

2. DETERMINATION THAT THE MEETING WAS CALLED IN THE PROPER MANNER AND DETERMINATION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting had been called in the proper manner.

3. ELECTION OF MEETING CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

It was unanimously agreed that Linda Griffin would chair the meeting and Tamsin Moran would take the minutes.

4. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES AND COUNTING OF VOTES

It was agreed that Penny Bydlinski and Mary Rose Douglas would ratify the minutes and Tina Clark and Birgit Solstein would count the votes.

5. UPDATE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Linda Griffin introduced herself as the chairperson and invited Neil Gardner to give an update from the FB Steering Committee.

Neil Gardner gave a general summary of activities since FIFe agreed to FB becoming their provisional UK member on November 8th 2003:

- a) FB's membership as of 18/01/04 is 9 full member clubs and 3 affiliate member clubs.
- b) As of 18/01/04 there were 307 individual full members.
- c) Neil Gardner stressed the importance of clubs communicating with their members rather than expecting FB to do it for them.
- d) It was noted that clubs will have to abide by FIFe Rule 4.1.1, (notification of all litters), to ensure that queens are not over-used.
- e) Neil Gardner pointed out that there has been a lot of publicity in the cat magazines.
- f) SVERAK, FB's mentor, have requested twice yearly reports and a security payment of 650 euros which is fully refundable once FB becomes a full member of FIFe, or if we decided not to become a member of FIFe. SVERAK had received a good report of FB's first show in December
- g) It was noted that there is a full show list for 2004 and some dates for 2005 have been reserved.

6. PROGRESS TO DATE

- a) There had been a provisional agreement between the clubs with regard to club fees, registration fees and draft statutes, the latter would be fully agreed later in the meeting.
- b) A fully integrated pedigree database is now in place and there is a registration database on the internet.
- c) Mel Gardner pointed out that new pedigrees and imports are taking longer than was anticipated to register due to extensive errors in the cat information on the original pedigree documents. 2000 individual cats had already been checked.

- d) From the beginning of February 2004 a test for pedigree genetic checkers will be in place. If a Club's Pedigree Secretary felt ready, they could ask to take the exam, and if they failed, they could return two months later to try again.

The Pedigree Secretaries will need:

- internet access
- a club stamp
- a knowledge of feline genetics
- FIFe/FB registration rules
- the FIFe red and blue books
- breeding policies
- attention to detail!

At that point Linda Griffin interjected that she was astounded at the amount of work that had been achieved so far, and congratulated the Steering Committee.

7. STEERING COMMITTEE FINANCIAL STATEMENT BY EDDIE KITCHING

The first financial statement of FB will cover the trading period November 8th 2003 to December 31st 2004 and will be presented at the next AGA. Eddie Kitching distributed a summary of financial activities to date.

- a) The first 13 invoices were raised for membership fees.
- b) Invoices nos. 14 – 22 were raised from individual clubs for “Cat World” advertisements.
- c) Invoices nos. 23 – 27 were bills for additional members.
- d) A cheque was made to the Maine Coon Guild for over-payment.
- e) Donations were received on 13/01/04 and this was money that had been collected over some time from those who wished to form a federation.
- f) Expenditure for FB had so far amounted to “Cat World” advertisements totalling £270.00 and payment of items needed by the registration dept.
- g) Balance as on 18/01/04 : £1874.17
- h) It was stressed that there is a separate cash flow for SVERAK.
- i) Neil Gardner commented that over the coming months there would be a lot of expense, especially for stationery. He also stressed that federation accounts would be free for anyone to see at any time, but that individual member requests should be channelled through their respective club.
- j) The first financial statement will cover the period: 8/11/03 – 31/12/04
- k) It was mentioned that FB will have its own internal accountant.
- l) Neil Gardner commented that FIFe will keep an eye on registrations and international shows but not on internal accounts, unless there were signs of insolvency.

Linda Griffin asked delegates if they had any queries. Laura Johnson from the Maine Coon Guild requested a recess to talk to her committee with regard to the election of officers. A five minute recess was granted.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMISSIONS

Neil Gardner commented that it was felt that, contrary to the FB statues at this time, unopposed delegates should be voted upon, this was unanimously agreed and it was also agreed that a Simple Majority should be used for the elections. Neil Gardner also asked the delegates to vote on whether they would like the voting to be open or by secret ballot. Fred Linden-Wyatt raised his concerns over open voting with the regard to voting on individuals. A vote was taken on what form the voting should take for ALL issues.

