Present: Mr Steve Crow - Chairman

Mrs Lynda Ashmore Dr Gillian Bennett
Mr Sean Farrell 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 Pat Perkins
Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell Mr John Robinson

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

BD3548 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. Apologies for absence.
   1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of: Mr John Hansson (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs Celia Leighton.
   1.2 Mrs Marriott-Power had given advance notice that she would be late.

2. Chairman’s Opening remarks
   2.1 The Chairman opened the meeting shortly after 11.15am.
   2.2 He reminded all present to be courteous and respectful to colleagues and to try and avoid points already made.
   2.3 The draft FC minutes had been circulated to give detail of the preliminary discussion on the end of year accounts.
   2.4 The Government announcement concerning amendments to the welfare codes for cats and dogs had at first been suggested that these would not be statutory, but there had been later clarification that they would be by statute. This had been welcomed by the Canine & Feline Sector Group.
   2.5 The next conference of the Cat Group would take place in Birmingham on 16 October. Mrs Moreland and Mrs Lacey had represented GCCF there on previous occasions.
   2.6 The World Cat Congress event would take place in Bangkok 21-25 April. The Chairman & Vice-Chairman, and Drs B & G Bennett were attending (at their own expense) and there would be a report at the next Board meeting.
   2.7 One topic to be discussed was an official celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Crystal Palace Cat Show in 2021.

BD3549 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 8 March 2016
   The final draft was approved as circulated with minor corrections.
   Action: to be sent to the GCCF website for publication, plus a check made to ensure the January Board minutes had been published.

2. Matters arising from the March minutes
   2.1 The Chairman made a quick review of agreed actions and noted that there had been completion, or the matter had been carried forward to this meeting’s agenda.
   2.2 BD3535.1.4 In response to a query the OM confirmed that it had been anticipated that the interest from the investment account would be quarterly, therefore a payment after a single month had increased the surplus expected for the period.
   2.3 BD3536.5 Mrs Fisher reported that the Breeder Scheme would be discussed at the next Marketing Strategy Group meeting, planned for 5 May. Mrs Turner-Russell had been invited to attend.
   2.4 BD3539.1.2 The Chairman observed that there had been no response following from the 19 March meeting with Tenth Planet.
   2.5 BD3540.7 The Guild of GCCF Show Managers had prepared a bad weather protocol. It was circulated at this meeting and would be discussed at the next.
   2.6 BD3540.8 The Guild was also prepared to put together a guidance on filming at shows, and this was welcomed. It was observed that the SM who had written to express concern had not had to deal with anyone attempting to film the BIS judging.
   2.7 BD3542.2 The Birman BAC Secretary had acknowledged the letter received from the Board, and reported that it would be discussed at the next meeting. (August).
   2.8 BD3544.2.2 It was noted that the publicity was ongoing for the GCCF People Awards.

BD3550 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.
1. The 2015 End Of Year Accounts
   1.1 It was confirmed that there were no major queries on the main accounts. The issues raised in FC had been largely presentational and all were addressed in the second draft.
   1.2 The outstanding issue had been that the Supreme deficit was greater by £1600 than that shown in the show management accounts.
   1.3 The examination had checked the records of receipts and payments rather than working with the figures provided. A review of these had found that gate receipts included the VAT element, rather than being net figure after the tax had been deducted. There had been liaison with the Supreme SM and the accounts for the show were now agreed and finalised.
   Action: future Supreme Shows to have bookkeeper participation to assist with the accounts, and/or these to be done by someone solely responsible for the task, possibly using a template provided by the bookkeeper, to ensure accuracy and relieve pressure on the SM. SC/OM
   1.4 It was noted that the VAT claim would now need correction. OM
   1.5 The Chairman observed that there had been just this one problem to sort out. Overall there was a gross profit of £82,000. The Supreme deficit, payment to O’Hara Wood and depreciation gave a net surplus that was just over £30,000. This was an extremely good result for a company the size of GCCF that was non-profit making, as was confirmed by the opinion of the examiner.
   Action: the accounts to be circulated. OM

