



MINUTES

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

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Tuesday, 3 May 2016 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London



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

Dr Gillian Bennett Mr Sean Farrell
Mrs Rosemary Fisher Mrs Doreen Goadby

Mr Thomas Goss Mrs Catherine Kaye
Mrs Jen Lacey Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Mrs Pat Perkins Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

BD3562 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for absence.

- 1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of: Mrs Lynda Ashmore, Mrs Shelagh Heavens, Mrs Celia Leighton, Ms Heather McCrae and Mr John Robinson.
- 1.2 Mrs Marriott-Power (work commitment) and Mr Farrell (train delay) arrived late during the morning session.

2. Chairman's Opening remarks

- 2.1 The Chairman opened the meeting shortly after 11.15am.
- 2.2 He welcomed those present and stated the intention was to complete the business for the year prior to the Electoral Meeting of Council and the commencement of a new term.
- 2.3 Mr Crow then gave a report to the Board of the time he had spent in Thailand at the World Cat Congress, as GCCF's representative, with Drs Gillian and Bruce Bennett and John Hansson, who had also been able to attend. The event had been hosted by the Cat Society of Thailand, a very new club, on behalf of the World Cat Federation. (WCF).
- 2.4 Representatives from all of the nine organisations of the WCC had been able to attend and the visit included a chance for site-seeing and fine dining as well as cat related business.
- 2.5 The seminar included the history of the WCC with each organisation contributing, a presentation on some of the cat breeds native to Thailand, a veterinary update on FeLV and FIP research, plus a guide to conception, pregnancy and birth in the domestic cat.
- 2.6 Dr Lyons gave a presentation that included new discoveries and developments in the genetic research since the last meeting, plus an overview of some studies currently being undertaken.
 - The Scottish Fold - osteochondroplasia was present in homo and heterozygous cats causing arthritic joints.
 - The PRA mutations in Abyssinians (2), Bengal and Persian cats could be tested for
 - and there was now a test for spasticity in the Devon Rex and other breeds.
 - Work was ongoing on different degrees of dwarfism, with homozygous dwarf cats probably not possible,
 - Samples were wanted to investigate diabetes in Burmese, and also FOPS.
 - Investigation into amyloidosis continued.
 - No genetic health issues had been determined in the Japanese Bobtail
 - The AB blood group had been found in Ragdolls
 - Rex genes for different breeds had been identified, including for the coat of the Lykoi .
 - The genetic identity of 'Charcoal' in Bengals had been established, one copy of agouti from the ALC and one of non agouti from the domestic cat.
The average Bengal cat retained approximately 7% of ALC genes.
 - Russet in Burmese was possibly another extension gene, a mutation causing red hair in other species, including humans
 - Silver (l) remained a mystery, the current thinking was that there was more than one mutation responsible.
 - PKD and PRA mutations had been found in small cats of other species, indicating they had been around for a long time, and were not a result of pedigree breeding.
 - Work on the '99 lives' project continued with 83 complete genomes sequenced to date. The cost for this was now reduced (\$3000).
 - A genetic study of domestic cats in Madagascar found they were more closely related to the population in India than Africa.
- 2.7 There had been a two day show over the weekend, but entry fees were high for the local population. BIS was a white exotic. British, Scottish Folds, Korats & Thai Lilacs and a Bengal were also present.
- 2.8 The final day was the WCC Congress. There was no change in the officers and, as the financial position was good, subscriptions were to remain the same.
- 2.9 The issue of TICA shows clashing with those of GCCFI in Ireland was raised, and an investigation was promised by the TICA representative.
- 2.10 The Co-ordinating Cat Council of Australia had launched a plan to tackle inbreeding in Burmese using Mandalays (Asians), as an outcross.
Note: There was discussion on desirability of each GCCF breed having a designated outcross or access to foundation cats to introduce new blood lines and increase genetic diversity.

