



MINUTES

For the Meeting of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**

Friday, 11 December 2020 by videoconference



Present: Mr Sean Farrell - Chair
Dr Peter Collin - (Vice-Chair)

Mrs Lynda Ashmore	Mr Steve Crow
Mrs Hilary Dean	Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Dr Gavin Eyres	Mr Thomas Goss
Mr John Hansson	Mrs Shelagh Heavens
Mrs Catherine Kaye	Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Heather McRae	Mrs Elaine Robinson
Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys	Ms Lyndsey Robinson
Mr Peter Williams	

BD4029 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
 - 1.1 Apologies had been received from the Office Manager who together with the staff was receiving pre-arranged GDPR training. All Board members attended, with LA arriving at 11.25 and departing at 4.35 and PC, GE and LRT not able to be present throughout.
- 2. Chair's opening remarks**
 - 2.1 The meeting began at 11.09am as the Chair welcomed those present,
 - 2.2 He thanked John Hansson for his years of service as Chair, and to Sandra Devereux for her contribution as a Board member
 - 2.3 Peter Williams was welcomed as he joined the Board for his first meeting.
 - 2.4 SF noted the length of the agenda and requested that contributions were concise where possible.

BD4030 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS THE MEETING

- 1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 30 October 2020**
 - 1.1 These had been circulated some amendments and corrections made and acknowledged.
 - 1.2 They were accepted on the proposal of HM, 2nd SC. PW abstained.

Action: the minutes of 30 October and 2 October to be sent for website publication **JL/RF**
- 2. Matters arising from the previous minutes**
 - 2.1 BD4026.2 KK reported that the Siamese Cat JAC had held a successful meeting to appoint officers. Jon Trotter was elected as Chair and Brenda Pearce as Secretary. A meeting was planned shortly to conduct normal business. KK was thanked for her work to ensure the SCJAC could operate once again.
 - 2.2 BD4027.4 HD noted the increased transactions and mis-selling on internet websites and urged that a statement from GCCF should be prepared that was similar to that which used to be placed in 'Exchange & Mart' to inform buyers. **INFO**

BD4031 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. SH checked that interests in clubs and BACs, previously declared, were accepted as registered and did not need to be stated at each meeting. This was confirmed.
2. PW reported that he had completed the form provided and his interests were on record with the Office.
3. JH declared a knowledge of BD4035.2 - the proposal for the Exotic CC show. **INFO**

BD4032 FINANCE

- 1. Management p&l accounts to 31 October 2020**
 - 1.1 The profit and loss accounts to the end of 31 October had been provided by the bookkeeper and circulated to all in advance of the meeting, and a summary sheet was available for comparative purposes. An update (the p&l summary for November) had been provided on the day before the meeting.
 - 1.2 It was noted that in both months income had increased and expenditure was lower than at the same point in the previous year, with the rise in income substantial.
 - 1.3 Gross profit at 30.11.20 had risen to £205,842.92 from £82,745.16 in 2019, but was subject to change as the figure for the Agria income was an estimate.
 - 1.4 The one comment was that this was an extremely satisfactory position.
 - 1.5 It was queried whether VAT was applied to the Civica invoice, and confirmed that this was so, but not included in the p&l figures, as was standard practice. **INFO**
- 2. Volume figures (core business)**
 - 2.1 The comparative graphs produced by the OM showed continued growth in registrations, which was exceptional for the time of year. After a slight fall the previous month transfers had also risen again.
 - 2.2 Imports had dropped slightly when compared with 2019, but were higher than in the two preceding years. A fall was expected after 1 January when the import procedure from Europe would change. **INFO**

