



## MINUTES

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

### THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Wednesday, 11 January 2017 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London

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

Mrs Valerie Anderson	Mrs Lynda Ashmore
Dr Gillian Bennett	Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Mrs Doreen Goadby	Mr Thomas Goss
Mrs Shelagh Heavens	Mrs Catherine Kaye
Mrs Jen Lacey	Ms Heather McRae
Mrs Pat Perkins	Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell
Mrs Lisa Talboys	

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

#### BD3622 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. **Apologies for absence.**

1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of: Mrs Helen Marriott-Power and Mr John Robinson

2. **Chairman's Opening remarks**

2.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.21am, welcomed those present and sent good wishes to Mr Robinson who couldn't attend the meeting because of ill health.

2.2 He gave updates on the Canine & Feline Sector Group and Cat Group discussions. There would be a CSFG meeting on 23 January, but most of the discussion would concern dogs, as there was further consultation on dangerous dogs. Lord Gardner had attended the 'Big Tent' meeting on behalf of the government, but there had been no policy announcements, and legislation affecting cats was most unlikely. However, the Companion Animals Select Committee was very much in favour of microchipping for cats, and the Chairman expected that GCCF would be encouraged to play a part in promoting that.

EU pet travel had been touched on briefly, but no change from the Pets Passport scheme was expected.

2.3 The Cat Group was undertaking a survey to update 'Cats and the Law'. It was also strongly in favour of microchipping. The 'Kitten Check List' detailing what new buyers/owners should look for when acquiring a kitten was almost complete. The next project was to develop Code of Practice for Breeders and the GCCF Code of Ethics had been sent so that it could be used as a starter for this.

INFO

3. **A tribute to the volunteers who work for GCCF**

3.1 The Vice-Chairman said he had sent a letter of thanks to Mrs Owen for her work on the GCCF website, and it was known that she had a team of contributors who supplied show news. Mrs Bullock was mentioned as another hard worker who supported GCCF, but not in a high profile way, and there were others who gave their time to keep GCCF going.

3.2 Mr Hansson put forward the idea that these volunteers should have a thanks and rewards for their work annually, relative to their contribution in much the same way as the paid staff had bonuses.

3.3 The idea was liked and it was thought vouchers would be the most appropriate gift. It was agreed that there would be further discussion on this topic at the March Board meeting and there could be discussion on an addition to the bonus pot for this specific purpose at FC in February.

**Action: agenda item for FC and March Board meetings**

JL

#### BD3623 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **The Minutes of the Board meeting of 16 November 2016**

1.1 These had been circulated in advance of the meeting, with no amendments received.

1.2 The conclusion of BD3611.3.4 was queried for clarification on whether a final outcome had been agreed, as no vote had been taken, although it was acknowledged that this was not unusual when it was thought a consensus had been reached.

1.3 Mrs Talboys wished it to be on record that she could not approve the minute as it was written.

1.4 It was agreed that the Committee Secretary should redraft and circulate the Board with the revised wording before the minutes could be signed off.

**Action: revision to be circulated**

JL

1.5 Mrs Lacey observed that she took particular care with the outcome of proposals as she was aware they constituted a legal record.

1.6 It was requested that it be noted that the minutes were circulated shortly after each meeting so that amendments could be made whilst the information presented was fresh in the minds of those who had attended.

INFO

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

2.1 The Chairman reviewed the actions of the meeting.

2.2 BD3611.1 It was confirmed that the new system informed stud owners by email, if an email address was available, when their male was given as sire and they did not own the dam.

