

Bruce Bennett

The Funeral of Bruce Bennett will take place on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 11.30am at Baldarroch Crematorium, Crathes, Banchory AB31 5JL

Donations on the day to the Marie Curie charity, or the GCCF Cat Welfare Trust by post to the GCCF Office, Bridgwater.

Please no flowers. Casual dress – bright colours.

Refreshments will follow at Milton Brasseries, Milton of Crathes, Banchory. AB31 5QU

PLEASE: No post, emails or phone calls to Gillian – THANKYOU

It was with sadness I heard of the passing of Bruce.

We met over 25 years ago at my first cat show. He was so kind and knowledgeable - a true gentleman, and encouraged me to do some stewarding. I stewarded for him many times over the years, the last time being at the Yorkshire cat show. We had such a nice day chatting about the cats and putting the world to rights

You were a true gentleman – I, as many others, will miss you at the shows

A real loss to the cat fancy

Rest in peace Bruce till we meet again

Peter Kilmartin

He had my admiration from the first time I met him. A genial, courteous and meticulous gentleman of great intellect and wit. I held him in great esteem for everything he stood for. I loved both his ethics and judging style, from the way he spoke to the cats and interacted with them; his passion for the breed shone through, and inevitably it was also reflected in the way he wrote his wonderful reports.

I stewarded for him many many times in the early days in which I learned a great deal, and for that I will be forever grateful. I still draw on my judging book the way he showed me. His support for me both in my dealings with Siamese Cat Society of Scotland and my ongoing journey to become a judge will stay with me forever. A great many people can learn from him. I certainly did.

Rest in peace my dear man, the world is better place for having known you.

An honest man here lies at rest
As e'er God with his image blest.
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of Age, and guide of Youth:
Few hearts like his with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.

Robert Burns

Pina Bruno-Grieve

I was so sad to hear of the death of Bruce. He was a real gentleman, loved his judging and his critiques of cats were always a highlight. He had a way of painting a picture of the cat he was judging. A real loss to the cat world and the Somali cat club will miss him.

Condolences to his family and friends.

Brenda Horsley
Chairman Somali Cat Club.

I am finding it incredibly difficult to put into words the shock that Bruce has died. Whilst I was very aware of his state of health the realisation that he had actually lost his fight with the dreadful illness that had afflicted him, it was still a huge shock to be informed of the outcome.

First my apologies for not posting this sooner, I did not think it appropriate till the sad news was official.

I have known Bruce for great many years, and I can say with complete honesty, a nicer, kinder, truer Gentleman you could not hope to meet, on this planet. He had such a wonderful moral compass, true integrity and sense of justice that mere words alone can never fully express.

Bruce was a full Judge of a number of breeds, first becoming a full judge of Siamese in 2005. The last time I saw Bruce was at our own Supreme Show in October, where he was again judging.

His vocabulary was such that his reports were very personalised and geared to the exhibit concerned and inevitably both witty and intelligent.

Bruce was also an extremely valuable member of the Board, who always contributed with something thought provoking and very sage.

He with Gillian, were long standing features of the Supreme, though for the last number of years Bruce had judged, previously he with Gillian had been ring supervisors for more years than I can remember, with Gillian continuing in that role when Bruce was judging.

Bruce was also a long term representative to the SCJAC where again he was an extremely valuable addition, always showing great consideration for the feelings of others.

I know, it's a cliché, but genuinely the Cat Fancy and indeed the world in general will be a very much poorer place for Bruce's passing, he will be greatly missed and it is with an incredible degree of sadness I am writing this. If you ever wanted someone to look up to admire you need look no further than Doctor Bruce Bennett.

On behalf of the Board, myself and indeed anyone else representing GCCF in any capacity, sincere condolences to Gillian, family and friends at this incredibly sad time.

RIP Bruce, some people are irreplaceable you were one of them. I am proud to say you were a loyal friend.

John H Hansson
GCCF Chair

As Chairman of the Lilac Point Siamese Cat Society I would like to express our sadness at hearing of the death of Dr Bruce Bennett. He was always a great supporter of our club and a welcome judge at our shows and I know he will be sadly missed by our members and exhibitors.

On a personal note I enjoyed his company, always the perfect gentleman and very kind to me when I was a new show manager finding my way and making the inevitable errors.

He was also very kind and considerate to my daughter on the occasions that she stewarded for him, they seemed to have a lot of fun as there was a lot of laughter from their area of the hall.

Our thoughts and condolences go to Gillian and their close friends and family.

