

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION
2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Sunday, 1st April 2012
At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, Cannock, Birmingham

1. INTRODUCTION

The Meeting was opened at 10.40 a.m. by the Chairman George Eltringham and Secretary Colin Egner. The chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting. The attendees stood for a minutes silence in remembrance for past members.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from: - Ron Williams (North Wales BFCC), Bill Angus (Border Canary Association) John Cox (Clwyd), Malcolm Barnett (Past President)

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER. Jim Bishop (IBBA) was appointed as Teller. There were 16 clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2011 A.G.M. (10th April 2011)

Ray Morgan said that at the last AGM (2011) which he chaired it was minuted that a vote was taken to allow the Journal Editor to include in the Journal a small amount of Fife details from Border and Fife clubs. He could not recall any voting taking place at the last AGM for this to happen. He said that a vote could not have been taken because at the committee meeting after the AGM (August 2011) there was a proposer and seconder and it was carried that this should not be allowed in the Journal. Malcolm Scott had played the tape recording of the AGM but Ray could not hear it. He suggested that it should be addressed today at the AGM. He said that we were pushing Fifes to the detriment of the Border Canary. It was pointed out to Ray that this subject was an item on the agenda.

5. CORRESPONDENCE.

The Secretary Colin Egner reported that he had no correspondence..

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The President Jim Aitchison thanked the members for selecting him to be President for the last three years, he has thoroughly enjoyed it and considers it an honour. He thanked the committee for their work especially Colin Egner, Don Harrison, Andrew Triolo and Malcolm Scott as well as all of the members of the Committee. He said that he was disappointed with the response to the Fertility Questionnaire after all of the work that Colin had put into it Jim said that judging by the response there is obviously no problem with breeding Border canaries or the replies would have been better. He commented on the novice rule being beneficial to novices who wish to show at Cage Bird Shows and thought that the novice rule is correct for the fancy the way it is at the moment. Jim said that as a personal view he thought that the term of President was about right and if the term was extended it would stop some people from becoming President. He thought that elected Presidents should be from the Committee. The option of a President Elect would be a good idea if anything changed during the Presidents term of office. He thanked the members for his term as President and wished everyone all the best of luck for the forthcoming breeding season.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman George Eltringham said that he regretted not being able to be at the AGM last year. He thanked the committee, Colin Egner for his work as secretary, Don Harrison for the Journal and Andrew Triolo for the new Web Site. The fancy needs the Border Convention Web Site and it is looking good. He said that he had thought about resigning as Chairman but after giving it a bit of thought he will be staying on for another year unless anyone else fancied the job. He said that he sometimes felt restricted in his views while Chairman. He thanked the members for turning up and hoped the meeting would go well.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Colin Egner said that the highlight of the past year has been the formation of two web sites, Stuart Mason's and the Border Convention sites. He thought that the reporting of the show results on Stuart Mason's web site was very good and has put the Border Canary into popular view. The Border Convention website performs a different task but it is just as important and he is looking forward to the website growing over the next year or so. He was pleased with the number of entries at shows, some shows had increased and others had held their own. The number of different fanciers winning the shows was also pleasing. Colin thought that it was a very healthy sign when different fanciers win as when only one or two are winning other fanciers can become disillusioned. He congratulated the winners of the open shows especially one North Eastern Fancier who had a very successful year. The downside to the hobby is the lack of interest from the fancy in what the Committee is doing. He has asked for agenda items and discussion points from the clubs but nothing has been forthcoming. The infertility study has again been a disappointment with only two more replies than last year, only twenty six in total. He thought that fanciers have lost

interest in the Border Convention and he would like to see that reversed in the next year. Colin said that the Secretary's job is made a lot easier with the cooperation of the Committee and he thanked those responsible.

9. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

Don Harrison told the meeting that he has struggled this year with his health which has impacted on the next Journal printing date and this will now be a little late. He has had problems with the software on his computer but now has a new computer and hopefully things will pick up. Stuart Mason has sent some articles as a result of responses to requests from his website and Don is in a position (for the first time) that he has articles in place for future journals. He still thinks the Journal is good value for money. He said that he was the one who brought up the option to include the best Fife details from a Border and Fife club because he is looking for ways to improve the circulation and also the possibility that Fife breeders may take up keeping Border Canaries. He said that when he asked for judges reports a couple of years ago he was expecting reports giving opinions of the birds not the overall hospitality of the clubs to the exclusion of the birds.

10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Andrew Triolo informed the meeting that we now have a situation with Cage & Aviary birds whereby they expect a monthly article from the Border Convention to promote the Border Canary. Articles are required now. It was suggested that a rota of members be produced to produce these articles. It was pointed out that Cage & Aviary Birds had said that articles do not need to be grammatically correct and also spelling will be corrected if necessary. This is something that the Border Convention must own and deliver to Cage & Aviary Birds as it is perceived to be critical for the future of the Border Canary. These articles do not necessarily have to come from the top breeders or administrators, anyone can provide them. It was thought that the clubs should take responsibility to provide both Border Convention Journal and Cage & Aviary articles.

11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2012 ACCOUNTS.

John Cox unfortunately could not attend the meeting because his wife is poorly. The members wished John and his wife all the very best. John has examined the accounts and sent a letter outlining his views to Malcolm Scott with a copy for Colin Egner. In John's letter (addressed to the Officers of the Border Convention) he said that had examined but not audited (standard procedure) the accounts of the Border Convention for the period 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011 with the Society's Accounts and Bank and Building Society Accounts. Taking into consideration the vouchers and explanations given to him. The balance as at 31st December 2011 represents the funds of the Society at that time. I would like to commend Malcolm Scott for the excellent way the Accounts are presented to me. John has been in touch with Don Harrison and said that because of his current situation he may not be able to do the Audit in the future. Malcolm thanked John Cox and outlined to the meeting some of the aspects of the Balance Sheet. He said that the way the profit or loss is calculated involves taking into account payments made in advance and advance payments from the previous year which can make the final balance look different to the overall trading balances. The balance sheet showed a loss for 2011 of £3.23.

Malcolm then outlined the current position with regards to the Ring Scheme. Over the years he has been given the estimated cost per hundred rings from the supplier A. C. Hughes. That did not happen this year and Malcolm expected a rise of about £1.00 per hundred (as has been the case for the last 6 years) but this year Hughes's rings have gone up by £7.00 per hundred. As the invoice from Hughes just came in at the end of March 7,000 rings have been sold at the wrong price and the new prices will take effect from 1st April. Because of the proposed rise in postal charges and a general increase in stationery the rings for the rest of 2012 will be sent out at the second class postal rate, a saving of seventeen pence per order. Journal numbers were read out and it was noted that there is an ongoing reduction every year of about 20 subscribers. Ivan Austin informed the meeting that he now buys the stamps for the Journal from a different supplier and he saved £90 on the postage bill for the last Journal which is tremendous. It was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Phil Dewland that the accounts were a true record, this was carried.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012.

It was proposed by Don Harrison and seconded by Ray Morgan that the Club Affiliation remains the same. This was carried and so Club Affiliation will remain at £25.

13. HONORARIUMS.

The current Honorariums were read out by George Eltringham and it was proposed by Phil Dewland and seconded by Ivan Austin that the Honorariums remain the same. This was carried. The Honorariums for 2012 will therefore be as follows:-

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|---|---------------|
| Secretary | £300 | - | Colin Egner |
| Treasurer | £150 | - | Malcolm Scott |
| Journal Editor | £800 | - | Don Harrison |
| Ring Scheme Organiser | £200 | - | Malcolm Scott |

