



GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Meeting of Full Council

Wednesday 27 FEBRUARY 2019 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London



PRESENTED BY ACTION BY

C2238 WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM Chairman

At 1. 10 pm the Chairman welcomed 87 delegates and thanked them for attending.. He introduced the new Office Manager, Denise Williams, delegates and she was welcomed.

Ron Darby, Angie Christofferson, Lynn Dixon, Barbara Harrington, Marie Midgley, Judy Potter, Brian Pring, Sylvia Pritchett, and Lady Patsy Yardley were remembered in a moment of silence.

C2239 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Chairman

The Chairman gave apologies from Vice-President Eric Wickham-Ruffle who had sent warm wishes to all present for a happy and successful day. Delegate apologies were as recorded on the attendance sheet. **INFO**

C2240 CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS Chairman

The Use of the Electoral Reform Society for Council Voting at the Annual General Meeting.

- 1.1 The Chairman explained there were two options if using the ERS was thought preferable for voting at the Electoral Meeting to using the office staff in the usual way:
- a) It would be approximately £600 for representatives of the ERS to be present at the Electoral Council Meeting to oversee the voting and tally the result.
 - b) It would be approximately £1750 for ERS to manage the elections by a postal vote that would include all delegates.
- The cost of having Office staff at the electoral meeting was £470 approximately, and they were not productive in normal business on that day.
- 1.2 There was a suggestion that tellers be appointed from amongst delegates on the day, but it was noted that this would involve those who were voting in the counting, which wasn't good practice.
- 1.3 Most other comments were in favour of continuing with the present practice and this was supported by observations of confidence and trust in the staff for this purpose.
- 1.4 Mrs Fisher was thanked for researching the ERS information and a vote was taken on maintaining the status quo.
- Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention**

C2241 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. **The Minutes of the Council meeting of 17 October 2018** **Chairman**
- 1.1 The draft minutes had been circulated and no queries raised.
 - 1.2 On the proposal of Mr Goss, 2nd Mrs Chapman-Beer, they were **approved with 6 abstentions** **INFO**
2. **Matters arising, and delegate questions on ongoing business not covered by an agenda item**
- 2.1 2233.5 the show calendar. Comment on show licence decisions had been received from the West of England & South Wales CS. The suggestions made were discussed later in the meeting, with the conclusion that it was felt it would be difficult to introduce rigid rules into a process that had to be flexible because of show date and venue changes for a variety of reasons.
 - 2.2 It was noted that it was also the case that a change agreed for one club could impact on a number of others with a similar date, or sharing the venue. **INFO**

C2242 MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. **Board of Directors: 12 July 2018, 6 September 2018 & 14 November 2018**
- 1.1 A delegate had noted that the Board planned that Monahans should conduct a full audit into the 2018 accounts rather than an examination as was the usual practice. The estimated cost of this was £10,000 and she gave it as her opinion that this was an unnecessary expense and little information would be gained from it.
 - 1.2 The Chairman's response was that the company had had no full audit since its formation, and as there had been several staff changes, including a new Office Manager and bookkeeper, it was best practice and would provide a baseline for them.
 - 1.3 There was a supplementary question on whether it was satisfactory practice to use accountants that had not corrected mistakes in the presentation of the accounts the previous year.
 - 1.4 A reminder was given that Council appointed the accountants annually and there could be an investigation to find alternatives to Monahans if that was required, but they were familiar with GCCF and the nature of the business.
2. **Finance Committee: 23 May 2018 & 19 September 2018** No queries or comments. **INFO**

