

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION
2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday, 3rd April 2016

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

1. MEETING OPENS

The Meeting was opened at 10.30 a.m. by the Chairman George Eltringham and the Secretary Colin Egner. The chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting.

The attendees stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of past members.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from: - Malcolm Barnett (IBBA), H Kershaw and Ian Perrier (Wessex BFCC), T Ward (BBFCC), J Cunningham (GC&WBFCC), Simon Tamnam.

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.

Ivan Austin (North Staffs BFCC) was appointed as Teller. There were 14 clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2015 A.G.M. (5th April 2015)

The minutes from the 2015 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

5. CORRESPONDENCE.

The secretary said that the only letter of correspondence was from Paul Heathcote who will resign from the judges panel next year.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Malcolm Scott thanked the members for allowing him to be President. He said that it was his last day as president and that you cannot be more honoured in the Border Fancy than to be elected as president. He was now in the company of some fine fellows, past Presidents Ray Morgan, Don Harrison Jim Aitchison, Bob Norman and Brian Martin all being in attendance, not to mention the others who have held the title. He said that his last year had not been a good one, the Border Convention had made a big financial loss in 2015 and also lost, due to retirement, the journal editor. The doom and gloom continues with large reductions in ring and journal sales but these problems come with the reducing numbers of fanciers every year. Jim Aitchison had told Malcolm that the journal is the lifeblood of the Border Convention and without it we would struggle which Malcolm agreed with whole heartedly and Don Harrison is to be commended for his work over many years. On a more positive note the web site is a great success thanks to Colin Egner who has put a lot of effort into developing and maintaining it. He said that there he was very happy with the new rule book and judge's booklet and the committee were to be thanked for their efforts in producing these booklets, especially Don Harrison who had put in a lot of work to achieve the final product. He thought that (as George Eltringham has pointed out to him) we must be getting things right because there were few mandates to change the existing rules. He thanked George Eltringham for his work as chairman, Colin Egner as secretary and the committee for being so supportive in the work undertaken by the Border Convention.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The chairman thanked the officers and members of the committee and also all of the delegates who had turned up to represent their clubs. He thanked Don Harrison for the journal over the years, he has made an excellent job of producing and improving it. He said the number of clubs who had sent delegates was disappointing (14 clubs) and for one meeting a year a lot more clubs could make the effort and send a delegate, he appreciates that people are getting older and travelling is expensive so he understands why some clubs do not bother. He thanked Colin Egner and thought that the web site was excellent with a huge number of hits.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Colin Egner said he has looked at the upside and the downside of the hobby over the past twelve months. The downside is the demise of some of the mainstays of the hobby. Colin then mentioned Charlie Norfield who he said was a great advocate of the Border Canary and Charlie produced some good articles which Colin has uploaded onto the Border Convention website for anyone to read. Another downside to the hobby is that two clubs have been wound up, The Scottish All Border and Northampton. The next big downside is the loss of Don Harrison as journal Editor. Colin said that Don has produced the journal for as long as he can remember and Don has taken it from an amateur production to a highly professional magazine and he is very sorry to see Don go. Another downside is the move of British Border from Fleetwood. It has been there for a lot of years and despite the complaints about the lighting it is a very good venue with excellent amenities, enjoyed by all. The upside is a new hall with better lighting and slightly less travelling time if you live south of the venue. He wished the British Border well in their new home. The main upside of the hobby is the number of entries at the shows and twenty one different exhibitors took best in show. Congratulation goes to Malcolm Barnett who topped the number of winners. Colin thought that because of the number of different fanciers winning, there are a lot of good birds spread around the country and not just in two places any more. In the novice section there were four novices who took best in show and twenty five novices took best novice awards, Colin thought this bodes well for the future. A number of clubs increased their entries last year and so some clubs must be getting it right. Colin thought that the way forward in the hobby is to make exhibiting a pleasure. A lot of times the birds are just entered and picked up with no pleasantries. Some clubs give you a cup of tea and a bacon sandwich as well as helping to carry your boxes in. Cleveland also gives you a hand to carry your boxes out. Colin said that after a two or more hour journey early in the morning it is a joy to be met this way. Colin pointed out that Cleveland have gone from below 200 borders to over 450 and he did not think it was because of the Fifes, he thought it was because of the way fanciers were treated. There are a lot of clubs that are struggling and Colin's view is that two clubs could amalgamate to provide enough officers and worker to continue.

9. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

Don Harrison said that he sincerely thanked all in the Border Fancy. He said that he had been critical over the years for not receiving journal material but realises that the fancy is run by pensioners who have been willing helpers. He also thanked the Border Convention committee and officers who travel many miles in support of the Border Convention and they receive very little support from the fancy. He is more or less finished with the next journal which is of course his last. As usual he has struggled for content but he thinks it will still be an excellent journal. He has articles from Fred Driscoll, John Wakeman and a compilation with the help of Roy Stringer on Frank Savage. He has also written his fond farewells in the journal. It also includes the final show reports and some AGM reports. He said that he leaves with a sad heart but as he is due to go for specialist surgery he thinks it is all for the best. He wished all the delegates the very best for the future. The chairman then said that Don has done a wonderful job with the journal and he will be a very hard act to follow and we all really appreciate what he has done and we are very sad to see him go.

