



**MINUTES**  
For the Meeting of the **Board OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**  
Tuesday, 14 July 2015 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London

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

Mrs Lynda Ashmore	Dr Gillian Bennett
Mr Sean Farrell	Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Mrs Doreen Goadby	Mr Thomas Goss
Mrs Catherine Kaye	Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Celia Leighton	Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Ms Heather McRae	Mrs Pat Perkins
Mr John Robinson	

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

**BD3466 MEETING INTRODUCTION**

**1. Chairman's Opening remarks**

- 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.25am and thanked those present for attending. There was a particular welcome for new Board members, Mrs Catherine Kaye, and Ms Heather McRae.
- 1.2 The Board was reminded it was a full agenda and asked members to be concise when making points, and respect the views of others.
- 1.3 The Chairman gave two updates on recent business.  
He had submitted GCCF news for the WCC page, giving information from the recent Council meeting; and made a response to the Grazia article on breeding kittens to make money. This had been welcomed by breeders, and thanks and support had been given on social media sites.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

- 2.1 These had been received from Mrs Shelagh Heavens and Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell

**BD3467 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 19 May 2015**

There was one amendment and typographical errors were corrected, and the minutes were then approved unanimously.

**Action: to be sent to the GCCF website for publication.**

JL

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

- 2.1 All business was either completed, or would be discussed at the relevant point on the agenda.

**3. The draft minutes of the Electoral Council Meeting, 17 June 2015**

3.1 These had been circulated for scrutiny by the Board and OM, and minor amendments had been made.

3.2 It was agreed that some decisions needed a note on implementation.

**Actions: notes to be added and the minutes circulated to the Board so that it could be checked that all relevant information was there, then to be published on the GCCF website as a draft for use as a reference.**

JL

**BD3468 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

1.1. The purpose of the register was explained to the new Directors.

1.2 BD 3476.3 (Russian registration policy) CK.

**Action: a declaration form to be supplied to CK and HM.**

INFO  
MG

**BD3469 FINANCE**

**1. The presentation of the revised 2014 accounts**

1.1 Council had required a representation of the capital expenditure on the new computer system that documented the club loan more clearly.

1.2 O'Hara Wood had advised detailing depreciation of a capital asset between 2014 and 2017, with one third of the total spent being the maximum contribution permitted by this convention in any one year. The detail for 2014 was set out on page 7 of the accounts.

1.3 It was then shown as an intangible asset of £34,270 on the balance sheet, which was the amount remaining after the subtraction of one third. As this was less than the £25,000 noted as project expenditure in the first presentation the amount shown as remaining in the reserves had increased accordingly.

1.4 The club loan was shown in full as a separate balance sheet item (£56,615) as an amount falling due after a period of more than one year.

1.5 It was considered that use of accounting conventions did not detail how the loan was to be repaid, which was the concern of many Council delegates and the addition of a narrative addendum was proposed.

**Action: Detail of how the capital project and loans are stated in relation to each other shown as an addition to the accounts for presentation to Council.**

MG

1.6 It was noted that in the presentation of the Supreme accounts on page 13, an amount for advertisements in the catalogue had been given, as requested, but it had been subtracted from the Stalls total, rather than the Club Row income, as it should have been

1.7 It was noted that Mrs Hilary Dean had been listed under the name of Rayner, and she had requested the use of her married name in the Directors' list on previous occasions.

**Action: these corrections to be made**

**MG**

1.8. It was agreed unanimously that the accounts could then be sent to Companies House to meet the deadline of 30 September as Council had given approval subject to the representation.

**Action: accounts to be submitted, and also put onto the the GCCF website in advance of the October Council meeting.**

**MG**

2. **Financial statement on business to the end of May**

2.1 Ordinary business had operated entirely in surplus throughout 2015, even allowing for the IT depreciation.

2.2 Income had been slightly lower than the previous year in April, but had increased in May. The current trend indicated this would be sustained.

