



## **BRISTOL & DISTRICT CAT CLUB**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT LINCOMBE BARN, DOWNEND ON SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010.**

**1) Apologies for absence.**

Mr & Mrs.K.Welch, Mrs.K.Burford, Mr.J.Scudamore, Mr & Mrs Davenport,  
Mrs.E.Corrigan, Lady Bruce-Gardner, Mr&Mrs.G.Rose, Mr.R.Thomson and Mrs.A.Virtue.

**2) Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2009.**

Proposed by Roy Williams, Seconded by Pat Roberts.

Signed by the Chairman Stephen Jater.

**3) Matters arising from the 2009 AGM.**

Mary Donlin asked if a letter had been sent raising concerns from the club regarding the substantial financial losses made by the G.C.C.F. This matter was now being addressed by the G.C.C.F. and our Delegate will keep the club informed of the situation in the future.

**4) Chairman's Report. ( Stephen Jater )**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for being here today.

In many respects this has been an uneventful year which can only be a good thing for a club like ours. The most dramatic thing was probably the cancellation of our last committee meeting due to the snow!!!

Your committee continues to be pleased with its decision to ask the Robinsons' team to run our show as you will all know that the last one was generally declared a success with the Robinsons telling us that they enjoyed working with us and really appreciated the help that we gave them on the Friday before the show. Can I ask that we show willing and if possible make the same contribution this year.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts in running the club, with particular reference to Sue and Kay who do their jobs so well and of course those of you who raise money for welfare who continue to turn in vast sums of money which is gratefully received by the organisations which we support.

This subject brings me on to membership and onto the contribution from that membership, unlike many clubs this one has been running successfully since its inception and it is financially stable, we primarily do two things one is to run a cat show and the other is to raise money for welfare and our membership is based on these two things. It is important that we look for membership recruiting opportunities and also for people who are 'doers' people who want to join in and support the great team of fund raisers that we have now.

**5) Treasurer's Report. ( Kay Jater )**

**(a) Club Treasurer's Report (Club Account).**

The Club Account shows a slight loss, but this is only due to the fact that we donated £1,000 to the cat charities we support which is £257.55 more than we raised for the Welfare Fund during the year. It is amazing that we raised as much as £742.45 and thanks must go to those running the Tombola and Raffle tables at the show as this is our only source of welfare monies. I understand from our show management team that most, if not all, the clubs they run shows for rely on raffle money raised on show day to help towards the cost of running the show and I hope that we do not have to go down this route.

The net result of other club income as against expenditure is that we made a small profit of £254.78. We do not now, of course, have the costs of printing and posting a newsletter so this helps and, under the circumstances; I am not proposing that we increase membership subscriptions this year.

**(b) Show Treasurer's Report 2009.**

I was somewhat apprehensive about our first show at Thornbury Leisure Centre. This was because the venue is much more expensive than we have been used to and we also had a new show management team in charge of everything. I need not have worried! The Robinson/Talboys team are well used to running shows and, although some of the expenses were up on previous years, others were down and I think it is fair to say that the show team would certainly not be happy if they were to run shows at a loss. Their aim is to at least break even but we did even better and made a profit of £1,073.67! Because they are in control of everything of course, including all the paperwork, etc., they are able to keep the show open for entries until the very last minute which does help, since at the end of the day the financial success of the show is dependent upon having a good number of entries. We were able to give them an honorarium of £1,500 and everyone was very pleased and happy.

I would like to extend my thanks to our show team for making my life easier. Lisa banks the entry monies and sends me details analysed on an Excel spreadsheet, Di Phillips banks the stall monies and emails me with details, Elaine emails me with bills and invoices which need paying and everything runs like clockwork. As a result I found the whole experience much less stressful than in previous years!

The Balance Sheet shows a surplus for the year of £1,070.90 and total assets of £13,416.84 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

**(c) Adoption of Accounts.**

Proposed by Paul Rogoll.

Seconded by Dot Thomson.

A vote was taken to accept the accounts. Approved unanimously.

**(d) Appointment of Independent Inspector**

Julie Williams.

Proposed by Roy Williams.

Seconded by Dot Thomson.

Approved unanimously.

6) **Acting Membership Secretary's Report. (Liz Corrigan's report was read by Stephen Jater in Liz's absence)**

**B&DCC Membership Numbers as at February 20th 2010**

As at 31 December 2009 our membership stood at 147 households (made up of 80 single, 33 single senior citizen, 1 junior, 23 joint, 4 joint senior citizen, 1 family and 5 honorary memberships) and the total number of people stood at 176 (see fig.1 below). This compared to 124 households and 145 people at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

The figures used for 2009 are taken from the membership records and agreed with the Treasurer's (Kay Jater) records.

