

THE BIRMAN CAT CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 17th May 2015 at the Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull.

1 **Chairman's welcome**

Mrs Kilby welcomed the members and asked for a minute's silence for members passed on this year.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been recorded on the members list at the door with additions from the floor.

3. **Minutes of the AGM held on the 27th April 2014**

The Minutes were signed as a correct copy. Proposed by Mrs Horton, seconded by Mrs Madden.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were none.

5. **Treasurers' Report**

1) **Approval of Accounts (Circulated)**

Mr Warrender reported that the accounts looked better but this was skewed because of the timing of the new show date and the subsequent printing of the magazine for January instead of the November. Subscriptions had held up quite well. The merchandise income was down due to not being able to get to shows. The raffle proceeds to the club were also down as they had been shared with the Heart Fund. However, the dinner had made a profit. There was a surplus for the year of £1377. The show did better this year as we had a larger entry so there was also a surplus there of £153. The GCCF loan was also mentioned and it was thought that it should be repaid this year. The net worth of the club for the end of the year was £14389. **Approval was proposed by Mr Tarr and seconded by Dr Robson.**

2) **Appointment of Examiner**

The committee recommended C Todd & Co and this was approved.

3) **Review of Gifts**

It was recommended that these remained the same and this was approved.

4) **Review of Annual Subscriptions.**

The Chairman pointed out that these had not been increased for a number of years and in view of the lack of income from merchandise etc. then we would like to increase them from £10 to £12 (single) and £12.50 to £15 (joint) and the overseas subscriptions to fall in line. Dr Robson wanted to be sure that these increases would cover the costs. Mr Warrender assured her that it had been costed out and these increases will cover the cost. The meeting approved the increases with effect from 1st January 2016.

5) **Heart Fund**

It was reported that there will be £3000 in the Heart Fund when promised funds are received from the Welfare and Rescue. This will be sent to RVC and we will continue fund raising.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding the funding. Mrs Hill said if we send the money direct to the RVC that it would not be specific to the Heart Research. Mrs Madden pointed out that we have a letter saying that it will be directed to the Heart Research. Mrs Hill reported that Winn will withdraw the Birman Heart Foundation funds if the Birman Heart Fund is donated direct. She also reported that Phase 2 has now been set up by Winn. The committee reported that donors to the Birman Heart Fund are not happy for the funds to go through Winn. There was a proposal from Mr Hill that the money is now sent to Winn now but the committee returned that we cannot go against donors' wishes and that it is not the club's money so cannot be voted on by members. There was confusion about whether the Birman Heart Research money can be paid direct to RVC so Mrs Horton and Mrs Collings proposed that the club contacts relevant people to clarify the true situation regarding direct funding. It was reported that the Birman Clubs supported the Birman Heart Research as indeed do the BAC. There were comments that it seemed very odd that Winn would withdraw their funds should any other money be donated independently. Mrs Hill said that she has a letter from the RVC saying that they cannot accept money for the fund from the Birman Heart Research so it was agreed that we will write

direct to find out. Mrs Hill said she would scan the letter to Mr Porter. It was agreed that we will update members via email.

Dr Robson is involved in a lot of research projects and said that there is a way round it by saying that we will give £X for a specific piece of equipment though Ms Black was concerned that the equipment may be used for other projects.

Mr Baxter was concerned that due to the publication in certain quarters regarding heart problems in Birman, that there will be more breeders giving up.

The committee agreed to find out the true situation regarding funding the RVC direct and will also ask for confirmation that the Phase 2 funding will come directly to the UK from Winn.

6. Secretary's Report

Mr Porter reported that the main purpose of the secretary is to liaise with the GCCF. It has been quite quiet but the prefix applications had increased this year. He also reported that he received two letters from Winn re progress.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Mr Porter reported that this year seems to have been better than average with membership standing at 720 with more applications received recently. Most new members are proposed by existing members at kitten sale time, but some do find us by the website and apply and pay by Paypal but these are more difficult as they don't have a proposer. Members were requested to propose kitten buyers. He also reminded members about the loyalty points scheme.

8. Rule changes.

None proposed for this year.

9. Confirmation of Officers and Committee

The committee reported that they would like to propose Heather Horton as a Patron of the club for her services to the club. All were in favour.

The following was reported:

Ms Clayton and Mrs McQuilkin were standing down from the committee.

