

1. Presentation of the Financial Report to November 2014

MG INFO

- 1.1 The Office Manager reported satisfactory income for the final months of the year. Core business had not fallen away sharply, and income from Agria was good.
- 1.2 There was a reduction in expenditure from savings made on renegotiated contracts and fewer meetings.
- 1.3 Early indications were that December had been a relatively good month, and the end of year surplus generated would show an improvement on the previous year.
- 1.4 There was a query on the expense of the Board 'Away Day'. It was explained that although this was an opportunity to deal with a single topic (feedback from the Growth Accelerator analysis), the times, travel and venue were that of any other Board meeting and so the cost was included within meeting expenditure.
- 1.5 The OM responded to a question on bank charges by acknowledging that the amount that had to be spent to cover online transactions and card charges had been very much under estimated in 2014 forecast budget, and so the figures appeared excessive. The contract would be renegotiated in 2016.

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

MG INFO

- 2.1 The number of prefix registrations had fallen once again, but not so sharply as in previous years.
- 2.2 There was a slight increase in registrations overall thanks to better than expected non-prefix registrations. An analysis of these indicated interest from new people.
- 2.3 Transfers remained much better than before the online facility was available, but were slightly lower than in 2013.
- 2.4 Import figures were good, indicating interest in this area.
- 2.5 Prefix applications were disappointing though there were signs of interest from new breeders (2.2) and the new computer system would facilitate communication to encourage applications in the future.

3. The updated remit of the Finance Committee

CHAIR INFO

The suggestions made at the October Council meeting had been incorporated into the remit. This was approved.

SRO INFO

1. Business Plan

- 1.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell was thanked by the Chairman for taking on the task of producing the 2015 Business Plan.
- 1.2 She gave a brief introduction, explaining how the vision and mission statement were developed by the Board in discussion lead by the business coach from the Growth Accelerator Programme.
- 1.3 The list of 12 goals to achieve development of these was shorter than in previous years. The intention was to define projects with inbuilt measurable targets, so that delivery could be assessed to ascertain whether progress had been achieved or not.
- 1.4 There was plenty to do and it would be the responsibility of the various working groups to produce results and report these to the Board and to Council
- 1.5 The projects had been costed and there was a forecast budget included within the BP to indicate planned expenditure.
- 1.6 The 2014 Plan had not been abandoned, and delivery of its aims set aside. There was detail to show the transitional phase to the 2015.
- 1.7 The one query was on staff costing as a new employee with a marketing focus had been mentioned. Assurance was given that additional staff were needed to replace those who had left and the costs were within the budget.

Approved by a majority. 0 against. 22 abstentions.

RF INFO

2. The new website

- 2.1 Mrs Fisher confirmed that construction was ongoing, and that she was now loading the breed profiles. She thanked all those who had sent information and photographs.
- 2.2 Once built it would move to the testing phase, and she would receive further training on maintenance.

3. Partnership information

CHAIR INFO

- 3.1 The Chairman reported that Royal Canin had proposed a commercial partnership in which food was offered as an incentive to encourage transfers. A contract had been drafted, returned to RC with suggested amendments and the company's reaction to these was awaited. Assurance was given that RC's support of clubs was an entirely separate matter.
- 3.2 The agreement with Agria was in its third year and had brought substantial rewards. It was good news that five week cover notes for kittens would be offered from the beginning of March. It was also noted that Agria was interested in supporting club rescue through an insurance deal when the rescue went to its permanent new home. At this point information on the number of rescues was being gathered. Mrs Fisher offered to collate the details if club representatives wished to pass on details, as she had already been in discussion with Agria on what could be offered.
- 3.3 A good relationship with Your Cat was ongoing. The Chairman stated that he was able to send in short articles and comment frequently, which cost a little time, but not money. It ensured mention for GCCF.
- 3.4 The Canine & Feline Sector Group now had its own website. Four working groups had been formed and the Chairman was a member of the Cat Welfare Review Group, which had the remit to examine and revise the codes of practice in relation to cats in the Animal Welfare Act.

SRO INFO

4. Report on online services

- 4.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell announced one final release for the existing online system. In about a week's time breeders would be able to print their own customised pedigrees from GCCF records.

