MINUTES
For the Meeting of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY
Tuesday, 6 March 2018 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London

Present: Mr John Hansson - Chairman

Mrs Val Anderson   Mrs Lynda Ashmore
Dr Bruce Bennett   Dr Gillian Bennett
Dr Peter Collin    Mr Steve Crow
Mrs Hilary Dean    Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Mr Thomas Goss     Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Helen Marriott-Power    Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys

In attendance: Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell (IT Support)

BD3745 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for absence.
   1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of: the Vice-Chairman, Mrs Doreen Goadby, Mrs Shelagh Heavens and Mrs Elaine Robinson

2. Chairman’s opening remarks
   2.1 The meeting was opened at 11.23 and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending. He informed members that he would not attend the April Board as he would be representing GCCF at the WCC event in Italy. Therefore, the Vice-Chairman would chair next month’s meeting.

Action: Vice-Chair to be notified. JH

BD3746 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 10 January 2018
   1.1 These had been circulated in advance of the meeting and some corrections had been made.
   1.2 If additional mistakes were found they would be notified.
   1.3 The minutes were approved with one abstention due to absence on the proposal of HMP, 2nd PC.

Action: publication on the GCCF website JL/RF

2. Matters arising from the January minutes
   2.1 There were some points raised on whether information was available and agreed that these would be dealt with at the relevant point on the agenda.

3. Draft minutes of the February Council meeting
   3.1 These had been circulated and corrections made, but it was noted that some were still outstanding. There were no substantive amendments proposed.
   3.2 They were approved for publication

Action: publication on the GCCF website following corrections JL/RF

4. Draft Minutes of the February Finance Committee meeting
   Included for reference only.

BD3747 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting.
   1. LA & JL had an interest in the Birman & Korat registration policies respectively.

BD3748 BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Business Plan Projects for 2018 and forwards
   1.1 SC had started work on these, but they were not yet in a finalised form.
   Action: to be circulated to the Board when ready SC

2. General Data Protection Regulation Update
   2.1 There was no new information to add to follow that given in Council, but it was agreed that clubs could need some support. Most did not publish lists of names or pass on information (usually concerning kitten availability) without the consent of members, but club websites and breeders’ lists needed to be kept up to date and information removed on request.
   2.2 There was some discussion about SMs passing the names and addresses of exhibitors to GCCF, but it was thought probable that GCCF would have the information, and/or this would fall within the scope of a business communication. It was a matter to be checked.
   2.3 It was thought the show entry declaration form should be checked to see if adjustments need to be made.

Action: recommendations for change to be on a future Board agenda. All
3. **The GCCF partnerships - to receive any updates from Agria and/or Royal Canin**
   3.1 There had been no meetings during February, and as the OM was not present there was no information on any recent communication.

4. **Microchip company - possible new partnership**
   4.1 SC reported a meeting held on 29 January with Ben and Richard who were developing a new small business making microchips that were smaller than standard. They were suggesting a partnership that was similar to the one developed with Agria. They also wished to be present and offer services at shows.
   4.2 Examples of registration and transfer forms had been sent, as requested, and the responsibility was now with the company to present a proposal to the GCCF Board.

   **Action:** the circulation of any information received  
   **SC**

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**BD3749  IT INFORMATION**

1. **Approach to 2018 IT strategy with reference to the Business Plan projects**
   1.1 SRO had mapped out IT strategy that would support the developments discussed at the business strategy meeting held on 31 January.
   1.2 She had brought this to the meeting, but it was agreed it should be circulated to the Board to give time for consideration prior to a decision on approval.

   **Actions:** circulation of IT strategy presentation  
   **SRO**  
   to be on the April agenda  
   **JL**

2. **IT staffing proposal**
   2.1 FC had proposed to employ Leon until the end of December to ensure stability. The OM had informed members that there was money in the IT budget that would allow for this despite Leon’s salary increase coming into effect at the beginning of April.
   2.2 SRO was of the opinion that there was plenty of work to keep him busy until the end of June. She could not be sure beyond that, and knew it was important to Leon to be challenged. However, once he had left it would not be possible to retain another programmer of the same calibre at such a good rate. There would also be difficulty in finding someone sufficiently skilled to replace him for maintenance and development.
   2.3 It was agreed that Leon should definitely be retained until the end of June, and a review would be made in May to consider the IT work for the third and fourth quarters.

