



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



held on Wednesday, 23 October 2013 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London.

- | | | PRESENTED
BY | ACTION
BY |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|
| C1955 | WELCOME TO DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM | | |
| | At 1.20pm the Chairman welcomed delegates, and thanked them for attending. Mavis Donnelly, Val Gane, Donna Lamont, Lynne Preece, Pamela Treadgold, Bunny Wheelwright, Tommy Bishop, and Dr Dick Danckwerts were remembered in a minute's silence. | CHAIR | INFO |
| C1956 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | CHAIR | OFFICE |
| | The Chairman gave apologies from the President who had sent a message to say she was thinking of the meeting and hoped it would be an informative, successful and enjoyable occasion. Vice President, Mr Eric Wickham-Ruffle, had sent warmest good wishes for all and was pleased modern technology gave him speedy access to news of various committee activities. (Other apologies received are recorded in the delegate attendance list following these minutes.)

Three new delegates introduced themselves. | | |
| C1957 | MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING | CHAIR | OFFICE |
| | 1. The draft minutes of 26 June 2013 had been circulated. There was a correction to a club name and an amendment to the title. Majority approval 0 against, 1 abstention.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting
1946.3 It was queried whether there had been any comment received from the Colourpoint BAC on the Tabby Persian registration policy. The BAC representative was absent, but it was understood that the Colourpoint BAC had not made a response. | | |
| C1958 | MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY | | INFO |
| | 1. Board of Directors: 4 June, 9 July
2. Finance Committee: 10 April, 19 June | No questions.
No questions. | |
| C1959 | FINANCE | | |
| | 1. Presentation of the Financial Report for the year to date | OM | INFO |
| | 1.1 Targets set in the budget were being met despite some unexpectedly large expenses .
1.2 There had been an appeal against a DC decision, for which legal fees were required, and the loss of a major sponsor had meant GCCF had to contribute more than anticipated to the World Cat Congress events.
1.3 Income from registrations was lower than the previous year, but this had been predicted.
1.4 The increase in transfers was almost at the target set.
1.5 Income from other sources, including Agria, was higher so the total was slightly above that predicted currently.
1.6 In response to questions on the loans from clubs two assurances were given. They would be clearly presented in the end of year analysis in February, and money was being set aside to make repayments.
1.7 It was also queried whether online entries for other shows would be taken as a source of additional income now that the Supreme entries had been made online. The OM replied that it would not be possible until the new computer system was in place, but it would certainly be considered in the future. | | |
| | 2. Presentation of volume figures for core business to date | | |
| | 2.1 The best figures from the graphs were those for prefix applications. These had increased throughout the year and indicated there would be new breeders in the future. | | |

- 2.2 Imports were only a small number of the cats registered, but these were also at a higher level than in 2010 and 2011
- 2.3 Transfer applications had levelled after the initial rise following online access, but proportionally more kittens were being transferred
- 2.4 The same proportion of kittens per litter were being registered as in previous years.
- 2.5 In response to a query it was promised that the statistics for individual breeds would be available from the website.
- 2.6 The OM concluded by drawing delegates' attention to the statistics for online registrations. In four months 65% of applications were received in this way which was more than the KC had achieved in a year. He was very pleased to report the progression to online use had started well and continued to increase.

3. Presentation of the World Cat Congress accounts

- 3.1 £5000 sponsorship money had not been paid therefore GCCF had had to support the event with an additional amount over the £2000 contributed in 2012 to meet initial expenses.
- 3.2 The shows had been self supporting. The money had been needed to support the hospitality.
- 3.3 If that loss had not been sustained then targets would have been met, but although there was a written commitment the sponsor's circumstance had changed so that it was unlikely to be recoverable.

C1960 BUSINESS PLAN VICE INFO

1. Update on business progress according to the Business Plan CHAIR

It was reported that this had been on schedule until June when some projects had been put on hold as more time was given to the major changes generated by the IT projects, as it was imperative for the future that accuracy was achieved at the planning and development stage. The update of the GCCF Breeding Policy was cited as an example.

2. Time scale for the 2014 Business Plan

The draft to the Board would in time for the meeting on 26.11.13
It should be on the website for general consultation in January 2014
Presentation to Council was planned for February 2014.

3. New GCCF Website

The Vice-Chairman announced that a new professionally designed website was at the planning stage and the designer was not taking payment. The front page was prepared and on view to the Board, and the structure behind it at the planning stage. The intention was it would be constructed so that different groups could be responsible for sections and information content and updates would not be dependent on one person. It was hoped to have an accessible site, attractive and informative to the general public.

Assurance was given that Marcia Owen would continue to manage the area dedicated to show and judging reports.

