



BRISTOL & DISTRICT CAT CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT LINCOMBE BARN, DOWNEND ON SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2009.

1) Apologies for absence.

Mr & Mrs.K.Welch, Mrs.J.Judd, Mr & Mrs Burley, Mrs.J.Bush, Mrs.R.Quick, Mr.J.Scudamore, Mr & Mrs Davenport, Mrs.J.Moore, Lady Bruce-Gardner and Mrs.Y.Crook.

2) Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2008.

Proposed by Paul Rogoll, Seconded by Kathy Lowe.

Signed by the Chairman Stephen Jater.

3) Matters arising from the 2008 AGM.

None.

4) Chairman's Report. (Stephen Jater)

I'm pleased to say that this year has been relatively uneventful as far as the Bristol and District Cat Club is concerned.

Despite the best efforts of the international banking system we're still here and considering the personal hardship being experienced by many ordinary people, this year's show entry (2009) was virtually the same as last year.

Your treasurer will tell you how much money we donated to good causes last year but I have to complement and thank those members of the team who put in such a lot of effort in getting stuff together for sale and then making sure it got sold !

Everyone else has played their part and I want to thank the whole committee for their efforts.

Unfortunately one of the team, Mary Donlin has decided that it is time for her to take some time out from doing the newsletter and being membership secretary. Although still taking part in fund raising, I want to thank Mary for her sterling work on the newsletter in particular. We do have a volunteer for the membership secretary's job with Yve Crook stepping into the breach but as yet no newsletter editor.

I want to thank Yve for doing this and over the next few months we'll see if we can find someone to do the newsletter.

This year our cat show moved to Thornbury which seems right after a few years of being at venues which had their issues. We had new show managers too and I hope you will agree with me, that the day seemed to go well. The Robinsons team seemed to enjoy working with us and they were most impressed with the help that they got.

This bodes well for the future of our shows and for the club and I hope we can look forward to a stable and successful future.

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

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

The main comment I have this year is to mention that the Club donated £1000 to our favourite cat charities and we were only able to do this as a result of the efforts of those involved in running the tombolas and raffles. It is only because of these charity donations, that the club account shows a deficit on the year of £89.00.

(b) Show Treasurer's Report 2008.

Entries were down this year (2008) and this has a knock-on effect on most other items of income. Luckily, the venue at Melksham was not expensive and we were able to still show a surplus on the show account of £1,254.16.

Overall, the club is in a stable financial position with the net current assets of £12,345.94. As we move to a new venue at Thornbury next year, it remains to be seen if we can still run a show at a profit, or at least break even in the current financial climate. I hope that we can !

(c) Adoption of Accounts.

Proposed by Mary Donlin.

Seconded by Janet Ashman.

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

(d) Appointment of Independent Inspector

Julie Williams.

Proposed by Roy Williams.

Seconded by Paul Rogoll.

Approved unanimously.

6) **Acting Membership Secretary's Report. (Mary Donlin)**

B&DCC membership numbers as at 31 December 2008

As at 31 December 2008 our membership stood at:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS – KAYS FIGURES		TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE – KAYS FIGURES	
Single	54	Total single 95	54	Total single 95
Senior citizen	41		41	
Joint	18	Total joint 21	36	Total joint 42
Joint senior citizen	3		6	
Junior	2		2	
Honorary	5		5	
TOTAL	123		144	

These are the figures as agreed with Kay our Treasurer.

2009

B&DCC members at 26 April 2009 – lapses, renewals and new members to date

LAPSES				
MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS		TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE	
Single	25	Total single	25	Total single
Senior citizen	12	37	12	37
Joint	6	Total joint	12	Total joint
Joint senior citizen	2	8	4	16
Junior	1		1	
TOTAL	46		54	

RENEWALS				
MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS		TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE	
Single	32	Total single	32	Total single
Senior citizen	27	59	27	59
Joint	16	Total joint	32	Total joint
Joint senior citizen	3	19	6	38
Family	0		0	
Junior	1		1	
Honorary	5		5	
TOTAL	84		103	

We've lost quite a few members during this year (2009) – as above. Unfortunately, the lapses plus renewals don't add up to the total 2008 membership figures, whereas they should. When I took over as acting membership secretary last year, I spent a lot of time trying to tally the 2008 figures, with Kay's help, but unfortunately the records were not entirely clear, and in the end the figures I've shown for our 2008 membership are those that our Treasurer Kay had, which we need to go by for the GCCF return.