14 WEBSITE

Andrew Triolo reported on the Border Convention Website and said that it was now up and running and there had been 1,300 hits during March, 80% from Great Britain and 20% from abroad mostly Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands. The website format is more or less what it will be for the future and we have enough web space to increase content as we require. Andrew said that what is desperately needed are pictures for the gallery. These need to be of a certain quality. Don Harrison told the meeting that he has a number of pictures which could be used. As far as copyright is concerned we should be ok. It is hoped that fanciers and clubs can supply some pictures especially covering the various colours and markings. Andrew said that the birds do not have to be the best in the country as long as the pictures themselves are of a good enough quality. A good picture gallery will attract more visitors to the site. This situation also applies to Cage & Aviary Birds who have no current pictures of Borders. Andrew has a cage specially designed for taking photographs and he will make this available to anyone who would like to borrow it. The minimum quality required by a camera for good pictures and the best way to take the picture will be investigated by Andrew. George Eltringham informed the meeting that some fanciers take pictures on a video camera and then uses a computer to find the best individual picture. Andrew said that the only thing left to do was to put the club names in line with the map. This will be done at some time in the future. It is still up to people to either come to the committee meetings or feed back to the committee with any changes or additions needed to the website. The meeting congratulated Andrew on the work and achievement to produce an excellent website in its current form.

15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The members voted on behalf of their clubs and selected Brian Martin as the new President. Colin Egner proposed that the Border Convention selects a President Elect to cover contingencies, this was carried. Jim Aitchison said that the rule book will need to be brought up to date with regards to the President and the term of office. The committee will look into this. All of the other officers were elected without opposition with the exception of Novice Rule Coordinator. Bob Norman resigned as Novice Rule Coordinator saying that a combination of too many commitments and a lack of detail being fed to him from the Specialist Clubs made it very difficult to work out Novice wins. He has an up to date list of what he thinks the Novice wins are which he will pass on the new Novice Coordinator. Colin Egner said that he would take on the role. The position of Auditor was discussed and because of John Cox's current position there is a doubt that he will be available in the future. Malcolm Scott explained how the current system works, outlining the different lists for each type of transaction on the Balance Sheet and said that anyone who is computer literate can do the audit/examination. Because John Cox had said that depending on the situation he would be available it was decided to leave the position until nearer the next audit date. Ian Perrier was voted onto the committee and Ronnie McGrath said that he would consider becoming a committee member. .

| | <u>2011 Elected</u> | <u>2012 Nominations</u> | <u>2012 Elected</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| President: | Mr J Aitchison | Mr W B Martin & Mr M Scott | Mr W B Martin |
| President Elect: | | Mr M Scott | Mr M Scott |
| Chairman: | Mr. George Eltringham. | No nomination. | Mr. George Eltringham |
| Vice-Chairman: | Mr. Ray Morgan. | No nomination. | Mr. Ray Morgan |
| Secretary: | Mr Colin Egner. | No nomination | Mr Colin Egner |
| Treasurer: | Mr. Malcolm Scott. | No nomination | Mr. Malcolm Scott |
| Journal Editor: | Mr. Don Harrison. | No nomination | Mr. Don Harrison |
| Journal Distributor: | Mr Ivan Austin | No nomination | Mr Ivan Austin |
| Minutes Secretary: | Mr. Malcolm Scott. | No nomination. | Mr. Malcolm Scott |
| Publicity Officer: | Mr. Andrew Triolo. | No nomination | Mr. Andrew Triolo |
| Auditor: | John Cox MBE esq. | No nomination | Mr. John Cox MBE |
| Canary. Council: | Colin Egner. | No nomination | Colin Egner |
| Ring Scheme Sec : | Mr. Malcolm Scott. | No nomination | Mr. Malcolm Scott |
| Novice Co-ordinator: | Mr Bob Norman | Mr Colin Egner | Mr Colin Egner |
| Web Site Manager | Mr. Andrew Triolo | No nomination | Mr. Andrew Triolo |

Convention Committee: Messrs. George Eltringham (Chairman), Ray Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Brian Martin (President), Don Harrison (Journal Editor), Colin Egner (Secretary), Malcolm Scott (Treasurer), Malcolm Barnett (Past (President), Robert Norman (Past President), Jim Aitchison (Past President), Andrew Triolo (Publicity Officer and Web Site Manager), Ivan Austin, Terry Gardner, Howard Kershaw, Mark Alexander, Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce, I Perrier.

