



**GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT  
FANCY**

**Meeting of Full Council**

Wednesday 26 FEBRUARY 2020 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London



		PRESENTED BY	ACTION BY
<b>C2286</b>	<b>WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM</b>		<b>Chairman</b>
	At 1.18pm the Chairman welcomed 66 delegates and thanked them for attending. He apologised for a slightly delayed start as there was a wait for the sound system to be set up in the hall. Poppy Derrick, Jo Higgins, Carole Phillips and Eleanor Wexler were remembered in a moment of silence.		
<b>C2287</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>		<b>Chairman</b>
	The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of Eric Wickham-Ruffle (Vice President) who had sent good wishes for a productive meeting, and the Office Manager who could not be present because of the Office workload. Delegate apologies were as recorded on the attendance sheet.		
<b>C2288</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS</b>		<b>Chairman</b>
	1.1 The Chairman, John Hansson, observed he was pleased that it would be his last meeting in the Chair. He would be handing on to his elected successor in June. 1.2 He hoped that the business of the day would be dealt with succinctly with delegates taking care not to repeat points others had already made. 1.3 There was a brief reference to Covid-19 to note that it could have an impact if measures were put in place to control the spread of infection, but this was an unknown as yet and could need further discussion in the future.		
<b>C2289</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>		<b>Chairman</b>
	1. <b>The Minutes of the Council meeting of 16 October 2019</b> 1.1 The draft minutes had been circulated. 1.2 There were no queries, and on the proposal of Mrs Chapman-Beer they were <b>approved with 4 abstentions.</b>		
	<b>INFO</b>		
	2. <b>Matters arising, and delegate questions on ongoing business not covered by an agenda item</b> None.		
	<b>INFO</b>		
<b>C2290</b>	<b>MEETINGS</b> - minutes for information only		
	1. <b>Board of Directors: 5 September, and 6 November 2019</b> 1.1 BD3904.3.4 The Board had discussed protocols for moving on the business more swiftly at Council meetings and these were stated at the head of the agenda. It was queried whether the Board had the right change to custom and practice without the consent of Council with the response given that it was a trial rather change than a change and that notice had been given via the agenda. It was proposed and agreed that a vote should be taken to accept the trial. <b>Majority approval 4 against 1 abstention</b>		
	2. <b>Finance Committee: 18 September 2018</b> There were no delegate queries arising from these minutes		
	<b>INFO</b>		
<b>C2291</b>	<b>AMENDMENT TO BYELAW 9 (4) - meetings of Council</b>		
	1.1 Additional wording had been added to the proposal made in October 2019 to allow for comments to be made in advance on any agenda item, for the consideration of all delegates prior to the actual meeting. Anything submitted would be published on the GCCF website and with the supplementary agenda. 1.2 The intention was to give delegates time to consider lengthy comment and queries made by one delegate to all, and so provide time for the preparation of any response from others present. Most importantly, it would give an opportunity to allow for a right of reply should there be any direct comment on individuals who might not be able to be present at the meeting. 1.3 A typographical error was noted for correction 1.4 A vote was taken. <b>Majority approval 4 against 1 abstention</b>		
	<b>Action: The Byelaws to be amended</b>		
	<b>JL</b>		
<b>C2292</b>	<b>BREED APPLICATIONS</b>		<b>ABY BAC</b>
	1. <b>Promotion to Championship status for the red series Abyssinian - new colours of an existing breed</b> 1.1 The Red Series Abyssinians had been known as the sex-linked colours for their assessment classes. They had been at preliminary level for 40 years as initial interest had waned for a long period.		

- 1.2 A vote for the promotion of the new colours was taken. **Unanimous approval**  
1.3 Breed classes could be included at shows not yet closed at the show manager's discretion and had to be offered at shows after 26 June 2020.

