

**Minutes of the  
Felis Britannica Annual General Meeting  
Held on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2007  
At  
The Great Barr Hotel,  
Great Barr, Pear Tree Drive,  
Birmingham. B43 6HS**

**Present:**

Mr Neil Gardner – President, Executive Committee  
Mr Rob Hart-Jones- Vice-President, Executive Committee  
Miss Fran de Courcy Rolls – General Secretary, Executive Committee  
Mr Eddie Kitching – Deputy Treasurer, Executive Committee

Aristocats Cat Club  
Mr John Cunningham - Delegate

Garden of England Cat Club  
Mrs Penelope Bydlinski – Delegate, Chair of the Show Commission and Chair of the  
Judges Commission  
Mrs Jenny Rattray- Advisor

Maine Coon Guild  
Mrs Kerry Butterworth – Delegate  
Mr Ted Turpin - Advisor

Viking Cat Club  
Mrs Mel Gardner- Delegate and Chair of the Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission  
Mrs Sue Hart-Jones- Advisor and Show Commission member

Observers  
Ms Birgit Solstein  
Mrs Sarah Johnson  
Mrs Valerie Davidson  
Mr David Brinicombe

## **1. Presidents Welcome Speech**

The meeting was opened by the President at 10.15 am; he welcomed everyone to the 2007 AGA and thanked them for attending. He thanked the General Secretary for finding the venue and organising the weekend. The president finished by asking the meeting to ensure that they complete the feedback forms that had been circulated.

## **2. Role call of the delegates and determination of right to vote**

Aristocats Cat Club (referred to as ACC from this point)  
Garden of England Cat Club (referred to as GoE from this point)  
Maine Coon Guild (referred to as MCG from this point)  
Viking Cat Club (referred to as VCC from this point)

The Scottish Breeds association had no representation present at the meeting and had sent their apologies.

There were four queries regarding full members of several clubs. These were almost resolved however they did not affect the clubs numbers of votes, only the amount of money owed or needing to be credited.

The numbers of votes per club are as follows;

ACC 4  
GoE 4  
MCG 2  
VCC 4

A total of 14 therefore for an absolute majority 8 votes are required; and for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority 11 votes are required

## **3. Determination that meeting has been called correctly**

The President asked for any questions or objections regarding the timeframe and way the meeting had been called. With none the president proceeded with the agenda.

## **4. Apologies**

Mrs Janet Green      Ms Sarah Errington  
Mr David Green  
Mr Barney Wright  
Mrs Vera Wright

The President clarified the times at which the meeting would break; Coffee would be at 11.30am and 3.30pm with Lunch at 1pm.

## **5. Election of two scrutineers**

GoE queried the wrong use of the term scrutinizers. The president agreed and stated that it should be referred to differently and to look into it for next year.

The GoE proposed Mrs Johnson and Ms Solstein, Mrs Johnson declined the nomination. Mrs Rattray volunteered.

The ACC proposed Ms Solstein and Mrs Rattray which was seconded by the GoE. This was unanimously accepted.

## **6. Election of two people to ratify the minutes of the meeting**

ACC proposed Mr Kitching and Mr Hart-Jones to ratify the minutes this was seconded by the VCC. This was unanimously accepted

## **7. Election of a chairperson and secretary**

VCC proposed Miss de Courcy Rolls as the secretary and Mr Gardner as the chairperson. This was seconded by the GoE.

This was unanimously accepted

## **8. Approval of the agenda and determination of order of the meeting**

The General Secretary asked that matters pertaining to disciplinary be dealt with on Sunday when Mr Butterworth could be in attendance.

## **9. Minutes of AGA dated February 2006, Approval of.**

The President asked for comments.

The VCC stated that on page two the VCC was missing of the list of abbreviations.

Mr Kitching highlighted the proposal that had been withdrawn on page 28 was supposed to be rewritten and resubmitted for this AGA. The president stated that due to this being overlooked it would now have to wait for the 2008 AGA.

The GoE asked for the correction of scrutinisers to read scrutineers on page two

The VCC asked the status of Mrs Val Gane's membership of FB, as she still appears on the judges list. Mrs Bydlinski clarified that she was not an FB member, however was a member direct with FIFe.

The President highlighted to the meeting that the commissions and the EC had not ensured that all the various rules and statutes were updated. He went on to ask, if the meeting accepted the suggestion, for the proposals from this AGA and previous to be incorporated with all speed to existing documents for placing on the website. The VCC proposed this and the GoE seconded the proposal.

This was unanimously accepted

## **10. Presidents report.**

*This year has been what anyone involved in running a business will recognise immediately – a year of ups and downs; a year of satisfaction and disappointment; a year when the organisation began to mature, and go through growing pains.*

*It's difficult to know where to begin, but a good a place as any is the accounts, particularly since there is unfinished business from last year's AGA. I don't intend to go into the detail of the accounts – that is for the treasurer to do.*

*One of the year's downs was the loss of our previous treasurer – Julie Anne Harris. Julia Anne was very committed to FB, and put a lot of time and effort into many FB activities, including the accounts, show managing, a club secretary, etc.*

*Unfortunately, the demands proved too much – and Julie Anne resigned from the position in April. I would like to again voice my thanks for all Julie Anne did for FB, and we hope to see her again once she has more time to devote to the cat world.*

*Transferring the accounts from one person to another is always traumatic, even more so when it is unplanned and especially where the outgoing treasurer has had limited time to keep on top of the paperwork. It has taken us the best part of 9 months to get on top of the 2005 accounts, and thereafter the 2006 accounts, but I am pleased to say that everything is now thoroughly sorted out, and we now have account reporting that will track through from year to year, allow direct comparisons and be easily managed for future treasurers*

*This brings me to one of the ups for the year – the co-option of Eddie Kitching as deputy treasurer mid last year, which in reality meant he had to act as treasurer with immediate effect. Eddie has done an immense job this year, in working through the 2005 accounts whilst ensuring fiscal prudence during 2006 AND keeping on top of, and finally reporting, the 2006 accounts. The EC are very grateful for Eddie's support during this time, and would like to officially commend him and his work during the second half of 2006 and the production of TWO sets of accounts for this AGA. We wish Eddie the best in his candidacy for the position of treasurer during this weekend.*

*Shows have also been a mixed – bag. A number of shows have struggled to reach the number of cats required for an International show, giving the impression that numbers are in decline. In truth we put on more shows during 2006 – 19 compared to 15 in the previous year – and we attracted 2917 exhibits compared to 2367 in 2005; an increase of 550 – or nearly 25%. It has to be remembered that this was in the face of stiff competition, particularly from TICA as a new entrant.*

*This year also saw the first jointly held show, where FB shared a venue with the popular East Sussex Cat Club show in Tonbridge. This proved to be a great opportunity for many active GCCF people, both officers & exhibitors, to see an FB show on operation, and has continued to benefit FB.*

*I would like to put on record our thanks to the ESCC committee for allowing this to go ahead and their help and support in putting on the weekend.*

*I do not want to spend too much time talking about shows – I'll leave that to the Show Commission. I would, however, like to briefly mention the World Cat Congress Seminar and Show. This is, for me, possibly the highlight for the year. The weekend was a great success, and we were fortunate that the WCC Secretary also happens to be our own chair of the Show Commission, Penny Bydlinski, putting FB at the forefront for which I thank Penny. This event put FB on the global map, and was a great PR success. I wouldn't want to do them too frequently, as it is an expensive event to support – but was well worth the investment.*

*Another down for the year is the news that Tina Clark is retiring from all of her duties, including that of deputy general secretary. Tina has been a dedicated, committed and hard working person for as long as I have known her. She has always been willing to put herself out to help when no-one else was available, and always the cheerful face – even when the rest of us were completely stressed out. Tina will be very much missed and I suspect some people will only appreciate how much Tina did once she is gone, and I wish Tina, David and the family the best for the future*

*2006 also saw further rationalisation in our club structure. Last year I talked about the reality of being an FB club in some detail, and so will not revisit that today.*

*It is, however, sad to see one of our founding full member clubs become an associate club. The Heart of England showed enthusiasm, and took on the challenge of a 2-day show as their first ever show. Ultimately, however, if a club has to rely upon a small number of officers to do all the work, it will inevitably become too much. We hope that the HoE return as a Full Member club, when they decide it is the right time.*

*On a personal level I would like to finish by thanking Fran de Courcy Rolls, Julie Anne Harris, Rob Hart-Jones, Eddie Kitching, Penny Bydlinski, Keith Butterworth, Ted Turpin, and Melanie Gardner for all their help and support during the year.*

Mr Kitching stated that the references to clubs being associate are incorrect according to the statutes but should be referred to as affiliates. He went on to ask if the Semi Longhair Cat Club was still active as an affiliate club. The General Secretary stated that as she had not yet received anything official they remain listed as affiliate.

