



MINUTES

For the Meeting of the **Board OF DIRECTORS**

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Thursday, 13 April 2017 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London

Present: Mr Steve Crow - Chairman
Mr John Hansson - Vice-Chairman

Mrs Valerie Anderson	Mrs Lynda Ashmore
Dr Gillian Bennet	Mr Sean Farrell
Mrs Rosemary Fisher	Mrs Doreen Goadby
Mr Thomas Goss	Mrs Catherine Kaye
Mrs Jen Lacey	Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell
Mrs Lisa Talboys	

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

BD3651 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. **Apologies for absence.**

1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of: Mrs Shelagh Heavens, Mrs Helen Marriott -Power, Mrs Pat Perkins and Mrs Heather McRae.

2. **Chairman's Opening remarks**

2.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.23am, and welcomed those present. A few moments of silence were held in respect for Mrs Celia Leighton who recently had passed away. Mrs Leighton had been a Board member for many years and also the Supreme Show Manager

2.2 Mrs McRae had messaged that she was willing to join the meeting by Skype, as unable to travel. The Board considered it was worth investigating the possibility for one person to participate in this way in the future.

2.3 Mr Crow reported two recent correspondents. A breeder had outlined an idea for avoiding backstreet breeders. This seemed to be a website with similarities to GCCF's and there would be set up and maintenance costs. Ms Emily Stone, based at Exeter University, was planning a PhD (anthropology) that studied cat breeding and exhibiting. She would be welcome to visit shows and talk to those taking part and the Chairman had been promised a copy of research ahead of publication.

Action: circulation of the letters ahead of the May Board meeting to give members more opportunity for comment. SC

2.4 Mrs Shingleton would be flying to Las Vegas in about two weeks to represent GCCF at the WCC. The Chairman had received a copy of the paperwork outlining the topics to be discussed by delegates. No major constitutional change was planned, nor was there to be any rise in fees (\$340Aus). Proposals covered:

- the health of breeds
- dealing with social media issues
- taking disciplinary action (information exchange)
- the modern style Siamese (there was comment that this was a matter for each organisation).

There would also be discussion on the 2021 WCC which was celebrating 150 years and hosted by GCCF.

Action: any ideas for 2021 to be passed to Mrs Shingleton

ALL

BD3652 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **The Minutes of the Board meeting of 7 March 2017**

1.1 These had been circulated in advance of the meeting, with amendments requested and made at BD3647.2.3

1.2 It was agreed that there should also be the date inserted in this note to indicate that breeders had the option of registering as either BLH or BSH v to make it clear this existed until the end of 2017 only.

1.3 The minutes were then approved.

Action: the minutes to go for publication on the GCCF website

JL/RF

2. **Matters arising from the March minutes**

2.1 The Chairman reviewed the actions of the meeting.

2.2 BD3638.2.2 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that most of the figures for exhibits at shows in the last year were now on the system. The number of cats entered were counted rather than those present. She estimated it would not be too time consuming to add in other years manually so that comparisons could be made. Mrs Kaye offered data already prepared from shows she had attended.

2.3 BD 3641.2.3 She also reported that the judge list was now almost ready, and within another week or so should be available to replace the current spreadsheet with updates made via the system.

2.3 BD3641.2.6 It was confirmed the registration details of the Norwegian Forest Cat had been amended. INFO

2.4 BD3641.3.1 SRO circulated a list of GCCF projects that gave some indication of the current work of Board members. It was agreed that the NPSs should be added to events and that IC/DC work was ongoing even if there was no specific project. Space was also needed to include an aim to take a non-executive role. ALL

Action: review of personal interest areas and any ideas for other additions to be noted for the next meeting.

2.5 BD3648.1 Dr Bennett affirmed at the meeting that she would be willing to appraise club rules that were submitted with club returns.

Action: any rules sent to the GCCF Office to be directed to her

DG/GB

- 2.6 BD3650.1 On behalf of IC Dr Bennett confirmed the recent Appeal had been held outside London because of the medical needs of the appellant. This had added to the expense. A barrister had not been appointed until it was known that one had been appointed on behalf of the appellant. It was not the practice of GCCF to use a barrister except in this circumstance.
- 2.7 BD3650.1 The OM confirmed that the program used displayed shows for 12 months following the current date and a program change would be required to alter this. It was already thought necessary because of other limitations, but a replacement had not yet been sourced. A task would be set up for this is 2018. **INFO**

BD3653 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting.** **INFO**
 1.1 Club, show and previously declared commercial interests were as on record. No new information was given.

