



ELECTORAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY
Meeting of Full Council



Wednesday 15 JUNE 2016 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

		PRESENTED BY	ACTION BY
C2102	WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM	CHAIR	INFO
	<p>At 12.07pm the Chairman welcomed 107 delegates and thanked them for attending GCCF's Electoral meeting. Nine delegates/substitute delegates who had not attended a Council meeting previously were invited to introduce themselves.</p> <p>A reminder was given that delegates should respect each other, and that no personal comments would be tolerated. As it was to be a busy meeting those who wished to speak were requested to be concise and not repeat the observations made by others.</p> <p>Diana Bishop, Angela Crowther, Trevor Green, Anne Gregory (GCCF Vice-President), Jean Kemp, Rosie Meekings, Graham O'Hara, Peggy Parris, Maxine Pettengell, Linton Smith, Joy Sutherland, Aline Thorne, Paul Tomlinson, Iris Wiseman and Adrian Wood (of O'Hara Wood accountants) were remembered in a moment of silence. Later in the day the Chairman informed delegates that he had also been told of the passing of Nancy Rolls.</p>		
C2103	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	CHAIR	INFO
	<p>The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of the President and Vice-Presidents, Gordon Butler, (who had been ill, but was recovering slowly), Eric Wickham-Ruffle and Brenda Wolstenholme. All had sent good wishes for a successful meeting.</p> <p>Delegate apologies were as recorded on the attendance sheet.</p>		
C2104	CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS	CHAIR	INFO
	<p>1.1 The Chairman, Steve Crow, reported that it had been a busy year, with business conducted at seven Board meetings and four of the Finance Committee. He was pleased not to have incurred the expense of additional meetings.</p> <p>1.2 He thanked members of the Board and the other standing committees for their commitment, and noted how much the efforts of all volunteers (including those who gave time to attend working groups, or assisted with administration) contributed, both to support projects and to introduce new ideas.</p> <p>1.3 The work of the staff at the GCCF Office at Bridgwater was appreciated during a period of change, working towards the introduction of the new computer system.</p> <p>1.4 It was planned to employ a new administrator with responsibility for marketing and communication.</p> <p>1.5 He informed delegates that he was now certain that there would be no bill specific to the welfare and/or the breeding and sale of cats in this parliamentary term. However, a parliamentary select committee was in the process of taking evidence to update the Animal Welfare Act and had called on Cats Protection and International Cat Care to give evidence (a video recording was available). He had offered to give evidence on behalf of GCCF, but no representatives of the registries had been invited.</p> <p>1.6 A letter deploring this, and giving a GCCF view on responsible hobby breeding had been sent by Dr Sue Moreland, GCCF Veterinary Officer. The Chairman was pleased to let delegates know that this had been received favourably, and would be included in the published written evidence.</p> <p>Post meeting note: this letter can be read on the GCCF website.</p> <p>1.7 His membership of the Breeding & Sale of Cats Group had ensured there had been a GCCF perspective in the report on the breeding and sale of cats that was now being sent to DEFRA from the Canine and Feline Sector Group.</p> <p>Also, Dr Bennett had been able to give evidence on the breeding of pedigree cats to the Scottish parliamentary select committee and she had reported that this had been received favourably.</p> <p>1.8 The World Cat Congress had taken place in Bangkok, with all nine WCC members present, and the Chairman described the show and gave news from the seminar where Professor Lyons had been the keynote speaker. Points he thought should be highlighted from her report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just one copy of the gene responsible for folded ears could also induce joint problems in mid life.• Work was ongoing on different degrees of dwarfism, with homozygous dwarf cats probably not possible.• Russet in Burmese was possibly another extension gene, a mutation causing red hair in other species,• Present day Bengals now retained only 7% of their Asian Leopard Cat heritage and testing for charcoal was possible, as was testing for PKdef and PRA in this breed.• The silver gene (I) had not been found and consideration was being given to this being a polygenic effect.• Studies were ongoing to discover the genes responsible for diabetes and oral-facial syndrome in Burmese, with DNA samples required, and ongoing research into amyloidosis had not yet yielded results.• Work on the '99 lives' project continued with 83 complete genomes sequenced to date.• The mutations for PKD and PKdef had been found in small wildcats species, which was interesting as it indicated these had been around a long time, and pedigree breeding practices were not the cause. <p>1.9 The WCC congress meeting had given an opportunity to discuss with TICA officials the apparent clash of TICA show dates with those of GCCF and GCCFI shows in Ireland. A commitment was given to ensure this was avoided in future.</p>		

- 1.10 The next WCC event would be in Las Vegas in 2017. GCCF had been requested to host WCC in 2021 as this was the 150th anniversary of the first cat show held at Crystal Palace in 1871. The Board had received the idea favourably and the intervening years gave an opportunity to plan and save towards the costs. It was thought to present a good opportunity to stimulate media interest.
- 1.11 GCCF had now completed preliminary negotiations with GCCFI to provide a registration service and a 'heads of agreement' document had been signed by representatives of both organisations. It was thought that this could be ready later in the year. However, it was not the integration of the two registries, but two services operated by a single computer system.
- 1.12 The most recent news the Chairman had was that he had taken part in an event celebrating cats at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons where he had been one of the speakers. He thought what he had to say had been well received and it had been another occasion to promote GCCF.

