

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

Wednesday, 4 March 2020 at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London

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

> Mr Steve Crow Mrs Hilary Dean Ms Sarndra Devereux Mrs Rosemary Fisher 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

BD3934 **MEETING INTRODUCTION**

1. Apologies for absence.

1.1 Apologies for absence were given on behalf of: Mrs Lynda Ashmore, Dr Peter Collin and Dr Gavin Eyres INFO

2. Chairman's opening remarks

2.1 The meeting was opened at 11.53 with those present thanked for attending and Mrs McRae welcomed.

BD3935 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting of 8 January 2020

1.1 These had been circulated with corrections made.

1.2 They were approved without further amendment on the proposal of SC, 2nd TG, with one abstention (HM). Action: publication on the GCCF website **JL/RF**

Matters arising from the previous minutes 2.

2.1 BD3922.8.5 The Chairman reported he had contacted the IoD and they did not produce free credit reports for companies as the information they held was available through Companies House. HD stated this did not constitute a credit report and offered to obtain the type of report that gave a business analysis from Dun and Bradstreet as it could provide future forecasts on stability and comparisons with competitors. This was agreed.

Action: contact with Dun & Bradstreet for information and a report back to the Board

3. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 26.2.20

- 3.1 These had been circulated on the previous day. No corrections or amendments were requested.
- 3.2 CK proposed, HM 2nd that they should be published as a draft on the GCCF website. This was agreed with 1 abstention (SH).

(11.57 Mrs Robinson, Mrs Robinson-Tallboys and Ms Robinson arrived)

4. Any matter from Council not covered by an agenda item

4.1 C2298.2 It was queried who would make the check on what had happened re the 13 day rule on the previous occasion that non-GCCF cats had been invited to a GCCF show. JH offered to do this, though he wasn't sure whether anything definite had been done as very little interest had been shown. However, non-GCCF exhibitors would sign the same declaration as those with GCCF cats and be expected to comply. Some checking could be carried out.

Action: investigation into the GCCF 100th anniversary Supreme

JH

4.2 C2299.3 It was requested that the discussion on individual membership of GCCF should be on a future Board agenda so that it could be progressed. It was observed that it was also noted in the Business Plan as an HR project. HM would circulate the ideas she had produced that had already had some discussion.

Action: an item for future agendas

JL 4.3 ER queried why all delegate names were not shown on the signing-in sheets for the meeting, with the response that they were, but there were some sheets that were duplicated to show substitute delegates and this had caused several issues. It had been reported to the Office. **INFO**

BD3936 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting: **INFO**

HD

BD3937

Draft minutes of the February Finance Committee meeting 1.

1.1 There were no queries specific to the minutes of the February FC meeting.

INFO

Management accounts 2019 ordinary business business

- 2.1 The profit and loss accounts to the end of 2019 had been provided by the bookkeeper and sent out with
- 2.2 It was noted that almost £10,000 was drawn from club capitation and delegate fees, and whether that would be readily replaceable if there was individual membership of GCCF. However, the intention was to have different levels of membership. The clubs would not be disenfranchised.

2.3 Larger print was requested for the spreadsheet figures.

INFO

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3. P/L report and graphs for January 2020

- 3.1 These had been summarised from the bookkeeper's P/L report and presented to the meeting.
- 3.2 The OM had also circulated figures to show a slight increase in most areas of core business which was reflected in increased income.
- 3.3 Overall income was up by 8.7% on January 2019.
- 3.4 The small claims case had raised legal expenses 50% above what had been anticipated as the annual cost. It was queried whether the figure should be shown with general legal expenses as it had been a Board decision to defend the case using the GCCF solicitor, but agreed that they should be left in place with the note of explanation.
- 3.5 In spite of this additional expenditure the operational profit for the month was greater than that for the same period of the previous year.

INFO

4. New card processing provider update

- 4.1 The OM had reported that all online payments now went through Payzone and Paysafe was no longer used for anything. Therefore the saving on costs for this service should be reflected in the accounts.
- 4.2 The staff had found the system user-friendly and were operating it without issues.

