



Minutes of the Felis Britannica AGA 2008
Held at
Totworth Court Four Pillars Hotel
Totworth, Wotton-under-Edge,
South Gloucestershire, GL12 8HH
On
17th & 18th February 2008

Present:

Neil Gardner	President
Keith Butterworth	Vice-President
Sarah Errington	Deputy Vice-President
Barney Wright	Deputy Treasurer
Fran de Courcy Rolls	General Secretary
Mel Gardner	Viking Cat Club Delegate, Show Commission Chair & Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission Chair
Vera Wright	Viking Cat Club Advisor
Sarah Johnson	Garden of England Cat Club Delegate
Jenny Rattray	Garden of England Cat Club Advisor
Kerry Butterworth	Maine Coon Guild Delegate
Caro Hewitt	Maine Coon Guild Advisor
Eddie Kitching	Aristocats Cat Club Advisor (Sat) & Delegate (Sun)
John Cunningham	Aristocats Cat Club Delegate (Sat)
Ian Dermott	Aristocats Cat Club Advisor (Sun) Acting Disciplinary Commission Officer (Sat)
Louise Mitchell	Observer

Within these minutes the following clubs will be referred to as:

Viking Cat Club	VCC
Garden of England Cat Club	G of E
Maine Coon Guild	MCG
Aristocats Cat Club	ACC

The president opened the meeting at 10.00am

1. Presidents welcome

Welcome to our 5th Annual General Assembly, and our first at the Tortworth Court.

It's incredible to realise that this is our 5th annual gathering – it seems like only yesterday that we were appealing to the FIFe Board to allow us to form a new British FIFe member in the aftermath of the CA's self destruction. At the time I remember many people saying that we may never repair the damage cause, or reach the heights of the CA.

Now, only a little over 4 years later we are processing more registrations, operating significantly more shows and are an active member of the FIFe community.

Tonight we have the Gala dinner and presentation of our annual winner's awards – a pleasant distraction from the hard work ahead of us during the day. It is gratifying to see that our members appreciate this format, and appears to be becoming a well established annual tradition.

We hope you enjoy your stay at Tortworth Court, and the Gala Dinner this evening. Your comments would be much appreciated after the event, as we are always looking to improve the weekend, and can only achieve this through your feedback allowing us to assess the success of the venue, the Gala Dinner and the AGA.

We have much to get through over the next 2 days, some items that may require much debate, so I will end my welcome now and move onto the procedure points.

2. Roll call of the delegates and determination of right to vote

ACC 4 Votes
MCG 3 Votes
G of E 3 Votes
VCC 4 Votes

The President stated to the meeting that with a total of 14 votes present, an absolute majority would require 8 votes and a three quarters majority would require 11 votes.

3. Determination that meeting has been called correctly

The President asked if there were any questions regarding the way and time in which the AGA meeting was called. With none raised, he asked for a vote to agree this and move to the agenda.
Vote: unanimously carried

4. Determine the order of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The General Secretary asked to move item number 24 the VCC official objection to the beginning of the agenda. The President proposed that it was moved to number 8a so as to be dealt with as part of the minutes of the previous meeting. This was seconded by the VCC and put to a vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

The General Secretary asked that the nomination of Louise Mitchell to the Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission be moved to 19 (a) or the end of the day whichever was the soonest. This was seconded by the VCC and the President put it to a vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

5. Election of a Chairperson and Secretary for the meeting

ACC proposed the President as the chairperson for the meeting; this was seconded by VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

ACC proposed the General Secretary as the secretary for the meeting; this was seconded by the VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

6 Apologies for Absence

Mrs. Janet Green

Ms. Amanda Lee

Ms. Lisa Slade

Mr. Graham Taberer

7. Election of two people to ratify the minutes and two people to count the votes

The President proposed Mel Gardner and Sarah Johnson to ratify the minutes; this were seconded by the ACC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President proposed Sarah Errington and Louise Mitchell to count the votes; this was seconded by the VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

8. Acceptance of minutes dated February 2007

The President asked for any questions arising from the 2007 minutes. The VCC explained their objection stating that there had been several complaints from members regarding this and had resulted in fewer kittens shown as a result. For clarification the President explained the process of objecting to proposals passed at the previous AGA as it had not occurred before. The ACC clarified that the proposal voted on at the previous AGA included more than just this aspect of the qualification of 3- 6 month old kittens to the winners show. The president stated that the meeting would only be voting on this aspect of the proposal.

The G of E asked for the meeting to ratify the minutes, therefore accepting that the original proposal had been recorded correctly after which the objection could be voted on. The President agreed and put the acceptance of the minutes to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President asked the VCC to read out their objection and to clarify which part of the proposal they were requesting to overturn. This having been done, the President put it to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

9. President's Report

APPENDIX 1

10. General Secretary's Report

APPENDIX 2

The VCC thanked the EC and in particular the General Secretary for the work undertaken over the past year.

- 11. Financial Statement**
- 12. Treasurer's Report**

Both agenda items were addressed together.

The President stated that a Preliminary statement of account had been circulated in the absence of a signed off copy of the accounts written by the EC (APPENDIX 3) and asked that it be read out before any comments were given.

Mr Kitching disagreed with being asked to go through his club to converse with the meeting and stated that as the former Treasurer he had an independent right to reply, and wanted a separate right to vote outside his club.

The VCC objected to the right to vote being given to Mr Kitching over and above the ACC vote. Mr Kitching stated he had not made himself clear and did not want a separate right to vote, just an independent right to comment outside his club. This was put to the meeting and was agreed but only for the purposes for discussion pertaining to the accounts. The President asked the EC to please state if they disagreed with anything Mr Kitching stated to the meeting.

The President read out the financial report by the EC (APPENDIX 4). He went on to add that the EC wished for the meeting to discuss whether the clubs would be prepared to deal with the matter of the signed off accounts, once ready, through email and tele-conference or an EGA.

The President then opened the floor.

The President stated that several questions, which had been put to the accountant, first through Mr Kitching and then directly, had not been addressed.

The General Secretary highlighted that the clubs were not privy to all the correspondence that was being referred to and the MCG asked if they were going to get copies of this. The President explained that there was a lot of correspondence in emails.

The G of E asked for clarification from the EC as to why they had not had the accounts signed off.

The President explained that the Profit & Loss statement needed to reflect the unforeseen costs from 2006 and that these needed to be referred to in the 2007 accounts. Mr Kitching stated that this should be left to the accountant. The President highlighted that it had not been done. The President went on to state that the accruals were incorrect for 2006.

The ACC asked what the sum that was in dispute regarding the accruals. The President stated that it would have had approximately £1000 impact on the declaration for 2006.

The President went on to explain that whilst it was known where the money was, there was a need to accurately reflect this in the accounts so that the members, on looking at the accounts, had an accurate and open view of the activity within FB for each year. One of the questions to the accountant had been how to achieve this.

Mr Kitching asked why it had not been asked for last year and the President explained that 2005 and 2006 had been done together due to the change of Treasurer and the poor records handed over.

The President clarified that the EC were stating that the accounts should have a footnote included. To which Mr. Wright agreed and stated that the difference between accrual and repayments had not been made or understood, hence to ensure an accurate reflection of this in the accounts, the EC had requested a footnote.

Mr Kitching asked to circulate the draft accounts from the accountant that had not been circulated to the meeting. The President asked what the point was in doing so. The ACC disagreed that there were no point in circulating this as that the clubs could save an EGA by passing them now.

The General Secretary highlighted that the clubs would have to agree to vote as their members had not seen the accounts being circulated.

