all-rounders have assisted at general champ shows. If a club has a standalone open show or a smaller entry at a general champ show, please consider this opportunity for judges to be observed. Again, for people to progress and be observed, we need observers. I've turned away a few; I haven't been able to assist them because I don't have observers.

JEP judging lists are constantly updating, and a few judges have had issues uploading items. I have assisted a couple with this. I know there are others who also need to update, and I believe a few judges have lost their mentoring records, so I've had to find send them back out. In December, I reviewed the RKC find-a-judge and emailed every judge who was not currently in the JEP system for Chows, reminding them that they need to be on Find A Judge to judge in 2026 and onward.

We had a JEP Breed Specific Assessment in December 2026. We had 6 undertake the assessment, with one passing. Congratulations to Jenny Webb, who is our first judge to pass the BSA. The day was interesting; it took a bit longer than I originally anticipated, and finding dogs from the entry on the day made this slightly difficult. One of the assessors was appointed on the day due to changes. Thank you to everyone who helped with the dogs on the day, and the three assessors.

Following this BSA I had a meeting with the RKC regarding issues, positives and potential improvements. I've had a look at mentoring and how the three mentoring sessions can be adapted to better help with assessments.

- Mentoring session 1 will focus on gaining greater insight into the breed standard and will be led by the mentor. Highlighting the positives on various dogs and what the breed standard states
- Mentoring session 3 will use the BSA paperwork as a guide; the mentee will complete it and receive feedback from the mentor on what they have observed. This form looks at merits and demerits. This session will be led by the Mentee
- Mentoring session 2 will bridge the gap from the standard to the BSA paperwork.

In short, mentoring sessions for 2026 will be used as a progression from the BAD to the BSA, rather than 'mentoring'. I trust this slight change in structure will help judges progress and pass the BSA with greater ease.

The JEP system is currently under review, and I had hoped to include more of the review and its suggestions, but they have not finished yet.

The majority of clubs held a joint BAD and MCE 01/03/2026. We had over 30 attending the event. Of the total attendees, 2 took part in an A3 assessment. 9 undertook their MCE, with 5 being online. On top of this, we had 11 mentoring sessions (2 informal), with some having their first and others taking their final. This day was a huge success in my opinion, and a trial for the RKC as a potential new format for all breeds to copy. We started with a basic breed standard study, then moved on to the MCE. From there, we went into depth on our breed

and how to actually judge and evaluate a Chow (a nose-to-tail assessment). These aspects were available online and in person. The afternoon had our breeds' final A3 assessment or Mentoring.

Personally, I'd like to organise similar events in the future, but with RKC BSA opposed to the A3 assessment moving forward or for this to be a mock BSA. This day of Chow judge training and assessing would be best for the breed and would remove the onus from clubs to a collective instead. With the event on 01/03/2026, 5 breed clubs helped with organising and delivering the day. True collaboration is better in my opinion. This way will also enable mentoring for a larger group of people. 2026 BAD had 11 mentoring sessions in total, which is around 1/3 of the total for 2025. This is the most time-effective method for mentoring and it allows hands-on experience.

Within the annual report 2025, it mentioned asking all clubs to vote on if £5pp undertaking the MCE should go through to the CJTS fund, an email asking for responses was sent out on March 18th (Some information from the 16th), point 3. All clubs responded to the email, but not all clubs voted. Responses from all clubs that voted were in favour of this change, as asked for via a vote on 18/03/2025, and were subsequently approved by the breed. This is the majority of clubs, and then it becomes a breed decision by written vote. Invoices for BAD and MCE will subsequently be issued to any club hosting them (following the voting request on March 18th 2025). Thank you for this positive vote, which will assist with further breed education and improve the JEP system for our breed. An invoice was sent to NECCC regarding this, but NECCC will not contribute to this shared account and has refused to pay.

My mid-year report will be due September/ October 2026. Thank you for a largely positive 12 months.

We have several judges who have completed their mentoring/observations-

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| ● Debbie Baston | Observed | |
| ● Emma Bone | Observed | |
| ● Laura Denby | Observed | |
| ● Tracey Irwing | Observed | |
| ● Franceen Phillips | Observed | |
| ● Phil Wright | Observed | |
| | | |
| ● Sue Bird (bridus) | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Caron Cavanagh | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Angie Fieldsend | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Janet Kay | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Morgan Keyte | Mentoring completed | (A3 passed) |
| ● Gillian Knight | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Kendra Mackenzie-Haverson | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Gavin Robertson | Mentoring completed | |
| ● Anne Wildman | Mentoring completed | |

Hopefully, we will be able to have another Breed Specific Assessment in the near future, with 16 progressing with JEP. We also have 20 or so who have currently completed 1 or 2 mentoring sessions, by the end of 2026 we could have 30 who have been observed.