3. **Update on STAR**
   3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that there were several shows coming up and the system was operating smoothly. The feedback from exhibitors had been good.
   3.2 Preparations had been made for the show structure change in June. Both the old and new formats should be able to be administered through the transition period.
   3.3 Heather McIntyre had put together a guide to the new structure for clubs and SMs which would be circulated.
   3.4 A cost structure for STAR shows had been prepared, though it was currently at first draft. Some suggested pricing had underestimated actual costs quite considerably and needed to be adjusted. It was expected that this would be completed for the FC meeting on 21 March.

   **Action:** to be on the FC agenda  
   **JL**

4. **Website development**
   4.1 It was agreed that the website needs an effective search facility as a matter of priority. It was not difficult to find a show report on a particular exhibit within the show section, but the general site could not be searched effectively, making it difficult to track down specific information. This lead to complaints on occasions.
   4.2 SRO confirmed that this was a priority IT project.

5. **The SOP APP Project**
   5.1 Mrs Fisher reported a good response from some BACs. It was having the desired effect of some reappraisal.
   5.2 She was not making any amendments and had stressed that it was not a project to change wording (unless the BAC wanted to do this) but standardise format and layout.
   5.3 SRO confirmed that Leon was enthusiastic about developing the APP.

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**BD3750  FINANCE**

1. **Management accounts on 2017 business**
   1.1 As the OM was not present there were no operational accounts or volume figures.
   1.2 There was concern that there had been no operational management details produced since the end of October. These were provided for the Board in January and also to FC and the Council meeting.
   1.3 It was understood that the bookkeeper had had problems with accessing the accounts remotely early in the new year, and her husband was ill, but there was some uncertainty that these factors were the only cause of the delay. She had recently reported to the Chairman that she had been waiting to receive bank statements from the OM and the reason for this was unknown.
   1.4 Because of computer problems within its account department the OM had reported that Agria had not made payments at the end of the year. It was not known whether GCCF was now in receipt of payments once again and if any money owed from 2017 had been paid in 2018.
   1.5 It was agreed that there should be further discussion with the bookkeeper so that the current financial situation could be assessed, and to determine progress in the preparation of the 2017 accounts.

   **Action:** Liaison with the bookkeeper  
   **JH**
2. Volume figures and transaction graphs for core business to the end of December 2017
   As BD3750.1.1

3. Update on the accounts for 2017
   As BD3750.1.5

4. Investment update
   4.1 Mrs Fisher reported that the Aldermore account matured on 18 March. It had been paying 1.29% interest
   and if rolled over this would increase to 1.5% interest.
   4.2 It was agreed that this action should be taken.
   Action: the funds with the Aldermore to remain on deposit

5. Account protocols
   5.1 It was agreed unanimously that it was essential that John Hansson (GCCF Chairman), and Helen Marriott-Power
   and Stephen Crow (as ex Chairmen) should have electronic access to the Lloyds bank account as
   well as being authorised signatories for cheques.
   5.2 The minute record of this decision would be presented along with any necessary ID documentation in their
   local branches after confirmation with the Bridgewater branch on procedure, and ensuring that the
   account details were known.
   Contact with Lloyds

BD3751 STAFF & OFFICE

1. Staff & Office update
   1.1 The Office had been closed for a day during a period of extremely bad weather.
   1.2 The alarm had sounded during the early hours of the morning and Heather (as a key holder) had responded
   to check with the police that all was well. No problems were found and it was thought the weather had
   been the trigger.
   Action: the Chairman to thank Heather

2. Report on OM’s appraisal
   2.1 This had been planned, but had not taken place.

3. Proposed salary increases for April 2018
   3.1 HR had recommended a just above inflation rise for all at 3.3%.
   3.2 It was confirmed that some staff had received pay rises in September last year, others had not received a
   salary increase since 2016. However, all had received bonuses in December.
   3.3 It was agreed that as this was period of change a decision on pay should be postponed until there had
   been an assessment of future requirements. It was considered essential that there should be staff
   appraisals held and written records made.
   Action: a check to be made on the existence of staff appraisal records

