

**MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION**  
**2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**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 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: - Andrew Triolo (East of England B&FFCC), Ron Williams (North Wales BFCC), Malcolm Barnett (IBBA), Chris Gibbs (Green Cinnamon and White BFCC), Jim Sykes (Merseyside BFCC), Ian Perrier (Wessex BFCC)

**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 2012 A.G.M. (1<sup>st</sup> April 2012)**

The minutes from the 2012 AGM were accepted and there were no matters arising.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE.**

The Secretary Colin Egner reported that he had a letter from Ron Williams of North Wales BFCC informing the Convention that North Wales intend to change their show date from the third weekend in October to the first weekend in November where there is much less congestion.

Vic Harris from Leicester BFCC said that he had heard a rumour that the East of England B&FFCC intended to move onto the Leicester BFCC show date this year. The rumour also was that the move was because of a clash with the Fife show dates.

Vic Harris expressed his concern over the impact on the Leicester BFCC annual show. Colin Egner said that he had received correspondence from Andre Triolo in connection with the East of England BFCC change of dates and he has said that confirmation of any change in dates will be sent to the Border Convention after the East of England BFCC AGM..

This lead to a discussion on Clubs changing their dates and rule 34 under Specialist Show rules was quoted. The various clubs who are changing their dates should according to rule 34 ask before they change their show dates. Colin Egner pointed out that if a change of date has no impact on other shows there is no good reason to question the date change. The reason for changing show dates was discussed and it was noted that because of the timings for clubs AGMs and the Border Convention AGM it is very difficult to monitor or advise on show dates which usually have been set up by the clubs already. Lynn Rowland said that no matter what the circumstances the clubs should inform the Border Convention before date changes. After much debate it was thought that the clubs concerned should be informed of the Border Convention rules concerning the change of dates.. this subject will be brought up later in the meeting under the National Cagebird Show discussion.

The secretary said that he had another letter but this will be discussed in an agenda item later in the meeting.

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

The President Brian Martin thanked the delegates for electing him as President last year. He also thanked the committee for their work on behalf of the Border Convention and the fancy in general. Brian thanked the club delegates for giving up their time to attend this AGM and Don Harrison for continuing with the journal, he said that the journal is especially necessary for border fanciers who are non internet users and do not access the border web sites. Brian thanked Colin Egner for producing a new web site which it has been reported to him is working very well. He finished by wishing all a good breeding season

**7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

The Chairman George Eltringham said that he agreed will what Brian had said, he said that it makes the job of chairman easy when you have a good committee. He thanked Colin Egner for his work on the web site which he thought was coming along brilliantly. George said that the production of the Journal is not an easy task and Don Harrison complains from time to time about the lack of articles and show reports but Don does an excellent job in producing the journal and like many other he looks forward to the next journal being sent. He said that there were a number of fanciers who criticised the work of the Border Convention, he suggested that if they had something to say then why not turn up at AGM or the committee meetings and say their piece rather than saying to the fancy in general. We should be looking towards the positive side of things and not negatively, an example of this was the panic over oat husks last year. It turned out to be a late harvest and there was plenty of oat husks to around.. There had been fanciers saying that we have to go sawdust or some other covering. Many years ago

fanciers started to use oat husks in show cages and to this day there has not been anything better found. There is no need to change at the moment.

## **8. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Colin Egner thought that the last year has been a bit difficult due to politics entering the hobby. He said that the show season had been good because of the number of different exhibitors winning the shows. A lot of the border shows in the past year reported an increase in numbers which bodes well. The highlight of his year he said was the web site which he has built and installed with the help of an Age Concern course. The web site was back up and running and in the last four months it has had thirteen thousand hits. He said that Stuart Mason's web site attracts more hits due in part to the "Forum and Chat Line" that Stuart runs. Colin thanked Stuart for the generous way that he worked along with the Border Convention web site providing advice and guidance and data where necessary. Colin also thanked Stuart for turning up at Stafford Show day with a disc for the Border Convention which was on a loop running all day through a projector onto screen, a feat which received a mention in Cage and Aviary Birds. Colin said that Stuart Mason had been a great help over the last year. Colin pointed out that we have lost four members of the committee in the past year which has depleted the committee. He has informed clubs that there are positions on the committee for any fancier who wishes to come along and the people around the table today might want to take the opportunity to become part of the Border Convention committee.

