



MINUTES

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

Friday, 21 August 2020 by videoconference



Present: Mr John Hansson - Chairman
Mr Sean Farrell - (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs Lynda Ashmore	Dr Peter Collin
Mr Steve Crow	Mrs Hilary Dean
Ms Sarndra Devereux	Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Dr Gavin Eyres	Mr Thomas Goss
Mrs Shelagh Heavens	Mrs Catherine Kaye
Mrs Jen Lacey	Mrs Heather McRae
Mrs Elaine Robinson	Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys
Ms Lyndsey Robinson	Mrs Maria Chapman-Beer (for BD3996 Finance)

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

BD3993 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
 - 1.1 The GCCF Officers and all Board members were present. Mrs Ashmore joined the meeting late (midday) due to technical difficulties and Mrs Chapman-Beer was present for the finance items.
- 2. Chairman's opening remarks**
 - 2.1 The meeting began at 11.10am. It was known that Mrs Ashmore had successfully logged on to 'zoom' earlier in the week and was attempting to access the meeting.
 - 2.2 Those present were reminded to treat each other with courtesy and respect in a professional manner.

BD3994 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS THE MEETING

- 1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 17 July 2020**
 - 1.1 These had been circulated and some corrections made.
 - 1.2 LR noted typographical errors at BD3983.3 and stated that she was not happy with the wording of the minutes at that point (1.3-1.5). It was thought that Chair's, that he wished to be on record, did not refer directly to non-disclosure, but to an invention made at the time. This would be checked. It was also stated that the purpose of the vote taken should be more clearly defined.
 - 1.3 Some of the points made at the previous meeting about declaring interest were discussed again, including the fact that the Chairman was Chair of a Siamese Club that would require dispensation, as it believed that this was not. JH remarked that he had no problem with apologising if he was at fault for this and it was requested that this was minuted.
 - 1.4 Further discussion elicited a reminder that Board members should not raise their voices even if there were strong feelings. The Vice-Chair then suggested that JL listen again to a recording of the meeting, and circulate any amendments by email so that a final version of this section could be agreed.
 - 1.5 It was agreed with no objections that the remainder of the minutes could be signed off.

Action: minute revisions to be circulated to allow amendments to be agreed **JL**
- 2. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

None taken. **INFO**

BD3995 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1. Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting**
 - 1.1 HD & SD declared they were Ragdoll BAC officers (BD3999.1) and JL that she was Secretary of the Korat & Thai BAC (BD3999.2)
 - 1.2 The Chairman noted he was a former Chair of the Oriental Cinnamon & Fawn Group.
 - 1.3 GE queried whether he should declare an interest in referencing an IC letter that was circulated only a short time before the meeting began. The Vice-Chair believed this was unnecessary as the letter was for information only at this point and need not be discussed. It was also noted that it concerned an IC matter and could not be discussed for that reason either.
 - 1.4 The Chairman closed the discussion without allowing an explanation of why the letter should have been sent to the Board. It was asked that this was minuted. **INFO**

(11.25am MCB joined the meeting)

BD3996 FINANCE

- 1. Management p&l accounts to 31 July 2020**
 - 1.1 The profit and loss accounts to the end of July had been provided by the bookkeeper and circulated to all in advance of the meeting, together with a summary sheet for June, July and the ytd in 2019 & 2020, to enable quick reference to like to like comparisons.

- 1.2 There were no queries on the p&l sheet and thanks were put on record for the bookkeeper (Leanne) for providing a comprehensive report, with additions noted for where there was a variance in income/expenditure from that which was typical for a month, thus removing the need for questions. Of note were:
- Equipment maintenance - Neopost contract £2052.72
 - Credit settlement for a change of phone systems £557.54
 - HR/H costs re Covid-19 £197.93
- 1.3 Income showed a slight rise on that of the same period the previous year, but expenditure remained well below, with the absence of meeting and travel costs, thus increasing the substantial increase in gross profit further, £35,358.45 in July 2019, and £102,480.57 this year.
- Action: passing the thanks on to Leanne** **OM**