Action: GC to consider the existing registration policies and make recommendations to the Board on whether this should be mandatory.

JL

- 2.11 Royal Canin would host an International Cat Breeders Convention in Montpellier in June 2017 and pay the expenses of delegates invited to attend. Its encyclopaedia would be published later in the year.
- 2.12 CFA would host the 2017 WCC in Las Vegas, and South Africa be host in 2018.
- 2.13 As July 2021 was the 150th anniversary of the Crystal Palace show (the birth of the Cat Fancy) it was hoped GCCF would be responsible for a celebratory event. The Board was in favour of the idea, and it was thought that careful preparation would be needed to produce something special to attract media attention. The Chairman suggested financial planning should begin now so that this could be funded and this was agreed.
- Action: further discussion at FC to begin planning for this.** JL

BD3563 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. **The Minutes of the Board meeting of 12 April 2016**
The final draft was approved as circulated with minor corrections.
Action: to be sent to the GCCF website for publication. JL/RF
2. **Matters arising from the April minutes**
 - 2.1 The Chairman made a quick review of agreed actions and noted that there had been completion, or the matter had been carried forward to this meeting's agenda.
 - 2.2 BD3551.1 The OM reported consultation had taken place with the bookkeeper on working with the Supreme accounts in future to ensure that the VAT was paid and reclaimed appropriately. She was happy to be involved in the process to ensure accuracy throughout.
 - 2.3 BD3552.4 There were updated membership forms on file, but they had not yet been reviewed and circulated. This would be done for the next meeting. JL
 - 2.4 BD3558.4 The Russian BAC's revised Judge Appointment Scheme had been circulated and it was noted this was as reported. There were no problems.
Action: The BAC to be informed.
 - 2.5 It was reported that there were insufficient applicants to cover the vacancies on IC and DC and provide reserves. Most of those who were currently in position or reserves had not indicated whether they were willing to stand or not.
Action: an announcement to be made on the front page of the website to invite applications as a matter of urgency, and notification to clubs via email. RF/OM

BD3564 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

BD3565 FINANCE

1. **The 2015 End Of Year Accounts - update**
 - 1.1 It was confirmed that there had been no change to the company accounts as presented to the Board in April.
 - 1.2 The deficit for the Supreme had been finalised at £11,035 and this had been agreed by O'Hara Wood and the Show Manager. The problem had been with the VAT reclaim and the involvement of the bookkeeper (BD3563.2.2) should prevent reoccurrence. The show team were thankful for the removal of this responsibility.
 - 1.3 The accounts would be presented to Council by Laura Green acting for O'Hara Wood as agreed.
 - 1.4 The gross profit of £82,000, before depreciation and the Supreme deficit, was again noted with satisfaction.
Action: the accounts to be circulated with Council paperwork. OM
2. **A report to the Board on a change to Companies House reporting**
 - 2.1 The OM informed the Board on new statutory requirements concerning the information supplied to Companies House as this was a director responsibility.
 - 2.2 From April 2016 a record of people with significant control in terms of shares and voting rights was mandatory. However, this applied to individuals and not groups, such as member clubs, and so would not be applicable to GCCF.
 - 2.3 The other major change concerned the procedure for newly appointed directors. It was noted the company had to accept an added statement to the relevant appointment form so that new directors gave consent to act in the capacity to which they had been appointed, and this was agreed.
Action: the record of a new director's details to be revised accordingly OM
note on the Declaration of Office. JL
 - 2.4 Companies House would contact all newly appointed directors to make them aware that their appointment was filed on the public register and explain their general legal duties. This was noted with approval. INFO
3. **Management accounts on 2016 business to the end of March**
 - 3.1 There had been the expected fall in registrations during March. They were 25% less than in March 2015, but as this was usually a quiet period it was not such a significant drop numerically as it would be at other times.
 - 3.2 Income from transfers and Agria had continued to be strong, meaning the total for the month finished slightly above the same period in the previous year.
 - 3.3 Expenditure was higher, due to increased IT costs, but there was still a surplus for the month in advance of depreciation for capital projects.
 - 3.4 Overall there remained a healthy cumulative surplus for the year to date, and the OM noted that it had been first positive set of figures for March for many years. INFO
4. **Volume figures to the end of April**
It was too early in the month for these to be available and they would be presented to the Finance Committee meeting on 25 May. OM
Action: This set of management accounts and volumes figures to be circulated with Council paperwork

