

THE BIRMAN CAT CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 27th April 2014 at the Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull.

1 **Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the members and highlighted that the Agenda had been rearranged a little and gave more details regarding committee elections. She then asked for a minute's silence for members that had passed away, Joyce Price (Club President), Christina Dugdale (GCCF President and a Birman judge) and others who had passed.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman reminded members that they need to sign the attendance list in the foyer and asked that any apologies were noted on that list.

3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 28th April 2014**

The Minutes were signed as a correct copy. **Proposed by Mrs Davies, seconded by Mrs Walker**

4 **Matters Arising**

Item 21 Mrs Walker advised that Liz Burman had been unable to hold the open day and that there is no safe house in that location.

5. **Secretary's Report**

The Hon Secretary reported that it had been a quiet year. As the connection between the club and the GCCF, he has signed 3 or 4 prefixes with 2 from new members. He reported that Mrs Knight books the venues and that he is busier on the Membership Secretary side of things.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

It was reported that income from subscriptions was down this year in common with other clubs. Merchandising is also down due to Mr Warrender and Mr Porter not being able to take the stand to shows due to health issues. The raffle income was £260 giving a total income of 8,066 for the year which supported the costs for stationery, postage and printing. The AGM costs have reduced due to Mrs Knight's efforts with the copying. The magazine costs were down, partly due to improved advertising. A lot of our expenses have remained the same but the Affiliation fee will increase next year as Honorary Members will be recorded as Hon Life Members and will now go onto the return and will attract the fees. Stall hire remained the same and the cost of rosettes reduced, gifts and presents, which is misleading as they are quite often flowers for funerals, was about the same. We made a contribution of £300 to the show for special surprises for exhibitors. The total expenditure was £8,572 which meant that we had a deficit for the year of £506, which if you ignore the contribution to the show, is just about at breakeven.

The show did quite well with a loss of only £24. There was a higher than usual hotel cost due to misunderstandings over the judges meals which will be rectified next year.

The balance sheet at the end of the year shows £9117 in the Bank, £906 for the show, debtors/prepayments £2205 but this was due to the banks not being open over Christmas and money not paid in. Our merchandise stock is £2553, and the loan to the GCCF of £1000. We owed £2929 which was mainly the Winter magazine as the invoice was late in being sent in. The club was worth £12859 at the year end.

a) The accounts were accepted. **Proposed by Mr Davies, seconded by Mrs Walker**

b) The Examiner will remain the same - C Todd & Co. – approved by the members

c) Review of Gifts – it was proposed that they stay as they are, though no-one actually claims them

d) Review of Annual Subscriptions – The committee recommends that they are left as they are but the club will remain frugal.

7. **Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary had circulated a breakdown and mentioned that the membership is slightly down in 2014. There was a flurry of applications since Christmas so we hope this shows things picking up. Old records have shown that when we had in the region of 1200 members the lapsed members was around 100 so the trend is relative. It was pointed out that members joining via the website and paying by Paypal do not

seem to be putting down their proposer, so if anyone knows someone is joining in that way encourage them to use your name as the proposer to ensure you don't lose out on the loyalty scheme. They quite often give a name when we ring to find out more. At the bottom of the renewal form there is a section for a donation. In the last 3 months we have received £272.50 from this method, £247.50 of which has gone to the Welfare & Rescue, with the rest being specified by members to go to the club.

8. **Rule changes (circulated)**

The Chairman explained the main rule changes as some amendments were just general housekeeping. The main changes were around Rule 2f re voting rights as per GCCF request, with 'except voting rights' being removed. Rule 7 is to be changed to allow the AGM to be called later in the year. Rule 7 re Special General Meetings, the quorum should be reduced from 100 to 50 members to reflect our current membership. The amendments were unanimously agreed by the membership.

9. **Confirmation of Officers and Committee for the coming year**

The Chairman passed this item over to the Vice Chairman

The committee proposed Mr David Retfeldt as President which was agreed unanimously

The committee proposed Mrs Kilby as Chairman which was agreed unanimously

Ordinary committee members prepared to re-stand were Ms L Johnson, Mr P Madden and Mrs L Russell and they were agreed unanimously

We had one nomination for a new committee member, Ms K Clayton who had been proposed by members and was agreed unanimously.