2. Volume figures (core business)

- 2.1 Registration figures were up in all areas over the previous three years, with the exception of imports that had fallen just slightly, when compared with the 2019 figure.
- 2.2 However, the OM reported that the surge recorded in June had slowed, with just two more registrations recorded in 2020 than 2019, and it looked as if August was following the same trend.
- 2.3 Transfer numbers were high, but this would be following from the earlier registration increases.
- 2.4 The OM was thanked for her work in producing these records and for her organisation of the Office team. **INFO**

3. Statement of accounts balances

- 3.1
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Aldermore | £76,348.99, with a fixed interest of 1.49% until March 2021. |
| Cambridge & Counties | £77,629.91 95 day notice account with 1.49% interest |
| Redwood | £70,155.32, 95 day notice account with 1.54% interest |
| Lloyds (current) | £220,860.14 |
| Lloyds (Supreme) | £1041.50 |
| Lloyds (Euro) | €10,415.27 (conversion rate 13.8.20 €1 to 0.90 GBP) |
- 3.2 RF noted that the Euro account had received no update as Leanne had no internet contact the previous day. Once the figure was available it would be circulated to the Board. **INFO**

4. Report on new account

- 4.1 RF reported that the Monmouth Building society Business Instant Access was now ready to receive funds.
- 4.2 It was agreed that £84,000 should be transferred from the Lloyds current account.
- 4.3 There was further discussion on whether the current account held too much money. The Vice-Chair pointed out the risk that over £50,000 could be lost should be on record. Others noted that with Lloyds being one of the 'big four' banks it was most unlikely it would be allowed to fail. Also, as it was the company's current account there had to be some room for flexibility as large payments were made from it from time to time.
- 4.4 There was also thought to be some risk with a proliferation of accounts, as there could be difficulty with access in the future. Therefore it was agreed not to consider another account at this time.
- Action: arrangement with Leanne for payment into the new account** **RF**

5. GCCF holding funds temporarily on behalf of clubs and BACs

- 5.1 The retiring treasurer of the Ragdoll BAC had sent a cheque for £582 payable to GCCF, with a request that it was to be held for the new treasurer. This was completely unexpected, and the BAC's officers were unaware that it was to happen.
- 5.2 There was some discussion on the inadequacies of that particular treasurer and concern was expressed that the transferred amount was insufficient. JL reported balances of £574.35 for 2017 and £468.75 for 2018 in the BAC's account from FC records.
- Action: checking BAC financial returns information** **SH**
- 5.3 The bookkeeper had reported that it was not difficult to record money held in GCCF accounts that did not belong to GCCF as a 'holding account' could be designated. However, she did not want to be involved in operating the account on a club or BAC's behalf and needed a protocol to follow for the release of the funds to an authorised account. It was agreed FC should define a protocol and refer it back to the Board, and included within it should be a stipulation that money paid out required Board authorisation.
- Action: a discussion on holding funds to be on the agenda of the September FC meeting** **JL**

6. Assistance for Board members

- 6.1 There was a brief discussion on access to the internet being a deterrent to people who became Board members, but did not have the equipment for electronic meeting participation, or email communication between meetings.
- 6.2 It was agreed in principle that GCCF should be able to assist, possibly enabling the loan of an iPad or laptop. It was agreed that FC should discuss this further.
- Action: to be on the agenda of the September FC meeting** **JL**
- (LA joined & MCB left the meeting, midday & 12.05pm approx)*

BD3997 BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Preparation for the 2020 Elections

- 1.1 GE reported that Ben Holton a senior consultant of Civica would be project manager for the GCCF's election. He had held one meeting with him and a second was scheduled for 25 August.
- 1.2 He had discussed with him what happened if a tied vote occurred, and was told if that was the outcome in the final stage after votes were transferred then the candidate with the highest number of first preference votes is selected. If those too were tied, which happened very rarely (below 1% chance), lots would be drawn.
- 1.3 A timeline had been discussed:
- 7 September - delegate names to Civica so that nomination forms could be sent out
 - 14 September - opening date for nominations to be received, for a two week period
 - 28 September - a week in which the Office validates the nominations received & Civica requests nomination statements

Friday, 9 October - nomination statements to be received by this date
Civica then required 10 days of preparation time
Monday, 19 October - the election opens, and there is a two week period for votes to be cast
Monday, 2 November- the election closes
Tuesday, 3 November - the results are published