The President asked Mr Kitching to circulate the draft accounts from the accountant to the meeting.

G of E stated that as they had not seen the accounts and not discussed them with their members they were not happy to vote. The VCC also stated that as they had not discussed the accounts in their club they could not vote.

Mr Wright stated that there was no separate accrual sheet only a reflection of the cash account in these draft accounts. He went on to state that he could not understand why a footnote was being objected to by Mr Kitching.

Mr Kitching clarified that it was due to the questions the EC wished to have answered that the accounts had not been signed off, yet they had in fact been answered. The President stated that the questions had not been answered, in particular how to deal with the issue of a foot note to explain to the members that the 2007 accounts contained some of the 2006 expenditure. This would reflect a more accurate picture of how money was spent and received in 2007.

Sarah Errington stated that she could not see why a footnote was such a problem for Mr Kitching as with her business accounts these was included and that it was standard accounting practice to have footnotes with accounts.

The ACC asked to move forward and vote on if the meeting was going to accept the EC's suggestion, made within their report, of presenting the accounts at a later date once questions had been answered and they had been signed off.

Mr Kitching asked if the accountant would be paid. The General Secretary asked if Mr Kitching could please keep one single point at a time to assist in the minute taking and asked how this question answered the ACC suggestion of a vote being taken.

The ACC stated that this point was not relevant at this moment and any question, if decided, should be asked at the EGA, or email/tele conference, once the final accounts had been circulated.

The President asked that the clubs vote on the request from the EC that the meeting dealt ratification of the accounts, and for that a proposer was required.

The ACC proposed that the ratification of accounts is postponed to be dealt with at an EGA at a later date, and that it is done in the cheapest way possible. The VCC seconded this proposal.

ACC raised the point that the end of the account year should be moved to allow time for them.

Mr Wright stated that he would like the fact it was no reflection on the past accountant if he moved to using another accountant nearer to and used to working with him. Mr Kitching asked about the costs of a new accountant. Mr Wright could not say as he and his accountant had not yet seen the accounts and paperwork. The ACC stated that to go to another accountant if FB has have already paid in full for one accountant to do the work, is not practical or cost effective and they would not support that.

The VCC stated that as the EC had asked the question regarding including footnotes in the accounts twice already, could they trust that the footnotes would be added in time by the current accountant. The President stated that he had reservations.

Mr Kitching asked whether any accountant could be 100% trusted. The ACC stated that there will always be an element of trust and since the current accountant would not add further cost and a new accountant might add further as yet unknown cost, added to their proposal that FB stay with the existing accountant for the 2007 accounts.

The President asked Mr Wright for his comments. Mr Wright stated that he could write a covering letter to the existing accountant requesting footnotes and that any further communication and matters pertaining to the FB accounts be addressed to him. He went on to state that he was inclined to take the 2007 accounts back to the same accountant as FB had already had the bill for the work.

The G of E seconded the amended proposal from the ACC and the vote was put to the meeting.
Vote: unanimously carried

The President stated that the accounts would be finalised and then circulated to the clubs. The clubs would then be asked if they feel the ratification can be dealt with over a teleconference or if a full EGA is required. The ACC suggested that it be dealt with in the same way as the same as the 2005/2006 accounts and left till the next AGA. The G of E agreed with this suggestion as it was not the bottom line that was in question, only the presentation of the accounts.

The MCG suggested that a covering letter explaining this to the clubs would be appropriate. The G of E proposed that the EC write a letter stating that the EC were happy with the bottom line but not the presentation and that the accounts were therefore not passed by the EC who will not be asking for a discharge of their responsibility until the next AGA. This was seconded by the ACC. Mr Kitching asked for a copy of the letter to go to the accountant.

The President put the G of E proposal to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

Mr Kitching and the ACC asked for the financial year to be moved to allow more time for the accounts to be prepared.

The General Secretary highlighted that the clubs could be asked for their thoughts on changing the financial year and then the EC could make an interim decision, which would then be ratified at the next AGA. The G of E highlighted statute 6.9 and the President stated that the item would be raised under Any Other Business and classified as an urgent matter and then changed if necessary.

Mr Kitching circulated the final winners Profit & Loss statement (APPENDIX 5)

13. Discharge of responsibility of the Executive Committee 2007

This was not requested.

14. Further issues regarding the previous year's activities brought to the attention of the AGA

None were raised.

15. Determination of fees for the coming year 01.01.09 – 31.12.09

a) Membership fees

b) Other fees (registrar)

The President stated that there had not been enough time to form a proposal to deal with this therefore he proposed that fees remain the same.

Mr Kitching disagreed with this and thought that fees needed to be raised as the forthcoming year will be more expensive for FB and if fees are not raised FB will incur a loss.

The ACC stated that they would have liked to see the Registrar's fee increased due to amount of work involved.

The President stated that as the meeting had no proposal it therefore could not raise the fees. He went on to explain how the budget (APPENDIX 6) was arrived at, and that he did not think that FB would incur a loss next year. The ACC highlighted that a budget is a guideline and can only be worked to. The President agreed and explained that if FB goes extremely over budget then a vote in no confidence in the EC can be raised.

The President went on to explain that the FIFe show licence is paid in Euros however in the past the EC took the decision to fix the fee charged to the clubs at £120. The EC are proposing to adjust the fee to £135 due to the weakness of the pound against the Euro. The President asked for any objections and none were put forward. Mr Kitching asked for clarification as to when this would take effect and the President stated that it would be with immediate effect.

The ACC clarified whether there was anything to vote on. The President stated that the meeting would have vote that the fees remain the same. The ACC asked if the meeting could vote not to accept unchanged fees and then let the EC decide if they need to increase them at an EC meeting, and subsequently ratify the change at the next AGA. The President stated that the EC do look at fees throughout the year. Mr Wright suggested it was done on a three monthly basis.

The ACC stated that it would be nice to see a proposal next year to allow a standard increase each year to be put into place.

16. Approval of the Fees

The President proposed that the fees remain the same for 2009. The VCC seconded this and it was put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

17. Election of an Accountant

Mr Wright proposed Mr John Thorpe. The MCG asked if the accountant has a copy of the FB statutes. The President stated that the Treasurer should pass on the relevant section to the accountant. The VCC seconded the proposed accountant, and it was put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

18. Presentation of activity plan for FB for the coming year and interim budget

The ACC raised the cost of the AGA venue, as whilst a nice environment, it must be costing FB and a cheaper venue could be found. The General Secretary agreed but went on to highlight that the ACC advisor was one of the people who had said the 2006 venue was too cheap, and went on to say that it was hard to please everybody as there were high expectations on venue and low expectations on cost.

Mr Kitching queried the income from show licences in the budget, and stated that it should be changed to £2,400 as there would be 17 shows. The President agreed and stated that this would therefore change the expected profit to £2,833 including the removal of the cost for an EGA.

The President stated that he saw no reason not to put this budget to the vote. Mr Kitching disagreed as he thought the final accounts were needed in order to vote. The ACC disagreed and stated that as the budget was required for the forthcoming year it could be voted on.

The President proposed that the budget was accepted with the following amendments:

Removal of the EGA costs

Adjusted FIFe fees (show licenses) from £2,040 to £2,400

Income would therefore be £25,644

Expenditure would be £22,811

With an overall net surplus of £2,833

This was seconded by the VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

19. Commission Reports

i) Show Commission

The report had been circulated with the AGA paperwork and Mrs Gardner asked for any questions.

The ACC asked if the show managers training could be circulated to the clubs for comment. The President highlighted that this should be brought up under the proposal that covers the training scheme and the ACC agreed to do so.

ii) Judges Commission

No report had been received.

iii) Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission

The report had been circulated with the AGA paperwork and Mrs Gardner asked for any questions.