It was queried from the floor whether the outcome of the EU referendum would affect GCCF, particularly the partnership with GCCFI. The response was that it was a business arrangement to provide a service to GCCFI so that this would not be impacted by any international change. However, any legislation relating to cats produced by the EU could not relate to GCCF cats if the UK was not in the EU.

C2105 CLUB MATTERS

1. Club returns report

The Chairman reported most clubs had submitted the required information. 7 still had made only partial returns, but had supplied valid reasons for this.

A vote was taken to allow the delegates present from those clubs to participate and vote in the meeting.

Unanimous approval. INFO

2. Dispensation for continued representation without the specified membership was granted to 8 clubs:

Breed Clubs

Oriental Cinnamon & Fawn Group
Oriental Longhair Breed Club
Singapura Cat Club

All Breed

Caesarea CC
Cumberland CC
Durham Counties CC
Eastern Counties CC
Wyvern Cat Club

Unanimous approval. INFO

3. GCCF Membership for the Household Pet Cat Club of Great Britain

3.1 The club had completed 3 years of provisional membership and was applying for full membership of GCCF as a specialist club.

3.2 It was acknowledged that the club would be able to apply for a show licence.

Unanimous approval. INFO

C2106 THE 2015 ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

1. Presentation of the Company Accounts of 2015(draft) - statement and questions

Laura Green of O'Hara Wood presented the GCCF's 2015 accounts to delegates at the end of the fifth year of the company's trading. She confirmed that they had been prepared, and were in the format, required by company law, and went through the report page by page giving a brief explanation of the content of each.

She observed:

- 1.1 That it was very important to note that 2015 had been a very good year for GCCF. Income had increased and expenditure reduced, giving an increase in the surplus above that of 2014 of almost £12,500 on ordinary activities after taxation. This was quite an achievement for a not-for-profit company of GCCF's size.
- 1.2 GCCF had a net asset position of £440,138. At the same time last year it was £401,659 confirming that overall assets, less liabilities, increased in the 12 month period, to give a healthy reserve.
- 1.3 There was no taxation on the normal activities of the Cat Fancy as it is considered by HMRC as a members' club. Corporation tax of £64 had been paid on interest received.
(NB this figure should have been consistent throughout, on page 8 it had been misprinted).
- 1.4 Ms Green gave a brief explanation on the depreciation of fixed assets as detailed on pages 6 & 7, with particular reference to the depreciation on the capital computer system purchases.
- 1.5 From the summary of the profit stated on page 12 it was good to note that the income from core business had increased by almost £13,000. GCCF was benefitting from increased income from Agria, but income from registrations and transfers only was up by almost £12,000 on 2014.
- 1.6 It was noted that the deficit from the Supreme show was due largely to decreased income in all areas and not increased expenditure.
- 1.7 Savings had been made in meeting costs and the expense of operating the disciplinary system was reduced.
- 1.8 The conclusion stated was that GCCF was in a strong position, ready to repay the club loans, and with a good reserve should there be a downturn to weather in future years.

Questions taken were:

- a) To know if the amount paid for hiring the hall for the 2016 Supreme was shown in 2015 accounts. It was not as although the contract had been agreed at the end of 2015 the payment had not left the account until 2016.
- b) To clarify the composition of the miscellaneous income of £10,015. It was explained that most of this was from printing and the Breeder Scheme. It could be stated with more detail in future, but it wasn't common practice for relatively small amounts.

- c) To gain explanation of the capital costs notation, and Ms Green responded to give the detail required.
- d) To enquire whether there could be any reduction in the cost of taking credit and debit cards from an improved contract. Mr Goadby replied that when this had been investigated it was found that headline offers on much reduced charges excluded the portion taken by the banks, and this was the major cost. So it had been decided to remain with current provider as vastly increased turnover would be required before there could be any better deal.
- e) There was some concern at reliance on the size of the Agria earnings. The Chairman responded that it was useful to be able to use the money to invest in the business while it was available. Plans would be made accordingly if it began to fall away.

The Chairman proposed the accounts were accepted. This was agreed.

Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention.

Action: the GCCF accounts to be sent to Companies House in compliance with legal requirements. OM

2 The appointment for the examination of the GCCF 2016 accounts.

2.1 It was agreed that O'Hara Wood should continue in this role.

Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention OM

C2107 THE ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

1. Board of Directors

Gillian Bennett 68
Doreen Goadby 63
Thomas Goss 63
Shelagh Heavens 62
Jen Lacey 62
Helen Marriott-Power 61
Lynda Ashmore 60
Catherine Kaye 53
Heather McRae 52
Rosemary Fisher 51
Pat Perkins 51
Valerie Anderson 50
Lisa Talboys 50
Sally Rainbow-Ockwell 46
John Robinson 46

3. Finance Committee

Maria Chapman-Beer 85
Shelagh Heavens 66
Thomas Goss 65
Rosemary Fisher 65
Doreen Goadby 64

Finance reserve:
Helen Marriott-Power 61

2. Investigations Committee

John Harrison 79
Jen Lacey 69

Reserves:
Stephen McConnell 28 (IC) 43 (DC)

4. Disciplinary Committee

Maria Bryant 51
Babara Prowse 50

Board reserves:
Sean Farrell 44
Sandra Woodley 39

Clive Wicks 26 (IC) 43 (DC)

Appointments to the Investigations and Disciplinary Committees were for a three year period. It was agreed that the Secretary of IC/DC should allocate the reserves to a committee as required, as neither was present at Council to express a preference.

