



GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Meeting of Full Council

Wednesday 17 OCTOBER 2018 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London



PRESENTED BY ACTION BY

- C2224 WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM Chairman**
- At 1.05pm the Chairman welcomed 81 delegates and thanked them for attending
- Yvonne Clubbe, Sylvia Gibbons, Irene Jessop, Patsy Knight, Jenny Parsley, Chales Patey, Kay Short, Molly Southall, John Walker and Brenda Wolstenholme (GCCF Vice-President and former Chair) were remembered in a moment of silence.
- C2225 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Chairman**
- The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of the President, Shirley Bullock, who had sent good wishes for a successful meeting, and was looking forward to being at the Supreme.
Delegate apologies were as recorded on the attendance sheet. **INFO**
- C2226 CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS Chairman**
- 1.1 The Chairman, John Hansson, apologised for misleading Council at the June meeting. In response to comment on Board attendance he had stated that no meeting had been rescheduled, but the September meeting had been held in August and he had not recalled this change at the time.
1.2 He remarked that the agenda for this meeting was short which allowed plenty of time for discussion. He hoped all who wished to would have an opportunity for comment, but asked that delegates did not repeat points made by others.
(The Chairman withdrew from the meeting at times due to difficulty in speaking because of a bad cough).
- C2227 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
1. **The Minutes of the Council meeting of 20 June 2018 Vice-Chairman**
1.1 The draft minutes had been circulated.
1.2 There were no queries and they were **approved with 2 abstentions** **INFO**
2. **Matters arising, and delegate questions on ongoing business not covered by an agenda item**
2.1 There were no matters arising.
- C2228 MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY Vice- Chairman**
1. **Board of Directors: 9 May 2018,**
1.1 A delegate gave it as her opinion that the Board was not sufficiently focussed on strategic planning for the future of GCCF. She had noted that the agenda did not include discussion of Business Plan projects.
1.2 She was concerned by a lack of Board professionalism and suggested the purchase of external help.
1.3 Other delegates who commented in discussion that followed remarked on the size of the Board and that a smaller Board of management would find it easier to function as a team. However, it was noted by a previous Chairman that this had been proposed on a previous occasion and was not approved by Council.
1.4 It was also suggested that the governance of competitor organisations should be given consideration to ascertain if best practice could be identified.
1.5 After 30 minutes of discussion a proposal to move on was made and agreed.
2. **Finance Committee: 21 March 2018 No queries or comments. INFO**
- C2229 ELECTION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE Chairman**
- 1.1 Two members were required who would serve for a three year term and two reserves who would serve for one year.
1.2 A paper ballot was held with the Vice-Chairman and OM as scrutineers. The result was:
Appeals Committee members: Dr Gavin Evers (25) and Miss Lynne Shirley (24)
Appeals Committee reserves: Miss Vanessa Marriott (23) and Mr Robin Kempe (21)
Action: The IC/DC secretary to be informed of the outcome to contact the applicants JL
- C2230 BREED APPLICATIONS BSGC**
1. **Promotion to Championship status - British Shorthair Van patterned (BSH xx 01) & Harlequin (BSH xx 02)**
1.1 The BAC had made an application for the promotion of these two patterns within a single class.

1.2 It was noted that the Standard of Points for each pattern was as already approved and published on the GCCF website.

1.3 A vote was taken for the promotion.

Unanimous approval

1.4 Cats could be entered in the appropriate class at shows not yet closed at the show manager's discretion. The breed class would have to be included in all relevant schedules by February 2019.

Action: the BSGC to be informed

JL

C2231 REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS

1. Revisions to the Persian LH registration policy in respect of PKD testing **PERLH BAC**

1.1 The Persian PKD testing schedule had been amended to remove the option of breeding from untested, or tested positive cats by allowing registration on the Genetics Register. This register would no longer be used and all cats to be registered with active status would need to be deemed clear.

1.2 This would be operational from January 2019.

1.3 It was queried whether all Persians currently used for breeding would need retesting. Clarification was given that 'deemed clear' referred to tested cats and those who were descended from tested and proven clear cats on all pedigree lines. Therefore retesting would not be necessary.

1.4 A vote was taken.

Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention

2. Revisions to the Exotic registration policy in respect of PKD testing **EXO BAC**

2.1 The Exotic registration policy had been amended to mirror that of the Persian LH in respect of the requirement for cats with active status to be deemed clear of PKD, and the Genetic Register no longer to be used to allow the breeding of cats whose PKD status was unknown or positive.