Mrs Gardner explained that an increase in FIFe imports rather than imports from other organisations had led to the decrease shown in the report.

The G of E asked a copy of the report from Sally French regarding the FIP symposium.

The ACC gave a vote of thanks to the Registrar and to all the club pedigree checkers. This was seconded by MCG. The ACC went on to ask for a pro rata system of payment for the Registrar. The G of E explained that FB would have to be careful regarding the difference between what is considered to be an honorarium and what is considered to be a wage.

The President asked if Sally French had been sending a veterinary rejection list to the GCCF. Mrs Gardner stated that she had not been in the past but has now done so for the past three months and will continue to do so.

iv) Disciplinary Commission

The President asked that no specifics of current disciplinary cases be discussed by the DCO or Mr Butterworth.

The VCC questioned the issue of not being able to communicate with members under investigation and therefore not proceeding with the case. The President stated that if the DCO

could not establish communication with a defendant then they should proceed and hear/investigate the case in absentia. Mr Butterworth asked what would happen if the defendant had moved as they would not be aware of the case. The ACC explained that the last known address notified to the member's club should be used. They went on to ask if in the instance highlighted in the report the club had been approached, Mr Butterworth explained that the club could not be approached as the system has to be independent within FB which precludes getting the clubs to contact the member on the DCO's behalf.

The President stated that the EC needs to discuss and agree at what point the defendant is tried in absentia and that this would be done within an EC meeting. Mr Butterworth asked when this cut-off point would come into effect as it is a key part of the process if changed. The VCC suggested the emergency powers of the EC be used to implement any change immediately.

The meeting broke for lunch at 1.40pm

20. Elections

The President moved the election of Louise Mitchell to item a) as previously agreed by the meeting and asked that the General Secretary count the votes with Sarah Errington for this first election as Louise Mitchell was the candidate.

a) Position: Full member of Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission

Nominee: Louise Mitchell

Vote: For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

One spoilt ballot.

Elected by a majority

b) Position: Chair of Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission

Nominee: Sarah Johnson

Vote: For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

Unanimously elected

Due to the nominee for DCO being out of the room the President moved to item d)

d) Position: Ratification of Vice- President

Nominee: Keith Butterworth

Vote: For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

Unanimously ratified

e) Position: Ratification of Deputy Treasurer

Nominee: Barney Wright

Vote: For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

Unanimously ratified

The President went back to item c) as the nominee was now present

c) Position: Disciplinary Commission Officer (DCO)

Nominee: Ian Dermott

Vote: For 7
Against 7
Abstain 0
Majority not reached, therefore not elected

f) Position: Ratification of Chair of Show Commission
Nominee: Melanie Gardner
Vote: For 14
Against 0
Abstain 0
Unanimously ratified

g) Position: Ratification of Full member of Show Commission
Nominee: Kerry Butterworth
Vote: For 14
Against 0
Abstain 0
Unanimously ratified

As the other candidate Mr. Taberer was not present, the President explained that the meeting, in accordance with the statutes, needed to vote whether to accept the reason of absence submitted. If the reason was accepted then the candidates name would be put forward for the vote on the position.

The General Secretary explained to the meeting that Mr. Taberer was not present as he was awaiting an operation the following week on his leg and currently could not drive.

The President asked the meeting to vote on accepting this apology.

Vote on acceptance of apology from Graham Taberer
Vote: For 12
Against 2
Abstain 0
Apology accepted by a majority

Position: Ratification of Full member of the Show Commission
Nominee: Graham Taberer
Vote: For 14
Against 0
Abstain 0
Unanimously ratified

As with the previous candidate Lisa Slade was not present at the meeting, The General Secretary explained to the meeting that Lisa Slade was a veterinary nurse and was on call this weekend - she had tried to change her shift but had not been able to.

The President asked the meeting to vote on accepting this apology as per the statutes.

Vote on acceptance of apology from Lisa Slade
Vote: For 14
Against 0
Abstain 0
Unanimously accepted

f) Position: Ratification of Full member of Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission
Nominee: Lisa Slade

Vote: For 14
Against 0
Abstain 0
Unanimously ratified

g) Louise Mitchell withdrew her candidacy as a supplementary member of the Breeding Health and Welfare Commission.

21. Ratification of Show Rule amendments

The President asked for any questions.

The ACC stated that they felt that the rules were biased towards two clubs in particular with regard to breed specials. Mrs Gardner did not see why and stated that currently only two clubs have established breed specials but this could change in the future.

The President asked for any other questions and with none forthcoming he put the amendments to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

22. Ratification of the Fixed Penalties Document for the Disciplinary Process

The President asked for any comments.

The VCC stated that they were not happy with fixed penalties covering welfare offences and requested that proposal BHW3 be removed.

The ACC asked why the meeting was using version 2.0 and not version 2.2. The President explained that the incorrect version number had been assigned to the most recent document, and asked the meeting to ensure they were all referring to the correct document, version 2.0.

The G of E suggested that the meeting work through the document item by item so nothing is missed. The President agreed and moved to the level of fines.

The ACC asked Sarah Johnson, as a reference point, how FB's fines compared with the GCCF fines. Sarah Johnson stated that they were lower than the GCCF fines. Both the VCC and G of E stated that they thought the fines were too low. Mr Butterworth expressed the concern that he did not want FB to be seen to be generating income through fines.

The President asked if anyone had any objections to Louise Mitchell addressing the meeting. There were none and Louise was asked to address her point to the meeting

Louise Mitchell stated that if the defendant has a lot of money, these fines will not be a deterrent.

The VCC proposed the fines be increased to £50, £100 and £150 respectively. This was seconded by the MCG and was put to the vote.

Vote: For – 10

Against – 4.

Carried by a majority.

The G of E suggested that the fines be put in the appendix and not in the document. The President went further and suggested that there be one document with all FB fees on it, not as an appendix but a separate document. This was agreed and the President proposed to remove fine amounts and replace with 'for fine levels please refer to the current fee structure' this was seconded by MCG and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried.

The president moved to SC1

The ACC asked what would happen to the award made on show day. Mrs Gardner stated it would be disqualified however the cat that came second would not be moved up.

The G of E proposed the wording 'An individual removes an exhibit from an FB show prior to official closure without permission of the Show Manager'. This was seconded by the VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The ACC stated that for a persistent offender the repeat offence here might not be a deterrent and proposed that for a third offence the penalty is more stringent.

The President suggested that on third offence the case automatically goes to a hearing and proposed that 'repeat offences' be removed and 'third offence- refer to hearings' be added. This was seconded by ACC and put to a vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President then asked for an overall vote to accept SC1 in the fixed penalties document with the above changes as voted on.

This was put to the vote.

Vote; unanimously carried

The president moved to SC2

The ACC suggested a clarification of the date, and proposed to add the word 'date' after 'of the show' this was seconded by the VCC and was put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The G of E proposed that the last line in the overview be removed and to also remove 'and repeat offences' and add 'third and subsequent offence. This was seconded by the VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President asked for an overall vote to accept SC2 in the fixed penalties with the above changes as voted on.

This was put to the vote

Vote: unanimously carried

The president moved to SC3

The G of E proposed that the same changes be made as they proposed for SC2. This was seconded by ACC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President asked for an overall vote to accept SC3 in the fixed penalties with the above changes as voted on.