## **11. General Secretaries report**

*2006 as highlighted by our president saw many changes both within the clubs and the EC*

*I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Eddie Kitching for his time and work given to the accounts once stepping into the treasurer's role; it has been a considerable task to produce accounts from what little paperwork handed over.*

*With reference to the day to day workings of the EC there has been an increase in the number of queries on how to show and register with FB both from the UK and abroad.*

*The majority of the clubs are now sending regular monthly membership updates which makes cross referencing full members far easier.*

*The EC has also started to produce a bi monthly newsletter which will now incorporate more of the information that 'Outlook' would contain. This is to improve the communication of information to the members regarding any interim actions of the EC and commissions.*

*FB again took stands at the supreme and National shows as part of the promotion of FB and its clubs. The response this year in particular the Supreme, was markedly different, no longer were the queries as to what FB were but more how do I show and where the shows are. The EC are looking into continuing this level of awareness regarding FB via a change in direction/types of advertising. I would like to thank all the club members that came forward and worked on the stand at the two shows.*

*FB has also taken a small part in the filming of an episode of 'New Tricks' on BCC One. The episode is the third one in the new series to be broadcast in the latter part of 2007. But as with the nature of filming we are not aware of the extent that FB is featured due to editing.*

*The EC would like to highlight that some members are attending FB and GCCF shows within the GCCF 13 day rule. Whilst this is not an FB rule, when this is brought to the attention of the EC, effectively FB, it puts FB's relationship with GCCF in a difficult position.*

## **12, 13 & 14. Treasurer's report 2005 & 2006 and discussion of said accounts. Discharge of responsibility of the executive committee 2005 & 2006**

The acting treasurer Mr Kitching read out a report on the 2005 accounts.

*'As you are aware at the last AGA I had a lot of comments to make regarding the Financial Reports produced by Julie Ann. As it happens I was right to do so, they were in an abysmal state. Julie Ann admitted as much in her financial report. She was given an opportunity to carry on and correct her mistakes; however the situation became worse in March when everything came to a head and Felis Britannica was proven to be in a difficult financial situation. Thankfully Julie Ann realised that she was not in a position to continue working with Felis Britannica's accounts and resigned.*

*I did offer at that time to help to straighten the accounts, however after several months of trying to find someone to replace Julie Ann to no avail, at the same time trying to make sense of the paperwork that was received from her the Executive Committee were left with no alternative but to ask me whether my offer was still on the table.*

*Less than six months ago I was co-opted into the role of Deputy Treasurer/Acting Treasurer.*

*Basically I had to start from scratch with the 2005 accounts using a program that I had never used before 'QuickBooks'. I had to use paperwork that I had been given which in many cases had conflicting information for the same entry. It has been like removing pieces of a massive jigsaw and placing them where they should be. I believe I have successfully achieved this now or at least as close as it is possible to achieve.*

*So to the Accounts.*

*As you can see I have had them agreed by Chartered Accountants who are happy that they have been processed accurately.*

*In reference to Julie Ann's Treasurers Report 2005*

*The first thing I would like to point out is that the Debtors figure (owed to FB) was in fact £4585 not £3308 and the Creditors figure (owed by FB) was £3028 not £1916 as stated in Julie Ann's Balance sheet. Both*

*these figures are extremely high and as a result it's not surprising that FB found itself in difficulty last March.*

*Outlook Cost £1655 not £1873 however the income was £580 not £940, swings and roundabouts but still does not detract from the fact that the cost is too high and the income too low. This year it has been decided not to run with another Outlook, not just because of the cost but we need to find an Editor.*

*Advertising in Cat's World cost £2025 not £1800*

*Worthing Show made a profit of £2535 not £948 the Winners Show had a loss of £2147 not £24 and was covered by Worthing's profit which was the intention, it's just a shame that Julie Ann's figures didn't show it. I raised invoices with the sponsors for both of these shows which were duly paid in 2006, without which the shows costs would not have been covered.*

*I do believe that I have produced a somewhat ragged silk purse out of a pig's ear and I recommend the following;*

- a) With the power of hindsight and in the knowledge of what has occurred since the last AGA, the proposal and acceptance of the accounts as they were at that time, be reversed and that it be minuted accordingly.*
- b) That this set of accounts now be accepted as the final accounting for 2005*
- c) That the Executive Committee is now discharged of any further responsibility for the 2005 accounts'*

The VCC highlighted that the minutes cannot be changed as passed by the meeting at the last AGA. The President stated that it will have to be minuted that at this AGA new accounts pertaining to 2005 were presented and subsequently voted on, as last years figures were found to be incorrect after they had been accepted at last years AGA. Mr Kitching highlighted that in the minutes it states that the GoE had made a codicil to accepting the 2005 accounts, that the accounts be brought up to date by the next EC meeting which had not been done. Both the president and the General Secretary pointed out that this had been proposed yet it had not been seconded so not accepted.

The President wished it to be minuted, that it could not be said that the 2005 accounts are completely error free therefore they could not be cross checked or compared with future accounts, however moving forward the accounts of 2006 and 2007 can be compared.

The VCC asked for a note to be attached to the 2005 accounts reflecting the statement the President had just made.

Mr Kitching asked if the full accounts had to be re-circulated as he felt just a covering letter would suffice. The President agreed with Mr Kitching.

The President asked for any further comments

The GoE stated that they know some of the figures in the 2005 accounts are still incorrect however do not have the paperwork to show this or correct them. Mr Kitching stated that he knew this as had worked closely with Mrs Bydlinski trying to correct these errors, he went on to state that in light of missing paperwork and the attachment of a covering letter to the accounts stating this, the accounts would have to be accepted as they stood.

The President asked for further comments.

With no further comments the President proposed that the meeting vote to accept that the 2005 accounts as accepted at last years AGA are incorrect. This was seconded by the MCG.

This was unanimously accepted.

The ACC proposed to accept the 2005 accounts as presented to this AGA, this was seconded by the MCG

This was unanimously accepted

The VCC proposed to discharge the responsibility of EC for 2005 accounts which was seconded by the GoE

This was unanimously accepted

2006

Mr Kitching moved on to the 2006 accounts and read out a statement pertaining to them.

*' Sadly this year was not a good year for Felis Britannica's finances. As I have stated in the 2005 Report, high Debtors and high Creditors at the end of 2005 created an unsustainable situation which came to a head in March and culminated with Julie Ann's resignation.*

*One area that I found difficulty in piecing together was the AGA and Points Award at Stoke Rochford. Whilst it is my intention to separate the costings for these items in 2007, the best way of looking at them for this year would be to add them together. The income was £2150 and the expense was £4438 a difference of £2288 paid by FB. A budget is set at £2000 normally. When analysed it may have been that Stoke Rochford over charged, or that VAT was not taken into consideration, when re-charging. Most places quote VAT inclusive but there was an additional £554. charged for VAT. Anyway I think that a lot more was paid to Stoke Rochford than should have been, at a time when Felis Britannica could ill afford it.*

*There were 3 shows held by Felis Britannica this year, all of which ate their way into Felis Britannica's funds.*

*Welwyn Garden City show was held as a partnership with the World Cat Conference. I understand that the conference was well attended; however the show lost £2031.*

*Tonbridge was held in a back to back venture with a GCCF show, I'm not sure how the different Association rules worked out, but the show lost £909.*

*The Winners Show also took a loss of £1440, this has been discussed at a recent EC meeting and the Show Commission are taking steps to ensure that the Winners Show for 2007, the only Felis Britannica show in 2007, will at least break even, I have seen their proposed budget and providing the organisers keep to it they should be ok, but there is no margin for fluctuation.*

*I believe that 2007 needs to be a year for consolidation. Felis Britannica is once again reasonably healthy financially, because I have maintained the accounts and raised invoices where they weren't raised previously. I have also made sure that there are no outstanding accounts unpaid or paid. The Debtors are shown this year as £1105, in fact I have received all but £150 and the Creditors shown as £1146, cheques have been raised and it stands at £326 a FIFe account which I will be settling in due course.*

*It is imperative that monies owed to Felis Britannica are paid as soon as possible, for that reason I have introduced on invoices issued this year a 30 day payment period, any account unpaid by the end of that*

*30 day period will incur a 5% per month interest charge, if it is necessary for me to chase a non payment the Debtor can expect that interest rate to apply.*

*These accounts as you can see have been agreed by a Chartered Accountant and I would like them to be accepted and the Executive Committee to be discharged from their responsibility'*

The VCC objected to the inclusion of interest to unpaid FB invoices as the clubs had not been notified of this, so therefore cannot be imposed. The President explained that Mr Kitching had been asked at the last EC meeting to look into the legal position regarding imposing this interest and come back to the EC, this he had not done so the EC has not discussed this matter. Mr Kitching agreed that he had not done this action however wish to highlight that FB need invoices, once raised, to be paid and urged the clubs to pay promptly.

