

THE BIRMAN CAT CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at St Augustine's Church Hall, Solihull.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman thanked the members for coming and asked for one minutes silence to remember Molly Perchard.

2. Apologies for Absence

127 apologies had been received.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 19th April 2011

Acceptance was proposed by Wendy McQuilkin and seconded by John Culf. All were in favour.

4. Matters Arising

Item (6) Loan to GCCF . Heather Horton asked if the loan had been made. Jim Warrender replied it had and was shown in the Club accounts that had been circulated.

Item (20) Welfare & Rescue Report. Viv Green pointed out that it was Ken Green who sold the raffle tickets and not herself. Apologies were offered by Bob Semos and Angie Walker for members.

5. Secretary's Report

The report had been circulated. No questions were offered. Report received by the AGM.

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts had been circulated. Jim Warrender gave a brief breakdown of both the club and show accounts. Concluding that the deficit in the show account had been reduced and the reserves in the club account had increased, it was a very positive year financially.

He also discussed the profit/cost of producing the club calendar as requested at last year's AGM by Heather Horton. The outcome being that the Club makes a reasonable profit from the sales.

i) Approval of accounts 2011

Proposed by Angie Walker, seconded by Val Kilby. All were in favour.

ii) Appointment of Examiner

All were in agreement for the present examiner, Mr. C Todd, to continue.

Proposed Viv Lee, seconded Kathryn Robson. All were in favour.

7. Review of Gifts

A discussion was held as to what the "gifts" were and who received them. It was felt that those who work for the club should accept their gifts as a Thank You for all the work they put in throughout the year. Bob Semos asked that it was minuted that this would be discussed by the Committee at their next meeting.

The Committee proposed no changes in the value of the gifts.

Proposed by John Culf, seconded Tina Mason. All were in favour

8. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary's report was circulated. Neil Porter addressed the meeting reporting a slow decline in figures mainly due to members reaching life membership status. Renewals were still being received. Neil Porter asked members that attended shows to encourage fellow exhibitors to join the Birman Cat Club. The question was raised regarding lapsed membership renewal. Neil Porter explained that generally if a membership had lapsed for a period of a year, they would have to apply to rejoin.

Bob Semos thanked Neil Porter for all his work throughout the year.

9. Review of Annual Subscriptions

The Committee recommended no change. Proposed by Tina Mason and seconded by Jenny Veal. All were in favour.

10. Confirmation of Officers & Committee Members for the Forthcoming Year.

The officers were confirmed as:

Chairman - Mrs. E Culf
Vice Chairman - Mrs. A Madden
Secretary Mrs. A Walker
Treasurer Mr. J Warrender

Committee members:

Mrs. V Kilby
Mrs. P Knight
Mrs. W McQuilkin
Mrs. S Wilson
Mrs. M Harte
Mrs. S Ensor
Mrs. N Fenwick-Raven
Mrs. P Williams
Mr. Neil Porter
Mr. P Madden

Mrs. Elaine Culf took over the Chair.

11. Rule Changes

i) Removal of Rule 2(f) and Rule 4 (d)

A discussion took place. The Committee proposed the rules were removed. The vote was all in favour.
The rules were removed

ii) Removal of Rule 2(0)

The Committee explained the reasons for the proposed removal. There was a lengthy discussion with strong views for and against. A vote was taken; for 28, against 9, abstentions 5

The result was more than a two thirds majority in favour of the removal of Rule 2(0)

The rule was removed

Elaine Culf said thought would be put into supplying "kitten packs" to new prefix owners.

iii) Rule 2 (j) removal of word "Honorary" and Rule 7 (Committee meetings) Removal of words "ordinary".

Rule now to read, "Every Committee member present at a meeting shall have one vote excluding the presiding Officer" The vote was all in favour of the rule changes . The Rules were changed.

