



MINUTES

For the Meeting of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**

Wednesday, 5 June 2019 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London



Present: Mr John Hansson - Chairman
Mr Sean Farrell - Vice-Chairman
Mrs Lynda Ashmore Dr Gillian Bennett
Dr Peter Collin Mr Steve Crow
Ms Sandra Devereux Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Mr Thomas Goss Mrs Shelagh Heavens
Mrs Catherine Kaye Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Elaine Robinson Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys
Ms Lyndsey Robinson

In attendance: Ms Denise Williams - Office Manager

BD3854 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. **Apologies for absence.**
1.1 Apologies for absence were given on behalf of: Mrs Valerie Anderson, Mrs Hilary Dean. **INFO**
2. **Chairman's opening remarks** **INFO**
2.1 The meeting was opened at 11.20am. The Chairman remarked that there was plenty of business to get through.

BD3855 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. **The Minutes of the Board meeting of 5 March 2019**
1.1 These had been circulated after the meeting, and minor typographical errors had been corrected, but JL observed she had noted some in addition.
1.2 They were approved as presented with no queries or objections, as proposed by TG, with 7 in favour 1 against and 6 abstentions (those not present).
Action: publication on the GCCF website **JL/RF**
2. **Matters arising from the previous minutes**
2.1 BD38421.1 The Committee Secretary thanked the Board for the honorarium and stated she would draw it in the following year.
2.2 BD3843.2.4 The property had been valued with a commercial worth of £225,000 (FC807.2)
2.3 BD3836.6.3 a note had been put onto the website and the text of the rule was on the Council agenda for confirmation.
2.4 BD3849.5.2 The request for a Section transfer from the Suffolk BAC would be on the July agenda.
2.5 BD3849.8.2 A list existed of breeds not recognised by GCCF and Sue Moreland was hoping to get some pictures for use at vetting in. It was acknowledged it wouldn't necessarily mean that all would be recognised and some would be impossible (a straight eared Scottish was given as an example). **INFO**

BD3856 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting**
1.1 The Chairman asked Mrs Robinson and Ms Robinson to make clear their interest in Kopikatts. ER replied that she owned the company and the business was subcontracted to LR. JH asked LR about Kopikatts, LR stated that ER was the owner of Kopikatts & ER subcontracted some work to LR
LRT reconfirmed for the minutes that she was not involved with Kopikatts.
1.2 Both made the point that they earned money from GCCF's member clubs rather than from the GCCF Ltd and this had been queried with their accountants who had confirmed it to be acceptable. ER confirmed that her business dealings were with the Clubs and not GCCF Ltd.
1.3 There was some concern that any director with a pecuniary interest in a show should declare this to give clarity when show matters were discussed.
Action: a check on these issues to be made with the GCCF solicitor **JH**

BD3857 FINANCE

1. **Draft minutes of the March & May Finance meetings**
1.1 There were no questions raised on these to be put to the Finance Committee or bookkeeper. **INF**
2. **The draft end of year accounts for 2018**
2.1 It was noted that the accounts were draft and there could be some further revision to the figures at finalisation. It wasn't yet certain when that would be as further information had been requested on the club loans before the audit could be completed.
2.2 The OM had asked the bookkeeper to check back through the Lloyds statements to match spreadsheet records with actual repayments. This had proved successful to enable identification of which clubs still had money with GCCF.
2.3 SH observed some clubs had left money on loan indefinitely and their names needed a separate note.