5. Investment accounts update

- 5.1 There was £75,763.74 on deposit at the Aldermore and it had earned 1.83% throughout the year. The fixed term was due to complete on 18 March.
- 5.2 The new interest rate would be 1.5% but there was only one that was little better, so FC had agreed it would practical to roll the balance over and continue for another year.
- 5.3 The balance at Cambridge & Counties was now £140,832.13. With the interest rate currently at1.74% It was earning approximately £200 monthly, but the rate would reduce to 1.5% in two weeks time.
- 5.4 FC had agreed a new investment account should be opened to ensure government protection for the full amount on deposit. RF had sourced another with the same rate that was not linked to the existing investments. It was agreed that SF should supply details for the mandate.

BD3938 BUSINESS MATTERS

1. A replacement for Sara Coate, GCCF Solicitor

- 1.1 Ms Coate had approached four firms to ascertain their interest in acting on GCCF's behalf when she retired by giving an outline of the type of work involved.
- 1.2 One she approached did not respond at all and another (local to her) had shown a little interest, but had not initiated in phone calls to seek further information, which left two contenders, both large companies.
- 1.3 Russell-Cooke had offices in Putney and also near to the Conway Hall. They had offered to keep the hourly charge rate at below £300 initially.
- 1.4 Andrew Chalk, a partner at Royds Withy King, was particularly experienced at dealing with the type of work generated by GCCF as he had worked with the Jockey Club and an equine charity that ran shows. His associate solicitor, Charlotte Ebutt, was familiar with GDPR work.
- 1.5 Ms Coate's opinion was that AC would have the most experience of actual hearings and, in discussion, seemed familiar with DC practice.
- 1.6 The Board agreed unanimously that Andrew Chalk should be approached. His contact details had been provided so the Chairman would let Miss Coate know of the Board's decision and mail AC to arrange a meeting. It was agreed that JH, SF and IC Chairman, Prof Kym Jarvis, should attend and some recent cases (with names removed) should be provided as examples of IC/DC work. Copies of the Articles of Association, ByeLaws, Rules and Disciplinary Procedures including Fixed Penalties should be provided in advance.

Action: Contact with Andrew Chalk and Sara Coate

JΗ

GCCFI update

- 2.1 The OM had sent for circulation the points that GCCFI had raised on the operating agreement, and her comments on these as they were relatively simple to deal with. Mostly they covered practices that were already established.
- 2.2 These had been sent to the GCCF's solicitor who had given comments in response which had been put to the Board very recently. At some points clarification was needed in the wording, but mostly they concerned financial details. Those to do with VAT would need input from the bookkeeper.
- 2.3 The most important matter raised was the limitation of GCCF's liability. There would need to be a check on whether GCCF had insurance that would cover it for a defective provision of service.
- 2.4 It was proposed by JL, 2nd LR, that discussion on this should be referred to FC. The next meeting was 18 March, so there was time for circulation of the paperwork, including the original agreement for reference, and for consultation with the Office. When FC had worked through the questions and provided answers, these would be circulated to the Board in advance of being returned to Marshalls.
 This course of action was agreed unanimously

Action: Circulation of all relevant documents to be circulated to FC asap.

JL

3. IT report

- 3.1 SC commented that there was nothing additional to his Council report given the week previously.
- 3.2 The suggestion was made that in the coming weeks the IT Group should investigate whether it would be possible for staff to carry on working from home if the Office had to be closed for any period because of Covid-19 infection. It would need to be established whether there could be phone links, and remote access to the system, and what equipment would have to provided.

Action: liaison with the ITG to explore what was practical in a worse-case scenario

SC

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- 3.3 It was commented that there was still no list of show managers or BAC Secretaries available on the website, and these had both been promised since the system was established.
- 3.4 Problems accessing the system were reported.

Also, it seemed that some area clubs had suddenly acquired 'founder member' status when they had never had any claim to it. It needed to be removed as they could be misled into thinking they were entitled to delegate representation without the required membership numbers.

Action: a list of problems to be sent to SC for liaison with the ITG

LR-T

4. Stimulating growth of business in partnership with Agria

- 4.1 The second survey had taken place with a far more limited response (335 replies), but this was as expected.

