



GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

(Meeting of Full Council)

held on Wednesday, 22 October 2014 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London.



DRAFT

PRESENTED ACTION

C2015 WELCOME TO DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM

BY BY

CHAIR INFO

At 1.00pm prompt the Chairman welcomed 116 delegates, and thanked them for attending. All were reminded to address each other with consideration and without personal abuse. Judge names inadvertently missed from the Supplementary Agenda, but submitted in the required time, were given on behalf of the Asian, Birman and Turkish BACs. Kim Board-Allam, Margaret Gear, Joyce Higgins, John Pickford, Janet Sharrock, Frances Van Heuman, Hetty Van Winsen, and David Wilson were thought of in a moment of silence.

C2016 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CHAIR OFFICE

The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of Vice-Presidents Eric Wickham Ruffle and Brenda Wolstenholme, who had both sent good wishes for a successful meeting. (Other apologies received are recorded in the delegate attendance list following these minutes.)

C2017 THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

CHAIR INFO

The Chairman stated that he wanted this to be a regular feature of Council meetings as it would provide the opportunity to summarise key issues and keep Council better informed of the work that the Officers and Board were doing in the intervals between Council.

1. Management style

- 1.1 There would be fewer Board meeting to reduce costs, 7 or 8 maximum, rather than 11.
- 1.2 Projects would be delegated to working groups who would determine how to carry out the task, as specified on the Business Plan and present the Board with options for a resolution.
- 1.3 The groups would work to an agreed remit and given timelines.

2. Matters arising from the 2014 elections.

- 2.1 Details were given of the action taken by the Chairman to respond to a legal challenge, concerning the election outcomes, subsequent to delegates being given what was later acknowledged as inaccurate information.
- 2.2 He had received delegated authority from the Board to take advice from the GCCF's solicitor in order to do this, with the legal opinion being that neither the Chair, nor the Board, had the authority to overturn an election result. That prerogative was held by the Council.
- 2.3 Delegates had received information directly from those concerned, and there were still outstanding personal issues, although it was understood that GCCF would not be subject to further legal action.
- 2.4 However, the Chairman believed the way forward was to prevent anything of a similar nature occurring in the future and GCCF processes concerning elections, codes of conduct and disciplinary procedures would be reviewed to this purpose.
- 2.5 One step to be implemented with immediate effect was that all new proposals should be stated on the agenda. This prevented surprise action, and ensured clubs were not disenfranchised as committees required an opportunity to discuss such business in advance.

3. Cat Welfare Bill update

- 3.1 The Chairman reported that in discussion opinion amongst all groups was that the bill had very little chance of success. There was no parliamentary interest, and it was considered a poorly constructed piece of legislation.
- 3.2 The aim of Cats Protection, the charity sponsoring the bill was to put a curb on commercial breeding for profit in which very young kittens, often cross breeds and non-pedigrees, were sold on the internet for high prices. Some of these came to CP from their owners when they became sick, and the charity was also aware that breeders dumped unsold kittens when they lost the instant appeal of babyhood.

- 3.3 Unless pedigree breeders were acting in this irresponsible manner they were not the target of legislation, although it was acknowledged that if it had proceeded in the form put forward it would have affected them more than it would have impacted on those who operated solely as traders and kept no records.
- 3.4 A Working Party had now been established to look at ways to address the problems of exploitation through commercial breeding by self-regulation and existing legislation. The Chairman was a member, and stated his intention to ensure GCCF had a key role to play in determining outcomes.

4. Information from the GCCF Office

- 4.1 One member of staff had left for a new job, and another was on long term sick leave.
The Chairman thanked the remainder of the Office team for coping in difficult circumstances.
- 4.2 It was helping considerably to have a period before 10am without phone calls, and delegates were asked to pass on this information to their club committees and members.

C2018 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

CHAIR JL

1. The draft minutes of 25 June 2014 had been circulated. No amendments were made to the meeting record.
Majority approval. 2 abstentions.
2. There were no matters arising from these minutes. INFO

C2019 MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

INFO

1. Board of Directors 13 May, 3 June, 29 July 2014. No questions.
2. Finance Committee 18 April, 16 June 2014. No questions.

C2020 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Note: At the beginning of the meeting it was agreed that an observer at Council could assist the Office Manager in counting the votes received.

The election was staged in two parts. Delegates voted for one of eight candidates in the first round. They then chose from the two who polled the highest in the second ballot.

