GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY
Meeting of Full Council
Wednesday, 21 October 2015 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London

PRESENTED ACTION
BY     BY

C2070 WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM Chair
At 12.08 the Chairman welcomed delegates and thanked them for attending the meeting. The midday start was at the request of delegates at June Council and it was disappointing not more could be present. (Note: there were a number of late arrivals, giving a total of 93).

New delegates were invited to introduce themselves. There were three present, representing Siamese, Burmese and Ragdoll clubs.

The regular reminder was given that it was acceptable to express differing views, but that all should be listened to with equal respect and no personal abuse would be tolerated. The Chairman also requested that delegates did not call out, or have long conversations with those near to them, as this made it difficult for others to hear the debate.

Liz Coward, Ruth Fish, Pat Neale, Juanita Sharp, Tom Wells and Michael Wrigley were remembered in a moment of silence.

INFO

C2071 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Chair
The Chairman gave a message from the President wishing all a happy and successful day. She had recently had surgery and Council’s good wishes would be passed on. There were also apologies given on behalf of Vice-President, Eric Wickham-Ruffle.

Delegate apologies were as recorded on the attendance sheet.

INFO

C2072 CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS Chair
1.1 The Chairman stated there were not many topics to cover in his update as most matters were on the agenda. Therefore he would be brief.
1.2 There were no changes to report in office staffing at Bridgwater.
1.3 Project Phoenix was ongoing and detail of this would be given by the project manager later in the meeting.
1.4 The Canine & Feline Sector Group had met twice since June. Most of the topics discussed were canine, but work had begun on reviewing the welfare codes and cats had their own. Recommendations were in preparation to send to DEFRA.
1.5 The small C&FSG working group for Breeding & Sale of Cats had also met to collate data gathered from adverts. The Chair stressed that he considered participation in this really important to stress the difference between the unregulated production of non-pedigrees and the hobby of responsible pedigree breeding.
1.6 The bill proposed to regulate cat breeding had not been dropped, but its proposer, Lord Black, was not in a position to bring it before the House of Lords as he had not gained the parliamentary time to do so.
1.7 The Growth Accelerator Programme had been completed with a final meeting held in September to discuss a marketing plan. The business coach, Philip Cox-Hynd, had promised to remain in contact and would offer advice if requested.
1.8 News had just been received from GCCFI. The registry was prepared to accept the Board’s latest offer for more limited online services at a lower cost. A letter of intent would be signed to confirm this and, if the GCCFI Council agreed the terms at its November meeting, a contract would follow.

INFO

C2073 CLUB MATTERS

1. Dispensation for continued delegate representation for the reconstituted Tabby Cat Club Chair
   This was agreed unanimously, and acknowledged by the delegate present.

2. GCCF Full Membership for the Australian Mist Cat Association Chair
   This was agreed unanimously. The club would be informed.

3. Update on club returns and introduction of an administrative charge Chair
   3.1 The meeting was informed that one club, the Central LH and Semi-LH, had not completed their returns. It had had difficulty finding an examiner for its accounts.
   3.2 It was suggested that a list of those who were competent and happy to do this could be compiled from club recommendations, and those who offered, and published on the GCCF website.
   3.3 FC had suggested to the Board that a penalty of £10 should be levied on clubs that were late with their returns to recover some of the administrative costs involved in having to repeatedly contact them.
   3.4 Most of those who expressed opinion on this considered that the charge was too low, and should be more realistic. Others suggested that any proposal brought to February Council should include reference to extenuating circumstances.
   Action: Board discussion to produce a proposal to Council in February

4. Club Name change
   4.1 Two clubs with Ocicat Classic in their name wished to change this to Aztec. This was accepted.

INFO
1. The Minutes of the Council meeting of 17 June 2015
The draft minutes had been circulated. They were approved by a majority with no amendments. 3 abstentions

2. Delegate questions on ongoing business not covered by an agenda item
There were no matters arising or queries.

3. Change of remit for the Finance Committee
The first change concerned minute circulation. These would be sent to the Board after electronic approval by FC members.