C1961 CANINE AND FELINE SECTOR GROUP (DEFRA) VICE CHAIR INFO

This was a group organised by the ministry to advise its Animal Welfare Committee on feline and canine issues. It had resolved to focus on topics that were most likely to influence government policy. To date dangerous dogs, microchipping and boarding establishments had been discussed. There was also concern on the reported rise in animal smuggling because, if there was a rabies outbreak, the draconian measures that could be taken would have an impact on our hobby.

C1962 JUDGES

1. JUDGES FOR APPROVAL BACs JL

<p>Abyssinian BAC</p> <p>Asian BAC</p>	<p>Probationer Judge</p> <p>Full Judge</p> <p>Probationer Judge</p>	<p>Mrs R Fisher</p> <p>Mrs D Stone</p> <p>Mrs S Rainbow-Ockwell</p> <p>Mrs S Danks</p>
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Bengal BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs R Fisher Mrs D Stone	
Birman BAC	Full Judge	Mr J Hansson Mrs S Luxford-Watts Mrs A Lyall	
	Probationer Judge	Mrs C de Martino Mrs L Dutton	
British Shorthair GC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mr S McConnell Mrs K Board-Allam Mrs C de Martino Mrs H Wild	
Burmese BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs J Francis Wilson Mr G Martin Mr K Scruton	
Egyptian Mau	Full Judge	Mr P Cornish	
Exotic BAC	Probationer Judge	Mr J Emery	
Joint Rex BAC	Full Judge	Miss C White (Cornish Rex, Devon Rex & LaPerm)	
Maine Coon BAC	Probationer Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs M Waugh Mrs C Leighton Mrs L Martin Mrs D Stone	Devon Rex Rex
Norwegian Forest Cat BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs W McQuilkin Ms F Hermon	
Ocicat BAC	Full Judge	Mrs M Codd Mr S Parkin	
Oriental Bicolour BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs L Studer Mrs L Walpole	
Oriental Joint BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs J Smith Mrs L Walpole	Oriental Selfs Oriental LHs
Persian Tipped & Smoke	Extension for 1 year from June 2013		Ms C Pearson
Ragdoll BAC	Full Judge	Mrs V Anderson-Drew Mrs A Ivinson Mrs H Marriott-Power	
Russian BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs D Stone	
	Full Judge of Nebelung Cats	Ms C de Martino Mrs S Rainbow-Ockwell	Mrs L Martin Mr K Scruton
Somali BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs C de Martino Mrs S Rainbow-Ockwell Dr B Bennett	
Self LH BAC Tonkinese BAC	Extension for 1 year from June 2013 Probationer Judge	Mrs V Anderson-Drew	Mr E Merchant
Tortie, Tortie & White & Bicolour BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs H Marriott-Power	

Turkish BAC Full Judge Mrs L Grant (Turkish Van & Van Kedisi)
Probationer Judge Mrs W McQuilkin (Turkish Van)
Extension for 1 year from October Mr E Merchant

Unanimous approval

2. **JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/REMOVALS**

Mr S Farrell from the Asian list
Mrs J Gillson from the Australian Mist list

3. **For Information**

Mrs J Hickey was reinstated to the LH Self, LH Tabby, Patched and Exotic lists after inadvertent removal when she went to live abroad.

C1963 IT REFRESH PROJECT

CHAIR INFO

1. **An update on the introduction of EMS codes to replace GCCF breed numbers**

As this had been paused and so would not be introduced for show paperwork in January as planned the Chairman made a statement which is retained in full:

I wish to clarify the process agreed for introducing EMS to the GCCF.

The EMS codes will be a direct translation from our current codes to the established EMS codes. In a few instances EMS codes have not existed. Also we have ascertained that there are a few erroneous codes within our current system. A translator is available, together with advice sheets for clubs, BACs, breeders and exhibitors. Amendments will be added as they are agreed. The transfer to EMS took place as planned on 1st October 2013. The only change that is visible is that from that date new registrations show both the current GCCF registration number and breed description together with the new EMS code. The GCCF currently codes its cats for registration on genotype with 'v' for variants and this will not change. Any variance from a strict transfer of codes could go against established registration policies so would need the relevant BACs approval.

Some discussion has taken place with FIFE so that any new codes required are to the mutual benefit of both organisations to establish an international number system where possible. Some breeds and/or colours are recognised by one organisation and not the other but continuing dialogue establishes the principle for the future. However EMS rules are not just FIFE but are there so that the system works for all that use it and to make exchange of cats across the world easier.

