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

Wednesday, 3 July 2019 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London

Present: Mr John Hansson - Chairman
Mr Sean Farrell - Vice-Chairman
Mrs Lynda Ashmore
Mr Steve Crow
Dr Gavin Eyres
Mr Thomas Goss
Mrs Catherine Kaye
Mrs Elaine Robinson
Ms Lyndsey Robinson
Dr Peter Collin
Mrs Hilary Dean
Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Mrs Shelagh Heavens
Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys
Denise Williams (Office Manager)

BD3870 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for absence. INFO
   1.1 Apologies for absence were given on behalf of: Mrs Valerie Anderson, Ms Sarandra Devereux and
       Denise Williams (Office Manager)

2. Chairman’s opening remarks INFO
   2.1 The meeting was opened at 11.25am with the Chairman welcoming Dr Eyres to his first Board meeting.

BD3871 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 5 June 2019
   1.1 These had been circulated to Board members after the Council electoral meeting. Amendments to BD3856.1
       and .2 and typographical corrections had been made.
   1.2 A further correction was made to BD3856.2.
   1.2 The minutes were approved, proposed by CK, seconded by LA with 12 in favour and 2 abstentions
       (those not present in June).

   Action: publication on the GCCF website         JL/RF

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes
   2.1 BD3855.2 honorarium.
       The committee secretary confirmed she would draw this early in the new financial year. NB. It would need
       to be shown as a payment in this year’s accounts with an accrual for the honorarium (which would be
       reversed when the payment was made the following year)
   2.2 BD3858.3 PAAG Membership
       A concern about the number of litters any one member could advertise in one year had been sent. It was confirmed that
       GCCF was the member of PAAG and not its individual breeders, therefore this restriction did not apply.

   Action: a check to be made and a response sent       RF

3. Minutes of the June Council meeting
   3.1 These were discussed and a deletion was agreed.
   3.2 They were then approved, proposed by PC, seconded by TG with 12 in favour and 2 abstentions

   Action: publication on the GCCF website         JL/RF

4. Matters arising from the June Council minutes
   4.1 C2256 Council Elections.
       It was agreed that future the clubs of both the nominator and nominee should be shown on the nomination form
       to ensure a check could be made that both clubs had made their returns as required by Byelaw 5 (3)
       Any dispute on delegate eligibility should be referred to IC to make checks with the club(s) concerned, and also a
       suggestion that all nominations could be scrutinised by IC, to be put to IC.
       A downloadable form had to be available from the website to ensure club secretaries could access it to give
       details of their club officers, committee members and delegate(s), as per (BL 5(3)).
       Online access for club officers should to be restored so officer/delegate updates could be made online if preferred.
       If possible the counting of votes should be done open to view.

   Action: information to be passed for reference to the Office & IT teams    JL

   4.2 C2258 Statement on Board minutes
       It was agreed that lengthy statements without prior warning were not desirable, as other delegates were given
       no opportunity to think about them with a view to making any sort of query or comment.
       It was of particular concern when they contained comment on behalf of, or criticism of, others who had no opportunity
       for a right of reply. The latter was thought particularly reprehensible.

   Actions: a letter of support and thanks from the Board to Caroline Turner-Russell    JL
   an addition to be drafted for Byelaw 9 (4) to ensure advance circulation of business statements

   C2252.1.3 Club entitlement
   There was discussion on whether some of the original clubs present in 1910 had been missed from the current Byelaw
   list, and so lost the right to representation ‘by virtue of their historical association’. It was requested that the
   copy of the original document described by SC was circulated, and it was thought sensible to check a
   pre-incorporation version of the constitution to see if any had been omitted at that point. It was also probable
   that the original constitution was stored at Bridgewater.

   Action: the circulation of any documents that provided more information.    Office
BD3872  DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting
   1.1 LR declared her interest in Kopikatts and asked if was necessary to do this every single meeting.
   1.2 It was acknowledged that she should have been sent a register of interests form which made this
       unnecessary. Dr Eyres would also need one.
   1.3 It was noted that other Board members had made declarations for the auditors, and some were unsure
       whether they had completed anything in 2018.