1. An amendment to Byelaw 4 for small breed clubs applying for membership

- 1.1 This reduced the membership numbers required for membership of GCCF from 50 to 20 for a breed club which was the sole club for a new breed, to ensure that GCCF could continue to welcome the Breeder Groups of new small minority breeds.
- 1.2 There was a concern raised that a change in respect to this Byelaw could have an impact on others as different standards would apply to existing clubs.
- 1.3 Assurance was given that this change was relevant only to membership applications. The Byelaws did not require any club to maintain a specific number of members for continuation of membership, but only in respect of the right to delegate representation.
- 1.4 A vote was taken (with a two thirds majority required) **Majority approval 1 against 5 abstentions**
Action: the Byelaw change to be implemented with immediate effect **OM**

2. Notification of a club name change.

Chairman

- 2.1 With Board approval the Central LH, SLH & All Breed CC had changed its name to the Central All Breed Cat Club. **INFO**

3. Change of status from breed club to all breed club - Board referral for Council opinion

Chairman

- 3.1 The Colourpoint Society of Great Britain had asked the Board for All Breed status primarily so that it could hold an All Breed Show. The Board had expressed concern as the club would no longer be able to participate in the BAC and it was reluctant to set a precedent on this. Other clubs that changed status for the same purpose had been Specialist Clubs.
- 3.2 It was confirmed that it was definitely something the club wanted to do as it believed it could not continue to exist otherwise, and that it was willing to give up its BAC place. It would join with another club for a show and so would not take additional space in the show calendar.
- 3.3 However, it was accepted that although the circumstance suited one club as single instance others would most probably follow which would leave fewer clubs to support the BACs and introduce added competition for show calendar space.
- 3.4 It was agreed that there had to be future discussion on the overall situation rather than on a club by club basis. Breed clubs combining and/or working together to put on an all breed show were possible solutions. **INFO**

4. Reminder of Club Returns due 1 May 2019.

Chairman

- 4.1 The Chairman asked delegates to remind clubs to make their returns by 1 May 2019, or request dispensation if there was a difficulty.
- 4.2 Representation at the June Council meeting and a club show in the 2019-20 season would depend on it. **INFO**

Oriental CA

1. Section 2:7b) To change the age when kittens can be shown from 14 weeks to 4 calendar months

- 1.1 It was explained that setting the age limit higher allowed for kittens to be vaccinated when slightly older, and gave more time for immunity to be established. It also made show eligibility easier for SMs to check.
- 1.2 There was acknowledgement that more kittens became ill after a show than cats, but no indication that this was age related, or particular to the very young.
- 1.3 It was suggested that show familiarisation at an early age was beneficial.

Oriental CA

2. Section 5:3a.i) To establish that 21 days should follow the first two vaccination rather than 7.

- 2.1 The purpose was to ensure kittens had more time to develop immunity before attending a show. This was in line with best practice in this respect as recommended by expert opinion.
- 2.2 This rule change was discussed in conjunction with the previous one and it was estimated that if two vaccinations were required, plus twenty one days following the second, kittens could be quite a bit older than four months before they could be shown
- 2.3 Some concern was expressed that a double standard could be set. If it was determined that kittens could not be at a show until twenty one days after the second vaccination should they be moving into a new home after seven days as was currently stipulated in the rules?
- 2.4 It was agreed that the proposals should be withdrawn and the Oriental CA asked to clarify on the points made.
Action: proposals referred back to the Oriental CA. **JL**

3. Section 5:3 Vaccinations

Veterinary Advisory Committee

- 3.1 This was an overhaul of the vaccination rules to try and prevent unnecessary exclusion at shows. It was accompanied by a set of 'exhibitor notes', and notes had also been prepared for the Duty Vets and Show Managers.
- 3.2 Cats presented for vetting-in were required to have completed the first two vaccinations of their primary course, and hold a current vaccination certification that was identifiable to the exhibit presented. For a certificate to be current the first two vaccinations of the primary course were required for a cat less than fifteen months old, followed by a booster a year after the second. Afterwards, no more than one year and seven days should have passed since the last booster vaccination.
- 3.3 There was concern expressed that the information provided in the online link given to support the rationale for the rule wording and accompanying notes did not relate directly to the proposals made.
- 3.4 It was not clear why a booster had been accepted at any time prior to show attendance, but now it was stipulated that it had to be given at least one week prior to this.
- 3.5 Several delegates expressed the opinion that the situation was now even more complicated when simplicity had been requested, and it was thought that this would still lead to vetting-in rejections because of misunderstanding and differences in interpretations.