Results: Open voting – 8 votes
 Closed voting – 7 votes
 Abstentions – 1

Therefore completely open voting would be used.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Election of President (Neil Gardner)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

Election of Vice-President (Sarah Errington)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

Election of Deputy Vice-President (no nominations)

Election of Treasurer/Accountant (Leigh O'Connor)

Vote For : 14 Votes Abstentions : 2 Votes

Election of Deputy Treasurer (no nominations)

Election of General Secretary (Helen Andrews)

Vote For : 15 Votes Abstentions : 1 Vote

Election of Deputy General Secretary (Chris Roscorla)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

COMMISSIONS

Election of Chairman of Breeding, Health & Welfare (Mel Gardner)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

Election of Chairman of Show & Competition Rules Commission (Mel Gardner)

Vote For : 13 Votes Abstentions : 3 Votes

Election of Chairman of The Judges Commission (Penny Bydlinski)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

Election of Chairman of The Rules Commission (Eddie Kitching)

Vote For : 13 Votes Abstentions : 3 Votes

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Election of Chairman of The Investigation Committee (Linda Griffin)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

Election of Chairman of The Disciplinary Hearing Committee (Clive Bennett)

Vote For : Unanimous (16 Votes)

Election of Chairman of The Appeals Committee (Louvain Woodmass)

Vote For : 7 Votes Vote Against : 6 Votes Abstentions : 3

Election For Members of The Disciplinary Commission

Rob Hart-Jones Vote for: Unanimous
Fred Linden-Wyatt Vote for: Unanimous
Colin Griffin Vote for: Unanimous
Iris Luff Vote for: 13 votes Abstentions: 3 votes
Steve Rattray Vote for: Unanimous
Margaret Brooksbank Vote for: Unanimous
Phil Brooksbank Vote for: 14 votes Abstentions: 2 votes
Keith Butterworth Withdrawn

Election For Members of The Show Commission

Tina Clarke Vote for: 13 votes Against: 3 votes
Julie Ann Payne Vote for: 14 votes Abstentions: 2 votes
Margaret Brooksbank Vote for: 12 votes Abstentions: 4 votes
Phil Brooksbank Vote for: 10 votes Abstentions: 6 votes
Maureen Shackell (advisor) Vote for: Unanimous (16 votes)

Election For Members of The Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission

Sally French Vote for: Unanimous
David Brinicombe Vote for: 14 votes Abstentions: 2 votes
Birgit Solstein Vote for: Unanimous
Margaret Brooksbank Vote for: 5 votes Abstentions: 11 votes

Election For Members of The Judges Commission

Jenny Rattray Vote for: 10 votes Abstentions: 6 votes
Janet Green Withdrew

Election For Members of The Rules Commission

Lisa Crowe Vote for: 14 votes Abstentions: 2 votes
Phil Brooksbank Vote for: Unanimous

9. PLANS FOR 2004

Neil Gardner gave a summary of items that need to be looked at:

SHORT TERM PLANS

- a) Draw up rules that we do not currently have. Each commission must discuss rules and report back by the middle of March.
- b) Make sure the registration database is up and running smoothly.
- c) Smooth running of shows – use the Show Commission as they are there to help.
- d) Organise a “National Winners Show” for the Worthing show in August. This will be an invitation-only show and there will be more details to follow in the coming months.
- e) Monitor the budget – careful budget control is essential.

LONG TERM PLANS

Neil Gardner pointed out that many of the long term plans will be dependent on whether FB is put forward to become a full member in this year’s FIFe General Assembly, however he did stress that much of this does depend on SVERAK, our mentors.

It was widely thought that FB will probably not be ready to become full members until 2005.

Other thoughts were:

- a) Shows need to be made more accessible and more widely advertised.
- b) Try to get more individuals into the running of FB.
- c) Set up some steward training days.
- d) Put into place a show management support system.
- e) Encourage and support those individuals who wish to start judge training.

Penny Bydlinski reported that CA paper documentation would shortly be given to FIFe by Grant Thornton. FIFe needed help from the FB Clubs to contact owners of the paperwork for distribution. Neil Gardner said that FB should contact Everycat reminding them that they should not use FIFe data.

10. PROPOSALS

It was noted that proposals will come into immediate effect.

PROPOSAL 1 – ADOPT THE AGREED REGISTRATION FEES

Suggested fees are £5 registration charge per litter plus £7.50 pedigree charge per registered kitten. For declaration the £5 litter fee only is applicable.

Laura Johnson expressed her concerns on the new registration forms whereby one either “declares” or “registers” a litter. She stressed that this could be a very expensive process when both parents of the litter are not already registered with FIFe, although she was looking at the scenario of registering several litters of this type at the same time which would be unusual.

Laura Johnson proposed that the fee to “declare a litter” be removed, however this was not seconded.

Proposal 1 results: 11 votes for 3 votes against 2 abstentions

PROPOSAL 2 – ADOPT THE AGREED CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES

Laura Johnson questioned whether the amount each member pays to the club for FIFe membership is high or not and what it is based on. Neil Gardner said that the fee varies from country to country.