- 2.3 BD3611.4 Letter to judges concerning the change in procedure for late show reports. Dr Bennett reported that the GCCF solicitor would assist with the rewording of the fixed penalties that followed breaches of Section 3:4c to ensure it was clear and legally correct. The attempt to be flexible and give reminders to judges, particularly by phone, had caused misunderstanding by lack of clarity and accuracy of record.  
**Action: Further consultation following the IC meeting on 18 January** GB
- 2.4 BD3612.2 A reminder to be given to Dr Moreland in the publication of the FIP leaflet. JL
- 2.5 BD3615 Show matters: the circulation of SMs was up date. The information on styles and costs of new UK Grand medals would be ready for report to FC (8 February). OM
- 2.6 BD3615.14 YES liaison. Revised documents were tabled on the day for information. Comments to go to LA.
- 2.7 BD3617.5 The RBAC had been informed that the Variant Policy would be changed to reflect their requests, but this would not be published until a complete revision of the policy had been made at the next GC meeting. INFO
- 2.8 BD3618.2 The Toyger Cat Club needed a reminder to send in their revised rules. JL
- 2.9 BD3618.3 Generic rules. The Breed Club version was ready for the website. Dr Bennett had recently revised the one for Area Clubs and when it had been proof read it would also be ready. JL/RF
- 2.10 BD3619.6 Mrs Lacey noted that as the Board had now had an opportunity to read the amendments the JAS was ready for the website and Council could be informed it had been corrected and updated. JL

#### **BD3624 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **BD3625 FINANCE**

1. **Financial Statement**
- 1.1 The OM reminded the Board that there were no management accounts at this meeting as the figures for the end of December were being collated for the end of year accounts to go to Monahans in early February.
- 1.2 An indication of results would be given at the February FC meeting and a first draft would be ready for the FC meeting in March. They could then be at the April Board meeting and presented at Council in June.
2. **Volume figures and transaction graphs for core business to date**
- 2.1 The OM commented that December had been a good month when compared to the same period in 2015. There had been the expected seasonal fall off but a 15% rise in registrations and transfers for that month.
- 2.2 Over the year as a whole there had been a small total increase of 2% in registrations and 4% in transfers when compared to the 2015 figures. Non-prefix registrations were at a record level.
- 2.3 The number of prefixes applied for showed a small increase and the year overall could be described as 'steady'. It was an indication that there would be new breeders in the future.
- 2.4 Import numbers had shown yet another dramatic rise. 2015 had been excellent, but there had been a 30% rise in 2016. Imports were only a small percentage of the total registrations, but they took a disproportionate amount of time. Thought was being given to improving the input process.
- 2.5 There was a request for a graph to show registrations per month in the same way that transfer per month were presented. The OM agreed to produce this.
- Action: Additional information to be provided in March.** OM
3. **Capital spending: the Finance Committee's recommendation for the 2016 accounts**
- 3.1 The recommendation of FC to the Board was that there should be a 50/50 split on the £60,000 IT costs between support and maintenance (profit and loss) and development (capital spending).
- 3.2 This would mean an additional £30,000 to be depreciated over three years, but £17,135 shown in 2014 would not be carried forward to the 2017 budget as depreciation for that amount would have been completed.
- 3.3 It was agreed by the Board to accept the recommendation from FC and also permit FC to make any final adjustments once the operational surplus for the year was known.
- Action: to be reviewed at the FC meeting on 8 February.** JL
4. **Contribution to the GCCF's World Cat Congress delegate's expenses**
- 4.1 Delegates to the World Cat Congress were given \$400 (Aus) towards their expenses by the WCC. Travel to places outside Europe could amount to £2000 and there could be additional subsistence and tour expenses. It was believed that most of the WCC affiliated organisations made some contribution towards their delegates's costs as they were representing the organisation.
- 4.2 Board members accepted there was justification for this, especially as most judges who could attend the WCC would not be used by the host organisation as they were not all-breed. It was agreed the proposition could be further considered in March to allow time for thought.
- Action: return to March agenda** JL
- 4.3 The next WCC conference would be in Las Vegas. The Chairman did not wish to attend and Mr Hansson was giving it some thought. INFO
5. **Waiver of charges for status change following required health tests**
- 5.1 It was pointed out that it would not be instantly possible to provide this, as further programming would be needed to cover the process involved.
- 5.2 It was also suggested that it should be incorporated into the rules as a principle, rather than only being stated on list of prices as not charged when the change is to satisfy health requirements.
- 5.3 After brief discussion it was accepted that it should be presented to Council in February as an intention, but without a definite implementation date. There could be a follow-up with a rule change in June.
- Action: to be on the agenda for February Council as notification** JL