2. Recommendation of the examiner for the accounts of 2016
   2.1 Laura Green, a partner at O’Hara Wood, was currently covering the GCCF account for Adrian Wood who was ill. She had dealt with the examination efficiently, and had been involved with the GCCF accounts for some years. She would attend June Council to answer queries.
   2.2 The Chairman was happy to recommend continuing with O’Hara Wood as the company’s accountants, with Ms Green as lead, and the Board agreed that this should be put to Council.
   Action: on the agenda for the June Council meeting. JL

3. Management accounts on 2016 business to the end of February
   3.1 The Office Manager urged caution when considering the predicted outcome for the year. This was high because of an extremely good start to year. It would be realistic only if the increases of January and February continued.
   3.2 March had shown a steep decline in registrations, possibly because the Agria holiday incentive had finished and breeders were registering ahead of new rules at February Council.
   3.4 A check had been kept on expenditure which was 94% of the same period in 2015.
   3.5 The income from Agria had exceeded predictions and was 115% of the amount forecast.
   3.6 The OM concluded that in spite of poor month for registrations, a rise in the number of transfers taken with the Agria increase meant overall there had been a good start to the year.
   3.7 It was noted that the Veterinary Officer had queried the possibility of insurance for Duty Vets no longer covered by a practice policy. The Board agreed that this could be investigated and costed. INFO OM

4. Volume figures to the end of March
   The data to the end of the month had been circulated to give the following information:
   4.1 Prefix registrations had slowed but were still just ahead of those in the same period for 2016.
   4.2 Non-prefix registrations had also dipped, but the overall level remained high.
   4.3 The transfer figures showed a steady increase and the proportion of transfers to registrations per month was at a record level.
   4.4 Import figures continued to be strong.
   4.5 Prefix application figures remained significantly better than in the previous two years.
   4.6 It was agreed the WCC would provide an opportunity for some comparisons with other registries to be made.

1. The GCCF partnership with Agria
   1.1 The significant increase in premiums highlighted by both the Board and FC had been discussed with Agria. The company had responded that it was not out of line with competitors in the sector.
   1.2 It was acknowledged that tax on insurance had increased, and there was a possible increase in claims for major intervention, but it was felt that on anecdotal evidence from pet owners, those who had neuters were particularly badly affected. An effort was being made to make comparisons, though it was difficult to provide these on a like for like basis.
   1.3 However, it was agreed that Agria should be asked to provide the evidence on which it based its claims. Also, a repeated request would be made that where its premiums were more expensive because of greater benefits it should publicise exactly what these extras were.
   1.4 It was noted that it was reasonable at making payment on claims, but concerns remained that the cost increases would attract negative publicity that would be difficult to counter.
   Action: ongoing dialogue and the Board to be kept informed. SC/OM

2. Royal Canin - transfer incentive update
   2.1 The transfer figures continued to grow, but the comparison with the previous year was still for the period prior to the incentive. Growth after June would be of interest.
   2.2 Small changes had been made to the breeder cards, in line with some requests.
   2.3 RC had worked on clarifying its list of stockists so that the vouchers given could be redeemed. As Pets At Home was now included it hoped that difficulties some had experienced would be resolved.
   2.4 There was a request from RC for GCCF to supply the names of those who had given consent to being contacted by a third party so that those not taking up the incentive could be asked why. This was agreed by the Board.
2.5 The thought that rosettes were essential for classes for youngsters had been passed to RC. They were not going to fund this, but Agria had been interested in taking on the sponsorship. The conversation to make arrangements was ongoing, and the Board was to be informed when there was news.

2.6 The next meeting was scheduled for 11 May.

**Action: Board to be updated by circulation.**

3. **Report on the progress of Project Phoenix and online services**

3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that there had been ongoing problems with the programer as he had been unavailable at times because of ill health.

3.2 However, Mr Macro had been able to give more time and was working extremely hard. Much had been completed. Getting the registration policies and data for shows onto the system remained to be done.

3.3 Heather McIntyre had devoted a lot of time to liaising with BACs and on analysing registration policies. This had proved very productive.

3.4 There was a meeting planned with DT to discuss the level of support required on an ongoing basis after the three months period inclusive to the contract.