- 2.4 It was agreed that the Chairmen and Treasurers of all other clubs should be contacted, and asked whether they wished to reclaim the money and be given a response deadline.
Action: contact with the clubs identified **OM**
- 2.4 It was noted that the amount given as the cost to GCCF in the March minutes (£24,836.72) for the Supreme was different from that given in the accounts (£27,243). SC thought it was more probable that there was a variation on the income rather than expenditure.
Action: to check with Monahans what was going to Council in June and ensure there was a separate sheet detailing income/expenditure for the Supreme Show. **OM**
3. **The profit/loss management accounts for the year to date**
- 3.1 JL had prepared an income/expenditure sheet for the first four months of 2019 based on the bookkeepers figures. The gross profit was better than over the same period in 2018 and it was expected that there would be substantial savings from no longer employing Leon from 31.5.2019.
- 3.2 It was noted that it was good to see the graphs that gave an overview of core business once again, but requested that the same colour coding was used throughout for each year.
- 3.3 There were no comments or questions on the figures or transaction graphs. **INF**
4. **Euro account update**
- 4.1 It was known that Mrs Penwell could view the Euro account and monitor transactions, but she could not access it or authorise any changes.
- 4.2 SH reported that she had spoken to Lloyds on more than one occasion, but did not yet have any satisfactory outcome as she had spoken to different people each time and had not yet been given a satisfactory course of action. She would be making contact again.
Action: further contact with Lloyds **SH**
5. **New card processing provider**
- 5.1 At the request of FC Mrs Penwell had made a report to compare Paysafe (existing provider) with PayPal and Payzone (Barclays).
- 5.2 Her analysis showed that Paysafe was the most expensive, for both up front costs and additional charges. On a monthly basis:
Paysafe - £941.72 plus extras making a total of £1020.58 (multiple extras)
PayPal - £720.20 with extras a total of £750.20 (Fee for the service that is not just for PayPal customers to use)
Payzone - £311.61 with extras a total of £346.41 (PCI compliance £4.80 + £30 for hand held terminal if chosen).
- 5.3 LP had also used Trustpilot (web comparison site) to gather reviews on the three providers as given by small businesses. Payzone had scored highly on these, with a far greater number of positives (rated excellent by 81% of users, compared to 42% for PayPal and 7% for Paysafe).
- 5.4 It had also been ascertained that there was no penalty for discontinuing use of Paysafe and that Payzone could be trialled for a year (with notification to leave needed after 10 months). Therefore LP's recommendation to FC and the Board was that Payzone was definitely worth trying.
- 5.5 It was proposed that there should be a switch to Payzone and this was unanimously agreed.
Action: LP to be informed **OM**
6. **Investment account update insurance schedule**
- 6.1 RF reported that there was no change from the FC accounts (FC819.2)
- 6.2 The Aldermore now held £74,611.13 and £115.18 had been earned in interest for the month.
- 6.3 There was now £53,263.81 in the Cambridge & Counties. This included the £10,000 moved from the current account, plus the savings for the 2021 WCC event. **INF**
7. **2019-20 insurance schedule**
- 7.1 Neither NFU nor Higoss (Bridgwater) had provided any alternative figure to Gallaghers. It was probable neither was interested in something that was not straightforward to categorise.
- 7.2 Therefore Gallaghers was used for 2019, but the complete schedule (of over 100 pages) was now available to put forward for comparisons.
- 7.3 RF had noted that the schedule was for a sector three company rather than a 'not for profit'. It was possible that it wasn't entirely suitable and that there could be a better bespoke deal.
- 7.4 It was queried whether stall holders were covered by GCCF insurance, but thought probable that third party liability would be the responsibility of the venue, and they would need their own cover for their property.
- 7.5 There was also a query on whether GCCF stewards could be covered, but their engagement was not via GCCF or show management.
Action: further investigation and to be on the agenda for the next FC meeting **RF/JL**

BD3858

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. **The business relationship with GCCFI**
- 1.1 GCCFI had raised several concerns and the OM was working through each issue.
- 1.2 The reason the contract had not been signed previously was that GCCFI had objected to the proposed £250,000 indemnity clause as it was beyond their means, and the purpose was unclear.
- 1.3 The OM was hoping to simplify the wording considerably and substitute the indemnity with a recoup of set up costs if the arrangement failed.
- 1.4 It was hoped it would be ready for signing by late July, but the Board agreed it should be reviewed by the GCCF solicitor when completed which would mean a delay.
Action: amendments made and ongoing discussions with GCCFI **OM**

2. **Report from the Feline & Canine Sector Group**
 - 2.1 The next meeting was on 14 July.
 - 2.2 SC reported a delay in the third party sales legislation. It had been scheduled for October, but would now be sometime in 2020.
 - 2.3 Work on the Code of Practice for Cat Breeding was ongoing. There had been two drafts, but further simplification was required to make it more user friendly. When ready it would be endorsed by DEFRA.
 - 2.4 ICC was revising some of its Cat Group policy statements. There was to be a new one on raw feeding to offer advice following raw meat being a factor in TB in indoor cats.
 - 2.5 There still wasn't a launch date for the kitten check list.
 - 2.6 SC had attended a conference put on by Association of Dog and Cat Homes, and spoken on the GCCF Breeding Policy in relation to 'species health'.