Proposal 2 results: 16 votes for – unanimous

PROPOSAL 3 – VETERINARY RULES

This proposal was withdrawn.

PROPOSAL 4 – PKD ISSUES

PKD PROPOSAL 1

The proposal stated that all entire Persians and Exotics over 10 months of age, which are imported from another registry, must hold a valid PKD test certificate, and that export transfers would only be issued to Persians and Exotics over 10 months of age which held a valid PKD test certificate. It was advised that this proposal, should it go ahead, should form part of the breeding, health and welfare rules.

PKD Proposal 1 Results: 14 votes for 2 votes against

PKD PROPOSAL 2

The proposal stated that any Persian or Exotic kitten would be initially registered as “not for breeding” unless both its parents held a valid PKD test certificate; this restriction can be removed at the request of the breeder, if such a kitten was subsequently granted a valid PKD test certificate after the age of 10 months.

Neil Gardner said that this proposal also needed to allow the breeder to apply for dispensation so these additional words were added:

“Breeders may apply to the Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission for an exception to be made where this would be beneficial to the breed.”

PKD Proposal 2 (including addition) Results: 14 votes for 2 votes against

PKD PROPOSAL 3

The proposal stated that if any cat of any breed was diagnosed with PKD by testing or post mortem examination, then the FB Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission must be informed and their advice taken. The proposal was agreed subject to the words “and their advice taken” being removed.

PKD Proposal 3 Results: 16 votes for – unanimous.

PROPOSAL 5 – ADDITION TO THE FB REGISTRATION RULES

It was agreed that under 5.11.b delete the word “affiliate” and under 5.11d substitute the word “affiliate” with the word “associate”.

Proposal 5 results: 13 votes for 2 Abstentions

PROPOSAL 6 - BREEDING, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

The proposal stated that there should be four members and two reserve members to allow for the diversity of the tasks within its remit.

Proposal 6 results: 16 votes for – unanimous

PROPOSAL 7 – RE. DATA PROTECTION ACT PHRASE

It was agreed that the first part of the phrase should be a requirement of the FB rules as it is a legal requirement.

Helen Andrews’s superior, who was a Lawyer, had agreed to advise on the wording to put on all of the forms, where necessary.

Proposal 7 results: 16 votes for

PROPOSAL 8 – RE. DATA PROTECTION ACT REGISTRATION

Neil Gardner and Eddie Kitching pointed out that it appears that FB was exempt on this matter as it was a non-profit making organisation but they did recommend that FB took professional advice as soon as possible.

The proposal was withdrawn.

PROPOSAL 9 – PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE STATUTE AMENDMENTS

STATUTE QUERIES:

- a) Laura Johnson queried the criteria on voting. Neil Gardner said that SVERAK and FB worked on a voting system of proportional representation and that the reason it was structured in this manner was to stop even the largest FB club gaining a huge control within FB. Eddie Kitching suggested that if SVERAK were operating in this way then it would be advisable to follow their structure, at least until FB became a full member of FIFe. Laura Johnson queried to whether there was a FB commission that could look into this matter further and Neil Gardner suggested that she approach the Rules Commission.
- b) Statute 3.3b – the term “absolute majority” was queried. It was clarified that abstentions count as an “against” vote. Neil Gardner suggested that a glossary could be added.
- c) Statute 3.3h – FIFe rules clarify this.
- d) Statue 3.6 - Laura Johnson raised concerns that if a club could not hold an EGA in the event of a club disbanding, then any funds should be given to a feline charity

Laura Johnson proposed and Fred Linden-Wyatt seconded that a point c) be added to Statute 3.6, as follows:

“Any monies will go to a feline charity in the event of an EGA not making a decision.”

Agreed unanimously.

- e) Statute 5.13 – Remove ”to” from the end of this section. Laura Johnson suggested that this should read as a 75% majority rather than an absolute majority i.e. 51%.
- f) Laura Johnson proposed that “a majority of 75% will be required for expulsion”. This was passed and would be added into 5.13.
- g) Statute 6.29b – This was clarified in 5.1aii as affiliate clubs have no voting rights.
- h) Penny Bydlinski pointed out that there was no outline of the Treasurer’s responsibilities within the Statutes. She proposed an addition, 6.20i: “The Executive Committee shall be discharged of their responsibility for the previous year’s finances”. This was seconded by Phil Brooksbank and agreed unanimously.
- i) Laura Johnson suggested that the word “surrender” was changed to “Delegate “ in statute 4.6 (this appears twice). Agreed unanimously.

Delegates had a short discussion about the safeguard of FB monies, expenses approval etc. Neil Gardner said that financial guidelines would be drafted and circulated within the next two months.