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

C2108 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. **The Minutes of the Council meeting of 24 February** **CHAIR JL**
The draft minutes had been circulated. They were approved with no amendments to the meeting record.
Majority approval 0 against 2 abstentions
2. **Delegate questions on ongoing business not covered by an agenda item**
2.1 No questions were asked.

C2109 MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CHAIR INFO

1. Board of Directors: 12 January 2016, 8 March 2016, 12 April 2016 No questions
2. Finance Committee 18 September 2015, 10 February 2016 No questions

C2110 FINANCE

1. **Presentation of the Financial Report to the end of March 2016** **MG INFO**
1.1 The Office Manager reported an excellent start to the year as income had increased by 10%, and net expenditure was slightly lower (6%) than for the same period in 2015.

- 1.2 The company had traded with a surplus by the end of the quarter, which was a strong position to be in as this result was not usually achieved until later in the year.
- 1.3 The capital expenditure on Project Phoenix was now almost completed.
- 1.4 It was asked why the club loans and depreciation were not stated on the balance sheet as it was expected this would be standard procedure. The OM responded that the club loans were a single fixed amount held within the capital fund, and so not reported monthly as there was no variation. Depreciation was calculated at the end of year based upon the amount of capital spending over the total period. As the outcome was not predictable by a running total it was not included.
He invited Ms Green to comment and she agreed the reporting was optional for the company. The amount of depreciation was determined by accounting practice rather than being an actual amount of money spent.
- 1.5 The OM apologised for a line of text missing after 'Agrida' in the list of sources of income. 'Miscellaneous income' needed to be inserted at that point.
- 1.6 There was comment from a delegate on the time taken to make purchases from the GCCF website as items had to be paid for separately. Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell stated that this would change with the introduction of the new computer system. There would be a 'shopping cart' for purchases and a single payment made at 'checkout' as was common practice on many retail sites

2. Presentation of the volume figures for core business to date

MG INFO

- 2.1 Graphs showing the transaction volumes to the end of March had been published.
- 2.2 The year to date showed a rise in all principal areas of the business although prefix registrations had the lowest increase compared to 2015. However, strength in prefix applications and high non-prefix figures suggested this could change in the future.
- 2.3 Imports were still improving on the record levels achieved in the previous year. It was queried whether information could be presented to show the geographical source of the imports, but there were doubts on the data being an accurate reflection of the initial country of origin.
- 2.4 The positive effect of the RC transfer incentive could be clearly seen.
- 2.5 In response to a query assurance was given that the figures for GCCFI would not be added to the GCCF totals. There would still be a comparison of like with like.

C2111

BUSINESS MATTERS

SRO INFO

1. Ratification of the 2016 Business Plan

- 1.1 This was business carried forward from the February meeting. The Business Plan had then been on the website for only a few days, too short a time for approval to be sought.
 - 1.2 There had been no questions or comments in the intervening period and no objections were raised. Therefore the plan was deemed accepted.
 - 1.3 It was queried whether there had been any international approach other than to GCCFI as this was a stated aim. Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell said action taken had been to try and get a group together to consider possibilities and to respond to any approach made. So far none had been received, but if the service to GCCFI was provided successfully there would be model to offer others.
 - 1.4 The intention stated in the Business Plan of facilitating increased show entry prompted a delegate to demand why the club she represented had not been able to increase the number of breeds on its show entry licence. Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell responded that this was a general aim rather than being specific to any one club.
 - 1.5 However, the opportunity was taken to air two grievances: that the club had not been allowed to have additional breeds, although it was believed others stating a similar rationale had, and a Board refusal to allow the issue to be placed on the agenda for Council.
 - 1.6 One delegate spoke to explain that her club would be adversely affected if the breeds were allowed, another requested detail of the rationale the Board used when making show licences decisions.
 - 1.7 The Chairman intervened to give a brief outline of the criteria that had to be considered when licences were awarded and stated that currently this was a Board prerogative. Only a Byelaw change could alter that, and it would be this that a club would need on the agenda rather than any sort of arbitration request.
- During 1.5-1.7 there were several calls from the floor that there should be a move to next business.

2. Project Phoenix report

SRO INFO

- 2.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that the new computer system would become operational on the weekend of 16-17 July.
- 2.2 This would be followed by one week when the online system would not be accessible to customers as there would be staff training during this period. 25 July would be the date all could log on.
- 2.3 This period of closure would not affect the GCCF website.
- 2.4 A new coder at the computer company was now working alongside Ian Macro, SRO and Heather at the Office who had been working without consistent support. It was observed that GCCF was fortunate in having people who had the required expertise and gave their time generously.
- 2.5 One registrar would handle all registrations until the launch to enable Heather to concentrate on the IT work.
- 2.6 The new system would take over all the present functions of the old, and new ones would be added to develop services and ensure those that existed were carried out more efficiently.