The Vice Chairman passed the meeting back to the Chairman

The Chairman reported that Wayne Baxter and Pat Williams were retiring and we had small gifts for them.

10. **Election of GCCF Delegates**

These remained unchanged as Mrs V Kilby, Mr N Porter and Mr J Warrender with Lady Saye as Reserve. There was unanimous agreement

11. **Election of Cup & Show Support Secretaries**

Miss Collings had agreed to take over the Show Trophies

Mrs McQuilkin will continue with the AGM trophies with the help of Mrs Morton and Ms Johnson

Mrs Semos has agreed to continue as Show Support Secretary

All the appointments were agreed unanimously.

12. **Breed Advisory Committee**

A report had been circulated with the Delegates Report which detailed judges approved during the year. Mrs Anderson, Mr Hansson and Mrs Luxford-Watts had become full judges, Mrs De Martino and Mrs Dutton had become probationer judges with Mr Porter becoming a GCCF steward.

The Club representatives will be Mrs Ensor, Mr Warrender and Mrs Kilby with Mrs McQuilkin as Reserve and Mrs Knight as BAC Treasurer who also acts as a reserve. There was unanimous agreement.

13. **Merchandise Report**

Mr Warrender reported that there is little movement due to himself and Mr Porter not being able to go to the shows for health reasons. It was once more highlighted that we really need someone who can take this over this job as it is an important part of the club income. We again asked for volunteers, preferably 2, as we really do need the income to avoid cutting back on the magazine as it does help to maintain the magazine. Dr Robson did suggest that a team would work well. Mr Warrender and Mr Porter were thanked for their efforts over the years in this respect.

14. **Show 2013**

A report was circulated on the day.

Mrs Madden reported on the post show dinner which was a great success

15. **Show 2014**

The open class judges were circulated on the day. The venue remains unchanged. The post show theme will be Stars of Yesteryear. The hotel is booked and the prices set as per last year and the misunderstanding re judge dinners will not happen this year. It is hoped that Mr Hansson will judge the fancy dress this year. Mrs McQuilkin has an 'Oscar' to be presented to the winner.

16. **GCCF Delegates Report**

The report was circulated at the meeting. Mrs Kilby highlighted that the Council meetings reports can be found on their website. The main item has been the Business Plan and the IT Refresh. There will be a new website with extra features. Mrs Green asked if anything had been heard regarding the structure of classes being taken back to how it was. Mrs Kilby reported that some wording is being put together for the June Council meeting and confirmed that nothing had been worked out or decided on yet. There are quite a few suggestions being put forward, including our suggestion that the Olympian classes be split, though it was pointed out that the Board did not like it. Mrs Madden reported that Mrs Gregory will be having a table at the Birman Seminar to take questions on the GCCF.

17. **Magazine**

The new magazine editor, Mrs Russell was introduced. She felt Ms Osborn would be a hard act to follow but Ms Osborn has agreed to work with Mrs Russell until she feels more confident. Mrs Russell hoped for support from the members with articles and photographs. Ms Osborn was thanked for all her help over the years and presented with a gift as a token of appreciation.

The calendar entries were drawn with the successful people being:

Jeni Nutley, Simone Ensor, Judith Pool, Liz Whitby, Ron Mlynek and Dennis Hayward, Sue Allen, Kathy Frost, Dawn Brown, Ann Mott, Neil Porter, Ann Spotswood, and Kathy Hope.

18. **Cup Secretaries' Reports**

AGM Trophy Secretary

Mrs McQuilkin had brought along all the trophies and asked the members to look at all the trophies and if they can identify them to a donator, she asked that they take them. She asked for suggestions as to how to dispose of them as she is hoping to move house and really needs to get them gone. A suggestion from the floor was that if someone has their cat on a trophy they perhaps give a donation for it and it was thought a very good idea. Another suggestion is that if they were silver they could be melted down and sold but Mrs McQuilkin said that most were wooden plaques. Mrs McQuilkin thanked Mrs Morton for producing all the certificates we give out.

