



**GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**  
(Meeting of Full Council)



held on Wednesday, 21 February 2013 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London.

**EMS PRESENTATION**

After the introductory items (C1909-11) the Chairman welcomed Sarah Johnson, Secretary of FIFe's Breeding and Registration Commission, to describe the EMS breed numbering code. Mrs Johnson explained that it was both simpler and more flexible than the GCCF lettering and numbering system it had replaced in FIFe, and illustrated this by showing that the complete list was on a single sheet of paper though the GCCF equivalent required a 37 page booklet. Delegates were given reassurance that historic names need not be replaced, and the system could include code for GCCF breeds that were not recognised in other registries, or where the genotype of a breed differed between organisations despite the name being the same. EMS was used to describe the phenotype of a cat, therefore the decisions on permitted breeding, and eligibility for the showing of variants, would remain the prerogative of the BACs through registration policies. Permission was not needed from FIFE to add new breeds, patterns and colours, though it was courteous and sensible to co-operate on additional coding required, so that EMS remained a single system across international boundaries.

The Chairman asked delegates for indication of whether there was a will to change from the existing complex breed numbering system, which was difficult to amend, and replace it with the EMS coding. Delegates were assured there would be no cost to individual breeders and exhibitors who would not require new paperwork. It would be phased in gradually with cats already registered keeping their numbers, and new ones being recorded in EMS format. Both systems would be in use on registration documents and for show entry for a time. As the overwhelming majority was in favour the Chairman referred it as an item for the June agenda, and thanked Mrs Johnson, Mrs Gregory and Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell who had been involved in the preparation of the presentation.

**MEETING MINUTES**

		PRESENTED BY	ACTION BY
<b>C1909</b>	<b>WELCOME TO DELEGATES</b>		
	Shortly after 1.00pm the Chairman welcomed (number) delegates, and thanked them for attending.	CHAIR	INFO
<b>C1910</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	CHAIR	OFFICE
	The Chairman had received apologies from the President and Vice-Presidents who had sent good wishes for a successful meeting. (Other apologies received are recorded in the delegate attendance list included in these minutes.)		
<b>C1911</b>	<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>		
	Jean Ashton, Pam Beaumont, Denise Lindsay and Kevin Sprot were remembered in silence by delegates.	CHAIR	INFO
<b>C1912</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	CHAIR	OFFICE
	The draft minutes of 24 October 2012 had been circulated and were approved with one amendment. C1896: Balinese Probationer Judge - Mrs <u>H</u> Marriott-Power. Majority approval                      0 against, 1 abstention.		
<b>C1913</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING 27 June 2012</b>		
	<b>C1891: Vetting-in improvements</b> John Robinson reported that the new system for infection control had been fully implemented. Plastic aprons were now compulsory. The veterinary log for record and explanation of rejections had received minor adjustments and was standard for shows. The list of vets had been updated and one for veterinary nurses was in preparation.	JR	INFO

**C1903: Breeder Scheme**

VICE INFO

Steve Crow reported that packs for breeders giving information about the scheme had been available from the Supreme and afterwards from the office. The dedicated area of the GCCF website was operational. There were currently 32 members who had been sent their membership numbers, and official logo and certificates were now in preparation for the launch date of 1 March.

Your Cat had carried a free article to alert the kitten buying public, but no publicity would be bought until the autumn when it was expected the website kitten lists would be providing a choice for potential purchasers.

**C1914 MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

INFO

1. Board of Directors 17 July, 04 September, 02 October & 27 November 2012. No questions.
2. Finance Committee 15 August & 17 October 2012. No questions.

