

**MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION**  
**2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

**At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, Cannock, Birmingham**

**1. MEETING OPENS**

The Meeting was opened at 10.30 a.m. by the Chairman Ronnie Sillitoe and the Secretary Colin Egner. The chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting and thanked them for coming in such circumstances.

The chairman asked for a minutes silence in remembrance of past members .

**2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from: - J Aitchison, I Perrier, D Sommerville, P Soban, B Kettle, T Ward, A Scott, B Hodges, J Cunningham, F Anderson, P Dewland.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.**

Mr B Martin (BORDER COUNTIES BFCC) was proposed by A Smalley, seconded by J Rance and accepted by all members and appointed as Teller. There were 9 clubs represented.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 A.G.M. (15<sup>th</sup> March 2020)**

The chairman outlined the main points from the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Match 2020. The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed J Pearce, seconded B Martin.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was no correspondence

**7. PRESIDENT'S/ REPORT.**

Bobby Parker said he was pleased to be president and wished everyone well for the forthcoming show season.

**8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

This has been for me the worst time for the border fancy that I can remember with the passing of so many great fanciers and not being able to show our respects and with the pandemic still with us we must stay vigilant and follow the rules clubs set to keep their members and exhibitors as safe as possible.

To try to move the hobby to a more sustainable way of safe guarding the future of shows I would like to see clubs sign up to a discussion via a meeting on the way forward for the hobby with a view to clubs working together to have more support for their annual shows, this could be an amalgamated show a joint show or shows on alternative years, to preserve the history of clubs schedules would include information on any clubs involved.

If you look around the country a lot of clubs are struggling for various reasons ie no one to take roles on in the club or the age of those who do have roles leaving in many cases one person with everything to do also the lack of younger fanciers coming into the hobby doesn't help so if you can help please get involved we need you.

Its pleasing to see Southern BFCC & Sussex & Kent having a joint show along with The Welsh BFCC and West Wales BFCC doing the same and I wish them every success because this initiative could alter other clubs thinking to follow in their footsteps.

What can everyone do to save the hobby is a question we must answer , and can only be done with dialogue between clubs, fanciers and everyone working together .

I am looking forward to going to shows and would like to thank everyone involved in putting a show on for without those dedicated people we wouldn't have a hobby.  
Please support these shows they desperately need it to keep the hobby alive.

Good luck everyone and remember  
USE IT OR LOSE IT

Ronnie Sillitoe

## **9. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Well Gentlemen it has been a long time since we were last here!

In the intervening time many of our fellow fanciers have passed away without us being able to show our respect to their memory. Whilst there are many whose accolade deserves to be mentioned there is one, I would like to pay tribute today as he attended this meeting for more years than anyone can remember firstly as delegate for Welsh B.F.C.C. then as chairman and as President. It will seem strange today not to hear his voice saying "Mister Chairman"

Rest in Peace Ray

A week after our last A.G.M we went into the first Covid 19 lockdown and since then the Border fancy social side came to a grinding halt, a few Clubs optimistically tried (and all praise to them for trying) to promote a show in 2020 but the covid virus coupled with the bird flu soon crushed all hopes of these going ahead.

In short, the 2020 show season was a non-event.

The Journal has struggled for content with no Shows results and I would like to thank all those who submitted articles.

However, we now seem to have turned the corner with the Irish young stock show last week and Wessex young stock show today.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Welsh and West Wales club also Southern club and Sussex & Kent club for cooperating to put on a joint show on during these trying times. Many Clubs at the present time are having difficulty in finding working members to fill positions at their Show I would like to encourage those exhibiting to offer their support. The old adage still stands "Many hands make light work"

When going to shows please bear in mind the vaccination only reduces the severity of covid infections, so please cooperate with any restrictions Clubs may put in place to keep all exhibitors safe.

Above all if you are suffering any of the covid symptoms the day before the Show please take a Lateral flow test (free from the Chemists or by post) before attending the Show, as the age of many exhibitors places them in the vulnerable category.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee who have kept the convention going during the last 18 months especially Richard and Tim for their commitment to these positions of treasurer and Ring scheme secretary, both are having to resign due to work and personal commitments.

Finally, a special mention to Ronnie for the enthusiastic support, which does not always coincide with my Time management plan.