3.2 The second allowed for a reduction in the number of meetings. The Chairman explained that six meetings a year had been necessary after incorporation, but the need no longer existed. It was considered that three meetings would be sufficient, but the opportunity to have more was written into the remit so that it would be unnecessary to return to Council again should the Board approve additional meetings.

Majority approval 2 abstentions.

4. Re-Presentation of the 2014 GCCF Accounts with additional notes
The Chairman gave a summary of the steps taken after the June meeting to ensure the presentation of the 2014 accounts was amended according to the wishes of Council. The accountants, O’Hara Wood, had been asked to make the changes ahead of submitting the accounts to Companies House by the deadline of 30 September.

1.2 The Office Manager then gave detail of subsequent amendments that had been made following points raised by delegates. These did not alter the figures or final outcomes, but provided further information.

1.3 He agreed that the total for miscellaneous income was large (£36,709) and it would in future be listed to show the main elements. Most of this was the money earned from Agria commission.

1.4 Also, although capital expenditure had been shown, the payment to Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell, for her work as Project Manager to Project Phoenix, had not been separately itemised, as Mr Wood had seen invoices on her company stationery and not identified the connection between these and a GCCF Director.

1.5 In the next accounts this record would be shown in the note summaries.

1.6 Mr Goadby pointed out that although the amendments to be made were not formal requirements for accounts that were sent to Companies House they would be included in future as he preferred not to have two different versions of the end of year accounts.

1.7 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell observed that it would be misleading to describe GCCF payment to her as ‘director’s renumeration’ as she was not being paid for her work as a director, and it was important that this was clear to prevent any precedent being set. It was properly described as a ‘related transaction’.

INFO

2. Presentation of the management accounts for the current period
The Office Manager was pleased to report a rise in income and decreased expenditure for the year to date.

2.2 Except for card transaction costs, because of the increased amount of business by phone and online, there had been some successful contract renegotiations contributing to savings made.

2.3 He expected there would be a satisfactory end of year surplus. There was a realistic prediction of this given on the income/expenditure sheet.

2.4 Responding to a query Mr Goadby explained that the difference between the i/e and balance sheets was because the current balances did include computer software depreciation. If the figure for that (£18,000) was subtracted from the total on the balance sheet there was no significant variation.

2.5 He confirmed for delegates that the club loan was included within the amount stated for capital and reserves (£475,021.42).

2.6 Also, that the Supreme account had received a loan from the primary GCCF account of £30,000. This acted as a float in order to pay expenses before income was received.

INFO

2.7 The Office Manager then gave detail of subsequent amendments that had been made following points raised by delegates. These did not alter the figures or final outcomes, but provided further information.

3. Presentation of the volume figures for core business to date
Overall the cumulative total litter registration was similar to that for the same period in the previous year. Prefix registrations were down a little and non-prefix were at a record high. It was good that a decline in the number registering with GCCF now seemed to have plateaued.

3.2 Import figures continued to be good, and the OM also informed delegates that the request for certified pedigrees had fallen. It seemed to indicate that new cats were coming into GCCF and not many were leaving.

3.3 Transfers figures were better than in the previous year. The rise had begun in June and had grown at an average rate of 5% in the months following. The transfer incentive scheme (RC partnership) was producing results.

3.4 Prefix applications were not high, but the improvement on the figures for 2014 continued.

INFO

4. Project Phoenix Costs
These were presented to Council for information.

4.2 There was a correction to one figure confirmed. The actual spending was therefore currently just below the amount planned.

4.3 In response to a delegate query Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell said she could not confirm yet that the forecast totals would be the actual outcomes, but she did not anticipate any significant additional expenses.

INFO
C2077  BYELAW CHANGES

1. An amendment to Byelaw 9 (2)  
   Business to be transacted at the Electoral meeting shall include:-
   c) Election of the Standing Committees hereinafter mentioned, with the exception of the Appeals
   Committee which may be elected at the meeting following the Electoral Meeting.

   This was agreed by a unanimous decision.

2. An amendment to Bylaw 12 (13b)  
   Final sentence: The maximum level of the first fixed penalty per breach shall not exceed £100.

   2.1 There was some discussion to clarify the meaning of this. The Chair of IC confirmed that subsequent breaches
   of the same rules could double and triple the penalty, making a maximum fine £300.

