



MINUTES

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

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Wednesday, 16 November 2016 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London



Present: Mr Steve Crow - 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	Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Ms Heather McRae	Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell
Mr John Robinson	Mrs Lisa Talboys

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

BD3606 MEETING INTRODUCTION

The meeting was informed of the very recent death of Mrs Chris Bamford.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of: the Vice- Chairman, Mr John Hansson and Mrs Pat Perkins.
The Board had been notified that Mrs Marriott-Power would be unavoidably late.

2. Chairman's Opening remarks

2.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.23am and welcomed those present.
2.2 He gave updates on Cat Group and Canine & Feline Sector Group discussions. The CG policies on FeLV and FIV would be updated shortly by Professor Jarrett, and the check list for new buyers of kittens that had been prepared was undergoing final revision before circulation to the C&FSG. Most of its information would be familiar to GCCF breeders.
2.3 A further 'Big Tent' meeting was due to be held at Westminster to inform stakeholders in the sector who were not within C&FSG of the work it was undertaking.
2.4 The Board were informed of aims to get the official status of cats revised so that they were treated as sentient beings rather than chattels in law, and to get legislation in place to introduce compulsory microchipping for owned cats. The Chairman doubted that government time would be given to these issues during this parliamentary session.

INFO

3. The appointment of a new GCCF President and Vice-President

3.1 The Vice-Chairman had circulated two names to the Board, and these were the only suggestions received to date. As he was unable to be present it was not known whether this was for information or to be considered as a proposal for the Board to take forward.
3.2 It was agreed that there should be a reminder given at February Council, followed by website information, on the submission of proposals to ensure clubs could put forward their candidates. It was hoped proposals would be received in the spring after AGMs, and names could then be published, with the nominations for Officers and Board/Committee members, prior to the Electoral Meeting in June.

INFO

4. Meeting dates for 2017

4.1 Dates of the Kennel Club's availability had been circulated prior to the meeting. Most Board members preferred it as a meeting venue and it was slightly cheaper than the Conway Hall
4.2 It was agreed the suggested dates should be secured and published quickly as some members needed to fit these in with other commitments.

Action: confirmation with the KC and recirculation of the dates to the Board asap.

OM

BD3607 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 6 September 2016

1.1 These had been circulated in advance of the meeting and suggested amendments had been made.
1.2 The final draft was approved without further correction.

Action: to be published on the website

JL/RF

2. Matters arising from the September minutes

2.1 The Chairman noted that actions arising from this meeting had been completed.
2.2 BD3600.9 The Maine Coon BAC had confirmed that it wanted the AC class restricted to Smokes, Shaded and Selves. This information had been circulated to the Board at the end of September and was then added to the show management section of the website.

3. The draft minutes of the 5 October 2016 Council meeting

3.1 These had been circulated for correction and no amendments had been received.
3.2 It was indicated that Ocicat Cat Club might want an addition as there was no record of the conversation between the Chairman and the BAC representative,
3.3 It was observed that club amendments could be taken after publication and/or at the next Council meeting.

3.4 The OM noted that he had laid out the revision of the rule to Section 5:3 for printing though there had been no amendment to the text. It was agreed this improved the clarity.

Action: minutes to be published on the website

JL/RF

BD3608 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

1.1 Club and show interests were as on record. No new information was given.

INFO

BD3609 FINANCE

1. Management accounts for 2016 business

1.1 The OM had been able to produce accounts in the standard format. He noted that it was better to be looking at the past three months together rather than separately as there had been marked falls and rises during the transition period to the new system. These fluctuations had stabilised.

1.2 He was pleased to be able to give a very positive report. At the end of September income was up by 8% on 2015.

1.3 A surplus could be predicted for the end of the year even if none of the additional IT expenditure was to be capitalised.

1.4 If all expenses were included expenditure for 2016 was up by 18% on the previous year and this did not yet include all the cost of promoting GCCF at the Supreme. Bills for this were paid during October.

1.5 It was probable that the income for October would be in line with that of the previous year, which had shown an increase on that for 2014.

INFO

2. Volume figures and transaction graphs for core business to date

2.1 The cumulative total of prefix registrations was very similar to that for the same period in the previous year, which was down on 2014. However, those for non-prefix were at a record high which had resulted in the total litter registration numbers overall showing an increase.

2.2 Transfer numbers also were slightly up on those for the previous year. The OM observed that the transfer incentive was now sustaining the much improved proportion of registered kittens transferred (around 40%, but below 25% in 2014) but believed this had now plateaued.

2.3 The number of prefixes applied for showed a small increase. As this was an improvement on recent years it indicated positively for the future.

2.4 Import numbers continued to rise, putting them at a record level, and also as a trend that expressed a good level of confidence in GCCF. It was noted that dealing with transfers took a considerable amount of registrar time. It was a process that needed to be further computerised, and when this was perfected it was intended that it would be shared with the other WCC registries so that checks could be automated.

INFO

3. Capitalisation of spending for the 2016 accounts

3.1 The OM had consulted the GCCF's accountant on this who had advised that the total amount of the additional IT spend (£60k) or none of it would be easily justifiable, but a proportion of a total not so acceptable.