## **10. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT**

I apologise for not being able to attend the B.C. AGM, but unfortunately as you probably heard from the Secretary, I have been suffering with a bad neck and back for quite some time now, and could not face the long drive to the meeting as it would have made it worst. It is disappointing that Richard Thorley and Tim Ward had to resign their important positions due to pressure of work, but I am pleased that Bob Hodges, offered to take on both positions of Treasurer and Ring Scheme Secretary, I am confident that he will do a great job. This September it will be the 16th issue that I have edited, and although there is a lot of interest for the Journal, hardly any of you will put pen to paper and write something for publication. Many thanks to all past and present contributors, and a special thanks to all those that responded to the Quick Insite Interviews. I am also very grateful to have the support of three very important vets, Professor Dr. Laurence Jemmett, from Bari, Italy, Dr. Jan Vanderborcht, from Belgium and Dr. Gustavo Picci from Lecce, Italy. They are bird breeders in their own right and also are prolific writers on bird ailments, alimentation and husbandry. I am sure that all of you have some questions to ask the vet, and they are very happy to reply to your questions and send their advice. Probably this is the only venue where you can get free advice from a vet, so take full advantage of it. By doing so, you will contribute to some articles for the Journal and in the process, you will learn more about your bird's health. To be honest, I am a very disappointed that hardly any club is sending anything at all to be published in the journal, I have to congratulate the Wessex Border Club for sending regular reports for publication. Surely it is to the advantage of the clubs to get free advertising and the exposure that come with it by sending some information about themselves. Reports of meetings, events news and views about an outstanding hard-working member, would make interesting reading. I am looking forward to receiving more contribution for the 17th issue due in January and wish you all a very successful show season. All the best and look after yourselves. Simon

## **11/12. PUBLICITY OFFICER AND WEBSITE REPORT**

. I am pleased to inform the A. G. M that even though there were no shows in the last 18 months the number of hits on the website have continued at a steady pace and we reached the magic figure of three quarters of a million hits in early September since I took over as editor

The increase in the last 18 months of 159,400 takes us to 757.000.

Since the last A. G. M., the website host moonfruit has been taken over by yellow pages who farmed the concession out to a company in India this resulted in a different operating system which unfortunately has been a total disaster with a lot of features becoming unavailable and the editing of the site becoming a nightmare with pages suddenly going missing and having to be recreated.

I was at the point of rebuilding the site on another web providers platform, when yellow pages announced that by December, they had contracted to move all customers sites to the same platform. I have my doubts whether this will come to fruition but I live in hope, and will let you know.

I apologise for the lack of new items on the site this partially down to the fact that from February to August I was unable to read due to having 4 operations on my eyes, but mainly from the fact that most Clubs went into shut down and I received very little news.

Once again, my message to all Clubs is contact me anytime to help highlight your Clubs innovations and successes, or anything you need to advertise to the hobby.

## **13. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2020 ACCOUNTS**

Richard Thorley told the meeting that due to circumstances with the pandemic the transfer of accounts from Malcolm Scott to him had been delayed and that he had only received everything by October 2020.

There had not been enough time to get the accounts in order for the AGM due on the 14<sup>th</sup> march as the accounts are from January 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

It has taken a considerable time to sort out who has and who hasn't paid for their journal as we were sending out over 400 with only 188 paying, also the ring scheme run by Tim Ward has taken time to

sort out with a number of fanciers sending cheques which were out of date due to not getting the bank details transferred from Malcolm scott to Richard Thorley but was now sorted.

#### **14. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021.**

It was proposed by H Taylor and seconded by A Brown that the Club Affiliation remains the same at £25 and payable by all clubs. This was carried unanimously.

#### **15. HONORARIUMS.**

The current Honorariums were read out by Ron Sillitoe, and that as the treasurer and ring scheme were separated the amount paid to those two jobs was as follows.

Secretary/Website	£500	-	Colin Egner
Journal Editor	£750	-	£250 per issue S Tamman
Treasurer	£300	-	R Thorley
Ring Scheme	£200	-	T Ward

#### **16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

The chairman went through the officers individually and all officers were voted on by the attending delegates.

	<b>2020</b>	<b>nominations</b>	<b>2021</b>
President:	Mr Bobby Parker		
President elect		Mr J Beddows	
Chairman:	Mr Ronnie Sillitoe	No other nominations.	Mr Ronnie Sillitoe
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Tim Ward	No other nominations.	Mr. Tim Ward
Secretary:	Mr. Colin Egner.	No other nominations	Mr. Colin Egner
Treasurer:	Mr Richard Thorley	Mr B Hodges	Mr B Hodges
Journal Distributor:	Mr. Simon Tamman	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tamman
Journal Editor:	Mr. Simon Tamman.	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tamman
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Ronnie Sillitoe	No nominations	Mr. R Sillitoe
Publicity Officer:	Mr Egner & Mr Dewland.	No nominations	Mr Egner & Mr Dewland
Novice Rule Co.	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner
Auditor:	TBC	No nominations	TBC.
Ring Scheme Sec.	Mr. Tim Ward	Mr. B Hodges	Mr B Hodges
Web Site Manager	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner

**Convention Committee:** Messrs. Ron Sillitoe (Chairman), Tim Ward, (Vice-Chairman Bob Hodges (Treasurer), Simon Tamman (Journal Editor), Colin Egner (Secretary), Brian Martin, (Past President), Bob Norman (Past President) George Eltringam (Past President)) Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce, John Rance, Alan Smalley, John Williams. Paul England, Brian Wilkes. Adam Pearce, Ian Perrier

**Past Presidents** Malcolm Barnett, Don Harrison, Jim Aichtison, Malcolm Scott.

#### **17. MANDATES**

##### **Border Canary Association Proposed Mandate**

The Border Canary Association would like to propose a mandate to change **Specialist Shows rule 10**

10. Exhibitors may use plain or mixed canary seed in a show cage. Show cage floor covering to be oat husks. In very exceptional circumstances a club must apply to the Border Convention for permission to use an alternative option. The club applying must supply a sample of the proposed alternative floor covering for approval by the border convention

**To read.**

10. Exhibitors may use plain or mixed canary seed in a show cage. Show cage floor covering to be **Tierwohl Super.** In very exceptional circumstances a club must apply to the Border Convention for

permission to use an alternative option. The club applying must supply a sample of the proposed alternative floor covering for approval by the Border Convention.

The change is that **Tierwohl Super** not **oat husks** to be the show cage floor covering.

**Reason**

1. In the last show season, many fanciers were having trouble obtaining husks. Tierwohl is readily available at a competitive price.

2. We have witnessed the fife fancy successfully change to this floor covering, and as many fanciers keep both varieties and many specialists shows now catering for Fife's we feel this would be more convenient for all involved.

A vote took place and the outcome was 1 vote for 8 votes against  
Which means we stay with oat husks.

**18. JUDGES A & B PANEL.**

**A Panel.**

G. Qua Maybrook ,69 Milltown, Road Antrim,Co Antrim, N. Ireland ,**East Antrim Border**

A. Giove Via Vitrani 40, Villarbasse(TO) Italy **Border Canary Club of Italy**

Both approved unanimously

19. An application to join the Border Convention has been received from the  
**Border & Fife Fancy Canary Club of France.**

The meeting took a vote and it was unanimous to welcome the new club to join the Border Convention.

**20. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION**

(A) THE JOURNAL

1) VIABILITY

As Richard Thorley has previously in his address pointed out the journal had made a small profit for the first time in a number of years but still needed more work to get everything right, that it is viable and we should continue with it, the meeting agreed that it should continue.

2) CONTENT

The chairman pointed out that content for the journal was hard to come by and only a few people were keeping it going, we have asked a number of top fanciers to contribute and so far this hasn't resulted in any articles.

The chairman pointed out that some of the articles from the vets in the journal had come from the breeding questionnaire and that it had been very informative, he also said to the meeting that if anyone had a question for the vets, please let him know it can be anonymous if needed.

Also, can clubs give an article or club profile or ask members to write in with anything that they would like to know.

He also went on to say a number of questionnaires were available from the secretary and that this would help a great deal if anyone can do one.

He also said it may be an idea to have a page in the journal asking for content.

## **(B) THE BORDER FANCY AND DIRECTION FORWARD**

A big discussion from all around the table took place and a few clubs thought that more dialogue was needed between clubs to help each other run shows.

(C) Input from member clubs.

The secretary pointed out that he almost had to drag information out of some clubs to put on the website and that a lot were missing out with the number of people looking at the website. By putting the club's information on the website, you may increase your Entry.

20, AOB

Brian Martin brought up a question on whether at a club show a novice could show in with the champions and not lose his status as a novice (he is the only novice in the club and likely to show), the chairman told him that he would lose his status if he did show under those conditions, the secretary told him that if they ran their members show without champion or novice status then they could all show together with only a Best border as the award for winning. The meeting all agreed this was a sensible solution.

## **.21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged Sunday 16<sup>TH</sup> January 2022  
The date of the next AGM will be 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **MEMBERS PRESENT (12):**

R Sillitoe (Chairman) C Egner ( Doncaster BFCC)), B. Martin (Border Counties), R Norman (BBFCC), , J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC),A Pearce North Staffs , J Rance (Cleveland B&FFCC), ), , B Wilkes committee member A Brown (Merseyside BFCC) H Taylor (Nottingham BFCC) A Smalley (Nottingham BFCC) R Thorley (Border Counties BFCC)

## **Delegates representing 7 clubs were present:**

Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Cleveland B&FFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC.

## **Clubs Not in Attendance:**

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Welsh BFCC East of England B&FFCC, Wexford BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, Fauldhouse BFCC, Northern BFCC, Sussex & Kent BFCC, West Wales BFCC, West of Scotland BCA, Border FCC North of Scotland and all other clubs from Ireland and abroad

Postal votes were received from I Perrier and F Anderson.