



MINUTES

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

Friday, 26 March 2021 by videoconference



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

Mrs Lynda Ashmore	Mr Steve Crow
Ms Sandra Devereux	Mrs Hilary Dean
Mrs Rosemary Fisher	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	

In attendance: The Office Manager, Denise Williams (OM)

BD4067 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
 - 1.1 All Board members were present for at least part of the meeting. The Vice-Chair could not be present throughout due to work commitments. He left at 2pm. SD arrived late for the same reason, and had sent advance apologies. SC and TG were late joining because of technical issues and HM and SC could not stay until the end.
- 2. Chair's opening remarks**
 - 2.1 The meeting began at 11.06 am as the Chair welcomed those present, and thanked them for attending. He commented that it was good to have some social interaction once again. **INFO**

BD4068 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 26 February 2021**
 - 1.1 These had been circulated and some corrections and amendments made.
 - 1.2 The minutes were approved by a majority as proposed by LRT, seconded KK. **Action: to be published on the website** **JL/RF**
- 2. Matters arising from the previous Board minutes**
 - 2.2 BD4056.3.1 PW queried the accuracy of the period of monitoring for the JRBAC as the VC had mentioned two years and the letter of January 2020 had referred to 2020. He reported that meetings had taken place in 2020 without feedback being given. It was established that the minute record was accurate and the Chairman stated he was certain that the Judges' Panel recommendation had been for a monitoring period of two years. HD advised PW and JH that they had a conflict of interest and should not be discussing this subject. **Action: to be an agenda item for the next meeting if required** **PW/JH**
 - 2.2 BD4059.8 Registration of the GCCF logos as trademarks: the OM reported that this was slightly more complicated than thought initially as the correct classification had to be made. It would be completed after Easter.
 - 2.3 BD4062.1&3 The amended registration policy for the NFC and minor change for the SOM SOP had been published on the electronic agenda and there had been no queries or objections. These would be deemed approved by the end of the next week
 - 2.4 BD4064.3 The Chair & OM were asked if any further correspondence had been received on club fees after the Council meeting. As there had been nothing further it was thought that the information from the Board supplied to club secretaries in a letter from the Chair had been understood. **INFO**
- 3. The minutes of the Council meeting of 13 March 2021**
 - 3.1 The minutes of the meeting had been circulated prior to website publication. It was agreed unanimously that they would be published on the website, proposed by RF, seconded LR. **Action: to be published on the website** **JL/RF**
- 4. Matters arising from the Council meeting minutes**
 - 4.1 Updates had been made to :
 - the Byelaws and these were published
 - the Standing Committee listings on the website
 - BAC Secretaries - who had been circulated by the OM **INFO**

BD4069 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

INFO

BD4070 FINANCE

- 1. Minutes of the Finance Meeting of 19.3.21**
 - 1.1 There were no queries from Board members on these minutes.

2. **Management p&l accounts to 28 February 2021**
- 2.1 It was noted that there was to be closer monitoring of IC/DC. There was concern because the spending was already over budget, and the 2021 budgetary allocation was a substantial increase on that of previous years.
- 2.2 FC had asked the bookkeeper to keep a chart of the amount spent on legal fees and the amount recovered in costs, although it was noted that costs would not necessarily be awarded in a case outcome.
- 2.3 It was agreed that IC & DC should be informed of the amount in the budget for their expenses, and asked to consider this when spending. It was thought that if they exceeded their budget and more money was required during the year, they should inform the Board/FC and give an explanation.
- Action: letter to IC/DC** JL
3. **Volume figures (core business)**
- 3.1 The OM had circulated the February figures. It had been a good start to the year though following the usual pattern of reducing in the late winter
- 3.2 The total number of transactions was the same on 25 March as it was for the whole of March 2020 (1103). The total for the first quarter was up by 314, with imports doing especially well (52 to 82 this year in the first quarter and already with a total of 257 compared to a year end figure of 629 in 2020.) INFO
4. **Report on investments & statement balances**
- 4.1
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aldermore | £77,012.19 with a fixed interest of 0.55%, until March 2022 as rolled over.
(signatories SF, SC, RF, OM and the bookkeeper) |
| Cambridge & Counties | £85,155.23 95 day notice account with 1% interest.
(signatories SF, SC, RF, OM and the bookkeeper) |
| Redwood | £82,752.71 95 day notice account with 1.34% interest
(online access SF, RF and the OM and bookkeeper)
An additional £12,000 had been transferred from the current account. |
| Monmouthshire BS | £84,000, an easy access account with 0.5% interest
(online access SF, RF, the OM and bookkeeper) |
| Lloyds (current) | £267,847.31 |
| Lloyds (Supreme) | £983.95 (This was eroded by £7 each month). |
| Lloyds (Euro) | €15,312.32 = £13,110.60 (exchange rate €1.11 to £1)
(signatories SF, SC, RF, SH the OM and the bookkeeper) |
- 4.2 RF reported that the Shawbrook Bank account was now open and ready for money to be transferred into it.
- 4.3 It was requested that the figures were circulated in advance for the next meeting. INFO