1. **The 2017 Budget proposed by the Finance Committee**

- 1.1 The OM presented the budget, as recommended by FC, explaining where changes had been made from 2016 and the reason for them.
- 1.2 It was expected that there would be no significant increase in core business income, but that registration income would be in line with that for 2016 and stated aim to increase transfers by 5%.
- 1.3 The projected income from Agria was reduced slightly as the company had already given an alert of a decrease in kitten policies being issued. However, there would be income from GCCFI.
- 1.4 It was not anticipated that expenditure would change markedly in any area. Extra money had been put into marketing to cover the agreed contribution to the NPS team, but otherwise only a small addition to cover the expected increase in insurance and slight reduction to postage costs to reflect the actual amount spent in 2016. A five year year fixed rate deal for gas and electricity had been negotiated in 2016.
- 1.5 Staff costs had been reduced slightly to take account of the reduction in staff numbers, but it was noted that an agreed amount for staff end of year bonuses would need to be added.
- 1.6 The budget was unanimously approved by the Board with an allowance for FC to determine the percentage of IT costs to be capitalised.

**Action: implementation for 2017 operational accounts**

**OM**

2. **The 2017 business plan**

- 2.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell presented the final draft of the 2017 Business plan. She commented that her presentation of this to Council would be upbeat to emphasise what had been achieved and what progress was expected in the future.
- 2.2 Project Phoenix no longer featured as this had been completed, and no further changes to disciplinary system were expected either, so this did not feature as an ongoing project.
- 2.3 It was recognised that there could be problems extending GCCF internationally, but agreed that the stated aim should be to investigate the possibilities.
- 2.4 Most discussion centred on the need to determine a measure for show entries, as otherwise it would not be possible to know whether any growth had been achieved. It was thought that the simplest means of collation should be investigated and then the 2016 figure would be given as a baseline.

**Action: show returns to be considered to ascertain the best method of making a tally of exhibits**

**SRO**

- 2.5 No other comments or questions were raised on the day, and it was requested that if anything was thought of after the meeting it should be passed to SRO quickly so that she could finalise the plan and it could be made available to Council delegates. This was agreed.

**Action: Board comments to SRO, and then circulation to the Board of the finalised plan.**

**SRO**

3. **Report on online services**

- 3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that the aim to provide GCCF's existing services on a new computer system (Project Phoenix) had been achieved by the end of the year. Work could now begin on extending these and developing new services for customers and to improve office procedures.
- 3.2 She would make the presentation of this to Council in February with all work and costs detailed, as had been the commitment at the October Council meeting.
- 3.3 The iSeries computer had not yet been switched off and removed from service. Access was available, but it was intended to remove the need for this as soon as possible

**Action: Council presentation**

**SRO**

4. **Proposals for the support and development of the new IT system**

- 4.1 The proposals put forward by the IT steering Group had been approved by FC, and the necessary expenditure had been included in the 2017 budget under future IT development.
- 4.2 The same paper giving project detail for the development of services, with the potential benefit of each, was presented to the Board. It was explained that most were in the first two quarters as it was expected that the services of the dedicated programmer, who was now thoroughly familiar with the system and GCCF requirements, would be retained for this period. After this it was possible he would do occasional work and that Mr Macro would continue to give his available time.
- 4.3 Work on providing services to GCCFI was the priority, as currently its registrations were being done manually, and this had begun.
- 4.4 There was some discussion on the need for show services to be provided, but it was observed that there was a demand from some clubs, and as it would not be mandatory for show committees to use them there was no reason why the facility should not be offered as an option as required.
- 4.5 There were no further questions or objections, and it was observed that GCCF now had a computer system that would enable the business to be grown. Businesses that did not develop digitally were at serious risk of failure. The proposals were agreed by a majority with 2 abstentions.