We've had a couple of members who've paid their membership fees twice for 2009, they've both asked us to keep the money for their 2010 renewal fee.

We've had a lot of new members join the club since the beginning of the year – many with their show entry, which I expect is because our show is now held at Thornbury leisure centre.

The number of new members who've joined the Club since the beginning of 2009 are:

NEW MEMBERS				
MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS		TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE	
Single	42	Total single 47	42	Total single 47
Senior citizen	5		5	
Joint	6	Total joint 7	12	Total joint 14
Joint senior citizen	1		2	
Family	1		3	
Junior	0		0	
TOTAL	55		64	

The new members who've joined, plus the renewals so far this year, gives us a total membership for 2009, so far, of:

TOTALS				
MEMBERSHIP TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS		TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE	
Single	74	Total single 106	74	Total single 106
Senior citizen	32		32	
Joint	22	Total joint 26	44	Total joint 52
Joint senior citizen	4		8	
Family	1		3	
Junior	1		1	
Honorary	5		5	
TOTAL	139		167	

This is pretty healthy bearing in mind the present climate, and it's an increase on last year, but it's not as high as our membership used to be in years gone by. However, I suspect most cat clubs are facing the same problems of members not renewing. Hopefully now that we are having our show at Thornbury leisure centre our membership numbers will increase.

I had a really good day on the raffle table at the show. I think it only did so well because Jackie grabbed some books of tickets and went round selling tickets. She was brilliant - a real star! And I really appreciated her help.

The photo competition raised £5.50, which I spent on prizes at the show - I got three quite nice items for the money - which the winners seemed happy with. A couple of people left their photos behind - I've brought them with me to the AGM in case anyone knows whose they are.

I managed to sell 13 pens and 1 badge at the show. I put the price of the pens down to 20p - they were 60p according to the price tag in the tin, but I didn't think anyone would buy a pen for 60p (I know I wouldn't). I know we've had the pens for many years - I think Carol had them originally - so I hope the price reduction was OK. I thought it better to sell them cheap rather than hang on to them.

We also had two adverts for kittens for sale, which raised £2.

In total all the above raised £416.25. Out of this we took the £50 first prize, which leaves £366.25 for the welfare fund.

I did buy some items for the raffle, but I'm not going to claim any expenses as I'd much rather the welfare fund had the money - the cats need it more than me!

I've got a few unclaimed prizes, so I've brought these with me to the AGM for the raffle here.

Finally, as you know I'm leaving the committee today and standing down as acting membership secretary, newsletter editor and show support, due to health reasons. I'm going to miss being on the committee, and doing the newsletter and membership work as I have enjoyed doing both roles, but, I need to concentrate on getting better and hopefully I'll have a bit more time to concentrate on me, and do something less demanding - relaxing seems quite a nice idea.

I want to thank you all for all the support and help you've all given me over the years. The newsletter wouldn't have been what it is without all the articles and bits and pieces you've all provided me over the years.

I especially want to thank Kay for helping me with the membership work, as when I took it over I spent a lot of time emailing her with queries, and she was always happy to help. Thank you Kay.

I've always enjoyed coming to the committee meetings and helping out at the shows - I think one of my favourite jobs at the shows in recent years has been the tombola and robbing everyone - Stephen especially - of their money for tickets. Yve has done a fantastic job of organising these over the years, and we've always done really well for our welfare fund. I really hope that they continue, and I'll be more than happy to help sell tickets at future shows.

I think the B&DCC does a fantastic job at raising funds for welfare, and I really hope it continues to do so - I'll continue to help do my bit to help the Club at shows.

I won't be cutting my ties with the B&DCC as John and I will remain members of the Club and we both look forward to reading newsletters produced by the new editor. As I know how hard it can be, I'll even try to send in the odd article or joke.

Thank you all once again for your friendship, kindness and support. I wish the Club continuing success in everything it does.