The chairman asked if there were any volunteers for the committee and Vic Harris said that he was prepared to join. He pointed out that there are only two meetings a year. Julie Tooth also agreed to come onto the committee.

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

Don Harrison told the meeting that he had sent out flyer with the last journal but had very little response from it. He said that he was disappointed that it appears that the clubs did not discuss the journal at their AGMs. He did however receive some support from twelve fanciers who offered articles and letters and emails of support. Don said it would be very sad to see the journal fold and he cannot understand why there is so much ill feeling in the attitude of some clubs who appear to be anti Border Convention. He thought that as his role as Border Convention Editor if he makes a suggestion some fanciers will say who does he think he is. He does however gain personal satisfaction knowing that he has produced an excellent magazine for the fancy. He said that he does not want to carry on in the current climate and both himself and the Border Convention committee have not been supported. Don said that he had just completed another journal and then outlined some of the club responses which have disappointed him over the past year, out thirty odd clubs only nine have sent in their AGM reports although he did say that some clubs would just be having their AGMs. Show reports were late in coming in and obituaries such as Syd Keer's had not been received. The chairman said that many AGM's are taking place around now and they will not be available in minute form. Phil Dewland thought that show reports should be sent in within a week of the show. Lyn Rowlands said that all details should be sent to the secretary and he should pass them straight on to the Journal Editor.. Dave Powell outlined the processes of how the obituary for Syd Keer was put together and for Don not to have received it appears to have been a technical malfunction (lost email). Ray Morgan said that mistakes are made because we are not infallible. Vic Harris asked if the way forward was to reduce the number of journals from four a year to two a year to ensure that was plenty of material to fill them, he also said that it was very good value for money. Ray Morgan pointed out that the web site will never replace the journal because of its detail and he thought that clubs must produce articles. Lyn Rowlands thought that a lot of fanciers would like to write articles but were not confident enough to do so. Don said that he was disappointed that there some of his ideas were not producing the results he expected, there are no judges reports coming in anymore, the champion of champion leagues was disputed because some clubs did not send in their results. It was also pointed out that some clubs do not produce a catalogue, this makes it very difficult to send a detailed show report in. Malcolm Scott then outlined a plan to ensure that show reports are sent to Don, the appointment of area representatives with a number of clubs allocated to them to ensure that show reports are either chased up by these area representatives or even produced by them. If we go ahead with area representation then the representatives will be required and a suggested break down was Jim Aitchison for all of Scotland, Malcolm Scott for the North of England, Phil Dewland for Wales and South West, Howard Kershaw for the South. Brian Martin the Midlands and Ireland will need a representative. Colin Egner suggested that Stuart Mason be approached to send out an appeal on his web site for journal ideas.

## **10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT**

No publicity officer, this will be decided later in Election of Officers.

## **11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2012 ACCOUNTS.**

Malcolm Scott handed out copies of the 2013 Border Convention Balance sheet and then outlined the background to some of the financial entries. He outlined the principle on the Balance Sheet of taking out income received for the next financial year and adding back in income received the previous year for this years balance to reflect a true profit or loss scenario for the balance sheet financial year. The other option is to produce a balance sheet which reflect the money taken during a financial year and does not take into consideration the actual year the money is for. It was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Phil Dewland the Balance Sheet was a true reflection of the Border Convention accounts.