3.6. It was agreed that the proposal should be withdrawn and presented again in June when a vet could be present to clarify and answer questions.

Action the VAC to be contacted

JL

4. Section 2:16f The certificates gained by BIS winners at Olympian level

Oriental CA

4.1 It was thought that an Olympian winner at an All Breed Show deserved better recognition of its achievement. Therefore an additional All Breed Olympian should be awarded rather than a Breed Olympian which should be the level awarded at breeds shows. In either case the certificate would count at the level the cat was working towards.

4.2 This proposal was welcomed and comments made were all in favour.

4.3 A vote was taken.

Majority approval 2 against 3 abstentions

4.4 It was proposed and agreed that implementation should be with immediate effect providing that no problems were identified within current Office processes.

Action: a check to be made on enabling implementation

OM

C2245

REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS

1. Amendments to the Russian registration policy in respect Russian imports

Russian BAC

1.1 The purpose was to ensure that imports onto the register that were neutered did not have to undergo the DNA testing that was required for cats that could be bred from.

1.2 Evidence to prove neutering would be required

1.3 A vote was taken.

Unanimous approval

2. Amendments to the Chartreux registration policy re the origin of outcrosses

Chartreux BG

2.1 The Chartreux Breeder Group intended that any domestic foundation outcrosses should be of French origin, in the same way that other breeds stipulated foundation cats from a specific origin.

2.2 DNA testing for LH was also required for such outcrosses. It had been intended to include this previously.

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

Unanimous approval

3. Amendments to the Lilac Point Siamese SOP re colour definitions

Siamese Cat JAC

3.1 A delegate presented the proposal explained that the reason for revising the SOP was to bring clarity to the definition of colour required for a Lilac Point. Since Caramel Points had been recognised there had been confusion for exhibitors and breeders. It is now stipulated that any brown toning/shading in a lilac point was unwanted and would be penalised.

3.2 There was support for this and some suggestion that Oriental Clubs should consider a similar definition.

3.3 It was queried whether DNA testing could help in support of separating lilac from caramel cats, with a response made that there was currently no test for the dilute modifier that was necessary for caramel.

3.4 The amended SOP was approved.

Unanimous approval

Action: the relevant BACs/Groups for 1-3 to be informed

JL

4. A change to the requirements for certified pedigrees to validate imports

Chairman

4.1 The Board suggested that certified the pedigrees to validate the registration of imports could in future be either the original paper copy supplied to the GCCF Office by the importer, as currently, or a pdf of the original sent by email directly to the GCCF Office from another bona fide registry.

4.2 In each case the arrangements and fees would be the responsibility of the importer as at present, but the import process could be smoother with less opportunity for delay due to postal or administrative problems.

4.3 Comments made supported the idea and there was consensus that the Board should provide appropriate wording that should be published on the BAC website.

Action: wording for a note in the rules to be drafted for the next Board meeting

JL

C2246

JUDGES

1. JUDGES FOR APPROVAL

(unanimously approved)