**Action: implementation and presentation to Council for information**

**SRO**

5. **The GCCF partnerships - report**

- 5.1 Royal Canin had reported that the support of transfers had yielded far better returns than any other of its promotion initiatives. It was some five to six times ahead of any comparable project and would therefore be continued for the foreseeable future.
- 5.2 It was noted there would be RC support for the Supreme, and that the company's special interest was in the provision of educational seminars.
- 5.3 The news from Agria was not nearly so good. There had been a 70% drop in the five week free policies offered by breeders. It had been expected that there would be a glitch during the period that the new computer system went on line. However, there had been no bounce back as there had been with registrations.

- 5.4 Two directors reported that their personal experience was that they could no longer take the GCCF route to obtain policies and had had to take them directly with Agria. A screen prompt gave the information that it was because of GCCF computer system development. If this was the experience of others it would account for the fall.
- 5.5 There had been some discussion with Agria on this, and known that that the insurance company was redeveloping its own IT system. It was therefore difficult to establish where the problem lay until this was completed.
- 5.6 A representative from Agria would attend the next Council meeting.

INFO

**BD3627 STAFF & OFFICE**

**1. Staff report**

- 1.1 There had been one redundancy (in the manner previously discussed) and one retirement so there was currently a staff team of six. At present other staff members were covering the work previously undertaken by those who had left, but it was hoped to recruit a new member of staff soon.
- 1.2 The advertisement had been placed on three websites and there was interest from some promising applicants. It was expected that interviews would be held at the end of February.
- 1.3 A report was given on one member of staff that it was hoped would be of assistance to the OM if he should need to take action in the future. There was concern that the register could be compromised if agreed procedures were not followed and this needed to be monitored.

INFO

**2. Staff pension recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board was informed of the FC recommendation that the government pension scheme, NEST, should be used for the two members of staff who wished to be opted into a scheme by April as was an HMRC requirement.
- 2.2 It was explained that better returns could be obtained from private schemes, but these incurred costs and management not suitable for a small company.
- 2.3 There were no questions and the recommendation was unanimously approved.

**3. Staff bonuses - policy for 2017**

- 3.1 It was agreed that there should be a more formalised approach and a figure was determined that would be added to the 2017 budget (BD3626.1.5).
- 3.2 There was discussion on staff achieving performance targets set, and of management and personal appraisal of commitment to GCCF, so that a total amount could be split depending on individual contribution. However, it was acknowledged that assessment was difficult and could take an undue amount of management time. Therefore it was agreed that the method of determining bonus award should be discussed in depth by FC and a recommendation brought to the Board's March meeting.
- 3.3 It was thought that rewards for volunteers should also be funded from this pot (BD3623.3.3)

**Action: this to be on the agenda for the FC meeting of 8 February**

JL

**4. Office - general information**

- 4.1 The OM outlined the continuing problems experienced by the Office with the Broadband connection. It was hoped that this had been fixed earlier in the month, but it had been down again recently. Failure occasionally was an improvement on several times a day, but a permanent solution was required.
- 4.2 It was agreed a better (more expensive) level of support and maintenance package, that included compensation for lost business, might need to be bought if continued failures were experienced.
- 4.3 The Chairman urged Board members to visit the GCCF Office and familiarise themselves with the work undertaken there. It was confirmed that expenses incurred to do this would be met.

INFO

**BD3628 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL**

**1. Prefix applications**

- 1.1 19 prefixes were considered and accepted unanimously.

**2. The repetition in names of common English prepositions**

- 2.1 This would be on the February Council agenda as a club proposal.
- 2.2 It was observed that there would need to be some computer reprogramming if accepted, and so agreed that no definite implementation date would be set, but an announcement made once the work was completed and names accepted that reflected the rule change.