This was put to the vote

Vote: unanimously carried

The President moved to BHW1

The VCC had the same objection as it had for BHW3 as the offence pertains to a welfare matter; however they were aware that one member had already been disciplined under this fixed penalty. Mr Butterworth stated that he did not think this was a problem as the member was likely to have

got off more lightly than if the case had gone to a full hearing. The VCC then proposed that BHW1 be struck from the document.

G of E seconded this proposal and it was put to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

The President moved to BHW2

The ACC stated that they thought it should include the declaring of the litter.

The G of E highlighted that FIFe rules already cover declaring a litter and questioned if FB should be moving a FIFe rule down to a common offence. The G of E then proposed that it be removed from the fixed penalty document. The VCC seconded this proposal and it was put to the vote.
Vote: unanimously accepted

The President moved to BHW3

The VCC had same objection as with BHW1 and, they went on to propose that it be removed from the document. This was seconded by the ACC and put to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

The President moved to BHW4

The VCC stated that they had the same question that the G of E had with declaring litters in BHW2 regarding the lessening a FIFe rule on microchipping.

The President proposed that part of the penalty should also include handing over the microchip number as well as a warning to ensure FB get what is required otherwise a disciplinary case could prolong things and not help the complainant.

The VCC suggested that the first offence be a suspension until the microchip number is provided as well as a minor offence fine.

The ACC asked what was to be done with the second offence, as the document currently shows a six month suspension being given.

The President stated that it should remain the same the offender is suspended until they provide the microchip number however for a second offence they would get the higher level fine.

The G of E proposed a suspension until the microchip number is provided and then a further 6 month suspension once it is provided, plus the fine. The ACC seconded this proposal and it was put to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

The G of E asked for a small correction in this penalty as it refers to FIFe rule 2.4 and not 3.7.

The President moved on to DC1

The ACC asked how this would be implemented. The President explained that it would be dealt with in the same way as veterinary rejections and that show managers would be notified.

The VCC suggested that it should include 'and FB rules'.

Mr Wright asked what if there was an individual that continued to show a cat in another name. The VCC then suggested 'them or their cats' be added. The General Secretary highlighted that this still would not apply to the cat if registered in a partner's name.

The G of E highlighted that if the rule has to be debated now, how could it be in the fixed penalty document. The VCC agreed with this point. The ACC then asked that if this item were removed, what was the point in having a fixed penalty document. Since most of the offences had now been removed. The VCC stated that they thought there should be a fixed penalty document.

The General Secretary stated that the purpose of the fixed penalty document had been lost. The fixed penalties were put in place to cover minor paperwork offences and such like that are experienced on a regular basis and that if referred to a hearing every time would clog up the DC process. They were not intended to cover most DC rules.

The VCC proposed to remove DC1 from the document. The G of E seconded this and it was put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President asked for the commission chairs to go through their rules and FIFe rules with a fine tooth comb and come up with pertinent fixed penalties. He went on to clarify that SC1, SC2, SC3, BH4 of the fixed penalty document were ratified. The meeting voted unanimously to ratify the amended document.

Mr Butterworth asked what the process is with the document from this point forward in terms of additions and deletions and the President explained that it would be published as ratified. The new Rules Commission chair, if the commission was re-instated, would be asked to collate suggestions for amendments and bring them to the EC. Any changes would then be made and ratified at the following AGA.

23. Proposals

a) Executive Committee

Proposal 1

The president suggested that EC proposal 1 be moved to just before Any Other Business on the agenda as the EC wishes to discuss a proposal that they might bring to the meeting that would affect this proposal. This was seconded by the G of E and it was put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President proposed that the following day's meeting start at 9am and not 9.30am. The meeting agreed.

Meeting ended at 5.05pm

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18th of February

The meeting started at 9.15am

The President stated that as there were no observers present to count the votes he proposed Keith Butterworth and Barney Wright to do so. This was seconded by the VCC and put to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The President reminded the meeting that the EC proposal 1 had been moved to just before Any Other Business on the agenda.

EC proposal 2

Addition to Statute 4.2 d v)

Current wording

4.2 d v) to ensure that the registrations are processed correctly.

Proposed new wording

4.2 d v) To ensure that the registrations are processed correctly and within 28 days of the registrar receiving them.

This proposal is to come in effect the 2nd of April 2008

The ACC asked that they would like to see within the wording something that includes the returning of registrations

The president proposed '...that the registrations are processed and returned within twenty eight (28) days of the registrar receiving the complete and correct paperwork'

Mr Butterworth asked how the EC would know of a breach of this statute, the General Secretary stated that it was written in conjunction with another proposal and if both are carried then the members would be aware of the guidelines and could then highlight the breach to FB currently there are no guidelines.

The VCC then proposed that EC proposal 6 be dealt with at the same time. The G of E seconded this and it was put to the vote

Vote: unanimously carried.

Proposal 6

Amendment to the Breeding and Registration Rules:

Rule 2.1.2

Current wording: All applications will first be sent to their full member club who will forward them to the Felis Britannica Registrar. An SAE should be enclosed for acknowledgement of receipt

Proposed new wording: All applications will first be sent to their full member club who will process and forward them to the Felis Britannica Registrar within seven (7) days of receipt. An SAE should be enclosed by the member for acknowledgement of receipt

Rule 2.1.3

Current wording: All registrations, validations and other documents will be returned to the applicant through their full member club.

Proposed new wording: The registrar will process, the complete and correct, registrations within 28 days of receiving them. Incomplete or incorrect paperwork will be returned by the registrar to the club pedigree checker for resolving within 7 days. Confirmation that this has been completed by both the club pedigree checker and registrar shall be made to the General Secretary via a method requested by the Executive Committee. All registrations, validations and other documents will be returned to the applicant through their full member club.

This proposal is to come in effect the 2nd of April 2008

The MCG asked what happens if the pedigree checker is on holiday. Mrs Gardner stated that if the pedigree checker is on holiday the club should notify their members and request that they do not send in any registrations.

The wording was discussed at length and reworded to the following:

2.1.2. All applications will first be sent to their full member club. *Correct and complete paperwork will be sent to the Felis Britannica Registrar within seven (7) days of receipt. If paperwork is incorrect the pedigree checker will notify the individual member within seven (7) days of receipt.* An SAE should be enclosed by the *individual* member for acknowledgement of receipt *by the club.*

2.1.3. Second sentence to read:

Incomplete or incorrect paperwork will be returned by the Registrar *within seven (7) days* to the club pedigree checker for *resolution*

This was put to the vote.

Vote unanimously carried.

The president then read out the new wording for Proposal one
'...that the registrations are processed and returned within twenty eight (28) days of the registrar receiving the complete and correct paperwork'

This was then put to the vote.

Vote unanimously carried

Proposal 3

New statute 7.8

Each member club shall send to the General Secretary within 2 days of the end of each month, a membership update in a method as required by the Executive Committee.

The VCC asked for it to be reworded to 5 days and not 2 days.

The president read the reworded proposal and put it to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 4

New statute 7.9

Each member shall send any official communication received from the General Secretary, if requested, to their entire membership within 7 days of receipt. If done by electronic means the General Secretary is to be copied into the email. If done by hard copy the General Secretary shall also be sent a copy and confirmation the request has been completed

After discussion this was reworded to

Each member shall send any official communication received from the General Secretary, if requested, to their entire membership within 7 days of receipt. *Confirmation of distribution to the membership shall be sent to the General Secretary within seven (7) days of receipt by the member*

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote unanimously carried

Proposal 5

New statute 5.12 d

No Club shall offer financial incentives, positions within clubs or actively encourage, via verbal or written communication, members to transfer from one club to another'

After discussion this was reworded to:

No club shall offer financial incentives, positions with clubs or *instigate*, via verbal or written communication, *transfer of membership* from one club to another

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 7

Modify article 4.1j to allow co-option for any vacant position within FB.

