



**MINUTES**  
For the Meeting of the **Board OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**  
Tuesday, 19 May 2015 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London

Present: Mr Steve Crow - Chairman

Mrs L Ashmore	Dr G Bennett
Mr S Farrell	Mrs R Fisher
Mrs Doreen Goadby	Mr Thomas Goss
Mrs Anne Gregory	Mr John Hansson
Mrs Shelagh Heavens	Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Celia Leighton	Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell	Mr John Robinson

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

#### **BD3450 MEETING INTRODUCTION**

1. **Chairman's Opening remarks**
  - 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present at 11.20am.
  - 1.2 He stated he hoped to get through the business of the day as it was the final Board Meeting before the Electoral Council Meeting and the intention was not to leave tasks uncompleted.
  - 1.3 Board members were reminded of the confidentiality of the business, and that decisions made should be announced in the manner collectively agreed. **INFO**
2. **Apologies for absence.**
  - 2.1 These had been received from Mrs Pat Perkins
  - 2.2 Mr Farrell and Mrs Fisher arrived shortly after the start the meeting, due to late trains **INFO**

#### **BD3451 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. **The Minutes of the Board meeting of 10 April 2015**

Typographical errors were corrected, and the minutes were then approved unanimously. **INFO**
2. **Matters arising from the April minutes**
  - 2.1 The Chairman checked rapidly through the actions to ascertain most had been completed and that matters for the Council agenda had been carried forward.
  - 2.2 BD3433.1 The OM would update the Register of Interests for Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell and Mr Hansson.
  - 2.3 BD3436.1 The rule change concerning imports was on the Council agenda, but some concern was expressed that those importing were not necessarily aware of the guidance offered.  
**Action: a notice to be placed on the website to give a reminder; also the need to check the breed registration policy and the list of accepted 'bona fide' organisations to be highlighted at the head of the information page.** **MG**

There was some discussion on the need for a policy to define an acceptable organisation so that additional ones could be considered by office staff.

**Action: a policy to be discussed at the Office and brought to the next Board meeting.** **SRO/MG/SC**
  - 2.4 BD3442. Mrs Fisher had brought samples of the new certificates which had been printed digitally using gold and silver ink. Samples would be at Council for delegates to take to show club committees, and it was agreed that card quality, and printing options to vary the presentation, would be explained to see if there was a preference. Costs would need to be given.  
**Action: figures to be obtained to provide a cost comparison between the existing and new styles.** **RF/MG**
  - 2.5 BD3435.4 It was confirmed that the wording in plain text was taken from the existing byelaw. **INFO**

#### **BD3452 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. **Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting.**

BD 3456.2 (Samburu prefix) SRO. BD3460.4 (show committee links) JH, SRO & LA. **INFO**  
BD 3457.3 (proposal from the SW Birman Cat Club) AG.

#### **BD3453 FINANCE**

1. **The presentation of the 2014 accounts**
  - 1.1 It was noted that these accounts had only just been received, therefore the OM had not had an opportunity to address queries to the examiners. However, paperwork had been supplied at approximately the same time as in previous years, when there had been finalisation for the February Council meeting.
  - 1.2 The final presentation of reserves held had not been set out as requested. The Board considered it extremely important to show the amount held as a loan from the clubs, so that there was transparency on the way this was being spent, and how it was to be repaid.
  - 1.3 The Supreme SM was very concerned because the actual figures given for the 2014 show were wrong. They had been presented differently from the information in the show accounts, and the total of income received was inaccurate. £118,790 had been calculated instead of £121,422.  
As there were also inconsistencies in the expenditure amounts shown the SM estimated that the net deficit should be £3710 less than was shown.

1.4 The OM was happy with the figures given for the general account, but the Board was very dissatisfied overall as it seemed as if the accounts would not be ready for presentation at the June Council meeting, as intended.

It was agreed that serious consideration should be given to replacing the accountancy company used.

**Actions: O'Hara Wood to be contacted the next day to make the serious concerns known. It would be questioned whether Mr Wood had actually overseen the work.** MG  
**Information on the outcome of discussions to be circulated to determine action for the presentation of the accounts.**

**Tenders for new accountants for the 2015 accounts to be discussed.** FC

1.5 It was agreed that £25,000 from the 2014 surplus should be shown designated for contribution to the club loan in 2015. In subsequent years there would be repayments of £15,000 annually. INFO

## 2. Financial statement on business to date

2.1 The surplus on ordinary business generated in January and February had been sustained in March, though transaction volume had fallen.