   2.2 In practice this did not happen as IC was not obliged to levy a fixed penalty, but could ask for a case to be
   referred to DC if deemed sufficiently serious. Repeated breaches of a serious offence that carried a
   £100 penalty would almost certainly be in this category.

   Majority approval. 1 against 2 abstentions

   Action: the revised fixed penalty list to be available from the GCCF website.

C2078  DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. Confirmation of the Appeals Committee  
   Chair

   1.1 Mrs Maria Chapman-Beer  Mrs Pat Cherry
   Mrs Cynthia Mary Cullin  Mrs Carole Pike
   Mrs Betty Shingleton  Ms Elisabeth Stark
   were appointed as the Appeals Committee.

   1.2 There were sufficient applicants to form the Committee, but without reserves.

   1.3 The Chair asked the Committee to agree amongst themselves who should serve for one, two and three years
   before standing for re-election. If they were unable to do this an electoral process would take place at
   the February Council meeting.

   Action: The Appeals Committee to inform the Office prior to the February Council meeting.

2. Confirmation of the Appeals Committee Remit  
   Chair

   2.1 The Chairman referred delegates to the GCCF Byelaws (11 6). The Appeals Committee met very
   occasionally to hear appeals against the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee.

   2.2 In addition to hearing appeals against DC judgments it had the power to act as arbitrator between individuals
   and/or organisations within GCCF, and adjudicate upon Appeals lodged against any section of the Show
   Rules, with its decisions binding on all parties.

3. The adoption of a Code of Conduct relating to social media use & GCCF  
   Chair

   3.1 The Chairman explained that he would lead on this item in the absence of Mrs Codd who had prepared
   the Code of Conduct, basing it upon that of an equine association which had received legal guidance.

   3.2 It was deemed suitable for GCCF staff, officers, committees and all members of the GCCF community to
   establish what was acceptable social media in matters that concerned GCCF.

   3.3 Prior to a paper vote being taken on whether or not the code should be adopted a number of delegates spoke
   to make points in favour and against its acceptance.

   The proposal was lost. 37 in favour 54 against

4. A Code of Conduct proposed by the Southern & South Western Birman Cat Club.  
   S&SWBCC

   4.1 This code, based upon that of the Kennel Cub, set out the expectation of respect for others from
   social media users, but was clear that GCCF should not be responsible for action if there were disputes.

   The proposal was lost. 19 in favour 74 against

C2709  BUSINESS MATTERS

1. Website report  
   RF

   1.1 Mrs Fisher reported that the new website had had some early problems, particularly with its show report
   pages, but issues had now been resolved.

   1.2 The site continued to be developed, importing additional pages and making updates to existing sections.

   1.3 The breed section was complete, including the addition of the Chartreux, but representatives of BACs were
   reminded that amendments could be made upon request.

   1.4 The next stage of the project would bring improvements to the Breeder Scheme section of the site, enabling
   breeders to add and remove their kitten availability and advertise stud service, if so wished.

2. Feedback on the Royal Canin transfer incentive  
   Chair

   2.1 The Chairman reported that the improvement in transfer figures showed the incentive scheme was of
   benefit to GCCF. The number of new owners transferring had received a boost when the service had
   been offered online, but growth had not continued.

   2.2 Since the beginning of the incentive in June, monthly totals had increased by 3%, 3%, 9% and 6%. This
   was increased income, but had the additional benefit of involving new people with GCCF.

   2.3 Just over 100 breeders had opted out of the scheme, but this was small percentage of the overall total.

   2.4 It was observed by a delegate some had had difficulty accessing a retailer to make a voucher redemption.

   This would be reported to Royal Canin who had previously acknowledged their list of retailers was not
   up to date, and helpline support was available. The GCCF Office could advise.
2.5 The company was very satisfied with the voucher redemption rate achieved to date.
Action: Continued monitoring of the scheme and a further report to be presented to February Council. SC

3. Report on the partnership with Agria
Chair
3.1 The Chairman reported that this year to date almost £25,000 had been earned from Agria in commission from policy conversion (when new kitten owners took out a full insurance policy with the company). This income ensured prices for direct services to breeders and exhibitors could be held.
3.2 At a recent meeting with Agria representatives it was urged that more should be done to encourage breeders to give kitten policies to improve the opportunity for conversions and so increase commission.
3.3 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell informed the meeting that new owners making online transfers were now asked if they had kitten insurance and could opt for an Agria policy if they did not.

