



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



held on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London.

MEETING MINUTES

		PRESENTED BY	ACTION BY
C1977	WELCOME TO DELEGATES		
	<p>Shortly after 1.00pm the Chairman welcomed 105 delegates, and thanked them for attending on a day when the weather was fair with no major travelling problems. 4 guests were welcomed: Mr Wood, the company's accountant, and 3 representatives from Agria Insurance who were going to take questions during the refreshment break. Mrs Marriott-Power gave news of the President and a Vice-President who were in hospital. Mrs Dugdale was now recovering, and Mrs Denny was undergoing a course of treatment. Both were wished well.</p> <p>The Chairman announced that there would be a Gala Dinner on 17 May at the Cambridge Belfry Hotel. Those who wished could stay at the hotel on the Friday and/or Saturday nights at a special rate, with cats included at no extra charge. This year there would be awards presented at the dinner for the most popular: show, show management team, judge, steward, club and best club rescue, plus an award for an 'Outstanding Contribution' to the Cat Fancy. Nominations and voting for these would be taken online at the GCCF website or by post, and information was included on a flyer in the delegate packs. There was delegate concern on the criteria for all but the final award, as much would depend on the individual experiences of exhibitors.</p>	CHAIR	INFO
C1977a	IN MEMORIAM		
	<p>Heather Anderson-Carter, Pat Hoare, Jean Hyland, Ken Bell and Derek Drury were remembered in silence by delegates.</p>	CHAIR	INFO
C1978	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
	<p>The Chairman had received apologies from Vice-President, Eric Wickham-Ruffle, who sent good wishes for a successful meeting and looked forward to receiving the day's news. (Other apologies received are recorded in the delegate attendance list included in these minutes.)</p>		INFO
C1979	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING		CHAIR OFFICE
	<p>1. The minutes of 23 October 2013 These had been circulated and were approved with one addition. C1962.1: It was clarified the promotions of the Ocicat BAC related to Ocicats only, not Ocicat Classics. Unanimous approval.</p> <p>2. Matters arising C1969 3.1 online show entries It was confirmed that the change on the current agenda at C1984.7 would ratify the online entry allowed for the Supreme Show and allow clubs to take entries online. INFO</p>		
C1980	MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY		INFO
	<p>1. Board of Directors 06 August, 03 September, 08 October & 26 November 2013. In response to a query the OM confirmed that the GCCF's solicitor's advice was that show committees would need to seek their own legal support in cases of dispute with those outside GCCF jurisdiction. (BD31- urgent 6/8/13).</p> <p>2. Finance Committee 14 August & 16 October 2013. No questions.</p>		

1. Presentation of the Company Accounts of 2013 (draft)

Adrian Wood of O'Hara Wood presented the GCCF's draft accounts to delegates at the end of the third year of the company's trading. He reported that they had been prepared, and were in the format, required by company law. He observed:

- 1.1 GCCF had a net asset position of £391,402. At the same time last year it was £391,320, confirming that overall assets, less liabilities, increased in the 12 month period by £82.
- 1.2 HMRC did not levy corporation tax on the normal business activities, as these were considered to be those of a member club. However, it was paid on interest received.
- 1.3 The major fixed asset of the company is the property valued at £198,100, with stocks of publications and medals valued at £7,841. The monies loaned to GCCF in respect of the IT project were noted as £56,615. As yet none had been spent.
- 1.4 Income had been lower than 2012 by £4,402. (1.25%).
- 1.5 Total expenses were £208,315 compared to £198,038 for the prior year, representing an increase in direct costs of £10,277 or 5%.
- 1.6 GCCF generated a gross profit of £149,771 compared to £160,319 in 2012, a reduction £10,548 or 6.6%.
- 1.7 Although there were variations in individual figures income and expenditure for the Supreme Show approximated with that for the show in 2012, resulting in a net loss of £9,555, compared to £9,054. However, the office recharge of £2,000 and a VAT repayment due to an error (identified by the show team) in 2012 and 2013 had the result of increasing the loss to £17,822 compared to £15,054 in 2012.
- 1.7 In general terms the year saw a small decline in income and increase in expenditure which reduced the results to an overall break-even situation.