12. Variation of Officers' Terms of Office

The committee felt that the terms of Chair and Vice Chair and likewise Secretary and Treasurer should not expire in the same year and so requested the AGM agreed to non compliance to rule 2b. The Chairman at this AGM shall serve for a period of 2 years and to elect the Secretary at the 2013 AGM for a period of 2 years.

Committee proposed the changes. The vote was all in favour.

13. Election of GCCF Delegates

The delegates for the forthcoming year were proposed as:

Mrs. E Culf

Mrs. V Kilby

Mr. J Warrender

Reserves: Mr. P Madden and Mr. N Porter

All were in favour

14. i) Election of Show Cup Secretaries

The Committee recommends Mrs. M Harte. All were in favour

ii) AGM Cup Secretaries

The Committee recommends Mrs. J Morton with Mrs. W McQuilkin as her assistant. All were in favour.

iii) Show Support Secretary

It was proposed that Mrs. Semos continue with the position and was accepted.

iv) Membership Secretary

It was proposed that Mr. Porter continue with the position and was accepted

15. Breed Advisory Committee

A report had been circulated. Val Kilby informed the AGM that the breed policy had almost been finalised and should be ready to go to Governing Council at their next meeting.

Marcia Owen requested it should be available for members to comment on prior to approval of Governing Council. Mrs. Culf stated that it would be available on the Club website in due course and could be emailed to members. Mrs. Kilby said there would be a copy available for viewing at the break. Mrs. Kilby mentioned that the policy was finalised at the February meeting.

There was a discussion regarding white spotting on the genital area of male/female cats, as requested by the BAC. Mrs. Kilby said that, traditionally, judges had ignored this in otherwise good cats. The question was asked as to whether the members would be happy for this to continue or would they'd prefer it to be considered a fault in the Standard of Points. Dr. Kathryn Robson told the meeting that it is a withholding point in Switzerland and had resulted in cats having the white hairs "plucked". A lengthy discussion took place followed by a vote.

The meeting voted "All in favour" of recommending that white spotting in the genital areas of male/female cats should NOT be a withholding fault. Our decision will be passed on to the BAC.

i) Confirmation of Club Representatives

It was proposed that the delegates for the forthcoming year will be Mrs. Kilby, Mrs. Culf and Mr. Warrender with Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Walker as reserves. All were in favour.

Elaine Culf thanked Dr. Kathryn Robson for her many years of service to the club, stepping into the role when there were no volunteers within the Committee. Dr. Robson was presented with a gift by way of thanks and appreciation.

16. Merchandise Report

Jim Warrender reported that it had been a very good year. They had the best Supreme for years and a very good Birman Show. They had a number of new items for stocking fillers at Christmas.

The calendars had completely sold out. New items have been ordered including; clothing, cat beds, and igloos. Shows had been booked for 2012.

17. Kitten Register

Report circulated. Nicki Fenwick-Raven was unable to attend the meeting. Comments were made stating how good the new system was. A request was made for applications to be sent via email with no signature. It was explained that the signature was to cover all involved and a confirmation that the facts are correct.

It was requested that forms could be signed and scanned to Nicki Fenwick-Raven. Elaine Culf said the request would be forwarded to her.

Patsy Knight reiterated how important it was to have the correct information and it only cost the price of a second class stamp.

18. Show 2011

Mrs. Culf said the show had 148 entries, the most since 2005 and, thanks to sponsorship for classes and rosettes and the raffle etc, made a profit. Mrs. Culf thanked everyone for their support which helped make such a successful show. Thanks went to Mick Bridge for the photos. Mrs. Culf asked if anyone had any comments. All were very positive and everyone had enjoyed themselves in the lovely atmosphere.

Mrs. Culf promised the same again for the 2012 show and hoped the support would be there again to help make this a fantastic day. There will be no change in show entry fees.

Break for Refreshments

19. Dinner 2011 and 2012

The dinner was a great success with a really good atmosphere helped by the fancy dress.