4. Progress of Project Phoenix
SRO
4.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that there had been two recent difficulties:
- A member of the DTC team who had worked on the project was leaving so his knowledge of GCCF would no longer be available for system implementation.
- The initial review made of the iSeries had not detected all of its functions.
4.2 To mitigate the first she had been spending additional time at DTC to assist system testing, and good progress had been made.
4.3 In November staff training on the new system would begin, as planned.
4.4 She reminded delegates that although extra work was involved, because of the addition of the new functions, this would not mean additional cost to GCCF as DTC were on a fixed term contract.
Action: a further update to be given at the November Board meeting and then published on the website. SRO

5. Report on online services
SRO
5.1 There were no new updates to report.

C2080 RULE CHANGES

1. To establish identity for a Certificate of Entirety
Section 1:1a VAC
All male cats used at stud must have a certificate of entirety deposited with GCCF prior to registration of their first litter of kittens. They must be uniquely identifiable at the time of the examination by microchip or alphanumeric tattoo: the detail of which is noted on the certificate and included in the cat’s own veterinary records.
1.1 An amendment was proposed and accepted to add ‘or alphanumeric tattoo’, and substitute ‘detail’ for ‘number’.
1.2 Agreed. Majority approval 12 against 3 abstentions

2. To ensure all registration policies are sent to the Board with a rationale.
Section 1:20 Chair
Amendments to registration policies with the rationale for them must be submitted to the Board of Directors by the relevant Breed Advisory Committee or, in the case of Preliminary status breeds only, via an affiliated breed club if the relevant breed club is not yet affiliated.
Agreed unanimously

3. To give overseas judges equality of eligibility with GCCF judges for judging title classes
Section 2 9e and Section 3 3e JH
An overseas judge must not judge Certificate Breed classes (including Grand, Imperial Grand, Olympian and Assessment classes) which include for breeds, colours or patterns which are not recognised by the organisation for which he/she is currently a full judge. Eligibility to judge title classes should be determined by the same criteria applied to GCCF judges.

4. To give exhibitors the right not to have their address in show catalogues, but ensure a list of those excluded is sent to the GCCF Office with the show returns.
Section 2 11b C&L CC
A list of names addresses of all exhibitors together with the numbers of the pens allocated to them.
Note: An exhibitor may request in writing that the address provided on the entry form shall be omitted from the catalogue, and show management should ensure that this instruction is followed.
Section 2 20c
... send to the GCCF Office one fully marked, certified copy of the catalogue, together with detail of any addresses that have been omitted from it by exhibitor request (2:11b). The catalogue should be complete with....
4.1 ‘detail’ was substituted ‘a list’ and the proposal was agreed.
4.2 Agreed Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention

5. To clarify that the use of any form of contraception will not be considered as show preparation
Section 2 19c and Section 4 22 Chair
v) Notes:
i) An alphanumeric identification tattoo in the ear, or on the inner thigh shall not be considered a change in the normal appearance of the cat.
ii) The use of chemical contraception with veterinary supervision is acceptable in the interests of welfare and is not considered as show preparation. (Exhibitors with male cats that have received hormonal injection for contraceptive purposes are advised to have evidence of this with them to show to the Duty Vet should any testicular abnormality be queried).

6. Rule amendments to include queens who may be pregnant
Section 4 4a and section 5 4a IC
Queens who are pregnant, or could be pregnant, lactating or....

Majority approval 6 against 3 abstentions
7. To clarify the period in which an exhibit may be withdrawn
Section 4:10) SSRG
A show entry cannot be withdrawn after the published closing date of the show, which will include any extension published on the GCCF website. Majority approval 5 against 2 abstentions
NB: with immediate effect for shows not yet closed.

8. Removal of Section 3:13
Judges and stewards must not smoke whilst handling cats.
This rule deletion was withdrawn.
Action: rule changes 1-7 to be included in the next update of the GCCF rules.