BD3654 FINANCE

1. **Management accounts on 2017 business to date**
 1.1 The OM presented the income and expenditure for the first two months of the year. He observed to the Board that there would be an adjustment to expenses as a late bill had been received adding about £400.
 1.2 Income for the period was approximately that of 2016, as although registration income had fallen this had been compensated for by an increase in the earnings from Agria.
 1.3 It was noted that income from sales of pedigrees had also grown. The OM remarked that breeder pedigrees were proving popular and there had also been quite a lot more demand for certified pedigrees.
 1.4 Expenditure had been held down, and was currently 13% lower than the same point in 2016. However this would not be sustained because of the high cost of the appeal which would show in the March figures.
 1.5 A surplus had been achieved in January and February. **INFO**
2. **Volume figures and transaction graphs for core business to date**
 2.1 Trends of the year so far had continued in March.
 2.2 The fall in prefix registrations was the most significant factor. There was a small indication that it had levelled, but as numbers were low at this time of the year it was not a certainty.
 2.3 Transfers were keeping pace with 2016, and import numbers and application for prefixes continued their increase.
 2.4 The outlook continued to be positive. **INFO**
3. **Report on the progress of the 2016 accounts**
 3.1 The accounts were now with Monahans, but the OM had been dissatisfied with the first presentation, and had undertaken further work with the bookkeeper to check expenditure in December.
 3.2 He had to discuss the specific findings with Monahans to agree the final outcome.
 3.3 There had also been some dissatisfaction with the presentation of the Supreme accounts. It had not been intended that money spent on promoting GCCF through the 40th Supreme Cat Show would be included in the accounts for the show.
 3.4 The presentation had been amended, but further discussion was urgently required.
Action: liaison with Monahans and the Officers to be kept informed by email. **OM**
4. **Contribution to the GCCF's World Cat Congress delegate's expenses**
 4.1 The Finance Committee had recommended a £500 contribution to the delegate's expenses this year. This was agreed.
 4.2 It was noted that this was not a precedent. The amount would be reviewed on an annual basis, and would be dependent on the distance of the journey and on GCCF finances.
Action: to be on the January 2018 agenda. **JL**
Mrs Shingleton (volunteer GCCF delegate for 2017) to be informed **SC**
5. **Preparatory savings for the World cat Congress 2021**
 5.1 FC's recommendation to pay in £250 per month to a savings account was agreed.
 5.2 Mrs Fisher proposed the Secure Trust Bank as they had a savings account with access with 1.25% interest. This was agreed.
Action: an account to be opened and £250 paid in. **OM**

BD3655 BUSINESS MATTERS

1. **The GCCF partnerships - to receive any updates from Agria and/or Royal Canin**
 1.1 The OM commented on the good income from commission from Agria and said that the business relationship was also continuing well. There was ongoing discussion which was generating new ideas.
 1.2 Agria were continuing with the upgrade to their computer system and had acknowledged some problems earlier that could have made it difficult for those registering with GCCF to obtain kitten cover. It wasn't only an ongoing issue because of the GCCF upgrade.
 1.3 An Agria representative was expected to attend the June Council meeting.
 1.4 It was queried whether the company had updated its leaflets for GCCF stalls.
Action: Liaison with Agria on leaflets **OM**
 1.5 RC's reorganisation was ongoing, and it was expected that more effect would be noticed during the course of the year. However, it was expected that it would be business as usual for 2017 Supreme support.
 1.6 RC had requested to attend the July Board meeting, and this was agreed.
 1.7 It was hoped that the transfer incentive would become paperless, which would give a smoother operation. It was also suggested a request be made that vouchers for show winners could be used via the RC online shop.
 1.8 RC would be sponsoring the WCC event of 2021, but this would be the European division of the company rather than the UK one.
Action: continued liaison with RC **OM**

2. **IT development and online report**

- 2.1 The GCCFI branded website was due to be demonstrated in the next week to a GCCFI representative.
- 2.2 It was planned to refresh the exchange of data between Phoenix and Infusionsoft. Marketing campaigns would then be targeted at particular groups: eg. new breeders, new owners and those registering their 4th non-prefix litter.
- 2.3 Work was continuing on the development of show services so that these could be trialled, and the upload of judge information was almost completed. This would then be automatically updated.
- 2.4 There was discussion on the registration of HHPs and unregistered PPs. Owners had been encouraged to add them onto the system, but not many had done so. Concern was expressed for a sudden rush in June.
- 2.5 It was agreed that there should be flyers at shows, information on FB and the GCCF website, and an email sent out to as many as possible to inform exhibitors of the need to register if titles were wanted. It was agreed that an early bird discount could be offered to give an incentive to get this done before June.
- 2.6 It was agreed that those exhibitors who showed rarely, and did not wish to register, could continue to show at the lowest level. This would be reviewed in a year's time to see if problems had been caused.