Action: checks to be made with the OM for all, and forms to go to GE and LR.  JH

BD3873  FINANCE

1. Annual account - additional information supplied by Monahans
   1.1 There was further information on the figures from Monahans for the Supreme Show as there had been
       several delegate questions in Council. There was detail of:
       * Sponsorship breakdown - though not entirely relatable to known amounts
       * Hotel, travel and vets were separated from the ‘miscellaneous’ lump sum
   1.2 Greater detail of stationery, printing and postage expenditure was provided.
   1.3 The bookkeeper had itemised the miscellaneous amount (£2579) in the general accounts
   1.4 There was no explanation of the miscellaneous income (£11,820), though it approximated to the Supreme
       sponsorship. A check would be needed to confirm if it was this or something other.

Action: checks to be made with the OM for all, and forms to go to GE and LR.  JH

2. Management accounts on 2019 business to 31 May - with supporting statistical information
   2.1 The profit and loss accounts had been provided by the bookkeeper and the OM had provided transaction
       graphs and statistics. With the exception of transfers core business had increased slightly.
   2.2 Overall income was up slightly and expenditure lower than in the same period for the previous year, although
       some concern was expressed at the level of gross profit achieved during this period.
   2.3 It was noted that a large amount was showing in the miscellaneous line for April. £2500 was the honoraria
       paid to volunteers and it was agreed it should be designated as such on a separate line.
   2.4 The programming consultant’s contract had finished at the end of May, and it was agreed that payment to
       the new contractor (maintenance and development) should not be included with software.
   2.5 There was a query on the sudden jump in income for IC/DC as that was considerably above previous amounts.
   2.6 The variation in IC/DC administrative expenditure was because a salary was no longer included. The OM
       had expressed a preference to keep the whole payment within ‘salaries’ as the secretary did other
       work and it would be time consuming to record the split on a daily basis. No objection was made to this.

Action: queries and recommendations to be referred to the bookkeeper  JL

3. Euro bank account update
   3.1 Nothing further to report

4. New card processing provider update
   4.1 A contract had been signed with Payzone. The estimate was that £8000 would be saved annually once
       the provider change over was completed.
   4.2 The handover would take place over a period of weeks rather than suddenly to prevent a sudden glitch
       and loss of service. Ian Macro was liaising with Payzone on the IT changes that would be required.
   4.3 There was an additional bonus of a virtual provider that could be brought up on screen if the actual
       machine was being used. This would save delay for staff when dealing with customers.

Action: refer back to the bookkeeper & FC  JL

5. Investment account update
   5.1 There was £74,839.49 on deposit at the Aldermore earning 1.83%. That was fixed until March 2020.
   5.2 The balance at Cambridge & Counties was £54,420.07 with interest at 1.74% as it was a 95 day business
       savings account.

BD3874  BUSINESS MATTERS

1. GCCF update
   1.1 The OM had reported that there were just two items left to negotiate with GCCF.
   1.2 The Chairman observed that Denise had simplified the contract considerably, particularly to remove the large
       indemnity that had prevented the contract being signed previously. It was asked that it should be
       checked that the indemnity was not removed altogether as the Board had agreed it should be
       roughly commensurate with the costs incurred for the system to be set up for GCCF benefit
   1.3 JL had checked with the GCCF solicitor that she was prepared to assess the contract, with the response that
       it would have to be written according to English law.

Action: queries to be referred on to the OM  JL

2. The GCCF partnerships
   2.1 The Chairman had meetings scheduled with Royal Canin and Agria on separate dates in the next two weeks.
   2.2 He reported that there could be a change of personnel again for contact with RC and the GCCF liaison could
       return to being a contact who could be relied on to make a response.
   2.3 It was observed that RC were not sticking to their show schedule which caused difficulties for SMs.

Action: these concerns to be passed on at the meeting  JH
3. **Board leads and responsibilities**
   
3.1 The Board lead for YES was discussed. The content of the minute was disputed and the matter will be considered again at the Board meeting in November.

3.2 JL committed to working on the first part of the BS review to look at the Code of Ethics, the relationship between the breeder and new owner before and after the sale, and admission to the BS.