**2. Recognition as a new colour of an existing breed for the Oriental White** **OJBAC**

- 2.1 The Oriental Joint BAC proposed that Oriental Whites should have their own class and so would be shown initially at assessment level. They could be green eyed, odd eyed, or blue eyed.  
2.2 There was some concern expressed that the blue eyed Oriental SH (OSH w 61) would be indistinguishable on the show bench from Foreign Whites (SIA w 67) and the rules required a sufficient difference from others. There was a response that the rules applied to recognition for new breeds rather than to new colours in existing breeds and that the blue-eyed white Oriental LH had been recognised for many years.  
2.3 It was observed and confirmed by the OJBAC representative that the revised registration policies presented with the application required genetic testing for all blue-eyed white OSH and Foreign Whites to ensure correct registration and show bench class.  
2.4 The Foreign White was a Siamese in a white coat and would need to have two copies of the relevant gene (cs/cs). A separate registration policy was maintained for these cats. The Oriental White had been included within the Oriental SH registration policy as OSH w 61/63/64.  
2.5 The OJBAC had also prepared a separate SOP for the Oriental White that was proposed to delegates.  
2.6 A vote for recognition of the new colour, together with the registration policies and SOP was taken. **Majority approval 1 against 3 abstentions**  
2.7 Assessment classes for the Oriental White could be included at shows not yet closed at the show manager's discretion and had to be offered at shows after 26 June 2020.

**3. Preliminary recognition of the Lykoi** **Breeder Group**

- 3.1 The application was accompanied by a registration policy and SOP which had Board approval.  
3.2 There was no comment on these and a vote was taken for acceptance of the new breed. **Unanimous approval**  
3.3 Assessment classes for the Lykoi could be included at shows not yet closed at the show manager's discretion and had to be offered at shows after 26 June 2020.  
3.4 Judges who were full on at least one list in Section 4 had been contacted re the Lykoi, and to date only one who was eligible had declined.

**Actions: the BACs and Breeder Group for 1-3 to be informed of the decisions**

**JL**

**C2293 REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS**

**1. Amended SOP for the Persian LH** **PER LH BAC**

- 1.1 The changes permitting differently coloured nose leathers for shaded cameo and white Persians would enable pewter cats to be shown in the class and judged correctly.  
1.2 It was stated that the wording that provided the context for the proposal had been taken from an out of date SOP for cameo and white Persians and the correct text was read. It was confirmed that this needed to be brought to the attention of the PER LH BAC, but was not an objection to the additional wording proposed re nose leathers. The delegate confirmed this was appropriate and needed.  
1.3 A vote was taken. **Unanimous approval**  
**Action: The Persian LH BAC to be informed of the outcome and point raised.**

**JL**

**C2294 REGISTRATION & SHOW RULE CHANGES**

**1. Section 1:11m: Revision to the rule on words allowed in prefixes** **Chairman**

- 1.1 The Board had noted that an increasing number of applicants for prefixes were including a breed name as part of their prefix. This had been accepted if a new word was formed from the breed name and other letters, but it was proposed that breed names and the names of other breeders' prefixes should not stand alone or be linked by punctuation to other words in order to create a new prefix.  
1.2 There was concern expressed that breeders frequently used other breeders' prefixes in names for kittens to go to that particular breeder. Assurance was given that this would not apply at all to any names existing prefix holders supplied to be registered after a prefix. It would be used only in consideration of the acceptance of new prefixes.  
1.3 A vote was taken. **Majority approval 0 against 12 abstentions**

**Post meeting note:** the wrong rule number had been put onto the agenda with the proposal which explained the comments concerning names. The rule was Section 1.11 (prefixes), not 1.7 (names).

**Action: to be returned for ratification at the June Council meeting**

**JL**

**2. Section 1 11d) Prefix applicants should be members of a breed club that could support them** **Chairman**

- 2.1 The Board had reworded the rule change presented in October by the Midland Counties CC, proposing membership of area and breed clubs that were relevant to the applicant. It was thought these would be best placed to mentor or support new breeders which had been the intention of the change.  
2.2 There were problems pointed out with this:  
• It would not always be possible to define the localities covered by an area all-breed club  
• Some applicants could have particularly strong ties with a different area  
• Some area clubs did not have any capacity to provide mentoring  
2.3 There was concern expressed again that some breed clubs welcomed new breeders and enabled them to obtain a prefix quickly and others imposed conditions that were not required by GCCF rules.  
2.4 It was agreed that the club should be contacted to see if they wished to provide any alternative wording.