C2081 SHOw Matters
1. Update on news for the forthcoming show Chair INFO
1.1 As Mrs Leighton was busy preparing for the show on 24 October she had given the Chairman information to report.
1.2 A total of 775 cats would be present. This was 120 down the previous year, although the show entry date had been kept open as long as possible.
1.3 With loss of income from entries and the consequent reduction in RC sponsorship it was almost certain that the losses would be greater than in 2014, even if the gate and catalogue sales were good.
1.4 There followed some comment on the future of the Supreme show. The fortieth was due in 2016. The Chairman said he would ask the SSM for figures for the November Board meeting. He was asked for a draft copy of the Supreme Show accounts to be available for the February council.
Action: details of headline income and expenditure to be published as soon as possible.

2. The Judge Appointment Scheme - revised to include all recent update JH
2.1 Discussion took place on the revisions made. Some were considered impractical to have been made prematurely, and further amendments were suggested.
2.2 It was therefore agreed that the revised document should be made available for comment and additional amendments collated to be considered for inclusion by the BAC review Group.
Action: review by the Board, and publication of the scheme on the website with a date set by which further comment will be accepted, and a BACRG meeting to follow.

3. Revised tutorial and assessment forms for the Judge Appointment Scheme JH
These were withdrawn for amendments to be made.

4.1 SSRG Chairman, Kate Kaye, reported that the survey to gather information from as many exhibitors as possible was now ready. It was just five simple questions with the opportunity presented for additional comment and ideas.
4.2 It would be sent out via Survey Monkey to all GCCF held email addresses within the next few days, and be on the website and social media pages. Delegates were urged to give it maximum publicity.
4.3 It would be open until 7 December and it hoped that collation would be completed so that the SSRG could hold a meeting in early January to prepare proposals that could be put to Council in February.
Action: publicity for the survey All

5. Update on the new designs for the show certificates RF
5.1 Mrs Fisher stated that feedback from shows where the certificates had been displayed had indicated approval for the use of the new GCCF logo and change of style for the certificates, but not for a change to white card. The traditional use of gold and silver was preferred.
5.2 She was currently researching different types and costs of this, and had refreshed the designs to give greater space for exhibits’ names and to avoid having to write across coloured stripes.
Action: to report on sources of card and prices to the Board, and display the designs.

C2082 Judges
1. Judges Appointments (all approved) BACs
Asian BAC Pupil Judge Mr Steve Parkin
Ocicat & Aztec BAC Extension for one year (October 2016) Mrs Janet Tonkinson
Singapura BAC Full Judge Mr Phil Cornish
2. Notification of Judges approved via the website since June Council INFO
Birman BAC Pupil Judge Mrs Val Anderson-Drew
British Shorthair Group Committee Full Judge Dr Peter Collin
Joint Rex BAC Full Judge (Devon Rex) Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Pupil Judge (LaPerm) Mr Steve Parkin
Pupil Judge (Selkirk Rex) Mr Mark Pearman
Korat & Thai BAC
Full Judge   Ms Elisabeth Stark
Pupil Judge   Miss Sarah Dewhurst
Mrs Sandra Woodley

Maine Coon BAC
Full Judge   Mrs Chris Bamford
Mrs Helen Hardwick
Pupil Judge   Mrs Val Anderson

Ocicat & Aztec BAC
Full Judge (Aztecs)  Mrs Michele Codd
Pupil Judge   Miss Sarah Dewhurst
Mrs Sylvia Rose

Oriental BAC
Full Judge (Selves)   Mrs Sally Tokens
Full Judge (Bicolours)  Mrs Linda Walpole
Pupil Judge (Bicolours)  Mrs Perri Mansaray
Pupil Judge on all Oriental lists  Mrs Pina Bruno-Grieve
Mr Phil Cornish
Mr Richard Lord
Mrs Linda Martin
Mr Peter Williams

Persian Longhair BAC
Full Judge   Mr Jonathan Emery

RagaMuffin BAC
Pupil Judge   Mrs Valerie Anderson

Russian BAC
Full Judge (Nebelungs)  Mrs Lynn Fryer

Sokoke Breed Club
Full Judge   Mrs Veronica Brooks
Mr Phil Cornish
Mrs Catherine Kaye