3.2 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell pointed out that there were two separate totals. There had been a £40,000 additional spend on the development of the new computer system to make it fit for purpose. During this process it had been necessary to include some new requirements which could be justified as ongoing support and maintenance (£20,000), and this would be a feature of future budgets. She proposed that the proportion for development only should be capitalised. The Board agreed this should be referred to FC for further consideration and FC would then report back to the Board.

Action: to be on the agenda for the FC meeting on 30 November.

JL.

Note: O'Hara Wood had merged with Monahans of Bath, although the company name was still in use and Laura Green would continue to look after the account. It was understood that they wished to retain GCCF business.

1. The GCCF partnerships - report

1.1 During the GCCF computer system transition period Agria had experienced a dip in their business due to the decline in registrations and transfers processed in July and early August. That had now stabilised and it was reported that the relationship was now improving once again.

1.2 The intention was that Agria would be able to draw registration detail directly from the GCCF computer rather than GCCF system having to access and send it. The streamlining would remove any remaining difficulties breeders were experiencing in getting cover notes, and the message about the GCCF system causing problems would be removed. It was understood Agria would be upgrading its own computer system in 2017.

1.3 The next meeting was planned for 15 December, and there was a conference call booked prior to that to discuss marketing. It was felt that Agria still had a way to go in understanding that cats were not small dogs and cat owning customers had a different outlook and needs to their canine equivalents.

1.4 Royal Canin had reported an extremely successful Supreme and remained extremely pleased at the take up of the transfer incentive offer. It had exceeded expectations for this type of promotion.

1.5 The company was keen to remain involved with GCCF and would support the next Supreme Event and the Newsletter.

INFO

2. Report on the installation of the new system and on-line services

2.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that by the year end there should be a return to normality, with all the processes that had existed on the old system functioning satisfactorily on the new. The work for the DC system and prefixes was expected to be completed.

2.2 Registrations and transfers were now handled smoothly, with very few difficulties reported. In September there had been around 100 bugs to fix and the number had reduced to 33, with most of these being minor issues.

- 2.3 Work remained to be done on regularising the show processes, and that was planned to begin later that week. It was pointed out that the GEMS codes used for variants needed to be translated to show codes when these variants were eligible to be shown in the breed classes of another breed. Also, that at present there was some inconsistency in the display of sire and dam and that needed to be standardised for the avoidance of mistakes.
- 2.4 There would be a meeting of the IT steering Group on 28 November. The principle business would be to prioritise the list of future developments for the new system with some estimation of time and cost. At present there were around 100 possibilities. The outcome would be passed for FC consideration.
- 2.5 There would also be discussion on system maintenance. SRO believed that the current programmers would remain available, but it was felt that an alternative should be presented for comparison. **JL**

Action: Information from the meeting to be on the FC November agenda and the Board January agenda.

3. **Proposals for the support and development of Phoenix**

- 3.1 At present 100 or more suggestions had been made for future uses of the system. These would be costed and prioritised in advance of presentation. **INFO**

4. **Report on the business plan for 2017**

- 4.1 Mr Rainbow-Ockwell presented a paper listing the current goals and asked Board members for priorities and exclusions. A brief summary was given of what had been achieved in 2016. This indicated some limitations because of extended work on the new computer system, and a follow on from this was the member of staff expected to take more responsibility for marketing had not been able to follow through in this area.

- 4.2 It was agreed that an increase in show entry numbers should be a priority, with the Show Structure Review Group and BAC Review Group presenting proposals. Online show entries were also suggested.

- 4.3 Work on the disciplinary system had been completed and this could be removed as a goal.

- 4.4 There was a need to attract young people to participate in GCCF activities and that needed to be shown.

Action: a draft of the 2017 plan to be circulated to the Board by the end of the month.

SRO

BD3611 RULE & FIXED PENALTY CHANGES (proposed by IC, see minute addendum for full text))

1. **Revision of Section 1:3d (mating certificates) to reflect current practice**

- 1.1 The order of the wording of rules 3d and 3e had been revised for clarification and wording inserted in 3d, e and f to allow for electronic declaration, which was already operational in practice.

- 1.2 A note followed 3e to emphasise that GCCF did not intervene in any disputes over contracts between stud and queen owners as these were a private arrangement with alleged contravention requiring legal advice.

Actions: to be included on the February Council agenda

JL

a check to be made that the new system informed stud owners when their male was declared as the sire for registration and they were not the owner of the dam.

SRO

2. **Additional wording to Section 2:21 to ensure notification of judges absent from a show**

- 2.1 The intention of the rule change was to clarify this was a show manager (not club) responsibility as if the correct information was not supplied judges were chased for reports from shows they did not attend. That had occurred on multiple occasions and was a cause of annoyance.

- 2.2 It was agreed to implement a standard process of show returns rather than add a rule to see if this resolved the issue. A list of judges present was required in addition to the marked catalogue. This could then be passed on to the person checking the submission of critiques.

Action: SMs to be notified.