16. MANDATES

Merseyside BFCC Mandate

Mandate being that a Novice should be able to go on the "B" Panel list of judges once reaching Champion Status instead of two years as Champion.

Reason being as it now stands a Novice has to gain 10 wins before having to move up to Champion Status which could take many years in some cases and then wait a further two years before applying to go on the "B" Panel. Many Novices become disillusioned with the Fancy and need some incentive to stay. Merseyside has a member with over eight years experience showing as a Novice who will be moving up to Champion next year and would like to go on the "B" Judges panel straight away. To get them judging earlier will hopefully keep them in the hobby.

Voting - For 4 Against 10 - the mandate was not carried.

17. JUDGES A & B PANEL.

Panel A

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Mr. N. Nolan Ratholm Kilinick Wexford | Wexford B.C.C. |
| Mr. S.Roberts 6 Clos Y Porthmon Gowerton Swansea SA4 3GT | West Wales BFCC |
| Mr. K. Wiltshire 17 St Giles Bletchington Nr Kidlington Oxford OX5 BX | Wessex B.F.C.C. |
| Mr..H.Brydon 33 Toadpool West Auckland Co Durham DL14 9LD | Northern Border F.C.C. |
| Mr..B. Leech 30 Oak Crescent Tividale Oldbury W. Midlands B69 1RL | Birmingham B.C. |

Panel B

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Mr. K.Bate 9 Bristnall Hall Lane, Oldbury, Warley, W. Midlands. B68 9PA | Birmingham B.C |
| Mr. A.Scott 39, Huggetts Lane Eastbourne East Sussex BN22 0LT | Wessex B.F.C.C. |

There were no objections to any of the proposed judges on either the "A" or "B" panels and Colin Egner will write to the new judges and inform them of the result.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Raffle for £100

The names of the clubs in attendance were put into a hat and Mrs Margaret Bishop drew out Wessex BFCC as the winner of the £100 donation from the Border Convention.

Journal Content – Fife Canaries

Don Harrison outlined his original proposal which was to put the Best Fife, Best Champion Fife and Best Novice in the Journal for those shows which are for Border and Fife canaries. He thought that this might encourage more people to buy the Journal which in turn might pick up Border fanciers from the Fife fraternity. Don said that it had already been raised, voted upon and accepted at the 2011 A.G.M. He said that over the next few years more clubs will become Border and Fife shows and something like this would be good for the Journal. The Chairman agreed with Don saying that more clubs were becoming Border and Fife to keep themselves viable and he could not see any reason why the Journal could not at least print the Best Champion and Novice. Ray Morgan said he was not in agreement with Fifes in the Journal and that we will see the demise of the Border fancy within ten years. The Chairman said that we would take a vote on whether or not we will print the Best Champion, Best Novice and Best Fife in the Journal from a Border and Fife club. The vote was taken and the count was ten for and five against the inclusion of the Fife details in the Journal.

Rosettes –

Colin Egner had brought the Convention Rosettes to the meeting for clubs to take and save postage.

National Cagebird Show -

Colin Egner reported that Brian Martin Jeff Pearse and himself had a stand at the recent Stafford show. They gave away quite a few back copies of the Journal which seemed to be well received. There were also ring orders and journal subscriptions taken. Ray Morgan reported that the Welsh BFCC had a vote at their recent meeting and the result was that they fully support the Border Conventions efforts to try to set up Borders at the October Parrot Show (New National). This is a change of mind by the Welsh BFCC. As no real progress has been made on this it was just carried forward.