**Action: feedback to be given to the MCCC**

**JL**

### 3. Judges for breeds at preliminary status - 1:43:e

- 3.1 It was proposed that all full judges of the relevant section should become full judges for the Sokoke, Nebelung and Toyger, treating these breeds in the same way as new breeds with preliminary status.
- 3.2 The delegate for the Sokoke Breed Club objected on the grounds of a retrospective application of a rule, and that there had been an opportunity for the appointed breed judges to learn about the breed which was not the case for all judges working within the section. There was no objection to them becoming FJ(P)s if/when championship status was achieved.
- 3.3 There was an observation that very few of the judges on the list of approved judges had actually had an opportunity to judge these new minority breeds in Assessment Classes, and all judges working in the section had had an equal opportunity to judge them in miscellaneous classes and discuss them with exhibitors or other judges at this time.
- 3.4 However, assurance was given to the meeting that all Sokoke judges on the breed list had been contacted with information about the breed and feedback on judging undertaken. Therefore a separate breed list should be maintained
- 3.5 A vote was taken and the proposal was rejected. **Majority against 12 in favour 13 abstentions**

C2295

## JUDGES

### 1. JUDGES FOR APPROVAL

BACs

(all appointments approved unanimously))

<b>Australian Mist BAC</b>	Reinstatement as a Pupil Judge	Mr Stephen McConnell
<b>Birman BAC</b>	An extension from June 2020 to June 2021	Mrs Carole Gainsbury
<b>British Shorthair GC</b>	Reinstatement as Full Judge Pupil Judge An extension from August 2020 to August 2021	Mr Stephen McConnell Mrs Shelley Elliott-Jenkins Mrs Caroline Roberts
<b>Korat &amp; Thai BAC</b>	Pupil Judge	Mrs Janet Williams
<b>Norwegian Forest Cat BAC</b>	Full Judge	Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
<b>Russian BAC</b>	Full Judge Pupil Judge	Mrs Sarah Bower Mrs Di Brown Mrs Sue Dalton-Hobbs

### 2. NOTIFICATION OF JUDGES APPROVED VIA THE WEBSITE SINCE JUNE COUNCIL

INFO

<b>Burmese BAC</b>	Pupil Judge	Mrs Caroline Turner-Russell
<b>Council Committee of Judges</b>	Full Judge (Cornish Rex)	Mrs S Woodley
<b>Maine Coon BAC</b>	Full Judge	Mrs Di Brown Mrs Sue Dalton-Hobbs Ms Charis White
	Pupil Judge	Mrs Carole Gainsbury
<b>Norwegian BAC</b>	Extension to 30.9.21	Mrs Helen Hardwick
<b>Turkish BAC</b>	Full Judge	Mrs Isobella Bangs Mrs Helen Marriott-Power

### 3. Requests for a judge reinstatement by the Australian Mist BAC and British SH Group Committee:

- 3.1 These were taken separately from the approval of appointments and promotions, as above, by the Chairman's decision. He made the point that no judge had previously returned to judging after withdrawing or retiring from lists, so precedent would be established.
- 3.2 Delegates with queries wished it established that the BACs making the proposals were satisfied that the judge should be reinstated and were given assurance that votes in favour had been made in this respect.
- 3.3 It was also confirmed that the withdrawal had been in February 2019, so had been for just one year.
- 3.4 It was acknowledged that any other judge who had withdrawn from judging would be able to apply for reinstatement to a list in the same way - via the appropriate BAC. This was different from judges who had opted for Emeritus status as they could make it known directly and with immediate effect that they were available for all judging engagements once again.
- 3.5 A vote was taken for Mr Stephen McConnell's reinstatement to the two lists. This was agreed by the majority.