2a) Rule change: section 1 7a)

The name, including the administrative prefix may contain no more than **26 30** characters, including letters and/or spaces hyphens and apostrophes.

- 2.1 Phoenix could cope with more data, and storage was not as expensive as at the time the old computer system was introduced.
- 2.2 It was logical as 30 letters were permitted already to be used in the names of imported cats. Therefore it was known that the use of a longer name on show certificates would not be a difficulty.

This was agreed unanimously. Effective from 25.7.2016.

Action: To be introduced into the system for all registered names. SRO
2.3 Mrs Fisher announced that the new certificates were ready and would be sent out to all shows. Additional space for names was included in the design, and there was no colour block across the space provided. INFO

3. Agria partnership information CHAIR INFO

- 3.1 The Chairman reported that there was not much new information to provide. The partnership with Agria was now four years old and had proved financially successful.
- 3.2 The accounts showed £43,000 had been earned in commission in 2015 and the indications were that a similar amount would be gained in 2016.
- 3.3 There was some delegate concern about the loss of such a lucrative partnership, and the need to not make demands on the company. The Chairman's response was that Agria would also be benefiting so would have this as an incentive to continue working with GCCF.
- 3.4 Concerns that GCCF breeders and owners had in respect of policy terms and costs were regularly discussed at partnership meetings.

4. The Royal Canin Incentives CHAIR INFO

- 4.1 As indicated in the income figures and volume graphs the transfer incentive continued to have a positive impact on the number of transfers made.
- 4.2 RC had now clarified its offer to sponsor three classes at shows for Junior Owners (those 16 and under with the cat registered in their name). These would be a pedigree class, a pedigree pet class and an HHP class, though all would be judged on the pet section criteria of presentation, condition and temperament.
- 4.3 Cash prizes and cards would be provided, but shows would be responsible if rosettes were awarded.
- 4.4 Letters were due to go to Show Managers shortly and it was hoped some would respond to RC, but it was recognised that introduction of the scheme would only happen gradually.

C2112 BYELAW CHANGES Immediate implementation, but not retrospective CHAIR OM

1. Note to 12 (4) (b) (i)

- 1.1 This allowed the use of an administrative prefix in the case of a permitted transfer of a cat in the ownership of a suspended person.
- 1.2 It was agreed following some information given on the sort of circumstances in which the Board used discretion when suspension was in force, which occurred very rarely.
- 1.3 It was noted that some adjustment of the computer system could be necessary to allow the removal of the prefix.

Should the suspended owner be the breeder of the cat an administrative prefix will be substituted for the registered breeder's prefix, if one such is on record as part of that cat's name.

Majority approval. 11 against 2 abstentions

2. Additional sentence to 5 (3) (a)

- 2.1 This was to ensure club members had access to a copy of the club's approved accounts.
- 2.2 It also gave the GCCF Office this knowledge to enable a response to any enquiry made.

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.

Majority approval. 9 against 7 abstentions

C2113 INVESTIGATIONS/DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. Report on the work of the Investigations Committee

- 1.1 Dr Bennett thanked Professor Jarvis for preparing the statistical report that was published on the GCCF website. A direct comparison with previous years was now easier as information was being recorded in a more consistent way.
- 1.2 Numbers had declined in most categories, but it was disappointing that this year there were two cases considered of non-submission of judge reports as there had been none in the previous year. The other significant increase related to social media/club & BAC and civil matters, nearly twice as many as in 2015.
- 1.3 There was particular thanks given to Carole Butler, secretary to IC/DC, who had given another year of excellent service, although she had had to cope with a house move and her husband's ill health.

2. Byelaw and rule additions to ensure access for an individual to the arbitration process and that any sanction applied would have a fixed term.

- a) 5 (5) A new clause to clarify the right of appeal against exclusion/expulsion from a club
- b) An addition to Rule section 2 7d) to allow appeal against exclusion from a show.
- 2.1 After discussion of a) a vote was taken and the two thirds majority required for a Byelaw change was not obtained. **The proposal was lost. 39 against 7 abstentions** INFO
- 2.2 Without further discussion a vote was taken on b), which was a rule change requiring only a simple majority. This was also unsuccessful. **The proposal was lost. 55 against 5 abstentions** INFO
- 2.3 It was queried what the Office response should be if there complaints about show exclusion. There was no specific reply to this. It prompted the additional question of how often it occurred and this was unknown.

Note: After the vote on a) a delegate called out, using the microphone. An apology was requested, but not forthcoming.