2.3 The expenditure on computer software and programming was greater than predicted as the old system needed a considerable amount of work so that it could be used to match new formats. This would be ongoing until the new system was operational, but would decrease.

2.4 There had been an unexpected jump in gas & electricity costs, but it was probable that this covered an additional payment and would even out by the next report.

2.5 Capital expenditure was as budgeted.

2.6 It was noted there would be a need to show how Phoenix saved money, and that a record of costs per process should be made to demonstrate reduction.

2.7. It was queried whether savings could be shown by reduction in staff costs as the number of employees was now very much lower than in previous years as people who had left had not been replaced. It was pointed out that volunteers were currently covering work previously done by paid staff.

**Action: assessment of costs to enable the demonstration of future savings to be started.**

**MG**

3. **Volume figures**

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

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

This was disappointing, but as the income from non-prefix registrations was higher, and the increase was significant, the income overall exceeded the forecast for registrations.

3.2 The cumulative transfer total was showing a slight upward trend.

3.3 Import figures remained strong, but were slowing a little when compared with previous months.

3.4 Applications for prefixes had improved on the figure for the first six months of 2014.

**INFO**

4. **Report on capital investment.**

4.1. There had been a delay as the Vice-Chairman was to be included on the mandate and he had recently moved to a new build property not yet on banking records.

4.2. The investment was due to begin in two weeks time for an initial period of 90 days.

**INFO**

5. **Date of the next Finance Committee Meeting**

5.1 This was agreed for 16 September at midday in the Conway Hall, if available.

5.2 The principle business would be to assess expenditure for projects agreed in the Business Plan, and consider the 2016 budget for ordinary business.

**Action: Venue to be booked and FC members not present to be informed**

**MG**

6. **Change of the FC remit to reduce the number of meetings.**

6.1 After discussion it was agreed that there was no longer a need for six FC meeting as specified in the current remit. Three, possibly four, were required to make recommendations to the Board on financial matters.

6.2. Discussion could also take place electronically.

**Action: A revised remit to be presented at the October Council meeting**

**JL/SC**

**BD3470**

**BUSINESS MATTERS**

1. **Contract with Royal Canin - report on feedback and uptake**

1.1 The incentive had begun on 2 June, as planned, and the Breeder Registration Cards were modified after initial feedback to include the names of the parents. There had been additional improvements made to present the kitten details in a more consistent way since then.

1.2 72 breeders had opted not to receive the cards carrying the RC information, 3.9% of the average annual number of prefix holders that register kittens with GCCF. However, most who made enquiries and received an explanation of what was provided chose to continue.

1.3 It was reported that when the cards were seen they were liked, far more than the impression gained from looking at them on a computer screen.

**Action: Samples to be at Council, sent to club secretaries and on GCCF tables at shows.**

**MG**

1.4 The number of transfers had risen for the first time in 15 months, and was more than in June 2014.

1.5 It was agreed that as figures showed a positive reaction, and, as those who objected strongly had a means of opting out, it was too soon to consider any changes. There would be a review in September.