Office

3. **Fixed penalty to be attached for a breach of 2:21 by show managers**

- 3.1 This was not required as there was no additional rule (see above).

INFO

4. **Section 3:4c the publication of judges' show report**

- 4.1 The wording of the rule remained unchanged. The intention was to update the procedure for dealing with late show reports so that it was clear and applied equally to all.

- 4.2 Judges would lose the 7 days grace following the 28 days allowed for the submission of reports to the website. There would be no personal phone contact as the calls were not always welcomed politely.

- 4.3 However, as long as notification of lateness was supplied within the 28 days judges would gain time at difficult or busy occasions to complete reports at their own discretion. Under the existing fixed penalty system this was acceptable for up to four times in a show year without penalty.

It was acknowledged that the present system could not continue and that there was a need for judges to be given clarity on procedure and for all to be treated equally. No objections were put on record.

Action: a letter to go to judges from IC detailing the changes

JL

5. **Information on procedure agreed by IC for dealing with persistent lateness.**

- 5.1 Persistent lateness in any one show year was checked by IC annually at its autumn meeting.

- 5.2 It was intended that penalties would apply if reports were late on five or more occasions, but not in addition to sanctions applied for any single instance, only if reports were frequently late, but submitted prior to any other sanction being sent out.

Action: information to be included in the letter to go to judges

JL

BD3612 VETERINARY MATTERS

1. **Instructions to vets doing vetting-in on core vaccinations and booster frequency**

- 1.1 Information had been circulated by the GCCF Veterinary Officer in response to a request made at the June Council meeting.

INFO

- 1.2 It was considered to be sufficiently clear, with no reason for it to cause dispute over the timing of boosters.

2. **Information on FIP for publication**
 - 2.1 It was noted this needed some proof reading.
 - 2.2 It was agreed that when this had been done it should be added to the GCCF website for information.**Action: to be reported to Dr Moreland.**

JL

BD3613 PREFIXES FOR APPROVAL

1. **Prefix applications**
 - 1.1 30 prefixes were considered and accepted unanimously. Some would be confirmed to applicants once club support had been notified as online applications had not included this information.
 - 1.2 One change from a first choice to another was accepted on the day.**Action: Applicants to be informed.**
2. **Repetition of some prepositions and other grammatical terms**
 - 2.1 This had been taken to a club as suggested at the last Board meeting.
 - 2.2 After an enthusiastic response from the club membership a rule change would be proposed by the club to the February Council meeting.

OFFICE

INFO

BD3614 THE SUPREME SHOW

1. **Report on the 2016 Supreme Show**
 - 1.1 The Chairman reported that it was too early yet to give any definite financial information. He had had a conversation with the hall manager who had stated there were still a number of outstanding bills so that it was impossible to draw any conclusions. The one fact known was that the gate had increased, mainly due to advance ticket sales rather than receipts on the day which indicated some success with the advertising campaigns. (There was information to come on which of these had proved most advantageous).
 - 1.2 The central market area had proved a success with traders and the public. Most stall holders approached on the day were happy with their takings. Exhibitors seemed to like that the area around the pens was quieter with shopping, meeting cats on club row and the rings being the main attractions, as intended.
 - 1.3 Agria had been happy, RC ecstatic, which was promising for future sponsorship. There had seemed to be a good feel to the occasion and cat numbers were up by a few. All of that was promising, but it was thought there might be additional charges from the NEC that were not pre-paid as the centre's new management strategies were an unknown.
 - 1.4 This year the GCCF's bookkeeper would be responsible for the accounts to ensure VAT was paid and/or reclaimed by standard accounting practices. It was hoped a first draft could be reported to FC.
2. **The 2017 Supreme Show**
 - 2.1 It was noted a meeting of the Supreme Show Committee was planned for 29 January, and members were named. It was stated that a new hall management team had been found.
 - 2.2 It was reported that Mrs Culf (SSM) had requested that it be made clear which decisions she could take freely and what had to be referred to the Board. She did not want to make plans and then have to backtrack. She was to be informed that changes requiring a financial outlay needed Board approval.
 - 2.3 Judges were discussed briefly. It was hoped that most who were happy to judge there would be given an opportunity, to prevent frequent repetition. The committee would be consulted in the selection process.
 - 2.4 It was thought Olympian Classes would be appreciated and confirmed that this was being considered.
 - 2.5 There was to be an IT review to fix problems that occurred at the 2016 show.
 - 2.6 It was confirmed that the show would again be the main feature of an event to promote GCCF and cats.