The result was:
Mrs Grace Denny 58
Mr Gordon Butler 56

(1 abstention, 1 spoiled paper)

There was a round of applause for the new president.

C2021 FINANCE

OFFICE INFO
MANAGER

1. Presentation of the Financial Report for the year to date

- 1.1 The financial picture for the GCCF had improved significantly in the second third of the year with income now very close to the equivalent period in 2013.
- 1.2 In the year to August 2014 this was in large part due to income from the Agria partnership, which had matured well, compensating for registrations being a fraction below the 2013 level.
- 1.3 Savings procured by the management had meant a notable 5% drop in expenditure resulting in a healthy surplus to date.
- 1.4 The OM concluded by stating that further good news not shown in the reports of this meeting was that registration and all transaction volumes were at their highest level for 2014 in September. The financial trend was therefore likely to continue to be very positive on completion of the September accounts.

2. Presentation of volume figures for core business to date

These were presented to delegates to accompany the income and expenditure detail, and confirmed the growth in core business since the June Council meeting.

3. Detailed remit of the Finance Committee

CHAIR OFFICE

3.1 The Chairman explained the importance of having a clear remit that defined the activities of this standing committee with their expected outcomes. As the Finance Committee was a standing committee elected by Council it was for Council to endorse it.

3.2 It was noted that one key task (income and expenditure policy) needed to be added from the general section to the tasks and actions list.

3.3 There was a query on who should be advising on investments.

**Action: The remit to be amended to satisfy 3.2
An investment adviser to be determined**

**SC
SC**

C2022 BUSINESS MATTERS

CHAIR INFO

1. Update on business progress according to the Business Plan

- 1.1 The Business Plan was published with the Council paperwork showing clearly that several projects had not been started and others were only partly completed.
- 1.2 The Chairman explained that for the past three years he had drawn up the plan and included all the ideas he could think of, knowing that many would be aspirational only.
- 1.3 In future it was to be constructed differently, setting more realistic targets for project completion. It was also the intention to involve the Board in its drafting to spread responsibility, and aim for greater commitment to achievement.

2. The 2015 Business Plan & Growth Accelerator Project

CHAIR INFO

- 2.1 On 28 October the Board would meet with its business coach, Philip Cox Hynd, and project manager, Lorraine Frost. It was expected that their tutelage would assist with the foundation stages of the 2015 Business Plan.
- 2.2 It would be drafted for Board input by the end of year and published early in the new year on the website for general comment.
- 2.3 The Growth Accelerator Project would assist Office staff as they would have access to training workshops.

3. The new website

CHAIR INFO

- 3.1 The webmaster was unable to be present to give the planned presentation therefore the Chairman reported that professional assistance had been required to complete the structure and secure the interface with the new computer system. Digital Trading Creative doing were this work.
- 3.2 Mrs Fisher had received some training and she and other volunteers would populate the site.
- 3.3 The launch was planned for the Supreme.

4. Breeder Scheme report

CHAIR INFO

- 4.1 The Scheme had maintained membership, but it was hoped it would grow when more benefits could be offered.
- 4.2 It was hoped it would be given further publicity via the Your Cat website if a sponsorship deal being discussed with Agria came to fruition
- 4.3 Integration with the GCCF website was planned. This would enable breeders to upload their own kitten availability details, and advertise stud services.

5. Partnership information

CHAIR INFO

- 5.1 Just over £15,500 had been earned this year from the Agria contract, a significant contribution to GCCF's income. There were ongoing discussions for some Breeder Scheme support, and the company was taking a more active role in the Supreme this year.
- 5.2 There were discussions taking place currently with Royal Canin with the intention of entering an agreement with them. Further details would be given once the contract had been signed.
- 5.3 The relationship with the cat magazines was good, with well established contact with the editors.

C2023 IT REFRESH PROJECT

1. Update on online services

SRO INFO

1. The Project Manager reported that only one major development was outstanding, and it was planned to make breeder pedigrees available at the end of November.
- 1.2 Other than that bug fixing and troubleshooting would continue to keep the existing system operating as smoothly as possible for users, but there would be no further upgrades as it was anticipated that it would be redundant within the next twelve months.

2. Project Phoenix Report

SRO INFO

- 2.1 The contract had been signed with Digital Trading Creative and work on the new system had begun in September.

