

### **Jim Warrender**

It is with more sadness than I can ever express that I have to report the death this morning of my dear friend, right hand man and all round best mate Jim Warrender.

He always said I was the nearest he ever came to having a wife! Probably because I can be a bit of a nag and we were such close friends we were able to finish each other's sentences.

He tested positive for Covid on 28th March and had been struggling to recover since then, helped immensely by the constant caring support of Neil Porter.

I am so thankful I managed to visit him yesterday and we had an opportunity to have a good old natter and put the world to rights but I will miss him more than anyone will ever know.

### **Lynda Ashmore Yorkshire County Cat Club Chairman**

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I was so very sad to read of Jim's passing, he truly was a very lovely man. He had a smile that would light up the room and always had a hug for me.

When we used to take Luca to the shows with us, Jim would always come out to see him. Luca's obvious joy at seeing him was delightful and because Jim was at Luca's eye level it made the meetings even more happy!

I'll miss you Jim, you made cat shows a much nicer place. RIP my friend I'll look for you, shine bright.

### **Janet Wilshaw**

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I was extremely saddened to learn of the death of Jim Warrender yesterday. I got to know Jim, as most of us did, through cat shows and I loved his fabulous sense of humour and that oh so wicked grin that belied the gentleman he was. He always made my - and everyone's - days out at the Northern Birman Cat Club show so much fun and he adored my beloved Selkirk Rex pedigree pet Joshy and was as upset as the rest of us when Joshy passed away last year. He thoroughly enjoyed his day out at a local canal Christmas lunch cruise that I organised last December, travelling all the way from Sheffield for it, and I never dream that when we chatted at the Preston & Blackpool show just over a month ago, when he stewarded for Neil Porter, that it would be the last time I would ever see him. Jim was a character who was always smiling and always cheerful and he will be sorely missed. Sleep tight, my friend, and give Joshy a cuddle for me.

### **Carol Walker**

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I am absolutely heartbroken at losing a dear, dear friend. I have known Jim since he first started showing and breeding Birmans many decades ago. He has served the Birman Cat Club in so many capacities. He has been Chairman of the club, delegate to Council, on the Birman BAC, and I know he does the books for the club and for many other clubs. But his shining achievement occurred when he became the Show Manager for the Birman Cat Club Show, a post he held for many years. When I came over in 2019 to judge the Yorkshire/Cumberland/British SH combined shows, I stayed with Jim at his lovely home. We had a marvelous time reminiscing about the fancy in bygone years. He still had one Blue Birman spay, named Solo, from his last litter. Along with Neil Porter, we three spent many days together.

I was to stay with Jim when I come over in November to judge the Birman Show. Now that won't happen. I was to stay with Jim when I come over in March 2023 and February 2024 to judge a number of shows. Now that won't happen either. I will still come to judge all the shows I am committed to do, but will not have the pleasure of Jim's company and wonderful witty humour.

I am so grateful that I knew Jim. I had the greatest respect for him in so many ways. He was by far, the consummate gentleman, and a bright shining star in the Birman world and in GCCF in general. RIP dear friend.

**David Redtfeldt**  
**President of the Birman Cat Club**

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We were very saddened to learn that Jim Warrender had passed away. He was an ambassador for the Birman breed and devoted much of his time to the breed, welfare, clubs and the cat fancy in general. Many years as a committee member of the Birman Cat Club in various roles, for which we thank you. It was a honour and a pleasure to work with Jim on various occasions be it on the committee or at cat shows. He always supported everyone and both pedigree and HHP. Barney attended a couple of birman cat club shows on exhibition after he retired from showing and Jim always made sure he had a special rosette on his exhibition pen.

The last time we spoke was at the P&B show, who knew that this was to be for the last time. Will miss seeing you at shows. You were a true gentleman, your caring nature and wonderful smile will be deeply missed by all who knew you.

Rest in Peace dear friend xx

**Donna, John and Mary**  
**Brofield Birmans**

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Like so many people I am shocked and saddened by Jim's passing. I met Jim at my first cat show as a very nervous exhibitor. Together with another Birman breeder they showed me what to do and looked after me. I have never forgotten their kindness. Our paths crossed many times at shows and also at GCCF council meetings in London. I would join him outside at 'smokers corner' even though I do not smoke and we would put the world to rights. I loved his humour and cheeky glint in his eye when he smiled. One of the few people who could get away with calling me Maggie. I will miss you Jim. xx

**Margaret Lynch**

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It was with deep sadness that on the afternoon of 27 April I learned of Jim's death overnight, just before his birthday, having only in the last two weeks had the shock of hearing of his very recent attack of COVID-19 from which he was struggling to recover.

Jim was the best of good friends for many years, and a much valued Birman Cat Club colleague. I stayed with him many times with different cats in order to attend shows beyond my easy reach by train and he was so thoughtful and generous with his hospitality, and with his Christmas and birthday presents. I have happy memories of many convivial restaurant dinners and Sunday outings to historic houses and other Yorkshire/Derbyshire places of interest, nearly always in a companionable threesome with Neil Porter. Because of the pandemic I had already long been missing the good times of those weekend visits, and the pleasure of his smiling face awaiting my arrival on the platform at Sheffield station, and now they won't come again

Jim and Neil were familiar figures at cat shows around the country manning the distinctive Birman Cat Club stand, and this, coupled with the sourcing of attractive and useful Merchandise to sell, was another of the several jobs to which he gave his time and energy in the service of the Club.