4. Staff bonus payments in 2018
   4.1 The Board agreed that bonuses should not be given on an annual basis as a matter of course, but for a
   purpose.
   4.2. As with salary increases it was considered that bonuses could not be discussed now, but should be
   discussed again later in the year when the situation was more settled.
   Action: to return to the agenda in six months

BD3752 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL

1. Prefix applications
   1.1 44 prefixes were before the Board. Some were thought rather strange, but there were no grounds for objection.
   1.2 It was brought to the attention of the meeting that some of the applicants wished to make late changes.
   1.3 It was agreed to defer the list so that it could be amended in the Office and recirculated for consideration.
   Action: updates to be made and the re-presented

BD3753 SHOW STRUCTURE/BAC & JUDGE TRAINING REVIEW

1. Report on show restructure
   1.1 There was no new information to come to the Board after the December meeting and the reports given
   in Council. It was a matter of answering queries as they came in.
   1.2 It was confirmed again that breed club shows would not be affected by most of the changes. The one
   exception was that for combined SIA/BAL/ORI shows as there could be only one Imperial offered.
   1.3 However, breed clubs were required to offer classes only for the breeds they catered for. It was their
   choice to include others, and apply to the Board if necessary. Therefore, the Oriental breed clubs did
   not have to put on classes for classes for SUF, and clubs had the right to offer assessment classes
   for breeds/colours/patterns in their section, but were not obliged to if not covered by the club.
   INFO

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2. **Report from the meeting of the BAC Group (29 January)**
   2.1 The meeting notes giving preliminary ideas had been circulated and feedback was awaited.
   2.2 There would not be a further meeting until input was received. Therefore, there was nothing new to report to the Board.

3. **Revision of the current judge Appointment Scheme re Emeritus Judges**
   3.1 This was necessary to be in line with the form of record keeping on the computer system and for clarification re judge listing for the new show structure. It would be a matter for the JTRG to define Emeritus/Retired status in the new scheme.
   3.2 2g) A Judge may apply to be placed upon the Emeritus List for any or all of the Breed Lists of which they are a Full Judge. This shall be taken as an indication that, although not generally available to judge that Breed List, they may accept engagements for occasional shows, or that they are unable to accept engagements in the immediate future. However, they will not be added to new breed lists and/or may not take on new certificate classes.
   3.3 This was agreed.
   **Action:** to be on the agenda for June Council. JL

4. **Birman Cat Club - judges and BAC status quo situations**
   4.1 There had been some delay in acknowledging the points raised, but a holding response had now been sent to the Birman CC Chairman.
   4.2 Clarification on judge qualifications had been referred to the JTRG and could be given after the fast track scheme for judges was finalised.
   4.3 The BACRG had agreed that the status quo when two clubs did not agree was not always ideal and a form of arbitration was included in the suggestions circulated.

**BD3754 OTHER SHOW MATTERS**

1. **2017/2018 Show changes - for report**
   1.1 Somali CC - 17 March 2018. The venue to be Ullenhall Village Hall, Ullenhall, B95 5NE
   1.2 Ocitac Club - 31 March 2018. The show will not be held this year.
   1.3 Jersey CC - 5 May 2018. The show will not be held this year. The club hopes to find new committee members.
   1.4 Midshires Siamese CA & Chocolate Pointed Siamese - 5 May 2018. The clubs, who are sharing a venue, have postponed their shows. Ross Davies has resigned as SM for Midshires.

2. **2017/2018 Show Changes - for approval**
   None.

3. **2017/2018 Show Licence Details Still Awaited**
   3.1 GCCF London Pet Show - 5-6 May 2018. This two day show is no longer taking place.

4. **2017-18 Late Show Licence Applications - for approval**
   None.