The VCC suggested that Mr Kitching write to the clubs highlighting the inclusion of a 30 day payment period on the invoices. The President said this was the case some time ago however needs to be reinforced to the clubs.

The GoE explained that they had not been invoiced for their membership fees so were late paying as had just not realised it was outstanding. The President agreed that a reminder could be sent out to the clubs. The MCG highlighted that there should be some degree of flexibility as some clubs could have a cash flow problem. The President highlighted that the club can always approach the EC.

Mr. Kitching highlighted that the statutes state 30 days for the receipt of membership and asked if clubs need 30 days. The President agreed that 30 days could be changed but would have to be a proposal to next years AGA, once the statutes had been looked at in the year.

**Coffee break 11.31 for 15 minutes**

**Meeting convened 11.55**

Comments on 2006 accounts

The VCC asked regarding the Income and expenditure (I&E) sheet where £926 had been attributed to chair of show commission, they asked what it pertained to. The President stated that it should be listed under FB direct; Mr Kitching admitted that it was an oversight and should be under unprocessed funds. The President asked for clarification on un-deposited. Mr Kitching stated that it was in right place but under the wrong description. The President queried if it should be recorded under the un-deposited funds on the balance sheet. Mr Kitching pointed out that it was already there. The President stated that it could not be in both places as the I&E sheet should only show what has been processed, and therefore only be recorded under un-deposited funds.

The VCC queried a donation made for the sum of £115 and asked what it was for. Mr Kitching stated that it was for the donation of the five colour books that were given to FB.

The VCC asked why the FIFe show licences do not include the FB licence fee. Mr Kitching explained that FB does not pay themselves an income.

The President highlighted that at the last AGA it had been asked for the repayment from SVERAK to be shown, it is now.

The GoE highlighted the loss from the WCC show as being very high and knew for a fact that advertising income was more. The President and Mr Kitching stated that there no invoices or records to show this so therefore cannot determine the WCC accounts in any more detail.

The President asked for proposer for the 2006 accounts  
Proposer ACC, this was seconded by the VCC  
Unanimously accepted

The President asked for a proposer for the discharge of responsibility of the EC for the 2006 accounts. The ACC proposed and was seconded by the VCC  
Unanimously accepted

The VCC asked for a vote of thanks to be minuted, from the clubs to Mr Kitching for sorting out the accounts. This was seconded by the GoE.

The President proposed that an agenda item entry be made for the 2007 budget as agreed at the last AGA, as it now needed to be revised  
This was seconded by the ACC  
Unanimously passed

Agenda item inserted '14a -2007 budget'

### **14a 2007 Budget**

Mr Kitching circulated a report on the 2007 accounts and budget

The President asked why it was showing that FB started the year with over £3000 in the bank. Mr Kitching agreed that it was dependant on the I & E. The President stated that FB owe money to the sum of £1533 and are owed money of £2033 therefore a net diff of £500 but this is not reflected in the accounts it should be £3500. Mr Kitching stated that he would have to go back to this.

The GoE asked why there is nothing listed regarding breed councils. Mr Kitching highlighted that it was listed on the income section of the report.

Mr Kitching read out the income report

The VCC asked why the income is based on 14 shows yet expenditure is based on 12. Mr Kitching stated that is was because he was not sure regarding two of the shows if they were going ahead. The President highlighted that this does not matter and should

be made using the same average. Mr Kitching said that he would make the adjustment and under licenses would remove FB from the income.

Mr Kitching asked about the Breed Councils process. The President clarified that FIFe will invoice for renewals and new applications would apply direct to FB however this does not affect FB cash flow. Mrs Bydlinski explained that there was a hold up due to some problems with the breed councils in FIFe; hence no response had been received from FIFe to queries regarding them.

Mr Kitching highlighted that FB should earn £2000 this year. The President stated that this was the important thing to take notice of, along with net income at the end of the year.

Mr Kitching stated that he was not happy to do a projected budget for 2008. The General Secretary asked when it would be done if not now, since budgets were accepted and set at the AGA of the previous year. The GoE stated that there had to be something, as it is a projected guide.

The VCC highlighted that it was a requirement in the statutes

The ACC highlighted that the accruals are only included as known about them due to being set in a budget at the last AGA.

The President stated that a 2008 budget could be circulated to members post meeting. The GoE disagreed and pointed out that the figures will be very similar to last year and is to only act as a guide. The President moved this discussion to the agenda item that was for the 2008 budget. He went on to ask if there were any other questions, the General Secretary queried the cost of the 2007 Gala dinner as wine was inclusive of the cost of the meal so therefore should not be a separate line item.

## **15. Commission Reports**

### **i) Show Commission**

The report of the Show Commission had been circulated with the AGA paperwork.

The VCC asked why it should be the clubs responsibility to send out notification of the qualifying cats for the Winners show throughout the year. Especially since the qualifiers already get the official invite from the show commission. Mrs Bydlinski stated it was to ensure members knew that they had qualified earlier in the year thus ensuring they have time to make provision to attend.

The President asked for clarification as to the process. Mrs Hart-Jones had devised a spreadsheet in order to keep a record of the date and which cats had qualified. A list would then be sent to the clubs and the clubs would then notify the respective members throughout the year. The only problem occurs if the exhibitor is not a member of FB and their address is not within the back of the catalogue, therefore can not invite them to join FB and enter the Winners show. Mr Kitching asked for the reasoning for the address not being printed in the back of the catalogue. The President explained that it was mainly due to space and that some exhibitors did not wish their address to be included in the catalogue.

The MCG asked how much notice is taken of the TICA and GCCF shows when considering dates for FB shows. Mrs Bydlinski explained that these were considered and the clubs are made aware of any clashes however sometimes the clubs do not take heed of the information.

The President thanked the Show Commission for all their work throughout 2006.

## **ii) Judges commission**

The Judges Commission report had been circulated with the AGA paperwork

Mr Kitching clarified that Mrs Bydlinski was not resigning as Chair of this commission. Mrs Bydlinski explained that FB only has two other judges that could take on the position Ms. V Gane and Mrs Janet Green, both of which are neither willing nor able to do the job. Mrs Bydlinski went on to state that she had written to the FIFe board and asked for them to take over overseeing the FB pupil judges with the FB General Secretary to hold the paperwork.

The VCC asked for an update on the next steward's seminar. Mrs Bydlinski stated as yet due to being very busy, a date had not been set and a suitable location is yet to be found. The VCC went on to ask what would happen to the scheme once Mrs Bydlinski emigrated, the President explained that it is yet to be discussed however it would probably come under the Show Commissions remit.

**Lunch 12.59pm for one hour.**

## **Meeting re-convened at 2.06pm**

The MCG asked the show commission why they had received an email from Ms Jan Upton the show commission's secretary regarding their show licence for 2009. The President asked for this matter to be placed under AOB.

## **iii) Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission.**

Mrs Gardner read out the report

### ***Breeding***

The Commission have received no applications for experimental breeding programs this year. We have given advice to one member regarding the process for getting a new breed recognized.

### **Welfare**

We have been heavily involved in consultations to the new Defra Animal Transport guidelines, particularly in lobbying for hobby breeders to be excluded from the regulations which appears to have been largely successful.

The Veterinary Officer reports that we have had no members in veterinary quarantine during 2006 and very few veterinary rejections from shows. We continue to share veterinary rejection information with the GCCF.

### **Registrations**

<b>Registration Type</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Imports	203	200
Kittens	990	1050
Validations	191	160
Cattery names	24	50
Verification/Amendment	>3800	3600
Average turnaround time (days)	21	12

Registrations have been consistently busy all year. The average turnaround time was unfortunately up on the previous year. This was mainly due to the fact that the Registrar has had to take a full-time job and has therefore been unable to devote as much time to registrations as in the previous 12 months. The registrations backlog has however now been completely cleared and registrations in the first few weeks of 2007 are being turned around in approx. 48 hours.