Action: publicity as described to inform exhibitors of pets of the changes coming

SRO/OM

3. **Planning for the introduction of licensing**

- 3.1 The Chairman informed the Board of the detail of the CFSG meeting relating to the licensing of those breeding and selling cats. A framework for local authorities had been drafted to give advice on working procedures, guidance and training.
- 3.2 During meeting discussion he had quickly realised that there was a complete mismatch between conditions deemed suitable for a commercial breeding establishment or retail outlet and the reality of a domestic setting. It was impractical to expect people's homes and commercial premises to be alike in this respect.
- 3.3 He had made strong representation to this effect, and assurance had been given that his views would be passed to DEFRA by the CFSG Chairman at a follow-on meeting with DEFRA officials.
- 3.4 He observed that this was not an issue the charities present felt strongly about, with the exception of ICC, who agreed the home rearing of kittens was important for socialisation. The KC breeders had already accepted licensing and were prepared to work with the terms of a schedule specifically for dogs. Representatives of pet vendors believed hobby breeders would not be defined as commercial.
- 3.5 The Chair reported he could not feel so positive as this group. It was probable that breeders would be required to register with the local authority, if not actually be licensed. There was as yet no definition of 'commercial' in relationship to kittens sales and until there was it was difficult to define and target an appropriate response.
- 3.6 Local authorities were keen to take on the work and would interpret national guidelines to suit their practices, and set fees based on local need. These would be graded in terms of risk (and therefore the number of visits required). EHOs would receive very limited training for the wide range of species that included cats.

Actions: continued participation with C&FSG, circulation of any information available, plan a response to include all, relevant to the terms and conditions set by DEFRA

SC

- 3.7 A report was given on a meeting with two Kennel Club administrators of its Accredited Breeder Scheme run according to a UKAS standard. Key factors were that it could work only with a group of breeders prepared to pay an annual fee to contribute to costs (currently £60 annually, plus £20 joining), and that it was based not only on monitoring via feedback, but on regular inspection. This was at least once every three years, more often if there were known issues. There were eight paid assessors for about 5,000 breeders.
- 3.8 The KC's aim was to work with the new proposals to ensure ASB members were in the lowest risk bracket, licensed with the local authority, but paying a reduced fee and receiving KC rather than LA inspection.

Action: continued liaison with KC

SC

- 3.9 GCCF had registered interest in accreditation with UKAS, and this had been followed up by a telephone discussion between the Chairman and UKAS representative, who stressed the UKAS role was not consultative, but to act as the testing agency. However, he was prepared to outline the process.
- 3.10 There were two standards open to GCCF. The higher one was as KC's that ensured those inspected would meet the standard at all times, the other guaranteed it at the time of the inspection.
- 3.11 There was an estimated cost of £6-8,000 to prepare, and around £4,000 to maintain the scheme, but it was not known yet what this was expected to cover (apart from additional administration and inspection costs). It was expected all GCCF processes would be scrutinised, but unknown whether upgrades could be managed internally. Additional computer programs would be required, but packages were available and could be assessed for compatibility with the GCCF system.
- 3.12 The Board concluded that it was necessary to gather more information but breeders would need to gain definite benefit from participation to join in sufficient numbers to support an accredited scheme.

Action: meeting on 2 May with UKAS - information to be circulated

SC/JL

4. **Byelaw change at 11(1) to give greater stability in company governance**

- 4.1 The rationale for this was to give consistency with the terms for the GCCF Officers, committees of the GCCF disciplinary system, and many club committees, to ensure experience and knowledge had continuum, and to provide a greater degree of stability for the company.
- 4.2 It was noted that the commercial partners had commented on the lack of security in company governance and thought possible that UKAS could take a similar view.
- 4.3 The point was made that the same people were elected to the Board without such a measure being in place.
- 4.4 It was queried whether a directorship would be maintained if the director lost his/her club position as a delegate. It was thought this could be possible at GCCF's expense, but procedure was in place to fill a Board place should a director stand down for any reason mid term. It was agreed this should be clarified by the May meeting ahead of the proposal being put to Council.
- 4.5 There was a vote in favour of the change going forward. Mrs Talboys voted against as did two others present.