5. **Insurance schedule report**

5.1 The insurance schedule for the year had been discussed by the Board by email as agreement was required in advance of the meeting. It had been approved with comment that further quotations should be sought for the next year for presentation to the March FC meeting. However, it was observed that the brokers used (Gallaghers) had provided a better deal than others previously and were extremely competitive in this sector of the market.

Action: Interest from potential additional insurers to be obtained Jan/Feb 2017

RF/OM

5.2 The one significant change for this period was an increase to the flood risk element of the policies. This had been applied to properties across the Somerset area after severe flooding had occurred there.

5.3 Insurance for Duty Vets not otherwise covered was being explored. It would be impractical on an individual basis, so a general quotation was awaited after information had been supplied on the low risk of the service provided - external examination without any type of surgical/medical intervention.

Action: NFU also to be contacted to ascertain if they provided this type of cover.

RF

BD3566 BUSINESS MATTERS

1. **The GCCF partnerships - report**

1.1 There had been no meetings with either commercial partner since the last Board meeting. One with Royal Canin was scheduled for the following week.

1.2 Royal Canin had sent samples of the certificate to be presented to junior exhibitors who won in the RC pet class that would be supported by prize money, but not rosettes. Suggestions were made to improve the design, ensuring there was more space for the exhibit's details.

1.3 A sample of the advert had also been provided. It was agreed that this required the information to be clarified to ensure that the 'junior champion' referred to the age of the exhibitor and not the cat that was being shown as a pet.

1.4 There was a discussion on costs, and the Board agreed that RC should be asked to fund the cost of the card for the certificates and the advert in the schedule to assist the show putting on the class.

Action: This information to be supplied to the company

OM

2. **The progress of Project Phoenix**

2.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that at last she had more positive news as a new programmer had been employed by DT who was based in this country and enthusiastic to complete the project. He had made contact to gain understanding of the work ahead of formal employment and she was in liaison with him on the testing now in progress.

2.2 Mr Macro was currently completing the coding for 'showing' the final element of the new Phoenix system.

2.3 She could not yet give a completion date, but hoped to be in a position to do so very shortly.

Action: support of the work for project completion and the Board to be informed of progress

SRO

3. **Information on negotiations with GCCFI - Heads of Agreement**

3.1 GCCFI were still reporting that for a deadline of June 2016 that they would need support with registrations. It was hoped the Heads of Agreement would be signed soon as the negotiations since Easter appeared to be coming to a conclusion.

3.2 There had been ongoing discussion amongst Board members and the OM electronically to deal with queries. It was agreed that it was expected that GCCFI should have its own registration policies, but these would shadow those of GCCF very closely. If variation was required that varied system code or meant additional manual intervention the cost would be passed to GCCFI. It was agreed at the meeting that the existing wording in the document covered this adequately.

3.3 A correction was made at 4b) so that the clause was inclusive of cats and kittens.

3.4 The document was then approved unanimously and would be signed by GCCF and sent to GCCFI.

A meeting between representatives of organisations was scheduled for the following week.

Action: the Board to be informed of progress following discussions scheduled for 10 May

OM

4. **Website report**

4.1 Mrs Fisher reported that she had removed some outdated information and given the site a general tidy up.

4.2 The advert and link Royal Canin free food for kitten transfer now had a business card format and featured on the front page in line with other major advertisements.