3. **Membership of PAAG (Pet Advertising Advisory Group)**
 - 3.1 GCCF's membership had been approved and there was no subscription.
 - 3.2 RF planned to attend a meeting later in June, representing the company. INF

4. **Proposal - to take legal advice on the release of information to local authorities**
 - 4.1 The Office had been contacted by local authorities enquiring on the number of cats registered and kittens bred by a particular breeder or a list of breeders within their area.
 - 4.2 In the previous year HMRC had asked questions that had not related to specific cases and there had also been contact from Trading Standards
 - 4.3 It was thought that there was no reason why GCCF should supply information, unless there were criminal investigations, and it could be damaging to its business interests if it was known to do so.

Action: contact with the GCCF solicitor to confirm JL

5. **Breeder Scheme Review**
 - 5.1 JL had prepared a paper for the Board following the meeting in March.
 - 5.2 Some inspection of breeder premises had been requested by many, but this was difficult to establish without major finance. UKAS had been considered but not affordable.
 - 5.3 The first move would be to review the current Code of Ethics and update and to look at whether the website could be improved.
 - 5.4 Standards for inspectors to use would need to be set, and a possible first consideration could be a reassessment of admission to the BS. It had been agreed that those already on the Scheme should be allowed to continue with what they had signed up for, unless opting for an upgrade. INF

6. **The GCCF partnerships**
 - 6.1 There had been no recent general news from Agria. It was known LP was working with them on the matter of a new card provider.
 - 6.2 The Chairman reported that recent attempts to contact RC had proved very frustrating. He had decided to give up on the designated liaison and speak to the a contact he had worked well with in the past.
 - 6.3 It was noted that support for the transfer scheme and shows had tailed off considerably. Alternatives would have to be found, but it was important first to ascertain what the RC support of the 2019 Supreme would be. INF

BD3859 IT INFORMATION

1. **IT update**
 - 1.1 Ian Macro was working two days a week for GCCF from 1 June. Leon had finished on the previous day, but had promised to give help if/when he was available to do so.
 - 1.2 IM was working as an external contractor rather than an employee and a contract had been drafted that was being finalised. It included fifteen hours per week, although those would be irregular and he would be visiting the Office to assist with staff training. There was a non-disclosure clause.
 - 1.3. Two system updates had now been completed. These had been supervised by Mrs Turner-Russell who was doing her testing with staff and external users that were being trained for this purpose. It was hoped to carry out a third update shortly.
 - 1.4 It was requested that the details of updates carried out were listed on the website and this was thought sensible

Action: CTR to be asked to provide a list RF

2. **STAR Services**
 - 2.1 A meeting had been held on 16 April to review processes and consider when the services were ready for launch. It was agreed that there would be an extended pilot until 2020.
 - 2.2 Certain bugs needed to be fixed and standardised processes were needed in the Office and for show management. Actions were allocated for the IT team and Office staff.
 - 2.3 There was some discussion on rule change re the need for a marked catalogue in paper form. It was agreed this should become unnecessary if data entry was done directly.
 - 2.4 It was queried whether show teams not using STAR could enter their own show results, and this would be discussed with the IT team. It was possible it could be one element of the STAR services provided.
 - 2.5 It was also observed that it would be really helpful if on the day all SMs could have access to the show record of the exhibits present. This would make the allocation of a judge far easier if a counter signature was required on the day. Exhibitors did not always remember or have good online access to check.
 - 2.6 There was discussion on the need to register all household pets for STAR shows, with agreement that this would not be popular. It was thought preferable that there should be a manual override to suit exhibitors rather than a rule change for the computer system

Action: comments and suggestions to be reported back to the IT team SC

BD3860 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL

1. **Prefixes circulated**
 - 1.1 35 prefixes in total had been circulated in advance on three occasions.
 - 1.2 Alternative suggestions had been made for some that had been close to existing prefixes and these had been accepted. **INF**
2. **Prefix amendments**
 - 2.1 For clarification it was confirmed that a prefix amendment covered all changes. It could mean varying one or two letters or changing it altogether. The checking process and £30 charge applied to all. **INF**