- 2.2 As it was such a large a large and complex project it had been broken into six modules, each requiring design, coding, testing and review. Eventually they would be integrated and the complete system would be tested with small, then large volume activity, and by that point staff training would have begun.
- 2.3 The most difficult module would be the fourth which would implement the BAC registration policies. Planning and design would be ongoing throughout November.
- 2.4 Overall 9 months had been allowed for the project, but it was impossible to give a completion date date at this early stage. Once into the testing phase prediction would be more accurate.

C2024 RULE CHANGES

CHAIR OFFICE

Deletions shown ~~thus~~, additions shown **thus**

1. Section 1:4 Age Limits

Deletion of the existing rule in its entirety. Replacement with:

Applications to register will be accepted for kittens once they are a month old. Thereafter, an application for non-active registration may be made for a cat of any age, but dispensation from the Board of Directors will be required if a cat over two years is to be on the active register. A brief explanation of why the cat is required for breeding should be sent to the GCCF Office with the registration application.

An addition to 1:1e

Dispensation from the Board of Directors will be required if a cat over two years is to be on the active register (see rule 1:4 age limits). Majority approval, 1 abstention.

2. Section 1:33 & 1:47 timing of breed promotion (same revision to both rules)

Delete: no less than four calendar months from the date of the meeting

Replace with: **for inclusion in schedules at shows whose closing dates have not yet passed, with the agreement of the show manager, but no later than 4 calendar months after the date of the meeting.** Unanimous approval

3. Section 1 Rule updates

a. 1: 19b, 20a, 23, 24f, 25, 26, 34, 38,43 & 48 include **electronic copy may be provided by prior arrangement** as at rule 1: 31.

b. Deletion of rules 1:24c, d, e as they apply to Provisional Recognition.

c. Correction to the heading above rule 1:46 to **Championship Status for** Unanimous approval

4. Section 3:9c in conjunction with an addition to Section 4:4 c, 5:4c & to note 2 on Rejection at Shows

The rule was withdrawn as the wording at 3.9c was not liked although the additions were.

Action: to be returned for further Board discussion.

J L

5. Section 4:7 To include cats from the same household present at other shows if an exhibit is rejected under Sections B, C or D of the veterinary rejection form before or during a show.

An exhibitor must declare to the Duty Vet if an exhibit(s) from the same household is/are present at any other show(s) on the same day, and take action to ensure their withdrawal when rejected under Section C or D. For rejections under Section B the exhibitor must take action to ensure that cats at any other show(s) are subjected to an examination of the ears by the duty vet of that show in accordance with the Notes on Rejection at Shows .

Majority approval, 9 against, 12 abstentions.

6. Section 4:30 To ensure the reporting of unacceptable or aggressive behaviour

All persons using the show hall or any areas used in conjunction with the show must note that unacceptable or aggressive behaviour towards any Show Official, Judge, Steward or any other person WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Any such behaviour will ~~will~~ may result in the removal of those responsible (and their cats (if appropriate) from the show venue. This behaviour may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action by GCCF. The Show Manager is to inform the GCCF Investigation Committee of any such behaviour within 5 days of the show, giving the relevant facts in writing, and must also inform the person concerned that this action has been taken, and draw their attention to the provisions of this rule. (A form is to be provided for use by Show Managers)

Majority approval, 5 abstentions.

7. Notes on rejection at shows: Note 5

All cats owned by the exhibitor and/or living at the same address must be examined by a veterinary surgeon NOT LESS THAN SEVEN after the show and certified free of the symptoms for which they were rejected..

The exhibit must be examined by a veterinary surgeon NOT LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS after the show and certified free of the symptoms for which it was rejected or ANY OTHER signs of infectious disease, using the clearance form which, together with the rejection form, must then be sent to the GCCF Office. If the exhibit requires treatment for any infectious disease then all cats owned by the exhibitor and/or living at the same address must be examined by a veterinary surgeon and the clearance form signed when all can be certified free of symptoms of the infection. **Unanimous approval**

NB. All rule changes are with immediate effect although implementation of 5, 6 & 7 will be dependent on Show Managers receiving updated paperwork currently in preparation.

C2025 REVISIONS TO THE BAC JUDGE APPOINTMENT SCHEME

1. Amendments to 16dv) and 24q) revised the method of veterinary assessments for candidates, and clarified that only one successful assessment was required. This was to be retained by the GCCF Guild of Judges and Stewards for future reference.

There was a query on the Guild fulfilling this function and agreement that this would be discussed by the Board.