Vic-Presidents: Miss Brown and Ms Black were nominated by the committee and approved by the members

Vice-Chairman: Mrs Madden nominated for 3 years

Hon Secretary: Mr N Porter nominated for 3 years

Committee: Mrs Knight, Mrs Goodship and Mrs Veal were nominated for 3 years.

These were approved by the meeting

10. Election of GCCF Delegates

These were proposed as Mrs Kilby, Mr Porter and Mr Warrender with a reserve, Lady Saye, and all were approved.

11. Election of BAC Representatives

There were proposed as Mrs Ensor, Mrs Kilby and Mr Warrender with a reserve, Mrs Knight, and all were approved.

12. GCCF Delegates' Report

This had been circulated. It was commented that it had been busy with a lot of the agendas not being completed due to time constraints. It was pointed out that the reports of the Council Meetings are on the GCCF website. There are two new committees, one of which is to look at Show Structure and they propose that the Birman shares their grands with Ragdolls and RagaMuffins and the BAC have written to the Board objecting to this. The other committee is the BAC and Judge Review committee and they have been looking at streamlining the judge appointment scheme.

There were new certificates available for members to look at. Mrs Morton reported that she had written to the office expressing disappointment with these certificates and offering her services but she had no response. Mrs Kilby reported that she hadn't found anyone who did like them.

There was concern that it is difficult to find out about the GCCF meetings and the agenda from their website.

13. BAC Report

Mrs Kilby reported that the BAC meets twice a year and a report was circulated. Mrs Kilby also reported that no one wants to have the Birman Grand Classes amalgamated with the RagaMuffin and Ragdolls.

14. Merchandise Report

Mr Warrender said there was little to report as Mr Porter and himself cannot take the stand out any more. There are only two shows that they can do being the Supreme and Birman. There was a plea for volunteers to take over this side of things. Ideally we could do with someone who doesn't want to show but likes to go to shows for the social side. Mrs Madden emphasised the value source of income which has now been lost.

15. Election of Cup Secretaries and Reports

Mrs Kilby reported that Miss Osborn has agreed to take over collating points for the AGM trophies with assistance from Lady Saye and Mrs Johnson who will take on the admin roles. Mr Tarr pointed out that this is the only club who operates a non-claim system and proposed that we now move to a Claim only system, seconded by Vanessa Keeping. All were in favour
The Show Trophy secretary will be Miss Collings
Show Support – Mrs Semos has agreed to continue.

16. Magazine and Calendar draw for 2016

Mrs Russell thanked everyone for their support in sending in articles and adverts. The Summer edition is now under way and will hopefully come out to members in mid July. Mrs Kilby thanked Linda for keeping up the high standard that Miss Osborn started.

Mrs Madden confessed that she had left the list of contenders for the calendar at home. However we had 13 people entered and we will have 12 monthly pictures with one at the end with a year planner for the next year. Names will be pulled out and advised accordingly.

17. Show 2014 and 2015

Mrs Culf had sent in a report for 2014 as well as a report for 2015 which had been distributed. The date had to be changed because the Supreme date changed but it is at the same venue. Mrs Culf had also sent a list of the open class judges which were available to members. There is also an after show dinner as usual and Mrs Madden reported on that. Last year's dinner went very well and made a profit. This year's dinner will have a Christmas theme but members are not expected to dress up. Mrs McQuilkin is organising it and has lots of ideas for it.

18. Welfare

Mrs Walker had sent a report via Mr Warrender which was read out. There are 5 cats in at the moment, one brought in yesterday after the owner took it to the vet to be put to sleep. We have a safe house now in Oxfordshire.

19. Trophy presentation

The trophy presentation took place. Mrs Culf had sent in an article from Chloe Culf, the winner of the Pet Birman of the Year award, which was read out by Mrs Madden. The prize of £25 will be donated to the Heart Research Fund and has been matched by Mrs Culf.

20. Any other Business

Mr Porter reported that donations received with subscriptions came to £278 which has been sent onto the Welfare & Rescue.

The raffle for the day made £77.01 and Dr Robson's plants brought in £3 for the Heart Research Funds. It was pointed out that there were past magazines available at £1.50 each.

21 Date of the next AGM

The date was set at 8th May 2016.

22. Closing by the Chairman

Mrs Kilby closed the meeting by thanking Heather, Pat and Carole who served us with a very nice tea, and wished everyone a safe journey home.

It was noted that Mrs Knight paid for the smaller room to socialize in the break, which proved very useful.