**Action: to be on the agenda for the Board meeting in September.**

**JL**

2. **Report on the June meeting with Agria.**
- 2.1 There had been a meeting at the Agria offices, and it was observed that the company had grown quite considerably since the initial link with GCCF.
- 2.2 Agria wanted a higher policy conversion rate and had pointed out to GCCF how much could be earned if this was in line with the the percentage achieved by the Kennel Club. Board opinion was that there could not be this sort of comparison made between dog and cat owners, particularly because there was no necessity for third party injury/damage cover for cats.
- 2.3 As it was known a number of breeders had returned to Petplan once the reward for giving cover notes was withdrawn, it was felt pressure on Agria to revert to this practice should be kept up.
- 2.4 Agria had requested that when a transfer was completed by a new owner a tab would open to offer the five weeks free insurance cover to those who didn't already have it. GCCF would benefit if this was taken up and then converted, and the practice had already been found to work for the Kennel Club. If the new owner already has cover from another company this would be noted, to give an idea of how many are offered alternatives to Agria.
- 2.5 It was proposed that this should be permitted, and agreed by a majority. **9 in favour and 4 abstentions.**  
**Action: Agria to be informed.** MG
- 2.6 The Supreme Show manager reported that Agria was now sponsoring the show by £3000 when £5000 had been mentioned initially. However, it was an improvement on the amount of sponsorship they had contributed the previous year (£1800). INFO
3. **Report on the progress of Project Phoenix**
- 3.1 The Office Manager gave a brief report as Mrs Rainbow-Rockwell was unable to be at the meeting.
- 3.2 Project Phoenix was on target for the launch planned in the autumn. A version was currently being tested in the office. INFO
4. **Online services report**
- 4.1 The Office Manager reported that the online services pages had been rebranded and coloured to match the new GCCF website. There had been a few small adjustments made at the same time. The payment pages needed a similar update.
- 4.2 Functionality was good. The staff were familiar with the site and able to offer advice readily on most problems. The new member of staff had found it easy to understand and operate very quickly.  
**Action: work to be arranged to complete the rebranding.** SRO
5. **Website launch report**
- 5.1 The Chairman thanked Mrs Fisher for the time she had given in designing the site and getting it to operate smoothly. She and Mrs Owen had spent a many hours at DTC receiving instruction so that they could become entirely familiar with the new platform.
- 5.2 There had been some initial problems, particularly getting the connection with iPads and iPhones, but DTC had managed to sort these out.
- 5.3 A change to the design of the calendar was not liked and there had been a reversion to the previous list format, but with an option provided so that the new style could be used.
- 5.4 Additional pages were being added as new information was provided. The most recent was 'Cats & The Law' following an enquiry about the declaration of earnings from kitten sales. INFO
6. **Information on negotiations with GCCFI**
- 6.1 GCCFI had rejected the terms specified by GCCF in spite of information being provided to show the cost of investing in a new computer operation system. However, it was understood there would be negotiations.
- 6.2 There was preference for reducing the capital amount required, and allowing this to be set in Euros so that a fluctuating exchange rate would not disadvantage GCCFI. However, it was thought that the percentage of revenue required should not be reduced as this was a relatively small amount.
- 6.3 It was noted that GCCF had a stake in completing a deal with GCCFI. Therefore negotiation and support should be ongoing.
- 6.4 It was proposed the Chairman should go to their next board meeting, if acceptable, as discussions in person were more readily understood than emails.  
**Action: liaison with GCCFI to arrange an invitation to the meeting.** MG/SC  
**FC to discuss further the type of investment to be made in adapting the online system** JL

**BD3471 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

1. **Byelaw amendment to permit the election of the Appeals Committee in October**
- 1.1 An amendment was proposed to Bylaw 9(2):  
Business to be transacted at the Electoral meeting shall include:-  
(c) Election of the Standing Committees hereinafter mentioned, **with the exception of the Appeals Committee which may be elected at the meeting following the Electoral Meeting**
- 1.2 This agreed unanimously, with wording that allowed the election to be in June or October.  
**Action: This to be on the agenda for the October Council meeting as an 'electoral' item.** JL
2. **To agree the procedure for applications to the Appeals Committee.**
- 2.1 It was agreed that applicants should be sought via a website notice, in very much the same way as in April for the elections to all three disciplinary committees. Applications would need to be received by the end of the first week of September
- 2.2 It was agreed that there should be some enhancement to the introduction to stress the importance of the Appeals Committee, and so attract interest,  
**Action: the announcement giving information and seeking applications to be prepared.** JL

3. **List of additional rules to incur fixed penalties**
  - 3.1 This had been circulated shortly before the meeting by email.
  - 3.2 It was considered it was not sufficiently clear that if a mistake was made a fixed penalty was not applied automatically. These were used as sanctions when every effort had been made by the Office to sort out problems of missing paperwork and other matters.
  - 3.3 It was agreed that Section 3:13 was redundant as smoking was not permitted in show halls.