**C1915 FINANCE**AW INFO  
(ACCOUNTANT)**1. Presentation of the Company Accounts of 2012**

Adrian Wood of O'Hara Wood presented the GCCF's accounts to delegates at the end of the second year of the company's trading. He reported that they had been prepared in accordance with company law. He observed:

- 1.1 the company had been in operation for only 10 months of the previous year therefore comparisons made between the two sets of figures had to be prorated.
- 1.2 As a not for profit company GCCF did not pay tax except on interest earned. This was a small amount in 2012, but expected to be larger in 2013.
- 1.3 GCCF had a net asset position of £391,320 with the majority of this tied to the property, which had a current market value of £202,300. The clubs loans represented £56,615, with stocks of medals and certificates valued at £8,500.
- 1.4 Income had been lower than 2011 prorated, but so had expenditure, therefore gross profit prorated had improved. For 2012 it was £160,139.
- 1.5 There was a net profit for 2012 of £22,184. This was lower than the previous year, though without the IT spend factored in it represented a slight increase.

2. Questions on the accounts were responded to by the Supreme SM who explained that

INFO

the office recharge was lower this year because less work had been done in the office; and the Office Manager confirmed that income from the disciplinary process was actual, rather than anticipated, and all fines imposed in 2012 had been paid.

**3. Presentation of the proposed budget for 2013**

OM INFO

- 3.1 This was based on registrations being approximately as in 2012, though it was anticipated the number of imports would fall.
- 3.2 Transfers were to be targeted as a growth area as these would be able to be done online. Clubs were asked to recommend breeders to encourage new owners to transfer and so earn income to enable other costs to be fixed.
- 3.3 An estimate of £250,000 was put on the value of time and expertise given to GCCF by Officers, Directors and the many volunteers who were contributing to projects to develop the company and raise its profile.
- 3.4 Additional projects meant more meetings, hence the projected rise in expenses for 2013.
- 3.5 The fixed tariff on electricity charges was due to end and it was hoped a better deal could be negotiated, though acknowledged that had been put into the budget before the latest announcement of fuel price rises.

**C1916 BUSINESS PLAN**

VICE INFO

1. The Vice Chairman reminded delegates that the Business Plan was available for viewing and/or download from the website. He described it as the key document by which GCCF operated as a company, and this year projects had been linked to the forecast budget to present a total package. Control had been taken of business management.

He noted that changes in the IT system were essential to increase efficiency and save expense. Volunteers were thanked for the time and expertise generously donated. Overall GCCF was doing well against the current financial background, evidenced by the fact that there no red risk areas in the plan this year, projects were amber or green.

## C1917 IT REFRESH PROJECT

### 1. The operation of online transfers. CHAIR INFO

The Chairman was able to announce that the online system was ready to go live with immediate effect. It had been extensively trialed and was now ready for anyone to log on, register as a user, and then be able to make transfers.

2. In addition breeders would be able to access their own records and see details of cats, owned, bred (with the low number of transfers visible) and shown.

3. The Project Manager, Sally Rainbow-Ockwell, explained new system was well supported by help at the site, but there could be glitches connected with the personal circumstances of the users. If record gaps were found breeders were welcome to report them so that data could be added and registration records improved. SRO INFO

4. Online registration would be activated as soon as transfers were operating well and office staff had completed their training. Sally estimated that this was weeks rather than months away.

5. Once registrations were live phase one of the IT Refresh would have been completed. Thanks to the volunteer help keeping costs to a minimum phase two would be able to begin more quickly than originally thought. It was planned to modernise the registration software through a specially designed software upgrade, but purchase standard small business packages for accounting, marketing and project control, all with aim of improving customer service. A start had been made, but there were many more good things to come. Sally promised to keep delegates informed of future developments.