3. **Report on investments & statement balances**
- 3.1 Aldermore £76,636.39 with a fixed interest of 1.49% until March 2021.
(signatories SC, RF and the bookkeeper)
- Cambridge & Counties £80,953.65 56 day notice account with 1% interest
(signatories JH, SC, RF and the bookkeeper)
- Redwood £70,505.50, 95 day notice account with 1.34% interest
(online access SF, RF and the OM and bookkeeper)
- Monmouthshire BS £84,000, an easy access account with 0.5% interest
(online access RF, the OM and bookkeeper)
- Lloyds (current) £242,251.95
- Lloyds (Supreme) £1007.50
- Lloyds (Euro) €13,450.23 = £12,230.97 (exchange rate €1.10 to £1)
(signatories JH, SC, RF, SH the OM and the bookkeeper)
- 3.2 RF reported two other banks in which money could be held on deposit that did not have links to those already used by GCCF. Shawbrook and Kent Reliance provided easy access accounts that had interest rates of 0.6% and 0.5% respectively. Either could be used to reduce the amount of money in the current account which exceeded the £85,000 government protected limit.
- 3.3 SH gave information on government gilts that did not carry any limit, and could be a possibility for long term investment. RF would investigate the cost of any administration and make a comparative report.
- Action: report on future investment to be circulated to the Finance Committee** **RF**
4. **Presentation of the budget for 2021**
- 4.1 The budget had been prepared by the OM for the Finance Committee who recommended it to the Board. It was noted that in many areas there had been no adjustment, although figures had varied from the 2019 estimates, particularly in respect of core income. However, it was noted that 2020 had been a very different year because of Covid-19 and it would not provide a reliable base for future prediction.
- 4.2 Income reductions were made for imports and interest rates.
- 4.3 Reductions in expenses had been made for meeting costs, with the exception of IC & DC. It would be queried if there could be the same 50% saving as for other meetings. Accountancy fees would be less in 2021.
- Action: a check to be made with the IC/DC secretary on 2021 meeting plans** **JL**
- 4.4 There was increased expenditure for additional staff costs and projects, particularly in respect of the website refresh and training films. This was viewed as investment into the company from the 2020 profits.
- 4.5 It was concluded that it was a conservative budget because of several unknowns. It was possible that the increase in core business would continue short term, but there risks and the Agria income was noted as such.
- 4.6 SC suggested a review of the budget midterm to assess the year so far, and it was agreed this would be done by FC in May with any recommendations to go to the Board in June.
- Action: to be on the agenda of the May FC meeting and June Board meeting** **JL**
5. **Honoraria for volunteers** *(JL left the room)*
- 5.1 It was proposed by PC, 2nd KK to accept the honoraria as recommended by FC
This was agreed unanimously. JL returned and thanked the Board for their generosity.
- 5.2 It was proposed by LA, 2nd HM that there should be gifts as recommended by FC
This was agreed with 2 abstentions RF, SH.
- Action: purchase of gifts and arrangement for honoraria payment** **OM**
6. **Legal cost of the small claims case**
- 6.1 A claim against the GCCF in the small claims court had been defended incurring legal expenses. However, it was noted that these were actually less than the claimant was wanting in recompense from GCCF and that it had proved unsuccessful, with no award made.
- 6.2 JL observed that care had to be taken to minute when expenses were agreed as there was a risk in not doing so even if matters were confidential. In this case there was supporting paperwork, but not an actual minute reference.
- 6.3 It was noted that the amount spent on the small claims case was approximately half of the total IC/DC legal expenses, and the remainder was a considerable increase on spending in previous years. It was agreed that a detailed break-down of expenses should go to FC for analysis. The budget had been increased for 2021 and there was also a contingency fund included to cover any large legal expense.
- Action: details to be requested from the bookkeeper and IC/DC secretary** **JL**
7. **Queries on the 25 November FC minutes**
- 7.1 It noted was that an FC member had been missed from the attendance list. This had been rectified. **INFO**

BD4033 BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **The Business Plan - revisions and updates for 2021**
- 1.1 The Chair asked GE if would take this on again for 2021, having worked on it the previous year, and he replied that he was happy to so. Also, PW had offered to assist as he had particular expertise that would complement GE's skills. The consensus was this was an excellent idea.
- 1.2 It was queried whether the starting point for the update would be reports from project leaders. GE confirmed this would be necessary and PW added that if there could be a critical success factor included to measure the progress of projects it would be appreciated by Council.
- 1.3 Discussion on the necessity to hold a strategic meeting intervened at this point as it was thought essential to have new ideas to plan change. Ideas currently in the Plan would be the short and medium term goals, and there needed to be new longer term aims.
- Action: preliminary discussion and draft structure** **PW/GE**