 The OM had published the outcome in her report, but it wasn't known yet whether Agria was satisfied with this or wanted any further information.
- 4.2 Sarah White (Agria) had visited the Office to discuss further action to grow the partnership. It had been agreed that Becky would liaise with Sarah
- 4.3 The advert produced for show catalogues needed to be amended. RF would liaise with Sarah on this.
- 4.4 The income from Agria had increased in January 2020 roughly in line with the additional registrations made.

 There was a levelling off, but the decline in kitten notes issued seemed to have stopped.
- 4.5 The next meeting with Agria was planned for 10 March.

INFO

5. Royal Canin update

- 5.1 The next meeting with Royal Canin was scheduled for 27 March
- 5.2 It was observed that the company was decreasing its support for shows further once again. Its efforts were focussed on promotion in Eastern European and Asian markets.

6. Director insurance (raised with AOB)

- 6.1 it was queried what was 'limited by guarantee' at the time of incorporation. It was thought that this referred to the protection of each individual club's assets if the company failed. Their fixed liability was £1 and they would not be responsible further to creditors.
- 6.2 It wasn't known whether liability for directors was covered by insurance or whether their personal assets were at risk if claimed by the clubs or creditors if the company failed through their negligence. It was agreed that this should be checked and insurance via the company investigated.

Action: To be referred to the Office Manager and FC

JL

BD3939 STAFF & OFFICE

1. Minutes of the HR meeting of 19.2.20

1.1The minutes had been circulated with the meeting paperwork. There were no queries.

INFO

2. Report from the Office Manager

- 2.1 The OM had circulated her report in advance of the meeting. She reported that the two new staff members started as planned (Abigail Gough, Caroline Turner-Russell) and there were no problems
- 2.2 No other member of staff had indicated that they wished to leave GCCF employment. The person the OM had interviewed and thought would be suitable as a CSA if a vacancy occurred had now found another job.
- 2.3 Denise was currently putting together a job specification for a marketing role as had been agreed at the HR meeting (Minutes item 3).
- 2.4 The work to satisfy the requirements for fire safety had been completed, including under the stairs.

INFO

BD3940 BREED APPLICATIONS

1. Promotion to Championship Status for the British Longhair

- 1.1 The British Longhair Breeder Group had put together a detailed application for promotion to championship status for the British LH, that complied with the rule requirements (Section 1:46). All paperwork had been circulated to the Board with the exception of the Breeding Policy which was with GC.
- 1.2 SC reported that the Breeding Policy had no major problems. There were some minor errors to correct and it had been agreed that information on HCM and blood groups needed to be included as they were relevant to the breed.
- 1.3 It was observed that the reference register section of the registration policy needed clarification as it was possible that cats from permitted breeding were being excluded from breed status because they were of a colour and/or pattern not allowed on the show bench. That was unnecessary as reference registration was sufficient. Only progeny from unauthorised outcrossing needed to be registered as XLH with no progression.
- 1.4 There were no queries on the SOP, although it was observed that there was variance from the SOP for BSH on nose length. This had been agreed in 2018.
- 1.5 The JAS would need to be amended to include the changes made in Council the previous week. It was queried whether there was only one club for the breed, and confirmed that this was so at present.
- 1.6 A vote was taken on promotion to championship status subject to the amendments required. It was approved by a majority with one abstention (SH).

Action: a letter to be sent to the Breeder Group

JL

BD3941 HEALTH & WELFARE

1. Minutes of the Genetics Committee 0f 30 January 2020

1.1 These had been circulated with the agenda. The one query concerned the observation on the partial loss of whiskers causing a cat difficulties. SC agreed no problems were on record from breeders.

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1.2 SC proposed that the minutes should be on the GCCF website as an indication of the work covered by GC, and the detail brought to discussion. They would have to be 'draft' as the next meeting wasn't until the autumn, but as committee members had reviewed them there was no reason for a delay.

1.3 A vote was taken and this was agreed unanimously

Action: to be sent to the website for publication

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1.4 It was suggested that WCC should contribute to funding for further research, and to the development of genetic tests for genes that have been identified. It should also have some responsibility for sharing information.