5. **2018-19 show changes for report**
   5.1 Blue Pointed Siamese CC & Oriental LH Breed Club - 4 August. The shared venue to be Droitwich Spa High School, Briar Mill, Droitwich Spa WR9 0AA

6. **2018-19 show changes for approval**
   6.1 White Persian CC - 6 October 2018, SM Carol Pike. Bracknell leisure requested as a venue, shared with the LH, Semi LH & All Breed CC, Maine Coon Breed Soc, Norsk Skogkatt Soc, Seal & Blue Pt Birman and Turkish Van CC. Additional breeds also requested: all Persians & Exotics colours/patterns.
   6.2 Seal Point Siamese CC - 6 October 2018. Date change requested for 3 November and refused. No update.
   6.3 GCCF Championship Household Pet Show - 3 & 4 November 2018. 2 day show to be held at the NEC Birmingham. Maximum number of cats 34, but 16 expected. 2 judges to be booked.
   6.5 Cameo, Pewter & Smoke Society - 13 January 2019. A request made to have BLH in club colours.
   6.6 United Chinchilla Association - 26 January 2019. Date change requested to 16 February. Additional breed colours also requested: BLH also Bi colours Smoke/ Cameo/Pewter to include associated colours, Self and Tortie, also Asian in associated colours to include self and tortie. It was to be suggested that the club should be encouraged to combine with others for a shared show. Also, a rationale to be sought for the inclusion of the additional breeds, particularly Asian.
   6.7 Norwegian Forest CC - 16 February 2019. Show licence now received with venue requested to be the Grieg Centre, Alcester with Brian Gregory & Di Taylor to be SMs.
   Approved with the exception of 6.6
   **Action:** the clubs with approved changes to be informed Office
   The United Chinchilla Association to be contacted with the Board’s concerns JL

7. **2018-19 show licence details still awaited**
   7.1 Caesarea CC: Letter received from the club to say they have difficulty getting members so the application is on hold for the present.
   7.2 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland - 5 January 2019. No SMs or venue. ASM given as Lesley Coyne (no licence until accounts are approved).
8. **2018-19 show licence details not yet received**
   8.1 Abyssinian CA & Asian Group CS, Rex CC, Burmese CC & Cornish Rex CS noted as sharing on SLA list with other small shows on 19 January 2019, but licence applications not yet received.
   8.2 It was noted that the Cornish Rex CS is no longer functioning as a club.
   8.3 Capital LH CA - Eastern LH & Semi LH CC state that they are sharing with Capital, but no SLA received. **INFO**

9. **Ragdoll Class Split**
   9.1 The Ragdoll BAC had sent a letter to say it wanted to go along with the class split for Ragdolls, in the format suggested by the Board. Colourpointed Ragdolls would have their own class and Mitted and Bicolours be combined in a single class.
   9.2 This was agreed, and to be effective from 1 June 2018.
   Actions: confirmation to the BAC **JL**
   SMs to be informed **Office**
   June 2018 schedule amendment necessary - IM to be informed **SRO**

10. **Appeal against a biting certificate**
    10.1 The circumstances that may have contributed to the cat biting were brought to the Board’s attention in a letter from the exhibitor.
    10.2 It was agreed that the use of sprays was not acceptable in the show hall. However, as the exhibitor was aware her cat could become upset by their use, and she did not withdraw him with knowledge that no preventative action was taken, but instead chose to risk his extreme reaction and a judge or steward being injured as a result, it could not be claimed there were mitigating circumstances.
   Action: the exhibitor to be informed that the appeal was unsuccessful **Office**

11. **Show safety code**
    11.1 The Board agreed that flyers on pens were an excellent way to remind exhibitors of show rules and of the sort of bedding and toys suitable for a small pen.
    11.2 It was suggested the code needed a little polishing, in particular the word ‘maul’ should be removed, but once this was done it could be circulated to SMs. It could assist if they needed to speak to an exhibitor about sprays or unsuitable beds or toys.
   Actions: the exhibitor to be thanked, and informed his idea would be acted on **JL**
   some revision of the code prior to circulation to SMs **LA**

12. **Judge eligibility for Olympian Classes at multi-breed shows**
    12.1 The November 2016 guidelines gave eligibility to judge the relevant Imperial(s) as the qualification for breed and multi-breed shows. If these shows covered more than two sections then the All-Breed Show Olympian qualification was acceptable.
   Action: to return to the agenda if any update on this was proposed by a Board member. **JL**