**Action: this information to be given at February Council**

SC

**BD3629 BYELAW AMENDMENT**

- 1.1 It was proposed that there was a Byelaw amendment to hold two elections for directors, so that there eleven Executive Directors (those willing to take an active role) and four Non-Executive Directors (those who preferred to be advisory only) were chosen. The intention was to define the responsibilities of directors in a more detailed manner and introduce some accountability to Council.
- 1.2 It was considered that the intentions of the proposal had some merit, but thought that it would not be accepted by delegates, and that there could be problems if not enough people wished to take a working role and be held responsible for project outcome, but far more wished to make only a non-executive commitment.
- 1.3 The amendment was therefore not agreed.
- 1.4 It was suggested that the presentation of the Business Plan would show the projects that would need support and those standing for the Board could be encouraged to express their interest and abilities to lead or be involved in these.

1.5 This would have the benefit of allowing delegates to consider a suitable team when voting, and project progress reports would give some indication of performance to provide some accountability.

**Action: to be further considered in March to develop the statement requirements prior to elections** JL

#### BD3630 THE SUPREME SHOW

1. **Report on the 2016 Supreme Show**

1.1 No final figure was available, as the bookkeeper was working on the accounts, but the OM estimated that the deficit was approximately £10,000. It was confirmed that this figure was for the show accounts and did not include the £5,000 for the additional event to mark the 40th anniversary.

1.2 The accounts would be presented at FC on 8 February and the Board kept informed.

INFO

2. **The 2017 Supreme Show**

2.1 It was confirmed that the meeting of the Supreme Show Committee planned for 29 January, would go ahead and would be led by the Chairman rather than a Show Manager. The Vice-Chairman was unable to be present, but was committed to take an active role in producing the show.

2.2 He had visited the NEC with Mrs Ashmore to discuss the halls, and had requested car parking space in hall 20 at no extra cost. This was to be confirmed. There had also been some discussion on giving judges vouchers to purchase food, rather than providing a lunch.

2.3 The main purpose of the meeting would be to assign responsibilities so that everyone attending knew what they would be expected to deliver, and would sign a written agreement of commitment to do so. At present there was no hall management team. Those who signed up would form the Supreme Committee and the list of names published. Meeting notes would be taken (JL) and circulated to the Board.

2.4 The show structure and classes would be reviewed, the colour of the drapes and rosettes would be changed, and consideration be given to owners presenting their own cats in the ring.

2.5 Further meetings would be planned for April and August.

INFO

#### BD3631 OTHER SHOW MATTERS

1. **2016/2017 Show changes - for report**

1.1 Herts & Midds CC -25 February 2017 (sharing with Cov & Leics CC). Mrs J Coomer has resigned as SM (was joint with Mrs L Szwed who is still listed as sole SM)

1.2 Central LH & Semi LH CC - 6 May 2017. Mr K Scruton no longer joint SM with Mrs E Fryer.

2. **2016/2017 Show Changes - for approval** None

3. **2017/2018 Show changes - for report**

3.1 Bristol & District CC & Cambria - 3 June 2017 Venue change to Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon. The change would be for one year only,

3.2 Scotia Cat Fanciers - 15 July 2017. Venue changed to Lanark Agricultural Centre, Muir Glen, Hyndford Road Lanark ML 11 9AX.

3.2 Longhair Cream & Blue Cream CA - 2 September 2017. Venue advised as Twyford Scout Hall, Loddon Road, Twyford Reading RG10 9JA.

3.3 Russian Blue Breeders Association/Korat & Thai CA - 7 October 2017 (shared show). Venue changed to Bugbrooke Community Centre, Camp Close, Bugbrooke, Northants NN7 3RW.

3.4 Seal Point Siamese CC - 7 October 2017. Venue changed to Melbourn Village College, The Moor, Melbourn, Herts SG8 6EF.

3.5 White Persian CC - 4 November 2017. Mr K Scruton no longer joint SM with Mrs G Wylde.

4. **2017/2018 Show Licence Changes -for approval**

4.1 Tabby CC - 7 October 2017. Endorsement received from Chairman of Smoke CS even though the club is winding up (approved by the Board). Tabby CC no longer wants other breeds (Persian, Selkirk and NFC.)