5. Project Phoenix

SRO INFO

- 5.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that her work was going as planned for a release at the end of June. The developers were currently at the difficult stage of constructing the design to implement the registration policies.
- 5.2 Once the system was built testing would follow. She suggested that as a lot would happen in the months before the next Council she would give some progress reports on the GCCF website.
- 5.3 Delegates were informed that the new system would have a completely different look to the current one, and they would be able to make it do far more for them

C2042

RESTRUCTURE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES (BL11), THE ROLES OF THE GCCF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEIR METHOD OF APPOINTMENT CHAIR

The Chairman introduced this item explaining that GCCF had seen no changes in respect of its governance for many years, despite becoming a company and a business in competition with others, rather than solely the management of a hobby. The purpose of the proposals, that had been developed with the support of the business coach, were to allow GCCF to operate more effectively as a small business, with cost efficiency, and at the same time introducing greater transparency to the actions of the Board so that members with individual direct responsibilities could be more accountable to Council.

A delegate queried whether the Chairman described himself as GCCF's Chief Executive Officer on his 'Linked In' profile. When he affirmed he had done so for the purpose of making business links, as it was a function he exercised when making company returns, there was some concern expressed that having taken the title without Board or Council consent he was acting beyond his authority. The Chairman acknowledged the point, though it had been unintentional, and promised to remove it.

Other concerns expressed were that Council was disenfranchised if the Vice-Chairman was elected by the Board, and that annual changes could mean that no one became sufficiently experienced to take on the role of Chairman after three years, or replace the current Chair if that became necessary. Also, that with a smaller Board policy could be determined by a very small majority.

1. Proposed : the Vice-Chairman should not be elected by Council, but by the Board annually, in the Board meeting following the Council Electoral Meeting.

A paper ballot was held, with the majority against. Outcome: the status quo prevailed
43 in favour, 73 against, 1 abstention.

2. Proposed: The Board should consist of a Chief Executive Officer, (Chairman) seven Executive Directors (one of whom will be appointed Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and five Non-Executive Directors, (a reduction of 4).

A paper ballot was held, with the majority against. Outcome: the status quo prevailed
53 in favour, 59 against, 1 abstention, 4 spoiled papers.

As these proposals were lost there was no need to vote on items 6 & 7 as changes to the wording of the Articles of Association and the GCCF Byelaws relating to Board structure would not be required.

The rationale for changes to the structure of the IC/DC committees (Investigations, Disciplinary & Appeals) had been prepared by Mrs Codd who introduced the proposals. She explained the need to update to comply with recent legal decisions. This presented the opportunity for revisions which would widen the pool of candidates, give tenure in post to establish experience and allow for training, and a reduction of the numbers for DC and Appeals which could bring savings. A new electoral procedure would supply Council with more knowledge on which to base electoral choices.

MC

3. Proposed: The Investigations Committee (6 members) Disciplinary Committee (6 members) and Appeals Committee (6 members) will each be appointed for a three year period (one third of each committee to be appointed annually) and any person who is bound by GCCF rules may make an application following the designated appointments procedure.

A paper ballot was held, with a 67% majority in favour.
79 in favour, 31 against, 1 abstention, 3 spoiled papers

Action: role descriptions to be prepared for the GCCF website to enable applications to these committees in April.

MC

4. Proposed: Disciplinary committee members may be replaced at a meeting by suitably experienced people (2 maximum) independent of GCCF to hear a case if the DC Chair deems it necessary.

The rationale for this was that there could be times when DC was inquorate because the defendant was personally known by the majority.

An amendment was proposed to make this clear, adding to the proposal the final words:

because the meeting would otherwise be inquorate.

The amendment was approved by a majority. **2 against 2 abstentions.**

A paper ballot was held on the proposal, including the amendment, with a 67% plus majority in favour.

89 in favour, 25 against, 1 abstention, 2 spoiled papers

5. Proposed: A revision to the method of appointment to the disciplinary committees

A paper ballot was held on the proposal, including the amendment, with a 67% plus majority in favour.

80 in favour, 25 against, 2 spoiled papers

8. The wording to the GCCF Byelaws to effect the changes agreed at 3,4 & 5 was approved by a substantial majority on a show of hands. **4 against 0 declared abstentions.**

Action: Effective for the elections to be held in June 2015.

Office

Byelaw 11 changes to effect change to the structure of the three Committees of the GCCF disciplinary process, and the method of their appointment.

(4) Disciplinary Committee

Nine-delegates Six suitably qualified/experienced people (bound by GCCF rules) elected by Council at its Electoral Meeting, who are not GCCF Officers, or Board, Investigation or Appeals committee members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as required and deliver its findings to Council. Five ~~Three~~ delegates committee members shall form a quorum. If an impartial quorum cannot be formed from among the elected committee members the Chairman shall have the power to appoint to the committee suitably qualified and experienced non-GCCF people to hear that particular case. Committee members shall be elected for a 3 year term with one third of their number retiring each year. A barrister or solicitor etc (no further change).

