



British Sieger 2026- Event Manager's Report

The 2026 British Sieger was held on 6th and 7th June at Willenhall Rugby Club, Staffordshire. This was the first year using this venue. Although the venue for 2024 and 2025 was a good, cost-effective venue, there were several reasons to change in 2026. The venue is better situated for hotels for event organisers and exhibitors. The Council process for applying to use the previous venue was rather onerous. There is a much greater area of flat land to allow for a separate protection ring and show ring – the protection ring being used by exhibitors after the protection tests to warm up their dogs and for the collection of progeny and kennel groups before entering the ring. The catering facilities for the event were available for a longer period each day. As the venue is private land, security of equipment before and during the event was far easier to manage. The venue was well liked by the exhibitors although some of the neighbours to the property did complain about the noise from the dogs and if the venue is used in future, it would be advisable to move the ring to the far end of the venue which should minimise disruption to neighbours.

The judge for 2026 was Dirk Scheerer from Germany, owner of the Von Grafenbrunn kennel. Dirk carried out his duties with utmost professionalism and consideration for the dogs, handlers, owners and spectators. He was particularly keen to ensure that all dogs undertaking the protection test were given the opportunity to show their best work. Whilst the rules for the test were followed as required, the judge was keen to put handlers at their ease which, in turn, puts the dogs at ease.

The show's primary sponsor was Royal Canin and we thank them for their generosity. For the second year, the show was largely funded by sponsorship and we had 14 gold sponsors.

All but one entry was received online. The catalogue was produced by Mandy McAteer of Remi Show Manager and she did an excellent job in a very efficient manner which took a great deal of strain from the working party.

In total 165 (2025 146) dogs were entered, with 113 (2025 107) dogs presented – 68% (2025 73%). As well as UK entries, exhibitors entered from Ireland, France, Belgium, Poland and Germany. Classes were scheduled as in previous years with age classes from 4 months to 24 months and adult and working classes. Short coat and long coat dogs are judged separately. Entries in the working class were down on the previous year and, disappointingly, there were no UK bred working males entered. 17 dogs participated in the Courage and Protection Test on Saturday morning and 15 dogs passed.

Five dogs were awarded the prestigious VA grading:

Short Coat Females

VA1 Siegerin Monksley Kumi (Best British Bred)

VA2 Vice-Siegerin Zahel vom Amur

VA3 Zandamor Handa

Long Coat Females

VA1 Siegerin Yakasimba Alohomora (Best British Bred)

Short Coat Males

VA1 Sieger Benzes vom Amur

As usual, there were also two classes for junior handlers with 12 young people entered and 6 participating. The junior handlers were judged by Stefan Llyr Thomas. The quality of handling was, again high and, in the older age group, the handlers were given the opportunity to handle a different dog to the one they brought into the ring.

The Best Protection Awards were given to Hohenburg Edna (Female) and Anton von Haus Garyn (Male)

Unfortunately, an administrative error in the run up to the show has somewhat taken the shine off what was otherwise an excellent event. See attached statement.

All organisations involved in running the event pulled together well and I would like to thank the British Sieger Working Party delegates and the very many volunteers who helped me to make sure that the weekend was a great success.

Shirley Hutchinson

Event Manager

BRITISH SIEGER WORKING PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT AND APOLOGY

2026 British Sieger – VA Gradings

At the 2026 British Sieger, five VA gradings were awarded. After the conclusion of judging in the bitch classes, the Working Party became aware that the exhibits awarded the VA grading did not meet the VA eligibility criteria regarding parents with koerung or grandparents with working titles. In all other respects the exhibits satisfied the requirements.

This issue arose due to an error during the pre-event eligibility checks. The discrepancy was not identified until after the gradings had been announced and, as a result, the judge was unaware that the exhibits did not meet all VA criteria.

Decision and Rationale

The matter was discussed with the judge, Herr Dirk Scheerer, who requested that the gradings he awarded be upheld. Following detailed consideration, the British Sieger Working Party agreed that the VA gradings would stand. The decision was ratified by the WUSV Working Group.

Neither the judge nor the exhibitors were at fault. The error originated within the Working Party and it would be unfair to penalise the judge, owners or breeders for this administrative oversight.

Our Sincere Apology

The British Sieger Working Party sincerely apologises to the judge, Herr Dirk Scheerer, whose professionalism and integrity we hold in the highest regard.

Also to the owners, breeders and exhibitors involved, we fully acknowledge the disappointment and frustration this has caused.

We understand how much time, effort and commitment goes into preparing for a show like the British Sieger. To have this happen through our mistake is something we profoundly regret.

Preventative Measures

To prevent a recurrence of this error, the Working Party will implement the following changes:

- Improved eligibility checking including owners verification on the entry form.
- A review of the VA eligibility by the British Sieger panel prior to the event.
- A permanent awareness ensuring VA eligibility is a constant item on the British Sieger meeting agenda
- A list of all exhibits not eligible for VA grading will be provided to the judge prior to the commencement of judging of the working classes.

We are committed to learning from this mistake and ensuring actions are put in place to reduce the risk of recurrence.

British Sieger Working Party