BD4071 BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Review the Council meeting of 13.3.21**
- 1.1 The Chair gave his opinion that this had gone well. There were some difficulties, as expected, but there had been no breakdown and it had provided the opportunity for delegate interaction which had been the main purpose. It was clear it was a method that could be used for future meetings.
- 1.2 The Zoom webinar format had been used because it gave maximum meeting control and an easy voting system, but delegates had wanted more video opportunity. His conclusion was the Zoom Business Pro would be used for the next meeting, which would give more delegates greater responsibility in managing discussion, though there would be some muting possible. It would be a better user experience.
- 1.3 Voting provision was discussed and it was noted that the package allowed for multiple choice voting, as in Board and FC elections, as well as yes/no/abstain
- 1.4 The high attendance was noted (99 delegates), though it wasn't known whether this was because it was a Saturday, or because there was no travel (money and time).
- Action: check on the electoral process offered by Zoom Business Pro** OM/SF
(SC & TG arrived 0 11.51)
2. **Business Plan for 2021 - strategy meeting**
- 2.1 PW reported that he had not yet received the terms of reference from each group, despite reminders being sent. As soon as he had them he could finalise the BP for Board approval.
- 2.2 He suggested that instead of an internally organised 'strategic business planning day' it should be taken by a marketing professional to develop the strategic priorities and formulate a plan for how these should be delivered. That would include promotion of GCCF as a brand.
- 2.3 SC was concerned that GCCF had significant surplus money without a sufficiently clear plan of how this could be invested in enhanced and new services. If external help could identify these possibilities then it would be useful. Practical objectives needed to be in place to enable a member of staff employed for marketing to work towards them. Employing someone (at the salary level that could be afforded) without this initial preparation would be ineffectual.
- 2.4 The cost for an external consultant was queried with an estimate given of £750-£1000 a day with possibly 5 days work required. It was noted a facilitator could be best used if preparation was made in advance to give direction. (PC arrived 12.03)
- 2.5 It was agreed that a small group (Chair & VC, PW & SC) would meet the following week to do this, and costing for an external facilitator would be obtained.
- Action: meeting arrangement, with circulation of a follow up report
contact with marketing consultants for an estimate of costs
outstanding TOR to be submitted** PW
PW
JTRG/SRG
3. **News from Business partners and possible future partners**
- 3.1 The Chair stated that there had been an exploratory meeting with Royal Canin. They were quite eager to continue the working partnership with GCCF and would consider the previous contract for any amendments from their company's perspective.

- 3.2 Opinion was expressed that the contract had given GCCF very little, and contained a number of exclusions that restricted it further. Improvement would be needed.
- 3.3 A similar exploratory meeting had taken place with Purina and the Chair reported that this company was also very enthusiastic for a relationship. They had sent a presentation that he would circulate to the Board later that day.
- 3.4 It was noted that RC had given support over the years though it had fallen away recently, and Purina were now very active in the UK market. It was concluded that careful comparison needed to be made between the two for the quality of offer and cost benefit so that a recommendation could be made to the Board. It was agreed that the Chair & VC and PW would form a small group to do this.

Action: circulation of the Purina presentation for comment

**JL
SF**

arrangement of a group for the appraisal of the offers for a Board report

3.5 Agria continued to be satisfied with the partnership. At a recent meeting there had been an offer to give support to a future event (see BD4073.)