We have had two BAD and MCE over the past year.

The NE CCC hosted an online event with approximately 50 signed up, and 26 undertook the MCE. The evening featured a selection of prerecorded videos covering various areas of the breed standard. These videos included still images, voice-overs, movement depictions, etc. Those attending reported the sound going off occasionally. I also lost some of the audio, which is a slight issue with this format. Online is accessible for more people, but there are more potential issues in my opinion. Again, among those who didn't pass, there was a note of disliking some of the questions (a fairly normal response to not passing something).

01/03/2026 saw another BAD take place, as previously noted in this report. We limited online attendance to 6 and MCE attendance to 10. We have a capacity in the breed, and we can't exceed it without people progressing effectively. The main reason for including this event was to provide our final opportunity for an A3 assessment, as the A3 lists were extended by a further 12 months. Fortunately, we do not have many judges currently on our A3 list, and I believe those on the list have appointments before the end of 2028, allowing them to stay as a CC judge (JEP 4)

Moving forward/ the year to come

Two BAD and MCE within a year has again been great for the breed. In 2025, we increased our judging list by 29 new JEP 2 judges. As noted in the 2025 report, there was a cap on the number, but bookings for the NECCC online event exceeded it; thankfully, a few didn't make it to the evening, otherwise we would have had closer to 40 as an intake again. As noted in 2025, 30 new judges at a maximum is more sustainable. With two events/year, approximately 10-15 attending each, BAD is seen as appropriate (30/year); there is no reason to have more than 10-15 attending an event.

Pricing and costing, etc.

As noted in the 2025 report, I believe in-person events are valuable and needed for the breed. Lots of work goes into both options, but in-person has more overheads. Most in-person events are advertised at £25 per person, and online typically at £15 per person. This isn't price fixing or anything, but the perceived value of both by various breeds through 2025. All events need to be sustainable, with the £5pp vote approved in 2025. Online events can help make face-to-face events more sustainable.

As noted in the 2025 report, speakers for future BAD should have been on the mentor list. A mentor has been assessed and passed (CJTS or JEP BSA), and they have been awarded a minimum of 2 sets of CCs. A mentor has demonstrated their breed knowledge over a number of years and should be entrusted to deliver a good BAD. Clubs can also nominate someone to be a mentor if they do not fulfil the previously stated RKC criteria. If someone shows, owns and breeds, they may not be a CC judge, but they have a wealth of experience and can be an approved mentor. If clubs do not back someone to be a mentor, should they be giving a talk as an 'authority' on the breed and have a proven track record.

In 2025, I started to collate images and get things together to make events easier to show certain aspects of a Chow. Over time, I would like this expanded to the extended breed standard to show more, along with the wording.

Our breed standard

A review of the Breed Standard was conducted through 2025. We had several email communications with clubs, WECCC, and CCCW, who raised the proposed breed standard changes at their club AGMs (01/2026). Once finalised, this can be published; at present, several areas are being looked at by clubs and the RKC. In November (2025), clubs attended a meeting, with most attending in person, to discuss the standard, and I chaired it. Other clubs will hold their AGMs, and this can be discussed by the membership, as it's important to consult every club and its membership during this process.

MCE

The bank of questions can hopefully be looked at in 2026 once any breed standard changes are accepted. I do not want to review questions before the standard is finalised. The JEP review should also allow for a few different questions being included moving forward, such as breed watch points etc. I'd really like diagrams to be included and to move away from a word-heavy approach. I've had several meetings with the JEP team to attempt to influence changes for a more positive process.

In summary

In 2025, there were 8 successful observations, 30 mentoring sessions, all leading toward a BSA, with 6 in attendance. Again, we have a maximum of 80 mentoring opportunities each year (2/ show), and with group mentoring, this can increase. 2026 should have a BSA again, with a potential 20 being ready by the end of 2026. We have a potential of 10 observations again for 2026, and there have already been 11 official mentoring sessions in 2026. Thank you to everyone involved, as we can't progress judges without the appropriate support of clubs and the help from mentors and observers. You all do a lot of hard work for this system to function, and I appreciate it.