**Action: Judges & BACs to be informed (for the outcomes of 1& 3) and lists updated**

JL

### 4. JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/REMOVALS

Joan Pounds	<b>Emeritus (all lists)</b>
Ed Merchant	<b>Emeritus (all lists)</b>
Keith Scruton	<b>Retired from judging</b>
Neil Porter had withdrawn from the Birman list.	
Eileen Fryer had withdrawn from the British Shorthair list	

INFO

*(When asked by the Chair the meeting agreed that an observer, who had been taking photographs from the balcony without permission, should be asked to leave and told she should not attend future Council meeting)*

**C2296**

**OTHER SHOW MATTERS**

**1. The 2019 Supreme Show accounts**

- 1.1 The accounts for the 2019 show had been presented with the supplementary agenda by the GCCF's bookkeeper in their finalised form. She had adjusted the VAT and made compliance with Monahan's in/exclusions so that it was expected they would be presented with the 2019 GCCF accounts with the same outcome shown.
- 1.2 She had also been able to make a direct comparisons with the 2018 Supreme accounts on all lines.
- 1.3 There was a query on the lack of advertising in 2019 as the stall hire and gate income had both fallen. It was observed that GCCF spent money from its advertising budget on this single major event, and that there had been a much slower start to selling ticket and stall space in 2019 compared to the previous year. Therefore it was difficult to be sure that the loss of income could be attributed directly to this.
- 1.4 It was stated that local radio and TV advertising was known to produce a good response. The Chairman replied that two TV companies had expressed interest in the forthcoming show and might be involved in advance publicity. Otherwise, it would be considered what gave the best return for the money spent.
- 1.5 It was requested that the bottom line should state 'Gross Profit/Loss' rather than mention profit only, and it was thought this would be possible for accounts produced in-house.
- 1.6 A vote was taken for approval of the accounts. **Majority approval 0 against 1 abstention**

**2. Updates from the the Judge Training Review Group**

- 2.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Judge Training Review Group would be in March. Work would then begin on planning the new training programme for future judges.
- 2.2 Dr Peter Collin had sent apologies for absence and offered to deal with any specific enquiries directly. Contact could be made via his personal email address.
- 2.3 Requests from the floor were for:-
- A website update that established exactly what had been done to date
  - Readily accessible FJP paperwork for judges
  - A review of tutorial procedures, as there was concern that cats were being over-handled.

**Action: referral back to the JTRG**

**HD**

**3. Revisions to the Judge Appointment Scheme**

- 3.1 **The revised Stewarding Scheme:** this had been presented in October and a vote was taken to confirm the wording within the JAS. **Unanimous approval**
- 3.2 **Provisions for meetings held electronically:** this allowed for BACs to have electronic meetings. There was some discussion on whether there should more detailed definition of the electronic format, and how privacy in voting should be maintained. It was confirmed that operation of any electronic format was intended to be by BAC choice, and thus could be what was suitable for the circumstances of each who used it.. **Majority approval 1 against 4 abstentions**
- 3.3 **A standardised quorum for BACs with more than one constituent club:** this had been left at a minimum of six representatives with the additional requirement for a percentage of the participating clubs removed (JAS 12 Meetings i). There was an objection to this on behalf of the Siamese Cat JAC and it was agreed it should be referred back to the Board.

**Action 3.1 & 3.2 to be incorporated into the JAS, with 3.3 to be discussed again by the Board.**

**4. The circulation of relevant information and show paperwork to show management Gwyn & Shrops CCs**

- 4.1 The delegates from the Gwynedd and Shropshire CCs were unable to be present, but some points were taken from the floor.
- 4.2 It was thought that although some show managers would appreciate paper copies of the paperwork requested others preferred an electronic format. There would have to be choice.
- 4.3 Judges and judge eligibility could change on a weekly basis. It was preferable updated lists were readily accessible, rather than have a once a year only circulation.
- 4.4 Clubs who changed their show dates and venues caused annoyance to those they moved close to, but they often had a good reason, and no solution had been found other than the Board considering the whole picture and trying to be fair. It was realised that any change would bring objections.
- 4.5 After taking these comments the Chair directed that the item should be discussed again in June when delegates from the clubs concerned could be present