- ⌋) The Executive Committee may **fill any position that is, or becomes, vacant by co-option. Candidates for the position must first be invited from the member clubs, and the EC will select from the individuals put forward. If no candidates are forthcoming within 21 days, the EC may select a suitable candidate.**
~~appoint replacement supplementary members by co-option, should the need arise, and such appointments will be valid until the next AGA.~~

After discussion was reworded to:

The Executive Committee may *by co-option* fill any position that is or becomes vacant. *Member clubs will first be invited to propose candidates for these positions. The Executive Committee will select from such individuals such person as deemed suitable.* If no candidates are forthcoming within 21 days *of invitation* the Executive Committee may select a suitable candidate.

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 8

Add article 4.1k to define the term of a co-opted individual.

4.1 k) Any position filled between AGA's through co-option shall end at the following AGA, and shall therefore be open for nomination and election. The co-opted individual shall be treated as the incumbent, coming to the end of their term, and subject to article 6.17c).

Article 6.24c shall be deleted

After discussion the proposal was reworded to:

4.1 k) Any position filled between AGA's through co-option shall end at the following AGA, and shall therefore be open for nomination and election. The co-opted individual shall be treated as *an* incumbent, coming to the end of their term, and subject to article 6.17c).

Article 6.24c shall be deleted

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 9

The Executive Committee should be increased in size to include the chairpersons of the working commissions. The following statutes changes are required:

4.1 Executive Committee

a) The Executive Committee shall comprise of an elected President, Vice President, Treasurer, General Secretary **and the chairperson of the Show Commission, Breeding Health & Welfare and Rules Commission**. The members of the Executive Committee ~~President, Vice President, Treasurer and General Secretary~~ shall not hold any other office within Felis Britannica.

b) The supplementary members shall be elected as deputies for each of the posts Vice President, Treasurer and General Secretary. **Deputies for the commission chairs will be elected by the AGA from the members of the commission. This election shall take place after the commission elections are completed.**

d) In order to be quorate seventy five percent (75%) of the Executive Committee ~~The President, Vice President, Treasurer and General Secretary~~, or their deputies, must be present at every meeting for decisions to be taken. In other circumstances only recommendations may be made, to be ratified at a future meeting.

f) All decisions taken by ~~supplementary~~ deputy members are as if the full Executive Committee member were voting, and shall be binding.

4.4 Invitation to Executive Committee and Commission meetings.

e) In the case that any of the Commission chairpersons cannot attend a committee meeting then ~~another Commission member may be nominated to speak~~ **the elected deputy will attend** on behalf of the Commission.

4.10 d DELETE

After discussion the proposal was reworded to:

4.1 Executive Committee

a) The *Officers of the* Executive Committee shall comprise an elected President, Vice President, Treasurer, General Secretary and the chairpersons of *all the commissions*. The *Officers* of the Executive Committee shall not hold any other office within Felis Britannica.

b) The supplementary members shall be elected as deputies for *three (3)* of the posts: Vice President, Treasurer and General Secretary. Deputies for the commission chairs will be elected by the Annual General Assembly from *among* the members of *each* commission. This election shall take place after the elections are completed.

d) In order to be quorate seventy five percent (75%) of the Executive Committee or their deputies must be present at *each* meeting. *This number is necessary for binding decisions to be taken*. In other circumstances only recommendations may be made to be ratified at a future meeting

4.4 Invitation to Executive Committee and Commission meetings.

e) In the case that any of the Commission chairpersons cannot attend a committee meeting then ~~another Commission member may be nominated to speak~~ **the elected deputy will attend** on behalf of the Commission.

4.10 d DELETE

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote: For 10

Against 4

Carried by a majority.

Proposal 10

Suspend the Judges Commission and pass the responsibilities to the Executive Committee.

4.10 h becomes 4.2 e

4.10 f There are four (**43**) functional Felis Britannica Commissions and a Disciplinary Commission; the latter operates independently of all other Felis Britannica committees, including the Executive Committee

After discussion the proposal was worded to

Suspend the Judges Commission *until 2011* and pass the responsibilities to the Executive Committee.

4.10 h becomes 4.2 e

4.10 f There are three (**43**) functional Felis Britannica Commissions and a Disciplinary Commission; the latter operates independently of all other Felis Britannica committees, including the Executive Committee

The EC agreed to appoint an advisor as a point of reference for any future pupil judge.

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 11

Reinstate the Rules Commission with immediate effect. Delete annex 8.1

To facilitate the transition, since nominations could not have been invited, the EC are empowered to co-opt the Chair and members of the Rules Commission for the coming year, and the positions of this commission are to be open for nominations and election at the 2009 AGA

After discussion the President put the proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried.

Proposal 12

Amendment to statute 4.1i

Current wording: 4.1i) should an Executive Committee member resign before the expiry of his/her term then their supplementary member shall take his/her place for the remainder of the term and be ratified at the next AGA. The Vice President shall stand in for the president as necessary

Proposed new wording

4.1i) Should an Executive Committee member resign before the expiry of his/her term then their supplementary member shall take his/her place **until** the next AGA. The Vice President shall stand in for the president as necessary

After discussion the President put the proposal to the vote.

Vote: For 4

Against 10

Defeated by a majority.

Proposal 13

Addition to the Breeding and Registration Rules:

Rule 6.1.5

The Registrar will update the registration database at least every 28 days.

After discussion the proposal was reworded to

Addition to the Breeding and Registration Rules:

Rule 6.1.5

The Registrar will update the *online pedigree checkers* registration database at least every 28 days.

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 14

Amendment to part c) statute 5.12

c) Where an individual member resigns their full membership in one club, in order to join another club as a full member, a resignation form must be completed and submitted to the member's current club. The club shall stamp & sign the form, and return it to the member ~~within 14 days~~, who must pass the completed form to their new club to finalise the transfer.

Addition of d) to Statute 5.12

d) The resignation form must be completed and returned by the existing club, the member transferring and the new club within seven days of receipt. The resignation form once completed by all parties, should be forwarded to the General Secretary by the new club within seven days

After discussion the proposal was reworded to

Amendment to part c) statute 5.12

c) Where an individual member resigns their full membership in one club, in order to join another club as a full member, a resignation form must be completed and submitted to the member's current club. The club shall stamp & sign the form, and return it to the member ~~within 14 days~~, who must pass the completed form to their new club to finalise the transfer.

Addition of d) to Statute 5.12

d) The resignation form must be completed and returned by the existing club, the member transferring and the new club within seven days of receipt. The resignation form once completed by all parties, should be forwarded to the General Secretary by the new club within seven days

e) *This article does not apply to international transfers*

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 15

A change to statute

5.15 Membership and membership lists

Each Member Club must no later than the 15th January: Forward a list detailing the name and postal address for each individual member to the General Secretary of Felis Britannica

Each Member Club must no later than the 31st January:

a) Pay a membership fee previously determined by an AGA.

b) The basic fee is equal to the fee for 55 individual members.

c) Clubs that have more than 25 members pay the basic fee for the first 25 members and an additional fee equal to the individual membership fee for each member from the 26th onwards

After discussion the President put the proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

The VCC raised point of order regarding proposal 9 and asked if the meeting now needed to elect deputies, they went on to suggest that the commission chairs go back to their commissions and report back to the EC as to who is best suited and willing. This was agreed.

b) Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission Proposals

Mrs Gardner as the outgoing chairperson withdrew the proposal in order to amend and reword for the next AGA.

c) Show Commission Proposals

Proposal 1

That any cat that has gained a title of Grand International Champion/Premier or higher is automatically qualified to attend the winners show in perpetuity. Such cats shall not receive an invitation

After discussion the President put the proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 2

That the breeder of the year be calculated by combining the scores for the ten highest scoring cats with breeders prefix.