**Action: support for work for project completion**

4. **Website report**

4.1 Mrs Fisher noted that there were no issues to report.

4.2 At the MSG meeting on 5 May there would be discussion on further development of the website post-Phoenix.

4.3 There was a query on the removal of out of date information from the website, with particular mention of meeting announcements for events that were now past. Mrs Fisher explained that she did leave these for a short time afterwards so that people were aware they had happened, but she tried to ensure the site was not cluttered as it gave a poor impression.

**Action: Board members to report any concerns through to RF.**

4.4 There was discussion on the search facility. BAC representatives and exhibitors liked to look for results on one particular cat or a certain judge. It was agreed that this was not sophisticated at present as it was a low cost installation and a better one could be purchased. It was agreed this would be a facility worth having when improvements to the website were being made.

4.5 Information was needed for the Sokoke, Suffolk and Toyger. One thought was that if information from a breed group had been requested and was awaited a ‘coming soon’ announcement would indicate the breed was recognised, and would be added.

4.6 It was agreed there should be consistency for breed definition. The Havana and Burmilla, for example, could still be featured, but included under their parent breed of Oriental and Asian rather than being given breed status.

4.7 It was noted that the club membership forms required updating.

**Action: drafts to be circulated**

5. **Information on negotiations with GCCFI**

5.1 GCCFI had asked for some revisions on the ‘heads of agreement’ document. There was nothing major, it mainly concerned clarification in the method for payment for services online, and in dealing with cheques received at their end, and agreed modifications for dealing with manual registrations and transfers.

5.2 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported there had now been an opportunity to look at the data that would go onto the system and that as well as a complete lack of genetic background some cats had standard details missing, such as breed numbers and even the owner omitted. However, many were already on the GCCF system and registration was low volume.

5.3 It was noted the GCCFI Supreme had been cancelled, and hoped this wasn’t an indication that the organisation was about to fail.

5.4 A further meeting was arranged for 10 May to discuss information received and answer questions.

**Action: feedback to the Board.**

**BD 3553 STAFF REVIEW**

1. **Update on the marketing and communications officer appointment**

1.1 The OM informed the Board of the discussion on the post that had taken place in the FC and HR meetings on 23 March. A job description had been agreed that had been approved by Critchleys.

1.2 This was now on the GCCF website and would be in the Bridgewater paper and its associated website the next day. The advertisement would run for two weeks and interviews would be held around 16 May.

1.3 There had been an expression of interest from within the Cat Fancy, but the person concerned wished to work remotely. There was some discussion on the need to absorb the culture of the organisation, and the difficulty of managing time and project development over a distance in a way that ensured value for money. A line of management had not yet been agreed and could be difficult to operate remotely.

1.4 It was also suggested that the job would not necessarily be full time and that it would be useful if a person employed primarily as communications officer should also be able to assist with general duties.

1.5 It was agreed that involvement with events was for the purpose of promoting rather than organising them. This was a different type of responsibility.

**Action: feedback to the Board.**

2. **Staff/Board relationships - closed session.** (HMP arrived and MG and DG left the room)

The Office Manager had recently had a job review from his line manager (the GCCF Chairman) who wished to discuss this with the Board. Comment from Board members was noted by JL and passed as a summary to the Chairman. SC would prepare a written report as feedback for MG.

**INFO**
1. **Preparation for the Supreme Show for 2016**
   1.1 Mrs Leighton had supplied the information that all judges were booked and the schedule was drafted. She had done as much as was possible for the present.
   1.2 It seemed likely that there would be no major stars present to attract the gate. Tenth Planet were only interested in supplying them for a high fee. Minor celebrities could be present in costume.
   1.3 Some exhibitors had asked if they could dress up, and it was thought this should be encouraged.

2. **The Supreme Show after 2016**
   2.1 There had been further discussion on promoting the Supreme as an event to promote GCCF. The show would be part of it.
   2.2 The planned survey would reflect this rather than be based on the existing situation.
   2.3 It was considered that this promotion should have a supporting budget to a maximum of £10,000 in addition to other sponsorship and income, though this could depend on GCCF funds available.

