

IT Progress Report, August/Sept 2021

- The IT Group met on the 17th August and 27th September, next meeting is scheduled for 12th October.
- Bug fixes and updates and modifications to the Phoenix system have taken place as appropriate, this is an ongoing process now that is well established. The group feel that Phoenix is now stabilised and running effectively.
- Both the Inbreeding Coefficient and Trial mating functions, which were added to breeder accounts recently are operating smoothly and from monitoring information have been well used in recent weeks. We received a request for titled cats to be printed in red on certified pedigrees, Ian has implement an amendment to the system to allow this.
- Rosemary, Caroline and I have met several times with 3mil via Zoom and discussed and agreed the design of the front page and modelled the site map for the revised website. We have looked at the individual pages on the current website and identified what can be transferred pretty much as is from the current website, what pages need revising/re-writing, and what additional pages we want to add and so need to be written/populated. A front page mock-up has been circulated to Board members for comment. We are now considering sub-menus and beginning work on producing new or revised text and pictures, working with others to gain their input.
- The animated video aimed at kitten buyers is available on the website and feedback continues to be positive, including from external partners.
- We have commissioned a video to celebrate 150th anniversary of the cat fancy, using the Tier 3 style as agreed with Board members. Considerable progress has been made and NRG Digital filmed at the GCCF show on 14th Aug and have made contact with John Smithson in New Zealand about using material he holds. An initial cut of the final version has been produced and this has been considered and feedback given and some changes requested. At the time of writing NRG are working to refine the video and produce the final version for publication.
- The project to review all registration policies is on track and progressing well. To date 29 policies have been reviewed, tested and implemented; seven in testing or tested and ready for release; seven more have been reviewed and we are in dialogue with relevant BAC to finalise necessary changes; three remain to be started.
- Members of the NZCF have each signed the agreed NDA and access has been given to the test database. So far we have received comments back

from two people, and this feedback has been positive. We wrote to others at the end of September asking them politely if they have accessed the database and can give us an indication of when they will make a decision to go with this project or not. Their response includes apologies that some have been busy with work commitments, etc., but the NZCF Secretary, Sharon, has undertaken to chivvy up executive members to use the database and give their views. We have said we would like a decision soon in order to plan our work for 2022 and to feed into the development of our business plan.

- With the opening up of the show calendar we are reviewing the STAR manual against the feedback received and reviewing the pricing policy drafted in June 2020. STAR was used to run the GCCF Celebratory Show, and feedback from the show team has been very useful in refining the administrative processes. A draft pricing policy was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 29th Sept. Minor amendments have been made as a result and the document will be presented to the next FC meeting in November.
- I reported to the July Council meeting that work was underway to put in place a contingency to manage the IT risk associated with Ian Macro's specialist skills and knowledge. To mitigate the risk we produced and published a specification for what we are calling the IT Business Systems project. Following publication of the spec GCCF received two firm bids for this work. The IT Group considered both bids at a Zoom meeting on 27th Sept and agreed a recommendation to the Board. Both bids and the recommendation were discussed at the Board meeting on 1st October and a decision was made to award the contract to a company called Ghyston (based in Bristol). At the time of writing we are beginning work on drafting a contract and agreeing the timetable for the work.

SC 5th October 2021