Barbara James
Chairman & Show Manager for LPSCS

Bruce was an exemplar for everyone associated with the Cat Fancy. He was charming, erudite, thoughtful, and wrote wonderful critiques. He saw the best in people, not the worst, and gave so much to so many. One expression of that was the help and encouragement he gave to so many people in the Fancy, another that he and Gillian contributed a vast amount behind the scenes, in many different ways.

When I read other tributes, especially those of Pina Bruno-Grieve and John Hansson, I feel that there is almost nothing I can add about his tremendous qualities as a human being.

We are all very much the poorer for his passing. It was a tremendous privilege, and a great pleasure, to have known him.

Sally Woolrich

I was deeply saddened, although it was not a surprise, to hear of the passing of Dr Bruce Bennett – a fellow GCCF Judge and a good friend over the years. I last saw him in January in Aberdeen where Bruce was also judging but already confined to a wheelchair and I was delighted to have a long catch up with him putting things to right in what was to be our final chat.

Bruce had the most wonderful turn of phrase in his Show reports which truly captured the essence of the exhibit he was judging and showed his attention to detail and how seriously he took his days 'work'. I was fortunate to receive many of his reports on my breeding over the years and how certain cats of mine 'captured' his attention. I can remember being at a SCJAC meeting only the month following the death of 'Rumbalita' when Bruce approached me to speak and commiserate about her...of course being me I promptly burst in to tears and had to go outside to compose myself. Bruce, bless him, was so mortified by the turn of events that a few days later I received, and still have, a vellum paper letter(penned in fountain pen in best 'Doctors' script!) not only apologising for upsetting me but with a wonderful eulogy to Rita. The measure of a genuine and considerate man.

Bruce judged for a number of years at our Breed Show being such a popular choice amongst Exhibitors (Red Point and Tortie Point Siamese Cat Club) and was firmly pencilled in each year but unfortunately when we changed our date permanently to avoid Easter it always clashed with the ski holiday that Gillian and he took around that time of year. Always a great raconteur of life events over a dining table one of these trips caused endless mirth amongst us all (and I am sure much re-telling!) when he told us of arriving in a snow storm in the hire car, parking up and dashing in to get in to the warm and not delay in the blizzard. He was so surprised the next morning upon looking out to see their car was the only car not

covered in mounds of snow. Yes Bruce had not turned off the electronic keyless ignition and the car had gently ticked over all night!

Sleep tight dear Bruce – we will raise a glass to you at ‘your’ Show in May I am sure.

Jackie Reed
GCCF Judge
Johpas Siamese

It is difficult to add to the tributes that have already been paid to Bruce Bennett, but as Secretary and Show Manager of the Red Pt and Tortie Pt Siamese Cat Club, I would like to add a few words on behalf of our club.

We were so sad to hear of the passing of dear Bruce, a true gentleman and thoroughly lovely man who was appreciated throughout the cat fancy by all that knew him - he will leave a huge gap that will be impossible to fill. He was one of the regular judges at our show (until we changed our show date to one that clashed with the end of the ski season), and as Show Manager I soon learned that the best way to contact Bruce was by a good old-fashioned letter sent through the post as he always said he didn't know how people had the time for email! In return for my hastily typed few lines, I would receive a beautifully hand-written letter, almost by return, to let me know whether he would be available to judge for us.

It was lovely to share show days with Bruce, and dinner the night before was always an entertaining occasion with him and Gillian. Bruce used to entertain us with stories about his days as a student medic and young hospital doctor, and had us in hysterics – he had a real gift with words, both in his story-telling, and in his show reports too.

He was very encouraging to me in my early days as Assistant Show Manager, and never let any small mistakes on my part faze him in any way. He was equally kind to everybody he encountered at shows, and always had time to chat with exhibitors.

Our thoughts are with Gillian, and his family and friends.

Judy Emmens
Red Pt & Tortie Pt Siamese Cat Club

I had the greatest respect and admiration for Dr Bruce. Kindness, tolerance, fairness, respect for others, honesty and integrity – just a few of his qualities, and for me he represented all that is good about the human race. He was, in essence, a unique and special character.

Together with Gillian he gave a great deal to the Governing Council over many years, and a lot of the time behind the scenes. He was a highly respected judge for various breeds, but his first full judge appointment was for the Siamese, and he was much sought after at our breed shows. His reports were never dull and repetitive, but always full of special little comments for each individual cat.

It seems so inadequate to say that “the world will be a poorer place without him”, but it will, it truly will. RIP dear Bruce.