3.3 It was agreed following the report on club and BAC and returns that SH should retain the responsibility for this and she was thanked by the Chairman and Board for her hard work and commitment to the role. It was noted that there had been a very successful outcome.

**BD3875 IT INFORMATION**

1. **IT update**
   
1.1 SC reported that the third tranche of system fixes and updates was due in the next two weeks as planned.

1.2 He gave details of the team of volunteer testers (end users of the system) and Office testing was being undertaken by Rhian and Lucy. It was observed that Caroline Turner-Russell was still giving a lot of her time to train for and support the testing. It was remarked that under her guidance the Office staff were using the IT system more effectively and the Office was working more efficiently. The Board asked for thanks to be noted.

1.3 Concern was expressed because the new IT consultant, Ian Macro, had begun work on 1 June, as planned, but hadn’t yet signed a contract with the company, or a non-disclosure agreement. It was agreed that a temporary NDA (separate from the contract) should be presented to him as a matter of urgency.

1.4 He had proposed revisions for the contract to ensure that it was compliant for consultancy rather than employment, and it was pointed out that this was extremely important for HMRC purposes, and an HMRC checker should be used before the contract was issued.

1.5 It was agreed that as soon as the contract revision was complete it should be sent to Critchleys to ensure HMRC compatibility in this respect. It would be illegal to offer a contract for self-employment as a means reducing the amount of tax paid.

**Action:** Production and review of the contract as a matter of urgency  SC

1.6 LR-T reported that she had a set of four marketing preferences presented to her as an SM and three as an individual. She asked that the reason for this should be checked, and that an assessment for GDPR compliance for the whole page should be made at the time.

1.7 JL queried whether the system was ready for the listing of Full Judges with provisional status (FJ(P)). SC reported that IM was aware and saw no difficulty, but a reminder would be useful.

1.8 It was noted that the licence for WRIKE project management software would not be renewed as TPS could be used instead and there was no fee.

**Action:** referral to IT for 6 & 7  SC/OM

2. **STAR Services update**

2.1 SC reported that there was little to update on since Council. System fixing, manual production and the provision of a GCCF/user agreement were being worked on.

2.2 The OM’s report noted the cost and difficulties that would be involved if an entirely separate bank account was required to operate the service. Money was held for a very short time, being paid to the club as soon as the show closed. All payments made to the show were directed to a holding account managed by the bookkeeper, and there was now an established operational process to keep a tally of the amount held and report payments out when made.

**INF**

3. **Registration Review Project**

3.1 SC reported that he had some volunteers from GC and the IT team with the OM who were prepared to work to examine policies for consistency, to ensure they were compatible with the system and check that the policy in use was the most up to date. If possible some general principles could be formulated in liaison with the BACs.

3.2 He estimated the time needed would be one year approximately and that, although an initial meeting was necessary, much of the work would be via electronic communication.

3.3 PC was proposed as a member of the group and able to attend a meeting at the end of the month.

**INF**

**BD3876 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL**

1. **Prefixes circulated**

1.1 22 prefixes in total had been circulated in advance. One objection from another prefix holder had been upheld.

**INF**

2. **Midland Counties CC proposal**

2.1 Notice was given that Midland Counties were proposing to Council that applicants for prefixes should be members of breed clubs rather than all-breed.

2.2 The rationale suggested that breed clubs had more stringent conditions for supporting an application.

**INF**

**BD3877 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS**

1. **An update on the 2018 club returns**

1.1 SH reported that most clubs had now made contact. Durham CC had sent a a duplicate set of returns as the original had been lost in the post. The Siamese CA and Siamese CC of Scotland were now up to date. Ulster Siamese & AB was having problems with banking, but was doing its best to complete to ensure a show licence.

1.2 The Abyssinian CA, Sphynx CA and Wyvern had made contact previously to indicate that their accounts would sent soon, but nothing further had arrived. Croydon and Southern Counties had paid a delegate’s fee but not offered anything further. The Eastern LH & AB had sent show accounts only.
1.3 There had been nothing at all from the Scottish and West of Scotland CCs or the Federation of Show Managers (provisional).