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

This report covers the three GCCF Delegate Council Meetings of 25th June 2008, 26th October 2008 and the 18th February 2009.

Meeting of 25th June 2009:

This meeting was the electoral meeting and time is mainly taken up in electing the Executive and other committees of the GCCF. The results of these elections are well documented on the GCCF website.

Mr G. Butler, last year's Chairman, did not stand for re-election. Mr J. Hansson was elected in his place and Mr K Scruton was elected Vice Chairman.

Axis Cook Media Ltd the producers of "Our Cats" had been selected, at the Special Delegates meeting on 9th April 2008, to produce the Official GCCF publication. There was

some discussion, at this meeting, as to the timing of the release of Judges' reports but agreement was finally reached. There was also extensive discussion concerning the loss of £58,580.00 on the 2007 Supreme Show and delegates were told that ways of reducing costs were being investigated.

Meetings of 29/10/08 & 18/2/09

I have put these two meetings together as items were discussed over both meetings.

There was a proposal by the Executive to introduce a scheme at shows to award titles to non pedigree cats. The scheme was based on the one currently being used by the Coventry & Leicester. Non pedigree cats could attain the title of "Master Cat". This scheme was approved by delegates and will come into effect from the 1st June 2009. The scheme is not compulsory.

To help ease queues at vetting in, Show Managers will now be able to use the services of Veterinary Nurses if a sufficient number of vets can't be found.

The final accounts of the 2008 Supreme Show have not yet been presented but it looks as if the show made a loss of the order of £30,000. Further dissatisfaction was expressed by delegates and a vote was taken proposing the cancellation of the 2009 Supreme Show. This was defeated by 81 votes to 53. Discussion broadened into the general finances of the GCCF. One of the main sources of income for the GCCF is registration fees. Due to the Country's economic downturn, fewer pedigree cats are being sold and therefore fewer pedigree kittens are being bred. This means that there are fewer registrations and consequently the finances of the GCCF are suffering.

As already mentioned, the meeting in June 2008 confirmed Axis Cook Media Ltd as the suppliers of the GCCF official publication, "Our Cats". Towards the end of 2008 things were starting to go wrong for the publication. Many delegates voiced their anger at "Our Cats" having paid in advance for their copies and had not received them. The evening before the February 2009 meeting the Chairman had received an e-mail from Axis Cook, requesting a further payment from the GCCF in order to continue with their commitment to us. This request was rejected by delegates. The Chairman has since written to Axis Cook asking them to fulfil their original contract. This they have failed to do, and it has been deemed that they have broken their contract with us and there is currently no official publication for the GCCF. The GCCF are asking judges to make their reports available through the internet and are currently examining ways in which the reports can be made available to people who have no access to the internet

8) Welfare Report. (Jackie Steele)

I am pleased to report that on the welfare side things have been very quiet this year except for one letter I received. The letter in question was from Sue Terry asking for help for a friend who showed a non-pedigree in the past at Bristol and who lived in Devon. The lady was in the process of receiving a large vet bill for her elderly cat and was not sure if she could pay this. After a discussion with some of the committee I wrote back to Sue requesting more information and costings. I have not heard anything further from Sue or her friend.

Our show this year was a great success with Yve, Karen, Ken (to name but a few) all helping on the tombola. I am delighted to say £366.25 was raised on the raffle by Mary and John and £366 on the Tombola. This will boost our Welfare Fund considerably and allow us to give contributions to various local charities to help with their continued good work.

I would also like to thank the committee and friends who throughout the year have helped and donated to both raffle and tombola. These things don't just happen on the day, like the

show it takes planning and organisation as well as storing all items, thanks Yve !

9) Show Manager's Team Report for 2009. (Elaine Robinson, Lisa Talboys & Assistant Show Manager John Robinson)

Well, our first time as Show Managers for the Bristol & District Cat Club did not get off to a very auspicious start! We discovered that several Breed Shows had moved to our new date which meant we lost quite a few across the board Judges. After re-arranging quite a few classes, we then discovered that some of the Breed Clubs had moved again !!! So, back on the phone to previous Judges, who could now attend our show and more re-allocating of classes (Lisa was tearing her hair out, by this time !) Finally sorted, then the big rush to get schedule out etc.etc.etc. But it all got sorted !