4.3 It was agreed that only one photograph and link per breed should feature on the breed page. The definition of a breed in this respect was clarified as 'for each separate GEMS code'. Thus there should be only one Oriental (ORI) and Russian (RUS), for example.

Action: BACs with two or more photographs to be contacted and asked to select just one, and the link would then be to all pages with the breed's details of colours, patterns and hair lengths.

RF

BD3567 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL

1. **Prefix applications**

1.1 28 prefixes were considered and 27 agreed.

1.2 A query had been raised on the identity of the owner of the other prefix and contact made with the Kennel Club who possibly held relevant address detail to clarify, but although there had been acknowledgement no information had yet been forthcoming.

1.3 A final prompt would be given to see if the detail required could be made available, and if no reply was received the prefix would be circulated again for a decision to be made electronically by the Board.

Action: the 27 applicants to be informed final request for information on the query and circulation of any received

**OFFICE
SC/OM**

1. **Update on the communications officer appointment**
 - 1.1 The OM informed the Board that there had been 21 applications for the post. One expression of interest was from a person with GCCF connections, and the others were in direct response to the advertisement placed locally (press and related website).
 - 1.2 There was a spread of age range (some quite young, more towards mid-working-life) and experience. Three were graduates. The previous job experience of the applicants was mostly in administration of various kinds, though one had specialised in marketing, and another in various areas of design.
 - 1.3 It was agreed that the applicant details would be circulated to those who would be involved in the interviews (MG, RF and SRO) so that there could be preliminary selection to establish a short list. Those shortlisted (approximately 5) would be invited for interview on 16 May.
 - 1.4 The list of candidates would be finalised, and the venue for interviews determined, at a meeting of the Marketing Group to be held on 5 May.

Action: circulation of applications to those designated OM

2. **Staff/Board relationships**
 - 2.1 Information from the closed conversation at the April Board meeting had been passed to the OM by the Chairman and there had been subsequent discussion between them.
 - 2.2 It was agreed that there should be an action plan for possible changes. To define what these should be the OM and Board would independently make lists of possible changes (maximum 10) and then together prioritise these for implementation over a given period. Board/OM

Action: any requirements for working practices change between Board & Office to be submitted to SC

3. **Office report**
 - 3.1 The OM had circulated a report with detail on staff attendance (holidays/sickness) and major office activity, meetings and problems. There were no queries.
 - 3.2 There was particular detail on the franking machine, as the current one had completed its contract and was no longer meeting office needs effectively. A suitable replacement had been sourced, which was the upgrade required to deal with mail efficiently, with the probability of reduced staff capacity and an increased level of marketing. This had been costed.
 - 3.3 There was also the possibility of bespoke envelopes. Although this almost doubled the initial outlay it had the advantage of assisting with corporate identity.

Action: further details to be supplied to FC who would discuss it at the next meeting and make a recommendation to circulate to the Board. JL

BD3569 THE SUPREME SHOW

1. **Preparation for the Supreme Show for 2016**
 - 1.1 There was no news from Tenth Planet and it now seemed that the deal required of free minor celebrity attendance in return for use of the venue and free accommodation would be unlikely go ahead, although there remained the possibility of two coming by private arrangement.
 - 1.2 Mrs Leighton had not informed the Board of any major concerns, but it was understood that not all ring managers from past shows would be available for 2016. Additional names were suggested.

Contact to be made and a list of those who could act as ring managers to be compiled JH

 - 1.3 It was reported that Royal Canin could make arrangements for local advertising, but that this would be paid for by GCCF. It was acknowledged that free promotion was not expected. INFO

2. **The Supreme Show after 2016**
 - 2.1 It was agreed that a new manager for the show (rather than the overall event) should be appointed, to ensure an opportunity to shadow the SM's role in 2016.
 - 2.2 An advert would be drafted for the GCCF website to give detail of what was expected.