All registrations figures will be down on last year as the backlog at the end of the year was high and therefore some have rolled over into 2007. The same will apply to the income from registrations in the 2006 accounts. We have also lost one full member club during the year that had been processing registrations and it is not known how many of their members have since joined another club.

### Club pedigree checkers

The Garden of England's qualified pedigree checker stepped down during the course of the year however a new one was able to be found and is now in the process of taking the exam. The Maine Coon Guilds pedigree checker is currently waiting to re-take the exam and the Scottish Breeds Association's checker has requested the exam.

The MCG asked about the need to train up another pedigree checker within the club. The General Secretary highlighted that this was a relevant point that needed answering however not for the AGA but within an Executive Committee meeting or AOB. The President asked for it to be brought up under AOB.

The GoE asked if the registrar can maintain the current turnaround time on processing pedigrees. The registrar confirmed turnover will maintain current turnaround times as she has just given up her job.

The ACC gave a vote of thanks to the registrar from the clubs this was seconded by Mr Kitching.

Mr Kitching asked if it was possible for a list of cattery names as had received an invoice from FIFe for them. The registrar confirmed that this was not a problem as it was on a separate database.

Mr Brinicombe gave a brief explanation re the DEFRA document to the meeting, hobby breeders are now exempt as long as they do not make an overall profit or if the journey is for an economic activity (filming etc.)

Private journeys are exempt along with showing as long as the prizes are not large in monetary terms. Car journeys for one cat need to have one person in the car; if two cats or more are being transported there has to be two people within the car. The regulations come in to force once the journey crossed the threshold of 65KM. An approved vehicle is required if the journey is 12hrs or more continuous driving.

Any travel to another EU country comes under the regulation. If travelling through a Non EU country the regulations stop and start at the next EU border.

The President asked for any questions regarding this.

The President asked which breed requested advice for experimental breeding. The registrar confirmed that it was for Asians.

#### **iv) Disciplinary Commission**

The president made a note to ask if there is a report for 2006, tomorrow when Mr Butterworth would be in attendance.

### **13. Elections**

- a)** Position –President  
Candidate – Mr Neil Gardner  
Mr Gardner read out his biography

Yes -14

No- 0

Abstain- 0

Elected unanimously

- b)** Position – Treasurer  
Candidate- Mr Eddie Kitching  
Mr Kitching read out his biography.

Yes- 14

No- 0

Abstain- 0

Elected unanimously

- c)** Position- Chairman of the Show Rules and Competition Commission  
Candidate - Mr John Cunningham

Mr Cunningham read out his biography

Yes -13

No- 0

Abstain -0

One spoilt

Elected by majority

- d) Mrs Valerie Davidson and Mrs Sue Hart-Jones withdrew their candidacies for Show Commission members.

Position – Commission member

Candidate- Mrs Jenny Rattray

Yes- 14

No- 0

Abstain- 0

Elected unanimously

#### **e) Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission**

Mrs Jennifer Briggs withdrew her candidacy for the Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission

This leaves two associate and two full member positions of the Show Commission open and one associate member position open for the Breeding, Health & Welfare Commission.

#### **f) Election of the external accountant**

Mr Kitching stated he was very happy with the work that the accountant had done on the accounts and proposed to continue to use him.

Mr Kitching proposed Mr Colin John of Llewellyn Davies. The ACC seconded this proposal.

Unanimously accepted

#### **16. Determination of fees for the period 01.01.2008– 31.12.2008**

##### **Determination of the honoraria paid to the registrar for the period 01.01.2008– 31.12.2008**

The President asked if there were any changes for the proposed fees for 2008. Mr Kitching stated that he thought some changes were needed. The President highlighted that as nothing was circulated to the clubs regarding changes the meeting could not. If changes were need for 2009 fees they should be brought to the 2008 AGA.

The President proposed that the fees remain the same as 2007 for 2008; this was seconded by the GoE.  
Unanimously accepted.

Mr Kitching queried the currency exchange fees incurred with the FIFe fees as they are not currently passed on to the clubs. The President stated that if there is a big shift in currency exchange fees then it would be re-addressed at the next AGA but for now FB would have to accept that on transactions it would win some and on others lose some.

Determination of Honoraria for registrar.

Mr Kitching stated he thought it should be raised. The President highlighted that as it was not brought as a proposal the meeting could not vote on it, however he as the treasurer has the right to propose at this meeting a one off fee. He went on to suggest the Mr Kitching bring this matter up at the Executive Committee meeting. Mr Kitching suggested that it be raised in the future and asked the thoughts of the registrar. The registrar stated that as there was no proposal there could be no vote therefore the discussion need not occur. The MCG asked if the fee was proportional to the amount of work the President explained that it was not as it might be considerably higher and FB could not afford that. The MCG thought that this might be the way it should be decided. The President then explained that the issue in that instance would be the amount FB could afford. Mr Kitching suggested pro rata. The GoE stated that this is now a matter for an AGA for full discussion.

The President suggested that he work out if FB could afford pro rata and construct a proposal for 2008. He went on to propose that the Honoraria remain the same at this AGA, the GoE seconded this.  
Unanimously accepted.

The MCG proposed that the treasurer look into the registrars Honoraria in order that it reflects the number of registrations received and processed within the year. The President stated that this would have to be done within a sub committee to ensure a full understanding of the registration processes. Mr Kitching would prefer that it was based on income generated rather than number of pedigrees received and processed. The President stated that this discussion was now going into too much discussion. The GoE proposed that the Executive Committee appoint a sub group to review the structure of the registration process and what it entails with regard to a proposal being brought to the 2008 AGA. The MCG seconded this proposal.  
Unanimously accepted.

**Coffee 3.30pm for 15 minutes**

**Meeting re-convened at 4.04pm**

**17. Approval of the budget for the year 01.01.2008 – 31.12.2008**

The ACC proposed that this remains the same as 2007, the GoE seconded this

Unanimously accepted.

## 18 . Proposals

### a) Executive Committee

#### Proposal one

*Add the following Membership articles to the Statutes*

##### 5.16 *Lapsed and terminated membership*

- a) *Any club that has terminated its membership, or allowed membership to lapse, without settling all outstanding monies owed to FB, may not renew its membership until all such debts are settled in full, or some other arrangement had been reached with FB.*
- b) *Individual committee members of any club subject to 5.16b may not hold a committee or officer position within FB, or any FB club, until all club debts are cleared.*

##### *Motivation*

*Clubs should not be allowed to be wound up in order to avoid their debts to FB, and any committee members of such clubs should be held accountable for such debts.*

Mr Kitching asked if the club was outside of FB, would that club inform the other organisation. The President stated that no, it would not.

The VCC asked about the scenario if only one club member, unbeknown to the rest of the club, abscond with money would they all still be penalised.

At this point The President clarified that there was a mistake in the proposal and it should read '5.16a may' therefore this scenario is covered for an exception could be obtained from the Executive Committee.

This proposal with the correction was proposed by the ACC and seconded by GoE Unanimously accepted.

#### Proposal 2

*Add the following Membership articles to the Statutes*

##### 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 who must pass the completed form to their new club to finalise the transfer.*

##### *Motivation*

*There are an increasing number of members moving from one club to another. Since Full Membership is only allowed in one club, it is important that FB and the individual clubs can track such changes.*

The MCG asked if there would be a problem if one club refused to stamp the letter. The President stated that this would then be referred to the Executive Committee.

The VCC asked for a time scale for returning the form, it was suggested 14 days. The GoE agreed with this suggestion.

After a discussion on the time scale, the Proposal was amended to read ‘... and return it to the member within 14 days. The member....’

The President asked for a proposer. The VCC asked why they needed a proposer to vote, why not a straight vote. The President agreed.

Unanimously accepted.