Action: proposal to clarify the Board position if a director was no longer a club delegate

JL

BD3656 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL

1. **Prefix applications**
 - 1.1 34 prefixes were considered and all but one were accepted unanimously.
 - 1.2 The alternative to the rejection was accepted because the first choice was impossible to pronounce.
Action: the applicants to be informed OFFICE
2. **Liaison with clubs re online prefix application procedure**
 - 2.1 It had been observed by the Office that some club secretaries would be unaware that prefixes could be applied for online, and that forms would no longer need an actual signature, as membership confirmation would be by email contact.
Action: all club secretaries to be informed of the online procedure. OFFICE

BD3657 STAFF & OFFICE

1. **Staff report - current staffing**
 - 1.1 The OM reported that the new members of staff had started work on 27 March and were making good progress getting a feel for the business. They were both being trained in all aspects of the work, which would make covering staff holidays/absence easier, and had the benefit of enabling them to deal with customer phone queries and offer support for services.
 - 1.2 Progress was being monitored on a regular basis by a senior administrator. This indicated a high level of success, as the backlog of outstanding tasks had been reduced from around 400 to single figures.
 - 1.3 As planned, one member of staff had retired from working for GCCF in March.
Action: website update to reflect staff changes RF
2. **Staff bonuses & gifts for volunteers**
 - 2.1 Staff bonuses would be a matter for the November FC meeting with recommendations circulated to the Board.
 - 2.2 The work of volunteers would be considered at the September Board meeting. There would be decisions on gifts for the few outstanding contributors and acknowledgement and thanks to all who gave support.
Action: agenda items for the appropriate meeting JL
3. **Office - general**
 - 3.1 The Defects Guide booklet had been revamped and was available for download, or could be purchased and would go out to show stalls. INFO

BD3658 THE SUPREME SHOW

1. **Report on preparation for the Supreme Show Event in 2017**
 - 1.1 The Vice-Chairman reported that the contract had been signed and was inclusive of hall parking, but those who arrived when this was full would have to park as directed. Free parking tickets were as agreed.
 - 1.2 Tickets were now on sale with an early bird discount. A flyer had been prepared for the NPS, but was thought to need the word 'CAT' included as well as the illustration. It was agreed that the logo, as currently used, should be retained as this was prepared in gold in keeping with corporate identity.
 - 1.3 Class structure had been simplified, and that would be passed on into the awards structure. Judges had now been allocated and invitations would soon be sent out. It was planned that vetting-in would begin as soon as a vet was present.
 - 1.4 Hotel and lunch costs from 2016 were not shown in the accounts as separate items, which made budgeting for 2017 difficult.
 - 1.5 it was understood the podium needed to be painted, but could be draped by arrangement with MF Penning. Hall plans had been prepared and were thought to make best use of the venue space.
 - 1.6 There were several loose ends to tie up and so the next meeting was scheduled for 27 June.
Action: meeting minutes to be circulated to those present for comment and then sent to the website JL

BD3659 OTHER SHOW MATTERS

1. **2016/2017 Show changes - for report** None.
2. **2016/2017 Show Changes - for approval** None
3. **2017/2018 Show changes - for report**
 - 3.1 Bombay & Asian Breed Club: No longer sharing with Eastern Counties and Kensington, but will be looking for an early 2018 show date and venue. This will possibly be with Cambridgeshire (see below).
 - 3.2 Chester & Nth Wales - 12 August 2017. June Pointon is no longer to be SM, replaced by Liz Prescott
 - 3.3 Herts & Midds CC - 24 February 2018: No longer sharing with Coventry & Leicester, but no other details as yet.
 - 3.4 Central LH & Semi LH - 5 May 2018. Keith Scruton no longer to be joint SM.
4. **2017/2018 Show Licence Changes -for approval**
 - 4.1 North of Britain LH & Semi LH CC - 11 November 2017: date change requested for 3 February 2018, Mrs Linda Dutton would replace Mrs Lynda Ashmore as SM. Doreen Dobson still ASM and the venue still Doncaster School for the Deaf.
 - 4.2 Red, Cream & Tortoiseshell Society - 26 November 2017. Date change requested for 25 November 2017 (the day before). Also a venue change wanted to Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College , Farnborough. Shared show with the Chinchilla, Silver Tabby & Smoke Society - 6 November 2017.