Unanimous approval

2. Minor updates to practice and terminology.

Unanimous approval

3. Amendment to 2b) to facilitate the merge of the Ocicat and Ocicat Classic lists.

Unanimous approval

Action: the updated scheme to be on the GCCF and Judges' Guild websites and circulated to BAC Secretaries.

J L

4. The transitional arrangements for judges and candidates currently on one list and wishing to cover both were presented by the Ocicat & Ocicat Classic BAC.

Unanimous approval

C2026 SHOW MATTERS

1. Report from the Supreme Show Manager

SSM INFO

1.1 Celia Leighton reported a total of 894 cats were scheduled to be present which was an increase on the number for 2013. Entries had been taken until 7 October 2014.

1.2 More stalls were booked and the advance gate takings were also greater than the previous year, and some additional sponsorship had been acquired.

1.3 Advance publicity was planned with a feature in Your-Cat magazine, and inclusion in a TV show to be broadcast on the Sunday before the show.

1.4 It was hoped there would be some TV filming on the day, but the Show Manager promised some small changes that she wished to keep as a surprise for the occasion.

2. Initial Report from the Show Structure Review Group

VICE INFO

2.1 Keith Scruton thanked those who had participated in the group, and those who had volunteered to do so, and all who had contributed via social media links.

CHAIR

2.2 He reported the matters the group had examined. The final decision on what was included would depend what was liked, and if it was considered practical to adapt into the GCCF format.

2.3 Show managers were reminded there were no rules binding them rigidly to one set of procedures, and there was comment from the floor that there should be no change to the degree of flexibility that existed, as SMs were best placed to know what made a show successful for their area or breed(s).

2.4 The suggestion that exhibitors who registered with other organisations, and wished to try GCCF shows, should be able to do so without having to register met with approval, though for title claims in the pedigree or HHP sections registrations would be a requirement.

2.5 There were mixed views from delegates on the BOB award ideas, ranging from no change at all, to wanting a new form of breed promotional competition. The Review Group would have to provide a clear set of proposals for assessment of the practicalities.

2.6 It was requested that the rationale for each change to the show structure should be stated with each proposal made, and that benchmarks were made so that effectiveness could be measured. The Vice-Chairman acknowledged this, giving an assurance there were currently no fixed decisions and the review would continue.

Action: Group meeting in December, and first proposals to Council in February. **KS**

3. Proposals from the National Cat Club concerning future Supreme Shows

a) **No hall contract to be entered into for the 2015 Show, any existing to be cancelled.**

The Chairman stated that as no booking for the 2015 Supreme show existed at present it was unnecessary for a vote to be taken in this respect.

INFO

b) **No future Supreme Shows to be arranged without sponsorship to guarantee losses**

Mr Pike spoke on behalf of the NCC expressing concern for cumulative losses of the Supreme Show over recent years, stressing that if these continued through holding the show in its present format at the NEC it could put GCCF's viability at risk.

An alternative viewpoint was that it was the difference in this event from club shows, and the prestigious location that attracted public and media interest in pedigree cats. Therefore if financial support was necessary it should be considered as beneficial to all breeders and exhibitors.

Proposal not carried.

3 in favour, 12 abstentions

C2027 JUDGES

1. JUDGES FOR APPROVAL

Asian BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Ms Kaye Wilson Mr Keith Scruton
Birman BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs Lynn Fryer
Cornish Rex BAC	Probationer Judge One year's extension to October 2015: Mr Ian Macro	Mrs Janet Tonkinson
Devon Rex BAC	Full Judge	Mrs Sandra Woodley
Egyptian Mau BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs Perri Mansaray Mr Stephen McConnell
Korat & Thai BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs Dorothy Stone Mrs Naomi Johnson
LaPerm BAC	Probationer Judge	Ms Maggie Birchall Mr Ian Macro
Maine Coon BAC	Full Judge	Mr Gerald Martin
Norwegian Forest BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mr Steve Crow Mrs Lynn Fryer Ms Carole Gainsbury Mrs Sharara Crichton Mr John Trotter
Oriental Bicolour BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs Sally Tokens Mr Ross Davies
Oriental Joint BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs Joan Smith (Oriental Non-Self) Mr Peter Williams (Oriental Self)
Persian LH BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs D Brown
Ragdoll BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs Sharara Crichton Mrs Lynn Fryer
Ragamuffin BAC	Full Judge	Mrs Wendy McQuilkin Mrs Linda Dutton
Russian BAC	Full Judge	Ms Elisabeth Stark
Selkirk Rex BAC	Full Judge	Mrs Rosemary Fisher