## **b) Show Commission**

### **Proposal one**

*Amendment to the wording of the requirements for entering the annual Winners Show as set out in the FB Show Rules, the amendments are in bold and italic print:*

1.1.1 *Participation in the Annual Winners Show is only open to cats achieving one or more of the following qualifications in the 12 months prior to the show. The exhibitor must be a full member of a Felis Britannica Club; the club shall verify the qualification.*

- *Adults  
Best in Variety, or  
Nomination for Best in Show, or  
Any cat with the title IC/IP or higher*
- *Juniors – 6-10 months  
Best in Variety, or Nomination for Best in Show, or  
3 x EX1*
- *Kittens 3-6 months*
- ***Best in Variety, or Nomination for Best in Show, or 3 x Ex. 1.  
1 x EX 1 if exhibited in class 12 on the day of the show***
- *Domestic Cats/New Varieties/Unrecognised Breeds  
Nomination for Best in Show Pet/New Variety/Unrecognised Breed*

#### Motivation

*There has been some confusion in the past about the qualifications, particularly for kittens, and this addition should clarify the requirements.*

The President suggested that ‘with’ should be changed to read ‘obtaining’ (any cats obtaining).

Also changed to read. ‘Only 1 x EX1 required if entering in class 12 on the day of the winners show’

The president went on to highlight that BIV should be included in the domestic breeds.

Mrs Bydlinski agreed and changed the wording to ‘Best in Variety or... nomination’

The President put the amended proposal to the vote.

The VCC was against; the GoE, MCG and ACC were for the proposal.

Proposal passed by majority.

### **Proposal two**

*Amendment to the wording of the official show entry form and acceptance of the reverse side of the form, amendments in bold and italics:*

*I/we the undersigned declare the data herein to be correct to the best of my/our knowledge and that I/we shall comply with the **FIFe& FB** show rules.*

*Additional sentence:*

***I/we also confirm that I/we have read the notice concerning the Data Protection Act on the reverse side of this form.***

*Wording to be printed on reverse of form:*

#### **Data Protection - Membership Data Collection - Consent**

***The Data Protection Act 1998 (“the Act”) sets out certain requirements for the protection of your personal information (ie information about you) against unauthorised use or disclosure. The Act also gives you certain rights.***

***By virtue of your membership direct or indirect to FELIS BRITANNICA (FB) you agree to your personal data being made available to FB and its member clubs, subject always to compliance with the Data Protection legislation. This does not include sensitive personal data such as health or medical conditions, which require the explicit consent of the data subject ie a signature for this specific purpose.***

***Except to the extent that FB is required or permitted by law, the information which you provide in this form, and any other information obtained or provided during the course of your membership (“the Information”) will be used solely for the purposes of processing your application and dealing with you as a member.***

***If you cease to be a member of FB, the information will not be held for longer than is necessary, after which time it will be destroyed.***

***You agree to use all reasonable endeavours to keep FB informed of any changes to your personal data.***

#### *Motivation*

*It is important to clarify with which show rules the exhibitor is agreeing to comply. The second sentence is necessary in order to conform to the rules concerning the Data Protection Act, the reverse side of the form has previously been circulated to the clubs and also a revised entry form has been distributed. This proposal is therefore in the nature of a ratification of a decision made by the EC and the Show Commission in 2006.*

Mr Kitching asked if it has to be on the entry form or on the schedule as both are not always printed out .The general secretary pointed out that the schedule is not signed only the entry form. Mrs Bydlinski clarified that it is included on the front of the entry form.

Mrs Bydlinski asked for the clubs to ensure that they are using the correct form. The ACC highlighted that not everyone has PDF format changers, so a word document is needed for ease. The VCC highlighted that the club entry forms are all different with different side classes etc... Mrs Bydlinski clarified that she just wished a reminder be sent to the clubs regarding the form to ensure its use.

The President highlighted that the new rules would have to be sent out to the members from the clubs in next few weeks, therefore sent with those. The General Secretary suggested that the email contain voting buttons to ensure that the members have read and received the email. The GoE stated that it can only be sent out to the members informing them that it includes changes. The ACC highlighted that the website only contains read only PDF format and needs a PDF format that can be filled in electronically. Mrs Bydlinski stated that she did not see a problem with a word version. The VCC clarified if FB was producing this. The President states that it was up to the clubs. The proposal was put to the vote. Unanimously accepted.

The President asked the meeting if they had any problems with moving to the club proposals leaving Disciplinary Commission proposals until Sunday when Mr Butterworth would be in attendance. At this point the VCC asked for their proposal to be left until Sunday as well as they may wish to reword it. This was agreed.

## 19. Proposals from Members

### b) GoE proposal.

*The following proposal is intended to be presented at the FIFe GA.*

*1) It is proposed to place the Sphynx (SPH) breed into five groups for judging purposes and that, if accepted, this proposal should be implemented immediately. The groups to be as follows:*

*Group 1: solid and solid with silver and solid white cats: w, n, a, b, c, d, e, o, p, f, g, h, j, q, r (s)*

*Group 2: as Group 1 but with white: n, a, b, c, d, e, o, p, f, g, h, j, q, r (s) (01, 02, 03, 09)*

*Group 3: all agouti patterns with and without silver: n, a, b, c, d, e, o, p, f, g, h, j, q, r (s) (y) (21-25)*

*Group 4: as Group 3 but with white: n, a, b, c, d, e, o, p, f, g, h, j, q, r (s) (y) (01, 02, 03, 09) (21-25)*

*Group 5: all pointed cats with or without white, with or without agouti, with or without silver: n, a, b, c, d, e, o, p, f, g, h, j, q, r (s) (y) (01, 02, 03, 09) (21-25).*

*Certificates already gained under other groupings are to be retained.*

#### Motivation:

*Added to the reasons below which are intended to accompany the proposal to FIFe, is the fact that in the UK the Sphynx cats represent a very large proportion of the exhibits at any one show; the consequences of judging them in one group where an individual exhibitor's cats will unavoidably be competing against other cats belonging to the same person, can only be detrimental to the entries at a show. Competition is healthy but in this case it could be seen as simply throwing away money, which nobody is prepared to do.*

*It is not easy to determine colour in a naked cat, particularly the presence of silver/golden. In some countries there are very large numbers of Sphynx being shown and it is not considered fair to the exhibitors to have all varieties judged in one group, at the same time the breed is not widely enough represented to justify nine groups. This solution would seem fair to the exhibitors and also allow for*

*competition.*

The President asked for any questions.

The VCC asked if this applied to all hairless cats. Mrs Bydlinski, General Secretary and the President confirmed that it was only Sphynx, as clarified at the FIFe GA once the Peterbald and Don Sphynx had been accepted.

The President clarified if the VCC were asking for this proposal to include all hairless cats. He then asked if the meeting had any objections to an observer addressing the meeting. No objections were made. The President invited Mrs Johnson to address the meeting. Mrs Johnson explained that there would be a problem if the Dom Sphynx and the Peterbald were fully recognised in the future with the current situation still as is. As there will be a nine Vs five split on colour.

The General Secretary asked the meeting if they could give some direction if at the FIFe GA in May regarding to changing it back to just pertaining to Sphynx once in open meetings and hear other countries thoughts on this proposal. The President stated that if we put in the proposal to cover hairless breeds, once we have other countries proposals we can discuss them all within the next Executive Committee.

Proposal changed to read.

'All hairless breeds into five groups' to replace 'sphynx breed into five groups'.

'Sphynx and in the future other hairless breeds' changed within the motivation.

Change 'sphynx' to 'hairless breeds'

Change 'naked cats' to 'hairless breeds'

Remove '...at the same time the breed is not widely enough represented to justify nine groups'

The president put it to the vote.

Unanimously accepted.

**Meeting closed 5.18pm**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting opened by the president at 9.51am**

The President moved to the VCC club proposal that had been reworded overnight. The VCC explained that the proposal was now specific to the NFO breed.

## **19. Proposals from members**

### **a) VCC**

#### **Proposal 1**

*For any breed where a particular colour or pattern is specifically excluded in the breed standard, any cats of the excluded colour or pattern should be registered as XSH/XLH and not as an unrecognised variety of the breed in question.*

#### Motivation

*In some breeds, the breeders have decided when creating the standard, that they do not want specific colours or patterns to be part of that breed so therefore they are specifically excluded in the breed standard. It is therefore wrong that an individual can decide to breed cats of that colour/pattern and still call it part of the breed in question. An example is the Norwegian Forest Cat where the standard specifically excludes pointed cats so if one were to be bred it should be called XLH\*33 and not NFOx\*33. The current FIFe registration rules are not clear on this and so it appears to be being interpreted differently by different members – this would ensure consistency across all FIFe pedigrees.*

The Proposal was now to read

'For colours or patterns that are specifically excluded in the NFO breed standard, any cats of the excluded colour or pattern should be registered as XLH and not as an unrecognized variety NFO'

Within the motivation the following changes were to be made

Remove 'in some breeds' add 'In the NFO'..... and remove 'in question' after 'part of the breed'.

