

## MINUTES

### A Special Meeting of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**

Monday 12 October 2021 by videoconference

Present: Dr P 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 Jen Lacey
Mr Ian Macro	Mr Peter Williams
Mrs Sandra Woodley	



#### **BD4145 MEETING INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of the meeting was to express support for those show managers who had begun to put on GCCF shows once again and those planning to do so early in the new years. It was agreed a level of guidance was needed and the Board should aim to give assistance when it was required.
2. In the absence of the Chair (who was on holiday) the Vice-Chair led the meeting.
3. **Apologies for absence.**  
Mrs Shelagh Heavens had sent apologies in advance and Mrs Elaine Robinson and Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys apologised the following day for inadvertently missing the meeting. RF joined the meeting about five minutes after the start and HD was not present for the final five minutes.
4. The meeting took the form of a discussion to find consensus for action. The main points are stated below.

#### **BD4146 LEGAL ADVICE**

1. It had been suggested that legal advice should be taken following a threat from an exhibitor to take legal action against a show manager.
2. After discussion it was agreed this was unnecessary at this point for two reasons:
  - a) Government advice for events took the form of guidelines providing options so there were no legal definitions as would be provided by legislation.
  - b) Legal advice on a situation would deal with specific issue rather than provide general advice for all. If advice was taken for one set of circumstances it would not necessarily be relevant for another.
3. It was concluded that what was crucial was to give certainty of support. If a show team received an actual legal challenge, rather than an exhibitors using threat of this to support their own contentions, then GCCF rather than the club would be responsible for providing the legal assistance necessary to make a response.

#### **BD4147 OTHER INFORMATION**

1. Some Board members (SD, HD) had investigated and circulated the government guidelines relevant to shows. It was acknowledged these were advisory rather than mandatory. Event organisers could select entry requirements to suit their purpose, and although they were not obliged to put these in place they had the option of doing so. It was agreed that show managers who requested exhibitors to be vaccinated, and/or take lateral flow tests before or at the point of entry to a show, were acting within these guidelines as long as the requirements were published in advance so that exhibitors knew what to expect.
2. It was agreed that publication in the schedule was the best way of complying with this requirement, and also noted that best practice would be to inform exhibitors again prior to show so that all knew what would be expected on the day.
3. It had been noted by several Board members that HM Government advice was in line with GCCF's own rules. Section 2:4g allowed show management to add any special requirements to the schedule. This allowed for any Covid requirements of a show committee's choosing to be stipulated.
4. There was some discussion on the rights of any exhibitor to enter a show with the conclusion that exhibitors were required to follow show rules and Show Managers had the right to exclude any exhibitor (Section 2:7d) without giving a reason. There was some sympathy for exhibitors who could not be vaccinated, but it was acknowledged that this did not mean that their cats had to miss a show as exhibits could attend with an owner's representative.
5. It was accepted that it was an option that shows could be put on without any Covid-specific requirements for exhibitors and visitors, but agreed that this would be a risk and so would be advised against. The Board did not want any GCCF licensed event to become known as a 'super spreader'. It seemed as though there would be more virus about over the winter months, but it was acknowledged that the situation was subject to change so it was best to post any government updates on the website on a regular basis
6. **Agreed actions:**
  - a) A short message of support for show managers would be drafted for the website. It would remind exhibitors that shows were events held within government guidelines and GCCF rules. Both provided the organisers (show management) with options.
  - b) A letter giving the detail of the support package would be circulated to all show managers.**Drafts of both to be prepared and circulated**

**JL**

*(HD left the meeting at 6.30 approximately)*

#### **BD4148 LATE SHOW LICENCE APPLICATION**

1. The Scottish CC and West of Scotland CC had applied to hold a show on 12 March 2022 in Lanark.

2. Ms Devereux informed the Board that she had been asked to be show manager and had advised against that date as there were already two all breed shows scheduled, and although geographically distant it could make obtaining judges difficult. The West of Scotland CC was investigating venue availability on alternative dates with 26.2.22 the preferred option.
3. Therefore no decision was taken, but it was agreed that if the date and venue were obtained then there could be Board confirmation by email circulation for this event. It was noted that it was likely to be for the West of Scotland rather than a back to back event with the Scottish CC. **INFO**

**BD4149 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Concern was expressed of news earlier that day of the loss of another probationer CSA. It was agreed that the recruiting process and a profile of the type of person required for the role should both be discussed at the next HR meeting which was scheduled for 3 November 2021.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING confirmed as: Friday, 19 November 2021 at 11am**

The meeting finished at 6.35 pm.