2. **IT report**
 - 2.1 SC reported that the year of consolidation had been completed, and the system was stable. It was time for strategic planning in IT so there could be new developments.
 - 2.2 The website had been identified as needing to be refreshed and money had been put into the budget for the purpose. RF had identified the company that had produced the KC's website, which was well designed and user friendly. It was thought that there would not be major problems as no platform shift was involved. It was a matter of copying existing content with an improvement in presentation.
 - 2.3 IM had begun to consider a new search engine for the site by examining the sort of searches commonly made. He had also introduced a separate server with an up to date system for testing purposes, which enabled Phoenix to run more efficiently.
 - 2.4 There had been no news yet from New Zealand and a check needed to be made on their interest.
 - 2.5 STAR was ready for use post-Covid, with its user manual complete after consultation. The pricing structure had been produced, and so it was ready to offer as a service.
 - 2.6 The Chair asked that it be checked how much of the system building and programming was documented. SC believed that some existed, but he would need to establish this with IM. Other Board members noted that it was business critical to have a Plan B if IM was suddenly unavailable. SC promised to investigate and stated this should be a priority on the risk register.
 - 2.7 PW commented that risk needed to be managed, and the Board had a duty to the clubs to do this. He proposed a risk assessment should be on the agenda for each Board meeting. This was agreed.

Action: risk management an inclusion for each Board agenda **JL**

3. **A meeting for strategic planning**
 - 3.1 SC stated strategic planning was inextricably linked with the Business Plan and it would be useful to have a single meeting to focus on short and medium term project goals.
 - 3.2 PW agreed, noting that it was critical to focus not only on projects but keeping the organisation relevant to current users and attracting a younger generation. Others agreed with this point. PC noted it had already been identified that change was necessary and GCCF methods were not attractive to those who wanted to be more involved and have instantaneous action. However, making change met with resistance.
 - 3.3 The Chair noted that his particular concern was losing judges. HD commented that there was interest from younger people and it was a matter of putting new ideas forward to attract more.
 - 3.4 It was concluded that the pause due to Covid-19 had provided an ideal opportunity to assess, plan and put forward step changes in procedures. GCCF could not revert to previous practices, without considering alternatives and adding innovation.
 - 3.5 PC suggested inviting ideas to be expressed at the February Council meeting.

Action: Structure of the meeting to be circulated with suggested dates in late January **GE/PW**

4. **GCCFI & Brexit**
 - 4.1 It was noted from the information prepared for the Board by IM that it was GCCFI that would have to be compliant with new regulations as GCCF was merely manipulating data on their behalf. They would have an obligation to inform their members of changes in respect of GDPR rather than GCCF.
 - 4.2 There was no comment or query. **INFO**

5. **News from Business partners**
 - 5.1 The Chair reported a positive meeting with Agria on 4 December. They were satisfied with the business generated from GCCF currently, but would always look for improvement.
 - 5.2 It was noted there was no valid contract with Royal Canin. There had been sponsorship of the Supreme in 2019 to the value of around £7,500, but little offered to other shows. There was still a £5 coupon sent with transfers, but it was not known how effective this was.
 - 5.3 It was difficult to make contact with the RC representative and there had been no recent discussion.
 - 5.4 RF reported she was having informal discussions with a litter company and would give detail if there was a possibility of any future business relationship. **INFO**

6. **Possibility of a business link with Purina**
 - 6.1 It was known Purina was interested in a possible business link with GCCF, but not known what they proposed to offer, and if it could go alongside that from Royal Canin, or whether RC would withdraw totally.
 - 6.2 It was agreed the Chair & Vice-Chair would make contact with both companies and report back to the Board. The Chair asked for approval for exploratory talks and this was agreed unanimously.

Action: discussion with Royal Canin & Purina **SF/PC**

7. **Year-Book progress**
 - 7.1 The year-books were known to have arrived in the Office and were being sent out to those who had pre-paid. A number of those present had already received their copy.
 - 7.2 The editors were congratulated for a nicely presented product, bright with interesting articles and a good balance in content between advertising and editorial, so overall a really good job.
 - 7.3 Thanks were recorded to Sarndra Devereux and Chris Stalker and PC proposed, 2nd by GE, that they should both be sent gift vouchers for their hard work. £50 each was agreed unanimously.