After discussion the President put the proposal to the vote.

Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 3

Show licenses will only be issued to accredited show managers who have satisfactorily completed the FB Show Managers training scheme.

After discussion the Show Commission Chair withdrew the proposal to be brought back at the next AGA once the training scheme had been implemented.

The meeting broke for lunch at 1.35pm.

d) Disciplinary Commission Proposals

Proposal 1

CHANGE FROM

3.5 It is not allowed to sell or to hand over cats with FIFe pedigrees to pet shops or similar organisations nor for any experimental research or testing. It is also not allowed for members of FIFe clubs to offer/trade cats or services, such as stud service, by auction or similar actions, be it in electronic format or at real events.

TO

3.5

a) It is not allowed to sell or to hand over cats with FIFe pedigrees to pet shops or similar organisations nor for any experimental research or testing.

b) It is also not allowed for members of FIFe clubs to offer/trade cats or services, such as stud service, by auction or similar actions, be it in electronic format or at real events

SECTION 4.11 should be replaced with the following wording

4.11 Felis Britannica Disciplinary Commission (DC)

a) The DC is the processing body for all disciplinary proceedings concerning Felis Britannica activities. These activities may concern a Member Club or individual members of Felis Britannica Member Clubs.

b) The DC has three (3) separate functions. These functions are:

- i) Investigations
- ii) Disciplinary Hearing
- iii) Appeals

c) The Felis Britannica Disciplinary Process is conducted under the aegis of the "Felis Britannica Disciplinary Process" document. Reference should be made to this document and its accompanying document

"Felis Britannica Fixed Penalties" for any matters pertaining to DC due process, Disciplinary Process Rules, Penalties and Publication of Disciplinary outcomes.

d) The DC is headed by the Disciplinary Commission Officer (DCO), who shall act as secretary in all matters pertaining to the Disciplinary Process. The Disciplinary Commission Officer (DCO) shall be elected at an AGA for a term of office.

e) The DC shall act in an independent manner from the other Felis Britannica Commissions and the Executive Committee.

f) The DC must act and DC process shall follow these guidelines as defined by Felis Britannica

i) A member of the DC, or any member of the person's family or business associate', may not take part in any decision-making that affects his/her own club and its members.

ii) The DC shall commence proceedings for any matters put to them within 28 days of receipt.

iii) The DC must notify all relevant parties as soon as a decision has been made.

iv) The DC shall have an independent set of rules that detail procedures, rights and powers.

v) The DC shall not distribute, or make available, the minutes of any meetings to any person who is directly involved in the current DC process. Only DC reports may be distributed.

vi) Fixed penalties will be recommended by each commission or the EC and acceptance voted on at the earliest possible AGA.

CHANGE FROM

4.2 Executive Committee responsibility

d)

vii) To prevent any transgressions of FIFE or Felis Britannica's rules and to enforce/police such rules with due diligence.

TO

4.2 Executive Committee responsibility

d)

vii) To prevent any transgressions of FIFE or Felis Britannica's rules and to enforce/police such rules with due diligence using the DC process.

CHANGE FROM

4.10 Felis Britannica Commissions

e) The Chairperson and 2 other Commission members must be present at every Commission meeting.

TO

4.10 Felis Britannica Commissions

e) The Chairperson and 2 other Commission members must be present at every Commission meeting apart from the DC which does not require Commission meetings.

CHANGE FROM

4.14 Each Commission should elect themselves a Commission Secretary who shall:

TO

4.14 Each Commission (apart from the DC) should elect themselves a Commission Secretary who shall:

Delete statements as stated

5.13 Expulsion

a) **delete**

b) **delete**

c) **delete**

5.14 Ban – Individual member

delete.

After discussion the proposal was reworded to make the following changes;

4.11 c) replace aegis with *guidance*.

4.11 f) was deleted.

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote unanimously carried

Proposal 2

The following change should be made to the FB Disciplinary doc

Point 5 changed from

Any correspondence to the Defendant should be sent by First Class Post and a Certificate of Posting requested of the Post Office.

to

Any correspondence to the Defendant will in the first instance be by email until such time as timely correspondence breaks down. When timely email correspondence does break down then correspondence will be by First Class Post and a Certificate of Posting requested of the Post Office

After discussion the proposal was reworded to

Any correspondence to the defendant should be sent by *Recorded Delivery*

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.

Vote unanimously carried

Proposal 3

The following changes should be made to the Fixed Penalty Doc

Add the following Offence

Offence – DC2

A Member sells or hands over cats with FIFe pedigrees to pet shops or similar organisations for any experimental research or testing.

Statute Offence applies to

FIFe Statutes 3.5 a)

Penalty

First Offence

- The individual shall be suspended from Felis Britannica for a period of 6 months.

Second Offence - The individual shall be suspended from Felis Britannica for a period of 1 Year.

Third & Repeat Offences - The individual shall be expelled from Felis Britannica.

Add the following Offence

Offence – DC3

A Member offers/trades cats or services, such as stud service, by auction or similar actions, be it in electronic format or at real events.

Statute Offence applies to
FIFe Statutes 3.5 b)

Penalty

First Offence - The individual shall be suspended from Felis Britannica for a period of 6 months.

Second Offence - The individual shall be suspended from Felis Britannica for a period of 1 Year.

Third & Repeat Offences - The individual shall be expelled from Felis Britannica.

The VCC proposed that DC2 and DC3 were removed therefore rendering no proposal, this was seconded by the G of E.

The President put the VCC proposal to the vote.

Vote: For 11

Against 3

Carried by majority

24. Proposals from members

a) VCC proposals

Proposal one

1. Amendment to FB Statute 5 – Membership

Proposal

That new full member clubs applying to join Felis Britannica should demonstrate that they are financially viable, and that existing full member clubs are asked to demonstrate, on an annual basis, that they continue to be financially viable.

After discussion the proposal was reworded to

That new full members clubs applying to join Felis Britannica should *submit their most recent financial statement* to demonstrate that they are financial viable, and that existing full members clubs are asked to demonstrate, *by submission of independently examined annual accounts*, that they continue to be financially viable.

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

Proposal 2

Addition of show titles for Domestic cats at FIFe shows (for submission to the FIFe GA 2008)

Proposal

That new show titles be created for Domestic cats exhibited at FIFe shows. Four levels of title are proposed in line with those available to pedigree cats:

Master – to obtain this title a cat must be awarded three CAM's by three different judges during three national or international FIFe shows. No exhibit can be awarded a CAM unless it achieves a minimum of 93 points in the Master class.

International Master – to obtain this title a cat must be awarded three CAMIB's by three different judges during three national or international FIFe shows. A maximum of two CAMIB's can be obtained in the same country. Exceptions are made for members as outlined in Article 1.4 and Annex 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. No exhibit can be awarded a CAMIB unless it achieves a minimum of 95 points in the International Master class.

Grand International Master – to obtain this title a cat must be awarded six CAGMIB's by three different judges during six national or international FIFe shows. A maximum of four CAMIB's can be obtained in the same country. Exceptions are made for members as outlined in Article 1.4 and Annex 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. No exhibit can be awarded a CAGMIB unless it achieves a minimum of 96 points in the Grand International Master class.