The President asked for any questions

The GoE had had a member express the worry that this could lead to a 'witch hunt' scenario with some breeders that find excluded colour or patterns in their pedigree.

The President put the reworded proposal to the vote  
Unanimously accepted

## **18. Commission Proposals**

### **d) Disciplinary**

#### **Proposal one**

*Restructure the Disciplinary commissions so instead of the three commissions FB currently has FB adopt one Disciplinary Commission with one Chairman.*

*The chairman would oversee the 3 processes necessary for a disciplinary to take place. The 3 processes being*

*Investigations*

*Hearings*

*Appeals*

*Each process would be implemented by 2/3 appointed officers assigned to each process (7 in total) with the DC chairman having the deciding vote.*

*Processing of the disciplinary paperwork and procedure would be aided by an elected Disciplinary Secretary.*

#### **Motivation**

*The current structure is cumbersome for the present number of disciplinary actions being processed and the personnel available to the Disciplinary Commissions.*

*FB must utilise its current resources efficiently and streamlining the Disciplinary structure will utilise current resources more efficiently.*

*This re-structuring does not affect the main reason for having 3 separate commissions which is independence of the 3 processes. This independence will be kept by keeping the 3 processes independent and the decision making personnel independent at each stage of the disciplinary procedure.*

*The overseeing DC chairman will allow continuity between processes and an impartial deciding vote at each stage if required.*

### **Proposal two**

*Document Felis Britannica Disciplinary Process Version1 should be adopted as guidance document for the Felis Britannica Disciplinary Procedure*

### **Motivation**

*Should the Proposals 1 from DC be adopted; the Documentation to support the changed infrastructure should also be adopted.*

### **Proposal Three**

*Post AGA a review body is set up to rationalise the Felis Britannica statutes; focusing on the affects of new disciplinary processes*

### **Motivation**

*Should the Proposals from DC and the proposed document to be used for disciplinary procedures be adopted then the changes will affect the statutes. The statutes should be brought into line based on these changes.*

*The next proposals follows discussions at the EC meeting 6th Jan 2007 and is required as a backup to the DC processes*

*- suggest if the DC procedures go through then this is withdrawn.*

### **Proposal Four**

*Add to Statutes.*

*If an individual during the process of a disciplinary procedure or at the end of a disciplinary procedure by Felis Britannica or one of its clubs, brings a court case against one of the federation's member clubs, that individual is subject to immediate expulsion from the federation.*

### **Motivation.**

*By moving the focus of the complaint from the Felis Britannica Disciplinary Commission to the Legal arena the individual is moving the Disciplinary Commission personnel into an arena they may not trained for. This area should be covered by a professional person under the control of the Felis Britannica Executive Committee.*

*An individual in belonging to one of the federation's clubs agrees to abide by the rules of the federation and the club. By taking court action when the outcome of a dispute is not in that person's favour, the person is exhibiting contempt for the federation's or club's rules and not acting in the best interests of the federation.*

### **Proposal Five**

*Add to Statutes.*

*If an individual is found to be guilty of an offence against the rules of either a club, FB or FIFE itself, that person should not be eligible to take office in the federation for a period of not less than 1 year or a period decided by the Disciplinary Procedure.*

**Motivation.**

*A person who has been proven to have committed an offence against the rules of FB should not be considered suitable for an official position within the federation*

The President made a point of order, that the EC have allowed the Disciplinary Commission to present five proposals yet the statutes state only three are allowed. However proposal 4 & 5 are dependant on proposals 1, 2 & 3.

The VCC asked if there was a Disciplinary report for the AGA.

Mr. Butterworth explained that there had been no disciplinary cases over the past year and that his time had been spent on rewording the Disciplinary rules so that they were more user friendly as well as writing a new structure for the Disciplinary process and introducing fixed penalties within that.

The President asked the meeting if they had any objections to the advisor to the committee undertaking this work, Mrs. Johnson, joining the table to participate in the meeting freely. No objections were raised.

Mr. Kitching asked what purpose the first page served and was it necessary. The president agreed partly with this. Mr. Butterworth thought it was necessary

The President asked Mr. Butterworth how he wished to proceed. Mr. Butterworth asked for comments from the clubs on the circulated documents, starting with the restructuring proposal.

The president asked for any questions.

The President expressed his agreement with the principle however disagreed that only one person is to be involved in all the process of investigations, hearings and appeals. He went on to suggest that they should be separate, with just one person to oversee the working of the processes.

Mr. Hart-Jones asked if it was just the sentence of casting vote. The President confirmed this

Mrs. Johnson expressed what good work Mr. Butterworth had achieved with the proposal but strongly disagreed regarding the one chair person having the casting vote as this was very undemocratic and conveys the wrong message to the members.

The President stated that the way it was in this proposal of the three people being involved in each process they might not agree and the scenario for a casting vote is very probable. He went on to recommend a change to the proposal, where the Chair does not sit on any of the processes. Mrs. Johnson suggested a different title such as Disciplinary Process Officer. The President stated that this would impact on the statutes; Mrs. Johnson said that the statutes could be changed.

Mr. Hart-Jones stated that in the courts the chair has the same function as the judge and does not decide the verdict.

The MCG stated that they thought that there needed to be a chair in the meeting and be able to vote. The President agreed partly that there needed to be a chair however without a vote. The General Secretary stated that if involved in all processes might rely on information only they have seen in another process when voting. R Butterworth expressed the concern that this change would be moving back towards the old system with three different chairs.

The General Secretary stated that this needs to be fair and open process and that direction is the same as voting, as the chair would be directing the members of that hearings/investigation/ appeals on how to vote. Therefore did not agree that each process should have the same chair. Mr. Butterworth stated that to have three people and a different chair, resources would not allow this

The ACC highlighted that with the three independent members and the separate chair, could the three members not elect their own chair amongst themselves. Mr. Butterworth stated that the chair would then in effect be a Disciplinary Commission Secretary. Mrs. Johnson explained that this was her point of not calling the position a chair. The VCC suggested Disciplinary Commission Officer instead of Disciplinary Chair or Disciplinary Commission Secretary. This was agreed (Disciplinary Commission Officer is from now referred to using the abbreviation DCO)

Therefore it was agreed to remove 'with one chairman' and replace with 'overseen as a Disciplinary Commission Officer'. Also to replace 'chairman' with 'officer' and insert '...a min of 3 and a max of 7' after removing '...by 2/3'

Discussion on where and how the people to sit within these processes, would be recruited from.

The President proposed that where the people will be recruited from to be added within the procedures document when the meeting discussed it later. The MCG suggested that the meeting not vote on this document yet as there might be further changes once the meeting has discussed the procedures document. The President explained that the meeting needed to know that the clubs agreed the restructuring in order to move on to discuss the procedures. He went on to propose that the meeting to vote on accepting the restructuring and vote on the detail later in the meeting. The GoE seconded this proposal. The President put the proposal to the vote, unanimously accepted.

The President went back to Mr. Kitching's point regarding the first page. Mr. Butterworth stated it was for accountability. The President highlighted that the accountability would rest with the AGA that voted on it. Mr. Butterworth had two points of concern one was accountability and the other was if there any queries regarding the document. The General Secretary highlighted that the members had been asked for their input on this document. Mr. Butterworth stated that it was now different due to no commission chairs and that the members will have nobody to ask regarding advice on the rules. The

President stated that the members would ask their club for guidance not the Disciplinary Chair or the Executive Committee.

The MCG stated that they thought that this point highlighted why the flow charts are very good for explaining the process. It was agreed to remove the first table of names. The meeting carried on discussing the Flow chart.

The VCC asked for the glossary to be changed from 'associate clubs' to 'affiliate clubs'. They went on to ask for the individual clubs not to be listed within the structure as they might change.

The President suggested removing the lower bubble below entirely, Mr. Butterworth stated that it allows everyone to know the clubs within FB. The President explained that this can be found in the other documents.

The VCC highlighted a typo 'general assemblies' under overview. Also that individual club names be removed from how FB rules are organized.

At this point it was decided to look at the processes document rather than the flow chart, as any changes might be subject to further changes once the meeting had reviewed the processes document.