Action: gift vouchers to be sent **OM**

8. **An electronic Council meeting**
 - 8.1 There had been some ideas mentioned for management of the meeting in discussion on strategic planning
 - invitation for written questions in advance
 - allowing questioning on the day via the zoom chat facility
 - strictly limiting the microphone to speakers from the floor to three minutes
 - use of mass mute by the Chair
 - the possibility that Zoom Pro would feature the facility to have a yes/no/abstain type question facility

8.2 There was discussion on the date of the meeting. It was thought there was insufficient time before Christmas to give notice of the meeting to delegates and allow them an opportunity to send items for the agenda. KK proposed, 2nd SH, that the date should be in the second week in March and that the licence for Zoom Pro should be purchased for two months. (This would give an opportunity for delegates to have practice sessions if they were unfamiliar with it.)

8.3 By a majority it was agreed to try a Saturday (13 March). 1 abstention SH.

INFO

9. **Decisions via email between meetings**

9.1 As it had been confirmed that a Board decision by email had to be unanimous (AA 8 & 9) there was discussion on dealing with customer service issues between Board meetings that were expected to be a minimum of one month apart.

9.2 Possibilities suggested were:

- changing the rules so that more decisions could be made by the Office rather than the Board
- short mini-Board meetings with a reduced quorum to action or refer to a full meeting
- assessment of the problems caused by delay for lack of unanimous decision
- alteration of the Articles of Association

9.3 It was concluded that before any extra meetings were planned there was a need to have a schedule of Board and other committee meetings for 2021. After discussion it was agreed to arrange Board meeting on a monthly basis on a Friday and by Zoom. FC meetings would follow their normal pattern and meetings of working groups be put into the diary around these when necessary.

Action: a meeting schedule to be prepared & circulated

JL/OM/SF

10. **Working Group review - expressions of interest**

10.1 The Chair explained this was to give an opportunity for those who wanted to work on a particular project to say so. As this new session of the Board was part way through the year he wasn't going to advocate major changes to each group, but to allow participation where there was an interest.

10.2 PW volunteered to lead a group that looked at particular issues with the Breeder Scheme and how these could be resolved and the BS developed further. JL, RF, HD, and HM expressed an interest in participating. PW proposed to work with HD to draft initial terms of reference. JL expressed disappointment not to be involved initially, but this was agreed unanimously.

10.3 It was thought suitably experienced people outside of the Board could be useful on such a group.

Action: terms of reference to be prepared for circulation

PW/HD

BD4034 STAFF & OFFICE

1. **Report from the Office Manager**

1.1 The OM had commented briefly on matters arising from the October Board meeting.

1.2 There were no queries or comments.

INFO

2. **Job description & salary for a new member of staff**

2.1 There was concern expressed by several Board members that there was a need for a committee secretary, which had been identified in the Business Plan, and to have a member staff responsible for marketing and promotion had also been discussed on previous occasions, but that the two roles could not be combined. Different skill sets and personality traits were required.

2.2 It was noted that following discussion with the Officers the OM had suggested that the marketing position could be full time and the committee secretary part time (about 15 hours per week). If this was agreed then the budget would need adjusting to include an additional salary.

2.3 There was opinion expressed that the salary amounts suggested were insufficient to attract the calibre of person required, but it was also observed that there was a risk that there would be insufficient work to justify a full time post and in adding staff that did not bring adequate returns.

2.4 It was suggested that agencies could be used for marketing projects. The costs would be higher, but with the advantage that there would be use only when required without permanent salary commitment.

2.5 It was concluded that no decision could be taken on staffing requirements until after the strategy meeting had determined priorities. There would need to be an HR meeting to follow the strategic planning. This course of action was unanimously agreed.