4.2 Edinburgh & East of Scotland CC/Caledonian LH CC - 7 October 2017 (from 14 November previously agreed) Request further date change to 14 October 2017. Approved by the Board for ED&ES CC, but now confirmed that CALH CC still sharing

\*4.3 Blue Persian CS - 4 November 2017. Date change requested to 11 November 2017 as no longer wishing to share with White Persian CC. Mrs G Wylde to be sole SM for both shows held a week apart.

**This was not agreed as there would be a massive impact on the entry for this show and that of the White Persian CC held a week earlier. The club to be asked to provide an alternative date.**

4.4 Siamese CC - 4 November 2017. Date change requested to 11 November 2017.

\*4.5 North of Britain LH & Semi LH CC - 11 November 2017. Date change requested to 2 December 2017 as no longer sharing with Yorkshire CC & British SH CC. Mrs L Dutton to replace Mrs L Ashmore as SM.

**To be asked to consider a different date as there would be risk of a lack of judges.**

\*4.6 Colourpoint Rex Coated &AOV CC - 25 November 2017. Date change requested to 2 December 2017, due to venue availability.

**To be asked to consider a different date as there would be risk of a lack of judges**

4.7 Trans Pennine Oriental & Siamese CC - @ December 2017. Mr Ross Davies now submitted as SM.

4.8 Household pet CC of GB - 14 April 2018. Date change requested to 7 April 2018 in line with this season's date.

**Approved accept for those marked \*. Clubs concerned to be contacted.**

OFFICE

**5. 2016-17 Late Show Licence Applications - for approval**

5.1 Progressive Ragdoll CC - 5 May 2018 (sharing with Midland Counties CC/Central LH CC. Venue: Perdiswell Leisure centre, Worcester, WR3 8DX. SM Mrs J Huyton.

5.2 Southern Counties CC and Croydon CC (back to back) - 10 February 2018 Venue Riversmead Leisure Centre.

**Approved**

**OFFICE**

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

6.1 Abyssinian CC - 10 June 2017: Venue.

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

6.3 Caesarea CC - 14 October 2017: Show Manager

6.4 GCCF Supreme Show - 28 October 2017: Show Manager

6.5 Birman CC - 25 November 2017: Show Manager

6.6 Northern Birman CC - 7 April 2018: Venue

6.7 Cambridge CC/Ocicat CC (shared show) 28 April 2018: Possibly date/venue.

**7. 2017/2018 Show Licence Applications Not yet Received**

7.1 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland; Scottish CC;

7.2 It was noted that the National Pet Shows for November 2017 and May 2018 would need licences. Forms would be sent out on request.

**SH**

**BD3632 SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP**

**1. An update**

1.1 Mrs Kaye reported that the SSRG had not had a meeting since the November Board meeting, and that it was planned that their next would be held jointly with BAC Review Group. She and the Vice-Chairman would sort out a mutually convenient date.

1.2 Reform of the show structure was intended to make the system fairer for exhibitors, but it was crucial that judges were trained more efficiently for the multi-breed sections. It was already getting very difficult to find a sufficient number of judges if several shows were on one date.

1.3 In general discussion it was commented that it was possible that the Board would have to impose change, as had happened with previous restructures, or options could be given to Council and the most favoured accepted without it necessarily achieving a majority of the votes.

1.4 One possibility could be that in future there would be 100 show licences for any one year and clubs would be expected to bid for them.

**Action: Meeting arrangement**

**CK /JH**

**2. Judge eligibility**

2.1 There was general consensus that the Original Foreign Section should require the grand judge to be full on two lists, as had always been the case.

2.2 There were further comments on the inaccuracy of the judge list published on the website. It was suggested that the Vice-Chairman should assess it to see what mistakes there were so that these could be passed on for correction.

2.3 The addition of the symbol 'B' was not liked by some. It was thought inappropriate as GCCF judges incurring a penalty were disqualified from judging for a given period rather than 'banned'.

**Action: list review and possible inaccuracies to be discussed with HMP**

**JH**

**BD3633 BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS**

**1. Application for the promotion of the Australian Mists to Championship Status**

1.1 The Australian Mist BAC had incorporated the suggested changes from the Board into its Registration and Breeding Policies. This included the DNA testing for imports.