13. **USABCC-GCCF Joint Show**
    13.1 It was assumed that the club was asking GCCF to run a show in partnership with its own, as GCCFI did in Eire. This was to be able to offer exhibitors a dual-certificate event as an attraction to compete with a TICA show.
    13.2 It was agreed that support was desirable, but it was preferable if it could pair with a GCCFI show (if there could be an agreed alignment of certificates), as GCCF did not hold its own shows. It could be deemed as unfair if it did so in one particular region.
   Action: the situation of shared shows and certificate alignment to be discussed with GCCFI **SRO**

**DISCIPLINARY**

1. **Bye-Law Revision re relationships with other organisations for those with GCCF responsibilities**
   1.1 The additions of ‘show management’ and ‘promotion’ were added to clarify that an SM was classified with officers, officials and committee members. It was also understood that SMs for other organisations could have a pecuniary interest in a successful show and therefore could be considered as GCCF’s business competitors. Therefore, a conflict of interest could arise if they were in a decision making role within GCCF.
   1.2 It was considered that it would be very difficult to define ‘promotion’ and ‘advertising’ was an alternative suggestion.
   1.3 It was accepted that these changes would have to go to June Council, but agreed that the Board should consider the wording again at the April Board meeting.
   Action: to be on the agenda for the April Board meeting **JL**

2. **A matter of concern re use of Breeder Scheme membership**
   2.1 It was understood that none of those listed in the advertisement was now a member of the Bengal Cat Club which was the sole breed club for Bengals. If that was the case they were not eligible for membership of the Breeder Scheme. It was agreed this should be checked.
   2.2 BS membership would be suspended if there was no breed club membership, but those concerned had to be informed they could appeal against exclusion if expelled from or not allowed to join the Bengal CC.
   Action: the BS members concerned to be informed **Office**
1. **Registration policy revisions for the Ocicat & Aztec**
   1.1 The Genetics Committee had discussed the registration policies and made recommendations to the Board.
   1.2 The policy was far too long and complex. It was meant to be a set of instructions to the registrar, and the accompanying information for breeders made it unwieldy. Other breeds incorporated testing schemes in a simpler format and their policy style could be copied.
   1.3 It was agreed that all Ocicats and Aztecs imported onto the GCCF register should be tested for unwanted pattern genes and BHD, BHP and Burmese GM2 as requested.
   1.4 Testing GCCF Ocicats and Aztecs for the same diseases could be advisory for a period, and a date set for the future when it would be mandatory. This would give breeders chance to test breeding cats gradually without any necessity for immediate use of the genetic register.
   1.5 However, there could be immediate implementation if a carrier was found for any disease.
   **Action:** to be referred back to the BAC with suggested revisions  
   JL

2. **Extension of generations required for the Birman registration policy**
   2.1 The Birman BAC wanted three generations extended to five throughout the registration policy because of the risk of silver entering the gene pool.
   2.2 There was a suggestion that five generations should be mandatory for imported Birmans to allow more extensive pedigree checks, but that should be less necessary if outcrossing with GCCF cats as breeders could make their own checks. Lengthening the period between an outcross and the show bench discouraged outcrossing.
   2.3 A preliminary vote was in favour of the policy revision as requested, but it was agreed that the compromise should be put to the Birman BAC.
   **Action:** the Birman BAC to be contacted  
   JL

3. **Revisions to the Chartreux SOP**
   3.1 The revisions were considered sensible overall (with one spelling error to be noted).
   3.2 The one section it was thought needed amendments was that for ‘faults’.
      • The word ‘humped’ to be replaced with ‘with a bump’
      • Alternative wording to be found to replace ‘long or heavy nose’ as this was not sufficiently clear
      • ‘General show penalties’ to be replaced by ‘any other defect as listed in the preface to this SOP booklet’.
   **Action:** feedback to the Breeder Group to be informed  
   JL