Action: Date for HR meeting to be set to follow that decided for the Strategy Meeting

PC

BD4035 SHOW MATTERS

1. **Future of the 20-21 show season**

1.1 SH suggested that with the continuing uncertainty of the coming months, but an eventual end in sight, probably in the summer, it now made sense not to hold any shows until the new season, 1 June 2021. ER agreed, and PC expressed support as the vaccination programme would not have progressed sufficiently to reduce risks at least until the summer months. It was reiterated that there was a reputational issue if there should happen to be an infection outbreak with a show identified as the source.

1.2 Prior to a vote being taken PW disclosed that he had been invited to judge in February at a show put on by another organisation. He would be publicised as a GCCF judge. He offered to allow the Board to make the decision in whether he should withdraw. He was thanked for putting this on record.

1.3 A vote taken was taken to postpone shows until 1 June 2021 with SH proposing, 2nd by PC. This was agreed with 4 abstentions, LA, RF, JH, PW.

Action: careful drafting of a website announcement

SF

1.4 There was further discussion on PW's position with the conclusion that it was for the Board to give views, but that PW should make a personal decision having heard them. This would be supported whatever the outcome. This was agreed by a majority with abstentions from PW, JL

Action: the Board to be informed of the decision when made

PW

1.5. It was agreed that now there was a period of months before shows could restart there should be a group to consider changes as they recommenced, both to cover short term necessities that were a result of any Covid-19 restrictions that were in place, and leading into longer term permanent improvements with the necessary rule changes proposed. It was noted that some interesting discussion points had been submitted to the Board from Dr Wigley and agreed that these should be fed into a group put together to plan.

Action: letter of thanks to Dr Wigley

JL

1.6 A number of those present expressed an interest in participating (LA, PC, SF, SH, KK, HM, ER, LRT, LR) and it was agreed a first meeting should take place in January, before the Board meeting, to put together terms of reference, agree a lead and discuss future involvement from SMs and exhibitors not on the Board.

Action: meeting date to be agreed by those listed

SF/PC

2. Proposal from the Exotic CC for a Covid-secure show in March 2021

2.1 As there were to be no shows until June 2021 this was not discussed.

2.2 It was agreed that the Exotic CC should be informed immediately so they should not incur any additional expense. The hard work and enthusiasm they had put into the application would be acknowledged.

Action: letter to the club later the same day

JL

3. New show licence applications for the 2021-22 show season

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|-----|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.1 | 18.9. 21 | Edinburgh & East Of Scotland - venue the Lomond Centre, Glenrothes |
| 3.2 | 9. 10.21 | Tabby Cat Club |
| 3.3 | 9. 10.21 | Asian CA - change of date from April 2022 as instructed by the Board |
| 3.4 | 11.12.21 | Colourpoint & All Breed Society of Great Britain |
| 3.5 | 16.4.22 | Northern Birman CC |

(all approved by electronic circulation)

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|-----|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.6 | 4.9. 21 | Wyvern CC - the appointment of Lynda Ashmore as SM |
| 3.7 | 2.10.21 | Licence application from the LH Cream & Blue Cream CA to be held at Bracknell, with Carol Pike as SM |

Action: the Office to be instructed to issue licences to the Wyvern CC & LH Cream & Blue Cream CA **JL**

4. Possibility of an autumn event to celebrate 150 years of shows

4.1 Pebble was no longer able to store GCCF equipment and it had been necessary to make a quick decision to relocate it to the to the alternative offered. This had been done via liaison with Lisa Aggett.

4.2 There was no discussion on a GCCF event at this time, but money had been put into the budget for this purpose (£25,000) and when this was presented it was acknowledged it could be the Supreme or an alternative. **INFO**

5. Point of order on the clarification to the Accelerated Scheme (BD4024.6)

5.1 PW gave it as his opinion that the change described to the Accelerated Scheme as a clarification could be legally determined as substantive as the statement in the original documents was clear. In addition there could be a perceived conflict of interest as the majority of the Working Group were judges who could benefit. Also, being retrospective was not good practice and was prejudicial to those who had acted by the terms as they were stated in the Scheme as it was approved by Council.

5.2 PC responded that it had been considered interpretational as there was no rewording involved and some judges within the AS had been promoted on the terms of the clarification put forward. No member of the JTRG had considered personal gain, as the aim of the AS was to be educational and it was considered the exact method of how information was obtained was not so relevant.