**Action: redraft of the list with 13 removed and additional wording in the introduction. GB**  
**This to be on the September agenda having been circulated in advance. JL**  
**The removal of rule 3:13 to be on the agenda for the October Council meeting. JL**
4. **Rule revision re signatures on pedigrees at the time of sale**
  - 4.1 The addition of a final sentence was proposed.  
**If the pedigree supplied is provided by the GCCF from their database, signature(s) are not mandatory.**
  - 4.2 It was queried how the new owner would know whether the pedigree was generated from the GCCF database, or was a copy of the format used, and believed it took little effort to print and sign a copy at the time of sale.
  - 4.3 A unique number or code could possibly prove GCCF generation if the pedigree was to be supplied electronically.

**Action: this to be considered and the item returned to the agenda in September. MG/JL**
5. **Update on the small claims action**
  - 5.1 The OM reported that a cheque for the outstanding amount had been sent to the Office by Mrs Ashman.
  - 5.2 She had indicated to the court that she would not pay GCCF's costs (£25).
  - 5.3 It was agreed to wait and see whether any instruction was given on this by the court.

**Action: the matter to return to the Board agenda in September JL**

**BD3472 PREFIXES**

1. **Prefix list**
  - 1.1 The list of new prefixes was approved. Objections made were not upheld, as the new prefixes were within the rules.

**Action: The applicants to be informed of the outcome. OFFICE**
2. **Third change of ownership for the Shamanta prefix**  
This was agreed.  
**Action: the applicant to be informed. OFFICE**

**BD3473 SHOW RULES**

1. **Amendments to remove the requirement for the publication of addresses in the show catalogue, but ensure they are supplied to the Office.**
  - 1.1 Section 2 11b)  
A list of names and addresses **any contact details provided** of all exhibitors together with.....
  - 1.2 Section 2 20c)  
.... send to the GCCF Office **a list of the names and addresses of all exhibitors together with** one fully marked, certified copy of the catalogue.....
  - 1.3 These changes were not approved as they were impractical for those inputting data. It could only be the whole of an address or the name only.
  - 1.4 It was agreed that the proposal should be to make the opt out for exhibitors, previously agreed by the Board, part of the wording of 2:11b) so all were aware of it.

**Actions: wording to be circulated to the Board with the September agenda, prior to going to Council in October. The Coventry & Leicester CC to be informed of the decision and the reason for it. JL**
2. **Show rule changes suggested by the Show Structure Review Group**
  - 2.1. Mrs Kaye (SSRG Chairman) reported that it was the intention of the Group not to make proposals for any major change until the first survey had been completed. This was currently in preparation.
  - 2.2 It was agreed that the first three proposals listed, which were intended to make small changes to enable smoother operation for show managers, should be worded as rule changes and on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

**Actions: wording to be circulated to the Board with the September agenda JL**
3. **Rule amendments to include queens who may be pregnant**
  - 3.1 Additional wording for clarification had been circulated for Section 4:4a and 5:4a)  
Queens who are pregnant, **or it is believed could be pregnant,** lactating or ...
  - 3.2 As this had not been available in time for the agenda it was agreed it should wait until September.

**Actions: wording to be circulated to the Board with the September agenda JL**

**BD3474 THE SUPREME SHOW**

1. **Report from the Show Manager**
  - 1.1 The Show Manager reported that entries were now being taken successfully online, and it was important for each Board member to do everything possible to encourage exhibitors to enter.
  - 1.2 The new Supreme website was now fully operational, at no cost to GCCF.
  - 1.3 It was noted that Royal Canin would be supporting advertising for the show in magazines and national newspapers.
  - 1.4 Mrs Leighton expected the safe return of the trophy from the disqualified exhibitor.