## C1918 JUDGES

### 1. JUDGES FOR APPROVAL

<b>Bengal BAC</b>	Full Judge	Mr P Cornish
<b>British Shorthair GC</b>	Probationer Judge Extension for one year	Dr P G Collin (British & Manx) Mr S McConnell
<b>Burmese BAC</b>	Probationer Judge	Ms Sarah Dewhurst Ms Emma Matthews
<b>Oriental Bicolour BAC</b>	Probationer Judge	Mrs J Allen Mrs L Martin
<b>Oriental Joint BAC</b>	Probationer Judge	Mrs J Allen (Oriental Self, Non-Self & Oriental Longhair)
<b>Russian BAC</b>	Full Judge (Nebelung) Mrs Elaine Culf Mrs B Prowse Mr P Cornish	Mrs M Codd Mrs C Pike Mrs B Shingleton Mr M Pearman
<b>Siamese JAC</b>	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs J Pounds Mr R Davies
<b>Somali BAC</b>	Full Judge	Mrs L Dutton
<b>Tabby Persian BAC</b>	Probationer Judge	Mrs C Roberts

(OFFICE/JL)  
(OFFICE/JL)

## 2. JUDGE WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL:

<b>Oriental Joint BAC</b>	Oriental Self, Non-self & Longhair lists Oriental Self list	Mr S Nash Morris Mrs M Linton
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3. It was noted the Judges' Code of Conduct had been updated at 3B, 'Geographical Area' INFO

## C1919 SHOW MATTERS

1. **Report from the Supreme Show Manager** SSM INFO

1.1 Celia Leighton reported the loss of just over £9000 the Supreme Show had made this year (before office recharge) was due to a reduction in receipts from exhibits, stall and gate income. Expenditure had stayed on a level with that of the 2011.

However, as she could not ensure an income rise the aim had to be cut expense if the Supreme Show was to remain at the NCC and continue in its distinctive current format as a shop window for the Cat Fancy.

1.2 She suggested reducing the number of judges by not having judge critiques produced on the day. Judges present agreed this would allow them to work more quickly and so handle additional cats. Fewer judges would then be required and costs saved.

2. Delegates accepted this must be considered. Other suggestions from the floor were that use of catering vouchers for venue food should be provided instead of specially arranged catering, and additional sponsorship (car manufacturers) should be investigated.

3. **Proposal to have an additional Grand Class within the Foreign Section:**

1. Original Foreign
2. AOV Foreign
3. Foreign Rex, LaPerm and Sphynx

Agreed with majority approval, 2 against, 1 abstention. Implementation from 1.6.2013 SMs  
Mrs Dean of the Joint Rex BAC thanked delegates.

Judge eligibility would be revised and published on the GCCF website. BOARD

4. **Proposal to allow Exotic Longhair Variants to be shown in the equivalent Persian Breed Classes.**

Agreed with majority approval, 0 against, 6 abstentions. Implementation from 1.6.2013 SMs.

## C1920 RULE CHANGES Deletions shown ~~thus~~, additions shown thus CHAIR

1. Section 1:1g

The proposal to make BAER testing mandatory for white cats going onto the active register (with the exception of Foreign Whites) was withdrawn as the Genetics Committee had received new information and advice the previous day from AHT (Newmarket) and needed to discuss this. It was proposed that a list of testing centres and an information package for breeders on testing would be produced in the interim. GC

2. Section 1:10c a new rule to be implemented with immediate effect.

2. Section 1: new rule at 10c: to be implemented with immediate effect

**If the cat or kitten is sold with a certificate to validate any genetic/veterinary test, it must be microchipped and the chip number must be on the test certificate, the accompanying vaccination record card and the veterinary practice record.**

Agreed with majority approval, 0 against 1 abstention. IC

3. **Section 3:28 Non-submission of judges' show reports to the official GCCF website/publication. Revision to the fixed penalty for this rule to be implemented with immediate effect.**