5.3 PC considered the best way forward was to propose rewording of clause 14 to Council, and ask BACs with AS candidates who had applied for promotion (on the terms of the clarification) to wait until after the Council decision before considering the application so they should not be disadvantaged. This was agreed with 1 abstention JH.

Action: letter with information for BACs

PC

rewording of clause 14 to be prepared for the January Board meeting

JTRG

5.4 In response to a comment that the acceptance of judges domiciled abroad onto the AS and the blanket one year extension for PJs would also need ratification, it was observed that the extension had been proposed entirely separately from JTRG proposals (March 2020) and was approved by the Board before being placed for delegate approval via website publication alongside Judge Appointments. HD commented that she had mentioned the matter on Facebook, and none of the BACs she was secretary for had received information about the publication. It needed to be referred to Council. **INFO**

BD4036 REGISTRATION, TRANSFERS & SOP ITEMS

1. Amendments to the Ocicat & Aztec registration policies

1.1 The policies were presented with comments from the Genetics Committee and registrations analyst (CTR). SC commented that GC was mostly satisfied that the recommendations sent on previous occasions had been implemented. There was a query on the removal of over stamping if genetic status was proven by DNA testing; and noted that the genetic testing section needed clarification as the genetic register overstamp was not appropriate when the testing was recommended rather than mandatory.

1.2 CTR had picked up on the second point as well, and suggested possible alternative wording. She had also commented on some minor textual errors and recommended the use of standardised GCCF terms.

1.3 It was observed at the meeting that in the advisory section (D) of the Genetic Management Scheme there was a requirement that a positive result for recommended testing had to be reported to the BAC. It wasn't clear whose responsibility this was. It wasn't possible to compel a breeder to do so, and thought that there could be GDPR implications for GCCF if there was notification that lead to the identification of the breeder and/or owner. Langford had offered to make a report to GCCF on positive testing in Ocicats or Aztecs for the conditions identified, and it was felt that a regular check could be made on the BAC's behalf.

1.4 There was a proposal for the acceptance of the policies once they were returned to the Board with satisfactory amendments and responses to cover the points made. Majority approval, abstentions HD & JL.

Action: letter to the Ocicat & Aztec BAC,

JL

2. Update on a certificate of neutering as a requirement for HHP registration

2.1 CTR had worked out a process for registering a domestic SH or LH that was to be part of a pedigree breeding program that allowed for the recording of a certificate of entirety and any health checks.

2.2 The nub of the problem remained that household and pedigree pets could be shown entire before they were six months old, but were required to be registered by the STAR system. Therefore the registration of HHPs as kittens was permitted, but some owners went on to breed from these advertising the progeny as 'from GCCF registered parents' for a premium price.

2.3 It was agreed to ask IC if any assessment had been made to determine whether this was an extensive problem.

Action: query to be put to IC

JL

3. Name changes requested

3.1 The breeder had requested name changes because of mis-sexing.

Adoctsl Lucy and Adoctsl Gracie to Adoctsl Toni and Adoctsl Viggo

3.2 The owner had requested the name change from Adoctbr Sweet Blossom to Adoctbr Bonnie-Blue-Belle as she wished to have a name her own choice. The breeder had agreed.

3.3 These were approved unanimously.

Action: the Office to inform the owners of the decision

JL

BD4037 CLUB & BAC MATTERS

1. An update on the 2019 club & BAC returns

1.1 The Oriental LH BC had made no contact whatsoever despite numerous emails from SH and the Office.

1.2 Southern Counties CC and Croydon CC were in virtually the same position. There had been some contact and a form supplied with membership figures, but no payments or responses to questions, and lack of any recent communication.

1.3 It was suggested that as these three clubs had not made returns for 2019 and returns for 2020 would be due very soon they should be considered non-active if there was no response by the January Board meeting. There should be one more attempt at contact (recorded delivery) and also website publication of the problems so that ordinary members could be made aware of the risk of suspension of membership.