Action: contact with WCC on this JH

2. Streamlined process for the recognition of new breeds

- 2.1 GC had compiled a table of breeds not recognised with GCCF, but with some recognition by WCC members.

 There was discussion on some of the comments made in the final column to state that these should be consistent, and that the document should be concise rather than an information overload.
- 2.2 There were some breeds described as ineligible for recognition. These were either those where a scientific link existed to indicate serious health problems, or those derived from wild cat species as there were ethical reasons for non-recognition.
- 2.3 It was queried whether all others should indicate acceptance, but stated that in some instances genetic and/or clinical evidence could be required and that consideration needed to be given to all as information could change. There had to be assessment at the time an application for breed recognition was asked for.

Actions: some tidying of the table provided and recirculation

JL

JL

2.4 The summary sheet describing the recognition of new breeds had been expanded to allow one person with a cat of a non-GCCF recognised breed to apply for breed name recognition. That would allow those who wanted to put such a cat on exhibition or show it as a pedigree pet (if neutered) to do so. No rule change was required.

Action: to go the website with the table of non-recognised breeds when this was finalised

3. Updates from the Feline & Canine Sector Groups

- 3.1 SC stated he had attended one event since reporting to Council. There had been a presentation of research into cat behaviour, with the emphasis on investigating differences between cats that had free range outdoor access and those kept indoors. It was noted that there was another group as some owners could provide outdoor access that was restricted to their property.
- 3.2 It also included an investigation into suitable toys to satisfy fully the hunting instinct cats had, and whether less than satisfactory ones contributed to unexplained aggression, and/or if cultural differences were involved as cats were differently perceived in other parts of the world.
- 3.3 The 'Code of Practice for Cat Breeding' would be further discussed at an ICC Cat Group meeting at the end of the month.

BD3942 SHOW MATTERS

1. 2019-20 show licence amendments (as previously circulated)

- 1.1 28.3.20 Cambridgeshire CC & Bombay & Asian ČS requested a venue change from Ware to Watford Central Leisure Centre, Watford, WD17 3HA.
- 1.2 18.4.20 The British Ragdoll CC Show added two new ASMs Mrs S Rainbow-Ockwell and Mr R Bradley 1.3 2.5.20 Chocolate Point Siamese show cancelled
- 1.4 16.5.20 Suffolk & Norfolk CC & Burmese CS shows change of venue to Wodson Park Sports & Leisure Centre, Ware, SG12

2. 2020-21 Licence applications and amendments (as previously circulated)

2.1 11.7.20 Balinese & Siamese CC show cancelled

2.2 5.9.20 Wyvern show cancelled

- 2.3 12.9.20 Maine Coon CC added ASM Mrs Charlene Ryan
- 2.4 26.9.20 Chocolate Pointed Siamese CC requested a change of date and venue to share with the South Western Counties CC at Wellspring Leisure Centre, Taunton, TA2 7QP. The SM now would be Mrs S Newman.
- 2.5 3.10. 20 Seal & Blue Birman CC show would include classes for Ragdolls and Ragamuffins and these breeds would have their own Grand classes
- 2.6 9.1.21 Exotic CS change of date to 23.1.21 with the venue to be Buckden Village Hall, Buckden, St Neots, PE19 5UY
- 2.7 16.1.21 Colourpoint CC change of date to 9.1.21 and venue to be Napton Village Hall, Napton-on-the Hill, Southam C47 8LS
- 2.7 6.2.21 Late show licence application: Gwynedd Show at Fenton Manor Sports Club, with Shropshire CC, SM Marie Rose & ASMs J Maddrell & K Atkinson.
 INFO

3. New show licence amendment request for approval

- 3.1 21.11.20 A request from Cheshire Area to be allowed to move from that date to 19.9.2020 had been held pending news of the North West Cat Club.
- 3.2 It was agreed that as the NWCC was most unlikely to hold a show in 2020 the Cheshire Area could have the date, but it was to be made clear that it was for one year only. It could not claim this date going forward, but would have to make an application.