2.2 It was noted that by the end of March only 12% of club fees had been received, but returns were not expected from clubs until April.

2.3 Overall, expenditure closely followed that in the same period of the previous year.

2.4 Attention was drawn to the overall reduction paid in salaries. As new staff had been recruited this would now increase.

2.5 DTC had been used for computer maintenance therefore fees incurred were professional rather than at reduced 'volunteer' level. This was the reason spending on this was considerably above the amount estimated.

2.6 It was noted that other expenditure that seemed high in the first months would gradually level out. INFO

## 3. Volume figures

**The data to the end of April 2015 had been circulated to give the following information:**

3.1 The total number of litter registrations was around the 2014 level. Once again there was improvement in non-prefix registrations figures, but prefix registrations were still below those of the previous year.

3.2 The cumulative transfer total was very much the same as in 2014. All was ready for the incentive to begin on June 1st.

3.3 Import figures were the highest recorded for this period.

3.4 Applications for prefixes remained just above the 2014 level. INFO

## 4. Investment advice.

4.1. Mrs Fisher reported that rates being offered to businesses by Secure Trust Bank (1.86%) and Cambridge & Counties Bank (1.75%). She had no knowledge of the first, but had used C&C. It offered an online facility.

4.2. It was agreed that £100,000 should be invested with Cambridge & Counties, for an initial period of 95 days.

**Action: the investment to be made as soon as possible.** MG

## 5. Purchase of a licence for Survey Monkey

5.1 This had been requested by the Show Structure Review Group so that opinion on proposed changes could be tested, but it was agreed it would be useful for other surveys. It was believed that a free version offered only a limited number of responses, which was sufficient for delegates, but not if information was to be drawn from breeders and exhibitors generally.

5.2 It was agreed that the terms and conditions should be investigated to determine the frequency of the fee and whether payment was monthly or annually. If there was nothing to cause concern purchase of licence would be made when the first survey was ready.

5.3 It was understood that email addresses remained the property of GCCF, but this would be checked.

5.4 Any surveys made would need Board approval before being used.

**Action: check on the licence cost and t&c ahead of purchase** SRO/MG

## 6. Date of the next Finance Committee meeting.

6.1 It was agreed this should be moved to be before Council.

6.2. The date agreed was 10 June in the Artists' Room at the Conway Hall at midday.

**Action: Committee members not present to be informed.** MG

## BD3454 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS

### 1. Report from the BAC Review Group Chair

1.1 The minutes had been circulated and comment invited, but there had been limited response. It was suggested that it was only when action was proposed that positive and negative reaction was generated.

1.2 Matters identified as needing updating, clarification and/or minor correction were on the June Council agenda.

1.3 The Judge Appointment Scheme had been updated and was ready for circulation, and new tutorial forms were drafted. These modifications had received favourable comment.

1.4 There was discussion on the impact on the Selkirk Rex clubs of the proposals concerning amalgamation of Foreign Rex and Sphynx judging lists. It was agreed that the Selkirk Rex BAC should be informed as it participated in the Joint Rex BAC. It was anticipated that Selkirk Rex breed business would be conducted as previously, but the clubs needed the opportunity to discuss BAC administrative arrangements.

**Action: letter to be sent to the Selkirk Rex BAC** JL

1.5 It was reiterated that the proposal concerned the amalgamation of the judging lists for the Rex and Sphynx grand group of the Foreign Section for the purpose of judge training. It did not necessarily entail a complete merge of the BACs concerned, and it would be their decision how to operate the scheme administratively, with support from the BACRG if requested. The transitional arrangements concerned the full and pupil judges rather than BAC structure. INFO

### 2. Proposal from the BAC Review Group that no one should act as an officer for more than two BACs.

- 2.1 It was considered that there were insufficient experienced people to make this operable at present, but agreed that it was desirable that more should be encouraged to consider taking on BAC officer roles.
- 2.2. An invitation to be given via the GCCF website to collect the names of those who would be interested, particularly if training was offered.
- 2.3 Training could be by seminar and/or shadowing those currently in post.