1.4 The Nor'East of Scotland had submitted only unexamined accounts which did not entitle them to a delegate, and a query on this had been mentioned at the least meeting (BD4026). It was agreed they had until the day before the Council meeting to submit examined accounts and request dispensation so that the delegate could attend. If they did not the delegate's fee for 2020 (which was paid from a personal account) would be returned.

Action: letters to the clubs, content as described

SH/Office

2. Plans for the 2020 returns

2.1 SH drew attention to the forms to go out with the returns that had had some revision this year from the OM. Email details had been requested.

2.2 There was discussion on how to deal with the lack of membership many clubs would have because of Covid-19 with the Byelaw requirement for membership to qualify for delegate representation. It was thought there would need to be careful wording for the February Council agenda.

2.3 Clubs would need to be informed that representation (and the appropriate subscription and delegate(s) fees) would be based on the 2019 membership, so figures needed to be copied from that sheet, but with the actual amount received in subscriptions during 2020 entered on the appropriate line on the income/expenditure sheet. Those who had received dispensation for not having a membership total sufficient for automatic entitlement to representation could put the same figure (and dispensation request unless their membership situation had improved. *(PC left the meeting, 4.15 approx)*)

2.4 There was discussion on how clubs who hadn't held a show should declare their show account balance. SH said she had some ideas for presentation and would send an amended form around so that members could let her know whether it was clear or not. It was agreed unanimously that the form (with any suggested improvements) could be considered approved for the returns.

Action: circulation of the information

SH

3. Full membership application for the Chartreux Cat Club UK

3.1 The club had applied for full membership after 3 years of provisional membership. It was confirmed that they had made returns and sent accounts as required during that time. They had 41 members, but their required minimum number was 20 as they were the sole club representing the breed.

3.2 JL reported 4 instances where substantive amendments were necessary

1. 5c) did not make sense

2. 7b) and 12a&b) needed provision for postal/email ratification of decisions at a non-quate meeting

3. 10 needed an insertion to publish the accounts as this was a ByeLaw requirement.

3.3 It was agreed by a majority, 1 abstention HD, to grant membership provided appropriate corrections were made. A proposal could then go forward to Council.

Action: the club to be informed

JL

4. Terms & conditions for the North West CC becoming active again

4.1 It was thought there could be a problem complying with ByeLaw criteria until people wishing to revitalise the club could put on a show as there was little chance they would have 100 members until then. Proof of a committee and show management team with a bank account would be necessary for this.

4.2 It was decided to give the matter further consideration at a future meeting .

Action: to return to the next agenda

J

5. **Monitoring of the Joint Rex BAC** (HD, JH, PW and LA left the meeting - 4.30pm)

5.1 As PC (the remaining monitor) was no longer in the meeting it was agreed that the Chair should take his opinion later. It could now be appropriate to monitor from a distance rather than directly, but it would depend on his verdict.

5.2 This was unanimously agreed and people were invited to return to the meeting. (LA did not return)

INFO

BD4038 HEALTH & WELFARE

1. **Updates from the Canine & Feline Sector Group and other groups**

1.1 SC reported that there had been no meeting of the Cat Group or parliamentary group since the Board's last meeting. He expected it would mostly concern Brexit.

1.2 He had mentioned at the beginning of the meeting a planned BBC programme on making money from breeding from your dog. There was opposition to the programme's message that animals were a business opportunity. An online petition to stop it had attracted plenty of support.

1.3 A response had been submitted to the Scottish Animal Welfare consultation and followed by an invitation to participate in drafting the guidelines. The plan was to pass the act by statutory instrument so it could be operational from August. SC had strongly advised against this as it allowed little opportunity for local authority inspectors to train, but expected the timetable was fixed.

1.4 Updated Covid-19 information had been put onto the website shortly after the November lockdown began.

1.5 Defra was planning to introduce compulsory microchipping for cats and SC had been invited to join the focus group. He thought there would be two meetings before the end of February when the consultation would finish. There was no indication yet how this would be enforced.

INFO

2. **New Breeder Scheme form - feedback from owners for those aiming to join the Scheme**

2.1 JL had put together a form to be used by breeders aspiring to be members of the BS. The intention was that they should give it to new owners to provide feedback on their experience. It was difficult to know whether it would be well used, but was one way of gathering evidence ahead of admitting someone to the BS, particularly in cases where there were thought to be issues with their breeding practice.