European Master – to obtain this title a cat must be awarded nine CAME's by three different judges during nine national or international FIFe shows. A maximum of seven CAME's can be obtained in the same country. Exceptions are made for members as outlined in Article 1.4 and Annex 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. No exhibit can be awarded a CAME unless it achieves a minimum of 97 points in the European Master class.

New show classes to be added to accommodate the new titles:

Class 14 – Domestic
Class 15 – Master
Class 16 – International Master
Class 17 – Grand International Master
Class 18 – European Master

After discussion the proposal was reworded to add the following at the end

A change to the standard of points may be required

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.
Vote: unanimously

b) ACC proposal

Proposal 1

Proposal to be taken to FIFe GA:

It is proposed that the Colourpoint Siberian be recognised as a new colour of the Siberian breed, and for showing purposes be classed as Group 10.

The VCC objected to this proposal as it did not meet the FIFe requirements in order to go forward to the FIFe GA, namely a recognition show, standard of points, and details of changes to the show classes.

The ACC asked for assurance that if any proposals are put forward for the FIFe GA from other FIFe members, that FB would support a proposal for a new colour and not a proposal for a new breed.

The President stated that any proposals once received from the FIFe General Secretary would be circulated to the clubs for the further circulation to their members. Any comments or views on the proposals should be fed through the clubs to the EC, who will take them into consideration in the meeting held prior to the GA where it is decided how FB will vote on each proposal.

The ACC withdrew the proposal.

c) MCG proposal

Amendment to Show Rule 4.1 – Points Awards

That the wording of rule 4.1 be changed to read:

Points will be calculated for all cats competing at Felis Britannica shows during the show year (January to December) that are owned by members of Felis Britannica and are registered with Felis Britannica by the end of that show year

After discussion the proposal was reworded to

Points will be calculated for all cats competing at Felis Britannica shows during *its* show year that are owned by *individual* members of Felis Britannica and are registered with Felis Britannica by the end of that show year

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

25. Any Other Business

AGA & Points Awards

The General Secretary outlined the EC proposal of moving the Points Awards so that they take place at the Winners show, thus allowing the AGA to be held in a substantially cheaper and smaller venue, with attendees staying at a local B & B thus reducing the cost to the clubs. The saving made at the AGA would allow a slight increase in the budget for the Winners show.

The ACC asked when the EC were thinking of introducing this.

The President highlighted that this would mean that the calculation of the Points Awards would be calculated from the Winner's show 2007 to the show prior to the Winner's show 2008.

After discussion the President proposed that the change outlined by the General Secretary be voted on at this meeting. This was seconded by the G of E.

The President put the proposal to the vote.
Vote: unanimously carried

With the passing of that proposal the EC withdrew their proposal 1.

Movement of the financial year end

The President proposed moving the financial year to start on 1st October and end on the 30th September.

The VCC asked if that would be implemented immediately meaning a shorter coming year. The President agreed that it would.

The proposal was seconded by the ACC and the President put it to the vote;
Vote: unanimously carried

Sponsorship

The ACC stated that the person currently approaching companies regarding sponsorship had only approached Royal Canin. The ACC then handed over to the EC a letter received from Royal Canin regarding what they are prepared to offer.

The MCG asked for the letter to be circulated, the General Secretary undertook to do this after the AGA.

The VCC asked if there was a PR person for FB in place. The President stated that there is a position in place however it has been vacant since the resignation of Mr Linden-Wyatt and he asked for the General Secretary to add it to the list of vacancies to be sent to the clubs for nominations.

DC procedures- cases being heard in absentia

The President stated that the EC should determine where this rule should be inserted in the DC procedures document and include a timeframe as to when it would come into effect. This will be implemented and brought for ratification at the next AGA.

Registrar/audit trail

The ACC raised the matter of the absence of an audit trail regarding what is being sent to the Registrar, in order for the Treasurer to pick up any anomalies throughout the year and not only when the accounts are sent to the EC at year end.

The Registrar stated that they were not aware that this was still needed as it is not a requirement but a practice requested by a previous FB Treasurer.

The President stated that he also was not aware it was still required however suggested that it be put back into practice immediately. He highlighted the need to bring a proposal to add this to the rules at the next AGA and for it to be added to the procedures for pedigree checkers.

Scottish Breeds Club

The ACC raised the point that there was still an amount owed to FB by the Scottish Breeds Association; however the club had now wound up and in the letter notifying FB of this they had requested a reduction in those fees owed. The President stated that this was a matter for the EC to deal with it within their EC meeting.

Winners Show

The ACC raised the question of unregistered cats at the Winners show and required clarification for the qualification to the winners for such cats. The President stated that he was not aware of this issue of unregistered cats.

Database access/pedigree checkers

The ACC asked about the trainee pedigree checkers being given access to the registration database whilst training. The MCG stated that they thought that this was irrelevant as it did not aid the training.

The Registrar highlighted that there was highly confidential data on the database and therefore restricted access was required

Club Rules

The VCC asked for the status of the document being issued to the clubs, as to what they should be including in their rules as standard with regard to the FB rules.

The G of E highlighted that it was in the 2005 AGA minutes and that the EC need to revisit the matter and complete the action.

Website

The G of E asked for the website to be updated more regularly.

The President explained that the website is moving to being database driven which means it can then be updated by many individuals which should ensure more regular updates

The President asked for any other business, with none forthcoming he closed the meeting at 4.23pm.

ANNEXES

1. Presidents report (attached)
2. General Secretaries report (attached)
3. Preliminary statement of account (enclosed with minutes)
4. Financial Report written by the EC (attached)
5. Final P & L for the Winners Show. (enclosed with minutes)
6. 2008 Budget prepared by the EC (enclosed with minutes)

SIGNATURE PAGE

Neil Gardner
President

Signature

Date

Minute Checkers

Melanie Gardner

Sarah Johnson

Signature

Signature

22nd April 2008
Date checked

14th May 2008
Date checked

ANNEX 1- Presidents Report

This year has been a year of ups and downs for FB; a year that has seen many changes as the organisation grows and strives for improvement.

Sadly we have had to say farewell to some long serving members this year:

- Penny Bydlinski, one of our founding members and former Chairman of both the Show and Judges Commissions, who has emigrated to Australia;
- Maureen Shackell, former member of the Show Commission, who has retired;
- Tina Clark, former Deputy General Secretary, who has retired from breeding and moved out of the cat fancy;

We thank them for their valuable contributions to FB and wish them all well for the future.

We have also had some changes of Officers during the year:

- Rob Hart-Jones stood down as Vice-President due to a conflict of interest between his position in FB and his wife's in TICA. We are grateful to Rob for all his work on the EC and are happy to welcome Keith Butterworth who was co-opted as his successor.
- John Cunningham stood down as Chairman of the Show Commission due to work pressures and Melanie Gardner was co-opted as the new Chairman in September.
- Very recently Eddie Kitching has resigned as Treasurer due to the pressures of the position. We would like to extend our thanks to Eddie for all his help over the past year. The Deputy Treasurer, Barney Wright, has now stepped up to fill the Treasurer's position.

Shows have been a mixed bag again this year. A number of shows have struggled to reach the number of cats required for an International show, but in contrast 2007 also had the two biggest FB shows ever. The average number of exhibits per show is up from last year, having increased from 153 in 2006 to 164 –and we have seen a large number of new exhibitors trying an FB show for the first time. After seeing our average per show decline in 2005 & 2006 due to the arrival of TICA, the figure this year takes us back to the same level as 2004 – our first year – when there was no competition for exhibitors from TICA.