**Action: This suggestion to go back to the BACRG for discussion on implementation and action. JH**

3. **Club & BAC returns for 2015**

3.1 Mrs Goadby reported that most clubs had made all or partial returns. There were seven that had made no contact.

**Action: These seven to receive further reminders. DG**

3.2 Six breed, one specialist and seven all breed clubs did not have the required number for a delegate to Council and had requested dispensation.

**Action: Their names to go on the Council supplementary agenda. JL**

4. **Suffolk Chocolate & Lilac Club application for provisional membership.**

4.1 Dr Bennett had made several changes to the club's constitution, but it had not yet been finalised.

4.2 It was agreed it should not include any tests for FHV and FCV as a condition of breeding.

**Action: the constitution be returned to the club for amendment once work on it was completed. GB/MG**

5. **Confirmation of the Ocicat Classic Cat Club provisional membership date.**

5.1 The OM reported that an application and fee had been received in June 2012. However, there had been a dormant period, with no returns received, until the autumn of 2013 when there was notice received of an inaugural meeting of the club in October 2013.

5.2 It was agreed that the club's membership should date from this meeting, not 2012.

**Action: the club to be informed MG**

6. **The Suffolk Cat Club application for provisional membership**

6.1 It was agreed that the club should be asked to change its name to The Suffolk Breed CC, and also reminded that it was a breed rather than a specialist club.

6.2 The submitted constitution needed some revision.

**Actions: the name request to be put to the club, and amendments to be made and sent MG/GB**

**BD3455 BUSINESS MATTERS**

1. **The contract with Royal Canin**

1.1 The contract had been signed, and preparations made within the Office to begin the transfer incentive scheme from June 1st.

1.2 An announcement would be made at the end of the week on the GCCF website.

**Action: an email to be sent out to breeders about 14 days in advance to inform them. MG/SRO**

2. **Reports from other partnerships.**

2.1 There would be a marketing meeting held with Agria on 21 May to discuss promotion of the five week cover scheme. It was noted new leaflets would be needed for stands as those held referred to four weeks.

**Action: new booklets and leaflets to be sent MG INFO**

2.2 The next quarterly meeting with Agria would take place on 25 June.

2.3 There was a meeting on 29 May of the Breeding and Sale of Cats Working Group and it would be known by then whether Lord Black had secured the opportunity to present a second version of the Feline Welfare Bill. It was noted that the Cats Protection press release had had no repercussions, but that CP activists were becoming increasingly hostile to showing and breeding. **INFO**

3. **Report on the progress of Project Phoenix**

3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell presented a progress narrative. Coding was now almost complete and testing and data migration had started. The project was now a little behind as Ian Macro had been unavailable early in the year, but could commit time now.

3.2 It was not possible to give a completion date until a testing cycle had been run, but SRO believed it was preferable to allow time to enable smooth transition from the old system, which was currently providing an adequate service.

3.3 Because of the earlier date of the Supreme and the amount of time that was required of office staff to deal with entries, it was proposed that staff training on PP should not begin until work for the Supreme was finished, and the holiday period over.

**Action: Announcement of this to be given in June Council. SRO**

3.4 The project costs were currently just under the budgeted amount.

3.5 It was planned that the registration policies would be put onto the system during the next month. SRO and JL would be responsible for policy interpretation and BAC liaison. **INFO**

4. **Online services report**

4.1 There were no problems to report.

4.2 Breeder pedigrees were imminent. **INFO**

5. **Website revision update**

5.1 Mrs Fisher reported that the breed hub section of the website was now complete.

5.2 Work was now in progress on the news and notices section with the intention to present this in an organised way so that information was easy to find and relevant. It was agreed that policies needed to be in place not only for uploading information, but for its removal.

Site management had to be a designated responsibility, possibly assisted by automation.

**Action: discussion and draft of website policies at meeting on 3 June at 1pm** **MSG**

5.3 A sign off meeting was planned for 9 June at DTC. It was expected that the transfer of the show pages would have taken place by then, and the site would be complete in most respects.