Jim always loved my very special Seal Birman boy Sunny (UK & Imp Gr Pr Lingcomb Endymion) and was upset when I had to give him the news of his passing just a year ago. It was he who urged me to bring Sunny out of retirement when the Olympian title came in, saying he would be so happy to

welcome us and drive us to more distant shows, which he often did – what a kind and big-hearted gentleman!

Jim adored his cats, as we all do, and bred a good many lovely Birmans under his Tangletag prefix, notably his beloved stud boy UK Gr Ch Tangletag Sunset Glow ("George") and Gr Ch Tangletag Golden Girl owned by Tina Johnson, and it was such a pleasure to him when George was able to spend quality time with him indoors after being neutered. I do hope he is now reunited with George, Sonny, Tequi, Megan, Anna-May, Nipper, Pebbles and the others of his past Birman family.

Rest in peace, dear Jim, you are going to be so much missed by your many many friends in the cat world.

**Janet Osborn**  
**Lingcomb Birmans**  
**29 April 2022**

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Like many people, we were shocked to hear the sad news on Tuesday afternoon that Jim had passed away, somewhat unexpectedly. John and I have known Jim for many years, through all our connections with the Birman Cat Club, Northern Birman Cat Club and Yorkshire County Cat Club. We've all served the Clubs in various guises throughout a couple of decades or so (!), from Committee member, Chairman, to Secretary, to GCCF Delegates, to name just a few! Jim even stewarded for me on many occasions, when his slight stature could be very useful to manoeuvre his way into the back of a pen to persuade a shy exhibit to come out, but maybe not so great with a whopping weighty Maine Coon to lift!

When I was 'persuaded' to dip my toes into the show management role some years ago, Jim was not far behind to help out, offering wholehearted support whilst I was Show Manager for the Birman and the Northern Birman Clubs, sponsoring our 'dinner plate size' rosettes, bringing the merchandise stall with Neil to every show and just being there to do whatever was needed, whether that was ferrying judges, organising lunches, show paperwork, whatever! When I stepped away five years ago, Jim stepped into the role working together with the incorrigible Lynda Ashmore, a great double act! He carried on running the shows successfully right up until the recent Northern Birman show, which sadly he couldn't attend himself thanks to Covid.

Away from the world of cat shows and clubs, we enjoyed many riotous social occasions with other cat fancy friends, culminating in Jim joining John and I in owning shares in a racehorse.... We then enjoyed the thrills (and spills) in the owners enclosure, picking up winnings or drowning our sorrows. I'll leave you with one story that we laughed about on many later occasions.

Occasionally, racehorse trainers were allowed to take some of their charges to a racecourse after a meeting, to allow the youngsters to gain the experience, hopefully enjoying a canter around the course. The terminology used by trainers and jockeys would always include phrases such as "how did he travel", when the jockey would then relate how the horse behaved and how he'd handled the course. Jim once went to Ripon racecourse to watch our horse, "Riverdale" put through his paces. Work commitments meant I couldn't go, so sending Jim a text, hoped to hear good news about Riverdale setting the pace and coming past the imaginary post first! My words to Jim were "how did he travel", Jim's response was "in a horsebox....."

RIP Jim, I hope you're still laughing xx

**Elaine Culf**  
**President**  
**Northern Birman Cat Club**

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Steve and I were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Jim's death.

Having known Jim for decades, it seems unreal that we won't see him again. He was always there, doing something at every show, always around for a chat or if anyone needed help or advice.

I had been looking forward to a catch up and good gossip with him at the Northern Birman Show, as he was joint show manager but he was just too poorly to be there. I messaged him as soon as I got home to thank him for a lovely show to let him know that his show had gone well which he appreciated and we had a bit of a catch up by messaging.

Jim was one of life's "doers", always willing to help out, whether it was table work, stewarding, working behind the scenes or helping with club accounts and he was very well known and popular. He had an infectious smile, naughty twinkle to the eye and a wicked sense of humour. I think that he touched the heart of everyone who met him.

His ultimate love was for Birmans, but he loved all cats and had supported the Maine Coon Cat Club for many years, as a member, supporting rescue, working at the show and as the club's accounts auditor.

I will miss our chats, our time together, his invaluable advice and the laughs we had but I am so grateful to have had that time together. I have great memories of various Birman Cat Club post show dinners, and he was the one who encouraged me to go, some of the best events I have ever attended, a laugh a minute.

My love goes out to his nearest and dearest at this dreadfully sad time, especially Neil Porter and Lynda Ashmore. His passing leaves a huge hole but there is comfort in knowing that he was appreciated, respected and liked a great deal by so many people.

RIP Jim, you really were one in a million, small in stature but a heart the size of your beloved Yorkshire. Thank you for being a friend. I raise a glass to you and hope they serve whisky in heaven.

**Daphne Butters**

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The committee of the Cumberland Cat Club were saddened to learn of the passing of Jim Warrender. Whilst we knew he had been very unwell with Covid, it was devastating to hear the news yesterday morning.

For the last few years, Jim was the Treasurer of our club and an invaluable mentor and friend to the new committee. Always approachable and with a wicked sense of humour, it was no wonder why he had so many friends. Our condolences to all his family and friends.

He will always be in our thoughts. RIP Jim.

**Fiona McGlashan**  
**Cumberland Cat Club**  
**Acting Chair**