(5) Investigations Committee

This Committee shall consist of five six suitably qualified/experienced people (bound by GCCF rules), not GCCF Officers, nor members of the Disciplinary, or Appeals Committee as hereinafter constituted, elected by the Council at its Electoral Meeting. Two members only may also be GCCF Board Members. ~~Three~~ Four members shall be a quorum to examine any complaint, and meetings may be actual or electronic. Committee members shall be elected for a 3 year term with one third of their number retiring each year.

(6) Appeals Committee

This Committee shall consist of seven six suitably qualified/experienced people (bound by GCCF rules), not GCCF Officers, nor members of the GCCF Board, Investigations or Disciplinary Committees. Appeals against the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be decided by a simple majority. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman. Five ~~Three~~ members shall constitute a quorum. If an impartial quorum cannot be formed from among the elected committee members the Chairman shall have the power to appoint to the committee suitably qualified and experienced non-GCCF people to hear that particular case. Committee members shall be elected for a 3 year term with one third of their number retiring each year. The decision of the Appeals panel shall be final. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee etc. (no further change).

11) Election procedure for the Disciplinary Committee, the Investigation Committee and the Appeals Committee. ("The Disciplinary Committees ")

Applications to serve on any of The Disciplinary Committees must be received by April 30th. The details necessary to make an application will be published on the GCCF web-site and the names of all applicants together with their applications will be published with the agenda of the Electoral Meeting. Members of all the Disciplinary Committees will be required to sign a code of conduct. If factual evidence is laid before the Board of Directors that a member's competence or behaviour makes them unsuitable to serve on the relevant committee then the Board may recommend to Council that the member is replaced by the first reserve. At all stages the individual will be given the right to make representations in their defence.

C2043 RULE CHANGES

1. Transfers - an update to reflect current practice.

Section 1:10b

If, at the time of sale, the cat or kitten is registered the seller shall provide the purchaser with a transfer form, the registration card to enable a transfer of ownership duly completed and signed by the seller, unless it is jointly agreed in writing by both parties at the time of sale not to do so. If this card is lost, damaged or otherwise unavailable a manual transfer form must be completed with the signatures of both parties.

2. Revision to make it permissible to trim hair, but not detract from the appearance of the cat.

Section 3:9c

It includes also noticeably trimming, clipping, singeing or rasping down of the fast coat.

3. Additions to prevent eyebrow/eyelash plucking that may put the cat's welfare at risk

Sections 4:4c, 5:4c and to note 2 on Rejection at Shows

Exhibits that have been declawed, exhibits that have had some or all of their eyebrows and /or eyelashes cut or plucked out, together with polydactyls, folded ears.

4. To take account of faster processing time

Section 4: 1e

Registration and transfer applications must be received by the GCCF not less than 24 10 days prior to the show.

Section 4:3a (NB The declaration form)

I/we have applied for registration/transfer at least 24 10 days before the show.

5. The adoption of a Code of Conduct relating to social media use and GCCF

Deferred, to return to another Council agenda.

JL

C2044 SHOW MATTERS

1. **Report from the Supreme Show Manager on the 2014.** CL INFO
 1.1 Mrs Leighton reported that from all known income and expenditure the estimate for the loss on the 2014 was around £4000. This was an improvement on the previous year.
 1.2 She gave an assurance that all sponsorship money had been paid.
2. **Update from the SSM on plans for the 2015 show.**
 2.1 There would be a qualification for entry once again, except for kittens.
 2.2 Entries taken until the 14 September will pay £5 less than those submitted in the final week to 21 September.
 2.3 The theme of the 2015 show would be 'Witches & Wizards'
3. **Report from the Show Review Group**
 Deferred, to return to another Council agenda. JL
 Comment would continue to be taken from through the FB page and from club AGMs.
4. **Proposed: the use of fans/cool pads/ice packs are allowed at all shows & that Show Managers are recommended that, wherever possible , air conditioning is utilised in halls.** NFCBAC
 This was agreed unanimously to be implemented when practical.
Action: rule Section 2:3g to be updated for the next agenda. JL
5. **Request for delegate opinion on the design of new show certificates**
 5.1 Opinion was expressed that the distinction between championship and premiership certificates should be removed so that less mistakes would be made by table workers.
 5.2 The Chairman suggested that this was something that should be discussed to be sure that the majority of exhibitors were happy with the idea.
Action: continued input to be invited from individual exhibitors and clubs. RF