2.2 This would be operational from January 2019.

2.3 There were no queries and the revised policy was approved.

Unanimous approval

3. Additions to the Australian Mist registration policy to include progress via exhibition **A-M BAC**

3.1 The Australian Mist registration policy had incorporated the new GCCF rules (Section 1:12cii & 17a) to allow quicker progression to the supplementary register for cats of good phenotype following the use of an outcross.

3.2 The amended policy was approved.

Unanimous approval

4. Additions to the Suffolk registration policy to include progress via exhibition **SUF BAC**

4.1 The Suffolk registration policy had incorporated the new GCCF rules (Section 1:12cii & 17a) to allow quicker progression to the supplementary register for cats of good phenotype following the use of foundation cats or an outcross.

4.2 The amended policy was approved.

Unanimous approval

5. Minor amendments to the Standard of Points for the Ragdoll **RD BAC**

5.1 The minor changes were approved without comment.

Unanimous approval

6. Minor amendments in to the BSH Standard of Points in respect of red tabbies **BSGC**

6.1 The minor changes were approved without comment.

Unanimous approval

7. Amendments to the Ocicat & Aztec Standards of Points

O&ABAC

7.1 The Ocicat & Aztec BAC had supplied a rationale in respect of some revision to the SOPs for both breeds. The same changes applied to each SOP.

7.2 The amended SOPs were approved.

Unanimous approval

Action: the relevant BACs/Groups for 1-7 to be informed

JL

C2232 JUDGES

1. JUDGES FOR APPROVAL

(all approved unanimously)

BACs

Abyssinian BAC

Full Judge

Mr Mark Pearman
Mrs Sally Tokens

Asian BAC

Full Judge

Mr Phil Cornish
Mr Steve Parkin

British Shorthair GC

Full Judge

Extension to October 2019
Extension to February 2020

Mrs Lizz Adair
Dr Karen Kempsell
Ms Joanne Seggie
Mrs Celia de Martino
Mrs Eileen Fryer

Maine Coon BAC

Full Judge

Mr Ross Davies

Siberian BAC

Extension to 22.10.19

Mrs Carole Gainsbury

Singapura BAC	Full Judge	Mr Stephen McConnell Mrs Sally Tokens
Turkish BAC	Pupil Judge	Mr John Harrison Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Action: Judges & BACs to be informed and lists updated		JL
2. NOTIFICATION OF JUDGES APPROVED VIA THE WEBSITE SINCE JUNE COUNCIL		INFO
Birman BAC	Full Judge	Mrs Valerie Anderson-Drew
Burmese BAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge	Mr Di Brown Mrs Pam Beard-Smith
BSGC	Full Judge Extension to 23.10.18 Extension to 26.2.19	Mrs Hayley Wild Mrs Celia De Martino Mrs Eileen Fryer
Egyptian Mau BAC	Extension 10 10.10.19	Mrs Perri Mansaray
Ocicat & Aztec BAC	Pupil Judge	Mrs Janet Williams
Oriental Joint BAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge (Oriental LH) (all)	Mr Ross Davies Mr Neil Carter Mrs Joan Pounds
Russian BAC	Pupil Judge	Mrs Janet Williams Ms Kaye Wilson
Tonkinese BAC	Pupil Judge	Dr Peter Collin

3. JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/REMOVALS

Transfer to the Emeritus list: Mr Simon Twigge (Burmese list)

Withdrawals: Mrs S Amor - Burmese list; Mrs D Stone - Maine Coon list

C2233 SHOW MATTERS

1. Supreme Show Report

- 1.1 It was reported that just over 600 cats were expected to be present. About 40 of those were in Meet The Breeds or other exhibitions.
- 1.2 In response to a question on the size of deficit expected Steve Crow responded that it was impossible to be accurate as a fair proportion of income that supplemented entry fees would not be received until the day of the show. Also some invoices would not be received until later. He expected it to be around £12,000-£13,000 if receipts and payments approximated to those of the previous year.
- 1.3 Savings had been made where they could, for example there would be no overhead rigging this year, but the NEC had not been booked for a show the following season. It was confirmed that overseas judges would stay for two nights in the hotel.
- 1.4 Other halls had been investigated, but no decision had been taken on where the next Supreme would be held or during which month of the show year. Therefore no licence had been applied for. **INFO**