**INFO**

2. **Insurance for the show to cover cancellation/abandonment**  
 2.1 It was considered Council would expect the Board to have insurance cover to protect GCCF reserves.  
 2.2 Two exclusions in the policy provided for consideration were thought to be the most likely reasons for the abandonment of the event, as they would mean exhibitors were unable/forbidden to travel.  
 2.3 It would be queried whether these exclusions could be removed, and what the cost of doing this would be.  
**Action: discussions with the insurance brokers on these points.** **MG**
3. **Date of the October Council Meeting to avoid conflict with the Supreme**  
 It was agreed this should not be changed. **INFO**

**BD3475 OTHER SHOW MATTERS**

1. **2015/2016 Show Changes for report**  
 1.1. Bengal Cat Club - 7 November 2015: Venue change to Cricklade Town Hall, High Street, Cricklade, Swindon,  
 1.2. The British Ragdoll Cat Club -7 November 2015: Asst. SM now Miss Lesley Simpson instead of Mrs Ray Bradley  
 1.3. Cheshire Area CC – 21 November 2015: Venue change to Northgate Arena, Victoria Road, Chester, CH2 2AU  
 1.4. Burmese Cat Association – 23 January 2016: Venue to be Ardley with Fewcott Village Hall, Ardley Road, Ardley with Fewcott, Oxon, OX27 8PA.  
 1.5. Croydon CC & Southern Counties CC – 13 February 2016: Venue changed to Rivermead Leisure Complex, Richfield Avenue, Reading, Berks, RG1 8EQ instead of Bracknell.  
 1.6. Herts & Middx. Cat Club – 27 February 2016: Mrs J Williams no longer Assistant SM.  
 1.7. Asian Cat Association – 16 April 2016: Assistant SM to be Mrs Penny Woodward.  
 1.8. Somerset CC & West Country CC -12 September 2015. The Hutton Moor Leisure Centre unavailable on the required date. Change of venue to Thornbury Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, Gloucs BS35 3JB
2. **2015/2016 Show changes - for approval**  
 2.1. Surrey & Sussex Cat Club - 19 March 2016: Prof K Jarvis submitted as SM as in place of Mrs M Chapman-Bear.  
 2.2. Red Point and Tortie Point Siamese Cat Club- 2 April 2016: Ms Judy Emmens submitted as joint show manager with Mrs Janet Starr (3 SMQ forms available at the meeting). **Agreed OFFICE**
3. **2015/2016 SHOW DETAILS STILL AWAITED**  
 3.1. Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland – 5 December 2015: Date still not changed as promised. **INFO**
4. **Liquid castration chip: concerns of this affecting appearance and behaviour at shows.**  
 Discussion on this concluded that the welfare benefits of allowing breeders to keep a male until HCM tests could be conducted, and/or reducing stress for a male not used frequently, outweighed the fact that appearance and/or behaviour could be changed for shows. It was agreed that a rule change or note (Section4:22 iii) would be necessary to make this acceptable.  
**Action: consultation with the VAC and an agreed rule amendment to be put to the Board.** **JL**
5. **Non-GCCF judges at shows**  
 5.1 Rules Section 2:9e and Section 3:3e exclude judges from other organisations from judging certificate classes (from breed through to Olympian) which include breeds colours or patterns which are not recognised by the organisation for which they are full judges.  
 5.2 In effect that would prevent all non-GCCF judges from judging Olympians and the higher certificates in most sections.  
 5.3 It was noted that some shows had already unintentionally breached the rule, and concluded that judges from organisations should be eligible to judge higher certificate classes by the same criteria as GCCF judges.  
**Action: consultation with the BAC Review Group and an agreed rule amendment to be put to the Board.** **JL**
6. **Objection to suggested revision to remove the Birman Grand classes**  
 6.1 There was currently discussion on revision to sections and grand class structures, but no decisions taken on what, if any, proposals would be made. Therefore the objection was premature.  
**Action: The Birman Cat Club to be informed.** **JL**
7. **Update on the new certificates**  
 7.1 These would now be on GCCF tables at shows for exhibitor information and comment.  
 7.2 Feedback to date indicated that the designs of the certificates for entires were preferred to those for neuters.  
 7.3 The certificates had cost about 3p each to produce and it was agreed that a comparison should be made with the cost of the existing certificates. If this and exhibitor comment were favourable, a timetable for their introduction would be planned at the November Board meeting.  
 7.4 A transition period in which exhibitors could opt for the old style would be discussed.  
**Action: The information to be presented at the November Board meeting.** **RF**  
 (Mr Robinson left the meeting).