Action: Cheshire Area CC to be informed and the licence change made

Office

4. Clubs changing the date agreed on their licence

4.1It was thought it should be stated on licence applications that once a date is granted there was no guarantee it could be changed. Applications would be considered with regard to the impact it would have on other clubs.

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4.2 There was some discussion on the GCCF website show calendar as it was thought that the simpler version on the old website made it easier for show managers to find suitable gaps if they needed to make a date change. It was agreed to ask Marcia if something separate could be provided for SMs.

4.3 The provisional dates supplied for future years were requested in the same format.

Action: liaison with Marcia Owen

5. Request for JTRG minutes publication

5.1 The Birman BAC had made a request for minutes from the Judge Training Review Group to be accessible on the website to give better understanding of the rationale underpinning the proposals made.

5.2 Assurance was given that minutes from the meeting planned for 20 March would be published.

5.3 It was commented that PC had been giving updates of the scheme at Council and that the Birman delegates should have been passing them on.
INF

6 The prevention of section hopping - a further response

- 6.1 The HHP Club of GB had provided an estimate that seven or eight exhibitors regularly moved between the pedigree pet classes in the HHP section and the pedigree section. Their opinion was that although it did not seem many it was unfair on those who did not have this choice.
- 6.2 The Board agreed that it was very few cats, but this could make a difference to small breed shows as exhibitors often supported by showing in the HHP section, sometimes with a cat of a different pedigree breed. This provided a little extra income.
- 6.3 It was thought not to impact unduly on the people who showed regularly in the HHP Section. It caused minor annoyance, but did not remove cats from the show bench. The HHP Club of GB to be invited to supply any evidence to the contrary.

7. Proposal that class definitions re self & bicolour required further definition the HHP section

- 7.1 It was requested by the HHPCC of GB that the class headings for the 'self' class be changed to 'Self & Bicolour' or that schedules included the word "with or without white' as part of the class title rather than a general heading in small print.
- 7.2lt was observed that either of theses two changes would add a lot of extra lines to a schedule and therefore necessitate the printing of additional pages, thus adding to costs.
- 7.3 The problems that occurred caused judge queries rather than difficulties for exhibitors.
- 7.4 It was agreed that any changes should be left to show management discretion.

Action: a letter to go to the Household Pet Club of Great Britain to reply to 6 & 7

JL

JL

BD3943 DISCIPLINARY

1. A reply from the Joint Rex BAC

- 1.1 Å letter had been received from the Joint Rex BAC commenting on the letter that had been sent by the Board in January to the Cornish Rex BAC. Objections were raised to some of the points stated and responses to these were requested.
- 1.2 The responses given by HD were that a letter of resignation had been sent. The then BAC Secretary when offered help would not accept it.
- 1.3 It was stated that although the letter was headed to indicate that it came from the JRBAC, not all representatives on the JRBAC had been consulted about it, which meant some of the constituent clubs were excluded.
- 1.4 The two year monitoring of the BAC, as determined at the previous Board meeting, had begun. SD reported that she understood the the meeting she had attended had had a tense start, but became more constructive as it progressed. She believed monitoring to be needed for the foreseeable future. A new Chairman and Secretary were now in place.
- 1.5 The Board agreed that it seemed more sensible that the JRBAC should make a fresh start than continue examining past allegations. A letter to state this would be sent. Majority decision. Abstentions (HD, SF).

Action: letter to the JRBAC

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HD

2. The cost of complaints to IC

- 2.1 This item was deferred at the request of the proposer (HD)
- 2.2 Because of recent events it was requested that 'IC' should be on the agenda of the next Board meeting. **Action: item to be sent for the agenda**

BD3944 EVENTS

1. 2020 Supreme

- 1.1 JH commented that there was little further to report in addition to what had been said in Council, except that the hall plan had been produced.
- 1.2 This differed slightly from the previous year as it was a different hall, and half only would be used. The NEC would arrange the enclosure of the space to be utilised.