- 1.4 There was a discussion on the need to validate delegate names as only those of eligible delegates would be submitted. However, it was agreed that by this time it would be known if the clubs who had applied for dispensation had received it. At this point it was agreed that delegates should be told that they could object to all the clubs or none (as in Council). There would be no selection of individual clubs. It was also confirmed that delegate from clubs requiring dispensation could be nominated, (as names could be withdrawn), but were not eligible to nominate.
- 1.5 Denise pointed out a complicating factor of staff holidays. She would not return until 7 September and Becky would need precise instructions - from GE on what to do re Civica and SH to ensure the list of delegates was finalised after the bank holiday (31 August). SH confirmed this would not be difficult as most clubs had completed and provided delegate names. Two were complete, but had not provided a name, there were nine with examined paperwork still required, and the Blue Persian CS was entitled to a delegate as a founder member, although other sanctions could be applied if it did not complete.

Action: information to the Office

GE/SH

- 1.6 GE confirmed there had been a discussion on postal voting. It was agreed that the information and the vote would be sent by post to the few delegate who had no internet access.

**Action: numbers to be confirmed to GE on 25 August
timeline of postal voting to be discussed with Civica**

OM

GE

- 1.7 GE asked if the minutes would be sufficient or if he should write up the process, with the response that it would be useful to have a separate written record for future use and for Office reference, and indicated he would send this in due course. GE was then thanked for all the work he had put into the election preparations.

Action: documentation of election process

GE

2. Agria news

- 2.1 The Chair reported on the videoconference meeting held on 22 July. There was the good news that at present GCCF breeders were meeting Agria targets for providing the 5 week free kitten policies.
- 2.2 The company wanted GCCF to collect its Agria insurance information into a dedicated area of the website. RF commented that this was possible, but the menu headers would need some adjustment. She had asked Caroline to assist and hoped to get this done shortly.
- 2.3 It was noted that the Kennel Club used Agria, but promoted the product differently (as KC insurance). Agria referred to GCCF insurance, so it was thought there would be no objection.

Action: some rebranding to be given consideration

RF

3. IT report

- 3.1 SC reported that an IT meeting had taken place on 21 July, and the next was planned for 22 September. The system update planned was finalised on 31 July and had been successful.
- 3.2 Currently IM was working through issues with Infusionsoft and Phoenix. Caroline was working through registration policies to ensure correct implementation of the BACs' intentions.
- 3.3 The STAR manual for show managers had been distributed more widely and new sensible suggestions had been received. Updates were being made based on these.
- 3.4 A manual for administrative operations on Phoenix was being put together in the Office. It was an ongoing project as processes were being collected together and recorded.

INFO

4. Update on profile options for club officers

- 4.1 IM had advised against any marketing profile changes or overrides, as to do this without explicit consent would be a GDPR violation.
- 4.2 Communications with club officers were not marketing, but a necessary part of the role someone had assumed and therefore could legitimately be made. On current knowledge it seemed that Infusionsoft was not the best tool for this purpose as it allowed a person to exist only once, and a number of people had separate roles within different clubs.
- 4.3 At present email addresses were being extracted from reports and pasted for blind copy into an email. This would continue, (except for the monthly newsletter), but there would be further investigation with IS support. The other option was to use a mail merge against the club officer export, so that each email could be customised to the exact role and club, with people getting multiple emails if working for more than one club.
- 4.4 IM had advised that having more than one email address was partially implemented on Phoenix, but did not extend into IS. He would look at extending what existed already to allow club officers to specify an email address for their role, and make individual update on this easier.
- 4.5 The OM concluded this report by saying that discussions with IM were ongoing and she would report when there were further updates. It was asked if the monthly Newsletter could be sent to the Board in advance of it being distributed to all

Action: Consultation with staff on sending the newsletter to Board members

OM

5. Yearbook progress

- 5.1 JH reported he had quite a lot of information from Georgina Anderson-Keeble on the number of pages and page allocations, together with some prices, that he would circulate immediately after the meeting. SD commented that from her perspective of managing advertising it would have been good to have received it in advance as decisions had to be made on the number of pages allocated to adverts and she had concerns about some of the content.
- 5.2 There was general agreement that the focus of the Yearbook should be on the variety and quality of GCCF's pedigree cats, and that advertising gave winners long lasting publicity and pleasure. The aim of this special edition was that it should become a collectors' item.