Shows have faced increasing competition from TICA this year including some TICA shows on the same weekend as an FB show causing a division in exhibitor numbers. We are aware that we are not the only FIFe member in this position. The FIFe board is aware of the situation and intend for it to be raised within the WCC to try and gain some agreement over mutual respect of show dates. It is interesting to note that despite the headline illusion of a highly successful show campaign, that they are only averaging 137 exhibits per show, with a low of 74 and many shows hovering around 100!

Whilst it has to be remembered that TICA clubs have no other function than to put on shows, as TICA administration is all handled in the US, their clubs do seem willing to put on a greater number of shows per year than our clubs are currently prepared to do, albeit a number of their shows are very small. If our clubs do nothing to combat this, they could find themselves squeezed out of the show calendar!

On a more positive note, FB individual membership is still on the increase this year, with an increase of 31 members, for 5.5%.

Sadly the Scottish Breeds Association, one of our founding clubs and one of 3 clubs which continued from the days of the Cat Association has decided to wind up. Although they were our smallest club with only 20

members at the end of 2006, and subsequently have shown little activity, we are sad to see them go and hope that many of their members will join another club and stay within the FB family.

As I mentioned at the beginning, FB is growing and striving to improve which has meant a big increase in workload for the current officers, some of which we have admittedly struggled with in 2007. We need to find ways of encouraging more individual members to get involved so as to spread the workload and relieve the pressure on those that are currently over-burdened.

On a personal level I would like to finish by thanking Fran de Courcy Rolls, Keith Butterworth, Eddie Kitching, and Melanie Gardner for all their help and support during the past year.

Neil Gardner
President

ANNEX 2- General Secretaries Report

2007 within the EC has been productive, eventful yet at times unproductive. This is the first year that the monthly membership reports have been sent in on a regular monthly basis, apart from the non communication experienced from the SBA, which as Neil has explained has now been resolved. This has enabled FB to have an accurate list of full members however; there is room for improvement especially with regard to the timely sending of these reports and in some cases the accuracy.

FB attended the GA this year with the two proposals that were passed at our AGA in 2007, both of which were accepted. At the GA we were commended on collaborating with three other members to produce a final proposal regarding the Sphynx colour groups, which at the actual meeting was passed and accepted. One outcome of the GA was that after expressing our situation in terms of members also being involved within other organisations, mainly GCCF, when discussing the board's proposal to change article 2.6, we were encouraged to put to the board a request for dispensation outlining the UK situation.

This the EC formulated and it was duly submitted to the FIFe board who in turn consulted the FIFe Disciplinary Commission. Our request was modified slightly by the DC commission but permission has been granted for FB –the EC- to give dispensation to members, who also participate within other organisations with the exception to WCF, at a low level to be members of FB provided they do not sit on the EC or represent FB within the FIFe world.

If a members wishes to sit on the EC or represent FB, the members have to effectively cease named activities with the other organisation for example sitting of committees, presidents/chairman's of clubs, representing the other organisation or involved at a level such as our commissions. FB has this dispensation for five years until 2012. As a result of this the EC will be asking the clubs to change their membership forms to gather such information and if a member indicates activity in another organisation ask for permission from the EC.

The EC will also be designing a form to be sent to existing members to collate their activity and if so asked, to request dispensation. This form will be circulated to the club membership officers within the next two weeks.

Most enquires received over the past year have in some way or another been regarding registrations- either they had brought a kitten and the owner had not forwarded the relevant registration paperwork or their registrations had been submitted and yet to be received back. Help was given were possible.

The new DC process has now done a full year in place and has been processing cases as outlined within the DC report, which is in your delegate packs.

Over the past year there has been change on the EC, as well as lot of business discussed. I for one, have at times found this overwhelming in terms of the work load and the expectation for things to be done immediately. I along with many of the EC members have full time jobs and with the added complication of not everyone being able to be online at the same time due to being away or working in a different time zone some things have been left undecided for a period of time.

For my part in this I wish to apologise and to apologise for the lack of regular newsletters, this has been addressed for this year and confident of regular bi-monthly newsletters in 2008.

Over the past year at times it has been like pulling teeth to get replies or documents from various people. Establishing the correct procedure for communication within the EC as well as between the EC and the commissions has been met with difficulties despite explanations previously given as to correct procedure. This has also added to the workload of the EC dealing with some of the consequences. The EC has addressed these issues to prevent them reoccurring in 2008.

Another problem that the EC have addressed and are seeking to resolve in a proposal at this meeting is the issue of official communication being sent from the EC to the members, via the clubs. Over the past year there have been instances where the request for nominations has not been sent to all club members and has resulted in missed opportunities for members to come forward and be a part of the organisation and help it move forward. With that said, as mentioned by Neil over the past year the EC have co-opted a number of members to various roles within FB. The EC were pleased that so many members were willing to take part in growing FB. Looking to the future I for one wish to see this continue however; with a more encompassing spread of the clubs, and not just one club being represented.

Fran de Courcy Rolls
General Secretary

ANNEX 4 Financial Report- Written by the EC

Firstly, let us start with an apology for there being no finalised accounts presented here today. Unfortunately, as you heard earlier, our Treasurer resigned a couple of weeks before the AGA and there was no time to hand everything over to the incoming Treasurer or to resolve the EC's outstanding queries on the draft accounts before this meeting. It is therefore the EC's intention for the new Treasurer, together with the external accountant, to deal with these issues and present a final set of accounts by the end of April. It is the EC's intent to call an EGM in order for the clubs to discuss and approve the final accounts. An alternative option is that the clubs have an opportunity to review the final accounts, and then vote for the acceptance by teleconference or similar. This would save the organisation approximately £450. The cost of an EGM is currently incorporated into the 2008 budget. Until that time, the EC will not be asking to be discharged of its responsibility.

The Winners Show unfortunately ate into our finances again this year, showing a loss of £718. There were a number of factors involved in this which will be covered by the Show Commission's report. Needless to say, the Show Commission has been tasked with producing a Winners Show that does not make a loss in 2008 even if that is at the expense of some of the glamour.

EC and Commission meetings were also an expensive item in 2007, mainly due to the travel costs involved as the various officers are so disparately located geographically. Moving forward, to reduce these costs the EC and Commissions will be holding the majority of their meetings by electronic means, with only a minimal number of physical meetings being held.

Income from registration fees is expected to show a little under £12,000 once everything has been consolidated for 2007, which will be marginally lower than the adjusted figure for 2006. The numbers of registrations remain numerically very similar, and the difference is suspected to be in the mix of import types – TICA v GCCF v FIFe.

Income from show licence fees has also remained steady at around £3,000 although we were adversely affected in the later part of the year by the drop in the value of the Euro which meant FB paid more to FIFe than was recouped from the clubs. This will be addressed in 2008 as you will see when we come to the Agenda item for the 2008 budget.

Whilst the bottom line on the draft accounts circulated show a loss of just over £300 this does not accurately reflect the trading position of FB during 2007 due to a number of expenditure items incurred in 2006 that were not included in the accruals for that year. One of these was a refund of over £400 for registration fee overpayments that could not have been foreseen. There were also errors in the amounts receivable and payable at the end of 2006 which did not come to light until recently and which skew the 2007 accounts. It is the EC's belief that once these factors have been taken into consideration the 2007 trading period should show a profit of in excess of £700, prior to deferred costs from previous years.

It should be noted that this does not change the amount of money in the bank, since the adjustments relates to allocations for 2006 v 2007, but is immensely important in analysing how 2007 performed, and the creation of a realistic budget for 2008. To that effect, and with the draft figures in our hands, after making the adjustments alluded to above, we have put together a budget that shows a projected £2,500 surplus for 2008.

The Executive Committee