C2114A THE SUPREME SHOW

1. Report from the Supreme Show Manager

- 1.1 As Mrs Leighton had had to leave Mr Wood made the report on behalf of the show management team. He gave positive news on the preparations for the 40th show.
- 1.2 Advance ticket sales and stall bookings were improved from the same date in the previous year.
- 1.3 A new hall layout had been designed so that the cats and market area were separate entities. INFO

2. Additional information on the event of 2016

- 2.1 The Chairman gave information that agreement had been reached with Tenth Planet at a cost of £5000. Several well known actors from sci-fi TV shows would be attending in character and most would participate in the show as well as interact with fans.
- 2.2 The intention was to increase the gate and give publicity of the event to a different audience. There would be media promotion by the company and the individuals, who had a considerable following.
- 2.3 It was confirmed that the cost would come from the GCCF's marketing budget, rather than the Supreme account. Also that Club Row would again be free to clubs who had the volunteers to participate. **INFO**

3. The appointment of a Supreme Show Manager for 2017

- 3.1 The Chairman announced that the details required for an application to this position were on the GCCF website, and anyone interested who had queries should make contact with the Office for information.
- 3.2 He proposed a vote of thanks for Mrs Leighton who had worked very hard to make the show a success for several years, sometimes having to cope with very difficult circumstances.
Delegates responded with warm applause. **INFO**

C2114 PROPOSALS FROM THE SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP

This item was introduced by Catherine Kaye, Chairman of the Show Review Committee, who explained that the restructuring of the sections was needed to bring balance and fairness in competition amongst the different breeds. The groupings were based on body shape approximately, and the number of grand classes and the breeds for an Imperial approximated to the numbers being shown, although it was acknowledged that this varied in different areas of the country. She urged delegates to consider change as show structure had varied little over the past 40 years in GCCF shows and the number of breeds and of cats being shown had changed a lot during that time. Delegate comment included:

- concern that the particular breed they represented and/or had special interest in was losing out in the reorganisation.
- that it was not radical enough and should have included detail on judge training based on the grand groups
- that it was too radical and needed only an extra split in the Foreign Section to solve all problems
- detail on judge eligibility needed clarification
- only part of the scheme was liked and so it was impossible to agree the total package
- exhibitors did not like change or any indication of losing out, so show entry and attendance would be put at risk.

A paper vote had been requested and was taken on each of the seven proposals.

1. A restructuring of the show sections to give more balance in size and greater equality in competition

- 1.1 This was not approved. **The proposal was lost. 64 against 7 abstentions INFO**
- 1.2 There was an indication that delegates would look again at a revised scheme, or possibly section by section.

2. To allow the choice of certificate classes for titled cats

- 2.1 There was an objection before the vote that as this proposal was carried forward from one based on a club proposal, then the counter proposal that there should be no change should also be allowed (June 2014, C2007). The Chairman attempted to explain this was unnecessary as the same result would be achieved simply from a vote against the proposal, but it took some time for this to be accepted.
There were again calls for a move to proceed with the business.

- 2.2 This was not approved. **The proposal was lost. 68 against 1 abstention INFO**

3. To prevent overhanding

- a) amendment to section 2 rule 4c
- b) amendment to section 2 rule 7f) (as 4c) **Majority approval. 24 against 2 abstentions**

4. To ensure cats who bite and/or behave aggressively are withdrawn from competition on the day, and that should this occur on more than one occasion that the cat is excluded from all future shows, or for a recommended period.

- a) amendment to section 4 rule 20) **Majority approval. 17 against 1 abstention**

5. To introduce new protocols to clarify the Best In Variety and Best In Show procedures and awards, and to allow the award of an additional title certificate for an Overall Best In Show winner.

- a) amendment to section 2 rule 16)
- b) amendment to section 3 rule 7) and section 3 rule 5a)
- Majority approval. 36 against 3 abstentions 2 spoilt**

6. To give greater clarity to the outcome of the Olympian classes

- a) amendment to section 2 rule 14a) **Majority approval. 24 against 2 abstentions 2 spoilt**

7. To ensure judges are not overloaded at back-to-back shows

- a) amendment to section 2 rule 8b) **Majority approval. 19 against 5 abstentions**

C2115 RULE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE VETERINARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. To exclude pedigree pets whose breed is not recognised by GCCF as these may be based on undesirable physical anomalies and or wild species outcrosses (see the GCCF Breeding Policy Section 2)

- a) amendment to section 2 rule 5h)
- b) amendment to section 5 rule 4c)

1.1 It was queried how a show manger or entry clerk could possibly know that a pedigree pet entry was of a breed not recognised by GCCF or looked like it could be. Assurance was given that this was not expected. The rule change was to enable exclusion at vetting-in or breed class judging rather than in advance.

1.2 Its purpose was as a deterrent to avoid such breeds as Scottish Folds or Munchkins being present at GCCF shows. It was recognised that not all would be detectable (eg. a straight-eared Scottish Fold variant).

Majority approval. 1 against 5 abstentions

2. To prevent injury from sharp untrimmed claws

a) amendment to section 4 rule 4i)

b) amendment to section 5 rule 4e)

2.1 This was agreed without discussion.

Majority approval. 1 against 0 abstentions

The text of all the approved rule changes is retained as an addendum to the minutes.

No date was set for the implementation of the rule changes C2114 3-7 and C2115 to allow time for wording to be put into advisory show manager information and to go into all schedules by an agreed date.

Action: This to be determined at the July Board meeting and announced.