5.3 SD's proposal was that the aim should be for one third of the content of the YB to be advertising, regardless of the actual number of pages, and the point was made that if this covered costs it could then be marketed as every penny from sales going to the CWT. It was also thought that best practice should be followed with at least three printing estimates taken, and suggestions of printing firms were made. SD commented that she wanted quality work on good paper, and this would be assessed before a decision was made.

5.4 A vote was taken on these points (5.3) which were agreed unanimously.

**Actions: potential advertisers(exhibitors, clubs, trade) and printers to be contacted
continued liaison on editorial content & circulation of information**

**SD
JH**

BD3998 CLUB & BAC MATTERS

1. An update on the 2019 club & BAC returns

1.1 SH had circulated a report bringing the club returns situation up to date. It was noted that the two Scottish clubs now had the required information from HM to make returns, and she would confirm the subscription due for the West of Scotland. The Scottish would receive a reminder from SH.

1.2 Eleven other clubs, previously with delegates (10 had delegate names listed) still had sent nothing, partial returns or unexamined returns. Some had committed to getting their information in by 31 August, but it was acknowledged that those that did not would not have an a delegate eligible to take part in the elections and the names supplied would need to be deleted.

1.3 The one exception was the Blue Persian CS, as founder member clubs had had their eligibility for a delegate confirmed by Council (June 2019) regardless of completed returns.

Action: Final reminder given and update of lists after 31 August

SH

2. Delegate notification & eligibility

2.1 SH reported that JL had asked for the list of delegates to Council which she and the OM were preparing and did not think this was acceptable as it gave her access to email addresses when she was standing in the election. SH also reported that she and the OM were quite capable of preparing the list.

2.2 JL said she had used her own list of Council attendees to check the OM's delegate list and had actually found some clubs that did not have delegate names on the system when they had paid for them. She was not interested in email addresses, and was only making a cross check to ensure no delegate was missed. SH stated that no delegates had been missed and that this was not helpful.

2.3 The OM offered to check access permissions to the computer to ensure each person had sufficient access to carry out their responsibilities. She and one other member of staff had access to compile lists of names for the spreadsheets that would be to provide information for the election.

Action: permissions information to be circulated

OM

3. Response from the solicitors representing the Chair of the North West CC*

3.1 A letter had been received from solicitors representing the Chairman of the North West CC that in essence



Action: letter to Mewies solicitors

JL

4. A letter from the Trans Pennine Oriental & Siamese CC concerning Siamese Cat JAC problems

4.1 A request had been sent from the Chair of the Trans Pennine Oriental and Siamese CC to request Board help for resolving issues within the Siamese Cat JAC. It had not been functioning effectively for over a year due to failed meeting arrangements and difficulties in communicating with the secretary.

4.2 Mrs Kaye was proposed to Chair an initial meeting as someone experienced with BAC administration, but independent of the Siamese Section. SC said he'd also been approached, would be happy support CK taking it on.

4.3 CK agreed, but said it would be on a temporary basis, to try and get the BAC restarted with a chance to find its own officers. It was known there were problems, but initially she would contact Ross Davies and work on getting a videoconference meeting arranged.

Action: contact with the TPOO&S Chair for discussion

CK

BD3999 STAFF & OFFICE

1 Report from the Office Manager

1.1 The OM had prepared a report for the Board on emailing clubs from the Office ,having consulted Ian Macro (as reported at BD3997.3). There would be ongoing consultation on this with the IT team and some mail merge training within the Office.

