

BIRMAN CAT CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 20th May 2018 at the Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull.

1. Chairman's welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that there seem to be less attendees every year.

2 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were taken from the floor as well as on the entry register.

3 Minutes of the AGM held on 21st May 2017,

Item 19 – Change heading to read 2018.

Acceptance was **proposed by Mrs Coupland and seconded by Mr Tarr**

4. Matters arising.

Mrs Madden mentioned that 2019 was the 50th anniversary of the club and the club needed ideas from members on how to celebrate. A suggestion was to do something special at next year's show. Various specials from previous years were commented on and these ideas could be considered. Special rosettes could be ordered for all pens. The meeting was asked to pass on ideas to the committee.

Item 20 – It was asked if any more safe houses were in place and it was reported that this is still in progress.

5. Treasurers report.

1) Approval of Accounts. (Circulated)

Mr Veal talked on the accounts and highlighted that though there was a loss of £2069 this was less than last year. The show had also returned a loss. **The accounts were proposed by Mrs Madden, seconded by Mrs Horton**

Mr Baxter asked what the show charged for stalls at the last show. This was £20/£25 depending on the size required.

2) Appointment of Examiner.

It was reported that Louise Calwell is happy to continue. **Proposed by Mrs Horton, seconded by Dr Robson**

3) Review of Gifts.

It was recommended they stay the same though they are not claimed.

4) Review of Annual Subscriptions.

It was recommended there would be no change.

6. Secretary's report.

Mr Porter reported that he is aiming to monitor how many prefix applications are coming through this year to see if there is an increase in breeding activity. So far 4 applications have been received for this year. Most people do it online with an enquiry from the GCCF office checking if they are a member.

A proposal was sent to the Board earlier in the year proposing that where there is an equal number of constituent clubs, the Chairman should have a casting vote. We were told it would be considered in the general rehash of BACs but nothing more had been heard to date.

We notified the GCCF of the change of Show Manager which has been approved and we will inform them of the change of location.

7. Membership secretary's report.

Mr Porter had circulated the information. At the moment there are 93 lapsed members leaving us around 600 members.

A card was received from Kathy Evans in Australia wishing everyone well.

The membership is going along well with probably about 30/50 new members during the year and another 25 or so who realised they hadn't received their magazine which prompted renewal.

A new Facebook page had been started for Club members only, which members had been invited to. It seems to be doing well and a lot of non members seem to want to join.

The committee were asked if life membership is still being offered to member of 21 years which it was confirmed. Mr Porter reported that the life memberships are not increasing as quickly as it was before, especially now that we do not allow purchase of life memberships. Mrs Horton pointed out that though it is voluntary a lot of life members pay £15 towards the cost of the magazine.

8. Rule changes.

There were no rule changes

9. Confirmation of Officers and Committee.

Vice Chairman: Nominations sought for election.

Mrs Horton was standing down as Vice Chairman and Mr Warrender reported that we had not had any nominations. Mrs Butler proposed Dr Wigley, from the floor, and this was seconded by Mrs Coupland. There was no need for a vote as there were no others standing.

Ordinary Committee Members.

Mrs Coupland was confirmed as a committee member.

10. Election of GCCF. Delegates:

Mrs Val Kilby, Mr. Neil Porter and Mr Jim Warrender. Reserve; Mrs Nicky Butler
There were no other volunteers.

11. Election of BAC. Representatives:

Mrs Simone Ensor and Mr Jim Warrender; Dr Ray Wigley. Reserve: Mrs Nicky Butler

There were no other volunteers.

Mr Baxter commented he was sad to see that there were 2 non active breeders on the committee. Dr Robson did say that we should not get too worried about this as with the BAC review this will no doubt change and there may not necessarily be breeders on the BACs

12. Show 2018

Mr Warrender reported that he will be the show manager and that the show is moving to Brackley, which is only 20 miles from Lutterworth with easy access from the M1 and M40. The judges have been booked and the hotel is being booked for the judges by Mrs Veal. Other venues were not able to support the number of pens required. At the present time the catering is still to be organised.