1.2 There were no further queries and it was agreed that the application for Championship Status should be on the February Council Meeting agenda.

**Action: application to be listed on the agenda for February Council and the A-M BAC informed.**

**JL**

**2. Application for name recognition for the British Longhair**

2.1 There was some discussion on whether the name British could be used for a new breed, when British was used by British Shorthairs but the application was not put forward by the British Shorthair GC as a new hair length as an existing breed. However, it was observed that this was a breed that existed in other organisations and it would make difficulties to rename.

2.2 Another point raised was whether the BLH was sufficiently different to be a breed in its own right, but the Exotic and Persians, and Siamese and Balinese, provided a precedent for this.

2.3 A vote was taken and it was agreed that the British Longhair would be given name recognition in GCCF which allowed for it to be registered and shown on exhibition. 2 against, 3 abstentions.

2.4 There had been a discussion on coding with FIFe representative, Sarah Johnson, and it was agreed that BRI should be dropped and BSH and BLH should be used for the British Shorthair and Longhair respectively which brought GCCF back into line with FIFe.

2.5 It was pointed out that the SOP and Registration Policy submitted by the BLH Group contained a number of inaccuracies, and were not yet fit for purpose. It was agreed these should be forwarded to GC so that assistance could be provided

**Action: the name recognition to be included on the February Council agenda for information**

**The BLH Group to be informed that at present it was 'name recognition' only that had received approval**

**JL**

3. **Revisions to the Ocicat & Aztec Registration Policies**
  - 3.1 A further letter had been received from the Ocicat & Aztec BAC giving more justification for wishing to clear the Burmese colour restriction gene (cb) from the breed within a single generation.
  - 3.2 The arguments were considered flawed as they linked the gene with health issues and type, without supporting evidence. It was known that cb was entirely separate from the mutations that caused the fatal head defect and hypokalaemic polymyopathy as they occurred in other species.
  - 3.3 The letter included a request for the policies to go to the February Council meeting. It was agreed that this should be refused and that they should be passed to the GC and VAC for comment, and possibly to independent advisers, so that any future presentation in Council would include expert evidence.

**Action: a letter with this information to be sent to the Ocicat & Aztec BAC** JL
  
4. **Revised Balinese Registration Policy for approval**
  - 4.1 There were no queries or comments and this was approved.

**Action: to be on the agenda for the February Council Meeting** JL
  
5. **Revised Oriental Registration Policy for approval**
  - 5.1 There were no queries or comments and this was approved.

**Action: to be on the agenda for the February Council Meeting** JL
  
6. **Revised Siamese SOP for approval (minor change)**
  - 6.1 This was the removal of 'pricked' from the description of the ears as it was sometimes misinterpreted.
  - 6.2 It was agreed it could be published on the website and Council would be notified.

**Action: website publication and notification to February Council** JL/RF
  
7. **To clarify the definition of the term generation in a registration policy**
  - 7.1 It had been suggested that clarification was needed to establish whether or not the cat was counted when the number of pedigree generations was determined.
  - 7.2 It was noted that it was common for BACs who used three generations in a registration policy to define them as 'parents, grandparents and great-grandparents'. BACs who used more, often used the term 'preceding generations' and this was understood to mean preceding (going in front of) the cat.
  - 7.3 GCCF issued 3,4, and 5 generation pedigrees and these did not include the cat, and it was believed that this was in line with other registries. The cat itself was not generation 1. It was agreed that this applied to the parents, with the grandparents as generation 2, and great grandparents as generation 3, and so on.

**Action: check on wording in connection with imports to ensure it was sufficiently clear** OM
  
8. **SOP template update**
  - 8.1 Mrs Fisher had completed this with some breed detail with sufficient information for it to provide an example to use consultation with all BACs.
  - 8.2 Information on the project to be given at Council.

**Action: to be on the agenda for the February Council Meeting** JL
  
9. **Policy for dealing with historic registration errors made in the Office**
  - 9.1 This was deferred to provide an opportunity for options to be presented.