- 1.2. Two new members of staff had now started (Alice & Katie) and Denise reported how well they had settled and become part of the team. They were learning quickly and there was a good working atmosphere.
- 1.3 Abi had completed her probationary period successfully. She had reached the point where she could assist with training the newcomers.
- 1.4 The email backlog had now been dealt with thanks to hard work by Rhian, assisted by Abi. The plan was to have the phone lines back on after the OM's return from holiday on 7 September.
- 1.5 GDPR training was scheduled to take place on 11 December and some for Fire Warden and First Aid were to be arranged. Courses would be away from the Office as there wasn't sufficient room for social distancing on the premises. These would be financed via the training budget.
- 1.6 The OM was asked to pass on thanks to the staff from the Board and members also let Denise know that her hard work was very much appreciated. 1.6
INFO

2. **Office maintenance update**

- 2.1 The fixed wire testing was done on 13 August and it had been determined that work was required. The burglar alarm, fire alarm and a double socket shared a circuit which was dangerous. (The socket had been covered and would be removed).
- 2.2 An estimate for putting the alarms onto separate circuits was awaited and once received the work would be done as soon as possible. INFO

BD4000 REGISTRATION, TRANSFERS & SOP ITEMS

1. **Amendments to the Ragdoll Registration Policy re mandatory DNA testing for chocolate and lilac**

- 1.1 The two Ragdoll clubs of the BAC had each submitted a letter. One was in favour of following Board advice to remove the need for testing for *b* and allow registration as chocolate or lilac as with other colours, the other had sent argument supported by photographs and test results to prove it was necessary.
- 1.2 The details sent by the British Ragdoll CC were considered, but judges present disagreed with the arguments put forward. It was agreed that cats could be wrong coloured at a show, and a DNA test would determine the coat colour genetics. However, that did not make them good examples of that colour on the bench. Some cats in all breeds would have poorly defined pattern or colour.
- 1.3 If such cats were to be bred from it made sense for them to be DNA tested to inform the breeder, but there was no need for this to be mandatory as the problem was occasional rather than frequent.
- 1.4 It was also concluded that for consistency one BAC should not have a different set of rules on chocolate and lilac registration to any other. Other breeds had chocolate & lilac pointed cat (including in tabbies and torties which the Ragdoll BAC had neglected to mention), but no other BAC required mandatory testing.
- 1.5 The vote taken concerned the rationale put forward by the clubs rather than any vote held by the BAC. The proposal from the Chair was that it was illogical to require mandatory DNA testing for chocolate to enable active registration as a chocolate or lilac Ragdoll as it made the breed different from any other GCCF recognised breed. It was agreed by a majority with 2 abstentions, SD, HD.
- 1.6. It was acknowledged that a club could require its members to DNA test to allow a particular privilege such as kitten or stud listing. Also, that if someone wished to test and have a cat confirmed as lilac or chocolate the results could be recorded on the GCCF computer. This could be noted in the registration policy.
- 1.7 It was agreed that the policy as recently amended by the BAC, and with the Board addition in respect of chocolate testing should be placed on the website after the BAC was informed. Additional amendments as noted by Caroline T-R in respect of implementation should be sent to the BAC for future consideration, with the exception of DNA testing for chocolate and lilac imports.

Action: policy amendments & letter to the Ragdoll BAC

JL

2. **An amendment to the SOP for the Korat**

- 2.1 The Korat & Thai BAC had proposed an amendments to the Korat SOP in respect of tabby markings in the coat to bring it in line with that for Thais. The stated rationale was that it improved clarity and allowed greater judge discretion.
- 2.2 There were no queries and this was approved by a majority with 1 abstention, JL .

3. **An amendment to the SOP for the Sokoke**

- 3.1 The Sokoke BAC had amended GEMS code in the SOP to correct it (21 for the tabby pattern in the Snows instead of 22) and changed the coat ground colour description to reflect what breeders see, thus assisting judge assessment.
- 3.3 There was general agreement this was sensible and approval was unanimous.

Action for 1-3: the BACs to be contacted and the amended policy and SOPs to be on the electronic agenda on the website for delegate scrutiny.

JL/RF

4. **Updating registration policies and SOPs on the GCCF website**

- 4.1 RF reported that she had made all the changes to the SOPs that had gone through Council since February 2016 except for adding the Oriental White, adjusting some Oriental GEMS codes and a small Persian update. She then planned to put them into an amended SOP document for download, as well the website update.
- 4.2 HD offered to help and RF asked that she check the standards with the BACs once the document was complete. HD agreed and promised she would push for a response from each BAC.
- 4.3 JL offered to send the Council log of registration policy changes since 2016 so that these could also be checked. Each BAC Secretary was invited to send a clean copy with the notice of Council approval.