Action: a draft of this to be prepared and circulated by the end of May RF/JH

 - 2.3 There was to be a reworking of the planned survey on the Supreme, set within the context of the new event with appropriate questions. CK

BD3570 OTHER SHOW MATTERS

1. **2015/2016 Show Changes for report** - none

2. **2016/2017 Show changes - for report**
 - 2.1 Shropshire CC & Gwynedd CC (shared show) - 4 February 2017. Venue change to Aldersley Leisure Centre , Leisure Village, Wolverhampton WV6 9NW due to the hall at Fenton Manor Sports Club being booked.
 - 2.2 Transpennine Oriental & Siamese CC - 3 December 2016. Assistants SMs Mr R Davies and Mr P Masters.

3. **2016/2017 Show Changes & Late Show Licence Applications for approval**
 - 3.1 South Western Counties CC - 24 September 2016. Date change requested to 1 April 2017 to share with Kernow CC and S Western British Shorthair CC at the Matford Centre, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8FD
 - 3.2 Colourpoint, Rex-Coated & AOV CC - 26 November 2016. Request for additional classes amended after refusal to avoid impact on surrounding shows. Now wanted: Persian & British SH: bi-colours and all the self colours excluding red and cream. This was accompanied by a letter to state the rationale.
 - 3.3 Kernow CC & S Western British Shorthair CC (shared shows) - 4 February 2017: requested date change back to 1 April 2017 to share with South Western Counties at the Matford Centre, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8FD. Mrs L Tricker to be joint SM for the Kernow CC with Mrs J Truscott.

3.4 Northern Birman CC - 13 May 2017: date change requested to 8 April 2017. The S & SW Birman CC show was on the same date, but in a different part of the country.

3.5 The Pet Show - Stoneleigh 23 & 24 July 2016. Request from Coventry & Leicester CC for permission to assist with arranging for the exhibition of cats and kittens, with an undertaking to observe the 13 day rule and general GCCF policy.

OFFICE

Note:

3.1-3.5 were agreed with the exception of 3.2. The club had not provided a rationale for its request, and the breeds requested were not those in need of show support. Therefore an extension of breeds seemed purely to gain a greater show entry which could compromise the viability of smaller breed shows.

The Board agreed that as a matter of principle all extension requests would be examined carefully when the next show licences were issued, with particular regard to breed clubs that covered multiple breeds and sections by right.

Action: a letter to be drafted to the Colourpoint, Rex & AOV Cat Club to inform them.

JL

4. **2016/17 Show licence details still awaited**

4.1 Scotia Cat Fanciers (8 October 2016): Show Manager to be advised

INFO

5. **2016/17 Show licence applications not yet received**

5.1 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland reminder sent. The AGM had now been held.

INFO

6. **Guidance to show managers on early passes**

6.1 It was agreed that draft circulated should be published with the information for show managers. It could be amended as necessary in the future.

6.2 The notes on photography in show hall should also be published to give a guideline, and there should be notice of the need for liaison with management on venue policy.

6.3 It was agreed a report should be made with show returns on early passes granted.

Action: information to be prepared for publication.

OFFICE

7. **Proposal to allow a right of appeal against show entry exclusion.**

7.1 There was discussion on the principle and practicality of the action, and believed that it would be used rarely, but an opportunity for independent assessment of any situation was important.

7.2 An amendment was proposed and accepted so that it was clear that the matter was going to the Appeals Committee **for arbitration** and **at the request of the exhibitor.**

7.3 This was approved to go forward to June Council by a majority.

7 in favour 2 abstentions

Action: to be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting

JL

BD3571 SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP

1. **Report from the Chairman of the SSRG of feedback from clubs on published information**

1.1 Mrs Kaye gave detail on all feedback passed on that commented on the proposed restructuring of the sections. Some clubs had helpfully put together a variety of responses from individual members.

Section 1: loss of a grand, although the numbers shown did not support two groups and other breeds in different sections included self and patterned cats of the same breed in a single class.