5.4 The launch was anticipated by the June Council meeting. **INFO**

6. **Annual report**

6.1 It was noted that the Supreme and Judges Guild reports were to be done to complete the contributions.

6.2 The linkage of the sections was planned.

**Action: to be completed for printing for the June Council meeting.** **SRO**

**BD3456 PREFIXES**

1. **Prefix list**

1.1 The list of prefixes was approved with two exceptions. The alternatives of Meadowfinx and Silvermau were agreed.

**Action: The applicants to be informed of the outcome.** **OFFICE**

2. **Use of the Samburu prefix**

The particular circumstances of this prefix were discussed. It was agreed that it could be applied for and would be posted on the website in the usual manner. It would be accepted if there were no objections.

**Action: the applicant to be informed of this proviso.** **OFFICE**

**BD3457 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

1. **An increase to the maximum level for a fixed penalty breach.**

1.1 The reason for an increase to fixed penalty fines and the amount by which they should be raised was discussed at some length.

1.2 As the need to raise the level was to ensure the byelaw did not conflict with the fact that penalties were levied at higher rates if there were repeat breaches by the same person, an amendment was proposed which would clarify this without needing to increase the overall amount.

1.3 Byelaw 12 13b) final sentence: The maximum level of **first** fixed penalty per breach shall not exceed £100.

**Action: to go forward to the October Council agenda.** **JL**

2. **Fixed penalties: additional rules to incur fixed penalties**

2.1 There had been a recommendation that fixed penalties should cover additional rules, as they had proved effective, and IC presented a list that covered 3 additional rules in section 1, 14 in section 4, with the majority in sections 2 and 3.

2.2 It was considered that there did not need to be a third level of fixed penalty, as after two breaches the matter should be referred to DC

2.3 The introduction to the changes suggested that first breaches of rules in sections 2 & 3 should be subject to an official warning, but listed them with a penalty fine for a first breach.

2.4 It was agreed that the list should be clarified to show exactly when an official warning was to be used, or the amount of the fine to be imposed, and the amount of the penalty for the second breach.

**Action: the list to be redrafted to show the rule number and summary, with the penalties for the first and second breach in columns alongside. This to be prepared for the July Board meeting.** **GB**

3. **Proposal to Council re social media Code of Conduct from the S&SW Birman Cat Club.**

3.1 It was confirmed that this on the agenda for June Council and the club's proposal would be put if the Board's proposed Code of Conduct was not approved.

**INFO**

4. **Update on small claims action**

4.1 It had been ascertained that the exact amount to be claimed needed to be known as if there was a discrepancy between the amount claimed and the amount held the case would fail. It was therefore suggested that the case should be withdrawn and the matter referred immediately to DC.

4.2 It was agreed that the paperwork should be checked carefully as Mrs Ashman had stated that she had prepared a cheque for the exact amount and had it waiting if contacted by the court. This could be used to prove the amount to be claimed.

**Action: letter to be used if possible to establish the amount of the claim** **OFFICE**

**BD3458 WELFARE MATTERS**

1. **Chair's report from the World cat Congress**

1.1 The Chairman gave a summary of the hospitality shown in New Zealand and described the show that had been held as part of the event. The Congress had made the national news in New Zealand.

1.2 His presentation at the seminar had outlined the challenges for the cat fancy in the 21st century. This included the changing attitudes of governments and welfare organisations to the keeping of cats, with increasing regulation probable in the future. In response, an Australian representative described the difficulties their breeders had with 'officialdom'.

1.3 Prof Lyons had spoken to give an update on genetic research. The gene responsible for muscular dystrophy in Rex had been discovered, as had that for white recessive spotting. There was ongoing research on the link between white cats and deafness, but a rationale for the link had been postulated and published.

1.4 The 99 Lives genetic project would receive a donation from WCC, and member organisations were encouraged to provide sponsorship.

1.5 It had been agreed that the WCC would make a statement on the banning of wild species in the show hall.

This had been deplored, and all members of the organisation would be expected to uphold the ban.

1.6 Subscriptions and the secretary's salary were both discussed in the business meeting.

1.7 The WCC 2016 meeting would be in Bangkok in April, it was scheduled for Hong Kong or Malaysia in 2017, and was planned to be held in Germany in 2018. **INFO**

2. **Report on liaison with welfare and/or rescue groups**

2.1 It was agreed there should be website listing of rescue and rehoming services provided by the clubs.

It was planned to build a network of support.