Actions: log circulation JL policy and SOP checking

HD/RF

5. **Certificate of neutering as a requirement for HHP registration**

- 5.1 RF identified a loophole in GCCF HHP registration as some breeders were registering HHPs and then selling progeny as 'from GCCF registered cats', when the reason it been introduced was to record show wins for Mastercat titles.

- 5.2 There was considerable discussion on this, as although agreed in principle implementation was difficult. There was the very occasional use of HHPs in breeding programmes, and some breeders routinely showed kittens as pedigree pets in the HP section and registration was required for the STAR system. These could be wanted for breeding.
- 5.3 It was agreed to look at rules to see where it could fit and also consult the Household Pet CC of GB.

Actions: rule checking and letter to HHP club

RF/JL

BD4001 SHOW MATTERS

1. Future of the 20-21 show season

- 1.1 There was discussion on whether to stay with the course of action agreed the previous month or extend the period in which shows could not be held. It was agreed there was no scientific reason for changing and it was preferable to remain flexible and stick with the monthly view.
- 1.2 As there was no change in government instructions on indoor gatherings, the earliest date for shows had to be moved to 1 December 2020. There would be further consideration at the next meeting.

Action: to be announced on the website

- 1.3 It was thought there should be more detailed rationale of the Board's position supplied, as it was known that some show management and exhibitors wished to discuss when shows could start, and what would have been done to hold them if allowed, but with social distancing measures still in place. Dr Collin offered to prepare some information for this purpose and it was agreed that this would be ideal.

Action: a communication giving the Board's position on Covid-19 & shows

PC

- 1.4 The OM queried whether this could go into the Newsletter sent out from the Office. PC agreed that it could as long as submission could be at the beginning of the following week., and this was thought acceptable as the distribution was planned for the end of the month.

- 1.5 It was requested that the Newsletter was circulated to the Board in advance of going out to all and the OM agreed this would be done.

Action: Board circulation of Newsletter

OM

- 1.6 After discussion of item 2 the Board returned to the topic of show planning, particularly because of a social media group (SNAP) that included the Chair and some Board members and engaging with others to produce ideas for the future. The particular concern raised by CK was that it was implied they had the official support of the Board to the point of endorsement, and this was not the case.

- 1.7 RF suggested that as a member of the group she should contact the organisers immediately after the meeting and ask that a statement was issued to make it clear that it was an ad hoc focus group with no Board mandate.

Action: contact with the SNAP group to ensure it was clarified that it had no direct authority from the Board

RF

2. Concerns from judges on the Accelerated Scheme

- 2.1 JH stated he had asked judges with concerns to pass them on to PC. He had not received criticism of the scheme, but concerns re its implementation.
- 2.2 PC responded that he had contact with judges from the SCJAC and this seemed to be specific to them, and not to any other BAC, and that was because of the SCJAC's problems (BD3998.4) not the scheme itself. He asked that any future concerns should be passed on to CK or to him as soon as they were received.

INFO

3. Non-recognised breeds information paper

- 3.1 LRT asked first for clarification of the reasons for belonging to WCC, with the response that it gave the opportunity to meet with other organisation from around the world, share ideas and practices and have a general exchange of information. There were ideas in common, but organisations kept their individual identities and policies.
- 3.2 It was queried if there couldn't be fast tracking for breeds that were recognised by other organisations, and confirmed that this was possible if there were no known genetic or health issues to be discussed. A breed could submit the registration policy and SOP of its existing organisation and the Board could then decide if was sufficiently different from existing GCCF breeds.
- 3.3 All breeds that had submitted an application in recent years had gained approval, and there were no known applications pending from any breeders of the breeds listed.
- 3.4 It was thought that the list would be better understood with a different presentation:
- the breeds grouped according to the possibility of recognition rather than alphabetically
 - the information in the middle colours removed
 - some photographs added
- 3.5 The Peterbald comments need amendment, plus some rewording in the final sentence.

Action: restructuring of the list

JL

BD4002 HEALTH & WELFARE

1. Report on the participation in ICC's International Cat Day

- 1.1 SC had participated as an invited panel member in a Q & A session on how to buy a healthy kitten. He was with two vets and two behaviourists covering all aspects of kitten care from from vaccination to introducing to other animals. He had concentrated on pedigree kittens and had recognised some GCCF people who had questions, but queries had come in from around the world.