BACs

Abyssinian BAC

Full Judge
Pupil Judge

Mr Phil Cornish
Mrs Naomi Johnson

Birman BAC

Full Judge
Pupil Judge
Extension to June 2020

Ms Charis White
Mr Gareth Stone
Mrs Carole Gainsbury

Maine Coon BAC Discounted time from October 2018 for at least six months

Mr Jonathan Emery

Norwegian Forest Cat BAC

Pupil Judge

Mrs Helen Marriott-Power

Ocicat & Aztec BAC

Full Judge

Mrs Sarah Bower

RagaMuffin BAC

Full Judge
Pupil Judge

Mrs Carole Gainsbury
Mrs Sue Dalton-Hobbs

Somali BAC

Full Judge

Mrs Sandra Moore

Action: Judges & BACs to be informed and lists updated

JL

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

INFO

Balinese BAC	Pupil Judge	Mrs Sue Dalton-Hobbs
Burmese BAC	Full Judge	Mr Wayne Vessey
Egyptian Mau BAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge	Mrs Perri Mansaray Mrs Sarah Bower Mr Steve Parkin
Exotic BAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge	Miss Carol Pearson Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Oriental Joint BAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge	Mr Peter Williams Mrs Maria Chapman-Beer Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Rex JAC	Full Judge (Selkirk & Cornish Rex) (Devon Rex) (Selkirk Rex) Pupil Judge (Selkirk Rex) Extension to October 2019 (Selkirk Rex & LaPerm)	Mr Mark Pearman Mrs Sue Amor Wayne Vessey Mrs Caroline Roberts Mr Ian Macro
Siamese Cat JAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge	Mrs Maria Chapman-Beer Mrs Sue Dalton-Hobbs
Sokoke Breeder Group	Full Judge	Mrs Linda Brennan Mrs Janet Williams
Sphynx BAC	Full Judge Pupil Judge Extension to October 2019	Mrs Sue Dalton-Hobbs Mr Mark Pearman Mrs Sally Tokens Mr Peter Williams

3. JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/REMOVALS

Withdrawals: Mrs Lindsey Grant & Mr Stephen McConnell retiring from all lists.

Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention

4. JUDGE TRAINING REVIEW GROUP

4.1 The Accelerated Scheme

Peter Collin gave some background on the development of the scheme and the consultation that had been undertaken and emphasised that nearly all of the feedback had been positive. Its purpose was to address a shrinking pool of judges in the short term by increasing the number of judges per breed list by encouraging experienced judges to undertake a streamlined training process by becoming a provisional Full Judge FJ(P) for a breed.

The essentials were:

- It would apply to those breeds a judge could judge for Grands and/or Imperials but was not on the breed list.
- There would be an opt out rather than an opt in procedure
- A judge already a PJ would have the option of converting to a FJ(P) on the accelerated scheme
- It would be time limited until June 2022 when training by Grand Group would become operational

It was intended that the BACs would receive copies of the scheme, as approved in Council, and be notified of the judges joining their breed's list as FJ(P)s. It would then be each BAC's responsibility to operate the scheme in the prescribed manner.

On current figures it was estimated that there would be about 100 additions to breed lists

4.2 Judge Eligibility for the higher awards

The proposal was to change the qualification or Imperial from all of the Grands in the section to a majority per cent thus making it applicable in sections 2 and 4. Also, those judges that judged breeds at Grand level in the SLH Section and Imperial level in the Foreign Section, but lost entitlement in the section restructure should become eligible within sections 2 and 5. It was estimated this would add 17 new Imperial judges where they were most needed.

There was an amendment put to this proposal that required eligibility for the Imperial in Section 4 to be a majority of Grand Groups and Full on at least 50% of breed lists. The rationale was that some judges would be eligible when full on only four of the breed lists and so have little experience with a majority of the minority breeds within the section.

A vote was taken on the amendment which was lost: **28 in favour 38 against 7 abstentions**

A vote was taken on the 4.1 & 4.2 proposals: **Majority approval 3 against 3 abstention**

Action: to be implemented as soon as was practical

PC

4.3 Revision of the Stewarding Scheme

CK

Kate Kaye presented the revisions on behalf the Show Structure Review Group. She stated that main aim was to have a scheme that injected more constructive learning into the training process.

As well as training in the presentation and handling of exhibits at level one, for the first time stewards would be guided in writing reports when at level two and working with their chosen BAC. There would also be online questionnaires devised with multi choice questions to confirm understanding of show procedures (stage 1) and basic feline conformation, simple breed identifiers and genetics (level2). It would be implemented as soon as was practical.