- 4.3 Chinchilla, Silver Tabby & Smoke Cat Society - 26 November 2017. Date change requested for 25 November 2017 (the day before), shared as above at the Samuel Cody venue.
The club also requested to include: Selkirk Rex and Manx; Tipped AC Smoke, AC Silver Tabby (Classic, Mackerel, Spotted & Ticked) and AC Golden Tipped. Persian colours by right are Club Name Breeds/ Golden/Shaded/Silver/Pewter. By request is PER & EXO AC Cameo/Blue Chinchilla/Blue Shaded Silver/ Blue Golden. Also BSH in club colours.
- 4.4 Colourpoint CC - 6 January 2018: Date change requested to 20 January 2018 with the venue changed to Green King Stadium, Hinckley, LE10 3DR, on the same date as Lynda Ashmore's small breed clubs which do not include Longhair/Exotics Clubs. The club requested to add all other Persian & Exotic colours as regular exhibitors could bring other cats and kittens. The rationale given was that it bring the club into line with other Persian breed clubs who already have the Persian section colours and not just club colours. The club previously had by right: Persian selfs, torties, tabbies, tortie tabbies and exotic colourpoint, and by request Exotics in all the same colours as the Persians by right.
- 4.5 South West BSH CC - 31 March 2018: A request made to add 3 assistant SMs to their show team: Mr Kirt Ware, Mr Bruce & Mrs Monica Acton. Also wanted to know if Mr & Mrs Acton needed 3 SM qualification forms before running a show on their own as they had been SMs in the 1980s and helped informally since.
- 4.6 Cambridgeshire CC - 28 April 2018: Date change requested to 31 March 2018. Venue would be Wood Green for a shared show with the Ocicat Club, Bucks, Oxon Berks CS, Colourpoint Soc of GB, Rex CA, Sphynx CC and possibly the Bombay & Asian shows (supporting email received from the Chairman of CamCat)*.
- 4.7 Ocicat CC - 28 April 2018: Date change requested to 31 March 2018, sharing with Cambridgeshire CC and Bucks, Oxon & Berks CS etc as above.*
- These were agreed except for those marked*. The two all breed shows would impact on entries for the Burmese CA show on the same date in the same area, (with the Ocicat CC dependent on being with the Cam Cat etc.)

Action: contact with the clubs concerned

OFFICE

5. **2016-17 Late Show Licence Applications - for approval** None

6. **2017/2018 Show Licence Details Still Awaited**

6.1 South Western Counties CC - 23 September 2017: Show Manager

6.2 Northern Birman CC - 7 April 2018: Venue

Action: to be checked and updated. It was thought new information was now available.

OFFICE

7. **2017/2018 Show Licence Applications not yet received**

7.1 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland; Scottish CC.

8. **Non qualified judge at Southern Counties**

INFO

8.1 A letter had been received from Sue Deane of Southern Counties CC to pass on the club's thanks to the Board for allowing Mrs Stoa's awards to stand and understanding the difficult time the club had been through this year.

9. **Veterinary matters: hygiene at shows**

9.1 The Board agreed with Dr Moreland's comments on the matter of exhibitors providing gloves for use with their cat(s). It would slow judging and there was no evidence of health problems arising from cross-infection at shows.

9.2 The observations on the use of disinfectants were noted. It was doubted that any agent really had chance to be very effective in show use.

Actions: referral back to the VAC, and any VAC recommendation to be on the next agenda

JL

10. **Additional show word ruling at Section 3:3b - overseas judges**

Invitations are to be made only to senior judges **who are fully qualified with their own organisation(s) for the GCCF judging they are engaged to do (see 3:3e for detail.)**

10.1 This removed the three year qualification and reference to 'senior' and made checking an overseas judge was eligible for an engagement an easier process. It was unanimously agreed.

Action: To be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

BD3660

REPORT FROM THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SSRG AND BACRG

1. **Decline in judge numbers**

1.1 There were almost 200 names on the GCCF list, but only around 50 judges were active on a regular basis. Some only judged within a certain area, were specialist to particular breeds or no longer took any engagements.