2. Report on the BAC Review

CK

- 2.1 Kate Kaye reminded Council that the work of the Show Review Committee had been completed and the SRG was no longer active. Two new groups had been formed to look at judge training and the functioning of BACs. The task of the BAC Review was particularly to revise BAC governance to enable the effective delivery of a revised judge training programme.
- 2.2 It was probable that judge training would be focussed on each Grand Group. Therefore for some BACs (where the Grand class consisted of a single breed) there would be little change, but where there were at least two breeds in a Grand class there would be a need to hold meetings that brought together the representatives of two or more existing BACs.
- 2.3 Revisions had been made following contributions from BACs after the circulation of some initial ideas. The new version was closer to what was familiar.
- 2.4 It was thought when required there could be meetings specific to the business of a single breed (registration/ breeding policies and SOPs) held on the same occasion as a joint meeting. Referral could be made to the joint committee if necessary.
- 2.5 A number of clubs could be accommodated without making the committees too large in size by weighting the votes of each. This could be varied if the number of breed clubs changed.
- 2.6 It would be important to have independent officers, with a Chairman who enabled a voice for all rather than dominance by one person or club, and a secretary who was familiar with the system and an effective administrator.
- 2.7 It would be necessary to ensure all BAC operated the new training scheme in the same way, but as the Grand Groups were comprised of a varying number of breeds there would need to flexibility. Each would have to be considered individually in terms of size and representation.

2.8 A second consultation of BACs was ongoing.

INFO

3. Report on the Judge Training Review

PC

3.1 Dr Collin was unable to attend the meeting. He had sent apologies and the news that a meeting had taken place recently.

3.2 He intended that a report from this should go to the November Board meeting and he would report to the next Council meeting.

INFO

4. World Cat Congress Event

4.1 The Chairman reported that saving was ongoing for the 2021 when it would be GCCF's turn to host in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first cat show.

4.2 Hosting had proved expensive on the previous occasion and this event was expected to require considerable support. There had been no decision yet on the month in which it would be held.

INFO

5. The Show Calendar - discussion

5.1 Some points were taken at this point, particularly on whether shows should move from a traditional date to give the Supreme two weeks clear on either side. Further time was allowed for discussion after the conclusion of other business. All are noted together for the record.

5.2 The Chairman stated that there were 51 weekends available in a calendar year and around 150 clubs wanting to hold a show. At present the criteria used for licence applications were geographical proximity and whether there would be sufficient judges for shows held on a particular date.

5.3 Some clubs had managed to keep to a specific Saturday for many years, others had to change, often because of venue availability and/or sharing agreements. One move usually had ripple effect repercussions affecting a number of others on either side. The Board would welcome suggestions to ease problems and be fair.

5.4 Responses (in no particular order) were:

- priority should always be given to shows that had been able to maintain a fixed date for many years
- priority should be given to the breed clubs
- new clubs, and those clubs who had to change their date for whatever reason, should need the permission of clubs with the same date, and/or those on either side before being allowed a new date
- the Supreme moved and therefore the clubs should not have to change if a traditional date was either side of it
- the number of licences per year should be restricted to a specific number, with clubs being awarded their licence on a first come, first served basis
- the show year should last for eighteen months (thought difficult because there would be issues with venues)
- breed clubs should be allowed a show each year, but all-breed clubs only one every two years (it was noted that there would be a probable drop in revenue for GCCF)

5.5 As views were different, and often based on a club perspective, no opinion was sought on any particular idea and further consideration would be by the Board.

INFO

C2234

FINANCE

OM

1. Presentation of the management accounts for the current period

1.1 The OM reported that these were not yet ready as the hand-over between the newly employed GCCF bookkeeper and the previous one (external contract) was not yet complete.

1.2 The bookkeeper's name was Leanne Penwell and she was employed on a part time basis. She was currently becoming familiar with the company's business.

1.3 In response to a query it was acknowledged that a Financial Controller had initially been sought, but it had been realised that GCCF could not afford to employ a suitably skilled person, even part time. The new employee showed promise and would be encouraged to develop her skills further in due course.

1.4 It was confirmed that money for staff training had been allocated within previous budgets and would be in that proposed for 2019.

INFO

C2235

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. IT Report

SRO

1.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that 40 shows had now be held, or were in process, using the STAR system. A lot had been learned setting up these to enable considerable development and improvement.

1.2 Thanks were give to participating Show Managers for being willing to take part in the pilot scheme, and it was observed that it enabled some clubs to make considerable savings on their show expenses. This would vary depending on the previous cost of of their show processing.

1.3 At present the service was still be offered without a set up charge though it was anticipated that the Board would introduce one. The setting up process was currently done by volunteers, but it was scheduled for a hand over to the Office.

1.4 It was planned that there should be a training video produced for Show Managers who wished to become familiar with the process ahead of using it.