**BD3555 OTHER SHOW MATTERS**

1. **2015/2016 Show Changes for report** - none

2. **2016/2017 Show changes - for report**
   2.1 Wyvern CC - 3 September 2016: Venue changed to Cannock Chase Leisure Centre, Cannock, WS11 4AL. Mrs L Cannell no longer Joint SM.
   2.2 Seal Point Siamese CC Show - 18 February 2017: Show postponed until next season

3. **2016/2017 Show Changes & Late Show Licence Applications for approval**
   3.1 Burmese CC - 18 June 2016. Date change requested to 21 January 2017 in order to share with the SHCS at the Sky Blue Sports Connexion Leisure club & Venue, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, CV8 3FL. SM Mrs L Ashmore.
   3.2 Chocolate Pointed CC – 20 August 2016: Original show date cancelled but now requesting date change to 6 May 2017, to share with Midshires Samoyed CA at Bugbrooke Community Centre, Camp Close Bugbrooke, NN7 3RW, with Mrs J Pounds as SM and Miss K Burrows as ASM, and including an Oriental Section as before.
   3.3 Tonkinese CC - 3 September 2016 (sharing with Wyvern CC). Show application now complete. Venue as at 2.1, 30 cats and HHP Section. 3 Judges and finances £2001-£3000.
   3.4 Ocicat Club - 1 October 2016 date change requested for 22 April 2017 in order to share with the Cambridgeshire CC and Bedfordshire CC at the Kettering Conference Centre, Thurston Drive Kettering, NN15 6PB.
   3.5 Central LH & Semi LH CC – 5 November 2016: Requested date change to 6 May 2017 to share with Midland Counties CC and Progressive Ragdoll CC at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester, WR3 8DX. Mr K Scruton JSM with Mrs E Fryer.
   3.6 Blue Persian CS/White Persian CC - 5 November 2016: (shared show): Mr K Scruton submitted as JSM with Mrs G Wylde.
   3.7 Colourpoint, Rex-Coated &AOV CC - 26 September 2016: A reconsideration of the additional class requested in a supporting letter: Persian self and bicoloured and Exotic self and bicoloured wanted.
   3.8 Shropshire CC – 4 February 2017: Mrs Isabel Lewis submitted as Joint SM with Mrs Janet Tonkinson.
   3.9 Kernow CC & South West British Shorthair CC - 7April 2017: date change requested to 4 February at the same venue of Westpont Exeter, Cyst St Mary, Exeter EX5 1DJ
   3.10 Red Point & Tortie Point Siamese CC - 1 April 2017. Date change requested to 4 March 2017, same venue, as currently situated in a busy part of the show calendar. If approved would try and stay on the first Saturday of March, if the venue was available.
   3.11 ACA, Asian Group, CorRex, LaPerm, Snowshoe (shows sharing with SHCS) – 2 April 2017: Date change requested to 21 January, 2017, venue Sky Blue Sports Connexion Leisure club & Venue, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, CV8 3FL. (Singapura CC still to decide).
   3.12 Midland Counties CC/Progressive Ragdoll Breeders CC - 2nd April 2017 (shared show): date change requested to 6 May 2017 at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester, WR3 8DX, sharing with the CENTLH as 3.3. **Agreed with the exceptions of 3.9 and 3.7.**
   3.9 Kernow to be advised that there will probably be not enough judges and not to go ahead unless they are certain they have sufficient for their needs.
   3.7 The original decision stands as the date clashed with those of other small clubs.

4. **2016/17 Show licence details still awaited**
   4.1 Scotia Cat Fanciers (8 October 2016): SM to be advised

5. **2016/17 Show licence applications not yet received**
   5.1 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland (To be decided at club’s AGM), reminder sent.

6. **Report and complaint of an incident at the Lancashire CC show on 12 March 2016.**
   6.1 There was discussion on the circumstances of this with appreciation for the detail the Show Manager had provided. The SM would be thanked for this and the careful handling of a difficult situation.
   6.2 A letter would be sent to the owner of the cat who was the subject of the complaint, explaining exhibitor responsibility to take care a cat’s temperament is suitable for showing. A period of rest would be advised, followed by the carefully evaluating whether he could be shown again.
6.3 The complainant would be thanked for raising the issue with GCCF and informed that the owner had been advised on her responsibilities.