INFO

INFO

BD3615 OTHER SHOW MATTERS

1. **2016/2017 Show changes - for report**
 - 1.1 Burmese CA - 7 January 2017. Mrs R Fisher appointed as ASM.
 - 1.2 Gwynedd CC - 4 February 2017. Miss J Madrell appointed as one of the joints ASMs in place of Mrs Prescott.
2. **2016/2017 Show Changes & Late Show Licence Applications for approval**
 - 2.1 Scottish CC and West of Scotland CC - 3 December 2016 (shared show). Date change requested to 7 January 2017.
 - 2.2 United Chinchilla Association - 28 January 2017. Show cancelled due to the death of Eileen Peachey.
 - 2.3 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland - 25 March 2017. A late application to share with Preston & Blackpool CC, SM Mrs J Mercer, ASM Mrs N Carter. All Somalis requested as additional breeds.
 - 2.4 Northern Siamese & Oriental CS - 8 April 2017. Mrs E Watson submitted as SM in place of Mrs A Fox.
 - 2.5 Household Pet CC of GB - 8 April 2017. Late application. Venue Ettington Community Centre CV37 7SX. SM Mrs Kay Short. This was to be categorised as an All Breed show.
 - 2.6 Chocolate Pointed Siamese CC/Midshire Siamese CA (shared show) - 5 May 2017. Mrs J Starr appointed as SM in place of Mrs J Pounds.
3. **2017/2018 Show changes - for report**
 - 3.1 Egyptian Mau CC - 7 October 2017 (sharing with the Tabby CC & Selkirk Rex CC) venue change to The Sports Connexion, CV8 3FL.
 - 3.2 Kentish CA - 21 October 2017 wish to retain the date although only one week from the Supreme. Caledonia & Edinburgh clubs advised, and will make a decision after their 2016 November show.
 - 3.3 Gwynedd CC - 3 February 2018. Miss J Madrell appointed as a joint ASM in place of Mrs Prescott.
 - 3.4 Herts & Midds CC 24 February 2018. Show postponement until the next season to change the date to 28 July at a different venue. (Club advised this will not be approved until an application is received for consideration in September 2017.)

All changes approved

3.5 Cambridge CC - 28 April 2018. Bedford & District no longer want to share so CAMCAT now looking for a new date (possibly end of March) and venue. This will also affect the Ocicat CC.x

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

4.1 Lincolnshire CC & Humberside CC - 22 July 2017 (shared show). Date change requested to 29 July 2017, as required by the venue.

4.2 Manchester & District CC - 9 September 2017. Date change requested to Sunday, 3 September 2017 and for the appointment of a second ASM, Ms E Prescott.

4.3 Caesarea CC 7 October 2017. Date change requested to 14 October 2017 as unable to have the venue on the original dates.

4.4 Scotia Cat Fanciers - 7 October 2017. Date change requested to 15 July 2017, with the SM as Mrs P Bruno-Grieve and ASM, Mr L Coyne.

It was noted that both the SM and ASM were inexperienced and qualification needed to be checked.

Ms McCrae offered to take a supporting and mentoring role and this information would be passed on*.

4.5 Rex CC - 7 October 2017. Date queried and confirmed as 14 October 2017.

4.6 Northern Siamese & Oriental CS - 14 April 2018. Mrs E Watson submitted as SM in place of Mrs A Fox.

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

5.1 Erin CC - 2 September 2017. Venue Six Mile Leisure Centre, BT399YU. SMs Mr D Dowds & Mr S Cahoon, and ASMs Miss C Murtagh & Mrs R Patience. 6 judges.

5.2 LH Cream & Blue Cream CA -2 September 2017. Venue TBA. SM Mrs S Tokens, ASM Mrs S Heath. PER/EXO: AOC except Smokes, Chinchillas, Goldens and Colourpoints.

5.3 Tonkinese CC - 2 September 2017 (sharing with Wyvern CC). Venue Perdiswell Leisure Centre, WR3 8DX. SM Mrs B Prowse.

5.4 Wyvern CC - 2 September 2017 (sharing with Tonkinese CC). Venue Perdiswell Leisure Centre, WR3 8DX. SM Mrs B Prowse.

5.5 Rex CA - 23 September 2017 (sharing with BOB, CPSOC, SPHXCC). Venue Rivermead Leisure Complex, RG1 8EQ. SM Mrs S Tokens.

5.6 Selkirk Rex CC - 7 October 2017 (sharing with E Mau & Tabby CCs.) Venue The Sports Connexion, CV8 3FL. SM Mrs B Prowse.

5.7 Tabby CC - 7 October 2017 (sharing with EGYMAU & Selkirk RexCCs). Venue the Sports Connexion, CV8 3FL. SM Mrs B Prowse. **The endorsement of the Smoke CS for additional classes to remain this year, but not in future if the Smoke CS no longer existed*.**

5.8 Transpennine Oriental & Siamese CC - 22 December 2017. Venue Stockport Guildhall SK1 3UA. SM Mrs J Smith and ASMs Mr R Davies and Mr P Masters.

5.9 West of Scotland - 2 December 2017. Venue Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, ML1 2TZ. SMs Mrs H McCrae & Mr R McCrae. ASM TBA.

5.10 Norwegian Forest CC - 17 December 2017. Venue Greig Leisure Centre B49 6AD. SMs Mr B Gregory & Mrs D Taylor. **It was noted that the date needed to be checked as the SM team was elsewhere*.**

5.11 Asian Group CS - 20 January 2018 (sharing with the SHCS et al). The Sports Connexion, CV8 3FL. SM Mrs L Ashmore

5.12 Preston & Blackpool CC - 24 March 2018 (**possibly sharing with RACCS?**). Venue Preston College Sports Centre. SM Mrs J Mercer.