2.2 There was also a need to give clubs support on rescue and rehoming.

2.3 It would also be useful to put together a list of those who were prepared to help newcomers, which could be used by Office Staff to provide support links.

2.4 A welfare seminar/conference was considered, and it was thought that Agria and UK Pets would support this.

2.5 The booklet providing a list of contacts would be updated.

**Actions: Further discussions amongst those involved already in welfare work. Contact to be made with Sue Moreland for input.** **RF**

**A report to be made and further actions planned at the July Board meeting** **JL**

3. **Discussion: advice to breeders on the timing of rehoming after vaccination**

4. **Canine & Feline Sector Group Report**

5. **Veterinary Advisory Committee Report**

Items 3-5 were deferred until the July Board meeting

**JL**

**BD3459 THE SUPREME SHOW**

1. **Report on the 2014 Show**

1.1 The Show Manager had expected to give her final statement on last year's show, so was very disappointed that the final accounts had been presented with a number of inaccuracies. ( see BD5453.1.3) **INFO**

2. **Report on the 2015 Supreme Show plans**

2.1 The RC sponsorship deal had been agreed. A contract with Agria for sponsorship of £5000 was to be finalised.

2.2 It was agreed that consideration should be given to sponsorship from GCCF in advance of the show.

The direct purchase of agreed items and/or services needed was more positive than covering losses.

**Action: to be further discussed by FC, and on the agenda for the next meeting.** **JL**

2.3 It was agreed that the other action of support that could be given was to stimulate interest from the clubs in Club Row. It was believed that cost and lack of people to man the stalls were reasons there were fewer clubs participating.

**Action: a check to be made with club secretaries and the matter to be further discussed in July.** **MG**

**BD3460 OTHER SHOW MATTERS**

1. **2014/2015 Show changes for report.** None

2. **2014/2015 Show changes - for approval** None

3. **2015/2016 Show Changes for report**

3.1 Wessex CC/Wiltshire & District CC – 4 July 2015: Venue changed to Oasis Centre, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wilts, SN2 1EP

3.2 Oriental Longhair BC – 1 August 2015: Thanks the Board for allowing them to split their Adult and Neuter Breed classes at their first show.

3.3 Long Hair Cream & Blue-Cream CA – 5 September 2015: Assistant SM would be Miss Suzy Heath.

3.4. Bucks, Oxon & Berks CS / East Sussex CC-19 September 2015: Barbara Prowse had requested her name be taken off as Joint Show Manager for these two shows.

3.5. Colourpoint Rex-Coated & AOV CC – 28 November 2015: Report of changes to show classes as designated Breed club. Grand Splits, All breeds in the SLH Section to have dedicated Grand Classes. All breeds in the Foreign Section to have dedicated Grand Classes. Breed Class splits, Ragdoll, Colourpointed and Mitted class split: Colourpointed and Mitted. Norwegian Forest class split: Tabby and AOC. Devon Rex class split: Any Self or Patterned Black or Brown and AOC.

3.6. Eastern LH & Semi LH CC – 9 January 2016: Mrs I Pettit withdrawn as ASM.

4. **2015/2016 Show changes - for approval**

4.1. Scotia Cat Fanciers – 19 September 2015: Ms H S McRae submitted as SM in place of Mrs S Davidson with Mr R Gabb and Mr A Watt as Assistant SMs; Venue changed to Scotstoun Leisure Centre, 72 Danes Drive, Scotstoun, Glasgow, G14 9HD.

4.2. North West CC – 26 September 2015: Mrs M Walkden and Ms S Devereux submitted as Show Managers in place of Miss J Maddrell (SM) and Mrs D Gorton Asst. SM) who resigned.

4.3. Siamese CC – 3 October 2015: Mrs Sylvia Smith submitted as SM.

4.4. Burmese CA (affiliated October 2014) - Very late application received 29 April 2015 for 2015/2016 show season: Date: 23 January 2016. Venue: to be advised; SM: Mrs L Ashmore; 50 pedigree cats expected; HP section – Yes; Judges: 4-6; Finances: Over £3000. (other shows on new date: Preston & Blackpool)

4.5. Black & White CC – 16 April 2016: Requested date change to 14 May 2016 as venue not available on original date. Also requested the inclusion of Chocolate and Lilacs in with their other requested colours as follows: PLH&BSH:Red/Tortie/Blue/Cream/BlueCream/BiColrs(Red/Cream/Blue)DilTo&Wh/DomTo&W.  
ASSESSMENT: OCPersian/OCBritish ADDITION:also requesting Lilac self, bi-colours and Lilac creams  
Chocolate self, torties and chocolate and white.