In response to a question it was confirmed that there was no further backdated VAT to pay in connection with the error identified in the Supreme Show accounts in connection with the gate receipts. Also, it was explained that the large increase in bank charges was the result of online activity. It was anticipated to make savings in the longer term that would offset these. The Chairman thanked Mr Wood for his work, and noted the full accounts would be presented in June.

2. Presentation of the volume figures for core business

The Office Manager reported:

- 2.1 The take up of online services had been twice that anticipated. Transactions by this method now represented 63% of business.
- 2.2 There had been a continuing fall in litter registrations, both prefix and non-prefix. However, he did not expect breeders to have more kittens than they could sell and hoped for an improvement in a better economic climate.
- 2.3 However, there had been a significant increase in the proportion of transfers to registrations, and this was a trend to be encouraged. The cumulative total of transfers had increased overall, although by month had peaked when the service first became available online.
- 2.4 There had been a good number prefix applications, which was a good indicator of new breeders for the future.
- 2.5 Import registrations were less than 2012, but above those for the two previous years, also predicative of future plans for breeding.
- 2.6 Income from printing was roughly in line with 2012, and it was expected that the demand for certified and breeder pedigrees would be a growth area.
- 2.7 There had been a five fold increase in commission earned from Agria, and it was expected to continue to grow.

3. Presentation of the proposed budget for 2014

The Office Manager commented briefly on this by observing that it was largely self explanatory, although the higher bank charges incurred in 2013 would have to be factored in for 2014.

He drew attention to the notes:

- 3.1 The current levels of registration had been maintained as a target, despite a fall in 2013 as the economic climate was showing signs of improvement.
- 3.2 It would be aimed to continue to improve the number of transfers by use of incentives.
- 3.3 The appeal in 2013 had raised the costs of the IC/DC service and a higher estimate had been included for 2014 to absorb unexpected expenses in this area.

C1982 BUSINESS MATTERS

VICE INFO
CHAIR

1. Presentation of the approved Business Plan

The Vice Chairman explained that this was the document that governed how GCCF operated as a business. He noted the need to increase income, but gave assurance that this would be by diversity of services offered rather than price increases. GCCF was positioned to trade in the online retail sector and had to identify where there was demand and develop accordingly.

In considering the strategic objectives he noted a need for:

- * an increase in administrative team effectiveness
- * further IT development
- * a continuation of staff retraining
- * IC/DC system revision
- * reappraisal of marketing strategy

It was planned to apply for government assistance to improve managerial effectiveness and staff training.

A business risk assessment had been carried with no area flagged red. Amber remained in some IT and technical areas as much depended on the knowledge and skills of a few. There was also the need for further staff development.

2. Presentation of the updated GCCF website

RF INFO

Mrs Fisher gave a visual presentation of the new website that volunteers had been working on since Christmas. She commented on the more modern, less cluttered front page which had the facility to carry advertising.

The central focus was on the 'breed hub' which formed the portal to access lots of different information about each of the breeds for both breeders and the general public.

There was discussion on health issues as it was suggested that the need to screen and test was presented negatively, rather than as a positive indication of a responsible breeder.

Mrs Fisher agreed that there had to be a balance and assured delegates this was the beginning of a consultative stage. No information would be public until it received respective BAC approval.

3. Breeder Scheme Report

VICE INFO
CHAIR

There were now 170 breeders in the scheme, greater than the anticipated take up.

Subscriptions were coming up for renewal and it was hoped to attract the majority back as well as incentivising new people to join via discounts and/or rewards.

The take up had been sufficient to publicise the scheme to the general public and YOUR CAT had proved supportive, with a feature included this month to be followed by planned advertising.

Every opportunity had to be taken for promotion of the Scheme.

4. Report on a meeting with LOOF Officials

VICE INFO
CHAIR

The Chair and Vice-Chair had met with officials from LOOF (official French registry) to explore the possibilities of reciprocal arrangements in the future. This had been an opportunity for each organisation to get to know more about how the other functioned, and it was expected that in future more detailed plans could be discussed for mutual benefit.