1.2 Eligibility to judge an Olympian Class was not too difficult to acquire, but the number able to judge the Imperial in certain sections was at a critical level. The loss of one judge usually meant a loss across several lists, so depletion of those suitably qualified was rapid and replacing them on a list by list basis made no improvement. It was mathematically impossible that it could do so.

1.3 It had been agreed that this had to be demonstrated clearly to Council, and a method of presentation was planned. It had to be shown that doing nothing about judge training and numbers in conjunction with show structure review was not an option. Any minor alterations to show structure to ameliorate problems in one or two sections would not address the more critical issue.

1.4 In discussion on judges it was thought sensible to check the average age of judges as there could need to be insurance adjustments as a result.

Action: judge dobs to be requested and put on record

OFFICE

2. **Show section restructure**
 - 2.1 As no change could not be an option, the recommendation from the groups was that two proposals for change should be made.
 - 2.2 The first would mirror that used in FIFe with four sections. They had been recently rearranged to reflect exhibit numbers shown in FIFe, so adjustment of GCCF breeds could be made according to number to achieve four balanced lists as per the FIFe model. The progress on a show day through to BIS would also follow the FIFe pattern.
 - 2.3 The alternative was a GCCF model very similar to that proposed the previous year. There would be six sections, with two or three grand groups in each, and each having one imperial class. The show day would follow the current GCCF model.
 - 2.4 Breeds were grouped according to the statistics available, and some checking of eligible judge availability had been made. It would be a feasible transition with planning so that it could begin in June 2018.
3. **Revision of judge and steward training**
 - 3.1 The show structure as described at 2.3 would make possible a judge training system based on the 14 grand classes. The number of BACs would be reduced to 14 and judges would train for the group of cats covered by the group and not by individual lists of the breeds within it. It would be expected that representatives from clubs would attend to consider progress overall and contribute accordingly.
 - 3.2 In the process of the reorganisation PJs would immediately become PJs of the entire grand group. Also FJs who were not full for all breeds with the group would have the option of taking FJ status, but at the same time undertaking training for the breed over a twelve month period. Thus the pool of qualified judges could be boosted immediately, although any FJ would have the option of remaining as a 'specialist'.
 - 3.3 No judge would be disenfranchised, although it would be possible that a few judges would have to be given a personalised route to go across the board in the sections undergoing most re-organisation.
 - 3.4 The meeting of the combined groups (SSRG & BACRV) had also put together outlines for improving judge training that would need to be developed and written out in detail if the planned revisions went ahead. More importance would be given to seminars for both stewards and PJs (to be GCCF organised & funded). There would be written (online) exams to ensure knowledge of the SOPs. Each PJ would be allocated a mentor and it was suggested using shadow judging.
 - 3.5 It was expected that the Guild of GCCF Judges and Stewards would continue to be responsible for the training stewards, but this would be revised, and progression would be from there to PJ with the relevant BAC.
 - 3.6 It was appreciated how much work Mrs Kaye had put into presenting the ideas generated by the groups and she was thanked for this by the Chairman.

Action: a formal proposal to be drafted for the May Board meeting, highlighting the number and overall average of exhibits currently shown in each section, with more detail of the FiFe option this to be accompanied by statistics from all shows in the previous year CK
SRO

BD3661 YOUNG EXHIBITOR SCHEME

1. **Mentor form**
 - 1.1 Mrs Ashmore presented a revised mentor form. It was the intention to send it out to all judges to see who was interested in being a mentor for the scheme.
 - 1.2 It was considered that reference to CRB checking should be removed as it was clear that the work carried out with young people was in a public area rather than a one to one situation. Such checks were therefore not necessary.
 - 1.3 It was also inappropriate for past employers further back than two years to be referees. This section also needed some revision.

Action: the form to be revised and then circulated ahead of the May Board meeting. LA
2. **Fresh ideas for the scheme**
 - 2.1 It was agreed that the YES classes should be judged at roughly the same time as assessment classes and not left until late in the afternoon.
 - 2.2 Ideas had been forwarded. It was thought probable that a new project group would be required to determine which should be implemented so that proposals could be put forward.
 - 2.3 Agreed procedures needed to be in place that were accessible to all, and transparency was required about who was involved.