2. WCC 2021 update

- 2.1 The NEC had been booked for 2021 as had the hotel and seminar facility.
- 2.2 There was some discussion on which speakers would be popular, in combination with keeping costs at a reasonable level. It was thought if anyone were to be invited from abroad it should be Dr JL Gookin to speak on tritrichomonas foetus infection.
- 2.3 It was thought HCM should also be covered, and possibly the treatment of FIP. Prof Tim Gruffyd-Jones would possibly do a round up news, and SC reported that ICC was willing to give support. It was thought there should also be at least one topic that was more light-hearted topic, possibly a behaviourist.

Action: contact to be made with some of the possibles to check availability & cost

CK

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- 2.4 There had to be discussion on whether to pay for some or all of John Smith's historical collection to come from Australia. It was know Mrs Luxford-Watts had a collection of Louis Wain pictures, but contact would need to be made with her family.
- 2.5There were now volunteers for event/project managing, and a meeting would be arranged by the end of the month to determine who would do what.

Action: meeting arrangement

JH/CK

2.6 The 2020 WCC meeting was in Perth. JH would pass on the idea of shared support for further genetic research. (BD3941.1.4)

INFO

BD3945 CLUB & BAC MATTERS

1. A report on the 2019 returns

- 1.1 SH reported that she had so far received four club returns and two from BACs.
- 1.2 The Board was informed that the Scottish Rex CC had requested dispensation for a late return as it would not be able to use the auditor from the previous year until after the end of April. It was important the same person was used again as there was an ongoing investigation into a theft from its club funds. It was agreed that this was understandable and a late return would be accepted.
- 1.3The Edinburgh CC, the National CC (for the show account), Colourpointed AB CC (show account) and the Ragdoll BAC were mentioned as others who could need to have an extension.
- 1.4 A letter was presented from Ian Thomson, a former member of the West of Scotland CC alleging that the reason the club was not functioning, and had not be able to present accounts for 2018 was because the accounts from the show in January 2019 (SMs were HM and her husband) had not been finalised. HM refuted much of what was stated claiming that too few committee members and a lack of support generally were the reasons for the club failing, though it was acknowledged that there was an ongoing dispute over the retention of original receipts for purchases made on behalf of the show. She gave an assurance that there would be one final attempt to restart the club via an EGM in April.
- 1.5 SH requested that HM send the 2018 accounts (stated as being complete) quickly so that the club could be considered as active once again, and there was support for this request from other Board members. The 2019 accounts and show accounts would be due by 1 May 2020.
- 1.6 HM expressed some reluctance to send anything until she was sure the club had a chance of being viable, as she wanted to have club officers in position to sign them off. Despite this, requests were made from some Board members that HM should comply with the request made by SH and submit the accounts.

Action: the circulation of lan Thomson's letter

2. Application for provisional membership for the Ragdoll Cat Association UK

- 2.1 The accounts to establish a membership of at least 50, and the constitution had been circulated, together with a letter of application.
- 2.2 One reason the club had had its previous application rejected in November was that its rules were too different from the generic rules for breed clubs provided by GCCF. The application had stated that they were now closer, but it was clear on a read through that this was not the case.
- 2.3 An initial problem was that there were too many categories of membership, which would make examining the accounts and assessing membership for future returns unnecessarily complex. It seemed that a number of people would be able to obtain free or honorary membership and retain voting rights.
- 2.4 There were a number of other variations throughout the document, such as not allowing the right of appeal through the GCCF ByeLaws, or making provision for a non-quorate AGM
- 2.5 It was agreed not to accept the application yet, and ask the club to try again with its constitution.

Action: letter to the club

BD3946 PREFIXES

1. Prefix lists as circulated

- 1.1 35 new prefixes had been added via lists circulated electronically in January and February.
- 1.2 Some first choices were rejected, but there had been no objections via the website.

INFO

BD3947 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that without knowledge of the the exact wording of the complaint, the findings of DC and the orders made by DC there could be no comment on the case involving the North West Cat Club. Also, the defendant(s) had 21 days allowed for appeal under due process.

Director liability - minuted at BD3938.6

The meeting finished at 4.33 pm

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY**, 06 May 2020, at 11.30 for 11.45am, at The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London.

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