5.13 Burmese CA - 31 March 2018. Venue Ardley with Fawcote Village hall, OX27 7PA. SM Mrs L Ashmore, ASM Mrs R Fisher.

5.14 Kernow CC - 31 March 2018 (sharing with SW British Shorthair). Venue The Matford Centre EX2 8FD. SM Mrs J Truscott, ASM Mrs C Greet.

5.15 Household Pet CC of GB - 14 April 2018. Venue Ettington Community Centre CV37 7SX. SM Mrs K Short.

5.16 Chocolate Pointed CC - 5 May 2018 (sharing with MIDSS). Venue Bugbrooke Community Centre NN7 3RW. SM Mrs J Pounds (see 2.2.5), ASM Mrs K Burrows. Oriental Section cats requested.

5.17 Midshires Siamese CA 5 May 2018 (sharing with CPS). Venue Bugbrooke Community Centre NN7 3RW. SM Mrs J Pounds (see 2.2.5), ASM Mrs H Elliott. Oriental Section cats requested.

5.18 Siamese Cat Society of Scotland - 12 May 2018 (sharing with NESCO). Venue Caird Hall, City Centre Dundee, DD1 3BB. SMs Drs B & G Bennett and Mrs P Bruno Grieve. ASM Mr Neil Carter.

Approval was given for the changes with concern as indicated*.

Office

6. **2017/2018 Show Licence Applications Not yet Received**

6.1 Croydon CC*; Progressive Ragdoll BCC*; Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland; Southern Counties CC*.

* Club returns not completed before SLAs were issued, but now have the information and application form.

7. **General matters**

7.1 **Erin CC Olympian result.** It was agreed this had to stand as it was not corrected on the day. The judge to be asked again to write a report that reflected this.

7.2 **Request re Caesarea Schedule.** Although there was sympathy for the SM it was agreed that the show rules had to stand and judges named for all classes. Mrs Prowse to be informed and liaison with Board SMs suggested for an exchange of ideas.

7.3 **Notice was given of a disqualification for biting** for Kassoro Peppermint-Cream after the issue of two certificates at different shows with no mitigating circumstances stated.

8. **Query re the need for a reserve in a breed class**
 8.1 A second letter had been received from Keith Scruton, suggesting procedure after a disqualification in a Breed Class. It was noted that the judge would have received the catalogue by the time a disqualification was made, and making a record for every breed class where a second was awarded at every show, when disqualification was such a very rare occurrence, would be tedious. It was agreed that no change should be made at present.
 8.2 Mr Scruton had queried whether the procedure for awarding reserves and upgrading in the event of disqualification was stated in the rules. It was confirmed this was covered at Section 2:15.
Action: Mr Scruton to be informed of the Board's decision. **JL.**
9. **The additional certificate awarded to a BIS winner.**
 9.1 It was clarified that a cat who had gained a title on the day would be awarded a certificate at the next level.
 9.2 An additional certificate would not be presented on the day, but a record would be made by the Office Show Team who would record it as awarded by the BIS Show Judge (not specifically named).
 9.3 The computer system would need programming accordingly.
 9.4 SMs to be reminded that all show changes approved in June 2016 would be effective from 1 January 2017.
Action: SMs to be circulated. **OFFICE**
10. **The conduct of show officials**
 10.1 It was agreed that exhibitors who had complaints had to make a report to IC if an issue could not be resolved amicably with show management on the day. **INFO**
11. **Exhibit anonymity on social media prior to a show**
 11.1 This had been discussed on previous occasions. It was thought impossible to police and any attempt to do so would create unnecessary animosity.
 11.2 Exhibitors could choose judges they wished to enter under, and avoid any they believed were influenced by social meeting postings.
12. **UK Grand medals**
 12.1 It was agreed that as replacements were needed it was a good opportunity to consider both the design and cost effectiveness. They did not have to be exactly the same as others, but reflect the corporate image.
 12.2 The idea of a design competition found favour.
Action: preliminary investigation into styles and costs **OM**
13. **Show reserves**
 13.1 It was noted that some clubs held very low reserves and could be in difficulties if a show failed. It was agreed that this was a matter that could be referred to FC for consideration and recommendation.
Action: to be on the agenda for the 30 November FC meeting. **JL**
14. **YES Board liaison**
 14.1 The two people responsible for the Scheme had proposed Mrs Lynda Ashmore for this position as her empathy with young people was well known. This was agreed.
 14.2 The team would have to discuss ideas to attract and involve youngsters, perhaps diversifying to include less paperwork. There was also the need to liaise with parents and mentors who had already submitted some suggestions (Sandra Woodley as contact.)
Action: consultation with all of those interested in revitalising the scheme **LA**