**Action: the Shropshire & Gwynedd CCs to be informed and the item returned to the June agenda**

**JL**

**C2297**

**BUSINESS MATTERS**

**1. The Business Plan revised for 2020**

**Chairman**

- 1.1 The Chairman had given Dr Eyres's apologies for unavoidable absence at the beginning of the meeting. He had intended to present the revisions made, but suggested that questions could be put to the project owners, each responsible for the update of their project
- 1.2 He also drew attention to the projects planned for 2020, and welcomed any other suggestions.
- 1.3 It was observed that the Office Manager's responsibility was to report on registration and transfer figures rather than lead on promoting their increase, and agreed that the lead for this should be with the Board (Goal 2).
- 1.4 Also noted, were the absence of 'key performance indicators' and costings for the projects.
- 1.5 It was requested that the 2019 budgeted and actual operational income and expenditure should be presented with the accounts, and noted that this information was available and regularly presented to the Finance Committee.

**INF**

## 2. The IT Report

SC

- 2.1 Steve Crow reported that the third tranche of updates and fixes had been activated at the turn of the year, a quiet time for business, and it had been successfully completed.
- 2.2 The IT Group's plan was now to fix when necessary and no fourth tranche was planned. A record was kept of issues raised and Ian could take immediate action to fix, or processes explained if it wasn't actually a system fault.
- 2.3 He then explained the reasoning for the recent recruitment of a part-time business analyst, detailing the recent changes in the level of staffing and the work that would be undertaken. The two projects stated as priorities were the launch of STAR as a service and ensuring that the BAC's registration policies were on the system in their most up to date form and the intentions expressed could be operated according to the binary choices necessary for the functioning of the system.
- 2.4 In response to a query SC confirmed that policies that threw up the most problems would probably be dealt with first, but all would be reviewed over the coming year and into the next
- 2.5 He remained hopeful that STAR would be ready to go live in June 2020. The user manual was ready and would be sent out shortly for show managers to trial. There would be a range of services provided and these had been costed so they could be selected according to requirement. There were delegate questions on STAR and Steve agreed that most problems were with processes rather than the system, or with office staff inexperience, but all had to be worked through.
- 2.6 It was confirmed there were ideas for other projects and Steve gave assurance that he would be happy to consult on customer requirements, but he felt a degree of stabilisation was still required before anything new was undertaken.
- 2.7 The report concluded with assurance given that the age for kitten entry at the Supreme had been matched on the system with that for other shows.

INF

## 3. C&FSG report

SC

- 3.1 Steve Crow reported that with a change of government the C&FSG might not continue in its present form, but they were still working with same minister at present.
- 3.2 The Cat Breeding Code of Practice was almost complete and needed only an executive summary.
- 3.3 A report on the compulsory microchipping of all cats was with Defra. The difficulties for enforcing such a policy had been highlighted.
- 3.4 A report had been made on the conformation of dogs and a committee to produce a similar report on cats was now established. He had been invited to participate and would represent the interests of GCCF breeders.
- 3.5 The Welsh Government had finished its consultation on animal exhibitions and had stated legislation was not intended to cover the hobby showing of domestic pets.
- 3.6 The ban on third party sales of puppies and kittens would be effective from 1 April, but he couldn't be sure if increased sentencing for animal cruelty was included with the same legislation.
- 3.7 The Pet Passports would continue until at least the end of December, after that date it was probable that the UK would have third party status for pet travel to the EU and details were on the Defra website.
- 3.8 The Kennel Club had noted a drastic decline in puppy registrations. This was attributed to the introduction of licensing with the probability it meant small scale breeders were giving up. The consequences of this could mean an increase in puppy farming and imports, neither desirable. Steve believed that licensing was not affecting GCF breeders yet, as the number of registrations was increasing slightly, but monitoring would be important.
- 3.9 There was thanks and applause from the floor for the information contained in the report and for the effort SC put into C&FSG issues on GCCF's behalf.