3.6 Agria had also expressed an interest in collaborating on some webinars with 'grooming' suggested as a trial. Information for new breeders (preparing for a first litter) and for the public (buying a pedigree cat) were also possibilities. It was thought if the format was a mini-webinar, the videos could be retained on the website for future access.

3.7 A person who was potential to speak about grooming had agreed for her name to go forward, and HD confirmed that a British breeder who had produced an excellent talk at the Pet Shows still had her script and would be willing to speak on GCCF and kitten purchase.

Action: liaison with Agria and possible speakers

SF/HD

4. **Report from the ITG**

4.1 A small system update had been made in the previous week with a release made after testing.

4.2 Most of the recent work done was in preparation for the website and video release to go onto the website.

4.3 Discussion on risk management for IT consultant's position had continued.

4.4 There had also been consideration of a technical manual for Phoenix, and the next meeting would consider this further to plan obtaining the technical specifications for tender.

4.5 The approximate cost was queried as was the terms of the original contract. It was concluded that the the relationship with the system provider no longer existed, and that the need for a manual was business critical therefore its provision was necessary.

Action: further discussion at the next ITG meeting

SF

5. **Website upgrade project - update**

5.1 RF reported that she had developed a spec and had been in discussion with a company that had supplied an estimate of around 400 hours work. It would be critical that it could operate with the database, and that special consideration needed to be given to the show area, and the YES website, that was stand-alone but with GCCF links.

5.2 It was queried whether the contract would be put to tender with the response that this was the plan once a little more detail was added to the spec.

5.3 It was also observed that before any finalisation it would be useful to have marketing consultative input.

Action: circulation of the specifications

RF

6. **GCCF email addresses - revisions to the code of conduct**

6.1 The Chair gave thanks for the original work, and SC commented that he had done nothing further with LR submitting some extensive revisions, but no other contributions to follow the meeting

6.2 The Chair gave a reminder that it was a GDPR issue that company information was going to personal computers where it was retained

6.3 SC considered that further discussion with IM could produce a solution other than GCCF email addresses, and the Chair gave opinion that the issue could be addressed via an enhanced Board Code of Conduct. SH noted that she found the current GCCF mail system difficult to use, and PW offered to trial it to see if there could be segregation between the personal and company information on a single personal computer, as was used for his employment. HM and SC volunteered to participate.

Action: further discussions with IM system/mail trial

**SC
PW/HM/SC**

7. **GCCF kitten contract**

7.1 JL stated that the solicitor's advice was that there was a risk in publishing a contract, but it could be mitigated via a disclaimer. The wording for the disclaimer had been provided.

7.2 It was appreciated the advice given was very clear and an improvement on that received from the previous legal adviser. There was no reason why it should not be followed.

7.3 This was unanimously agreed.

Action: website publication

RF

8. **Risk assessment - March 2021**

8.1 It was thought that there were no new business risks and mitigation of those known to exist were ongoing.

8.2 Information was given on the possibility of lateral flow tests for staff. These were being organised by Somerset CC for any people whose work brought them into contact with others (as at the Office) They were advisory for all staff twice weekly.

INFO

BD4072 STAFF & OFFICE

1. **Staff report**

1.1 The OM gave a brief update on the Office situation. Most were in the Office, two continued to work from home.

- 1.2 The person who had just started was doing reasonably well and the other new CSA would be starting in the week after Easter.
- 1.3 The OM had holiday booked for the following week and gave notice that she would be taking a month's holiday in February 2022.

INFO

2. **An update on the Office building and equipment**

- 2.1 The fire risk assessment had been carried out and the report was awaited.
- 2.2 There was no new equipment required at present.