BD3616 SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP

1. **An update on discussions - some basic principles to be outlined**
 1.1 Mrs Kaye reported the SSRG remained convinced that structure change and a revision of judge training procedures had to be interlinked. There was a need to train more judges more quickly, but this could not be done whilst maintaining the current structure, particularly in the multi-breed sections.
 1.2 Consideration of numbers at an all breed show indicated that very few exhibits were present in some sections, while the others had more in each individually than the combined total of the four others.
 1.3 One option was for total restructure, but this had been tried and failed, because people wanted to protect their own breed/section from change. An alternative was to leave the small sections and split the multi-breed sections further. It was expected that this would find favour with those who wished to maintain the status quo, but would not achieve any balance in numbers, so could still be perceived as unfair, and would involve shows in further expense for additional awards as well as training judges who would be eligible for the future as these were the sections to which new breeds would be added. It was also observed that splits did not necessarily encourage more exhibitors. It was observed that there should be some consultation with the BACs.
Action: further discussion and proposals brought to the next meeting **CK**
2. **Judge eligibility - a revised document**
 2.1 The Vice-Chairman had revised the paper according to observations made at the September Board meeting.
 2.2 The one query was whether the Original Foreign Section should require 1.5 breeds to qualify for judging the grand class, rather than the two currently specified, although it was observed there was a fourth breed within the group currently at preliminary status

- 2.3 It was also expected that the Australian Mist would need to be included in the AOV Foreign estimates after February Council.
- 2.4 It was hoped that the list would be managed by the computer system in the coming year and denote eligibility.

3. **List merger review**

- 3.1 This was discussed in the Vice-Chairman's absent. **Deferred to the January meeting.**

JL

BD3617

BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS

1. **Revisions to the Ocicat & Aztec Registration Policies**

- 1.1 A letter from the BAC was considered. It was agreed that it was matter for the BAC to liaise with the Office on the classification of variants and that as the reason not to test for PRA rdy was understood, a full explanation could be given in the Breeding Policy. There was removal of the term 'ivory' as requested, and, although it was felt sensible that a gene continued to be tracked, 'non-spotted' could be substituted for 'classic' to provide greater clarity.
- 1.2 None of these points brought a reason to reject the policy, but as it was agreed that it could not be approved until there was a removal of any breeding restriction on Ocicats who carried the Burmese gene (BCR) in the generations immediately after testing. There was no objection to the aim of removing 'BCR', but expert opinion was that any such program had to be a gradual progression over several feline generations, particularly in a very small breed with a limited gene pool. There was no need to rush as BCR was not an illness or disease and was not known to affect the coat quality of carriers.
- 1.3 The BAC to be recommended to work out a program for testing Ocicats used for breeding and recording results. When the extent of the problem was known breeding options could be given and gradual elimination agreed with the Genetics Committee and/or Bristol University DNA testing centre (Langford).

Action: a letter with this information to be sent to the Ocicat & Aztec BAC

JL

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

- 2.1 The SOP had been approved in February 2016 and no corrections were considered necessary.
- 2.2 Several corrections needed to be made to the registration policy. These ranged from the very trivial to revision to ensure it made sense, particularly in respect of cats eligible for the Full and Supplementary registers. New wording would be suggested.
- 2.3 It was considered that the breeders had prepared an excellent breeding policy. GC had reviewed this and had suggested extra wording for the additional clarification of some points as well as minor corrections.
- 2.4 The JAS was essentially correct, but needed updating in places to bring it in line with rules and bylaws already approved by Council.

Action: the suggested amendments to be put to the BAC so revision to the paperwork could be made and confirmed at the January Board meeting.

JL

3. **Silver in Birmans**

- 3.1 The BAC had reiterated that it did not want to include silver Birmans at present, and rejected help from GC as they had a geneticist amongst their representatives. The offer would be repeated, as it was use of the registers to track genes that could be discussed rather than the mode of inheritance, but it was not expected that this would be wanted as the decision had been made.
- 3.2 The pedigrees provided discussed errors, but with reference to hand copying rather than inaccuracy in GCCF records, though liaison to get corrections made if errors were detected would be recommended.

Action: a letter to be sent to the Birman BAC

JL

4. **Minor revision to the British Shorthair SOP in respect of Tipped British Shorthair**

- 4.1 Mrs Goadby explained that the coat colour description of the original Golden Tipped BSH (75 BRI ny 12) and that for the Chocolate Golden (75b BRI by 12) had caused confusion for some judges.
- 4.2 The BAC wished to introduce the same wording for the ground colour for each: **'warm golden apricot ground colour'** with the tipping only described differently.
- 4.3 This was agreed and the minor amendment would be notified to judges by the BSGC and published on the GCCF website to inform delegates.

Action: website publication

JL/RF

5. **Request to remove the references to the Nebelung as a Russian variant from the GCCF Variant Policy**

- 5.1 This was agreed, as the Nebelung was a breed developed to be a semi-longhair of Russian appearance, using a mix of pedigree and non-pedigree cats rather than a LH Russian given a separate identity.
- 5.2 Outcrosses to Russians were made, with the shorthairs born recognised as Nebelung variants and never as Russian blues.

JL

Action: correction to the variant policy to be made, and published on the website. RBAC to be informed.