**Action: to be on the agenda for the March Board meeting** JL
  
10. **Discussion on change in terminology from 'register' to status re the active, non-active and genetic registers**
  - 10.1 it was explained that the term register was inappropriate for the active, non-active and genetic registers as they were not separate from the Full, Supplementary and Reference Registers in registration policies, but defined the status of the cat's breeding suitability by breeder determination and the health requirements of individual policies.
  - 10.2 There would be quite extensive rewriting required for sections of the rules where these were defined, but the purpose was to find appropriate terminology and clarify rather than alter the meaning of the rules. Once a draft had been made the Board and BACs would be consulted.
  - 10.3 It was agreed that this was a worthwhile project.

**Action: Introduction of the project in Council** SRO

**BD3634 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS**

1. **2017 club returns**
  - 1.1 Mrs Goadby said that as yet the forms for 2017 were not on the website. If clubs wished to make a start they could download those for 2016 and change the date.

**Action: 2017 to be published as soon as they were ready.** OM

  - 1.2 It was hoped to add the generic breed and area club rules to the site so that clubs making revisions could use these if they wished. INFO
  
2. **Application for Membership of the GCCF by the Aztec Cat Club**
  - 2.1 Mr Goadby confirmed that the application had been received and the required fee paid.
  - 2.2 The club had revised its rules to use the generic version. JL

**Action: The club to be contacted and the application to be on the agenda of the February Council meeting.**
  
3. **Application for Membership of the GCCF by the Northern British Longhair and Shorthair Cat Club**
  - 3.1 It was noted that the club had not given all the detail required on the application, but Mrs Goadby confirmed that this was an application for Full Membership. The club had been a provisional member for three years and made returns. The additional information could be provided.
  - 3.2 Mr Goadby confirmed that the club rules had been received. JL

**Action: The club to be contacted and the application to be on the agenda of the February Council meeting.**

4. **Application for Provisional Membership of the GCCF by the Chartreux Cat Club UK**
  - 4.1 The club rules had been received, and had been circulated, but the application form and cheque had not yet reached the GCCF Office.
  - 4.2 The application would be deferred to March to allow time for the application and payment to be received.
  - 4.3 Dr Bennett had some queries on the rules and would contact the club for clarification.

**Action:the club to be informed and the application returned to the March agenda** **JL**
  
5. **Change of Status request from the Longhair and Semi-Longhair CC**
  - 5.1 There was some brief discussion on this, but it was felt that it should be given time for consideration because of the possibility that it would set a precedent.
  - 5.2 Opinion on possible terms and conditions varied quite widely.

**Action:the club to be informed and the application returned to the March agenda** **JL**

**BD3635           EVENTS**

1. **Cat Of The Year Competition - GCCF club championship shows only**
  - 1.1 The Vice-Chairman gave the results for all categories at the mid way point of the competition.
  - 1.2 These would be published on the website.

**Action: publication** **JH/RF**
  
2. **Request for a 'Prefix of the Year' competition**
  - 2.1 It was reported that as far as was known this was a request from just one person that had been sent in to the Office.
  - 2.2 it was agreed that support of a club was needed, and any such request would need to be accompanied by a scoring methodology and a willingness to help with running, as it would be complex and time consuming.

**INFO**
  
3. **The National Pet Shows report**
  - 3.1 Mrs Heavens gave a brief update that said there were no problems or issues other than that she needed to pass on detail of the show licence application procedure to the team, as in other years Mrs Gregory had taken care of this.
  - 3.2 The OM replied that only brief details were required and offered to send a scan of the previous year's application so that it could be copied.

**Action: assistance to NPS team to enable the licence application** **OM/SH**

**BD3636           ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. A letter had been received requesting assistance for a survey to ascertain whether there were recent cases of Key-Gaskell syndrome (Feline Dysautonomia) in pedigree cats. It was agreed that it should be referred to GC and the VAC for comment.

The meeting finished 5.10pm with deferrals where noted.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY** 7 March 2017, at 11.00 for 11.15am, Brockway Room at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London.