Action: return to the May agenda JL

BD3662 REGISTRATION, TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS

1. **Recognition for the BSH Harlequin (BSH xx 02) as a new pattern of an existing breed**
 - 1.1 It was proposed by the BSGC that the British Harlequin should be added to the assessment class currently put on for British SH Van patterned cats.
 - 1.2 There was discussion on the proportion of white to colour allowed for on these cats. It was understood that it was the intention of British breeders to preserve the pattern of the bicour, and a new class was required so that this was not impacted. There were currently no Van patterned BSH being shown.
 - 1.3 There was concern that good cats could be excluded from the show bench if the SOP was not flexible in the amount of colour allowed, and also pointed out that it was very difficult to assess exactly proportions of colour to white and judging would be subjective.
 - 1.4 The conclusion was that the BSJC should be asked if breeders would consider an SOP that allowed for any pattern in a coat that was more than 50% white that was not van or bicour.
 - 1.5 It was also observed that at present cats that could be 02 were registered as 03 and the BSJC would be asked what resolution of this situation had been considered.

Action: Points to be put to the BSJC and the proposal to be returned to the May agenda JL

2. **The proposed British Longhair registration policy**
 - 2.1 It was noted that the breed group was intending to make an application for preliminary recognition. The registration policy could be revised at this point ahead of going to Council.
 - 2.2 Suggested revisions were:
 - 'full' and 'supplementary' to be used rather than 'cs' and 'cssr', as this lettering was no longer used in the registration program (table)
 - 'alternatively' rather than 'previously' line 2 of the first definition
 - Point 2 of the reference register to be point 4 as it was the least desirable, with appropriate renumbering.
 - 2.3 The group would also be asked to consider setting a term for the registration of BLH progeny from BSH x BSH matings on the supplementary register, thus enabling them to be shown as BLH.

Action: the club to be informed **JL**
3. **The revised Tonkinese registration policy**
 - 3.1 This was a minor revision to allow foundation cats to be imported to help with the breed's genetic diversity.
 - 3.2 It was noted that a test was required that was not yet available and FI was used to refer to a foundation cat when it's usual use was to denote progeny from an outcross. These points would be put to the BAC.

Action: a letter to be sent the BAC, and a revised policy to be on the Board agenda for May **JL**

3.3 Comments from Board members were also received on the revised Tonkinese Breeding Policy.

Action: feedback to be passed on to the BAC and GC **JL**
4. **SOP template (office update)**
 - 4.1 The OM reported work had begun in the Office putting breed detail into the template, but there was still much to do.

Action: circulation to BACs when completed **OM**
5. **Notice of an application for promotion to championship status for the silver Bengal**
 - 5.1 Available paperwork had been circulated.

Action: an item for the May agenda **JL**

BD3663 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS

1. **2017 club returns**
 - 1.1 Mrs Goadby reported that 35 clubs had made returns so far. **INFO**
2. **Amendment to the Judge Appointment Scheme at 13a re the circulation of paperwork**
3. **Teleconference meeting for BACs and Council**
4. **An application for Provisional Membership from the Bengal Cat Association**

These items were deferred as the room had to be vacated by 4pm.

Action: to be returned to the May agenda **JL**

BD3664 EVENTS

1. **Cat Of The Year Competition**
 - 1.1 The Vice-Chairman gave the names of the cats who were contenders for titles. He thought there would be little change now for those well in front, but a few positions were tied or close.

Action: publication **JH/RF**
2. **GCCF People Awards**
 - 2.1 The Board had received a memo from IC that despite suspension from judging by AC (and in the period of the suspension) the appellant had been nominated for one of these GCCF awards. Concern was expressed that this was inappropriate and could be seen as an endorsement of his behaviour by the governing body.
 - 2.2 The Chairman stated that he supported this opinion.
 - 2.3 The Vice-Chairman proposed that the awards should not be described as GCCF Awards, but as Suffolk & Norfolk Awards (and any club could hold a similar popularity contest). **This was agreed.**

Mr Farrell (Suffolk & Norfolk Show Manager) abstained and there were 2 other abstentions.

Action: removal of GCCF title and endorsement **OM**
3. **The London & National Pet Shows**
 - 2.1 Polo shirts requested by the team to wear for corporate identity had been received and would be passed on to Mrs Heavens.
 - 2.2 Entries were currently being taken and the close for the Pet show is not until 18th April
 - 2.3 If Board members wished to attend to support contact should be made with SH re tickets and parking. **INFO**

BD3665 ANY OTHER BUSINESS **None**

The meeting finished 4.00pm with deferrals where noted.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY**, 09 May 2017, at 11.00 for 11.15am, at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London

End of Agenda