The second phase of the introduction of EMS codes has been slightly delayed in order that we can rectify any problems before the full usage of the codes is launched. We are therefore setting up a small group to look at any issues and to recommend a course of action to the Board. Where appropriate reference will be made to specific BACs. In order to gather as much information as possible a specific email address will be set up for clubs, BACs, breeders and exhibitors to send their queries and/or suggestions. This will be notified on the GCCF website this week and with the notes of this meeting. (ems@gccfcats.org)

This is just the start of a long process which our IT group has put many hours of work into and I would appreciate all your support to keep the momentum going. No decisions are being made without the Board's and/or Council's approval. If you have any queries please do send them to special email address for consideration.

Helen Marriott-Power (GCCF Chairman)

INFO

2. **Progress of plans for phase two** SRO (Project Manager)

2.1 The program to deal with registration was being custom built and most probably would not be fully operational until the autumn of 2014.

2.2 Registration policies would need standardisation for implementation on the new system and the Registry Project Manager would be contacting BACs in order to do this.

2.3 The information held on people was being integrated so that individual details were linked and did not create multiple identities.

2.4 Surveys would take place to invite suggestions for future services.

INFO

C1964 RULE CHANGES

CHAIR OFFICE

1. **Rule additions concerning behaviour at shows**

1.1 **Section 2: 11 Catalogue.** 2 additional items were added:

g. A notice that any complaint related to the show must be forwarded to the Show Manager within 7 days. If the complaint is related to the show management, the complaint may be forwarded to the GCCF Office.

h. A notice that unacceptable or aggressive behaviour towards any Show Official, Judge, Steward, Exhibitor or any other person WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Any such behaviour will result in the removal of those responsible (and their cats) from the show venue. This behaviour may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action by the GCCF. It is advised that notices to this effect should also be displayed prominently in the Show Hall.

1.2 **Section 3: Show Procedures** A new rule was added:

16. Any Judge and/or Steward should report any instance of unacceptable or aggressive behaviour immediately to the Show Manager for action under Section Two 11h.

1.3 **Section 4: During the show.** A new rule was added:

30. Exhibitors must note that unacceptable or aggressive behaviour towards any Show Official, Judge, Steward or any other person WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Any such behaviour will result in the removal of those responsible (and their cats) from the show venue. This behaviour may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action by GCCF. A single vote was taken. **Majority approval 0 against, 2 abstentions.**

1.4 It was queried whether complaints from SMs should be charged £160 now that zero tolerance of unacceptable behaviour was required by the rules. The Chairman replied that the matter would be referred to the next meeting of the Board. JL

2. **Rule addition to remove superfluous wording from the Olympian title**

2.1 **Section 4:8a Note 6.**

When the title of Olympian awarded to a cat in the pedigree or household section it is sufficient to denote it is an Imperial Grand Champion/Premier or Master Cat. Therefore it is unnecessary to include these titles in the cat's name. However, if the cat has gained a UK title at the Supreme Show that must still be included, before Olympian.

2.2 An amendment was proposed to delete 'following Olympian' from the end of the wording and adding 'before Olympian' in reference to the UK Grand title. **The amendment was agreed.**

The vote was then taken for the rule addition. **Majority approval 0 against, 2 abstentions.**

The rule changes are with immediate effect and the rule book will be updated asap.

OFFICE

C1964A DISCIPLINARY REVIEW

The notes of two meetings were available for delegates, and the chairman of the working group appointed by the Board gave a brief summary and responded to questions.

The aim of the review was to give consideration to streamlining the system to make it more cost effective and less time consuming. Assurance was given that recommendations that resulted from discussions for GCCF Rule and/or Byelaw changes would be brought to Council. INFO

C1965 AMALGAMATION OF THE LONGHAIR BACS WITHIN THE PERSIAN SECTION

1. The rationale for this proposal from the Board, and the logistics for its implementation, had been circulated to delegates and made available on the website.

2. After discussion an amendment to these was taken. It was proposed that the Board should appoint officers for two meetings, the second being the Electoral Meeting of the new Persian LH BAC. **Majority approval 1 against, 2 abstentions.**

3. The proposal was then put to the meeting. **Majority approval 3 against, 1 abstention.**

4. It will be effective from the date of the first meeting of the new Joint BAC. In the agreed logistics this was stated as January or early February 2014, and would be arranged by the appointed officers in consultation with the clubs concerned. BOARD

C1966 REVISIONS TO THE BAC JUDGE APPOINTMENT SCHEME

This was necessary to incorporate a single judging list for the Persian Longhair and remove the five separate ones (2a). Outdated references to the Angora, the Executive Committee and Provisional Status were deleted, or amended to the Board and Championship Status as appropriate, in 2a, 2c and 2e. Effective from the date of the new Joint BAC. **Majority approval 0 against, 1 abstention.**