Section 2: queries on judge eligibility, but no comment received on the restructure

Section 3: comment on loss of the single grand for Birmans, and the position of Ragamuffins

It was agreed there should be no change here in the proposal to Council

Section 4: Statistical information had been provided to show that Snowshoes could lose breed specific judges if put with the Abyssinians and Russians in a grand class in section 4:1.

The information also indicated the Korats & Thais could lose in the same way if with all AOV foreigners in a grand group in section 5.

It was agreed that as this did not impact on the principle of re-organisation, and the numbers were too small to make a difference, the Korats & Thais should remain with the Original Foreigns in 4:1 and the Snowshoes move with some of the other AOV foreigners to 5:2

Section 5: Comments provided by the Burmese clubs were approximately equal in support and against change.

Section 6: The loss of a section caused concern along with queries on judge eligibility

As with section 1 the current numbers shown did not support two sections.

Action: The restructuring proposal to go forward to Council with the one agreed amendment.

JL

1.2 It was apparent from queries received that there was confusion on which judges would be eligible to cover grand and imperial classes if the reorganisation was approved. It was agreed that judge lists of those eligible to award each grand and imperial by section should be drawn up and published if Council approved the restructuring in the form proposed.

INF

2. **Amendments to show rules to enact the proposals of the Show Review Group**

2.1 Rule amendments had been drafted to enact the nine proposals of the SRG accepted by the Board at the April meeting.

2.2 The paper included notes of other documents that would require amendment on approval of each rule change.

2.3 After minor corrections to the text the Board approved unanimously the majority of the rule amendments required.

2.4 It was considered that making it mandatory for judges to provide a written report on each cat judged in a certificate class, including those for BOB, was unrealistic and this should be advisory only.

Action: the rule changes approved to be on the agenda for the next Council meeting

JL

Note: The text for all rule and byelaw changes proposed at the meeting, with amendments shown where made, is published as an addendum to these minutes.

1. **An application for the preliminary recognition of the Toyger**
 - 1.1 There was a query on the number registered, and it was confirmed these were as listed, and also on whether they had been on exhibition at shows. Board members confirmed attendance at some shows and a seminar.
 - 1.2 It was considered that there needed to be clarification on what was meant by Havana in the first line of the registration policy. If this was an Oriental Chocolate it did not need listing as a separate breed, but if an imported Havana this would require to be specifically stated.
 - 1.3 For registration purposes distinction had to be made between variants allowed to progress (TOY v) and those that were not (XSH/XLH). Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell would discuss what was required for the registration policy requirements on the new system. SRO

Action: the Breed Group to be informed and the policy to be on the agenda for June Council if the amendments requested are confirmed as accepted JL

2. **Registration of a cat born during a period of suspension for its owner**
 - 2.1 The cat had been transferred onto the GCCF register from TICA, by an owner who was not the breeder, after the lifting of the suspension on the breeder. Therefore the prefix was not flagged.
 - 2.2 It was agreed that as the suspension had now been lifted, and it was unknown whether the owner would have had any knowledge of it, the Board would by its discretion permit the registration to stand. **Agreed by a majority 7 in favour 4 abstentions**
 - 2.3 It was noted that a permanent record of the dates of any suspension should be attached to a prefix on the new system as soon as it was possible for this to be done.

Action: the Board's decision to be made known to those concerned OM

1. **Generic Club rules**
 - 1.1 It was agreed that these were deferred to the July agenda, as Dr Bennett had been unable to complete her revision of the first draft. INFO

2. **Sphynx CA revised constitution.**
 - 2.1 The club had supplied details of the amendments made to its rules.
 - 2.2 There was no time to discuss these and it was agreed that this should be done electronically.

Action: circulation to the Board for comment and the club to be informed JL

3. **Ocicat Club constitutional revision**
 - 3.1 The club had supplied details of the amendments made to its constitution.
 - 3.2 There was no time to discuss these and it was agreed that this should be done electronically.