6. **New addition of the SOP with a standardised template for BACs**

- 6.1 Mrs Fisher had drafted a template as requested. She confirmed with the Board the amount of detail required for the patterns and colours of each breed

Action: completion of the SOP template

RF

7. **New applications coming to the Board**

- 7.1 Mrs Anderson had almost completed work on updating the Exotic Registration Policy. When finalised this would almost mirror the Persian registration policy, and would confirm that Exotic Longhairs were recognised as Persians for both show and breeding purposes. Testing procedures were also included which matched those required by the Persian LH BAC.
- 7.2 It was agreed that when the policy was completed it could be circulated to the Board for revisions, and once finalised would be posted on the website, with the rationale that it was very similar to the Persian policy.

7.3 The Northern British LH & SH Cat Society had applied for GCCF membership and had also submitted the paperwork for name recognition for the British Longhair. This would be circulated to the Board so that any queries could be raised with the club. The proposal would then be on the January Board agenda.

7.4 Persian breeders had suggested that when there was a register change as the result of screening (particularly BAER testing, but applicable also to other health checks) then there should be a fee waiver for the necessary register transfer. It was agreed that this should be discussed by FC.

Action: to be on the agenda for the 30 November FC meeting.

JL

BD3618 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS

1. Report on club returns

1.1 Mrs Goadby reported on two clubs whose returns remained outstanding, but the reasons were known, and completion was expected shortly.

1.2 Confirmation was still awaited on the future of the Smoke Cat Society.

1.3 It was noted that one club required GCCF confirmation of its existence and current officers to supply to its bank to regain access to its funds. It was necessary for clubs to be aware that this could be a problem with very limited access to club bank accounts.

INFO

2. Application for Provisional Membership of GCCF by the Toyger CC

2.1 Mr Goadby confirmed that the application had been received and the required fee paid.

2.2 Dr Bennett observed that the rules had a good beginning, but did not retain their clarity throughout.

It was agreed the new club should be sent the generic rules once these had been approved.

Action: The club to be contacted and Council informed at the February meeting.

JL

3. Generic club rules

3.1 Mrs Lacey had made some corrections and minor amendments to these, including the addition of the final sentence suggested by the Board at the previous meeting.

3.2 These were agreed and, as there were no further amendments, the generic rules were approved in this form.

3.3 They would be sent to all new clubs and also circulated to existing clubs with the annual returns so that clubs could check on their own rules and adopt all or part of the generic rules if they so wished.

JL

Action: to be amended, made accessible for download from the website, and circulated to clubs in the spring.

4. Recommendation to clubs to avoid involvement in contract disputes

4.1 This recommendation was proposed by IC as it had dealt with some recent cases where clubs had become involved in disputes between members in situations where it was possible that legal action could have been taken which may have resulted in financial consequences.

4.2 It was agreed that the information would go out with the club returns.

Action: a note to be drafted to be sent out to clubs in the spring

IC

5. Breeder Scheme procedures

5.1 IC had requested that the new computer system supply information in the same format as the original as breeding records were then accessible that could provide useful background, and/or confirm allegations in certain cases. Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell confirmed that work was ongoing and it would be possible for Mrs Butler to access the information she required.

5.2 In addition it would be made possible for the IC Secretary to access the breeder scheme membership to check whether membership was held, and whether feedback had been received from buyers.

5.3 The eventual aim would be for a record of comments received to be held, and for it to be flagged if a given number were negative.

INFO

6. Judge Appointment Scheme wording

6.1 Mrs Lacey had circulated wording that updated the scheme where it was necessary to revise to conform with changes to rules and byelaws approved in Council and already operational.

6.2 She explained there was an urgency to circulate BAC Secretaries as she had sent a copy of the JAS around after the Council meeting that was found to include several errors, some important.

6.3 Thanks were expressed to Mrs Dean and the Judges' Guild Committee, and several BAC Secretaries who had notified the mistakes and/or patiently scrutinised revisions made. It was understood that the Guild still had the Scheme under review and would bring forward suggestions for improvement. The version to be circulated would only include any necessary textual corrections and new wording to cover changes already made.

Action: circulation of the revised JAS to BAC secretaries (with a note of thanks)

JL

BD3619 EVENTS

1. Cat Of The Year Competition - championship shows only

2. Request for a 'Prefix of the Year' competition

These items were deferred in the absence of the Vice-Chairman.

3. The National Pet Shows report

3.1 Shelagh Heavens presented a written report from Di Taylor (team leader) on the Birmingham NPS, held at the NEC on 5 November. Thousands of visitors had attended the event, although no footfall figure was available yet, and no major problems were reported. Everyone had had an enjoyable day and the cats had behaved impeccably.

3.2 At the end of day Noel Fitzpatrick (head of the company now running the event) had addressed exhibitors to make it clear he would be continuing the NPS for years to come and wanted to build a community spirit amongst the participating organisations and promote the importance of responsible pet ownership.

3.3 Di reported that on the day she was the only member of the team with a T-shirt carrying the GCCF logo, and that it was disappointing that only two of the four feather banners were available. MF penning had said they had requested these were returned after the Supreme, but that had not happened. She also asked if a leaflet stand was owned/could be bought by GCCF as it would present the leaflets more effectively.

