

## **MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION MEETING 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019-10-07**

### **Members present**

J rance, J Williams, R Thorley J Pearce, A Pearce G Eltringham, B Wilkes, M Scott, J Aitcheson, B Martin, R Sillitoe, C Egner, S Tamman, P Dewland, R Morgan, T Ward.

Apologies received from P England, N Leader, B Norman.

The committee send our best wishes and a speedy recovery to Bob and Paul.

### **Minutes of last meeting.**

Matters arising, R Morgan brought up the discussion and vote we had on the TPD/HV stating that he thought we should look at it again. It was decided to look at the rules on whether we could bring this up again.

### **Correspondence**

A letter had been received from Diane Hodges regarding the Presidents report, which stated that she was not happy with the comments in his report.

This letter was backed up by the Southern Border F.C.C.

There was a long discussion on the matter and the committee felt that the President's remarks were not meant in a way as to offend anyone but to highlight the plight of the hobby. The committee fully appreciate the hard work of officials at all Borders clubs as they do a fantastic job.

The committee were 100% behind the President as the hobby is in serious decline.

A letter of response will be sent to Diane Hodges.

### **Journal**

M Scott gave a report on the journal.

Malcolm went on to say that a lot of people have not paid for it yet but most will pay at the British Border or at shows during the season.

Some people had been written to and a request made for payment for last year's issues.

It was decided to have a look at the content and finances of the journal at the January meeting and make decisions on a way forward.

The chairman asked S Tamman if we could make the journal editions come out at times when it would give the greatest help to fanciers, it was proposed the journal came out in September to advertise the shows etc and again in December to get breeding advice etc and again in April to help advise on breeding problems. J Aitcheson proposed those dates and it was seconded by B Martin this was passed. Tim Ward asked if we could highlight the rings sales in the December issue and this was agreed.

S Tamman went on to say some of the advertisers had withdrawn their adverts but he hoped that they would come back later on in the year also that he needed more content from clubs fanciers etc.

The committee asked Simon if we list some questions for the vet tailored to the breeding season this would be a great help, Simon said he would ask and hopefully this would happen.

Simon said that there were adverts available for fanciers in the journal and asked the committee to ask people if they wanted one.

C Egner went on to say most clubs were not advertising their shows on the website and that he urged clubs to send in their information.

### **Website**

C Egner gave a report on the website stating that the site had received 500,000 hits but this has dropped during the breeding season but he thought when the show season came it would increase, Colin urged clubs to use the website as he could put a count down on to their shows which he hoped may increase entries also if clubs wanted to extend their deadline he could highlight this the chairman asked if he could put on an appeal to clubs to send in profiles, adverts and content for the journal.

A date of the 8<sup>th</sup> of August was set as a deadline for the September journal.

### **Ring Scheme**

T Ward will be taking over the ring scheme from Malcolm and will be selling rings earlier than before at the 2019 shows, there is a problem with the colour as the ones in stock are light green and the new ones for 2020 are dark green, Malcolm went on to say that there would be a problem as he had 750 light green rings it was decided that we would use both light green and dark green for the 2020 show season or we would lose revenue.

Malcolm said that he had sold up too now 6760 rings for the 2019 show season and in the past he had sold considerably more showing a downward trend.

Malcolm went on to say that he had approximately 4000 violet, 3500 orange, 2000 blue, 2000 black and red 3400 Malcolm said it was very difficult to gauge how many to order as people wanted all different sets and that to get a discount we had to order early, after a long discussion it was decided to order 5000 rings in 1-200 sets and that Tim would have a better chance of gauging numbers to order as near as possible so not to have lot of stock left over. Malcolm said that he would liaise with Tim and come up with a handover plan. It was discussed whether to have BC as well as the number on them but the consensus was not to go ahead with that proposed by R Morgan seconded by J Rance.

### **Treasurers Report**

Malcolm gave a report on club subscriptions and it was found several clubs had not renewed their affiliation fee it was decided to send letters out to those clubs involved.

Malcolm went on to say a lot of clubs pay at the British Border weekend.

The chairman stated that at the 2020 AGM clubs who haven't paid the affiliation fee for 2018 and 2019 would have to be looked at.