4. **Oriental White SOP**
   4.1 The Oriental BAC was planning to seek recognition for a white Oriental that was not a white Siamese (as the Foreign White).
   4.2 There was thought to be an imbalance in the number of points allocated for coat colour and coat texture.
   4.3 The eye colour could be blue according to the description of the eyes, but blue was not mentioned in the general type standard.
   4.4 There needed to be allowance for spots or marking on the heads of kittens, though if retained as an adult these would be a fault, and this needed to be stated.
   4.5 The suggestion would be put to the Oriental and Siamese BACs that the Foreign White should be moved to the Siamese Grand Class.
   **Action:** feedback to the Oriental BAC & contact with the Siamese BAC  
   JL

5. **The BSH variant re future registration and showing as a BLH by request**
   5.1 The Genetics Committee had discussed letters from the BSGC and the Northern British LH & SH Cat Club (representing the BLH Breeder Group). It recommended to the Board:
      • That LH British cats should not continue to be registered as BSH v
      • That exhibitors who owned a BLH registered as a BSH v could apply for it to be re-designated as a BLH if the owner was also the breeder, or the owner had the breeder’s signed consent.
   5.2 It was agreed that the decision made when the BLH achieved preliminary recognition should stand. Breeders could opt for LH kittens to be BLH or BSH v until the BLH were approved for championship status.
   5.3 By a vote of 9 in favour, with 2 against and 1 abstention, it was agreed that owners could opt for BSH v to become BLH with the breeder’s consent. No individual or the BSH breed was affected, but judges would have the opportunity to handle mature BLH while the breed was at assessment level which was sensible for breed development.
   5.4 This would be with immediate effect.
   **Action:** the BSGC Chairman and BLH Breeder Group to be informed  
   JL

6. **The Korat & Thai registration policy revision**
   6.1 The K&T BAC wished to take advantage of the recent rule change and enable progeny of Korats from Thailand to be on the show bench in competition more quickly via judge assessment in exhibition with critique classes. If successful application could then be made for transition to the supplementary register.
   6.2 This was agreed.
   **Action:** the amended registration policy to go onto the website

**BD3757 CLUB & BAC MATTERS**

1. **Update on club returns issues**
   1. Mrs Goadby had sent a report to say that just four returns were in so far, three club and one BAC. She had received no further communication from RACCS.
2. It was understood that RACCS had received notice of the club’s suspension of GCCF membership the night before the February Council meeting. The Board was concerned that this had happened and agreed there should be further contact with the club, particularly as emails received seemed to suggest that their accounts had been acceptable the previous year in the format used this time.

3. It was suggested that accounts should be obtained and circulated to FC and this was agreed.

**Action:** RACCS accounts to be presented at the March FC meeting

**JL**

2. **Request to defer a seminar**

2.1 A request had been received from the Norwegian Forest Cat BAC for the deferment of their seminar for a twelve month period. The difficulties in putting on seminars were understood and this was agreed.

2.2 There was some general discussion on seminars. It was noted that suggestions for combined seminars or GCCF organised seminars had been put forward by the review groups.

**Action:** The NFC BAC secretary to be notified of the decision

**JL**

3. **Dispensation request.**

3.1 It was agreed there was no objection to a member of a GCCF Committee who had now taken a position with TICA attending a final club committee meeting and the AGM where he was standing down.

**Action:** this information to be passed to the enquirer.

**Office**

**BD3758 EVENTS**

1. **The 2018 Supreme**

1.1 A committee meeting was planned for 13 March.

2. **The National Pet Show**

1.2 Mrs Heavens had sent a message to report that she knew this was going ahead, but she had no further details at this stage.

3. **The WCC Show 2021**

3.1 It would be made clear that judges would be invited on GCCF terms that should be stated with any invitation sent. There would be no payment for judging.

3.2 It was understood that April and May were months that should possibly be avoided, but the event could be held at any other time.

**INFO**

**BD3759 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The Board agree that the 13 day rule was applicable to shows and other public events as stated. This was not to be extended more widely.

2. There was some discussion on the monitoring of judge reports. Some liked a three week reminder, others found it intrusive. It was thought the process should be left manually operated until a new IC/DC secretary was in post.

The meeting finished at 4.35pm with business completed.

**NEXT MEETING:** **WEDNESDAY,** 4 April 2018, at 11.00 for 11.15am, at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London