JL

C2116 JUDGES

1. JUDGES APPOINTMENTS

(all approved unanimously)

JL

Bengal BAC

Full Judge
Pupil Judge

Mrs R Fisher
Mrs L Whitmore

Burmese BAC

Pupil Judge

Ms E Stark

Joint Rex BAC BAC

Full Judge (Selkirk Rex)
Pupil Judge (Selkirk Rex)
Pupil Judge (Devon Rex)

Mr S Crow
Mr W Vessey
Mr J Harrison

Toyger Breed Club

Full Judge list:

S Amor, V A Anderson-Drew, L Ashmore, S Bullock, M Chapman-Bear, M Codd, S Crow, Mrs G Denny, S Devereux, S Farrell, R Fisher, G Gow, J I Green, J Hansson, D Harper, V Kilby, H Marriott-Power, G Martin, L Martin, S Parkin, P Perkins, S Rainbow-Ockwell, S Rose, B Shingleton, D Stone, and M Walkden

2. NOTIFICATION OF JUDGES APPROVED VIA THE WEBSITE SINCE FEBRUARY COUNCIL

Asian BAC

Pupil Judge

Mr P Cornish

Balinese BAC

Full Judge

Mr R Davies

Exotic BAC

Full Judge

Ms C White
Mrs S Lorton-Hobbs
Mrs V Anderson
Mrs C A Roberts
Mrs L Miles

Extension period until June 2018

Egyptian Mau BAC

Full Judge
Pupil Judge

Mrs M Buckeridge
Mrs N Johnson

Korat & Thai BAC

Pupil judge

Mr M Pearman

Maine Coon BAC

Pupil Judge

Mr J Emery

Norwegian Forest Cat BAC

Full Judge
Pupil Judge

Mr E Merchant
Mrs H Hardwick
Mr G Martin
Mrs L Martin

Ocicat & Aztec BAC

Extension for 1 year from October

Ms J Tonkinson

Oriental BAC

Full Judge (Oriental LH)
(Oriental Bicolour)
(Oriental Bicolour)
(Oriental Bicolour)

Mrs S Tokens
Mrs P Mansaray
Mrs J Allan
Mr R Davies

Persian LH BAC

Full Judge (all colours & patterns)

Mrs C Allam
Mrs C Bamford
Mr N Carter
Mrs S Danks
Mrs J Green
Mrs H Marriott-Power
Miss C Pearson

Singapura BAC	Pupil Judge Extension period until June 2017	Mr S McConnell Mrs P Mansaray	
Snowshoe BAC	Pupil Judge Pupil Judge	Mrs S Rose Mrs S Tokens	
Sokoke Breed Group	Full Judge	Mrs D Stone Mrs S Tokens	
Suffolk Breed Group	Full Judge	Mrs M Codd Mr G Martin Mrs L Martin Mr S Parkin	
Tonkinese BAC	Full Judge	Mrs N Johnson	
Turkish BAC	Full Judge	Mrs W McQuilkin	INFO

3. **JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/REMOVALS**

Mrs J Edwards
Mr J Trotter - Maine Coon list
Mr S Nash-Morris - Abyssinian list
- LaPerm list

Emeritus List

INFO

C2117 BREED APPLICATIONS

1. **Application for preliminary recognition of the Toyger** **Toyger Breed Group**
Majority approval. 0 against 4 abstentions
 Assessment classes may be offered at shows whose closing dates have not yet passed, but and must be provided at shows from 15.10.16

2. **Lilac Point to be accepted as an additional pattern for Thai cats** (approved by the Board) **K&TBAC**
 New pattern to go into the existing classes of any show taking entries. **INFO**
Immediate implementation

C2118 REGISTRATION/TRANSFER SOP MATTERS

1. **Revised registration policy for Tonkinese** **ToBAC**
Unanimous approval
2. **Revised registration policy for the Bengal** **BenBAC**
Unanimous approval.
3. **Revised registration policy and SOP for Thais to include the Thai Lilac Point** **K&TBAC**
Unanimous approval.
4. **Amended SOP for the Suffolk** **Suffolk Breed Group**
 4.1 Amendments addressed concerns made at Council in February.
 4.2 In addition there were two other minor amendments. **Unanimous approval.**

Action: confirmation to BACs with requests that an updated clean copy of the policies and amended SOPs are sent to the GCCF Office and for website publication. **JL**

5. **Advance notification** had been given that the Joint Rex BAC had submitted revised registration policies for the Cornish, Devon and Selkirk Rex to the Board. The amendments included updates to the use of the registers and genetic testing. It was intended to publish these on the Council website for 28 days, once Board approval had been gained, to allow scrutiny by delegates.

C2119 CAT WELFARE TRUST

Rosemary Fisher gave the Annual Report on behalf of the CWT.

1. **Update on the progress of the current projects**
- 1.1 The Trust had supported the Russian Blue Breeders Association to match fund a study into the genetic diversity of GCCF Russian Blues, enabling the number of cats in the study to be doubled.
- 1.2 This had been completed recently and the first findings published. There was indication of a good level of diversity within GCCF Russians, putting them on a par with Siberians and Norwegian Forest Cats, two populations that other studies had found had diversity close to those of domestic populations.
- 1.3 That was a good result, favourable for the genetic health of the breed, and there was additional information promised that would be useful, so publication of the full report was eagerly awaited.
- 1.4 There was no good news on the major study CWT was supporting. A slow start had been made due to the ill health of a key researcher. It had been hoped studies on other species would prove a useful starting point to study the feline genetics of immunity, but that had not proved a way forward. Also, work completed in different places had not yielded the same results and reasons had to be found. Overall the project was far more complex than anticipated at the outset.