BD3861 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS

1. **An update on the 2018 club returns**
 - 1.1 SH reported ten clubs had sent no returns at all, nor any apology for delay. (One was identified as non-active and another was a club with provisional status without a delegate or show). It was agreed that the others should be contacted and informed they could not have a delegate at June Council (if so entitled) and that their show licence for the 2019-20 season would be revoked if all the required paperwork had not reached the Office by 31.8.19. (Capital LH & AB, Durham, Eastern LH & AB, Scottish, Siamese CS of Scotland, Snowshoe CS, Ulster Siamese & AB and West of Scotland).
 - 1.2 Two clubs (Croydon & Southern Counties) had made partial returns and sent apologies, but as these had not supplied any returns in the previous year it was agreed that the penalty should be the same as for those in the first group.
 - 1.3 Wyvern CC had sent apologies and its paperwork had been in order for 2017. It was agreed that if payment for a delegate was sent they could have Council representation, but the August deadline for paperwork still applied. They were to be asked to commit to providing it by this date or cancel their September show now.
 - 1.4 Two other clubs with partial returns (LH Cream & Blue Cream & LH, SLH & AB), with shows later in the year, were to be informed that completion was expected by 31 August. One had asked for show licence amendments, but it was agreed that these would not be considered by the Board until the returns were received.

Actions: continued liaison with clubs to ensure paperwork sent was satisfactory **SH**
contact with the clubs to inform them of the agreed penalties **JL**
2. **An update on BAC returns**
 - 2.1 Seven BACs had not sent in their accounts as required by 11a of the Judge Appointment Scheme. It was acknowledged that the Suffolk BAC had not yet been in existence for a year and need only send a record of their 2018 transactions to provide a basis for future years.
 - 2.2 The Australian Mist, Birman, Ragamuffin, Singapura, Snowshoe and Turkish BACs would be informed that the Board would not consider any breed business they submitted until the returns were made. They could continue training judges as it was unfair to disadvantage candidates.
 - 2.3 The Snowshoe SOP and registration policy amendments would therefore be withdrawn from the June Council agenda.

Action: The BACs to be contacted and informed. **JL**
3. **An application for full GCCF membership from the Sokoke Breed Club**
 - 3.1 The club had fulfilled the Byelaw conditions and its constitution had been circulated.
 - 3.2 Two issues were raised: the size of quorum for the AGM and the change in rate for life membership.
 - 3.3 A vote was taken and it was agreed by a majority of 8- 5 that a recommendation for full membership should be put to Council
4. **An application for full GCCF membership from the Bengal Cat Association**
 - 4.1 The club had fulfilled the Byelaw conditions and its constitution had been circulated.
 - 4.2 It was noted that this club had a particularly low number for the AGM quorum..
 - 4.3 A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously that a recommendation for full membership should be put to Council.
5. **An application for full GCCF membership from the Devon Rex Owners Club**
 - 5.1 The club had fulfilled the Byelaw conditions and its constitution had been circulated.
 - 5.2 The size of quorum for the AGM was an improvement on the other two clubs, but still thought to be low.
 - 5.3 A vote was taken and it was agreed unanimously that a recommendation for full membership should be put to Council.

Action: all clubs to be written to and informed of the approval and the recommendation for a higher AGM quorum, as provision had been included for ratification by the membership. **JL**

BD3862 SHOW MATTERS

1. **Licence changes for 2018-19**
 - 1.1 11.5.19 Nor'East of Scotland & Siamese Cat Society of Scotland (back to back shows) change of show management team to Mrs S Woolrich as SM and Dr G Bennett as Joint SM.
 - 1.2 25.5.19 Northern Counties CC and Durham CC (back to back shows) change of venue to Newcastle Racecourse, Newcastle-upon Tyne, NE3 5HP.
 - 1.3. Approved by electronic circulation in advance of the events. **INF**