**BD3476 BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS**

1. **Ragdoll registration policy**  
 1.1 Approval was given to the amendments to deal with a specific health issue. It was noted there would be a review of these in two years time.  
 1.2 It was agreed that the BAC should be asked to make other amendments as the Board could not present to Council a registration policy that was not in line with GCCF rules and agreed breeding policy. These were:  
 • removal of the statement on difference, as to obtain 'difference' is a reason for importing.  
 • removal of the need to refer the pedigree of an imported cat to the BAC, as the registration policy should determine clearly on which register the import should be placed from the information given in its required five generation certified pedigree (as with other breeds).

- removal of reference to diseases in other breeds, unless the problem is evidenced as breed specific, such as Maine Coon HCM
- 1.3 It would be suggested that a planned screening programme for imports to include DNA and other veterinary checks, such as is included in the registration policies of other breeds, would address many of the BAC's health concerns.
- Action: a letter to be sent to the BAC with the Board's comments.** **JL**
2. **Oriental registration policy**
- 2.1 The statement at 'G' on the second page of the policy with reference to Foreign Whites was considered clear and positive.
- 2.2 It was agreed that it was unnecessary to include it in the next section expressed as a double negative. It should either be repeated or (preferred option) worded to state 'see G above'.
- Action: a letter to be sent to the BAC with the Board's comments.** **JL**
3. **Russian registration policy**
- 3.1 Approval was given to the amendment introducing health screening for imports to the GCCF register.
- 3.2 The Board believed that some clarification was required in the 'Outcrossing' section of the policy as reference was made to 'registered' domestic shorthairs and there currently is no such registration. HHPs are required to be neutered if shown. The pedigree cats registered XSH on the reference register could carry additional undesirable genes for Russians (such as rexing) to those currently required to be tested for.
- Action: a letter to be sent to the BAC with the Board's comments.** **JL**
4. **Sphynx registration policy update**
- 4.1 The Veterinary Officer had worked out an alternative strategy for HCM to that proposed in the registration policy and was in discussion with the BAC, and also consulting with a specialist in HCM.
- 4.2 There had been no response from the SphBAC to the Board, but it was understood a meeting was due. **INFO**
5. **HHP registration for showing**
- 5.1 Council had agreed the principle of mandatory registration before HHP titles could be claimed (C2032), but there was concern on the detail of this expressed at the last Council meeting, together with HHP registered names, and whether pedigree pets should have dual identity (a pedigree and pet registration).
- 5.2 The Board considered it unnecessary to have two separate registrations for pedigree pets.
- 5.3 It was also agreed that exhibitors should not be exhibiting the same cat routinely as both a pedigree and pedigree pet, but it was accepted that at breed shows cats of different breeds, for which there were no appropriate pedigree classes, were shown in support of the host breed club.
- 5.4 It was agreed that rules should be drafted to incorporate these principles.
- Action: rules to be drafted and on the agenda for the September Board meeting** **MG/JL**
6. **Objection to change of name for the Ocicat Classic from the Ocicat & Ocicat Classic CA**
- 6.1 A letter had been sent, and a statement was read on behalf of the Ocicat & Ocicat Classic CA. It expressed concern that problems would result from the name change, and that the Ocicat Club (the BAC) had not informed the Ocicat/Ocicat Classic clubs with provisional GCCF membership prior to the proposal going to Council
- 6.2 The Board noted that no objection had been given in Council, and that it was prerogative of the BAC to make proposals on all breed matters. However, concern was expressed that breeders and exhibitors remained disenfranchised from the decision making process because they were not allowed full membership of the Ocicat Club, despite rulings from DC and Appeals.
- Action: a letter to be sent asking for a report of any problems arising from the name change so that these could be monitored, and evidence to support the other allegations made.** **JL**
7. **Protection of registration policies**  
Deferred until the presenter was present.  
**Action: to be returned to the next Board agenda.** **JL**
8. **Removal of the Experimental Register**  
Discussion was deferred until the presenter was present, but agreed it that a consultation process should begin to collect evidence.  
**Action: the BACs with breeds on the experimental register to be asked for their opinion of this.** **JL**
9. **Request for breed recognition of the Chartreux**
- 9.1 It was agreed that as an established breed in other registries with no known problems there was no reason why the Chartreux should not have GCCF recognition.
- 9.2 At present no outcross was given in the breed information supplied, and the breeder group would be asked to comply with GCCF policy on providing an outcross possibility that could be stated in their registration policy.
- Action: a letter to be sent to the breeder who submitted the application with the Board's comments.** **JL**