C1983 JUDGES

1. JUDGES APPROVED

(OFFICE/JL)

Asian BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs V Anderson-Drew
Balinese BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs S Devereux Mrs S Tokens
Bengal BAC	Full Judge	Mr S Parkin
Birman BAC	Full Judge	Mrs V Anderson
British Shorthair GC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs J Allen Mrs D Brown Mrs E Fryer Mrs S Rainbow-Ockwell

Burmese BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs S Tokens
Egyptian Mau BAC	Full Judge	Mrs S Amor
Maine Coon BAC	Full Judge	Mrs L Fryer
Oriental Joint BAC	Probationer Judge Oriental Self , Non Self & Longhair	Ms J Pounds
Persian LH BAC	Full Judge Ext for 1 year (Feb 2015) Ext for 1 year (Feb 2015)	Mr E Merchant (Persian LHs) Ms M Laird (Persian Self) Miss C Pearson (Persian Tabby)
Ragdoll BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs L Dutton Dr B Bennett
Russian BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge Full Judge - Nebelungs	Mr M Pearman Mr K Scruton Mrs T Cole
Siamese CJAC	Full Judge	Ms S Devereux
Siberian BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs W McQuilkin Dr Bruce Bennett Mrs S Rainbow-Ockwell
Singapura BAC	Probationer Judge	Mr P Cornish
Snowshoe BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs A-M Heath
Sphynx BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs P Mansaray Mrs R Fisher Ms M Waugh
Tonkinese BAC	Full Judge	Mrs L Fryer Mr S Parkin

2. JUDGE WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL: (OFFICE/JL)

Tonkinese BAC Anna Bailey, Helen Dadd, Helga Dessauer, Enid Holmes, Margaret Kidd

C1984 RULE CHANGES Deletions shown ~~thus~~, additions shown thus OM OFFICE

1. Rule amendments concerning the operation of joint ownership

Section 1:

10e. The following declaration must be signed by the new owner only. In the case of transfer to joint ownership ~~both~~ at least one of the new owners must sign the declaration.

11b. When a prefix is issued to joint owners, all rules apply to both parties. Either party may sign declarations required as part of applications or agreements in connection with the GCCF and its services with the exception of changes to the prefix ownership itself.

11f. Manuscript additions to show catalogues are not permissible, but printers' errors may be corrected. Any such correction must not be an addition or substitution of any exhibit for which proof of entry cannot be validated, or a change of exhibitor/owner, with the exception of changes from single to joint ownership or vice-versa provided that in the case of joint ownership ~~both~~ at least one of the ~~have~~ has signed the declaration. Any such corrections must be incorporated in the marked catalogues sent to the GCCF, but need not be incorporated in any other catalogues. (see Section 4, Rule 8a)

Section 4:8a.

Note 3 Errors in these details (except minor errors) will disqualify the entry, with forfeiture of all entry and penning fees. Show managements, however, are permitted to accept corrections, at their own discretion, up to the close of the show; Any such correction must not be an addition or substitution of any exhibit for which proof

of entry cannot be validated, or a change of exhibitor/owner, with the exception of changes from single to joint ownership or vice-versa provided that in the case of joint ownership ~~both~~ **at least one of the** of the owners ~~have~~ **has** signed the declaration. Any such corrections must be incorporated in the marked catalogues sent to the GCCF, but need not be incorporated in any other catalogues. (see Section 2, Rules 11c, 11f)

Majority approval: 2 against 0 abstentions

2. New statement on variants to define current practice. Section 1:18

~~Varieties of cat where variants cats are involved will have the variants placed on the Reference Register. The progeny of these cats which conform to accepted colours and type and also conform to the Registration Policy for that breed shall be placed on the appropriate register and not be retained on the Reference Register.~~

Variants occur within certain breeds as a result of either: permitted outcrosses allowed by the registration policy, or the expression of recessive genes carried within the breed's existing gene pool.

a) The Registration Policy for each breed should provide information on the current registration status and the suitability for breeding of known variants.

b) Reference should be made to the GCCF Variant Policy to determine the possibility for progression to Championship Status of any variant type. BAC applications to do so must be accompanied by an amended Registration Policy to enable show eligibility (Section 4 1d).

c) Cats already registered on the Reference Register will not have their registration number changed but will be treated as though they were registered according to the revised policy from the date of its implementation.