2. **Licence amendments/additions for 2019-20 - listed in order of receipt**
 - 2.1 12.10.2019. Venue confirmation of Bloxwich Leisure Centre, WS3 2DA, for the Egyptian Mau Club and Tabby CC.
 - 2.2 15.6.2019. Addition of Clare Whitby as Joint SM for the Oriental CA show.
 - 2.3 9.11.2019. Addition of Keith Scruton as Joint SM for the UCA & Blue Persian CS back to back shows.
 - 2.4 9.5.2020. Change of date for the Asian CA show from 25.4.2020. Also the addition of Penny Woodhead as ASM.
 - 2.5 5.10.19. Change of SM from Marlene Buckeridge to Ian Macro for the Korat & Thai CA.
 - 2.6 18.1.2020. Change of SM from Sarndra Devereux to Lesley Swzed for the Colourpoint CC.
 - 2.7 8.6.2019. Venue confirmation of Mappleborough Green Village Hall, B80 7BT, for the Abyssinian CC.
 - 2.8 24.8.19. Change off show team for the West of England & South Wales with Patricia Harper now sole SM, with Kate Ford and Heather Roper as ASMs.
 - 2.9 5.10.19. Addition of Janet Hirst as ASM for the Havana and Oriental show.
 - 2.10 9.11.19. Change of SM from Barbara James to June Gillies for the Seal Point Siamese CC show.
 - 2.11 14.3.2020. Change of date for the Surrey & Sussex and Burmese CC from 21.3.2020 because of the proximity to shows to be held on 28.3.20.
 - 2.12 21.9.19. Change of venue for the Erin CC show to Larne Leisure Centre, Tower Road, BT40 1AB.
 - 2.13 5.10.19. Carol Pike standing down as SM for the Longhair, SLH and All Breed CC. Further details awaited from the club.
 - 2.14 18.4.20. Change of date for the Northern Birman CC from 4.4.20, and Jim Warrender to become SM rather than ASM.
 - 2.15 5.10.19. Change of venue from Bracknell Leisure Centre to Garth Hill College, Bracknell RG42 2AD, for the Norsk Skogkatt Assoc, Seal & Blue Birman CC and Turkish Van CC (back to back shows).
 - 2.16 2.1-15 Approved by electronic circulation
 - 2.17 PC notified the meeting that Chris Owen was no longer ASM for Chester & North Wales.
 - 2.18 It was agreed that the Longhair, SemiLH and AB CC could not have a change of date, venue and SM considered until their club returns were made (BD3861.1.4)
3. **New show licence applications for 2019-20.**
 - 3.1 **5.10. 19 Turkish Van CC** Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bracknell, RG12 9SE with SM Mrs E Robinson & ASM Ms L Robinson, sharing with other breed shows (see 2.15).
 - 3.2 **1.2.20 Gwynedd CC.** Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR, with SM Mrs M E Rose, sharing with Shropshire CC.
 - 3.3 **21.3.20 Burmese CC.** Woking Leisure Centre, Woking, GU229BA with Prof K Jarvis, sharing with Surrey & Sussex CC (see 2.11)
 - 3.4 **28.03.20 Cambridgeshire CC.** Wodson Park, Ware, Herts, SG12 OUK, with SM Mrs S Tokens, sharing with Bucks, Berks & Oxon CC.
 - 3.5 **2.5.20 Progressive Ragdoll Breed CC.** Perdisswell Leisure Centre, Worcester, WR3 8DX with SM Mrs J (Huyton) Broad, sharing with Midland Counties CC.
 - 3.6 **2.5.20 The Chocolate Pointed Siamese CC.** Bugbrooke Community Centre, Bugbrooke, Northants, NN7 3RW, with SM Mr R Davies & ASM Mrs K Barnwell. Sharing with the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire (not yet applied).
 - 3.7 **9.5.20 Siamese Cat Society of Scotland.** The Caird Hall, Dundee DD1 3BB, with SMs Dr G Bennett and Mrs S Woolrich, sharing with Nor' East Scotland CC.
 - 3.8 2.1-17 & 3 had been approved by by electronic circulation INF
4. **Signatories for licence applications on paper and online**
 - 4.1 The changes originally suggested had been made, but it was thought there was more that could be done to make life easier for SMs and the Office. Some requested information was no longer required.
 - 4.2 LR-T would carry out a further revamp ahead of the next meeting. INF
5. **Website note revision**
 - 5.1 This was ongoing. LR-T reported it that was overlong and could do with a fair amount of simplification. She asked whether there would be any objection to omitting certain sections.
 - 5.2 it was agreed that detail was necessary only if it was relevant to current shows.

Action: continued revision LR-T
6. **Discussion on show licence allocation - based on notes sent in by M Coomer (CRAOV)**
 - 6.1 It was thought this was complicated and would work only if all the licence applications came in together and very few amendment were required subsequently. That wasn't the situation.
 - 6.2 Mr Coomer would be thanked and given this information. His suggestions would be retained for the record.