INFO

BD4073 SHOW MATTERS

1. **Report from the Show Review Group**

- 1.1 LR had circulated a report that outlined some of the areas that were under discussion re covid-19:
- vetting-in procedures (with regard to queues)
 - disinfectants/sanitiser to be used (effective against covid?)
 - those that could be venue specific - layout, public admission, stalls and classes offered.
- 1.2 LR advised that multiple suggestions were being worked on and she was already in contact with several groups and individuals. All suggestions would be worked through from start to finish to identify any potential benefits/pitfalls. Assessments would be made when all data had been collated. The list was not yet final.
- 1.3 In a reply to a question on the amalgamation of Persian classes in Section 1 LR advised that she was already collating data from multiple all breed shows to gain accurate information on numbers in this section. All recommendations made would be evidence based.
- 1.4 There were no decisions yet on which suggestions would go forward as proposals. A form had been drawn up to present information for future assessment in a standardised format. It was asked that the SM pack on the website should be removed as this had not yet been updated (BD3833.7.3).
- 1.5 Following a short discussion on covid effective/cat safe disinfectants Dr Collin promised to look at pet safety for a commonly used product for this purpose that was easily obtainable and cheap.
- 1.6 PW offered to assist the group with planning and producing its TOR, and it was noted that SH had left.

Action: further investigation of disinfectants

PC

2. **Report from the JTRG**

- 2.1 KK reported that she had ascertained all members of the current group were willing to continue.
- 2.2 A new TOR had been drafted and circulated to members for comment, and that would be revised slightly following suggested amendments. A meeting to finalise it was planned for the beginning of April
- 2.3 It would then be circulated for Board approval.

Action: Finalisation of the group's updated TOR

KK

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

- 3.1 There were no new show licence applications or amendments for the 2021-22 season
- 3.2 The Office had received queries concerning show venues for 22-23 licences as it would be impossible to give these with any certainty. It was agreed that if the regular venue was stated (unless there was a plan to change it) amendments could be accepted later if it was found to be unavailable.
- 3.3 A vote was taken to confirm that any club that had paid for a show licence, but had been unable to utilise it would get the next licence free of charge. This was unanimously agreed.

Action: information to the Office to enable correct responses to club queries

JL/OM

4. **An autumn event to celebrate 150 years of shows**

- 4.1 RF reported a discussion from FC on the preparation of a video on shows throughout the last 150 years. It was hoped that John Smithson would contribute from his considerable historical resource. She had ascertained that NRG Digital could produce a video by the anniversary weekend.
- 4.2 It was thought that combining with other organisations that had an event planned already could be useful for publicising GCCF. The TICA show at Crystal Palace and Crufts were suggested. The TICA stall would be free, but Crufts was known to be expensive, though a stand could be shared. It was noted there were sufficient volunteers to cover both events, and a vote agreed unanimous participation at the TICA show and for Crufts subject to the cost.

**Actions: resource of information and costing for video
investigation on the cost of a stand for Crufts
purpose-produced story boards to depict cat show history - initial costing**

SC/RF
OM
RF

- 4.3 It was suggested that instead of a show in the autumn there could be a 'celebration of the cat' This would give an opportunity for 'meet the cat' sessions and for exhibitors to get cats used to the show bench once again. LA volunteered to give a lead on this with PW, HM and JH willing to assist.
- 4.4 It was agreed to approach someone known to run virtual shows successfully.
- 4.5 By a majority it was agreed to progress both of these. 1 abstention LR.

**Actions: planning for an actual event
contact with a manager of virtual shows**

LA
JL

(post meeting note - later that day it was established Crufts for 2021 had been cancelled)

BD4074 REGISTRATION, TRANSFERS & SOP ITEMS

1. **Amendment to the Ocicat & Aztec registration policies**

- 1.1 The Ocicat and Aztec BAC had made amendments to fit with most of the Board's previous requirements and CTR's recommendations. They needed to be asked again to have 'gene' rather than 'allele' as an overstamp, as this was used by the system for breed registration policies.
- 1.2 Several amendments that they had made were because of concerns that the BCR gene could mean they had diseases associated with Burmese in their gene pool, although there had been no evidence for this.