RESULTS : PROPOSAL TO ADOPT STATUTE AMENDMENTS

16 votes for – unanimous

RESULTS : PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE STATUTES

14 votes for Abstentions:2 votes

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Phil Brooksbank brought up the subject of show entry costs and mentioned that it would be ideal if the entry fees for all shows were more-or-less the same. Neil Gardner stressed that all of the clubs that were running shows needed to talk to each other on this matter.

- b) Phil Brooksbank stressed that to hold office on the committee of a club an individual had to be a full member of that club. Laura Johnson said that it should be up to the individual clubs rather than FIFe/FB. Neil Gardner asked how one could fully represent a club if one was not a full member, and stressed that at any one time an individual could only be a full member of one club and could therefore only be on the committee of only one club.
- c) Sponsorship - Neil Gardner said that FB needed to start afresh and that this was probably better managed at a central level rather than at the club level.

Neil Gardner brought to everyone's attention that SMYLEE PETS were interested in a sponsorship deal and so far the items that have been discussed were:

At federation level Smylee Pets would pay for the printing of FB stationery and in return their name would be shown on the stationery. They would sponsor trophies and a perpetual trophy for annual awards where individual names would be engraved.

At show level Smylee Pets would pay for all printing costs, a banner to be displayed outside the venue 2 weeks before, all prizes, stewarding coats, adverts, best in show rosettes, blank judges' reports, BIV/Nomination rosettes and certificate of award cards. In return they had so far requested a discounted show price for their stall, that their name is present on the banner(s) and steward coats, that they have a mention in all show reports, that their name goes on to the certificate of award cards and on the judges' reports, that they want the sole trading rights to two foods, probably Royal Canin and James Wellbeloved and advertising in all catalogues.

They would have to provide the same level of sponsorship for every show, however they would not have to attend every show.

Neil Gardner said that a contract needed to be written but that it should not stop clubs having their own minor sponsor(s) as long as they do not conflict with the main sponsor. All clubs would be made fully aware of any restrictions in due course.

No one objected to Neil Gardner pursuing the negotiations with Smylee Pets but everyone thought that it was important to have this sponsorship in place for the first show at the end of February.

The sponsorship agreement was to last for one year.

- d) Contracts - Neil Gardner mentioned that he would like to see all clubs holding shows to have contracts with all of the trade stalls in the future and ensure that no more than three trade stalls sell the same merchandise at any one show.
- e) Penning – It was agreed that clubs will not have to use the same penning company and that it is in everyone's best interest to find the most cost effective solution. Allkeep penning of Newcastle had agreed to provide drapes in FB's colours.
- f) Validation Rosettes – It was agreed that it would be sensible if all the clubs adopted the same validation rosettes, which would be in the FB colours. It was also thought to be a good idea if at the European level the rosettes were more impressive and had the cat's name printed on the tails. Neil Gardner suggested that individual clubs could choose the cost constraints on the different levels of rosettes and, in order to save money, the clubs could go direct to the rosette supplier, rather than through FB, to save money. FB rosette charges should be between £6 and £12 each.
- g) Validation Certificates – these would be entirely up to each individual club.
- h) Judges Report Forms – it was agreed that these would consist of a standard FB sheet and room would be left for the club name.

- i) Sharing of club/show equipment – It is proposed that FB will have some standard show equipment that is shared between all of the clubs. It maybe the case that in the future the show fees would be increased to cover the cost of this equipment. FB would be able to claim transportation costs for this. A laptop computer and printer would be purchased by FB and loaned to the clubs for their shows.
- j) Charging rates for trade stalls – Neil Gardner stressed that at present FB did not have much negotiating power as its shows are quite small, however FB would have more power if the negotiations were done through FB rather than through the separate clubs. It was suggested that the price that the trade stalls were charged would be able to double or treble as the shows increased in size.
- k) Registrations – At present no clubs registrations clerk have had the opportunity to do the genetics test and it was agreed that the full licence fee for registrations would have to be waived until all of the clubs had passed the test.
- l) Post – Fred suggested that there should be a reimbursement on registration postage costs. At present the registrar returned the pedigrees in the same way as they arrived. FB picked up the cost at present and would closely monitor by which method post is being sent, e.g. first class, recorded delivery, special delivery etc, and keep a close guard on postage costs.
- m) Show Insurance – Neil Gardner mentioned that show insurance would be done centrally. Each cat shown will pay 25 pence to FB for this insurance.
- n) General Assembly – It was put forward that in future the GA may need to be carried out over 2 days, for instance over a weekend, and a gala dinner could be held on the Saturday evening. This was left open for discussion and thought.

12. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 5PM.

13. DATE FOR NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To be confirmed.

Signed:

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Linda Griffin
 Chairman

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Penny Bydlinski
 Minutes Checker

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Mary Rose Douglas
 Minutes Checker