Action: a reply to be sent JL
7. **Judge report publication comment - based on a letter sent by L Miles**
 - 7.1 Mrs Miles had concerns about newly qualified judges sending report that were close to being late and possibly copying from the reports of more experienced judges that were already published.
 - 7.2 It was agreed different deadline would be difficult to administer and monitor. Mrs Miles would be advised of this and to report particular concerns to the BAC.

Action: a reply to be sent JL
8. **Proposals re the HHP section from the East Sussex CC**
 - 8.1 The Chairman had examined the proposals and highlighted specific points to the Board. He was particularly concerned about the lack of figures to support the proposed changes, and that GCCF did not have a specific format for HHP miscellaneous classes. These were the prerogative of the show team.
 - 8.2 It was noted that changes had been made already for the Olympian classes.

Action: a reply to be sent JL

9. **Comment re the Olympian Class Structure from an exhibitor**
 9.1 The consensus was that the Olympian classes were meant to be difficult and the structure was as agreed by Council.
 9.2 Exhibitors who wanted change should work with clubs to bring suggestions or proposals to Council.
Action: a reply to be sent JL
10. **VAC request to SMs**
 10.1 A request from the VAC Committee was that vetting-in envelopes should have on the outside the cat's name, dob, sex and breed.
 10.2 It was observed that the problems were at STAR shows rather than others, and that this was known about, and the matter addressed.
 10.3 There was also a reminder that the Code of Veterinary Inspection was supplied to DVs as well as a form for DV information so that it could be filled in and returned to the Office.
Action: check to be made that these forms were in the packs sent to shows. OM
11. **The need for a revamp of SM training forms**
 11.1 It was agreed that these were outdated and LR-T volunteered to do some revision.
 11.2 It was noted that when the revision was completed the forms also had to be included in the SM posting.
Action: revision of the forms LR-T

BD3863 JUDGE TRAINING & BAC REVIEW

1. **A report from the meeting of 21 March**
 1.1 PC reported that the Board's questions (BD3850.1) had been considered. It would be the responsibility of judges to take on what they could as FJ(P)s. Those with several lists to cover in the multi-breed sections could be selective and take on new lists after completing others.
 1.2 A judge that gained the imperial in section 2 or 4 with two grand classes would not automatically qualify for the third grand. The standard eligibility criteria would apply.
 1.3 A judge who had been rejected by a BAC would not be able to apply as an FJ(P) until 4 years after the rejection.
 INF
2. **Implementation of the proposals as agreed in Council re new eligibility for higher certificates**
 2.1 The work on this was now completed and put into action. Various corrections and updates had been made,
 2.2 The new certificate eligibility criteria had been published and no queries raised.
 INF
3. **Implementation of the fast-track scheme**
 3.1 This was almost ready. The tutorial form for FJ(P)s and the guidelines for BACs in mentoring and encouraging them in their understanding of the breed had now been prepared. They were ready for distribution.
 3.2 The exiting judge lists would then be populated and FJs informed of their new breed lists.
 3.3 There was comment newly qualified judges would not be attractive to SMs as the FJ (P)s doing several new lists. There was a suggestion that there could be some incentive from GCCF to sponsor newly qualified single breed PJs and FJs.
4. **Proposal that rule 43e should apply to all existing assessment classes**
 4.1 it was agreed that it did not make sense that some full judges working within a section could not do the assessment classes of the breeds that existed when rule 43e) was updated.
 4.2 It would be proposed at October Council that it should be applied retrospectively.
Action: on the agenda for October Council JL
5. **Timeline for the implementation of the proposal to update the Stewarding Scheme**
 5.1 The drafts of the updated stewarding scheme and the associated forms had been circulated to the Board and JTRG. It had been noted that there were some inconsistencies but the scheme was close to being finalised.
 5.2 It was hoped that a final version could be with the Board for 3 July.
Action: to return to the Board agenda JL
6. **Guidelines for judges on training stewards re safety, welfare & hygiene**
 6.1 The VAC had suggested that judges should be given specific responsibility re safety and hygiene, and that the welfare of the cat should always have priority. If necessary a judge should take responsibility for handling a difficult cat rather than let a steward struggle and mishandle.
 6.2 It was agreed that the JTRG could consider the points for the inclusion in stewarding scheme update.
Action: to be discussed by the JTRG CK/PC
7. **Proposal that the Foreign White should be in the 6B Grand group and the responsibility of the SSJAC with a transition scheme for Oriental Judges**
 7.1 A proposal had been received from the SCJAC that it should take responsibility for the Foreign White and that it was included in the 6B rather than the 6A Grand Class. There would be a transition scheme for Oriental Judges so that eligibility to judge at Grand and Imperial level was not lost.
 7.2 It was noted that the OJBAC was supportive of the move to the 6B Grand Class as they wished to include the Oriental White in the 6A. It wasn't known if they had seen the accompanying judge proposals.
 7.3 It was agreed that Section 6 should be discussed fully at the July Board meeting. It would be necessary to consider the Suffolks as well as the Foreign White
Action: the OJBAC to be updated in the judge proposal and asked for comment the SCJAC to be informed of this JL
 JL