- 1.3 A testing scheme for GCCF Ocicat & Aztec breeders would be advisory unless there was notification of a problem. However, they were proposing testing imports for BCR without requiring tests for the diseases associated with Burmese. It was agreed that as they were concerned about BCR in the background they should be asked to include tests for BHD, BUR GM2 and HK for OCI and AZT imports onto the GCCF register.
Action: the policy to be referred back to the BAC JL
- 1.4 The BAC had commented that the overstepping they had requested re the Genetic Register complied with Rule Section 1:2c. It was agreed that the overstepping should be consistent with the rule.
- 1.5 Other overstepping should be consistent with that used for other breeds.
Action: information to be passed to IM & CTR for an adjustment on the system JL
2. **An amendment to the Persian Longhair registration policy**
- 2.1 This had been referred back to the Persian LH BAC with the Board's recommendations.
- 2.2 It was understood that a DNA testing schedule would be added to the policy so that cats to be active registered as smokes would be proven non-agouti. It was expected that this would return to the April meeting. **INFO**
3. **Amendments to the Sokoke registration policy**
- 3.1 The policy had been to the Genetics Committee and CTR who had advised several amendments.
- 3.2 These had been complied with in all respects
- 3.3 The amended registration policy was accepted with 2 abstentions, LR, LRT.
Action: the BG to be informed and the revised policy to be placed on the electronic Council agenda. JL
4. **Amendments to the Tonkinese registration policy**
- 4.1 It was pointed out that there was an inconsistency similar to that with OCI and AZT policy. The TonkBAC wanted breeders to test for diseases associated with Burmese if outcrossing to a GCCF Burmese, although it was known that only HK would be a risk, but has not made all three tests mandatory for imported Tonkinese when there was a more significant risk.
- 4.2 Its was agreed with 2 abstentions, LR LRT, that if the BAC made amendments to follow this advice their policy could go forward to the electronic agenda for the consideration of delegates.
Action to be on the electronic agenda after consultation with the TonkBAC on testing JL
5. **Kitten for import bred by a suspended breeder**
- 5.1 A breeder wished to import a kitten onto the GCCF register from TICA, but it had been bred by a GCCF breeder who was suspended, and this information was published on the GCCF website at the time of purchase.
- 5.2 It had been thought possible that GCCF rules could need tightening because they covered registration and transfer by a suspended breeder, but did not refer to import.
- 5.3 The legal advice was that disciplinary decisions would override the rules, so that, 'no such progeny born during the period of suspension shall be registered at any time', was an absolute prohibition not limited in any way. This was a useful conclusion as because there was no loophole no rule amendments were necessary.
- 5.4 It was agreed no discretion could be applied in this case as the owner was aware of the suspension at the time he made the purchase.
Action: notification of the registration refusal to the applicant Office
6. **Referral to the Board from DC re the falsification of registrations by a prefix holder**
- 6.1 Concern was expressed that this was an extremely serious case in that the pedigrees of many Norwegian Forest Cats could be compromised over a number years. It was felt that the Board did not have sufficient information for decisions that should be made to protect the integrity of the register.
- 6.2 It was thought that the NFC BAC should be given the information and asked to comment.
- 6.3 The transcript of the case was necessary to assess the evidence to determine just how serious this was.
- 6.4 It needed to be clear what action DC wished the Board to take, and which parts of the text were DC comment as distinct from advice had been given on this case by the solicitor.
- 6.5 The number of active cats with the prefix to be ascertained.
Action: contact with the BAC, DC and IM to obtain further information JL
7. **Referral to the Board from IC re the registration of 'Belle'**
- 7.1 It was agreed unanimously to follow the recommendation of IC to create a registration for this female as her pedigree information was in order, and the sire had a certificate of entirety. The breeder had not registered the litter at the time of sale, and was now suspended.
- 7.2 Belle would be on the nonactive register and have an administrative prefix.
Action: notification to the applicant of the acceptance for non-active registration Office
8. **Application for the transfer of a cat**
- 8.1 There was discussion on this as it seemed that not all of the facts were in place and it was not established why the breeder had not rectified the situation sooner, particularly before he used the cat for breeding.
- 8.2 It was agreed with one abstention that the transfer back to the breeder should be permitted. No contact had been possible with the owner, and a microchip number had been established by video to match the records.
- 8.3 The litter of kittens could then be registered, but an administrative prefix would be required.
Action: notification of the allowance of the transfer to the applicant Office
9. **Office protocol for name change requests**
- 9.1 It was proposed that name changes should be delegated to the Office for action if:
- The cat had not been used for breeding
 - The cat/kitten had not been shown
 - An application from an owner was endorsed by the breeder
 - The staff member had no concerns that the information supplied was inaccurate.
- If any condition was not satisfied the name change would be referred to the Board

9.2 It was noted that the £20 fee should be applied whether there was to be a Board referral or not, and that it had been checked that staff members were happy to apply the protocol.