Show Trophy Secretary

Miss Collings said that we are doing the same as the AGM Trophies, with mainly just BIS trophies now being awarded. 50% of the trophies have now been returned to the donators and we will continue to find homes for the rest after which we will make a decision as to what to do with them.

Show Support Secretary

Mrs Kilby advised that Mrs Semos could not be at the meeting today but she does continue to offer rosettes for club class wins. Details are in catalogues of how to claim. Mrs McQuilkin wanted to say that the boxes that Mrs Semos uses to send the rosettes in, are paid for by herself as her donation.

19. **Trophy Presentation**

The trophies were presented to the main winners.

20. **Seminar**

Mrs Madden spoke on the seminar to be held in May jointly with the Southern & South Western Birman CC and leaflets had been given out. There would be a variety of talks in the morning, with talks in the afternoon from Tim Gruffydd-Jones and a Cardiac specialist. The Southern & South Western Club would like any profits from the seminar to go to the Heart Research fund and they would also like the research to be done by an English organisation with their preference being the Royal Veterinary College at South Mimms. One of their post-graduate students came to the Club show to do a talk on heart problems and everyone talked very highly of her. Our Club would also like the research to remain in the UK. Our Treasurer is opening a separate account for the fund which will be a joint fund with the other participating clubs. The Southern & South Western Club has donated the money made from their AGM raffle to the fund. The GCCF Cat Welfare Trust have expressed an interest in helping with funds once we have shown that we can raise funds and indeed that is

the way other contributors feel. A member outlined how Winn works with their funding which is very much how it happens in the UK. A member asked that we do this as a charity and the committee have assured the members that we are already applying for charity status. Mrs Madden emphasised that the club has been trying to educate the Birman membership about the heart problems which will help to break down barriers and encourage donations. It was suggested that something like a barometer was put on the website so that people can see how the fund is doing. Mrs Madden felt that another member who set up a charity incorrectly followed by a falling out of the trustees set off a lot of negative feeling and bad publicity for us. Mrs Keeping felt we need to let members know what is happening. Mrs Owen stated that members had been emailed on a few occasions so we had actually informed members. Mrs Owen asked that all members make sure that Mr Porter has their email address to ensure they receive the emails from the Club. There was a suggestion from the floor that £1 is added to show entries for the fund. Mrs Madden asked if members have any ideas for funding raising that they let us know and Mrs Kilby asked that they email ideas into us.

21. **Any other Business**

Mrs Walker reported on the Welfare & Rescue. She thanked everyone who helps with the organisation and for the donations that are received with members' subscriptions. The GCCF are doing awards this year and the Birman Rescue has been voted into the top 3 rescues so they will find out the winner on the 17th May. Thank you to everyone who voted. On the Heart Research fund, we were given a painting by Liz Stables which we auctioned for £80 for the heart fund. There will be a fun day on the 20th July at Stafford. Mrs Walker thanked her team for all their help.

A gift was presented to Mrs Knight for doing all the AGM paperwork.

Mr Porter had a report from Mrs Fenwick-Raven re the kitten list. She reports that the number of kittens going through the kitten list are reducing as a lot of breeders advertise on their own website, Pets 4 Homes or Breeders on Line. The money from the kitten list goes to the Welfare but if there are less litters being put on the kitten list, it means reduced funds to the Welfare. It was identified that kittens have been left on the list for quite some time. One member said that she had asked 4 times for kittens to come off so it was wondered if Mrs Fenwick-Raven had been busy so it was suggested that perhaps an email should go to the Webmaster as well requesting removal.

A member highlighted that some judges are not reporting on cats entered as BOB only and found it disheartening. Mrs Madden suggested that exhibitors write into the committee for it to be passed to the BAC though it was mentioned that judges don't have to do the critiques but the BAC could encourage them to do them.

It was reported that the raffle had made £86 which will go into the heart fund.

22. **Date of next AGM**

Following the recent rule change, it was decided that we could have the next AGM a little later on in the year on the 17th May 2045.

23. **Closing by the Chairman**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home.