BD3864 VETERINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **VAC supported rule changes**
 - 1.1 Three rule changes as proposed by the the VAC were on the agenda for the June Council and the Veterinary Officer, Sue Moreland, had agreed attend the meeting and answer any queries.
 - i) notes to the vaccination rules
 - ii) white cats and deafness - the need for an additional fixed penalty
 - iii) vaccination of cats and kittens before moving home.
 - 1.2 It was observed that the vaccination rules still seemed complicated, but that Dr Moreland would be at Council to answer questions. **INF**
 - 1.3 It was agreed that 'written' should be added to the rule concerning the selling of white kittens. If breeders provided information of their own, or some taken from the internet, of the possibility of deafness it would make it easier to be sure this had been done. Conversations were not reliable.
 - 1.4 If the rule was approved by Council IC would be asked to add a fixed penalty to it. **JH**

Action: discussion in Council
2. **A new Veterinary Officer**
 - 2.1 Lorraine Allen had resigned as one of GCCF' two VOs in April because she had an extremely busy workload.* The VAC proposed that Kiri Brown should take her place and KB's CV had been circulated.
 - 2.2 Her appointment was agreed. **JL**

Action: to report the decision to KB and other VAC members.

* News of Lorraine's unexpected death had reached the Board members a few days before the meeting and tributes had been paid to her.
3. **Other VAC meeting updates**
 - 3.1 JL reported that legal advice had been sought re the posting of information concerning the link between TB in indoor cats and its links to a specific raw product. The GCCF's solicitor had made a swift response and the notice was altered slightly to reflect her advice.
 - 3.2 The VAC had discussed the matter of breeders taking non-refundable deposits on kittens prior to birth, or even conception. It was considered an unethical practice for hobby breeding and the legality was also queried. The solicitor's opinion was that with individual contracts it would be a matter for a court to determine whether they were unfair, possibly with reference to the 2015 Consumers Rights Act. However, it would be possible to review the general Code of Ethics and/or the BS Code to include clauses to make it clear that GCCF breeders should not take deposits that did not relate to a specific kitten or litter. **JL**

Action: discussion with Sue Moreland and to be referred back to a future Board meeting
4. **Offer from Prof Tim Gruffydds-Jones to attend the October Council meeting**
 - 4.1 Prof Tim G-J had offered to speak to delegates on the use of DNA/health testing in breeding programmes, and the need to maintain genetic diversity within each breed.
 - 4.2 This was agreed. A formal invitation was to be issued for October Council as Prof Tim had indicated he would be available to attend that month, but not in February **JL**

Action: to invite Prof Tim Gruffydd-Jones to the October Council meeting

BD3865 BREED APPLICATIONS

1. **Promotion to Championship Status for the Sex-Linked Red, Cream & Tortoiseshell Abyssinians**
 - 1.1 The ABY BAC had requested a new class for these colours which had been at preliminary level for many years.
 - 1.2 It was agreed that the number of cat registered and shown satisfied the requirement of rule Section 1 34e-h. Also that the case was made to maintain a separate class.
 - 1.3 No queries were raised on the registration policy or the SOP submitted.
 - 1.4 However, the Breeding Policy did not satisfy the criteria of 1:34d. Genetic diversity was touched upon briefly, but the new colours were not mentioned and there was no reference at all to the selection for colour, nor to the genetic basis of Aby colours and pattern. **JL**

Action: to inform the BAC that the Aby Breeding Policy needed some considerable updating

