

## THE BIRMAN CAT CLUB

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017 at the Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull

#### 1. Chairman's welcome

Mrs Madden apologised for the lack of a microphone.

It was 48 years since the club had been started. Mrs Madden asked for any ideas for celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were taken from the floor.

#### 3. Minutes of the AGM held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015

There were no corrections and these were accepted. **Proposed by Mrs Horton and seconded by Dr Wigley.**

#### 4. Matters Arising

Mrs Horton mentioned that the paperwork should be sent to households 21 days prior to the meeting and it was explained that there was a misunderstanding between the club and the GCCF Office regarding email members.

#### 5. Treasurer's report

##### i) Approval of Accounts

Mr Warrender explained that the accounts were not so healthy because the merchandising has now not been possible and as all the stock was in the garage, the decision was made to sell it all at a discount so that we did get some income before it deteriorated too far. We have also decided to come down to one magazine this year when there were two in the accounts period. The show however did make a profit. The GCCF loan has now been repaid to us so that has helped. Acceptance **Proposed by Mr Porter and seconded by Mrs Knight**

##### ii) Appointment of Examiner

As Mr Veal is taking over as Treasurer, it was felt easier to have someone closer to Mr Veal. He has suggested David Powell-Tuck and this was **proposed by Mr Warrender, seconded by Mrs Horton** and all accepted

##### iii) Review of Gifts

Mrs Madden reported that the officers did not take the gifts so there was no review.

##### iv) Review of Annual Subscription

It was recommended that there was no change.

#### 6. Secretary's Report

Mr Porter reported that everything had been progressing smoothly. One of the changes with the GCCF regarding prefix applications, is that they are applied for online and then the office email us asking for confirmation of memberships.

Correspondence had been received regarding the Heart Research and changes to the Animal Welfare Act.

#### 7. Membership Secretary's Report.

Mr Porter reported that there is usually a loss of 100/120 members but this year it has come down to 70 members. We currently have 652 members. He reminded people to join new kitten owners. Mrs Madden thinks there is only the Burmese CC that is a larger club than ours.

**8. Rule changes**

Mrs Madden advised that though not a rule change, we have tightened up entry to the Breeder List with applicants requiring two sponsors, to help to keep the Back Yard Breeders off our list.

**9. Confirmation of Officers and Committee**

Vice Presidents: Val Kilby is nominated by the committee for 3 years – this term commenced in 2016

Chairman: Mr Jim Warrender is nominated by the committee for 1 year

Treasurer : Mr. Paul Veal is nominated by the Committee for 3 years

**All were agreed**

**Ordinary Committee Members.**

Mr Mark Butler, Mrs Nicky Butler and Dr. Ray Wigley are proposed by the committee for 3 years. Mrs Madden was also appointed.

**All were agreed**

**10. Election of GCCF Delegates**

Mrs Val Kilby, Mr Neil Porter and Mr Jim Warrender

**All were agreed**

**11. Election of BAC Representatives**

Mrs S Ensor, Mr J Warrender, and Dr R Wigley with Mrs P Knight as Reserve. Mrs Knight is also the BAC Treasurer

**All were agreed**

**12. Show 2016 and Show 2017**

Mrs Madden advised Mrs Culf wasn't able to attend but a report will be in the magazine.

Mrs Lesley Szwed is taking over the show for 2017 with Georgina Anderson-Keeble, and presented a report. The organisation is well under way. She presented the poster to be used for the show and promoted the Great Birman Bake Off which will be open to the public. She asked for any volunteers for jobs.

**13 Heart Fund**

It was reported that work is still going on but no news at the moment. Lois Wilkie has moved on to a new job but one of the researchers is continuing with the project and they were expecting a specialist geneticist to join them. We may need to start fund raising if the project continues into next year.

**14. DEFRA's proposals for the Animal Welfare Act**

Mrs Madden reported that the GCCF had not put in a lot of input on behalf of breeders to lessen the impact and Dr Wigley gave an extensive overview of the proposals and the impact on breeders. He reported that anyone who regularly sells any pet in England and Wales will need a licence to do so. There are however 2 exceptions in the current legislation - if you personally own a pet, any offspring can be sold without a licence, or if you acquire a pet that you no longer need in your breeding programme you can sell that as well. The legislation will change in October 2017 and from January 2018 these exceptions will be removed and if you regularly sell kittens in England and Wales you will need a licence to do so. There is a definition of 'regular' which is linked to Badges of Trade which can be referred to on the HMRC website. It was highlighted that if you have to licence, you have to have a recognised qualification such as an NVQ 3 or to be certificated by an Accredited Organisation. This could have been the GCCF but they have not acted quickly enough so there is now not enough time for that to be done by January. Any breeding licences will be issued by the Local

Authority and charges will differ across the country depending on perceived risk. It will be policed by neighbours, disgruntled breeders or kitten owners. Mrs Knight asked if there was any good news and Dr Wigley said that the good thing is that this will help to combat all the illegal imports being sold in this country. A long discussion took place on the issue.

Mrs Madden assured the meeting that she had written to the GCCF Board on behalf of the club and got very little response.