1.4 SH was planning a final reminder to all by the end of July to give warning that they had just one more month before there would be show licence penalties.

**Actions: reminders to be sent as necessary** SH

2. **An update on BAC returns**

2.1 Five more BACs had completed their returns. Only the Singapura BAC and Snowshoe BAC had not.

2.2 The Snowshoe BAC had made contact to report difficulties. They could not get their accounts signed off because they had had to open a new bank account and could obtain no records from the previous one due to the death of the treasurer who was the sole contact.

2.3 It was agreed that they should send all the financial records in their possession to SH and she would check through them and give a base line from which the 2019 accounts could be started.

2.4 SH requested the BAC information from previous years as JL had copies of Doreen Goadby’s records

**Action: Snowshoe BAC to be contacted & records supplied as a pdf to SH** JL

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**BD3878 SHOW STRUCTURE & JUDGE TRAINING REVIEW**

1. **A review of Section 6**

1.1 The Oriental Joint BAC had replied to say they were happy that the Foreign White should be in Section 6 Grand Group B. They had no wish to comment on the transitional arrangements proposed by the Siamese JAC for judges, as it did not impact on the Orientals.

1.2 A judge list had been approved by the Siamese JAC which would give the section two new judges at imperial level and mean thirteen new grand judges for 6B.

1.3 It was agreed that the implementation date should be 1 September

**Actions: The information to be circulated and judges to be informed.** OM

1.4 There was discussion on the request from the Suffolk BAC for a section transfer. It was considered there was merit in the arguments put forward (though reliant in part on anecdotal information), but that they could not transfer to their preferred option of Section 4 Grand Group A as this contained several breeds, more than others in the section, which make the structure unbalanced.

1.5 It was proposed that the Suffolk BAC should be offered a transfer to Section 5 Grand Group B. It wasn’t overloaded, contained other breeds of medium type and as a big bonus most of the judges on the Suffolk list were already working in Section 5, just two would need to be added.

1.6. This was agreed unanimously and the Suffolk BAC would be given the choice of moving to Section 5 B or staying in Section 6.

**Action:** The Suffolk BAC to be informed. JL

2. **Update on fast-track implementation**

2.1 PC confirmed the timetable for implementation. The spreadsheets would be completed shortly and the information sent to judges to let them know which lists they were on as FJ(P)s. They would be allowed a four week time frame to decide whether to opt out of some or all.

2.2 Judges would be able to opt in to additional lists at any time in the three year period, with the time for completion with a breed three years from the date of opting on to that list. There would be no period of waiting for approval as entitlement as a FJ(P) was already agreed.

2.3 BACs would then be informed in September which judges would be added to their lists and be given the information on what the judge was expected to do and how it should be monitored.

2.4 The Board would be updated in September and Council in October.

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**BD3879 SHOW MATTERS**

1. **2019-20 licence applications and changes to report**

1.1 5.10.19 The Maine Coon Breed Society change of venue from Bracknell Leisure Centre to Garth Hill College, Bracknell RG42 2AD, sharing with other breed clubs that had had this change approved.

1.2 9.11.19 Nicola Rankin approved as an ASM for the Seal Point Siamese CC show.

1.3 22.2.20 Debbie King approved as an ASM for the Coventry & Leicester CC show.

1.4 18.1.20 a licence approved for the Rex Cat Club at the Sports Connexion Leisure Club, Ryton-on-Dunsmore CV8 3FL, with Lynda Ashmore as SM, sharing with the SHCS and other small breed clubs

1.5 9.5.20 Date change for the Asian CA show to 16.5.20

1.6 14.3.20 Date change for the Northern Ireland CC show to 7.3.20

1.7 The above had been approved by the Board via electronic circulation.

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2. **Licence applications additions discussed at the meeting**

2.1 28.3.20 A licence application for the Kernow CC at the Matford Centre, Exeter, Devon EX2 8FD with SM Jane Truscott and ASM Carol Greet. It was agreed that a licence should be granted once it had been confirmed that Cambridge CC and BO&B CC were not holding a joint show on 28 March 2020. No application had been received from BO&B, but it was understood they wished to move to share with Bedford CC at the end of April.