7. **Missing vaccination certificate - requested documentation supplied**

7.1 There was some sympathy for the personal problems the exhibitor had had following the show, but it was noted that it was not the first time she had failed to comply with the rules in this respect.

7.2 It was agreed that that she would be allowed to keep her CC as she had supplied evidence requested by the Board, but she would be advised to ensure she always carried her vaccination cards to shows with her in future to avoid any re-occurrence of this situation, as there would be no further leniency.

8. **Proposal to allow for a right of appeal against show entry exclusion**

8.1 A printed copy of the rule revision was unavailable, but there was some discussion on the background and rationale for the proposal.

8.2 There was comment on the need to ensure exhibitors did not suffer undue discrimination, and the principle of appeal generally. SMs present pointed out difficulties in administration and in handling difficult situations in the context of show.

*Action: The wording of the rule to be circulated and the proposal to be on the agenda in May.*

9. **A protocol for bad weather**

9.1 The draft for this had been prepared by the Guild of Show Managers and was tabled at the meeting. It would be on the agenda for discussion in May, as previously agreed.

**BD3556 SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP**

1. **Report from the Chairman of the Show Structure Review Group**

1.1 The Chairman reported that at the meeting on 7 April decisions had been taken to finalise the proposal for the re-aligning of the section structure, and matters were to be taken forward as definitive, so requiring rule change, and those that would be advised as open for further discussion.

1.2 The proposal that had already been agreed in principle by Council, allowing titled cats to enter either the class of the title they were aiming for, or the one that they already attained, needed the rule change drafted to be on the June Council agenda.

1.3 Rule changes were also required to:

- ensure cats were not over-handled, particularly at back to back shows. (If a cat was not in the breed Class, but had entered for BOB this would be counted in the total of six.)
- enable cats who bit or were behaving aggressively to be withdrawn from further competition on the day, and this to be extended if it occurred on more than one or two occasions
- introduce protocols for displaying BOV and BIS results and the ensuring the procedures for these elements of the show were published in the schedules.
- introduce the awarding of an additional title certificate for cats who achieved BIS, (the Olympian to be ‘breed’)
- require Olympian class placing to be given to 5th
- require judges to report on all cats entered in a certificate class and the BOB winner
- ensure that judge loadings were counted across both shows at back to back events, and that SM at these shows consulted on loading

*Action: these to be circulated to the Board and rules formulated to be on the May agenda*  

1.4 Advice to Show Management would be drafted on:

- the limitation of miscellaneous classes
- penning by breed
- the need for SMs of back to back shows to consult and take joint action
- the dates either side of the Supreme to be kept clear of shows

*Action: text to be drafted and circulated*

1.5 It was suggested there should be further discussion on kitten titles and splits to the Olympian Class.

*Action: to feature on a future Council agenda.*

1.6 After some debate it was agreed that the new section structure should be published exactly as proposed by the SSRG. It would go onto the GCCF website as soon as possible to allow for comment to be brought to the next Board meeting. Clubs would be asked to ensure their input was sent by 1 May.

*Action: website publication of the six sections and the breeds in the Grand Class groups of these.*

**BD3557 BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS**

1. **Revised Bengal policy**

1.1 The purpose of the revision was to introduce a testing scheme for PKdef and PRA in Bengals with certification showing cats were normal (not carrying either of the genetic mutations) for active registration.

1.2 There were also minor wording amendments for clarity, and the removal of the section relating to the Experimental Register. It was noted the deletions needed tidying and the June Council date was added.