Dr Wigley said the most response has been from DEFRA saying that this should have happened a long time ago. He also advised that the Cats Protection is pushing very hard for the legislation to change which means any advertising will probably need to show a licence number.

Mrs Owen asked members to look at the Board Meetings on the GCCF website especially the latest where Mr Crow had just been to a CFSG meeting in March and had just realised that the legislation would not be conducive to home breeding, which she had highlighted to the Board and Mr Crow back in December, which demonstrates how well the GCCF are understanding the implications and the urgency to act now.

Mrs Madden asked Dr Wigley if he would speak on the subject whilst judging is going on at the club show.

### **The meeting broke for refreshments**

The meeting reconvened with thanks to the ladies in the kitchen, Pat, Eileen, Heather and Ann for their help with the catering.

#### **15. GCCF Delegate's report**

This had been distributed and Mrs Kilby talked about it. She mentioned that the full reports are on the GCCF website. The new computer system is now up and running, with just the Standards of Points to be added. There were proposals regarding show structure and the delegates didn't like them but new proposals will be on the June agenda, one in the style of Fife and another which is more to our liking. Judges will train for a group of breeds centred around a grand class. The Birman would join the Ragdolls and RagaMuffins for the grand classes. During the pre AGM committee meeting it was felt that this would be preferable. Mr Baxter asked if we would still retain our own BAC or part of a BAC. Mrs Kilby felt we would but there would be an exchange of information. It was reported that it is hoped to introduce this in June 2018 after rule changes have been put in place.

#### **16. BAC Report**

This had been circulated.

There was a discussion on the Nose Shape as outlined on the Agenda. The Southern & South Western club voted for this and the Birman CC voted against it. They would like this to be used as guidance for judges. It was commented that this was objective and open to interpretation. Mrs Madden had been to the S & SW CC AGM and asked for clarification but it was not very clear. Mr Tarr mentioned that the Seal & Blue club also voted against it. Dr Wigley had asked the committee and also asked the membership to describe this without using hands etc but it was not possible. Mrs Butler feels we should say no which was echoed by the meeting.

#### **17. Merchandise Report**

Mrs Madden felt there was not much to report as there is no merchandise now. Mrs Sparkes did send a note to say that only two items of paperwork had been sold so it is not worth having a table at the Supreme or the club show. However, we will take a free table at the Supreme for publications and the calendar. It was felt not to resurrect it unless someone comes along with a lot of enthusiasm to take it up again.

**18. Election of Cup Secretaries and reports**

Miss Osborn has been doing both sets of cups and a vote of thanks was proposed for her work. Mrs Semos was thanked for looking after the show support and sending out all the lovely rosettes.

**19. Magazine and Calendar draw for 2107**

The calendar entries were drawn:

January – Bob and Morwenna Semos

February – Jeni Nutley

March – Janet Osborn

April – Simone Ensor

May – Welfare and Rescue

June – Ron Hayward and Dennis Mlynek

July – Geoff and Carol Tarr

August – Kathy Frost

September – Ann Mott

October – Tig Heffernan

November – Dawn and Alan Brown

December – Linda Russell

Mrs Russell talked about the magazine and reported that they had been mailed out to members. She thanked members for articles and adverts. She reported on a special presentation to a heroic cat. Pico showed how amazing and loyal the breed is with him staying with his owners when she had a fall, and even alerting neighbours who called the emergency services. Pico had even brought his owners a mouse. His owners couldn't be at the meeting but his prizes will be sent out to them. She reminded members that there will now be an annual publication and asked for articles for the next one to be submitted in good time. The front cover will be dedicated to the Birman show winner and the overall top Birman will be on the calendar. There will be an emailed update after the show so members must keep their email addresses up to date with Mr Porter.

**20. Welfare and Rescue**

The report was circulated and Mr Tarr spoke about the need for more safe houses.

**21. Trophy Presentation**

The presentation of the top awards took place. Special awards were presented for winners in the Supreme. A vote of thanks was proposed to Miss Osborn

**22. Any other Business**

Mrs Madden advised of the breed seminar on the 24<sup>th</sup> September at Mappleborough Green with more information to come. She mentioned that the Ragdolls, Snowshoes and Singapuras were joining in. The cost will be £7.50 including lunch.

Mrs Madden asked for any ideas to celebrate the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She suggested garden parties, tea parties or general celebrations and wished to include pet owners

Mrs Horton asked to discuss the 2018 show as the Lutterworth venue was becoming less suitable as there is no catering and asked whether we move to another venue or join with another club such as the Coventry & Leicester in February or consider joining with the Colourpointed Rex Coated and AOV Club in November. She asked for the views of the membership. Mrs Butler proposed that the CRAOV venue may not be able to expand to our entries as well. It was acknowledged that moving from Lutterworth would mean starting from scratch with everything. The membership were asked to start thinking and send in any ideas. It was preferred that we keep our own show and identity.

Mrs Veal reported that the dinner was booked at last year's prices for this year.

**23. Date of next AGM**

The next AGM will be held at Oliver Bird Hall around the same dates but not on a bank holiday or the weekend of a major show.

**24 Closing by the Chairman**

The meeting closed at 5.00pm with a presentation to Mrs Madden as retiring Chairman.