2. **Update on the CWT administration**
 - 2.1 Mrs Chapman-Beer was now Treasurer
 - 2.2 Mr Anthony Nichols had joined the Board of Trustees.
 - 2.3 Assurance was given to delegates that as in previous years every penny gained by the Trust was spent on feline research, nothing went on advertising or administration. It was a charity that deserved support. **INFO**

C2120 DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Reduction in the number of club members required for club representation in Council**
 - 1.1 There was a favourable response to this suggestion. The figures put forward indicated there would be approval for a 20-25% reduction for both area and breed clubs.
 - 1.2 It was queried whether there should be a similar reduction in the number that triggered entitlement to an additional delegate (currently 200 and then 500), but no unanimity in response to this. It was stated that the chief aim had to be to ensure representation for clubs who wanted it and the attendance of one delegate provided for this.
 - 1.3 There was an indication that if numbers were reduced the right to give dispensation to clubs who missed the target for any reason should be maintained.
Action: The Board to discuss these findings and bring forward a proposal to Council in October. JL
2. **Use of the GCCF website for publication of non-material items with discussion and voting in Council only if objection is received.**
 - 2.1 Delegates asked for examples of the type of proposals that could be covered by this measure, and breed specific items and simple factual rule changes were suggested.
 - 2.2 There seemed to be general agreement that this would be acceptable.
 - 2.3 Assurance was given that if any change was considered too detailed or complex, and so thought by any delegate to need clarification and discussion, that would count as a reason for the matter to be brought to Council as well as an objection to the actual content.
Action: a note on this to be drafted for the Byelaws and proposed to Council in October. JL

C2121 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATION

There was a query on whether personal remarks were acceptable in the GCCF Council Report published on the website. The Chairman responded that this began as a blog, others were invited to contribute and it was clear that it reflected the views of the writer. It was sent to the Officers and Board in advance of publication for corrections and/or amendments, and seemed to be enjoyed by many who read it.

The meeting closed at 5:00pm with the agenda completed.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 5 October 2016 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London, commencing at 1pm.

ADDENDUM

Wording of Rule Changes Agreed at C2114 & C2115

C2014.3 To prevent over-handling

1. Amendment to Section 2 Rule 4c

A list of classes offered to exhibitors, with the judge engaged for each class.

Note: There should be a reminder in the schedule and on the entry form that no cat can be entered for more than six classes. For cats not in the Breed Class this includes the entry for Best of Breed, and for back-to-back shows the maximum is inclusive of both shows.

2. Amendment to section 2 Rule 7f - see above.

C2014.4 To ensure cats who bite and/or behave aggressively are withdrawn from competition on the day, and that should this occur on more than one occasion that the cat is excluded from all future shows, or for a recommended period.

1. Amendment to Section 4 Rule 20

Any cat biting or inflicting injury by deliberately scratching a judge, veterinary surgeon, steward or other show official, **or displaying extremely threatening behaviour that indicates this could happen**, must be reported to the show manager. The show manager must withdraw the cat from all remaining classes at the show and shall inform the owner of the cat in writing, sending a copy to the GCCF Office. Awards made prior to the disqualification will not be forfeited. If, in the opinion of the person reporting the injury or behaviour, the cat was defending itself in **and/or** there were exceptional and frightening circumstances, that information, provided by the person reporting the incident, should be given to the GCCF Office for consideration by the Board of Directors. If the cat is reporting at any subsequent show **for biting or deliberately scratching**, it shall be disqualified from all future shows unless the Board of Directors rules otherwise. **If more than one report of threatening behaviour is submitted then the Board of Directors may at its discretion fix a term of exclusion from showing. If there is any further report of injury or behaviour subsequent to a fixed term of exclusion there will be disqualification from all future shows, unless the Board of Directors should consider there are extenuating circumstances and sets a further term of exclusion**

C2014.5 To introduce new protocols to clarify the Best of Variety and Best In Show procedures and awards, and to allow the award of an additional title certificate for an Overall Best In Show winner.

Amendments to Section 2 Rule 16.

16. Best in Show

- a. Best-in-Show or Best of Variety, where held, shall be confined to: Persian, Semi-Long Hair, British, Foreign, Burmese, Oriental and Siamese an adult, kitten and neuter from each of the sections.
- b. Cats eligible for Best in Show or Best of Variety are: Olympian Adult, Imperial Grand Challenge, Grand Challenge, Challenge, Olympian Neuter, Imperial Grand Premier, Grand Premier, Intermediate certificate, first placed Merit Class winners and Best of Breed/Best Opposite Sex winners. Kitten Breed class winners are eligible for nomination provided that Best of Breed, if offered, has been awarded. The opposite sex kitten to the Best of Breed winner is also eligible provided the Best of Opposite Sex, if offered, has been awarded. Where Breed classes kitten are split by age or colour, the winner of the split class is eligible provided that Best of Breed/Best Opposite Sex, if offered has been awarded.
- c. ~~This does not prevent show managements from restricting nominations to Best of Breed winners only. If nominations are restricted to Best of Breed winners, this should be stated in the schedule. Show managements may direct BOV judges to select from all of the cats at 16b. (but not any in addition to these), or from a more restricted list to a minimum of Best of Breed winners only. The nomination and judging process for BOV must be published in the schedule and show catalogue. (see Section 3, Rule 7)~~
- d. **The BOV results must be displayed for exhibitors at a point that is deemed practical by the show management.**
- e. Where Best Exhibit in Show is held, the Best Neuter shall be considered against the Best Adult and Best Kitten for Best Exhibit in Show.
- f. **An overall BIS winner will be awarded a further certificate for the title it is working towards, except for an Olympian. Should the OBIS be an Olympian, or aiming for this, then the certificate will count as a breed Olympian certificate at the level it is working towards. The certificate will be signed by the BIS judge, and count towards the total required, regardless of whether that judge is eligible to judge the winner's breed or title class.**