2. It had proved very successful and ICC was considering a second session.

INFO

2. Any updates from the Canine & Feline Sector Group

- 2.1 SC reported that there had been a recent video-meeting, and another was planned for 18 September. Almost all the discussion was Covid-19 related. There were particular concerns that shelters would be having to take in a lot of young cats and dogs, bought as puppies and kittens during lockdown, and no longer wanted (or afforded) on a return to work or with a job loss; also at the escalation in number of puppy farms and back street kitten breeders to satisfy the recent high demand.

- 2.2 There had been recent new advice added to the website to update it following further easing of lockdown. People could now visit homes to collect kittens following government hygiene and social distancing advice.
- 2.3 A video-meeting of the all-party parliamentary committee on cats was scheduled for 10 September and SC was invited. He promised to give feedback on anything arising from that at the next meeting. **INFO**

3. **Breeder Scheme recommendations**

- 3.1 JL reported that she had checked back in the minutes and the wording of the new application form had been agreed in November. It was simply a matter of implementation and she would discuss this with the Office staff. She gave apologies for not doing so earlier.
- 3.2 She would also liaise with the IC/DC Secretary on record keeping so that the Board could be informed if a BS member was involved in a welfare case that was proven.
- 3.3 The intention was to give the Board additional information that could inform any future discussions on Breeder Scheme improvements. **INFO**

4. **VAC guidelines on breeding**

- 4.1 JL had contacted the VAC about producing some up to date breeding guidelines for cats, particularly on the spacing of litters and the number of times a cat should be bred from. Dr Moreland would put this onto September meeting agenda.
- 4.2 Prof Tim Gruffyd-Jones had suggested contacting BACs for any recommendations they published about best practice in breeding for their own breeds, as there was a variability in cats which meant that it would be impossible to produce rules, and it would be interesting to look at the spectrum of advice offered.

Action: Contact with the BACs to gather information

JL

BD4003 DISCIPLINARY

1. **A request from DC to raise the maximum level of fines**

- 1.1 A letter had been received from the Disciplinary Committee suggesting that the top level of fines should be increased from £2000 to £6000 (300%). This was thought to be totally unrealistic. It was considered that no one would pay to remain with GCCF and would depart to work with another organisation or become a back-yard breeder.
- 1.2 It wasn't liked either that the this was linked to the alleged price of kittens. It was thought inappropriate to fix a fine in this way as it should be proportionate to the offence.
- 1.3 The conclusion was that the IC/DC process should be looked at in totality after the elections. However, as any changes (including adjusting fines) would require Byelaw amendments to Council no changes could be made at the present time anyway. **INFO**

2. **The 2019 report from IC**

- 2.1 This had been sent for Board information to provide detail for any future discussions.
- 2.2 There were no comments, but Board members now had information on which to base proposals.
- Action: IC report to go to delegates and onto the website**

3. **Statement from the Vice-Chair**

- 3.1 The Vice-Chair said he had considered the issue raised by a Board member about an action of the Chair and had made a decision that there was no merit in progressing this further.
- 3.2 There was query on who took the decision and SF said as he was asked to look into the matter it was his conclusion, but after consultation with Board members and considering the views of the majority. **INFO**

4. **A review group for the Byelaws and Article of Association**

- 4.1 The Vice-Chair gave it as his opinion that as the Articles of association had not been revised since incorporation in 2010. If a group reviewed it should be possible to make clarifications
- 4.2 It was agreed unanimously that a group would be established once the elections had taken place. **INFO**

BD4004 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lorna (GCCFI) was visiting Surrey from Ireland in the near future. She hoped to meet the Chair and/or visit the Office. It was noted that there should be no visitors at the Office and suggested that remote contact was preferable to a face to face meeting. The OM said she would not be available anyway as she would be on holiday. She would contact Lorna to inform her of this and of meeting difficulties.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, 25 September 2020 at 11 am by video-conference.

The meeting finished at 3.37 pm

Note: It was agreed that *BD3998.3 should be redacted in the published minutes as the information contained is a matter of legal negotiation.