**BD3477 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS**

1. **Report from the BAC Review Group Chair**
- 1.1 Mr Hansson reported that there had been no further meetings as the initial changes made had now been put into operation, and their effectiveness would be assessed after a period of time.
- 1.2 The next phase of work would depend to some extent on information gathered in the survey that the SSRG was preparing.
- 1.3. A meeting was planned between the Joint Rex BAC and the Sphynx BAC on the judge list amalgamation that been proposed. **INFO**

2. **Club & BAC returns report**
  - 2.1 Eleven clubs still had to complete their returns, and explanations had been given. Change/illness of Treasurer and/or problems with the banking process covered ten of these, the other club was considering folding as it had too few committee members.
  - 2.2 One other club had sent returns and payment and stopped the cheque after it had been received by the office. The reason for this was being investigated. The Board expressed concern at the action.
  - 2.3 The Ragdoll BAC was the only BAC still to complete its return.
3. **Norsk Skogcat Society revised constitution**
  - 3.1 This had been supplied after changes requested by the Board had been made and approved by the club's AGM.  
**Action: A check would be made all important revisions had been included.** **GB**

**BD3478 VETERINARY ADVISORY, GENETICS & C&FSG COMMITTEES**

1. **Confirmation of the VAC membership and remit**
  - 1.1 It was confirmed there was no change to the remit.
  - 1.2 The three new members proposed were accepted.  
**Action: VAC to be informed.** **JL**
2. **Minutes of the April VAC meeting & matters arising from them**
  - 2.1 It was noted that at VN230 the minutes should record that new members were subject to Board confirmation. At VN231c) the document discussed was the Persian Breeding Policy not the Standard of Points.
  - 2.2 VN231e: the SSRG Chair acknowledged a VO would be invited if the rules under discussion concerned vetting-in or health matters, but currently no changes were proposed, including to the 13 day rule.
  - 2.3 VN231g: it was noted that the use of Deslorelin had not been advised at the meeting, but that had taken place prior to a specific instance being brought to the attention of the Board. Further consultation would take place. (BD3475.4).
  - 2.4 VN234c): it was agreed that consideration should be given to a rule change to require a microchip number for a certificate of entirety, which would also be on the cat's own veterinary record. However, it was queried why the certificate should not be issued prior to six months when there was certainty that the kitten was entire.  
**Action: consultation on the rationale for the age limit, and the rule change, with the VAC** **JL**
3. **Discussion about issue of advice to breeders about release of kittens to owners too soon after vaccination**  
Deferred to the next meeting. **JL**
4. **Confirmation of the Genetics Committee remit and appointment of the members for the year**
  - 4.1 The Chair and Vice-chair with Dr G Bennett, Mrs R Fisher, Dr K Kempself, Mrs J Lacey and Mr A Nichols were confirmed as the Genetics Committee
  - 4.2 Ms H McRae volunteered to act as reserve, and this was agreed.
  - 4.3 It was confirmed there was no change to the remit. **INFO**
5. **Report from C&FSG/Breeding & Sale of Cats Group**  
The next meeting was scheduled for the following week, and the report would made be at the next meeting. **INFO**