C2044 JUDGES

1. **JUDGES APPOINTMENTS** (all approved)
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----|
| Abyssinian BAC | Full Judge | Ms Kaye Wilson | |
| BSGC | Full Judge (BSH & Manx) | Mr Stephen Leppard | |
| | Probationer Judge | Mr Wayne Vessey
Dr Karen Kempsell | |
| Balinese BAC | Full Judge | Mrs Helen Marriott-Power | |
| | Probationer Judge | Mr Ross Davies | |
| Burmese BAC | Full Judge | Mrs Linda Martin
Miss Emma Matthews | |
| Egyptian Mau BAC | Probationer Judge | Mrs Dorothy Stone | |
| Maine Coon BAC | Full Judge | Mrs Linda Martin | |
| | Probationer Judge | Mrs Sandra Moore | |
| OJBAC | Probationer Judge (Self, NS, OLH) | Mr Ross Davies | |
| Oriental Bicolour BAC | Probationer Judge | Mrs Pina Bruno-Grieves | |
| Ragdoll BAC | Full Judge | Mrs Claire Lewis | |
| Snowshoe BAC | Probationer Judge | Mrs Linda Vousden | |
| Somali BAC | Full Judge | Mrs Valerie Anderson | JL |
2. **JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/RMOVALS** INFO
- OJBAC Liz Corps had withdrawn from the oriental Self and LH lists.

C2046 BAC AND CLUB MATTERS

1. **Proposal to merge the Oriental lists and BACs**
 1.1 An amendment to the GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme was put forward in order to create a single Oriental BAC to train and appoint candidates to one Oriental list.
 1.2 Transitional arrangements, to cater for Probationer Judges already on the scheme and Full Judges who wished remain on individual lists or extend to all, were included with the proposal.
 1.3 A representative of the Oriental Bicolour BAC said the BAC's preference was to remain separate in the same way as the Exotic BAC was not included with the Persian LH BAC.

1.4 Delegates from Persian clubs said that the amalgamation of the Persian BACs to form one for the breed had proved a very positive experience.

1.5 A paper vote was taken. The proposal was approved by a majority.

77 in favour, 35 against, 1 abstention, 2 spoiled papers.

Action: the BACs concerned to be informed and arrangements for a preliminary meeting to be suggested. JL

2. Categorisation of member clubs

2.1 It was explained that clarification of a club's category would assist the show team in the GCCF Office, reduce the information required from clubs on show licence applications and define which clubs had responsibility for BACs. It would assist those applying for membership when considering their aims and purpose.

2.2 It was clarified that all clubs had to apply for a show licence and needed the permission of the Board to hold one. Therefore this sentence was needed for all three categories rather than only for Specialist Clubs.

2.3 There was a query from the Old-style Siamese Club on its category. Delegates were asked to refer specific queries about category change to the Office so that they could be discussed by the Board.

2.4 With the amendment (1.2) the categorisation was unanimously agreed as presented.

OFFICE

3. Club information

3.1 Provisional membership of the Federation of GCCF Show Managers had been accepted by the Board as a Special Interest Club (specialist).

3.2 The Sphynx Breeders Association had informed the Board that it wished to suspend its GCCF Membership, and this was accepted.

INFO

C2047 BREED APPLICATIONS

1. Promotion to Championship Status for the colourpointed pattern Tonkinese

ToBAC

Majority approval 1 against 2 abstentions

New class to be allowed as soon as is practical for Show Managers, but must be provided at shows from 18.6.15

2. The addition of the other colours of Golden Tipped British Shorthairs to the existing Championship Class

Majority approval 2 against

BSGC

New colours to go into the existing class as soon as is practical.

3. Breed recognition for registration & exhibition purpose for the Turkish Angora (TUA)

CHAIR

This breed is now accepted for registration and cats may be on exhibition at GCCF shows.

1-3

INFO

C2048 REGISTRATION/TRANSFER SOP MATTERS

1. Revised registration policy for Siamese.

SCJAC

2. Addition to the Korat & Thai SOP

K&TBAC

3. Revision of the Tonkinese SOP (final revision October 2014)

ToBAC

4. Revised SOP for AC Golden Tipped British

BSGC

Items 1-4 approved individually, all unanimously.

Action: confirmation to BACs with request that an updated clean copy of the policy or SOP is sent to the GCCF Office.

JL

C2049 DISCUSSION ITEMS

The discussion items on the agenda from the Show Structure Review Group had to be deferred due to lack of time. The Chairman suggested that it presented an opportunity for continued discussion at club AGMs and amongst grassroots membership.

Action: to be returned to the June Council agenda.

JL

C2050 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATION

None taken.

The meeting closed at 5:07pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 17 June 2015 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London, commencing at 12.00 midday.