The two members (P Collins and M Hand) who paid their membership fees twice in 2009 have had this carried forward to cover their 2010 renewal fees.

<b>Fig. 1. Total Membership 2009</b>				
<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>	
Single	80	Total single 114	80	Total single 114
Senior citizen	33		33	
Junior	1		1	
Joint	23	Total joint 28	46	Total joint 57
Joint senior citizen	4		8	
Family	1		3*	
Honorary	5		5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>		<b>176</b>	
Notes: * Number in family not documented assume > 2				

*Below are the 2009 numbers for Renewing Membership (Fig 2) and New Membership (Fig. 3).*

<b>Fig 2. Renewing Membership 2009</b>				
<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>	
Single	32	Total single 61	32	Total single 61
Senior citizen	28		28	
Junior	1		1	
Joint	15	Total joint 18	30	Total joint 36
Joint senior citizen	3		6	
Family	0		0	
Honorary	5		5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>		<b>102</b>	

<b>Fig 3. New Membership 2009</b>				
<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE</b>	
Single	49	Total single 54	49	Total single 54
Senior citizen	5		5	
Junior	0		0	
Joint	8	Total joint 10	16	Total joint 21
Joint senior citizen	1		2	
Family	1		3*	
Honorary	0		0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>		<b>74</b>	
Notes: * Number in family not documented assume > 2				

## 7) **G.C.C.F. Delegate's Report. ( Roy Williams )**

There were three GCCF delegate meetings since the last AGM, the first on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the second on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and the third on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the October meeting but I have the minutes of that meeting so my report will cover all three.

The June meeting was the electoral meeting and a lot of time was taken with election of the various committees, but the meeting was also dominated by discussion of the financial situation of the GCCF. The financial report was given by the official auditor and not the Treasurer, Mr Holway. The auditor painted a bleak picture of the GCCF finances and although the GCCF was solvent it faced a very difficult cash flow problem. He drew attention to the main causes leading to the situation i.e. the Supreme Show losses and the Disciplinary Procedure costs. He also drew attention to the fact that if the GCCF became bankrupt then it was possible that affiliated clubs could be pursued by creditors. One way of avoiding this would be to turn the GCCF into a Limited Company. There was a large range of price increases proposed by the Executive Committee to deal with the cash flow problem and these were all voted in with one exception. There was a proposal to introduce an annual Prefix maintenance charge but this did not find favour with delegates and a counter proposal to introduce a £5 kitten litter registration fee instead was accepted. The Executive announced that they were introducing cost cutting measures and staff reductions at Bridgwater, and it was hoped that together with changes made by the new Supreme Show Manager, Mrs Celia Leighton, and the new price structure then things would improve. Delegates asked the Executive to explore the possibility of incorporation of the GCCF.

As I previously said, I was not able to attend the October meeting but again the financial situation took up a lot of the meeting time. The Executive were asked to produce firm proposals on "Incorporation" to present to the February meeting. The Supreme Show manager gave an optimistic report and the Treasurer said that he felt that the GCCF's financial problems were over.

Between the October and February meetings, the Treasurer, Mr Holway, resigned and Stephen Bunce took over on a temporary basis until the June meeting. At the February meeting there was criticism of the Treasurer's statement made at the October meeting that the GCCF's problems were over, as it did not fit with the facts as the Finance committee knew them and delegates were left in no doubt that things were still far from healthy. Delegates were presented with a financial report which I found difficult to understand. I don't know who produced this report but Stephen Bunce was convinced that the figures were not complete and so he could only give an estimate of the position but he felt that the financial problems had eased a little. One good bit of news however was that he thought the Supreme Show had made a small profit of a few thousand pounds. Delegates voiced their approval of the way that Celia Leighton had turned round the fortunes of the Supreme Show. Celia could not be present at the February meeting due to illness. It was announced that we have been offered two halls again for this year's show but the two halls are not the ones which we wanted. Negotiations are ongoing on this issue.