Majority approval: 0 against 4 abstentions

3. Additional wording to ensure reference registered cats are included by the note above (C1984.2); and that reference registered variants are considered progressed by a registration policy change that enables them to be shown.

Section 4 Rule 1 Eligibility

Exhibits registered on the Reference Register are not eligible for competition unless they were registered before their breed had Preliminary recognition and are now considered as if registered on the Experimental Register (see section 1, rules 32 & 44); **or are breed variants registered before progression by their approved Registration Policy to the Full or Supplementary Registers (see Section 1 18).** **The note following Section 4:16 & 18 also applies to reference registered cats.**

Majority approval: 6 against 1 abstention

4. Recognition for cats of an existing breed with a new coat length Section 1:22-34

22. Breed groups within which all recognised colours, **coat lengths** and patterns are included in a single class: the Breed Advisory Committee may propose to the **Board of Directors** that any additional colours, **coat lengths** and patterns which are produced in that breed group, bred according to the Registration Policy and which the Breed Advisory Committee wishes to have recognised, shall be added to the Standard of Points and shall be included in the same class. The new colours, **coat lengths** or patterns will not be treated as new breeds. The application must be accompanied by 21 copies of the current or amended registration policy.

Rules 23 - 29 unchanged

Preliminary Recognition of New Colours, **Coat Lengths** and Patterns of Existing Breeds

Rules 30-34 **coat length (s)** follows colour(s) as above each time colours and patterns of existing breeds are mentioned.

Rule 34: 21 copies of the of the following documents, ... **or electronically if agreed by the office**

Majority approval: 1 against 1 abstention

5. Revisions for clarification pertaining to the rules for showing HHPs

Section 2:7, 14 ,15

The title **Master Cat** to be written as separate words and not ~~Mastercat~~ in 7j i), ii)& iii), 14e & 15d) (note: delete reference to **Sanction** in these rules).

Section 2: 7j iv)

The Coventry and Leicester Cat Club , in recognition of their work initiating the concept of titles for Household Pet Cats, shall be allowed to retain their own special title of 'Ultimate Cat' gained by titles cats winning two certificates in different years at the Coventry and Leicester Cat Club's annual Championship Show. (Council October 2008, amended 26.2.2014)

Section 4:8a Note 6.

When the title of Olympian **is** awarded to a cat in the pedigree or household **pet** section, it is sufficient to denote it is an Imperial Grand Champion/Premier or **Imperial Grand** Master Cat. Unanimous approval.

6. To follow rules 4.16 & 4.18 to allow cats on exhibition to take part in fun classes
Note: Rules 4.1d, 4.16 and 4.18 do not apply to cats on exhibition who are not being judged with reference to their Standard of Points. Majority approval: 2 against 3 abstentions

7. Additional wording to state the terms and conditions for online show entry.

Section 4:3

In order to exhibit in any shows held under GCCF licence the registered owner(s) must sign the official entry for the show and abide by and subscribe to the following declaration: In the case of online show entry the user ticking to agree to the declaration as given below will be accepted as the electronic signature, providing the user's postal address has been verified and related to their email as part of the online enrolment process. Majority approval: 0 against 1 abstention

Immediate implementation for all rule changes.

C1985 AMENDMENT TO BYELAW 8

CLH&SLHCC OFFICE

The proposal by the Central Longhair and Semi-Longhair Cat Club was for two changes:

1. To appoint the GCCF Officers for a single term of 3 years
2. To allow them the automatic right to remain as voting members of Council for a year after completion of a term of office.

The full text of the changes is retained as an addendum to the minutes. The club representative summarised the rationale as the need to add further stability to GCCF as a limited company.

Two thirds majority approval obtained: 7 against 4 abstentions

Effective at the Electoral Meeting of June 2014.