10 WEBSITE

Colin Egner thanked all of the clubs for sending their show and other details. He said however there were still clubs who were not putting their latest details on the web site. Every club can put their next meetings, meeting outcome and show information in their own club areas. If they have a problem in doing this they can pass the details to Colin who will update the web site for them. The web site hits are up to 190,000 hits since the website was commissioned. This means that the web site is averaging 6,000 hits per month. Colin has included a new page on the web site for letters from fanciers with their thoughts on the hobby and the way forward. It is not in the format of an open forum because of the nature of some of the letters but he will upload any letter even if they are controversial but none that are personal or derogatory.

11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2015 ACCOUNTS.

Malcolm Scott handed out copies of the 2015 Border Convention Balance sheet and then explained the background to some of the financial entries. Journal sales were down £1,300 and the journal for December 2014 was paid for in 2015 at a cost of nearly £1,000. The rings sold in 2015 were £1,700 down on the previous year. We paid for the printing of a new rule book and judges booklet of nearly £750. There was free affiliation in 2015 which is a reduction of nearly £1,000. There were savings to offset these losses, rule book adverts, website savings and computer hardware and software purchases in 2014. These costs resulted in an overall loss for 2015 of over £4,000. We have a healthy bank balance of just under £14,000. Malcolm Scott thanked Ivan Austin for the audit, everything balanced ok. The balance sheet was proposed by Jason Miller and seconded by Colin Egner as a true reflection of the Border Convention accounts, this was carried. Malcolm read out a list of 63 UK journal subscribers who have not paid or cancelled from 2015. The delegates assisted by informing the treasurer of those names they knew had either passed away or no longer kept borders. This cleared 15 names off the list but left 48 of which we do not know if they are still interested in the journal. There are also 27 from the overseas subscriptions. Most of these lapsed subscribers will have received at least 2 journals. The cost of the journals is £270 and postage £300, this will have cost the Border Convention £570 in total.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016.

It was proposed by Colin Egner and seconded by Lyndon Evans that the Club Affiliation remains the same at £25 and payable by all clubs. This was carried unanimously.

13. HONORARIUMS.

The current Honorariums were read out by George Eltringham and it was proposed by Phil Dewland and seconded by Ronnie Sillitoe that the Honorariums remain the same

Secretary	£350	-	Colin Egner
Treasurer	£200	-	Malcolm Scott
Journal Editor	£250	-	per issue
Ring Scheme Organiser	£250	-	Malcolm Scott

14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The chairman went through the officers individually and all officers were voted on by the attending delegates. There was a show of hands for all offices. All officers were elected unanimously. The journal distributor position may not be required depending on the new journal editor but Ivan Austin was prepared to accept the position if required.

	<u>2015 Elected</u>	<u>2016 Nominations</u>	<u>2016 Elected</u>
President:	Mr M Scott	No nomination	Mr M Scott
President Elect:		Mr. George Eltringham	Mr. George Eltringham
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.	To Be Arranged	
Journal Distributor:	Mr Ivan Austin	No nomination	Mr Ivan Austin
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination.	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Publicity Officer:	Joint –Mr Colin Egner and Mr Don Harrison	Mr Colin Egner	Mr Colin Egner
Auditor:	Mr Ivan Austin.	No nomination	Mr Ivan Austin
Canary. Council:	Mr Colin Egner.	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner
Ring Scheme Sec	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Novice Co-ordinator:	Mr Colin Egner	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner

Convention Committee: Messrs. George Eltringham (President & Chairman), Ray Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Malcolm Scott (Treasurer), Brian Martin (Past President), Don Harrison (Past President), Colin Egner (Secretary), Malcolm Barnett (Past President), Robert Norman (Past President), Jim Aitchison (Past President), Ivan Austin, Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce, Julie Tooth., Paul Tooth.

The chairman asked for nominations for the committee and Ron Sillitoe and John Rance were proposed and willingly accepted.

15. MANDATES

None

16. JUGES A & B PANEL.

A Panel

R. McGrath North of Scotland 30 Park Crescent, Sauchie, Alloa, Clackmannanshire. Fk10 3DT **

T. James Northern Border 2 Sea View, Berwick upon Tweed. Td15 1QA **

N. Courtney Northern Ireland 23 Ashfield Court, Donaghadee, Northern Ireland. BT21 0BF **

H. Taylor Nottinghamshire 9 Acacia Drive, Lower Pilsley, Chesterfield Derbyshire S45 8DY

M. Lowe Nottinghamshire Bridgford Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. NG18 3LG

C.J. Rance Cleveland 38 Turker Lane, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1PZ **

L. Smith Birmingham 9 Owen Road Bilston, West Midlands. WV14 6QH

C. Farrell Mid Ulster 4 Eskragh Terrace, Granville, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. BT70 1NP

W. Winkelmanns Flemish Busschotstraat 79, 3130 Begijnendijk Belgium

** Means going up from the B panel to the A panel

The nominated judges have all been vetted by their clubs and reviewed by the Border Convention committee and as there were no objections from the delegates all were accepted onto the judge's panel. The secretary will write to them all.