Brenda Pearce
GCCF Judge
President Siamese Cat Society of Scotland
Chairman Siamese Cat Club

It is with great sadness that the Nor' East of Scotland cat club is trying to come to terms with Bruce's passing and realizing the great debt owed to a man who has worked for some forty years to see his club prosper and ran some excellent cat shows with his wife Gillian. Even up to the last few days of his life, Bruce was still checking things were getting done for the

club's forthcoming show in May. It is impossible to forget how in the early years when our cat shows had over 400 entries Bruce personally typed out the schedules and the catalogue with all the exhibitors' names and details night after night after a hard days work in hospital and organized the printing and collation of the judge's books. A daunting task! Bruce started judging relatively late after retirement but progressed quickly to become a popular and excellent judge of numerous breeds who had a sharp eye for detail and who was very fair, considerate and helpful to exhibitors and probationer judges. Furthermore his show reports were always a pleasure to read and usually had a witty and catchy turn of phrase somewhere and showing his delicious sense of humour. He and Gillian travelled thousands of miles up and down the country to attend shows and both ran the longhair and other rings at the Supreme show with great efficiency. Bruce had an excellent memory especially for world history and had other interests besides the Cat Fancy which always made him an interesting person to talk to at any time. He loved his garden and made wonderful changes to it over the years as well as enjoying music and opera. Having travelled on numerous occasion with him and Gillian to distant cat shows from Scotland , we always had a pleasant journey home discussing the show day and the cats we had enjoyed judging. A garden centre visit was often an event to look forward to on the way home. I know that things will never be the same again now he is gone and on a personal level, I feel I have lost a true and very kind friend. The club is very much the poorer with the loss of his steadying influence on cat club business. The Cat Fancy too has lost a very special person, a judge with integrity, who was very fair, caring and a true gentleman and will be greatly missed by all.

The club sends condolences to Gillian, the family and friends.

Sharara Crichton
Chairman (Nor' East of Scotland Cat Club)

It is unusual for me to struggle to find words, but I am finding it very difficult to pen a tribute which does justice to my very good friend Bruce.

Suffice to say, he was one of life's true gentlemen, always courteous and measured in his approach, and often regarded by me as the voice of reason in so many potentially divisive debates.

Bruce had many talents – he loved his garden, opera and many kinds of music, had been a talented tennis player in his youth and had even performed in a Scottish Dancing group in front of the Queen Mother. He enjoyed skiing, travelling (there cannot be many countries he and Gillian haven't visited), good wine and good puddings!

As a judge, his approach was meticulous and thorough and his reports were a joy to read. I recall his description of a Siamese having "an expression like Madame Defarge at the guillotine" and another exhibit described as a "lissom youth"- his turn of phrase was enviable and always apt.

On a personal level, we enjoyed Bruce and Gillian's excellent and convivial company often on Friday evenings before a show and also on the couple of occasions they stayed with us here (I think my puddings passed muster!) Bruce and my Bull Terrier became something of a mutual admiration society and he always sent his regards to Florence in his emails. We spent a happy weekend at Harrogate Flower Show a couple of years ago, Bruce merrily stacking up plants he had bought in the Plant Creche as we progressed, almost filling the car as he and Gillian drove off next day towards Aberdeen.

I will miss Bruce more than words can say and will think of him often - in the words of Geoffrey Chaucer "he was a very parfit, gentil knight".

Nick and I send our love and condolences to Gillian, whose loss is immeasurable.

Janet Starr
GCCF Judge

The Officers and Committee of the Tabby Pointed Siamese Cat Society, were saddened to hear of the passing of Dr Bennett. He was a knowledgeable judge, and a true gentleman. Always happy to discuss cats with you, and share his knowledge. He often judged at our show, and was much in demand by many show managers. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his wife Gillian and family.

Lin Jones Hon. Sec. T.P.S.C.S.

What can I say that hasn't already been said by others , he was a first rate gentleman in all ways, always smiling and ready to talk to anyone who needed his assistance, I also feel for his widow, Gillian, words can never express how we feel about this gentle man whom we all loved RIP Bruce

Eileen Ridgeway and all the committee at The Tabby Pointed Siamese & Progressive Breeders Cat Club.

There is tremendous sadness in writing this little tribute to Bruce on behalf of the Edinburgh & East of Scotland Cat Club . His many virtues have already been most eloquently expressed by others but no account can be given to the loss which we all feel with the passing of a true gentleman . He had wit which made his show critiques a delight to read and always something kind to say about the cats he was judging . One could always be sure that if he was asked for help it would be given with knowledge and never any sign of impatience , even if he had had a long and tiring day judging .

At our last Show he gallantly stepped in to judge the Best in Shpw class even though he must have been longing to get off home because of exceptionally bad weather . A true gentleman and one whose like it will be a long time before we will see another to match him .

All of our thoughts are with Gilian at this sad time

**Isabel Walker
Chairman Edinburgh & East of Scotland Cat Club .**