Action: circulation to the Board for comment and the club to be informed JL

4. **An application for full membership from the Household Pet Cat Club of Great Britain**
 - 4.1 It was confirmed that the club had complied with the requirements for full membership, and noted that the club was designated as 'specialist' rather than breed or all-breed.
 - 4.2 Approval was given for this to go forward to the June Council meeting.

Action: to be on the agenda for the next Council meeting JL

5. **Byelaw change to clarify right of appeal against exclusion from a club**
 - 5.1 The byelaw change was in tandem with the rule change to permit appeal against exclusion from a show.
 - 5.2 Its purpose was to set procedure for access to the arbitration that is defined in the Byelaws to resolve disputes, and establish that exclusions from clubs and shows, when upheld, are for a fixed term, in accordance with other GCCF disciplinary action.
 - 5.3 It was agreed unanimously that it should be put to Council.

Action: to be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting JL

6. **Club numbers for delegate representation**
 - 6.1 There was not time for further discussion and it was agreed it would be useful to have delegate input from the Council meeting. INF

1. **Revision of the rule requiring kitten vaccination.**
 - 1.1 This had been circulated, and also passed to the VAC for comment, but final wording had not yet been agreed.

2. **Publicity to raise public awareness of the need for a kitten to be vaccinated.**
 - 2.1 to return to the agenda for discussion following completion of the rule amendment. GB

3. **Report from the 'Breeding & Sale of Cats Group and Canine & Feline Sector Group**
 - 3.1 The next meeting was to be held on 6 May.
 - 3.2 The Chairman gave a very brief report to say that the actual recommendations had been withdrawn .
The document to go to DEFRA would be for information and advisory only. There was no detrimental statement on pedigree cat breeding or breeders, a positive improvement assisted by GCCF involvement from what had been suggested by some participants at the outset. INFO

4. **Rule changes proposed from the VAC meeting**
 - 4.1 Three rule changes were proposed, and two were approved to go forward to the June Council Meeting.

4.2 Those accepted were amendments to exclude pedigree pets if the breed was not one recognised by GCCF, and based on a physical anomaly or the result of a species outcross. Also to exclude cats with sharp claws, putting those handling them at risk.

4.3 It was considered that the revised rule on vaccination needed further clarification and this would be referred back to the VAC

Action: the VAC to be contacted to inform them of the outcome of the Board's discussion. the approved rules to be on the Council agenda for the June meeting

JL

5. **A structured approach to HCM**

5.1 This was deferred to the July meeting.

6. **BAER testing for white cats (letter from the White Persian Cat Club)**

6.1 it was observed that this was a welfare issue that several BACs had already addressed via their individual registration policies.

6.2 The change to the rule had been discussed at February Council and approved by delegates with a very large majority (0 against , 1 abstention). The time to present evidence was in advance and during the debate rather than afterwards.

Action: this comment to be passed to the club

OM

BD3575 EVENTS

1. **Gala Dinner and Cat Of The Year Competition.**

1.1 Mr Hansson reported that Mrs Tokens had made arrangements with the hotel for the Gala Dinner, and there were no problems to report.

1.2 The tally was being kept for the COTY competition and he would shortly be giving an update on the leaders to promote continued interest.

Action: website update

JH/RF

2. **The Pet Shows.**

2.1 The London Pet Show would take place at the end of the week. Mrs Taylor and Mr Gregory were managing the event and would be present over the weekend.No issues had been reported.

2.2 Mrs Taylor would manage the NEC event in November and was happy to continue with this on an annual basis, but did not wish to continue with the LPS. It was expected that the newly employed member of staff would shadow her at the NEC, and then be responsible for future organisation in London.

Action: discussion on the events to be on the MSG agenda for 5 May.

RF

BD3576 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None taken.

The meeting finished at 5.10pm with deferrals where noted.

The next meeting: **WEDNESDAY** 13 July 2016, at 11.00 for 11.15am, the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London