Penalty: An official warning on the first breach plus the judge must submit the report for publication within 28 days of the date of the warning letter. A second breach of this rule within three years will result in a £25 fine, such fine to be paid within 28 days of request and relevant report/s must also be

published on the GCCF Website within 28 days. A third breach of this rule will result in a £50 fine, such fine to be paid within 28 days of request and relevant reports/s must also be published on the GCCF Website within 28 days. If judges fail to pay the fine and/or submit their reports within the allotted time they will be notified that they are ~~disqualified~~ **suspended** from judging for a minimum period of 3 months with effect from two weeks after the date of the ~~disqualification~~ **suspension** letter. A fourth breach of this rule will result in a fine of £100 and automatic ~~disqualification~~ **suspension** from judging for a minimum period of 6 months with effect from two weeks after the ~~disqualification~~ **suspension** letter. If however after any period of ~~disqualification~~ **suspension** has elapsed they have still not paid the fine or submitted all the reports the ~~disqualification~~ **suspension** will continue until they do so. Any subsequent breaches of this rule will result in the matter being referred to the GCCF Investigation Committee.

**Note: During a period of suspension, any contract a suspended judge has with a show is nullified, enabling affected show managers to appoint replacement judges immediately. A suspended judge may not resume judging nor accept invitations to do so until they have received a letter from the GCCF advising them the suspension is lifted. A suspended judge cannot be included in any Schedule or Catalogue published during the suspension period (unless already printed).**

**Any future engagements agreed to by the judge at the time of the suspension shall be cancelled with no automatic right of reinstatement when the penalty applied has been completed. Relevant show managers will be informed of suspensions and when they are lifted.**

Agreed with majority approval, 0 against 1 abstention.

IC/DC SEC

#### C1921 REVISED REGISTRATION POLICIES

1. **Burmese:** revision to replace the import ban with genetic testing and introduction of a protocol of testing for hypokalaemia .  
Unanimous approval  
BJAC OFFICE
2. **Tabby Persian:** Further breeds approved for the Supplementary Register, and introduction of a PKD Testing Scheme.  
Unanimous approval  
TPBAC OFFICE
3. **Russian:** revision to include approved outcrosses  
Majority approval, 3 against, 1 abstention  
RBAC OFFICE  
Mrs Buckeridge of RBAC thanked the Vice-Chairman for his assistance with the policy.
4. **Singapura:** This was withdrawn as the BAC needed more time to resubmit after considering GC recommendations.  
SBAC

#### C1922 REVISED STANDARD OF POINTS

1. **Birman:** revision to withholding faults  
Unanimous approval  
BBAC OFFICE

#### C1923 APPLICATION FOR BREED PROMOTION

1. Request for breed promotion for the **Siberian**, with revised Registration Policy  
Approval unanimous  
Implementation date: 21.6.13.  
Delegates congratulated the Siberian BAC.  
SiBAC OFFICE  
SMs

#### C1924 WORLD CAT CONGRESS

1. Information on plans to date.  
The GCCF website now gave details of how to book for the hotel and gala dinner and bookings were coming in well.  
PR&MEDIA INFO
2. The seminar programme was completed, except for the titles of the presentations

to be given by Profs Leslie Lyons and Tim Gruffydd-Jones. It could be viewed on the website.  
3. Visitors from abroad who wished to book using a credit/debit card would be advised to contact the office.

4. The theme for the Suffolk and Norfolk Show would be 007.

**C1925            CAT WELFARE TRUST**

RF            INFO

1. Rosemary Fisher reported a project with Bristol, Manchester and UC Davis collaborating on a study investigating the genetics of immunity had just been completed. The results and conclusions from this were published on the GCCF website.

2. The accounts of the CWT would be published shortly. Rosemary stressed it is a charity where every penny donated goes on feline study research and none into administrative costs.

**C1926            ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. In response to a query on C1920.2 the Vice Chairman advised that any testing done prior to a microchip and its established veterinary record should be considered as for breeder information only.

2. The Coventry and Leicester delegate offered her club's assistance to advise other club who wanted to accept card payments for show entry.

3. Video tapes on Show Management talks (from days gone) were available for conversion.

**C1927            NEXT MEETING**

The Electoral Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 June 2013 in the Main Hall, Conway Hall, London at 12 Noon

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.05pm