Somali BAC
Full Judge   Dr Bruce Bennett
Pupil Judge   Mrs Dorothy Stone

Sphynx BAC
Full Judge   Mrs Michele Codd

3. JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/RMOVALS

3.1 Mr Keith Scruton gave notice of transfer to the Emeritus List for:
Persian LH (Self, Tabby, Smoke/Tipped, Bi/Tri-colour & Colourpt), Exotic, Birman, Maine Coon,
Norwegian Forest Cat, Ragdoll, Raganmuffin, Siberian, Somali LH & SH, Turkish Van & Turkish Vankedisi,
Korat & Thai, Snowshoe, Tonkinese.
3.2 He also withdrew as a judge of Nebelung, and as a Pupil Judge from the Asian, Russian and Burmese lists.

C2083 BREED APPLICATIONS

1. Promotion to Championship Status for the Tonkinese with Burmese colour restriction  ToBAC
Approved unanimously.
New class to be allowed as soon as is practical for Show Managers, but must be provided at shows from 21.2.16

2. Breed recognition of the Chartreux

3. Breed recognition of the Toyger

These breeds are now accepted for registration and cats may be on exhibition at GCCF shows.
The acceptability of using a Bengal was queried, but both the Chairman and Vice-Chair confirmed that it was
outcrossing to a non-domestic breed that was not permitted by the GCCF Breeding Policy and that although
Bengals were derived from another feline species originally, it had been substantiated that no new outcrossing
had been used to develop the Toyger.

4. Application for Cinnamon and Fawn Point Balinese, with the colours also allowed for in Tortie,
Tabby and Tortie/Tabby Point, to go into the existing Balinese breed class  BaBAC
Approved unanimously.

C2084 REGISTRATION/TRANSFER SOP MATTERS

1. Revised registration policy for Balinese.  BaBAC
1.1 An amendment on the day was proposed by the Balinese BAC Secretary to remove reference
to the Oriental LH registration policy. This was agreed.

2. Oriental registration policy revision

3. Somali registration policy - amended wording

4. Amendments to the SOP for Balinese

5. Amendment to the SOP for Selkirk Rex
6. Amendment to the SOP for Tonkinese  
7. Revised SOP for Turkish cats  
   (a note to be sent to the Turkish BAC that its next SOP revision should include mention of chins).

   Items 1-7 approved individually, all unanimously. The respective BACs to be informed.  

   JL

8. Discontinuation of the Experimental Register  

   8.1 It was proposed that the register no longer served a useful purpose. It should be replaced by new breeds having an approved registration policy at the time of breed recognition, and new colours and patterns of existing breeds being included in their current policy, appropriately revised.  

   8.2 This was agreed in principle. Therefore the new system would not include an ‘experimental register’ and reference to EXP would become historic as registration policies were revised.  

   Majority approval 1 against 0 abstentions

   8.3 It was noted there would be many rule changes to implement removal of the experimental register. Delegates approved a suggestion that these should be scrutinised by the Board, published on the GCCF website and reported to Council.  

   Action: rule changes to drafted  

   SRO/JL

9. Consultation on minor policy corrections/amendments receiving immediate Board approval and being referred to Council as information.  

   9.1 It was proposed that minor changes to registration policies should be published on the GCCF website subsequent to Board approval. A four week period would then be allowed for objections to be received from delegates and if none were then they would be deemed approved and listed on the next council agenda so that a record was kept.  

   9.2 The process would be exactly as it was for approving judges.  

   9.3 An objection on the principle of a reduction to Council’s authority was made by Mr M Coomer of Coventry & Leicester CC.  

   Majority approval 3 against 2 abstentions

   Action: this to be considered by the Board for a proposal to be brought to February Council  

   JL

10. Revised registration policy for Russian cats  

    Majority approval 2 against 0 abstentions

    Action: The BAC to be informed.  

    JL

C2085 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATION

   It was suggested that a Council meeting and the Supreme Show should not be held in the same week in future and there was general support for this.

The meeting closed at 4:50pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London, commencing at 1pm.