13. Magazine

Mrs Russell gave a report. She advised that we would be having 2 smaller magazines

a year, and was hoping to have one ready for December then another in late Spring. We hope they will be approximately 35 pages in each one. There are surplus past magazines available at £5 each. Articles were requested or suggestions for the magazine. We are obtaining other quotes for the magazine to ensure value for money, but are hoping for the same quality.

It was suggested that we could repeat some old funny articles and pictures.

Mrs Russell suggested that we could use the Show winner on the front cover for one magazine and the Top Points trophy winner on the other.

14. GCCF. Delegates report.

The delegate's report had been circulated.

15. a) BAC. Report

Dr Wigley gave a report and outlined that the BAC structure is being reviewed by the GCCF and he anticipates that representation for the Birman will be reduced. Finance for the new scheme will be funded from finances held by the current BACs. It was also anticipated that judges will be qualified to award certificates for all three breeds in the group (Birman/Ragdoll/RagaMuffin) even though they may not have ever judged a third of them. Numerically the Birman has become a minority breed so it is likely judges will be more attracted to the other two breeds to progress to judging the Grand class. Dr Robson had collated figures over the last few years and confirmed that show entries are falling across the breeds but did report that the decline became more when the Imperial and Olympian classes came on board so people are not wasting their money by putting their cats in classes where they are not likely to be placed.

It was agreed that the GCCF do need to be stopped in their current restructure plans Dr Wigley also pointed out that the breed will not progress when there is political divide between the breed clubs and called for a unified approach.

Dr Robson asked that there is a unified approach in the Council meeting and asked that all Club delegates become vocal at the Council meeting. It was agreed that when there is a vote the delegates need to ensure there is also a No option.

It was noted that the GCCF have produced a unique structure which does not equate to any other organisation in the world.

The reduction in numbers was also attributed to too many shows.

There was a suggestion to link titles to number of points generated from the SOP with thresholds for each title.

b) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BIRMAN STANDARD OF POINTS.

Words underlined to be removed. Words in italics to be added.

HEAD.:

Skull, strong and rounded. Nose medium in length no 'stop' but with a slight dip in the profile at the nasal bridge followed by a straight or slightly rounded nose. Cheeks full and rounded tapering to a strong, well developed muzzle. Chin full and well developed.

The meeting voted against - Unanimous.

EYES:

Almost round *in shape*, but not bold. Blue in colour; the deeper the blue the better.

The meeting voted against - Unanimous.

COAT & CONDITION:

Coat long, silken in texture; full ruff around the neck; slightly curled on the stomach.

Eyes bright and temperament good. *Well prepared and in good condition.*

The meeting voted for - Unanimous.

(New Heading)

Temperament :

Good

The meeting voted for - Unanimous.

16. Election of Cup Secretaries and Reports:

AGM: Miss Janet Osborn

Show: Miss Janet Osborn

Show Support – Mrs Madden has offered to take this on.

Carried

17. Magazine and Calendar draw for 2018

The magazine slots were drawn:

January – Kathy Frost

February – Linda Adams

March – Ann Mott

April – Neil Porter

May – Morwenna and Bob Semos

June Carol & Geoff Tarr

July – Ron Mlynek and Dennis Hayward

August – Isma Khan

September – Simone Ensor

October – Dawn Brown

November – Jeni Nutley

December – Heather Horton

18. Welfare

The Welfare Report was read by the Chairman. This details some of the rescues currently in Rescue and gave thanks to volunteers and contributors. Mr Tarr mentioned to the committee that there is a section on Amazon (Smile) that users can join so that the rescue can benefit from a percentage of members' shopping. This was highlighted on the Facebook Group.

19. Trophy Presentation

Before the presentation of trophies, it was mentioned that Patsy Knight, Heather Horton and Anne and Peter Madden, were standing down from the committee and gifts were presented to them. Patsy Knight was not well enough to attend so her gift will be taken to her. The trophies were then presented.

20. Any other business

There was none

21. Date of the next AGM

The next AGM will take place on the 19th May 2019

22. Closing by the Chairman

Mr Warrender wished everyone a good journey home. Mrs Horton thanked Carol Turner and her team for helping with the catering.