

THE BIRMAN CAT CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2013 at the Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed members and asked for a minute's silence for members who had passed away, Don Robinson, Pat Sandford and Pat Morrissey.

Congratulations were offered to Jean Wormald on the Gold Olympian title for Danleigh Starburst the day before.

2. Apologies for absence

Members were asked to ensure any apologies were noted on the list in the foyer

3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd April 2012 (circulated)

The Minutes were signed with one alteration. **Item 20** – Amend to Yorkshire County Cat Club **Proposed by Dr Robson, seconded by Mrs Davies** with all in favour

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

Mrs Knight reported that she had been the Acting Secretary for the last four months and had dealt with the business of the club and GCCF and also organized the meeting today. Mrs Kilby offered a vote of thanks for her taking over.

6. Treasurer's Report

i) Approval of accounts 2010

Mr Warrender reported that the members had the accounts. He reported that subscriptions were down, merchandise profit is up slightly, the stud list was down but due to having more than one year's payments in the previous year, the breeders register is reasonably static, the raffle was up and down. We did a seminar with the Birman Rescue and made a profit of £82 each. However the income of the club was down from £11146 to £9782. As far as the expenditure is concerned, the stationery goes up every year as well as the cost of postage which has gone up sharply. Last year we cut down the AGM expenses as Michelle Hart did the printing and along with Mrs Walker, Mr Porter and Mr Warrender doing the envelope stuffing, so did manage to cut the expenses down from £854 to £436 and we are hoping this year will be a similar amount. The magazine costs are slightly up, advertising was slightly down. Committee meetings didn't all fall into the right year showing an increase. The BAC levy is constant at the moment, GCCF Delegates expenses are slightly up, the affiliation fee is more as that has now gone up to 30p per member and £35 for a delegate. Stall hire was virtually the same, rosettes are up, and the honorarium was £200. The expenses of the club went up from £9,500 to £10,000 which resulted in a loss for the year of £410 which Mr Warrender was not unduly worried about as there were quite a few items that should have been in the previous year.

Regarding the show, the entries were disappointing and the total income went down from £5900 to £5100 and the expenses went down from £5500 to £5000 so we went from a profit of £411 to a profit of £68 which is always a bonus these days.

The balance sheets shows fixed assets of £7, which is the presentation board.

We had £9998 in the bank, the show account £521, along with Paypal.

The Stock has gone up as we now have more lines.

There is still £1000 loaned to the GCCF.

Our assets were £15986, liabilities of £2006 which was mainly because we didn't get the bill for the winter magazine until the year end, so the net worth of the club to 1st December was £13389.

The accounts were accepted, **proposed by Dr Robson and seconded by Mrs Green.**

ii) Appointment of Examiner

It was agreed to remain with the same examiner. **Proposed by Mr Baxter, seconded by Mrs Madden.**

7. **Review of Gifts**
We had several retiring members this year and had hoped to have gifts to present to them, but they have gone astray in the post. The will be posted out on receipt.
8. **Membership Secretary's Report**
The membership currently stands at 753 which seems to have stopped going down so quickly. We did get quite a few new members last year, and it got better after June, thanks to referring members, following the introducing of the Incentive Scheme. The renewal period is busy and Mr Porter was still getting renewals this week.
There was a debate last year regarding members achieving the 21 years membership. This year there are only 2, next year 6 and in 2015 is only 1. The numbers are now started to drop.
The committee recommends that Neil Porter continues as Membership Secretary and Mrs Ensor has agreed to be an Assistant.
9. **Review of Annual subscriptions.**
The Committee recommends no increase for the coming year.
10. **Confirmation of Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year**
We have had several retiring and resigning committee members: Mrs Culf, Mrs Fenwick-Raven (though she will remain the Kitten Register Organiser), Mrs Harte, Mrs Walker and Mrs Wilson. Elected officers for the forthcoming year are:
President – Mrs J Price –for 3 years
Chairman – Mrs V Kilby – for 1 year
Hon Secretary – Mr N Porter – for 2 years
Treasurer – Mr J Warrender – for 3 years
All positions have been nominated by the committee
The ordinary members of the committee elected for 3 years are:
Miss Collings, Mrs Ensor, Mrs Owen and Lady Saye along with a newly co-opted member this morning, Mrs Johnson.
The serving committee members at present are
Vice Chairman – Mrs Madden
Ordinary members are: Mr Madden, Mrs McQuilkin, Mrs Williams and Mr Porter.
There are still 3 vacancies for ordinary members on the committee so the members were asked if anyone is interested in being co-opted.
The membership approved all the appointments.
11. **Rule Changes:**
Rule 7 (Committee meetings). **The Quorum for committee meetings shall be eight (8) of which two (2) of those present shall be officers.**
It was reported that we are short of committee at the moment. As there are only 13 at the present time, it can be difficult to get a quorum so the members were asked for permission to change it to 8 to make it two thirds of the committee. All were in favour.
12. **Variation of Officers' terms of office** (as per changes approved last year) the Chairman was elected for two years in 2012 and the Secretary will be elected for two years from 2013.
This is a statement to remind members that were approved last year to ensure continuity.
13. **Election of GCCF Delegates**
These were reported as Mr Porter, Mr Warrender and Mrs Kilby with Reserves as Lady Saye and Mrs Williams. All were in favour.
14. **Election of:**
i) **Show Cup Secretary**