C1986 IT REFRESH PROJECT

1. A report on online services.

SRO INFO

- 1.1 Over 5000 people had registered to use online services, which indicated how necessary their provision had been, and how easy people found it to use them.
- 1.2 The office staff had adapted well to the change. Most queries could be dealt with immediately, and it was necessary to seek technical support only occasionally.
- 1.3 The new releases of HHP registration, and the availability for purchase of customised Breeder Pedigrees would be announced on the website very shortly. Final testing was in progress.
- 1.4 In June/July there would be new features added to existing services and that would complete phase one of the computer upgrade. It had been done at little cost thanks to the pro bono work of a skilled volunteer.

2. Plans for phase 2.

- 2.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell warned that this would be the difficult and expensive phase and initially there would not be much evidence of what was happening, as the provision of a new computer operating system would take place behind the scenes while the services operated would continue to be provided. However, there could be no further development without the replacement of a system that was now over 30 years old.
- 2.2 Commercial support and expertise would be needed to ensure the work was done quickly and professionally recorded so that it could continue to be supported and upgraded on a regular basis to prevent the need for complete system overhaul in the future.
- 2.3 Detailed plans would be put to the next Board meeting and presented to Council in June.

3. The introduction of EMS

- 3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell confirmed that the difficulties encountered recording some tabby patterns and high white had been resolved by work on the existing GCCF computer.
- 3.2 Variants would have a show code (to make them indistinguishable in breed classes) and a pedigree code to ensure there was an accurate record for breeding purposes.
- 3.3 The Board had agreed that EMS would be used for all show paperwork from 1 June 2014. There were queries from those concerned by the extra work involved by exhibitor failure to change, and it was agreed that there would have to be a period of grace when errors were accepted, as the majority of exhibitors became accustomed to using the code.

Thanks were given to Ian Macro and the team working on the IT Refresh Project.

- C1987 HHP REGISTRATION OM INFO**
- The Office Manager confirmed there was a demand for this and the certificates were ready to print. They would be similar to pedigree ones, though carry less information about the cat's background, but give space for a photograph.
In future there could be a link to providing Pedigree Pet certificates through the transfer system.
 - Two queries were referred back to the Board: whether the 1971 rule related to registering the progeny of unknown parents would need amendment; and for clarification on the acceptability of showing a Pedigree Pet in the pedigree section on occasions. OM/JL
- C1988 DISCIPLINARY REVIEW MCB INFO**
- The report was presented to Council by Mrs Chapman-Beer, Chairman of the Working Group.
 - The first action would be to present a list of new fixed penalties to the Board, as these were an effective sanction and not expensive to administer.
 - It was intended that the Judges' Panel would remain and possibly extend its scope.
 - A new arbitration service was planned, to be operated by any 3 from a pool of suitable people, recruited not only from amongst delegates. It would operate electronically and its decisions would be binding.
 - As yet the subject of health and welfare had not been discussed and accounted for many IC/DC cases. There would be a meeting devoted to this.
 - Recommendations would be put to the Board in April and reported at June Council. Mrs Chapman-Beer and the Working Group were thanked for their efforts.
- C1989 REVISED REGISTRATION POLICIES
(Immediate implementation for all policies)**
- Egyptian Mau:** revision to allow registration of Foundation Cats for the purpose of greater genetic diversity. Majority approval, 3 against, 1 abstention EMBAC OFFICE
 - Foreign White, Oriental SH & LH:** notes added to include the non-bicolour progeny of Oriental Bicolours Unanimous approval OJBAC OFFICE
 - Asian:** complete revision of definitions, outcrosses and register progress Variants to remain on the Reference Register. Majority approval, 0 against, 3 abstentions AsBAC OFFICE
 - British SH:** to confirm the definitive version of the policy. Unanimous approval BSGC OFFICE
- C1990 REVISED STANDARD OF POINTS**
- Oriental LH:** revision to include EMS, standardise caramel & apricot wording and include tabby definitions. Suggested reversal for EMS and GCCF code. Unanimous approval OJBAC OFFICE
- C1991 SHOW MATTERS**
- Dispensation from the 13 day rule for events to permit different cats from a household to be present on both days of the event weekend.** INFO
It was noted that the the GCCF Veterinary Officers had confirmed risk of infection would be low in the circumstances of an event. However, concern was expressed that the 13 day rule protected cats and there was a risk that if it was set aside for an event it would establish a precedent.
Request not granted: 39 in favour, 52 against, 9 abstentions
 - The Supreme Show**
This had made an income/expenditure loss of £9,500. The VAT repayment for two years had added to the total considerably, but would not be repeated in the following year.
The Show Manager said her team was committed to putting on the show again in the same as they could make a considerable saving by setting up on the Thursday night rather than paying NEC for hall hire on Thursday. The Board had agreed this strategy should be tried. CL INFO