Under processes The President did not like point 6. The VCC would have preferred that it read 'the choices will be offered to the defendant' not that 'it will be done'. Therefore to be reworded, removing 'in the interests.....of processes' and add '...will deal with complaints by the use of fixed penalties where possible'

The VCC raised under point 4 that 'secretary' should be removed and replaced with 'officer'

The GoE highlighted that as it has now changed to DCO the context of this document is different. This led to further discussion on what to call members of the commissions. It was decided to replace 'Disciplinary officer' with 'panel members'.

The VCC queried point 7 as to why are they suspended for seeking legal advice. Mr. Butterworth stated that it was to separate the two and protect the authority of FB. The VCC stated that the DCO would put the case on hold, for the outcome of the legal court case. Mrs. Johnson explained that the moment the case is going to court the disciplinary case is suspended.

Mr. Turpin suggested that the term 'defendant' be changed for 'process' in the last sentence.

Mr. Kitching was concerned regarding the legal costs to FB and passing on those costs to the clubs. The President clarified that there were two legal actions the meeting was talking about.

One being that a complaint is submitted to FB at the same time as a legal case, the other is a complaint is made and the defendant chooses to be defended by legal representation. He went on to state that FB could not stop legal representation therefore FB might also have to appoint a solicitor for the case. Mr. Butterworth highlighted that point 18 and 19 covered this. The VCC asked that with the inclusion of points 18 and 19 was there a need for point 7.

It was agreed to add to point 8 'FB will not become involved where legal proceedings have been instigated until concluded'

The VCC stated they did not like 'DC brief' and asked for 'brief' to be replaced with 'procedure'.

They went on to ask that in point 7 'of following' to be removed and 'Complainant' to be added after 'a defendant...' in the first sentence.

There was now a discussion on the sorts of cases that might come to the DC.

The VCC highlighted that the tape recorder had gone wrong.

There was further discussion, on the need for evidence to be supplied with complaints, when and to whom. The ACC asked why this has to be sent in with the complaint. Mrs. Johnson suggested that on the flow chart remove the bubble 'supporting evidence'. It was agreed to remove the second sentence in point 9.

#### **Coffee break 11.30am for 15 minutes**

#### **Meeting re-convened at 11.47am,**

The ACC and VCC delegate were not present the President stated that with the ACC not having an advisor any votes the absolute majority will be 6.

The ACC delegate rejoined the room so the voting reverted back to the previous majority.

The President explained that the DCO can seek advice in conjunction with anyone not just the Disciplinary Commission secretary. Mr. Butterworth stated that the points are meant to correspond with the diagram. Mrs. Johnson stated that this might complicate the diagram. The President clarified that the DCO is to decide with reference to the complaint if in FB remit.

The following changes were decided to the diagram

Deletion of the final box in flow, replace 'Disciplinary investigation officers' with 'DCO'  
The DCO to determine if the complaint is within the FB remit

The GoE made the point that within this document the member has the right to send the complaint direct to the General Secretary/EC when the statutes state everything should go through the club. A general discussion on this point occurred.

The President suggested that the FIFe rules be removed from the club rules to prevent duplication. The General Secretary queried the grey area regarding the members being a member of FB is through membership of a club and removing the FIFe rules from these club rules might be conflicting. The GoE cautioned that the FIFe rules might state that they need to be included in club rules.

Discussion on the inclusion or exclusion of the FIFe rules within the club rules and if the complaint is a breaking of a club rule then does it go through the EC to ensure completion.

The President suggested that the Disciplinary Commission does not decide if it is a club rule being broken just if a FIFe or FB rule is being broken.

The General Secretary highlighted that the Disciplinary Commission might dismiss the case as not club related when it is, if they are not looking at the club rules. The President disagreed. The VCC highlighted that it was only one set of club rules that would have to be gone through and checked against the complaint, those of the club the defendant is a member of. The ACC stated that it was not a lot of work as not many disciplinary cases seen every year. Mr. Hart-Jones highlighted if the DCO does not have updated rules, then will be dismissed anyway. The ACC suggested that after the club's AGA if there were changes to the rules, the club should send via recorded delivery an updated copy to the DCO.

The meeting continued to discuss the flow diagram

Under 'Letter of complaint received' the following to be included  
FB General Secretary to acknowledge, log and forward, to the DCO.

Under DCO

'DCO decides if the remit of a FIFe, FB rule' add 'if the remit of a club rule or if there is no remit'

If remit of a FIFe or FB rule, passed to investigations

If remit of a club rule, is passed to defendants member club

If no remit, returned to the complainant.

It was agreed that the DCO was to revise the flow chart to include the above.

The VCC asked if Point 8 was necessary. Mr. Butterworth highlighted that non FB members are signing to agree to abide by the rules on show entry forms.

On point 9 Mrs. Johnson stated that the terminology needed altering.

Remove 'Felis Britannica...' and replace with 'Any officer, commission, member club, individual member(s) or any non member (s) who have agreed to be bound by the rules & statutes of FIFe, FB or a member club (the complainant) can bring to the attention of FB any facts or matters indicating that an officer, commission, member club including member(s) or any non member(s) who have agreed to be bound by the rules and statutes of FIFe, FB or a FB member club (the defendant) may have breached FIFe, FB or member club(s) rules or statutes. This should be shown in the first instance in a letter of complaint to the FB General Secretary.'

### **Lunch 1.30pm**

### **Meeting re-convened at 2.40pm**

The General Secretary read out the change to point 9.

The President moved on to the following points the following changes were decided upon by the meeting. (Where global changes are referred to, it is in relation to changes that affect all the documents before the meeting such as the change to DCO)

Point 10

No changes

Point 11

Will be removed completely

Point 12

Will be removed completely

Point 13

Will stay but be placed in the document giving the clubs direction as to what is to be included in their rules.

Point 14

The President stated that it was the wrong way round. It should say that the rules relating to FB and FIFe will be dealt with FB; those relating to member club rules are to be dealt with by the club and the others not relating to anything within remit will be returned.

Point 15

The VCC asked for 'General Secretary' to be replaced with 'DCO'

Point 16

To be removed

Point 17

Already covered in point 8 so deleted

Point 18

Remains

Point 19

Remains

Point 20

Remains after removing 'replace the officer' and adding 'for a deputy for the officer'

Point 21

Remove '3' and add '3-7' The President asked about odd or even numbers of votes. Mrs. Johnson stated that the case is proven or not proven abstentions are not relevant. The president proposed an odd number 3, 5, 7 this was seconded by the GoE; it was put to the vote

VCC was against; the GoE, ACC and MCG were for. Proposal accepted by majority. Therefore Point 21 to read '3, 5 or 7'. Also 'Disciplinary Investigations Officers' to be replaced with 'investigation panel members', the last sentence is to be removed

Point 22

The VCC objected to the word 'worthy' and asked for the following to replace it 'if the investigation panel conclude that there is no prema facie case to answer the process will be terminated and the defendant and complaint will be informed of this fact'

Point 23

Add 'If the investigations panel concludes that there is a prema facia case to answer and the offence is covered by a fixed penalty.....'

Point 24

Change to 'investigations panel' and move to point 22. Therefore Point 22 becomes 23 and 23 becomes 24 etc...

The President asked for an original draft to be kept

Point 25

To be split into two parts; the first sentence of point 25 to be moved to the end of point 24

The Second sentence of point 25 becomes a new point, after point 23.

Point 26

Remove the first sentence, and add 'Where the complaint cannot be covered by a fixed penalty or the defendant has elected to take a hearing...'

Point 27

Change to read 'The panel members will appoint one of its members to present the formal complaint before the hearings panel'

Point 28

The VCC asked about email. The GoE highlighted that a witness statement will have to be signed and sworn in a court of law. Remove 'all supporting info or'

Point 29

Global changes

Point 30

Is to be left as is

Point 31

To be removed

Point 32

To be left as is

## **Hearings process**

Point 33

Remove '3' and add '3, 5 or 7' also remove 'elected'

Point 34

Global changes

Point 35

Remove 'verbally' and add 'ten days prior to the meeting' at the beginning of point 35.  
Global changes apply here as well.

Point 36

To be removed

Point 37

Replace 'verdict' with 'decision'

Point 38

Replace 'verdict' with 'decision'

Point 39

Replace 'verdict' with 'decision' and remove '...on the day of the hearing' to be replaced with '...on the day if he/she is present as well as within writing within 7 days by recorded delivery'

Point 40

Global changes and replace 'seven days of the hearing date' with '28 days of the hearing date'

Point 41

Remove 'the name of the defendant and the FB club to which he/she is attached' apply the same changes to point 26

Point 42

Global changes and add 'panel representatives from the investigations and hearings processes shall present...' after removing 'the hearings officers...'