BACs JL

	Probationer Judge	Ms Maggie Birchall Mr I Macro	
Siberian BAC	Full Judge Probationer Judge	Mrs A Ivinson Mrs Linda Dutton Ms Carole Gainsbury	
Singapura BAC	Full Judge	Mrs Marlene Buckeridge Mrs Michele Codd Mrs Sylvia Rose	
	One year's extension to October 2015:	Mrs Perri Mansaray	
Somali BAC	Full Judge	Mrs Lynn Fryer	
	One year's extension to October 2015:	Mrs Val Anderson	
Sphynx BAC	Probationer Judge	Mr Ian Macro	
Tonkinese BAC	Probationer Judge	Mrs Perri Mansaray	
Turkish BAC	Full Judge	Mr J Cohen	
			Unanimous approval

2. **JUDGE WITHDRAWALS/REMOVALS**

Miss K Sargent from the Birman list
Mr S Nash-Morris from the Burmese list
Mrs J Cunningham from the Cornish Rex list
Mrs D Burke from the Korat & Thai list

C2028 REVISED REGISTRATION POLICIES

1. **Ocicat:** changes to bring the policy in line with that for the Ocicat Classic. **Unanimous approval**

C2029 REVISED STANDARD OF POINTS

BAC J L

1. **Russian:** comprehensive revision **Unanimous approval**
2. **Egyptian Mau:** minor changes to the descriptions of eye colour and profile **Unanimous approval**

C2030 APPLICATION FOR BREED PROMOTION

1. **Ticked British Shorthair:** promotion to Championship Status was approved **BSGC OFFICE**
Effective for shows still open at the discretion of the SM. **Unanimous approval**

C2031 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Application for Full Membership from the Australian Mist Cat Society
Majority approval, 1 against 1 abstention.
2. Application for Full Membership from the Burmese Cat Association
Majority approval, 3 against 1 abstention.
3. Council was informed of Board approval for Provisional Membership from the:
a) the Ocicat & Ocicat Classic Association b) the Egyptian Mau Society INFO

C2032 HOUSEHOLD PETS

1. **Mandatory registration for titles to be claimed**
There was approval in principle for this action which would not be practical until late in 2015 once the new computer system was in operation. However, now that it was clear Council would support the action it could be planned for within the operational design. INFO
2. **HHP Code of Conduct**
This would return to the Council agenda of February 2015. INFO

C2033 DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Vaccination should be by rule rather than by recommendation IC INFO

Dr Gillian Bennett explained that it would be simpler if there was a rule relating to vaccination at the time kittens were sold. IC received frequent complaints about kittens becoming sick shortly after they were in their new home and usually they were unvaccinated. It would provide clarity on what to expect for buyer and seller, and make it easier for fixed penalties to be introduced in connection with this, but could be worded to allow for exceptional circumstances.

Concern was expressed by some delegates about the timing of vaccinations and the move to a new home, but overall there were very few negative comments.

Action: IC to formulate a rule change for Council consideration. GB

2. Rebranding - a name change for the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

The Chairman reported that in the course of business discussions with commercial partners, business advisers and feline charities, the full name of GCCF had often been the subject of negative comment. It was deemed as old fashioned and not particularly associated with the services and type of business GCCF wished to promote.

There was little support for the idea from delegates. Several remarked that the problem was due to lack of adequate promotion, rather than with the name itself, and this could be solved by more effective future marketing. The name had been retained when the organisation became a company and there was no desire for change at this time.

INFO

C2034 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

INFO

1. There was reference to the fact that apologies were expressed which meant that cases that were to be presented to the Disciplinary Committee were not heard. A delegate asked whether this set a precedent for the future. The Chairman reminded Council that a review of the disciplinary process was ongoing, but did not feel that anything had been changed by recent events. In certain circumstances, if a relevant apology was offered by a defendant, and deemed acceptable, it could be considered appropriate for IC to withdraw the case.

2. There was a suggestion that there should be an area of the GCCF website that contained information to assist clubs in difficulties. The Chairman agreed this should be referred to the Board.

Action: to be on the agenda for a future Board meeting. JL

C2035 NEXT MEETING

A General Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 18 February 2015 in the Conway Hall, Holborn, London at 1pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.48pm

signed.....

date.....

Chairman