Avian Fertility Study –

Colin Egner reported to the meeting the results of the Border Convention Fertility Survey. He said that the results were very similar to last year. He thanked the people who took the time and effort to fill in the survey forms and breeding results.

Unfortunately only 25 people completed it all. The results were as follows -.

The average of eggs laid per hen being 7.80

The percentage of eggs hatching 38.5%

Of those failing to hatch 8.24 % were dead in shell and 53.2% were deemed clear

The percentage of chicks reared to weaning 25.5% of eggs laid.

The mortality of chicks hatched compared to weaned was 33.60% This was broken down as follows:

0 – 5 days 26.8%; 5 – 15 days 5.1%; 15 days to weaning 1.7%; The average weaned per hen being 1.88

This varied among the breeders surveyed from a low of 0.4 to a high of 3.6

As to the manner of management, the people using pairs had the highest and lowest chicks per hen.

The Border Convention would like to repeat the survey again this year and Colin hopes that more breeders will send in their results. By doing the survey fanciers will have an accurate account of the fertility and prolificacy of your Border Canaries.

Anonymity is the watch word at all times, unless the breeder has had excellent results which they will share with the fancy. In these circumstances there will always be by consultation with the breeder, following their instructions.

19. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged for Sunday 16th September 2012
Border Convention AGM for 2013 - Probably the first Sunday in April 2013

The meeting closed at 2.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (22):

J Aitchison (President/BFCC), G Eltringham (Chairman/Northern BFCC), R Morgan (Vice Chairman/Welsh BFCC), C Egner (Secretary/ Northants B&FCC), M. Scott (Treasurer/Northern BFCC), D. Harrison (Journal Editor/Northern Ireland BFCC); A. Triolo (Publicity Officer/East of England BFCC), P. Dewland (Welsh BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), R. Martin (Birmingham Area Border), B. Martin (Birmingham Area Border), I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), H. Kershaw (Wessex Border), J Sykes ((Merseyside BFCC), R Norman (British BFCC), K Howsam (Doncaster BFCC), T Mooney (Doncaster BFCC), J Bishop (IBBA), M Bishop (IBBA), R McGrath (Fauldhouse B&FFCC), I Perrier (Wexford BFCC)

Delegates representing 16 clubs were present:

Border FCC, Birmingham ABC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, East of England BFCC, IBBA , Fauldhouse B&FCC, Merseyside BFCC, Northampton B&FCC, Northern BFCC, Northern Ireland BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Wessex BFCC, Wexford BFCC, Welsh BFCC.

Clubs Not in Attendance:

Border Canary Ass., Cornish BFCC, Cumbria BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Green, Cinnamon & White BFCC, Leicester BFCC, Midland Counties BFCC, Mid Ulster BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Scottish All Border FCC, Southern BFCC,. Sussex & Kent BFCC, West of Scotland BCA,. West Wales BFCC, And all clubs abroad.

It has been reported that there are Border clubs who are disenchanted with the Border Convention. The first suggestion to these clubs is to come along to both the AGM and the committee meetings to put their point of view, suggestions and recommendations. Another comment passed is what does the Border Convention do for the clubs (or more crudely, the Border Convention does nothing for us). Well how about the rule book; the free judges handbook with a full list of all Border Panel Judges; a laminated model containing the current model from 3 angles and the standard of excellence; within the booklets there are also a standard show classification; a list of specialist clubs with contacts; advertising for the clubs' annual shows, venues; dates and contacts; show cage makers; show cage plans; a full and easily understandable constitution; show rules; overall an umbrella organisation producing and distributing minutes of all meetings; a body to send any complaints to; the policing of the Border Fancy; and an excellent quarterly magazine delivered to their homes containing show reports, articles and up to date details about specialist clubs and shows; adverts for bird sales, foodstuffs and appliances; and a ring scheme which supplies breeders with discounted rings of the highest quality. Apart from that not a lot.