Dinner 2012 will be at the same venue with no price increase. Tickets are now on sale.

The theme will be a Caribbean Cruise, ""What were you doing when we reached Jamaica"

20. GCCF Delegates Report

A report had been circulated. There were no questions offered.

With regards to the GCCF loan: Mrs. Culf informed the meeting that there were two clubs that were acting as representatives of all the clubs should anything go wrong; the Burmese Cat Club and the Yorkshire Cat Club. Mrs. Culf also reported there was a charge going on the GCCF building.

21. Members Questionnaire

The Questionnaire had been sent out with all AGM papers. There had only been 30 responses.

- i) Loyalty points scheme - 22 in favour 4 against
- ii) Breeder discount scheme - 22 in favour 9 against
- iii) Life Membership - 18 in favour writing to all life members to ask if they still wanted to receive notifications, with 6 people against the voluntary donation of £5.
- iv) Seminars - 12 in favour of holding them, 3 against
- v) Website - members would like a forum and more information

An extensive discussion took place regarding all comments on the Questionnaire.

Jim Warrender and Angie Walker spoke about the loyalty point"s scheme and explained how it could work. Linda Russell put forward benefits for the breeders" scheme proposal.

There was a general interest in Seminars particularly on the topic of health issues, showing and breeding, FIP and blood testing to name a few. Mrs. Culf said she hoped that something could be held at the show.

The date and venue for the show was discussed especially the fact that it is held close to Bonfire night. This would be considered, if possible, with the GCCF.

The possibility of a back to back show with the South and Southern Birman Cat Club was discussed. After a discussion this was put to the vote, Result - all against a back to back show with any other Cat Club for the foreseeable future.

It was agreed to extend the date for return to the end of May 2012. The Committee will meet and decide how to implement the comments made.

22. Magazine 2012 and draw for 2013 Calendar

Janet Osborne informed the meeting that the Magazine is now being printed by the original printers due to obtaining a good price.

The places for the 2013 calendar were drawn:

January	Elizabeth Scott
February	Vivian Green
March	Janet Francis
April	Ian & Sharron Kay
May	Angie Walker
June	Eileen Goldsmith
July	Ben Delo & Megan Beynon

August	Claire Cahill
September	Dawn & Alan Brown
October	Julia Morton
November	Jenny Nutley
December	Ron Mlynek and Dennis Hayward
January 2014	Nick & Simone Ensor
Front Cover	To Be Arranged

23. Welfare & Rescue Report

A report had been circulated. Angie Walker thanked everyone for their help and support especially the team without whom she could not work.

Elaine Culf, on behalf of all present, thanked Angie and her team for their work.

24. Cup Secretaries' reports

i) **AGM**

Mrs. Allen was disappointed that a lot of cups had not been returned which resulted in winners not having trophies to collect .

ii) **Show**

A report had been circulated.

Mrs. Culf thanked Bob & Morwenna Semos and Nick & Simone Ensor for their work on the Show trophy table.

25. Show Support Secretary's report

A report had been circulated

26. Trophy Presentation

Bob Semos was invited to present the trophies as Joyce Price was too ill to attend.

Elaine Culf presented flowers to Sue Allen and Niccola Bailey as a token of thanks.

27. Any Other Business

i) Anthony McGenn suggested members paid a deposit when collecting AGM trophy's which could be refunded when the trophy is returned.

ii) Julia Morton asked why a member's name had been removed from the website suspension page also if the Club intended to continue with the page. Elaine Culf informed her name had been removed as the person is a former member and the page would be used should the occasion arise in the future.

iii) Elaine Culf presented a token to Marcia Owen and Ray Wigley and thanked them for their contributions to the Club.

iv) Elaine Culf presented Bob and Morwenna Semos with a gift and thanked them for their services to the Club and Committee.

28. Date of 2013 AGM

The date was set for the 28th April 2013. Venue to be arranged.

29. Closing by Chairman

Elaine Culf thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.