**BD3479 EVENTS**

1. **National Pet Show**
  - 1.1 It was understood that the preliminary arrangements for this were in hand under the management of Di Taylor, but no direct report had been received. It was expected that there would be news by the next meeting. **INFO**
2. **Cat Of The Year Competition 2015-16**
  - 2.1 Mrs Marriott-Power reported that the event in connection with the award would continue to be hosted in conjunction with the Suffolk & Norfolk CC show as the club was interested in maintaining support.
  - 2.2 It was observed that the system of scoring needed to be stated and published on the GCCF website. It should not depend on the number of times a cat was shown - quality of result, rather than quantity.
  - 2.3 Once this was agreed by the Board the results needed to be published and updated frequently so that there was transparency.  
**Action: system of scoring to be produced for approval at the September meeting.** **HMP**
3. **Stall at Crufts in 2016**
  - 3.1 The Chairman had asked the Kennel Club for information on stalls and been sent a price list. It was agreed that if payment was required the benefit to GCCF would not be worth the expense. The Chairman agreed to see if that was open to negotiation.
  - 3.2 It was established that if a stall was taken there would be sufficient volunteers to man it for a day.  
**Action: further discussion with the KC.** **SC**

**BD3480 OFFICE**

1. **Update on staffing**
  - 1.1 There had been no major changes, therefore this was deferred until September. **INFO**
2. **Office report**  
The OM had circulated details of staffing and training, and had no general matters to report. **INFO**

3. **GCCF Processes**  
Deferred until the presenter was present.  
**Action: to be returned to the next Board agenda.**

JL

**BD3481 DISCUSSION TOPICS**

1. **Number of Board meeting required for 2015 and confirmation of dates for these.**  
1.1 It was agreed the schedule of the previous year should be followed, with meeting every two months. except for an additional one in April. Some concern was expressed that business would not be covered, but the benefit to GCCF was the cost saving.  
1.2 Future meeting would be held on 17 November 2015 , 12 January, 8 March, 12 April and 10 May 2016.  
**Action: these to be confirmed with the booking of the room and the Board circulated.**

MG

2. The restructuring of the show sections - from the work of the SSRG and BACRG  
3. Pedigree pet classes - the acceptance of physical anomalies that are the basis of breeds in other organisations  
4. Use of a survey to plan future Board changes to make it both more effective in carrying out its responsibilities and its members more accountable.  
5. Club representation to Council - does a requirement for membership numbers remain practical?  
6. Individual membership of GCCF.

**No discussion on these matters.**

**Some were in abeyance pending surveys, and would be discussed by the groups conducting these in order that recommendations could be made to the Board. The Chairman invited Board members to contribute electronically when these were reported.**

INFO

7. **GCCF International**

There would be discussion on this at the next Finance Committee meeting when the type of computer upgrade for overseas business would be considered and the GCCFI decision known. (see BD3470.6)

INFO

**BD3482 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Mrs Marriott-Power reported that there were numerous inaccuracies in the current SOPs, very few were clear of mistakes. She passed notes on these to the Office Manager so that typographical errors could be corrected. BACs would need to be contacted to deal with amendments.

INFO.

The meeting finished at 5.15pm with deferments where noted.

The next meeting: Tuesday, 8 September 2015 at 11.00 for 11.15am in the Brockway Room at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London.