### **Oat Husks**

B Wilks explained to the meeting that he had been to MORN FLAKES and had a chat with them and they had told him they would send them to them out in the post at 25kg for £20 delivered or you could call and speak to George who would help you as he was the dispatcher, Brian went on to say they also did 25kg sacks of rolled oats and groats etc. C Egner said he would ring them in the morning and get a price list for Simon to put in the journal.

### **British Border Fanciers Meeting**

The chairman explained to the meeting that this had been tried before without success but he hoped that with the hobby struggling that it might get some good ideas from it, the meeting would be on Saturday morning at 9-45am at the Daresbury hotel and run for an hour or more, Tim Ward said he would speak with the hotel and ask for a room to host the meeting and Simon said he would put it in the journal. The chairman pointed out that a suggestion box could be put in the show hall for those involved with the show who wouldn't be at the meeting so everyone would have a chance to put forward a suggestion.

### **Rosettes/Medals**

A discussion took place on whether to change from rosettes to medals the reasoning for this is if a best champion and best novice medal were to be given to winners at every show it could save the clubs money and also where clubs can't afford medals it would help them to.

S Tamman told the secretary he had a contact for these and would let him have it, G Eltringham explained about different types of medals and centres.

P Dewland said could clubs be left to decide where the medals go to ie best green best clear and then change them the following season if they wished.

The meeting decided to get Border Convention medals and award two to each club who have paid their subscription fee.

The medals would be for Best Champion and Best Novice.

### **Postal Votes for Mandates**

The chairman explained that clubs with excessive travelling could vote on the mandates put forward at the AGM and a more accurate picture would be given as to the result of that vote.

The meeting thought that anyone over 4hrs travelling could have a postal vote,

G Eltringham said in years gone past most clubs would attend but that lots of clubs don't attend now for various reasons showing the decline in the hobby.

G Eltringham went on to say the committee should scrutinise mandates for validity at the January meeting the chairman asked should the committee be allowed to stop mandates G Eltringham said look at the Cleveland mandate from last year this in his opinion should not have been allowed, by voting in this mandate you have compelled every club to judge novices first but his club (Northern) for one won't be doing it and neither will Fauldhouse or the Border Fancy. J Rance asked George what the problem was The chairman asked G Eltringham if he was going to break the Convention rules and how would that look as he was a committee member and he thought by making that statement he was compromising his (George's) position on the committee

G Eltringham replied that he will resign if the Chairman wanted him to, but he had no intention of judging the Novice birds first and asked "What was the Chairman going to do about it?" He went on to say he did not attend the January meeting but sent in an email regarding the Cleveland mandate stating what he thought the committee should do and reject it. M Scott said he also thought that the mandate wasn't a rule change. J Rance said that the mandate had been passed democratically and it should be followed. G Eltringham asked what the Border Convention committee would do to any club not following the rules, the chairman said as no one had broken any rules yet nothing could be done. C Egnor said that he couldn't see a problem judging the novice birds first and as it was a rule it should be adopted. J Aitcheson thought that this new mandate was a slight on the judges as it inferred they did not give novice bird's equal judgement. R Morgan said he was concerned no one would attend if postal votes were brought in P Dewland thought that the Irish clubs should have special dispensation due to ferry crossings. The committee decided that a trial should be done at the 2020 AGM for one year only and that postal mandate votes be allowed, this would be reviewed at the July/August 2020 meeting.

### **Outstanding Award**

R Thorley said he thought it was a very good idea

### **Interclub Competitions**

The chairman said that he thought it might be a good idea to help clubs with some sponsorship money if they decided to have an interclub competition to help boost club entries, R Morgan said we should get rid of the £100 raffle at the AGM and use this to help the idea also that he thought clubs should amalgamate. The chairman said that he would rather have an amalgamation shows rather than clubs lose their identity. J Aitcheson said it was a big thing 30 years ago but didn't know if it would work now. A good discussion followed and it was decided to scrap the £100 raffle at the AGM in 2020.

### **AOB**

S Tamman brought up a point about appointing judges in Italy, As the Italians have a different system to the UK it was decided that C Egnor would get in contact with them to discuss the matter.