BD3866 REGISTRATION, TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS

1. **The Siberian Registration Policy & SOP**
 - 1.1 These had been circulated electronically and as no issues had been raised were on the agenda for the June Council meeting
 - 1.2 Approval for the final versions of the amended policy and SOP was confirmed. The BAC was commended for its clear description of the breed's colours and patterns within the SOP. **JH**

Action: to be recommended to June Council
2. **The Snowshoe Registration Policy & SOP**
 - 2.1 These had been circulated electronically and as no issues had been raised were on the agenda for the June Council meeting.
 - 2.2 It was noted at the meeting that GEMs code should be 33 for the colourpointed Snowshoes and not 09, as that code was used for white cat without a defined pattern. The term colourpointed also needed to be used throughout, rather than colourpoint, as that term was reserved for the Persian Longhairs.
 - 2.3 The registration and SOP would be withdrawn from the Council agenda until the BAC returns were made in accordance with the decisions made at BD3861.2.3 **JL**

Action: the BAC to be informed

3. **Lack of consistency in some registration policies**
 - 3.1 SC, speaking on behalf of the Genetics Committee and the IT Group, observed that it was difficult to implement some registration policies on the GCCF computer.
 - 3.2 He suggested that some of GC and the IT Group review each policy, contacting the BACs as necessary. He estimated this could take approximately 12 months. INF

BD3867 STAFF & OFFICE

1. **General update on the staff**
 - 1.1 The OM reported that the new member of staff (Alex) who had replaced Holly was settling in well.
 - 1.2 It was queried how agreement had been reached re the replacement of a part time staff member with a FT. This had not required an HR meeting. Holly had been employed as FT and was working PT as a concession. It had been judged at management level that a FT replacement was needed.
 - 1.3 Denise remarked that the staff were all willing and keen to learn. INF
2. **Computer upgrade request**
 - 2.1 The Windows software needed an upgrade to 10 and this would require new computers.
 - 2.2 It was agreed unanimously that they should be purchased.
3. **Photocopier replacement**
 - 3.1 The smaller of the two photocopiers owned was over 8 years old and parts would no longer be covered in its service contract.
 - 3.2 It was agreed it should be replaced (£2590).
 - 3.3 It was thought it was worth trying a type of card for registration certificates that had a less glossy surface.
Action: purchase of the new equipment to be arranged OM
4. **Office premises report**
 - 4.1 The signs were now up on the outside of the building and were attracting people to come into the Office.
 - 4.2 Redecoration had taken place and new furniture had been purchased.
 - 4.3 A review of contracts was continuing to check where money could be saved. There had been recent success in finding a contractor who was honest about the number of times seagull manure needed to be removed from the roof. INF

BD3868 EVENTS

1. **Update on the progress of the 2019 Supreme Event**
 - 1.1 It was reported that a new hotel was to be trialled - the Quality at Coventry Hill. It was a similar price, but had more rooms.
 - 1.2 A floor plan with two rings was in preparation, taking account of the space reserved. The area not paid for could be walked through but not put to any use, and would be designated by lines.
 - 1.3 Bookings for stalls were being taken INF
2. **WCC 2021 show - a team to organise this event**
 - 2.1 There were some further ideas, and it was hoped John Smithson (NZ) would provide the historical display, but no team leader or specific responsibilities were discussed. INF
3. **The National Pet Show**
 - 3.1 There was no further information INF

BD3869 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. **The appointment of a Panel of Judges to consider a case referred by IC**
 - 1.1 The Vice Chair explained why this had taken so long and that it caused a complaint to be made.
 - 1.2 It was agreed that no member of the Board should be on the panel of Judges and possible names were put forward. SF had already contacted some of these.
 - 1.3 It was thought that as a separate matter there needed to be a review of this byelaw as nine (plus two substitutes) was far too many. It needed to be streamlined in line with the other disciplinary committees.
Action: arrangement of panel to deal with this case SF
a review of the byelaw to be a matter for a future agenda JL
2. **Notification of an appeal & GDPR complaint to the ICO** Not discussed.
3. **IC/DC applications - shortage of candidates**
 - 3.1 At least one more reserve was required for DC. It was agreed that there should be a website notification and if no applications came forward, a request would be made in Council. JL

BD3870 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman raised a concern re the claims in a judge application for TICA from a GCCF judge that required his input. It was agreed that this document would be circulated to the Board for specific and general comment.

The meeting finished at 5.15pm with items deferred as noted.

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY**, 03 July 2019, at 11.00 for 11.15am, at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London.