2. Amendment to Section 3 Rule 7

~~Cats eligible for Best in Show or Best of Variety are: Olympian Adult, Imperial Grand Challenge, Grand Challenge, Challenge, Olympian Neuter, Imperial Grand Premier, Grand Premier, Premier, Intermediate certificate, first placed Merit Class winners and Best of Breed/Best Opposite Sex winners. Kitten Breed class winners are eligible for nomination provided that Best of Breed, if offered, has been awarded. The opposite sex kitten to the Best of Breed winner is also eligible provided the Best of Opposite Sex, if offered, has been awarded. Where Breed classes kitten are split by age or colour, the winner of the split class is eligible provided that Best of Breed/Best Opposite Sex, if offered has been awarded. This does not prevent show managements from restricting nominations to Best of Breed winners only. If nominations are restricted to Best of Breed winners, this should be stated in the schedule.~~

Show managements may direct BOV judges to select from all of the cats listed in section 2 at rule 16b, (but not any in addition to these), or from a more restricted list to a minimum of Best of Breed winners only. The nomination and judging process for BOV will be published in the schedule and show catalogue.

(see Section 2, Rule 16 b & c)

Note: Judges who award an Overall BIS are eligible to sign a title certificate for the winner regardless of eligibility to judge the exhibit's breed or title class.

C2014.6 To give greater clarity to the outcome of the Olympian classes

1. An amendment to Section 2 Rule 14a), and Section 3, Rule 5a)

In each class, cats are to be judged in competition with each other against the Standard of Points for the breed or breeds concerned and are placed in order of merit. **In the Olympian Class, after the certificate winner and the reserve (if awarded), placings should be recorded to 5th position.**

C2014.7 To ensure that judges are not overloaded at back-to-back shows

1. An amendment to Section 2 Rule 8b

Judges should be asked to judge a maximum of 70 exhibits at any show **event (single show or back-to-back)**. Each cat in Assessment classes will count as 2 exhibits. **At any event where there is more than one show management team there should be consultation between show managers to avoid overloading any judge with certificate classes.**

Rule changes recommended by the Veterinary Advisory Committee

C2115.1 To exclude pedigree pets whose breed is not recognised by GCCF as these may be based on undesirable physical anomalies and or wild species outcrosses (see the GCCF Breeding Policy Section 2)

1. Section 2 Rule 5h.2-5

Pedigree Pet shall be deemed to mean any cat which falls under at least one of the following categories: (Amended 25.06.2014)

A full pedigree cat, with or without papers.

A cat where one or both parents are pedigrees.

A pedigree "look-a-like" of partly or fully known or unknown parentage that resembles a pedigree cat because of its conformation and/or coat pattern. These cats may be self (single colour) with or without white; have tabby, tortoiseshell or tortie-tabby markings; they may have a ticked, tipped, smoke or pointed pattern in any colour combination or coat length (SH, SLH or LH). (see Section 4 Rule 4c).

Note: in each of the above definitions 'pedigree' refers to a pedigree breed recognised by GCCF. Cats with physical anomalies that are the basis of a breed, or those descended from wild species outcrosses, that may be recognised by other organisations, could be rejected at vetting-in or not judged in their certificate class.

2. Section 5 Rule 4c

Exhibits which have been declawed, exhibits that have some or all their eyebrows and/or eyelashes cut or plucked out, together with polydactyls, folded ears, curly tails and any other abnormality are not acceptable exhibits and a duty veterinary surgeon is instructed to reject them. With the exception of declawing **and damage to eyebrows and/or lashes**, this does not apply to exhibits (pedigree and non-pedigree) in the household pet section. **However, pedigree pets of breeds that will not be recognised by GCCF, because of a harmful genetic mutation and/or where the resultant structural anomaly is the key feature upon which the breed is based, or cats resulting from a species outcross, cannot be shown in the pedigree pet section of GCCF shows and should be rejected.**

C2115.2 To prevent injury from sharp untrimmed claws

1. Section 4 Rule 4i

Any cat that cannot be handled safely for examination will be rejected.

NB Exhibitors are advised **must** trim their cat's claws, if necessary, prior to the show or there may be rejection at vetting-in.

2. Section 5 Rule 4e

Cats which show obvious signs of lack of attention to hygiene, **have sharp untrimmed claws**, or in the opinion of the veterinary surgeons are in an unfit condition for show, must be rejected under Section A of the Veterinary Rejection form.

Note: Exhibitors should be allowed the opportunity to trim claws prior to a rejection, but should not expect the veterinary surgeon to do this for them at vetting-in.