1.3 The were no queries, and the revised policy was unanimously approved.

*Action: the BAC to be informed and the policy to be on the agenda for June Council*

2. **Application for the recognition of the Thai Lilac Point as an additional colour to the 33 pattern.**

2.1 The application requested inclusion of the Thai Lilac Points in the existing Thai class

2.2 The Korat & Thai registration policy and Standard of Points had been amended to include them.

2.3 There were no queries and there was unanimous approval for acceptance.

*Action: the BAC to be informed and the SOP & revised policy to be on the agenda for June Council.*
1. **Generic Club rules**
   1.1 It was agreed that these were deferred to the July agenda, as Dr Bennett had been unable to complete her revision of the first draft.

2. **Sphynx CA revised constitution.**
   2.1 It was noted that the club had not highlighted exactly what the revisions were which made it difficult to assess. However, there were some points that needed clarification, and these would be circulated when possible.
   2.2 It was thought that this club, and others, would appreciate a copy of the generic rules to use once completed. 

   **Action:** a letter to be sent to the Sphynx CA to ask for the exact changes  
   **JL**

3. **Byelaw change to ensure club members have access to club accounts**
   **Byelaw 5: Duties of member Clubs 3(a) A copy of the accounts of the Club which have been examined and signed by a suitable independent person for the previous year ………….., including an analysis of the subscription income and a statement of paid up members including life members.**
   **There should be a note to state when, and in what form (paper and/or electronic), the club and show accounts will be made available to the club membership. Failure to publish could result in disciplinary action.**
   **This was agreed unanimously.**

   **Action:** to go forward to the June Council agenda.

4. **Revision of the Russian Rules of Procedure of the Judge Appointment Scheme**
   4.1 The original document had not contained any indication of the changes. Mrs Kaye reported that these were the removal of ‘blue’ where necessary as the BAC now looked after Russian Blacks and Russian Whites.
   4.2 It was agreed that the document would be electronically circulated to the Board to show these changes.  
   **CK/JL**

5. **Club numbers for delegate representation**
   5.1 There was some discussion on this to determine whether any Board view could be fed into the discussion that would take in place in Council in June.
   5.2 Opinion was expressed that if the number required was reduced it should be fixed, but others wanted flexibility in the form of dispensations to remain. There was also comment on the point that it was impossible to determine whether membership fees collected actually equated with interested people meriting representation.
   5.3 It was agreed to continue the discussion at the May meeting.

   **INFO**

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**BD3559 VETERINARY & WELFARE MATTERS**

1. **Revision of the rule requiring kitten vaccination.**
2. **Publicity to raise public awareness of the need for a kitten to be vaccinated.**
   The rule change had not yet been prepared. It was thought it would be useful to have an official form which was used by those selling without vaccination to explain why it was important. It was necessary so that people who bought unvaccinated kittens did so with good reason rather than following breeder coercion.
   **Action:** to return to the agenda for further discussion following preparation of a rule amendment.  
   **GB**

   3.1 No further meetings had been held since the last Board meeting. The next would be held on 6 May.
   3.2 The Chairman had been asked to give evidence at an EFRA enquiry and would be able to give more information on this at the next meeting.

4. **VAC meeting**
   4.1 This was due to take place on 14 April.
   4.2 A structured approach to HCM (in breeds for which no DNA test existed), the exclusion of cats from breeds not recognised by GCCF in the HHP pedigree pet section, because of undesirable physical anomalies or wild species heritage, and the possibility of a CWT study into the genetic diversity of GCCF breed, were on the agenda and feedback from the discussions would be given.

   **INFO**

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**BD3560 EVENTS**

1. **Gaia Dinner and Cat Of The Year Competition.**
   1.1 As the Vice Chairman was unable to be present there was no new information.

2. **The Pet Shows.**
   2.1 The report from Mrs Heavens on the London Pet Show had been circulated. Mrs Taylor had taken over the show management from Mrs Gregory and all necessary arrangements had been made.
   2.2 Mrs Heavens reported that Mrs Taylor did not wish to continue with this responsibility. She was happy to organise the NEC Pet Show in Birmingham in November, but not the London event in addition on regular basis.
   **Action:** discussion on the London event to be on the MSG agenda for 5 May.  
   **RF**

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**BD3561 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None taken.

The meeting finished at 5.10pm with deferments where noted.

The next meeting: Tuesday 3 May 2016, at 11.00 for 11.15am, the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London