INF

## 4. Partnership Information

Chairman

- 4.1 JH reported that meetings with Agria and Royal Canin were planned for March and there would be news once those had taken place.
- 4.2 A delegate commented that she gave both Petplan and Agria kitten cover vouchers to her new kitten owners, but felt she could not recommend continuing with Agria because of the excess charged if treatment was required. This was considerably higher than Petplan's. She quoted £85 compared to £110 plus 20% of the claim value.
- 4.3 The Chair commented that excess set was entirely a matter for Agria, their business decision, but that the concern would be reported back to the company.

INF

C2298

## EVENTS

### 1. 2020 Supreme

Chairman

- 1.1 The NEC halls had been allocated and would be 4 & 5 for 2020. This would provide undercover parking in the hall adjacent to the show, which was on the main concourse.
- 1.2 The judges had been booked, but their classes weren't yet allocated.
- 1.3 There were no questions at this stage, so the Chair reminded delegates to promote the event and indicated that flyers were available.

INF

### 2. GCCF hosting for 2021 (150 years of the Cat Fancy)

- 2.1 The Chairman urged delegates to start thinking carefully about this event as it was extremely important and WCC was relying on GCCF for an interesting event to celebrate 150 years of cat shows.
- 2.2 It was confirmed that the show would be held in conjunction with the 2021 Supreme and the NEC was booked. It would be a dual certificate event on 23 October 2021.
- 2.3 The hotel and conference centre had also been arranged, and the rest of the programme could be organised around that, to include a seminar, exhibition, WCC meeting and hospitality events. A leader to oversee the whole event would be required, with project managers to look after each part. Kate Kaye confirmed she was prepared to take it on as she had organised similar events.

2.4 Discussion then centred on whether cats from other registries would be able to enter the show, and, if they did, whether the 13 day rule would be applied to them. The Chairman replied that he thought there was a simple system in place to allow show registration for such an event, as he believed it had been put in place for a previous occasion

2.5 It was thought non-GCCF exhibitors could be asked to comply with the rule, but the difficulty would be in monitoring that they did so. It was agreed to check what had been put in place previously.

**Action: a check to be made on the other occasions cats from other registries were invited & further thought given to this point.** **Board**

#### **C2299 DISCUSSION**

1. It was put forward for discussion that the federation of clubs that formed GCCF and had seen it through the 20<sup>th</sup> century was now outdated. Club membership no longer connected people to GCCF and gave them representation. A recent survey at one show had found very few mentioned joining a club for this reason.
2. It was also evidenced in the number of clubs having to seek dispensation to attend Council, the low delegate turn out for meetings, and the scarcity of volunteers in all areas. Times had changed! It was perhaps time for a different form of connection between GCCF and customers, with clubs having a separate and different function.
3. It was stated that to go anywhere it needed a group to identify the problems, bring forward options and consult on them, otherwise it was an idea that would have no action. It was agreed that the Board should begin the discussion. **Board**

#### **C2300 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR INFORMATION**

1. The Chairman stated that he had particular concerns about the crowded show calendar, but it was an extremely difficult issue to deal with. Also, that dispensation for clubs to attend Council despite membership number falling was not sustainable. There was no reason now for large number of clubs to represent one breed on a BAC. There was a need to modernise and other organisations were doing so. Change wasn't necessarily a bad thing and sometimes it had to happen.
2. There was mention again of the possible spread of Covid-19 and the effect this could have on GCCF events.

The meeting finished with business completed at 4.50pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 10 June 2020** at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London, commencing at 12 noon.

This is the **ELECTORAL MEETING** and a little earlier in the year than usual because of hall availability.

**IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL THAT CLUB RETURNS ARE MADE BY 30 APRIL FOR REPRESENTATION.**