2.2 4.4.20 A licence application for the Caledonian Longhaired CC to share with the Shorthair & AB CC of Scotland at the Rothes Hall, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 5NV with SMS Miss S Davidson & Mrs K Ekanger and ASM Mrs Ann Smith. This was approved.

**Action:** the clubs concerned to be informed JL/Office
3. **Show manager application**
   3.1 An application had been received from Anna McEntee to manage the Bedford & District CC and BO&B show at the end of April 2020 in Luton, with G Slaymaker as ASM.
   3.2 It was agreed that as she had only two certificates from all breed shows she wasn’t yet qualified. She could manage the shows as ASM, and undertake most of the work involved, but under the mentorship of a qualified SM who’s name would be on the licence.

   **Action:** the applicant to be informed.  

4. **Signatories for licence applications on paper and online**
   4.1 Work was ongoing

5. **Website note revision**
   5.1 Work was ongoing

6. **SM Training forms**
   6.1 Work was ongoing

7. **Overseas Judges**
   7.1 There was a lengthy discussion on the TICA judge training process to determine at which point a judge could be counted as ‘fully qualified’ as per GCCF rules (Section 2:9 and Section 3:3) and therefore eligible to judge breed classes.
   7.2 This was inconclusive, but it was agreed that the form to be filled in by overseas judges should be revised as the wording was not in keeping with the current rules. It was suggested that it should be done by an SM team outside the Board who used overseas judges fairly frequently and names were suggested.

   **Action:** the form to be sent to those suggested for their idea  

7.3 It was also decided that once the form was relevant there should be a checking procedure established in the Office to verify the information sent (by new OS judges and those who had added new qualifications) with their own organisation, prior to adding it onto the system.

   **Action:** refer to the JTRG

**BD3864 EVENTS**

1. **Any update on the 2019 Supreme**
   1.1 JH noted that there was little to add that was different from the report given at Council.
   1.2 It was hoped the schedules would be out shortly. The information was with the IT team.

2. **WCC 2021 - a team for the event**
   2.1 JH observed that a team of people were needed to organise the event as there were several different aspects. In addition to a show there was a seminar, and hospitality to arrange for delegates travelling from overseas.
   2.2. If the 150 years was to be celebrated properly with attendant publicity then an exhibition would need to be put together and there would need to be marketing to publicise the event.
   2.3 It was queried how much GCCF could afford to spend, and agreed that costing should be made.
   2.4 It was agreed the various elements of the event should be listed, with the number of people required for organisation and some costing allocated.

   **Action:** a report to be made on the above in September  

3. **Any National Pet Show update**
   3.1 SH reported she had heard nothing further. It was unlikely there would be an event, and if there was there had been no interest expressed from anyone in organising it.

   **BD3881 BREED APPLICATIONS**

1. **Oriental Whites - request to show blue-eyed whites**
   1.1 The Oriental JBAC had requested that the Board reconsider the exclusion of the blue-eyed Oriental Whites from the show bench.
   1.2 It was accepted that their appearance was close to that of a Foreign White, but that DNA testing would be included within the registration policy to ensure the breeds remained as separate entities.
   1.3 The Board agreed by a majority to accept this condition so that the blue-eyed OW could be shown.
   1.4 The OJBAC would be informed and asked to send in all the paperwork required for acceptance of the Oriental Whites as a new colour of an existing breed.

   **Action:** to request paperwork for recognition of the OW from the OJBAC

**BD3882 DISCIPLINARY**

1. **Revision of the Byelaw 11 (10) on the Council Committee of Judges**
   1.1 It had been agreed that the Byelaw needed revision to enable the Panel of Judges to be reduced in size, in keeping with the disciplinary committees. It was thought it could be needed more frequently in future as it was an essential part of the fast-track process.
1.2 It was agreed there should be six required judges, with one of these to take on the organisation and liaise on administration with the IC/DC secretary. This person would chair any meeting, but not vote. **Actions:** byelaw wording for October Council by JL, contact with judges to put together a list of those willing to participate by HD.

