

## *Former Chair, farewell*

*My time as chair is now at an end, GCCF is financially in a healthy state and I would very much like to thank all our members for the opportunity to share my second term as Chair with you all. My apologies for such a lengthy departure notification.*

*As you are all aware my period of office and that of some of the Board was extended to take into account the delay in holding the electoral meeting, following legal guidance to amend the process, we have recently used Civica to conduct the elections, taking into account the current situation.*

*I wish my successor my very best wishes and sincerely hope he will enjoy his term in this prestigious office.*

*I would sincerely like to thank Denise and all the office staff for their support during my current term as chair, during what has been a very testing time for all concerned due to the trials and tribulations caused by the Covid situation, which has had such a massive impact on the lives of everyone worldwide, not just ourselves in the UK.*

*During this current term as Chair the office has undergone a number of massive changes due to various factors, not least of which is the Covid 19 lockdown, already mentioned. Denise has managed the situation admirably with back up from Rebecca, Leanne and Rhian in the main, assisted by Abigail, who was at that time our newest recruit. Dennis was furloughed for some time and we now have two new staff undergoing training, these are Katie and Alice and I wish both every success. Completing the office staff is Caroline Turner-Russell who is our Business Systems Analyst.*

*We have had no shows, since March, this is unlikely to change for some time, we had to cancel the GCCF Supreme show, as it proved an impossible task for various reasons, WCC scheduled to take place in Perth was also cancelled. At present it is impossible to state when some sort of more normal activities may return and is a situation we can only continue to monitor as the guidelines are still very much in a state of flux, being subject to constant change. The Board have recently taken steps to withdraw from hosting what was planned to be the WCC 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of the first cat show in 1871, this was due in the main, to the all the difficulties in co-ordinating venues and travel for the event attributable to Covid 19.*

*There are some whom I must thank for all the additional work they have put in to ensure the smooth running of GCCF, during this unprecedented situation, VAC for keeping us informed on developments in Veterinary matters during very difficult and challenging times, Lynda Ashmore for show managing the GCCF Supreme Show, Marcia Owen has shown wonderful dedication in her unofficial capacity for being so prompt with Show reports and her assistance in updating the website as required, along with Rosemary Fisher who has continually added to the website when required updating on new proposals. Steve Crow who has been an invaluable source of information in regard to all matters relating to cat Welfare and the various government agencies involved, last but not least Jen Lacey whose services have proved invaluable, not only in assisting the office with queries as required, but also her preparation of the agendas and minutes for various meetings, Jen is a very valuable asset to GCCF and her skills should not be overlooked or taken for granted.*

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*As organisations go GCCF is not able to grow in the same way as many others for geographical reasons, nevertheless due to work done by Sally Rainbow-Ockwell and Ian Macro who is now working with us as a consultant, GCCF is now working with GCCFi in collating registration information for that organisation and we can now, with the assistance of Phoenix, do electronic registrations and on-line show entries for a number of shows. Whilst it is not yet perfect we are getting there, slowly, Rome was not built in a day.*

*Please remember GCCF is an organisation that is based on its member clubs and is built on the efforts of volunteers to keep those clubs active, without which it cannot function. It requires the efforts of all to sustain and keep it viable.*

*We are all but little cogs in a bigger wheel, without those named above you would have a very different GCCF, please remember it is not what GCCF can do for you but what you can do for GCCF. We are, due to the current circumstances we find ourselves in, an extremely sound financial position.*

*I sincerely hope that when the world settles down and things become more normal again, (or whatever the new normal becomes) we can all remember we are all working for the same common cause, that is to benefit GCCF, even if we don't all agree on the method.*

*I genuinely believe you shouldn't be taking something out of the system unless you have paid in, it's called paying your dues. It hasn't always been easy, but the objective has remained unchanged, trying to achieve what is best for GCCF.*

*Thank you all.*

*John H Hansson.*