A vote for approval was taken:

Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention

C2247

SHOW MATTERS

1. Supreme Show Report

SC

- 1.1 It was reported that just over 600 cats were present. About 40 of those were in Meet The Breeds or other exhibitions. It had been another good year for visitors through the gate.
- 1.2 Steve Crow reported that in October he had underestimated the show's deficit. He had not known that the Ticket Office had supplied a figure for the gate before deducting their 20% commission which reduced the total by about £6,000. At that time it was also not realised that VAT would need to be paid on entries. It was hoped to avoid this based on membership, but this did not apply as exhibitors were deemed to be club members rather than members of GCCF.
- 1.3 There had also been additional bills to pay for several small expenses, including the CAD plan for the hall, totalling approximately £2000
- 1.4 The final amount, agreed with the bookkeeper, was £24,800 and the accounts were now with the auditors. They would be presented with the GCCF accounts in June.

INFO

2. The next Supreme Event

Chairman

- 2.1 John Hansson reported that he had looked at other venues, but a change in geographic location and/or a date change were not well supported.
- 2.2 It was possible to have the same time of year at the NEC (26 October) and there had been some negotiation so that the same two halls with reduced space within them could be offered at a slightly reduced cost to 2018 (about £5,000).
- 2.3 There was some discussion on variance to show entry:
 - limited entry on a first come first served basis
 - a qualification required within the previous show year for all exhibits
 - a re-introduction of a specified qualification for kittens
- 2.4 There was also a suggestion that space could be saved by having kittens in single pens, or allowing single pens to all exhibitors who wished to have them.
- 2.5 It was concluded that as there was limited time to organise an event in 2019 the show should take the same format as that in 2018, but planning for a future show should be early enough to allow for fresh ideas.
- 2.6 Prior to a vote to approve the next Supreme the Chairman stated that it had to be recognised that it was an event that would be a cost to GCCF. There was delegate support for this with comment that its purpose was to promote GCCF and be a showcase for the pedigree breeds.
- 2.7 A vote was taken to hold a 2019 Supreme Show: **Majority approval 5 against 12 abstentions**
- 2.8 A vote was taken to hold a 2220 Supreme Show: **Majority approval 3 against 10 abstentions**
- 2.9 In response to a question Council was informed that there could be the level of financial support to put on a showcase event, such as the Supreme Show, while there was the current level of support from GCCF's commercial partners.

Action: further planning for the 2019 show at the next Board meeting

JH

3. World Cat Congress Event

Chairman

- 3.1 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. Money was being put into an interest bearing account and the monthly amount had been increased in January to £500.
- 3.2 No date had yet been finalised. He would be having a conversation with other WCC members shortly to ascertain which dates were not suitable and then a decision could be made.

INFO

4. The use of sprays at shows - discussion

- 4.1 It was noted that sprays could affect some cats adversely. A distressed cat could make an aggressive response therefore the use of sprays should be considered from a welfare and safety perspective.
- 4.2 The rules mentioned not giving a cat 'treatment' to change its physical appearance and behaviour, but did specifically specify sprays. There was an explicit ban in some schedules, but not all.
- 4.3 It was concluded that the rules should include a ban on the use of sprays by exhibitor and it should be done as soon as possible.

Action: the Board to consider the wording for a rule change

JL

5. An additional class for adolescent/junior cats and a variance to the requirements and conditions for Grand Classes - for discussion.

WoE&SWCS

- 5.1 These suggestions from the West of England & South Wales Cat Club were discussed briefly.
- 5.2 It was thought both had some merit as an additional junior class could encourage the showing of young cats that exhibitors would otherwise keep at home, and extending the number of Grand classes could assist the level of maturity in exhibits reaching Imperial level.
- 5.3 They were noted of consideration when further structural revisions were put forward.