2.2 It was agreed that this should be left to the newly formed BS Group to discuss.

Action: to be forwarded to the BS Group

JL

3. **Applications for Breeder Scheme membership**

3.1 New applicant 1: an application was approved with abstentions from PC, HD, JH, SH, ER, LRT, LR.

3.2 New applicant 2: there was concern at the number of litters that were planned during a year, as on the information provided each queen would be having two litters. As this applicant had not fulfilled the veterinary criteria and there were concerns re her breeding plans, the application would be put on hold with contact made to pass on the Board's views

3.3 Additional information was supplied after the first contact with this applicant. The discussion then centred on the fact that she had not yet bred a litter. It was observed that by the current criteria this was not a requirement and the KC Scheme made allowance for those who aspired to breed.

The application was approved with abstentions from PC, HD, SH, ER, LRT, LR.

Actions: letters to the applicants

JL/Office

4. **Discussion on the criteria for entry to the Breeder Scheme**

4.1 As a new group was being formed this item was withdrawn.

INFO

BD4039 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. **Outcome of the Small Claims Case**

1.1 The claimant had not proved the case on the balance of probabilities. Therefore the judge ordered that the claim be dismissed.

1.2 It was observed that GCCF rules and disciplinary procedure had proved sound, but that the details were subject to a confidentiality agreement and there could be no further discussion.

INFO

2. **Rules of The Ocicat Club - referral from IC**

2.1 IC had requested that the Board review the rules of The Ocicat Club as it was felt that their rules and disciplinary procedure were inadequate and could leave a club member subject to a process that did not follow the common law principles of natural justice.

2.2 There had been a similar outcome to a case in 2012 when DC had advised the rules were reviewed and amended, and AC had supported the finding, but there had been no change made to the rules in this respect.

2.3 The Board agreed that The Ocicat Club should be asked to adopt GCCF's standard rules for a breed club and submit to the Board once they were completed. There was one abstention HD.

Action: letters to The Ocicat Club and IC(for information)

JL

3. **Possible registration malpractice - referral from DC**

3.1 DC had found a case proven against Alicija Siwiak that cast doubt on her breeding records. There was one cat of her line that had active registration and there was a request to the Board that all progeny from this female should be registered non-active with no change permitted.

3.2 As far as was known the owner of this cat was an innocent third party and it was agreed that DC had suggested a suitable compromise. She could breed from the cat and register kittens, but the line would not be perpetuated so that the records would not be further compromised. This was agreed unanimously.

Action: a letter to the owner

JL

4. **DC request for amendments to the Code of Conduct for the Disciplinary Committee**

4.1 It was proposed that this should be returned to DC with a request that the other two disciplinary committees were consulted, and that they made changes to the code of conduct together, as it had been approved in Council to apply to all and recorded in the ByeLaws as such (11(11)). Once all three were happy it could be returned to the Board and then put to Council with a Board recommendation.

4.2 A vote was taken and this course of action was unanimously agreed.

4.3 PW drew attention to clause 5a) that related to social media friendships, and would inform JL in more detail of the point he wished to make in the letter to be sent to DC.

Action: a letter to DC

JL

BD4040 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. **GCCF email addresses for the Board.** PW asked for these to be considered as there were GDPR issues with information going into personal email addresses and the retention of correspondence held on file on personal computers. The possible lack of privacy with a GCCF address was noted (it was thought content could be viewed from the Office server) as was the suggestion of it causing problems on a PC.
It was agreed that the IT Group and OM should investigate.

2. SH requested that Board paperwork should be sent as 'next day delivery' as some Board members had had long postal delays. PW commented that he did not wish to receive hard copy at all.

Referral to the Office

JL

3. HD gave a reminder of the message for the Pets4Homes website. She would circulate more information.

4. **Prefixes**

All prefixes circulated on a list dated 4 December 2020 were agreed.

Action: information to the Office

JL

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING Friday, 15 January 2021 at 11am

The meeting finished at 5.15 pm.