It was reported that Mr & Mrs Semos have decided to retire from the position so the meeting was asked if there was anyone willing to take on the show trophies.

ii) **AGM Cup Secretary**

The Committee recommend Wendy McQuilkin continues assisted by Julia Morton.

iii) **Show Support Secretary**

The Committee recommend Morwenna Semos continues

15.

Breed Advisory Committee

It was reported that there had been two meetings during the year, with no new judges put forward either as full or probationer judges. The probationers currently on the scheme have been monitored and advised accordingly. The current probationers are Val Anderson, Alison Lyall, Susan Luxford-Watts, John Hansson, Pat Perkins and Karen Sargent but no reports have been received from the latter for over a year.

All the participant clubs agreed to additional wording to the standard of points. Last year, the AGM discussed white spotting in the genital area and the standard of points has been changed to read 'spots or patches of white, excluding gloves and gauntlets, appearing anywhere on the body, particularly the chin and chest with the exception of the fur in the immediate area around the penis or vulva' and this was approved in February this year. This means that judges shouldn't be penalizing cats that have the little white spots in those areas.

A discussion on nose bumps had taken place but it was felt that this should not be made another fault in the standard of points.

The club representatives for the forthcoming year are Mrs McQuilkin, Mr Warrender and Mrs Kilby. It was noted that Mrs Knight is the Treasurer. All were in favour.

16.

Merchandise Report

Mr Warrender reported that it has been a good year and we have bought in some new lines and some were on display on the table. The glassware is not yet for sale, as we have only just got the samples. There were show bags, rucksacks, bum bags and water carriers. Some items will be discontinued and there will be a sale table at the club show. During the year we lost our china supplier but we have now found another one doing it for the same price. We have changed how we post items in that we are no longer using Royal Mail as they are now so expensive. We have now opened an account with a courier which is working out cheaper. We will be taking tables at the Lakeland, Humberside and Lincolnshire, Wiltshire, Teesside, Birman and the Supreme shows. Mrs Horton offered a vote of thanks to Mr Warrender and Mr Porter going out to the shows with the stand.

17.

Show 2012

Mrs Culf thought the show went well with all having a good day. We were 34 entries down and at the last AGM the members did not want to share with another show but Mrs Culf said that if the support is not there, this is what will need to happen. We can have support in a variety of ways, such as rosettes, entries, sponsorship.

18.

Show 2013

This year it is the 30th anniversary (Pearl) and we will ask everyone to wear pearls or dress up and there will be a prize for the best fancy dress. We will have special things on offer which will remain a surprise. There will be a lot of extras. The show has been moved to Lutterworth which is not far from Rugby as they don't want any animal shows in their new halls. It is a very suitable venue, all on one level and better than Rugby and a little bit cheaper. She appealed to everyone to support as much as possible.

Dr Robson asked how common it will be for venues to stop wanting animals. Mrs Culf acknowledged it is getting more difficult.

A member from Ireland commented that they have experienced the same and asked about insurance as their venue wanted them to take out their own but we do have insurance through GCCF. However Lutterworth have had a lot of animal shows there. Their catering is good and reasonably priced.

Mrs Madden reported on the post show dinner for 2013 which will remain at the same hotel, Holiday Inn. They are happy with the cats, the food is good and the staff are very helpful. The theme will be the same as the show, Pearly Kings and Queens.

19.

GCCF Delegates Report (circulated)

A couple of presentations had taken place, one from Agria who are in partnership with GCCF for pet insurance, and the other about the new EMS numbering system. As the GCCF are in the process of updating their IT systems they felt it time to change the numbering to be in line with other governing bodies worldwide. Mrs Kilby outlined the principles of using it. It will be going to the next Council meeting and the members were asked for any comments. It was explained that the two sets of breed numbers will work alongside each other for a few years. The majority of the meeting was in favour of voting for the new system. There were some reservations but it was felt that once it is running it will fall into place. Some members felt that there should be talks on how to use the system.