3.4 There was Board agreement that a corporate image was important. It was thought there were more shirts, but a sufficient number could be ordered, and an attempt would be made to find what had happened to the feather banners before replacing them.

Action: purchases to be discussed at the FC meeting on 30 November

JL

4. GCCF People Awards

4.1 Mrs Marriott -Power confirmed that this event would be held again in 2017, after the Suffolk & Norfolk Show, as in previous years.

4.2 No change of format was planned, and she preferred the event awards to be designated 'People' rather than 'Popularity' as had been suggested.

INFO

BD 3620

STAFF AND OFFICE

1. Staff report - update and role review

1.1 The OM confirmed that he had yet to draft the advert to recruit another member of staff. His aim was to find the right wording to attract people with the right attitude to join the team, as he considered this as important as any particular skill set.

1.2 It was agreed that when there were applicants for the post if there were two that were suitable it would be possible to consider both as an additional vacancy was expected.

2. General information

2.2 It was a major concern that problems with the BT internet connection were ongoing. They were BT's acknowledged responsibility and could not be resolved by changing to another supplier as the connection to the line would remain with BT.

INFO

BD3621

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The OM confirmed that a show and events calendar would be on the website very soon.

The meeting finished shortly after 5pm with deferrals where noted.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY** 10 January 2017, at 11.00 for 11.15am, Brockway Room at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London.

ADDENDUM

Rules re Mating Certificates (new layout to reflect the chronological order of events)

- 3d) i) The owner of a stud cat must provide a Certificate of Mating to the owner of the queen upon collection. A Certificate of Mating This must state the registered name, breed name/breed description and registration number of the dam and the dates of mating and must be signed by the registered owner(s) or specified keeper of the sire.
- ii) If a stud cat is loaned without transfer of registered ownership, the registered owner(s) must notify the GCCF Office in writing, giving the name and address of the specified keeper and authorisation for that person to sign mating certificates relating to that cat. A copy of this letter (**paper or electronic**) must accompany each mating certificate submitted when an application to register is made.
- 3e) When a litter is registered, the application to register must be accompanied by a copy of the certificate of mating (**if the application is made on paper**), or a declaration that the mating certificate has been received (**if the application is made online**) unless the person registering the kitten(s) is also the registered owner of the sire. **Note: contracts between the owner of the stud and the owner of the queen for mating services are a private arrangement, and any disputes will not be resolved by GCCF intervention.**
- 3f) If a kitten is sold unregistered, in addition to the pedigree (see Rule 10a) the seller must supply a copy of the certificate of mating whether or not the seller is the registered owner of the sire. Any application to register the kitten at a later date must be accompanied by this certificate (**if the application is made on paper**), or a declaration that the mating certificate has been received (**if the application is made online**).

Section 3 Rule 4c (Judge reports).

The wording of the rule remains unchanged.

Change in wording in the Fixed Penalty booklet for the non-submission of judges' show reports to the official GCCF website.

Judges are expected to send their show reports to the GCCF website within 28 days. **If unable to meet this requirement a brief explanation for the delay should be sent to the GCCF Office before the end of the 28 day period.** Failure to provide a report(s) **or supply an explanation** will be considered as a breach of the above rule.

The remaining wording to that section and for the 'Persistent lateness of reports' remains unchanged. 'Persistent lateness' is when 5 or more reports are late in a single show year and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Judge Appointment Scheme

2.

a) The appointment and dismissal of Judges are the prerogatives of Council (**for procedure details see Byelaw 7.15.**) This refers to publication of judge appointments on the website and several other of the amendments are needed to cover it.

b) Breed list updated

c) ..Preliminary Status. **Full Judges on at least one list, who should be Full or Pupil Judges already qualified to work in the section in which the new breed has been placed, may be appointed as a Full Judge to the new list.** Clubs or BACs ... (approved June 2015).

d) **Applications will only be considered** for the appointment and removal of Judges on a Judge list from the relevant BAC.

6. GCCF **Byelaws** needs to be substituted for GCCF constitution

12a The first two sentences only are required as the others refer to the necessity to get candidates' names on the next Council agenda.

21a **Four weeks after publication on the GCCF website, and provided no objections have been made during this period, or after confirmation of the appointment at a Council meeting,** newly appointed Full Judges

23h i) Accept: The BAC Secretary will notify the GCCF Office of the names of candidates nominated for appointment as Pupil Judges in order that **these may be published on the GCCF website, and provided that no objections have been received within four weeks candidates will be deemed to be appointed. In the event of objection(s) the name(s) will be placed on the next Council agenda (see Bylaw 7.15).**

23o The BAC Secretary will notify the GCCF Office of the names of any such candidates in order that **these may be published on the GCCF website and/or be on the agenda at the next Council meeting.**

24d & 24 n refer to Exemption Shows - one is still held.

26g in order that **these may be published on the GCCF website and provided that no objections have been received within four weeks candidates will be deemed to be appointed. In the event of objection(s) the name(s) will be placed on the next Council agenda (see Bylaw 7.15)**