9.3 A vote was taken and this was approved unanimously

Action: the Office staff to be informed

OM

10. **Prefixes for approval**

10.1 The prefix list had been circulated.

10.2 It was noted that the Office did make people aware if their prefix was long then their choice of names would be restricted.

10.3 The list of prefixes was agreed unanimously.

Action: the prefix applicants to be informed

Office

10.4 The increasing number of breeders was noted and it was recognised that people saw an opportunity for money making in the current demand for kittens. There was a public perception that a high price meant that they would be obtaining a better quality kitten, although often this was not the case.

10.5 It was concluded that an advert from GCCF giving information on kitten purchase, and an indication of the price range for a breed, should be placed on P4H, with a prominent position paid for. This would be drafted by HD (and PW & HM offered assistance).

10.6 It was agreed that this would be circulated to the Board by email for comment so that it could be completed and in position quickly.

10.7 Other sites were also mentioned. It was thought the cost should be established.

Action: draft and circulation for majority approval

HD

BD4075 HEALTH & WELFARE

1. **Update on website publicity on kitten buying & any other advertising**

1.1 RF reported that the script and picture board were now completed. The next stage was to move to animation.

1.2 She confirmed that there would be animation of the GCCF logo with the character named Fancy to tie in with the company's title.

1.3 The estimated time for completion was the end of April, and the cartoon would be on the GCCF website and Facebook page and also YouTube.

INFO

2. **Report from the Breeder Scheme Group meetings**

2.1 The BSG had had a first meeting that had confirmed the TOR (provided for the Council meeting) and put forward ideas.

2.2 The second meeting was developing a storyboard that would give the original aims, assess current difficulties and establish future objectives. It was planned to look at what other organisations had in place and what could be learnt from them, and ideas such as taking feedback following transfers and a tiered approach had been discussed.

2.3 The current aim was to plan objectives and then run a focus group to see if there was supporters and/or to gather other ideas.

2.4 The group had expanded to include people from the SNAP, 2110 and veterinary groups. HD had stepped down as heavily committed to other groups at present.

Action: circulation of the minutes of the meetings

PW

(HM left the meeting at 3.30pm)

3. **Breeder Scheme membership applications and appeal**

3.1 New applicant 1: there were no comments and a majority vote for acceptance with abstentions from: SH & LRT

3.2 New applicant 2: there were no comments and a majority vote for acceptance with abstentions from: SH, LRT, & LR

3.3 New Applicant 3: there was a comment in favour as the vet who had signed the form was known. A majority gave approval with abstentions from SH & LRT

Action: the Breeder Scheme Applicants to be informed

Office

3.4 It was agreed that applications could be looked at by the BSG and a protocol for Office scrutiny could be developed from there.

Action: referral of future applications to the BSG

JL

4. **Complaints against the Progressive Ragdoll Breeders CC re Breeder Scheme applications**

4.1 Two breeders had complained as the the PRCC was not holding seminars because of Covid, but they had been told that they they could not have their Breeder Scheme membership endorsed until they attended a seminar.

4.2 Some Board members were of the opinion that the applicants should be told to join a different Ragdoll club, or wait, others that there was a case for overriding the PRBCC as they were applying terms and conditions that it was impossible to meet.

4.3 It was agreed that further information should be obtained and circulated.

Action: additional detail to be sent

Office

5. **Updates from DEFRA, the Canine & Feline Sector Group and/or other groups**

5.1 SC stated since the last Board meeting there had been no further meetings of any of the organisations.

5.2 Within the C&FSG they had been working on guidance for the charities and groups that supplied welfare and rescue services. These were of relevance to GCCF as the regulations would include the small rescue and rehoming establishments that were run/funded by clubs.

5.3 A Radio 4 programme had been featuring kitten scams as they had been contacted by members of the public about prices and misleading statements. Cats Protection had provided a speaker the previous week and this time RF had been contacted to give a GCCF perspective and she had outlined the company's services, and paperwork provision.