17. JOURNAL

The secretary said that it is a sad day as Don Harrison is retiring as journal editor. Colin has received an application from Simon Tamman who wishes to be Journal Editor, printer and distributor. The committee had asked at the January meeting for some samples of his work and Simon has supplied some examples to Colin. Simon also supplied Colin with prices for printing. The samples of printing from Simon were passed around the meeting and accepted as being of a good quality. The prices quoted by Simon were not on the correct estimated numbers of pages or numbers of journals required but generally thought to be acceptable. The cost viability of the journal was discussed and it was agreed to go ahead on Simon Tamman's charges but we would look into the possibility of printing fewer journals. It was proposed by Lynden Evans and seconded by Julie Tooth that we accept Simon Tamman as the new journal editor, this was carried.

Ivan Austin has suggested that we reduce the journal to 3 issues a year, £5.00 per issue posted to your home. Malcolm Scott saw these as Journal 1 - in the summer (August/September) which will contain the forthcoming show details and club reports plus articles. Journal 2 - late in the year November/December which will contain the early show reports plus articles. Journal 3 - early in the next year (March) which will contain the rest of the show reports plus articles. The relaunched journal (3 issues) would be priced at £15 UK, £20 Europe and Ireland, and £25 for the rest of the world and that subscription will start in September 2016 and this will be the new renewal time for future years...

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Raffle for £100

The names of the clubs in attendance were put into a hat and Don Harrison drew out North Staffs BFCC as the winner of the £100 donation from the Border Convention.

Rosettes –

Colin Egner had brought the Convention Rosettes to the meeting for clubs to take and save postage. He asked again if clubs could please include the allocation of the Border Convention rosettes in their schedules...

AGM Date-

Jim Aitchison thought that the date of the AGM is too late in the year because it impacts on the breeding season. He believes that there will be fanciers who do not come to the meeting because they have too much to do in the bird shed. Colin Egner pointed out that the AGM Agenda and new mandates and the proposed new judges have to be sent out to the specialist clubs 2 months before the AGM to allow the specialist clubs to discuss and vote if necessary. Because of the rules, the only way to change the date of the AGM is to raise a mandate and so it was agreed that Jim would arrange with the Border FCC to raise the required mandate. This is management rule 1 which currently says – *1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of April each year with due notice of two months to be given.* If the date is moved to the beginning of March and the two months mentioned in rule 1 is left as it is, it would mean that the secretary would not have enough time after the January Committee meeting to send the relevant information to the specialist clubs. Colin has very little time now to send out the letters to the clubs. If the time allowed for the AGM details to go to the clubs was reduced by 2 weeks to 6 weeks instead of 2 months and the January Committee meeting was 2 weeks earlier then it may be possible to have the AGM 1 month earlier at the beginning of March.

Classification-

Ray Morgan said that as postage costs continue to rise should the Border Convention provide a single classification for all whilst most agreed with Ray in principle it was thought that most clubs would not change their existing classification because they suited them best. Ron Sillitoe said that it was the future or use the schedules which Colin uploads for each club on the Border Convention web site but at the moment there are too many fanciers who are not into computers or do not have access to a printer.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged for Sunday 18th September 2016
The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (24):

M. Scott (President/Treasurer/Northern BFCC), G Eltringham (Chairman), R Morgan (Vice Chairman), C Egner (Secretary/IBBA), D. Harrison (Journal Editor/Northern Ireland BFCC); B. Martin (Border Counties BFCC), R Norman ((Fauldhouse B&FFCC), J Aitchison (BFCC), J Balme (Doncaster BFCC), K Howsam (Doncaster BFCC), I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), P. Dewland (Cornish BFCC), L Smith (Birmingham ABC), A Smith (Birmingham ABC), R Sillitoe (Cleveland B&FFCC), J Rance (Cleveland B&FFCC), B Watts (Cleveland B&FFCC), L Evans (Welsh BFCC), J Furmage (Welsh BFCC), P Tooth (BC Committee), J Tooth (BC Committee), J Miller (Merseyside B&FFCC)

Delegates representing 14 clubs were present:

Border FCC, Birmingham ABC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, IBBA, Northern BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Cornish BFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC, Northern Ireland BFCC, Welsh BFCC, Fauldhouse (B&FFCC).

Clubs Not in Attendance:

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Wessex BFCC East of England B&FFCC, Green Cinnamon & White BFCC, Wexford BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Southern BFCC., Sussex & Kent BFCC, West Wales BFCC, West of Scotland BCA,. And all other clubs from Ireland and abroad.