2. A Fixed Penalty for failing to provide written advice on deafness at the time of sale of white cats
2.1 The IC recommendation for the FP re the rule on deafness advice for new owners of white cats was: **Penalty:** Fine £100 suspension until fine paid. A second breach of this rule within three years will result in double the penalty, a third breach, three times the penalty etc. **Action:** the IC/DC Secretary to be informed so that it could be added to the FP booklet by JL.

3. Report on GDPR complaints
3.1 SF gave the Board information of a GDPR issue he had investigated following complaints made by five people about the same incident. 3.2 The outcome had been that there was no case to answer. 3.3 The GCCF’s Solicitor had drafted a reply to the ICO following a complaint made to it and reported to GCCF for acknowledgement/action. 3.4 Her recommendation to the Board was that the publication of the addresses of those suspended from GCCF should contain sufficient detail to identify them from those of the same name in the geographical area, but there was no need to give a complete address. 3.5 The Board agreed that the name, prefix and village/town or city area, with the first part of the post code, should be enough to establish identity and thus inform others of the suspension. **Action:** the IC/DC Secretary to be informed to include these details rather than the whole address in future by JL.

BD3883 WELFARE

1. Remit of the Genetics Committee and appointment of members
1.1 No changes to the Terms of Reference were suggested, and SC stated that current member were willing to continue. He named those not on the Board, but did not give detail of particular aptitudes. 1.2 It was proposed that an invitation to join this committee should be circulated from the Office to all receiving GGCF mail. Appointments would then be made at the September meeting. 1.3 It was further proposed that this should be done for all Working Groups that the Board appointed to assist with projects and support (HR). A vote was taken and this course of action was approved by a majority. 1.4 It was agreed that the invitation and group details should be put out quickly to give an opportunity for response by the middle of August. Information would be uploaded to the website and be sent out via the GCCF Newsletter. **Action:** notice to be circulated to all from the Office by OM.

2. Remit of the Veterinary Advisory Committee and confirmation of Board members
2.1 This was deferred until the appointment of members of the Genetics Committee

3. Report from the Feline & Canine Sector Group
3.1 SC stated he had no further update after Council. The next meeting would be in September. 3.2 He thought if there was a strong possibility of a no deal Brexit at that point then a lot of time would be given to ways of coping with this, particularly with regard to small animal travel arrangements, import/export and the import of veterinary medical supplies.

4. Breeder Scheme Code of Ethics Revision
4.1 JL stated she had a small team who were willing to undertake this (BD3874.3). Sue Moreland (VO) was interested and would have useful input. 4.2 Inspection could be considered later, but those willing to be involved and be gold star breeders (or similar) would probably have to be willing to pay some or all of the costs.

BD3884 STAFF & OFFICE

1. General update on the staff
1.1 The OM reported that the staff were now functioning very well as a team. Alex had settled in over the month and the others had been supportive. They had individual tasks to complete, but helped each other. 1.2 The change in them over the past few months meant thanks came in regularly from customers. 1.3 JH remarked that the OM assessment was due and he would be carrying it out at Bridgwater. He took comments from Board member. It was noted that it to be noted that the Office was running in a very efficient and effective way and that the minutes should record thanks to Denise and her team.

2. Report on equipment renewal
1.1 The new chairs were in use. 1.2 The new computers and small copier were in the process of being installed. The old ones were being donated to a charity, ‘Computers for Africa’. 1.3 The thicker card without coating recommended for breeder registration cards was £6.80 per thousand more than the coated card, but the advice from an engineer was to continue using the thinner, but monitor it, and take care on the number put into the feeder at any one time.
Meeting schedule 2020

The OM had ascertained that the Conway Hall was taking bookings for 2020 now, and the Kennel Club would do so from September. It was agreed that the Council meetings should be fixed first and the Board meeting could be scheduled around them.

The Chairman suggested that it would be sensible to find a smaller hall now fewer delegates were attending Council.

The meeting finished at 4.55pm with items deferred as noted.

NEXT MEETING: **THURSDAY**, 05 September 2019, at 11.00 for 11.15am, at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London.