5.4 The Chair reported Agria's interest in the microchipping of cats. SC replied that this was now planned as government legislation, but he did not know exactly when it would be enacted. He would update Agria when there was news.

Action: contact with Sarah White when appropriate

SC

BD4076 CLUB & BAC MATTERS

1. Update on club returns

- 1.1 There were 25 club returns (16%) and 5 from BACs. SH planned to prepare a note to go out to clubs on 1 April to give a short, sharp reminder that their returns should be in by 1 May and there was just a month to go.
- 1.2 There had been a request for dispensation from a club treasurer who had submitted reasons why the return would be delayed. There was comment that the club concerned had been late in previous years and this year most club accounts would be very simple so that excuses for non-compliance should not be accepted. However, the note to Byelaw 5 (3) made it Council's prerogative to determine the validity of the excuse, and so determine that a club should not have representation in Council for the forthcoming year, with the proviso that any club with a problem should inform the Board in writing by 1 May.
- 1.3 It was concluded that this club (and any others with a such a request) should be told that if Council representation was required the return should be submitted before the Council meeting and the delegate fee paid. The excuse given would then be put to Council in a request for dispensation. It was confirmed that this applied only to clubs who made the request before 1 May.
- 1.4 it was noted that 1 May was Saturday this year, and the following Monday was a Bank Holiday. Therefore the absolute cut off date would be Tuesday 4 May. Any return or dispensation request that had not arrived in the Office by this day would be considered as out of time.
- 1.5 SH reported that a BAC that had a large amount of money had queried whether refunds could be made to those constituent clubs that had contributed for some or all of its period of existence. It was agreed that as there was no provision in the BACs' constitution at present to allow this to happen an amendment should be drafted and put to Council.

Action: an amendment to be prepared for Board consider prior to being put onto a Council agenda **JL**

2. Chartreux Cat Club UK - concerns

- 2.1 The club accounts and returns form submitted had not been examined. They also carried a statement that in 2021 all the money in the club account had been transferred to the treasurer's personal account.
- 2.2 It was agreed that there should be a reminder that an examination was necessary and there could be no checking until this was done. A mistake that had been noted would be pointed out.
- 2.3 JL reported the resignation of the club's chair and secretary and their rapid replacement with members of the treasurer's family. It was agreed that it should be established that the appointments and funds transfer had been made by committee decision.

**Actions: contact re the accounts
request for meeting notes**

**SH
JL**

BD4077 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. Rules of The Ocicat Club - referral from IC - response from the club

- 1.1 The club been informed that IC had been asked for further information on its referral to the Board and acknowledged receipt to say they would await further comment.
- 1.2 They were sent a reminder that they could supply the updates to their disciplinary procedure as there had been a concern this had not been done despite a DC recommendation. At the same time it was suggested they could put forward difficulties or objections to the generic rules so that help could be offered.
- 1.3 There had been no response to either, and no further information had been received from IC

INFO

2. A Code of Conduct specific to DC

- 2.1 DC had submitted their Code of Conduct again and explained why they wished to differ from IC.
- 2.2 It was suggested that AC should adopt the same or a very similar code as its procedure was the same as DC's, it was agreed that this should be done, but it wasn't a reason to delay the DC C of C.
- 2.3 It was approved unanimously

Action: notification DC & referral to AC

JL

3. A Code of Conduct specific to IC

- 3.1 IC had submitted a Code of Conduct that was considered specific to its requirements.
- 3.2 There were no comments or queries and it was approved unanimously

Action: IC to be informed

JL

BD4078 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. KK gave information that Julia Freeman (previously involved in BAER testing for deafness in cats at AHT) had moved to Hitchin after her organisation's closure. It was agreed that her new contact details should be added to the website listing for BAER testing practices.
2. A reminder was given for business reports to be circulated in advance rather than given on the day.
3. SC had left the meeting at around 5pm to attend a rehearsal. He was to be presented with an award for his contribution towards cat welfare at the CEVA Animal Welfare Award ceremony that evening. The Chair and Board gave their congratulations.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday, 23 April 2021 at 11am

The meeting finished at 4.48pm.