20. **Magazine 2013 plus draw for 2014 calendar**

Mrs Osborn didn't have any comments on the magazine
The draw for the calendar took place:

January – Liz Whitby
February – Ian and Sharon Kay
March – Bob & Morwenna Semor
April - Judith Pool
May – Ann Mott
June – Liz Burman
July - Ron Mlyward and Dennis Hayward

August – Linda Shergold
September – Kathy Hope
October – Jeni Nutley
November – Dawn and Alan Brown
December – Simone Ensor
January 2015 – Viv Green

21. **Welfare and Rescue Report**

Mrs Walker gave her report. There is only one rescue in at the moment in Suffolk, a 4 year old Seal boy. Most of the rescues have been aged 10-16 which seems to be the trend but we have found homes successfully. The rescue does a quarterly "Miaows" letter which is available to download from the website and on Facebook and Mrs Walker will be happy to email it to anyone or even post it if members let her know. Pat Morrissey had made provision for the Rescue in her Will and also a collection was made at the funeral in lieu of flowers which went to Rescue which has paid for a new safe house in her memory situation in Stafford. If members want to make a similar provision in their Will information is on the Rescue website. The Rescue is looking for sites for safe houses in Cheshire and Northampton areas which are funded by the Rescue. It is necessary to have knowledge of Birmanas and how they like to be treated. Sue and Ron Attley have recently retired from rescue. Liz Burman donated some money to rescue from an open date at her cattery last summer. She has now joined the team and will be having a safe house. It is also hoped to have an open day at her cattery with help from Mrs Walker and they are hoping to have Simons Cat there with the book and lots of stalls. Two other members in Yorkshire are having a safe house. The members were thanked for their support as well as her team.

22. **Cup Secretaries Reports:**

i) **AGM**

This is covered in the Trophy Presentation report below.

ii) **Show**

Mrs Kilby reported that we don't have a Show Cup secretary so there is no report this time.

23. **Show Support Secretary's Report**

This report had been circulated at the meeting.

24. **Trophy Presentation**

The presentation took place before the break for refreshments. Mrs McQuilkin reported that many of the trophies were missing, broken or very old and some were for obscure awards and were never given out. We have now rationalised down to 62 trophies from over 300, 3 for Household Pets, 3 for the Pet Birman of the Year awards. We also have some new ones paid for by the club, one is for the Overall Trophy. Any new trophies from now on will have the club logo on. We will only have trophies for the top Adult, Kitten and Neuter for each colour, one for the overall of each colour and then the award for the top Adult, Kitten & Neuter, the Best Overall Exhibit and the Breeder of the Best Exhibit. The top Breeders Award will be overall top prefix, we will not now have AOC so just the one top prefix. There are certificates which Julia Morton

designed. Some trophies have been reallocated to replace broken ones, and we have some boxes of trophies that will not be used. It will be up to the donor as to what happens to it, take it home or re-award it yourself. Mrs Madden felt that Mrs McQuilkin has done a wonderful job in sorting them out.

25. Any Other Business

Mrs Madden mentioned the seminar that took place last year and the only criticism we had was that it was too far north and could we have one in the south. We have been talking to the Southern & South Western Birman CC who are keen to have a seminar. We wondered if the Birman Rescue would like to come in on this again. Dates had been suggested which were not suitable to both sides so the members were asked if it was possible to go to May or June next year. It was suggested that we could talk about the new numbering system at that seminar. It was suggested that perhaps there should be two seminars, one in the north and one in the south. Mrs Walker felt that the Rescue would not be able to help if it was held in the south due to time pressures. It was suggested that we talk to the Northern Birman regarding putting on a seminar in the north. A suggestion of a talk at the show on the new EMS system was well received. It was suggested that the GCCF should produce a series of sessions on the system or perhaps a presentation online. It may be useful to have a presentation the club show.

There was a request that we put together a breakdown for the new EMS system in the magazine and on the website once it has been officially agreed at Council.

It was reported that a member had written in regarding Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy as featured on the Rolf Harris Veterinary Programme from Liverpool University where there was a family of Birmans identified with it, and it was felt there are a lot of heart problems in the Birmans not being diagnosed properly. We will be pursuing this via Tim Gruffydd Jones and the heart specialists at Liverpool. The specialist at Liverpool feels that there are a lot of poorly diagnosed heart conditions and recommends that if any cat has a heart problem, the owner should arrange a scan. The results can be sent in anonymously so that they can build a database for future research. It has been identified as hereditary with humans and boxer dogs. A member identified that there is a scanning project ongoing in Sweden but scans can only show the state at the time, whereas some of these heart conditions don't become apparent until later on in life. The members were asked to swab all their cats so that their DNA can be to hand when the research is available.

Mrs Hill asked if anyone wants to donate catalogues for the World of Birmans, particularly the Birman and Persian sections. They can arrange collection.

Compliments were given re the magazine. Mrs Osborn asked if there is anyone who would be willing to take it on, even in perhaps a more modest format as she would really like to stand down from it. She may be willing to consider working with an assistant with a view to them taking the magazine over.

Mrs Horton and her helpers, Pat Orchard and Carole Turner, were thanked for organizing the refreshments. Mrs Horton and her husband Malcolm, were also thanked for collating and posting the AGM papers. A small gift was presented to Mrs Horton.

26. Date of 2014 AGM

27th April 2014

27. Closing by Chairman

Mrs Kilby thanked members for attending and wished them a safe journey home.