1.5 An alternative to Netbanx was also under investigation as it was thought bank card handling costs at 2.4% plus 22p could be reduced if another company was used.

1.6 It was queried whether those who wished to enter a show using a paper entry form and cheque could still do so and assurance was given that this would remain an option.

1.7 The OM responded that clubs received show income as soon as accounts were finalised and bank details had been supplied.

1.8 Next year treasurers would be able to complete their club's membership returns page online containing the necessary calculations. (Accounts and other club information would need to be submitted as usual).

- 1.9 It was also hoped that improvements could be made to the Breeder Scheme to benefit members. Otherwise there would be a shift from development to monitoring and improving existing processes.
- 1.10 A delegate question on the information supplied on cats judged provided an example of this. At present cats judged for BOB were not recorded. Therefore their details were not supplied. A process improvement was required. The timing of the supply of details depended when information was received. For a STAR show, with direct information input by the show team, it could be sent within a matter of hours.
- 1.11 Although development would be slowed (with an accompanying reduction in costs), ideas for improvements would continue to be welcomed.

INFO

2. Licensing update (C&FSG report)

SC

- 2.1 Steve Crow reminded delegates that from 1 October those selling kittens as a business needed to be licensed within the pet vending schedule by their local authority. Many within GCCF would not be affected as they bred as a hobby and not with the intention of making a profit.
- 2.2 However, he had become aware that several local authorities were not applying the guidance correctly. They had focussed on a narrow single financial criterion rather than demonstration of a hobby. He had been able to challenge this successfully for two breeders and promised to support others. He advised that the notes and the link to the official guidance on the GCCF website should be read and quoted.
- 2.3 There was information on future legislation currently under discussion:
- a) New legislation was being drafted on the sale of puppies and kittens would not affect breeders unless they sold to third parties rather directly to new new owners
 - b) A proposal that all rescue and rehoming agencies would have an impact as currently planned, as it would concern clubs. Inspection and licensing would be required even for volunteers who worked occasionally and with small numbers. The consequences if volunteers their services had not yet been fully assessed. It was hoped that there would be some rethinking on this.

Action: details to be gathered from clubs to give an up to date picture of rescue & rehoming work **Office**

- c) A further addition to the Animal Welfare Act was aimed at the 'protection of offspring'. It would be a breeder's responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent kittens being born with genetic defects that impacted on their quality of life, and could possibly be extended to the prevention of the loss of genetic diversity. It would enable new owners to take legal action against breeders.
- d) A code of practice for cat breeding was planned as one existed already for dog breeding. SC had been invited to join the the committee responsible for the preparation, and so was in a position to give a considerable amount of input on this.

Action: the publication of updates on the GCCF website when available

SC

3. Partnership Information

Chairman

- 3.1 It was reported that there was no new information.

INFO

C2236

CLUB REPORT

1. Returns update

- 1.1 One club, and possibly others, had not supplied all or part of the information required to complete their 2017 returns. There would be a report made to November Board meeting.
- 1.2 Delegates were asked to check with their committees that all had been completed. No new show licences would be issued to clubs with outstanding returns and there was the risk of membership suspension.

2. Discussion on club name changes to allow all-breed status

- 2.1 The Kensington Kitten & Neuter Club had been allowed to change its name and include entire classes at its show, and a few small specialist clubs had since added All Breed to their names so that the club could hold an all-breed show. Other clubs wished to do the same thing, and the Board had decided to consult Council.
- 2.2 It was clarified that the requests were from 'specialist' clubs rather than breed clubs. The agenda title had not made this clear. Breed clubs had the specific right to BAC representation that all-breed and specialist did not.
- 2.3 It was noted that there were no specified criteria that defined an all-breed club, other than they needed a greater number of members (100) than a breed club (50) to guarantee the right to delegate representation. Also, that the precedents set were important.
- 2.4 It was observed that an all breed show did not guarantee greater profits as there were additional expenses, but also considered that the club members should have the right to request a name change for their club. It was thought one exception to this could be in respect of clubs that catered only for household pets. **JL**

Action: referral back to the Board and a correctly worded item on the next Council agenda if necessary

C2137

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATION

1. A delegate requested that the Veterinary Advisory Committee be reminded that the current rules re booster vaccination requirements at shows needed to be clarified to avoid cats being rejected unnecessarily. This had been promised, but it seemed there had been no action. The Chairman promised that this observation would be passed to on to the GCCF's Veterinary Officer.

The meeting finished with business completed at 4.40pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 27 February 2019 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London, commencing at 1.00pm.

Please note the change of date since the publication of the agenda.