In response to a suggestion, the Chairman stated that 2a of the BAC Philosophy and Principles would be reviewed to see if a summary of the judging lists was sensible. JL

C1967 REVISED REGISTRATION POLICIES (for immediate implementation)

1. **Korat & Thai:** Full registration for the Thais and GM testing for imports. K&TBAC OFFICE
Unanimous approval
2. **Oriental Bicolour BAC:** Variants without white to be on the Supplementary Register to allow them to be shown if so approved. EMS notation introduced. ORIBIBAC OFFICE
Unanimous approval
3. **Snowshoe:** The policy revised to categorise variants and allow for outcrossing. SnBAC OFFICE
Unanimous approval
4. **Tabby Persian:** Tabby Persians with a white parent moved to the supplementary register, thus allowing them to be shown. TPBAC OFFICE
Unanimous approval

C1968 REVISED STANDARD OF POINTS

Withdrawn for further amendment by the BAC concerned. ORIBIBAC

C1969 SHOW MATTERS

1. **Report from the Supreme Show Manager** SSM INFO
 - 1.1 Celia Leighton announced there would be 786 cats in competition in 2013. Those on exhibition would take the total number present to over 800.
 - 2.1 She acknowledged this was fewer exhibits than the previous year and that she would have liked there to be more, but thanked those who had supported the show.
 - 3.1 It was noted that the rules had not yet been updated for the acceptance of online entries. Council accepted the principle by a show of hands, but rule changes would have to be drafted and brought to February Council. OM BOARD
2. **Proposal that Oriental Bicolour Variants without white are shown in the equivalent Siamese and Balinese Breed Classes** ORIBIBAC SMs

There was some discussion on the practicalities of numbering the variants, who by phenotype are accepted for the Breed Classes of a another breed; and general debate on whether the variants of one breed should be accepted by the registration policy of another, with a record to indicate the different genotype. The FIFe dual coding for show and breeding purposes was mentioned briefly. (implementation: to shows not yet closed) **Majority approval 2 against, 3 abstentions.**

The suggestion was put forward that a list should be prepared which indicated the breed numbers of cats accepted for a breed class, where it was possible for there to be more than 1 breed number. OFFICE

C1970 APPLICATION FOR BREED RECOGNITION

This item was withdrawn pending the receipt of further paperwork.

C1971 APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN OFFICE

1. An application had been received from the Progressive Singapura Cat Club (immediate implementation) **Majority approval 0 against, 1 abstention.**

C1972 HOUSEHOLD PET REGISTRATION OM INFO

The Office Manager gave a brief update on the scheme that would provide Household Pets with a simple form of registration. This was in response to demand, and had now reached the trial and test stage.

C1973 CAT WELFARE TRUST

KS INFO

Keith Scruton, Chairman, gave news of a substantial amount of money received as a bequest and also that some breeders were donating their Agrida reward money to the Trust. He went on to confirm that funding could be supplied to breed club and BAC projects concerned with health and welfare, as well as ones initiated in universities. There were criteria that had to be met, but clubs could possibly support breeders to ensure sufficient scan results or DNA evidence were collected, for example. The report and criteria in full were available from the GCCF website.

C1974 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

INFO

1. Triennial rather than annual GCCF officer elections

This was put forward by the Central LH and SLH Cat Club to allow the Chairman and Vice Chairman terms of three years, though permitting either to stand down if necessary. In addition there was the right to remain as an independent delegate with full voting rights for one year after retirement. Much of the debate centred on what would happen if either officer retired prematurely, and it was suggested that if the club wished to propose an amendment to Byelaw 8 there should be more detail on this point. A straw poll indicated that the two thirds majority for a change would be achievable.

2. Dual registration and transfers

This discussion item had been proposed by the Abyssinian Cat Association in June originally, and their delegate acknowledged there had been changes to the volume of transfers since the introduction of the online system. The club did not wish to make any proposal but stimulate discussion on incentives to transfer.

It was accepted that more breeders probably would transfer if a lower price was offered for a registration and transfer combined. However, calculations indicated that if a realistic reduction was made to attract breeders to take up the option, it would mean that the current number of transfers would actually have to double for the same amount of income to be generated, which was acknowledged as highly unlikely.

There was also discussion on repeated transfer for a single cat. Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell gave an assurance that currently there was still scrutiny, and the new computer system could be made to check and flag rapid transfers. Ideas for positive intervention on behalf of cat welfare would be welcome.

C1975 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

INFO

- 1. The Office Manager announced that Agrida reward money would be paid to breeders, or their designated charities, on 31.10.2013

C1976 NEXT MEETING

A General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 in the Conway Hall, Holborn, London at 1pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.50pm

signed.....

date.....

Chairman