3. Change to show structure

The Siamese cat Club representative made the case for allowing an exhibitor the option of showing a titled cat in the certificate class at a higher level or remaining at the level of its title. It could extend a show career and provide additional competition for those aiming to achieve at that level. There would be greater judge choice thus encouraging show entry.

Some saw this as a retrograde step that could discourage entries from those who found classes blocked by cats gathering certificates consistently at a certain level.

Majority approval: 61 in favour 46 against, 0 abstentions

It was noted that the rule amendments to allow this change had to be drafted by the Board and returned to June Council.

OM/JL

C1992 CANINE & FELINE SECTOR GROUP (DEFRA) VICE INFO CHAIR

1. The Vice-Chairman reported that the group had now established itself under the leadership of a respected Chairman, and was beginning to fulfil its role of feeding information and knowledge based opinion through to DEFRA, which would impact on future legislation.
2. He reiterated that the UK government was not interested in cats and there was no legislation concerning cat owners or our hobby envisaged for the foreseeable future. However, it was advantageous to gain information on what was planned for dogs as it could impact on cat owners in an emergency situation.
3. A delegate thanked Mr Crow for his participation, believing it raised the status of GCCF to be included in an influential organisation.

C1993 ANY OTHER BUSINESS None

NEXT MEETING

The Electoral Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 in the Main Hall, Conway Hall, London at 12 Noon

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.53pm

Minutes Addendum: Byelaw 8 showing changes.

8 OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF COUNCIL

Original 1 relating to Trustees deleted.

1.
 - a. The Honorary Officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and such other Honorary Officers (including a President and up to four Vice- Presidents) as the Council may from time to time decide. With the exclusion of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and such other honorary officers as Council may decide shall be eligible to be directors and shall be known collectively as the Board of Directors (also referred to as the “Executive Committee”).
 - b. The President and Vice Presidents shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed from office by a resolution of Council.
 - c. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected from amongst the delegates or Honorary Officers. On election as Chairman or Vice-Chairman a delegate shall cease to be a delegate ~~but shall resume that office immediately a new Chairman or Vice Chairman has been elected in his place, subject to his election as a delegate for the ensuing year by a Member Club.~~
 - d. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected annually for a term of three years by a paper ballot. Should there be more than two candidates for the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman a primary ballot shall be held to reduce the number of candidates to the two gaining the greatest number of votes and the final ballot shall be between these two persons.
 - e. The Chairman shall not be entitled to vote except where the votes for or against a proposal are equal when he shall have one vote. The Vice- Chairman shall have one vote unless acting as Chairman, in which case he or she shall not be entitled to vote except where the votes for or against a proposal are equal when he shall have one vote.
 - f. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may resign their term of office at any time and a new election held at the next AGM or under the requirements of a request for an SGM. The new appointment(s) will be for a term of three years. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman shall be eligible for re-election if this would result in his their remaining in the same office for more than three consecutive years. At the completion of their term of office the chairman and the vice-chairman, if not elected chairman, shall be eligible to remain as an independent delegate for one further year with full voting and electoral rights without having to be a delegate for a member club.
 - g. If the office of Treasurer, if one is appointed, shall at any time become vacant, the accounts of the Council shall be examined immediately. (Amended 1.6.02, 18.2.04; 22.6.05, 26.10.11)