INF

1. Financial Report**Chairman**

- 1.1 The Chairman reported that the accounts were currently with the auditor and should be presented in June at the AGM as usual.
- 1.2 The employment of an efficient part time bookkeeper was proving useful in the preparation of accounts for information on cash flow. Previously the company had had the services of a bookkeeper on a monthly basis and relied on the Office Manager's interpretation.

INFO**2. IT report**

- 2.1 This was given by Steve Crow who had taken Board lead for this area of responsibility. He gave the main aim for the year as system stabilisation and consolidating on the changes that had been put into place so that the IT resources that GCCF had could be used to best advantage.
- 2.2 He hoped that the STAR show system could be offered as a costed system to make a small return to GCCF, at the beginning of the show year, but acknowledged that there were still some problems to be resolved.
- 2.3 It was expected that there would be staff changes and the intention was to employ a suitably skilled person part time to continue support and development, rather than the expert programmer whose services had been much appreciated, but who was expensive.
- 2.4 In response to questions he confirmed that Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell was no longer the IT Project manager as she had resigned from the voluntary role at the end of 2018. Also, that it was not possible to submit club returns online.
- 2.5 He expressed thanks to Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell for all the time she had given to the establishment of the new GCCF computer system. He was sure it would not be at its current level of development, and functioning as efficiently, without her level of expertise and commitment.

INFO**3. Licensing update (C&FSG report)****SC**

- 3.1 Steve Crow stated there was little to report on licensing. Since Christmas he had had only one enquiry and it seemed that there was no drive for local authorities to investigate breeders.
- 3.2 At a recent C&FSG meeting the emphasis had been on Brexit, particularly the difficulties that would have to be faced if there was no deal with the EU. Pet passports would no longer be valid, so that travel arrangements would be more complicated, but, more importantly, there would be disruption to access to veterinary medicines and anaesthetics.
- 3.3 DEFRA was focussed on Brexit so there had been no progress with legislation to ban third party sales of puppies and kittens and the 'Kitten Checklist' launch that it was hoped would be hosted by DEFRA had not taken place, so a more low key event was planned.
- 3.4 However, a report from DEFRA had found that the public was not responsive to current advertising concerning pet buying, and advice was to be taken before there were further campaigns.

INFO**4. Partnership Information****Chairman**

- 4.1 It was noted that a representative from Agria had attended much of the meeting. The company would be contacted with information about the 2019 Supreme.
- 4.2 There was little to report from Royal Canin, except that it been made clear that sponsorship for the Supreme, which included direct financing, and support for BOB & BIS prizes, was dependent on the event taking place at the NEC.

INFO**5. Business Plan****Chairman**

- 5.1 It was noted that the Business Plan was ready for Board approval and would be published on the website after the Board meeting.
- 5.2 It was acknowledged that it showed roles and responsibilities and where support was needed. It would be ideal if candidates for Board positions in June used it when making an application.
- 5.3 The Chairman made particular mention of the work done by Rosemary Fisher and Caroline Turner-Russell in keeping the Office functioning during the period there was no Office Manager in place. Also, for the all they were doing in supporting Denise while she became accustomed to GCCF procedures.

C2149**ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATION**

1. It was queried whether there could be a 'Fixed Penalty' for leaving a show before it was closed. It was observed that loss of certificates and awards was already permitted, but not all SMs made an official closure and exhibitors had become accustomed to drifting away. It would have to be made clear in advance if the SM wished to enforce the existing rule and sanctions could then be applied.
2. A delegate who was also a judge stated that there was serious concern for the safety of judges and stewards when they had to withdraw a cat from a pen that had a lot of bedding, particularly when this was attached to the pen roof. Some cats considered it an invasion of personal space and reacted accordingly. The Chairman agreed and said this was a subject that was on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

INFO

The meeting finished with business completed at 5.05pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London, commencing at 12.00 noon.
The Electoral Meeting of the GCCF, followed by a General Meeting