The debate on GCCF incorporation then followed. Gill Wilson, the Chairman of the Abyssinian Cat Association, has 30 years experience as a company secretary and had been invited to address the meeting. She had produced documents for discussion. She said that

incorporation would present the need for very little change as far as Clubs were concerned as the rules, with slight modification could be kept as they are. Each Club would need to be a member of GCCF Limited at a cost of £1. The biggest change would be on delegates. At present delegates make all the decisions at delegate meetings whereas after incorporation decisions will be taken by the directors. The directors would be the Executive Committee. Several delegates had reservations about transferring this decision making role to the Executive Committee but others (mainly from the present Executive Committee) felt it was essential to make this change for the efficient working of the GCCF. One delegate asked what decisions had the Executive Committee not been able to make in recent years because we had not been incorporated, but the supporters of incorporation could not come up with a single example. A delegate asked about a business plan for the GCCF and Steve Crow said that he had produced one and put it on the GCCF website during the last week. Only a few delegates knew about this and the rest of us were subjected to criticism from Stephen Parkin who said that anyone can leave their email address with the GCCF to be notified when any changes were made to the website. No delegates who sat near me at the meeting knew that this facility existed so I think this criticism was most unfair. I have since looked at the business plan and it appears to me to be a very wordy document which is lacking in actual substance. This is a shame because it must have taken Steve Crow a long time to prepare. There is to be a special delegates meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> April to make a final decision on Incorporation. In the meantime delegates are expected to consult with committee and Club members to establish a consensus of opinion. The AGM will be an ideal opportunity for this.

There was a proposal by Mrs Naomi Johnson on behalf of the Lincs CC that titled exhibits should be limited to one class from Imp., Grand Pr. or Ch., Ch. or Pr. or Open. It meant that titled cats would still have had the choice of entering the Imperial or Grand, but could have opted for the Open if preferred for any reason. A number of delegates spoke in support, saying that it was fair, and something that a majority of exhibitors very much wanted. Those who were not in favour commented on a removal of competition. Some delegates speaking in favour gave examples of where new exhibitors had stayed away from shows because they thought the present rules were unfair. Nobody wants to lose new exhibitors from the show world and this was reflected in the vote, 74 in favour and 42 against. The Chairman declared the proposal lost as it required a two thirds majority. A delegate pointed out that changes to the constitution required a two thirds majority but rule changes only required a simple majority so the Chairman declared it carried. A delegate then read out the constitution that said that changes to the constitution and show matters required a two thirds majority so the Chairman declared the proposal lost. By this time and I might add not for the first time during my time as delegate, I was beginning to lose my will to live.

- Preliminary recognition for the Colourpointed and White British Shorthair
- all judges with promotions on the agenda.
- Self BSH registration policy revision
- a separate Grand for Exotics.

were all passed and the meeting closed at 5pm with the agenda completed, just in time to save my sanity.

Members were asked by our Delegate Roy Williams to vote on whether or not they agree that the G.C.C.F. should become a limited company.

After a discussion a vote took place, those in favour 10, against 0, no abstentions.

**8) Welfare Report. ( Jackie Steele )**

I am pleased to report that on the welfare side things have been very quiet this year. There was one lady who had a British in to her welfare and contacted me, I suggested she contacted the breeder and to my knowledge the cat was successfully re-homed.

Our Show this year was a great success thanks to everyone who gave their time and donations. The Tombola and the Raffle managed to raise £732.65 which will boost our Welfare fund considerably and allow us to give contributions to various local charities

In 2009 due to the work of everyone on the Committee we were able to donate a considerable amount to local charities to help with their work. These Charities include Louvain Chivers, Cat Work, Persian Rescue, & The Moggery. We also continue to subscribe to FAB.

**9) Election of Committee Members.**

Unfortunately our Welfare Officer and Trophy Secretary Jackie Steele is standing down from the Committee, so we do have 1 vacancy. No nominations have been received.

The following members of the Committee are due for re-election and are willing to stand again.

It was Proposed by Roy Williams and Seconded by Paul Rogoll that the following Committee members are voted en bloc. This was agreed by the meeting.

Kay Jater ( Treasurer ) To serve for 3 years.

Karen Burford To serve for 3 years.

Liz Corrigan (Acting Membership Secretary) To serve for 2 years for correct rotation.

Kathy Lowe To serve for 2 years for correct Committee rotation.

**10) Election G.C.C.F. Delegate and Substitute Delegate.**

Delegate Liz Corrigan, Proposed by Roy Williams, Seconded by Paul Rogoll.

Substitute Delegate Roy Williams, Proposed by Sue Rogoll, Seconded by Kay Jater.

**11) Correspondence.**

Thank you letters were received from the various charities which we support thanking the club for the donations from the Welfare fund.

Letter received from the G.C.C.F. enclosing the approved show licence for 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**12) Any other Business.**

None.

**Meeting closed at 4pm.**