**All Agreed**

**Action: Clubs to be informed of Board approval**

**OFFICE**

5. **Exhibitions**

5.1 Notice of cancellation for the Burmese CA tea party.

6. **Comment from the Website Manager**

6.1 Mrs Owen had expressed concern that there were some weekends when there quite a number of shows, while others were becoming free. The dates that were busy increased pressure of work for her considerably, and it was suggested that the Board should be more pro-active when awarding licences in avoiding multi-show occasions.

6.2 It was noted that the Show Structure Review Group had also suggested more involvement by the Board to arrange the show calendar, as well as checking judge availability.

6.3 It was agreed that this should be matter for discussion on the July agenda.

**Action: Mrs Owen to be thanked, and item to placed on the July agenda.**

**MG/JL**

7. **Proposal that exhibitors' addresses are not published in show catalogues**

7.1 The Coventry & Leicester Cat Club had concerns for the security of homes and cats if address information was available.

7.2 It was noted that by a Board ruling of 19.2.2013 that Show Managers could omit information on the written request of the exhibitor, but there was concern that this wasn't sufficiently well known.

7.3 There was discussion on:

- putting the Board ruling into the rules so that it was more obvious

- publication of part of the address to give the area, possibly with email information
- not publishing any contact information

7.4 It was considered sensible to gather opinion on this from exhibitors and show administrators.

**Actions: a rule change proposal to be formulated for the next meeting to go to October Council the club to be informed, and the current ruling circulated**

**MG/JL  
MG**

8. **List of proposals from the Show Structure Review Group**

8.1 It was agreed that these should be on the Supplementary Agenda for June Council as draft proposals. The Chairman would lead discussion and gauge support for the ideas.

8.2 Those that were well received would then be processed as proposal and be on the October Council agenda as such.

8.3 It was noted that it had been agreed that clubs must have adequate time to discuss any proposals, and considered that this was the best way of achieving it.

**Action: referred to the Supplementary Agenda of the June Council meeting.**

**JL**

9. **Proposal for a permanent split of the Maine Coon classes to give a separate Red Series.**

9.1 After some discussion this proposal was agreed by vote. 10 in favour 0 against 4 abstentions.

**Action: information to be circulated to SMs of an additional class requirement**

**OFFICE**

**BD3461**

**BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS**

1. **Persian LH registration and breeding policies**

1.1 It was confirmed the Genetic Register was solely for use in dealing with the results from health screening/testing schemes, and considered that the recording of colour requirements in registration policies should be dealt with by register allocation and/or over stamping and not genetic registration. Currently this was used in the British and Singapura registration policies and would have to be amended, and so should not feature in new/revised policies.

1.2 It had been used in the policy for offspring with colourpoint ancestry and referred to in several places.

1.3 Therefore it was agreed that the registration policy had to be returned to the Persian LH BAC for amendment.

**Action: a letter to be sent to the BAC with the Board's comments.**

**JL**

2. **Sphynx registration policy**

2.1 The scheme to make registration for Sphynx kittens conditional upon a certificate of freedom from HCM by ultrasound screening for Sphynx and Sphynx variant parents, in the twelve months prior to a mating, had been referred to the Veterinary Advisory Committee by the Genetics Committee. The VAC had several concerns about this.

- There was the possibility that it could give false assurance to new owners that kittens would definitely not develop HCM.
- It encouraged the use of young cats for breeding, to avoid the expense of repeated testing, so that the actual HCM status of many could remain unknown.
- Most importantly, if sufficient breeders were not engaged with the scheme, it could mean a sudden drop in the gene pool of GCCF Sphynx as breeders moved to use other registries to avoid the necessity to screen.

2.2 It was agreed that regular screening for HCM was definitely the best method of prevention until such time that there was a DNA test for the Sphynx HCM mutation, but that initially it should be strongly encouraged, rather than enforced, through a policy of education and record, supported by the VAC. There were strategy suggestions to be discussed with the BAC.