We kept entries open for as long as possible in order to get maximum entries- there was a problem with the post though, a few exhibitors rang to query their entries, which we hadn't received, so took those over the phone. We were very concerned that exhibitors might turn up and we hadn't received their entry – fortunately only one!!!! We felt so dreadfully sorry for her, a novice and she hadn't put a S.A.E. in anyway. After explaining to her what to do in future, she was quite happy, under the circumstances. We were pleased to be only 9 cats down on last year, considering that we didn't have Our Cats to remind people about the change of date and venue and no labels had been passed on to send to last year's exhibitors, so no schedules were actually posted out, apart from those requested – a little food for thought there, I think !

Friday setting-up was a huge shock to the system, NEVER have we had so many Committee Members turn up to help – absolutely marvellous !!!!!!! We also had a few members too – sincere thanks to everyone, as you know we had finished by 4pm- unheard of !!!!!!!

Saturday dawned, although rain had been forecast, it didn't materialise thank goodness, Show Managers nightmare, rain for vetting-in ! We had plenty of vets so there was never a queue – thanks Dot. Getting them through vetting-in is always a priority, keeps everyone happy!

There was a slight hic-up with the parking (?) they had NOT opened the barrier to the field, unknown to us, on speaking to the Manager on Monday morning, no blame is attached to us and we were told that they always open the barrier, it is NOT down to us to do it ! Their fault phew !

We all felt that the show ran well, exhibitors seemed very happy, committee happy, table happy, we were happy. Main bone of contention was the P.A. system, it was useless ! Looking into that for next year, assuming you still want us, of course ?

John Hansson hammed up Best in Show very nicely (as requested) and we seemed to have more exhibitors than usual watching which is good!

All in all a successful show, we think ! As I said on Friday, we put a show together BUT without the support of the Committee, it can be very hard work !

Our sincere thanks to you all, it was a pleasure working with you, a small heart –attack first thing Saturday (The Kernow Envelope ?) but mainly fun laughter, as it should be – it is supposed to be our hobby, after all !!!!!!!

10) Election of Committee Members.

Unfortunately Mary has decided to resign from the Committee due to ill health.

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

again.

Stephen Jater – Chairman, to serve a further 3 years.

Roy Williams – Vice President, to serve a further 3 years.

Pat Roberts - to serve a further 1 year term of office to bring Committee rotation into line.

There were two Committee vacancies, no nominations had been received. Kathy Lowe and Liz Corrigan were co-opted onto the Committee this to be verified by the Committee at the meeting after the A.G.M. According to rule any co-option can be for one year only with the member standing for re-election at the next AGM.

11) Proposed Rule Changes.

1. Rule 3 (b) Start 11th line delete before the A.G.M.
2. Rule 3 (e) 4th line delete Social Secretary.
3. Rule 4 (b) 1st line change four weeks to two weeks.
4. Rule 7 Delete the whole rule and re-number the remaining rules.
5. Old Rule 11(a) New Rule 10 (a) 2nd line delete between 31st January and 30th April and replace with, in either March or April.
6. Rule 6(b) change to : Make available a copy of the rules to each new member.

Change of rules voted en bloc :

Proposed by Dot Thomson, Seconded by Karen Burford.

Unanimous vote to amend the rules.

12) Election of G.C.C.F Delegate and Substitute Delegate.

Delegate Roy Williams. Proposed by Pat Roberts, Seconded by Janet Ashman.

Substitute Delegate Liz Corrigan. Proposed by Jackie Steele, Seconded by Dot Thomson.

13) Correspondence.

Sue had received an e-mail from an exhibitor congratulating the Club on such a successful show.

Thank you letters received from the various charities we support thanking the Club for donations.

14) Any Other Business.

Kathy Lowe thought it would be a good idea to make a goodwill gesture to our President Joan Judd as she has supported the Club for so many years, and does not have access to a computer. Chairman Stephen Jater agreed to send photos of the B.I.S. winners together with welfare reports and a copy of the Clubs accounts.

Meeting closed at 3.45pm.