### **Rule details**

Point 43

To be left as is

Point 44

Remove 'to a maximum of a sum total of £100'

Point 45

To be removed

Point 46

To be left as is

### **Disciplinary Process details**

Point d34

Insert '3, 5 and 7'

Point d35

To be removed

Point d36

Global changes and change 'defendant' to 'appellant'

Point d37

'Complaint' replaced with 'findings of the hearings'. Also remove 'Verbally' and change to 'the findings of the hearing shall be presented to the appeals panel members by the panel member appointed by the hearings panel and the copy of the summary to the facts and matters which were placed before the hearings panel by the investigations panel and any witnesses together with a copy or summary of any representations made to it by the appellant and any witnesses'

Point d 38

Remove 'failure to.....ended' and replace with something that covers circumstances beyond their control.

Point d39

Change to read '...On hearing the appeal the appeals panel shall uphold or dismiss the appeal. If the appeal is upheld, the appeals panel may vary the order made by the hearings panel'

Point d40

'Defendant' to be replaced with 'appellant', Include the same changes as point 39.

Add 'any variation of the order of the hearings panel...' after removing 'of the penalty on the day...'

Point d41

Change 'complainant' for 'hearings or investigations panels'

Global changes

Point d42

Change to read ' where the appeals panel dismisses the appeal it may in addition to any approved order made under the provisions of these rules including an order that no further action may be taken direct that the appellant pay a sum not exceeding the sum of £200 by way of cost'

Point d43

To be removed

Point d44

To be left as is

## **Offences**

4<sup>th</sup> bullet point

Add 'anyone suspended from FB' at the end.

5<sup>th</sup> bullet point

Remove 'any individual member' also remove 'typically.....from another'

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bullet points belongs in the code of conduct, remove from this list.

8<sup>th</sup> bullet point

To be removed

## **Penalties**

The VCC highlighted that this was not a fixed penalty list as was requested. The President stated that the first one listed was what requested but should quote the rule. However as this is a FIFe rule so should not be included here. Mr. Butterworth asked if it should be based more along the GCCF penalties. The President confirmed that it was.

The President suggested that the commissions be asked to come up with a list of penalties pertinent to their rules and that this AGA vote to accept the concept of fixed penalties. He went on to propose the acceptance of the construction of a fixed penalty list, which would be continually updated, the ACC seconded this.  
Unanimously accepted

### **Hearing panel findings**

Bullet point 6 line 8

Remove 'DC' and replace with 'EC

Include allowing them to declare the litter as well as adding after 'at any time...', 'however all litters must be declared'

Add life disqualification, disqualification & or suspension from FB

### **Verdict publications**

Just state that the DC will report to the EC. This matter will be dealt within the Executive Committee as to how the findings will be circulated/published.

The MCG went back to the previous proposal on restructuring that was placed on hold. The President read out the reworded proposal one

'Restructure the Disciplinary Commission so that instead of the three commissions FB currently has, FB adopt one disciplinary commission overseen by the disciplinary officer. The Disciplinary commission officer would oversee the three processes necessary for a disciplinary procedure to take place. The three processes being Investigations, Hearings and Appeals, each process would be implemented by a minimum of 3, 5 & 7 (a max of 7) appointed panel members assigned to each processes'

The President put it to the vote

Unanimously accepted

The President asked for the meeting to vote on adoption of the amended document.

Mr. Kitching made a point of order to replace as an existing document. The President disagreed as was not necessary due to being a working document.

It was put to the vote.

Unanimously accepted

The President asked for a time scale. It was agreed that within two weeks Mr.

Butterworth is to pass the amended rules to the EC and Mrs. Johnson. These are then to be reviewed within a week and return comments to Mr. Butterworth. The amended and final version is then to be circulated to the clubs within one week. Mr. Butterworth is

to contact the commissions regarding the fixed penalties; this is to be sent out at the same time.

### **Proposal 3**

Mr. Kitching did not agree that the EC could make changes only the AGA could do that. The President disagreed and stated that the EC can make changes that the AGA then ratifies. The VCC highlighted that this would have been undertaken by the Rules commission which now comes under the EC's remit.

The President suggested that proposal 3 is withdrawn. Mr. Butterworth agreed as long as there was a review, the President explained that would be the EC's responsibility. Mr. Butterworth withdrew Proposal 4 and 5 due to acceptance of Proposal one and two.

### **20. AOB**

The President had one matter from the MCG and asked for the MCG to address the meeting.

The MCG explained that at the EC meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January in which MCG attended, a problem was queried regarding a show license for a date at the same time as another club. The MCG had been told that they could put in a request for first refusal on the same dates in future years. The MCG did this to Show Commission secretary, who at the time stated she did not have the show diaries for the 2009/2010 period therefore asked for the details and explained that she would get back to the MCG once she had received the diaries. At the Show Commission meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Feb the secretary had been instructed to write to the MCG and VCC, who had also applied for first refusal on some dates, stating that a few days after the show commission meeting the ACC had submitted show applications for the dates in 2009/2010 the MCG had previously requested. The MCG at the time of the Show Commission meeting still had 5 days remaining to the first come first serve rule of the 28 days process by which clubs apply for show licenses.

The VCC clarified that it was correct that at the EC meeting it was agreed that a first refusal on a particular date within the future was to be implemented. The President stated that it was agreed at the EC meeting for a first refusal option to be available and that the Show Commission was to come back to the EC regarding a proposal.

Mrs. Bydlinski explained that Show Commission secretary could not attend the meeting and that the rules require a written application. Therefore the Show Commission wrote back to the two clubs stating this as outside the 28 day rule. The ACC then put in a written application before everyone receiving the letter.

The MCG was asked to read out the letter

A heated discussion occurred regarding the subject.

The President did not think the issue regarding first refusal had a bearing on this matter. However due process had not been carried out.

Mr. Kitching objected to Mrs. Butterworth questioning if he is psychic, and how she is going about complaining regarding the allocation of show dates. The President encouraged the meeting not to become personal and to base comments on facts.

The VCC highlighted that first come first serve is in the rules

A discussion on the process of applying for a show license occurred. This included the possibility of the MCG and the ACC holding a show on the same day, the ACC have no objections to this however the MCG do. Neither club wished to relinquish or move their show dates. The President and the General Secretary stated that the only way to resolve this was a proposal and the meeting votes on it.

The VCC proposed that both show licenses be granted for 09  
The VCC and ACC voted for this proposal, the MCG and GoE were against.  
The proposal was accepted by an absolute majority.

The President asked for any other AOB, with none forthcoming he closed the meeting at 5.49pm

## **Minutes of the EC meeting held directly after the AGA**

### **Present;**

Neil Gardner –President

Rob Hart-Jones- Vice President

Fran de Courcy Rolls – General Secretary

Eddie Kitching- Treasurer

John Cunningham- Chair of Show Commission

Mel Gardner- Chair of Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission

Keith Butterworth- Disciplinary Commission Officer

Penelope Bydlinski- Chair of the Judges Commission

The meeting was opened by the President at 6.03pm

Mrs. Bydlinski expressed that she was not happy with treatment of the GoE and their member Mrs. M Shackell. Mrs. Bydlinski stated that Mrs. Shackell was up for re-election yet was not included within the paperwork or written to asking if she wished to re-stand. Mrs. Gardner stated that she had received notification of positions up for re-election/election at this AGA. Mrs. Bydlinski at this point due to travel arrangements had to leave the meeting. The EC meeting discussed why this was not picked up at the Show commission, especially if the candidates up for election along with when they were elected, were discussed and minuted. It was decided that the General Secretary was to write to Mrs. Shackell and ask if she wished to be considered for co-option to the Show commission as there were vacant positions. The EC was to look into the matter further.

### **Election of advisor to FIFe GA**

Mr. Kitching and Mrs. Gardner proposed the General Secretary.

The President asked for any objections, there being none the General Secretary was elected as FB's advisor.

### **Show Commission**

Mr. Cunningham highlighted the number vacancies within the show commission. It was decided that the General Secretary was to email the clubs for circulation within the membership, inviting applications for co-options to the various positions within the commissions. The clubs are to be given two weeks to respond with nominations.

### **AOB**

### **Disciplinary Commission**

Since Mr. Butterworth currently holds the position of Disciplinary Appeals Chair, and there is now the position of DCO open have to invite applications from the members. Mr. Butterworth is to carry on with the disciplinary reworking.

Meeting closed at 6.40pm