2.3 There was a vote on whether the policy should be delayed for recommendations to be formulated and put to the BAC. 6 in favour 2 against 6 abstentions.

**Action: a letter to be sent to the Sphynx BAC with input from GC and the Veterinary Officer.** JL

2.4 It was also noted that 2nd and 3rd generation Sphynx from an approved outcross were not allocated to a register and this needed a policy amendment.

**Action: the BAC to be reminded.** JL

3. **Request for a name change to Aztec for the Ocicat Classic**

3.1 The Board had requested a breeding policy for the Ocicat and Aztec, and updated registration policies, prior to consideration of the name change, and these had been supplied.

3.2 GC had some recommendations for additions to the breeding policy, and it was considered that the registration policy carried information for breeders mixed in with the actual requirements, and it needed to be re-presented to show these separately.

3.3 It was observed that a request had to be made to FIFe to approve the EMS code AZT, and agreed that should be the next step.

**Action: liaison with FIFe** SRO  
**BAC to be informed of this and suggestions re the policies.** JL

4. **Registration for a cat over two years old.**

This had been agreed electronically and the owner informed. INFO

5. **Letter from a Ragdoll Breeder**

5.1 This had been circulated and the contents noted without comment.

5.2 More information was expected on any Ragdoll registration policy changes after a BAC meeting to be held on the next weekend. INFO

6. **West of England & S Wales CS proposal for HHP registered names.**

It was noted that this was on the agenda for the June Council meeting. INFO

7. **Request to register close mating.**

This had been circulated electronically and the OM had to check that there was a majority in favour before informing the owner. INFO

**BD3462 EVENTS**

1. **London Pet Show**

1.1 Mrs Gregory reported that this had been an extremely successful occasion. The new venue had proved excellent, and there had been a footfall of almost 24,000.

1.2 The GCCF Household Pet Show, that was an integral part of the of the World of Cats, had received a good entry and the Best In Show judging had proved popular, really engaging the audience.

1.3 Mrs Fisher and Mr Goadby were thanked for the production of the attractive leaflets which provided the sort of information that suited the occasion.

1.4 The only negative input had been from Cats Protection people who had been concerned by the size of cages and wanted to introduce hard objects into the pens as 'necessary cover.'

(It had been noted at the VAC meeting that there was no scientific study of show cats and stress, and it was was not good practice to equate shows with the housing needs of rescued cats.) INFO

2. **Gala Dinner and Cat of the year Competition**

2.1 This had proved successful once again, providing an enjoyable social occasion.

2.2 The competitions that had generated the most interest and excitement in the social media were The Cat of the Year and Prefix of the Year awards, formulated from the show results.

2.3 It was considered that the transparency of these was liked, and that there should be regular posting of 'league tables' throughout the year. It gave a new interest to showing and encouraged show entries.

**Action: the marketing group to develop and promote the competitions.** RF

**BD3463 OFFICE**

1. **Update on staffing**

1.1 The new administrator had settled in well and was proving a useful addition to the team.

1.2 A temporary member of staff had been retained to cover staff illness and was updating the Breeder Scheme. It was confirmed that she could remain until the absentee had returned to work, and was capable of full duties.

1.3 A member of staff who had taken extra responsibilities to cover for the absent colleague had holiday due, and it was agreed that she should have two extra days to compensate for the heavy work load.

2. **Office report**

The OM had circulated details of staffing and training, and had no general matters to report. INFO

**BD3464 CAT WELFARE TRUST**

1. 1.1 It was agreed that Juanita Sharp, Karen Kempsell and Pat Perkins would be useful additions to the Board of Trustees, and considered the appointment was the responsibility of the GCCF Board in conjunction with the the remaining trustees. Therefore invitations could be made.

1.2 The accounts were with Mr Bunce for examination, and, once accepted, returns could be made to the Charities Commission.

**Action: new Trustees to be invited and information to be provided at Council.**

**RF**

**BD3465 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. The discussion on a survey to plan future changes in governance was deferred to the July meeting.

**Action: to be on the July agenda.**

**JL**

The meeting finished at 5.10pm. Some reports and discussions had been deferred.

The next meeting: Tuesday, 14 July 2015 at 11.00 for 11.15am in the Brockway Room at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London.