## **12. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2014.**

It was proposed by Phil Dewland and seconded by Ray Morgan that the Club Affiliation remains the same. This was carried and so the 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 Ray Morgan that the Honorariums remain the same. This was carried. The Honorariums for 2013 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**

Colin Egner took the web site over from December and he has developed it in a form whereby the Specialist clubs all have their own page which they can update themselves, all he wants now is for all of the clubs to do this. Two thirds of the clubs have however updated their pages which is a good start. Colin said that if any club has difficulty updating their own pages they can either email or drop a letter to him and he will update the page accordingly. Ray Morgan proposed that the Border Convention reimburse Colin Egner with his out of pocket expenses in the building and implementation of the web site. This was agreed by all. Colin said that he is open to any ideas to web site improvement and contact to himself Don, George or Malcolm can be achieved through the web site. These emails through the web site go direct to the people mentioned and only to them. Howard Kershaw suggested that the Border Convention should buy a Computer for Colin to assist in his web site updates and maintenance, Phil Dewland suggested a Lap Top Computer which could be used at the Border Convention meetings. This will proposed and seconded by the two delegates and carried by the meeting. Howard Kershaw said that Colin Egner is to be congratulated on his efforts in producing the web site, all delegates agreed.

## **15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

All of the officers were elected without opposition. Andrew Triolo has resigned as Publicity Officer and Web Site manager and Colin Egner has taken over the web site, Colin and Don Harrison agreed to manage the Publicity side of the Border Convention's business between them. Howard Kershaw agreed to take away with him the unaudited accounts with a view to performing an audit and then deciding on whether or not to become the Border Convention Auditor.

(Postscript –Howard audited the accounts successfully and will taken on the role of Auditor.)

	<b><u>2012 Elected</u></b>	<b><u>2013 Nominations</u></b>	<b><u>2013 Elected</u></b>
President:	Mr W B Martin	No nomination	Mr W B Martin
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	Joint –Mr Colin Egner and Mr Don Harrison
Auditor:	Mr John Cox	No nomination	Mr Howard Kershaw (trial period)
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
Web Site Manager	Mr Colin Egner	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner

**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), Ivan Austin, Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce, Vic Harris, Julie Tooth.

Don Harrison proposed and Malcolm Scott seconded, a vote of thanks to Andrew Triolo for the work he has done over the years for the Border Convention as Secretary, Publicity Officer, NCA representative, Canary Council representative and Committee member. This was agreed by all..

## **16. MANDATES**

There were no Mandates for discussion

## **17. JUDGES A & B PANEL.**

### **“A” Panel**

Simon Hughes 18 Parklands Ave. Worthing West Sussex BN12 4NH	Wessex BFCC
Jeff Pearce 190 Banbury Street Saxonfields Longton Stoke On Trent ST3 5BP	North Staffs BFCC
Alan Scott 39 Huggets Lane Eastbourne Sussex BN22 0LT	Wessex BFCC
Ian M Southgate 55 Thornhill Road Claydon Ipswich Suffolk IP6 0DZ	East of nglan BFCC
Robert Turner 1 Oaktree Cottages Walberton Nr Arundel W. Sussex	Wessex BFCC
Kevin Bolwell 139 Sheridan Road, Twerton, Bath. Somerset BA2 1RA	Reinstated by Colin Egner

### **“B” Panel**

Norman Courtenay 23 Ashfield Court Donaghdee Northern Ireland BT21 BF	Northern Ireland BFCC
Cyril Guildea 2 Dun Saithne Road Flemington Balbriggan CO. Dublin	Irish BFCC
Michael Lowe 6 Bridgford Street Mansfield Notts.	Nottinghamshire BFCC
Ronnie McGrath 30 Park Crescent Sauchie Alloa Clackmannanshire FK10 3DT	Border Fancy CC
John Rance 38 Turker Lane Northallerton N. Yorkshire DL6 1PZ	Cleveland BFCC

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.

A discussion ensued regarding the list of Border Judges and their validity. Colin Egner said that he relies on the clubs to keep him informed of judges who needed to be removed from the list. He published a list of judges on the Border Convention web site which then attracted telephone calls and letters informing him that some of the judges named on the list were either dead or no longer kept or show borders. He would like any fancier whose name is on the list and does not keep borders any longer to contact him so that their names can be removed from the judges panel. He would like this to happen by September this year, after which time if anyone else informs him that there are names on the list of judges who are no longer in the fancy he will write to those judges and ask them if they are no longer judging. Bob Norman pointed out that Border Judges can continue to judge CBS shows for 5 years after no longer keeping borders. This will have to be taken into consideration before removing judges.

## **18. THE FUTURE OF THE JOURNAL**

It had been agreed earlier in the meeting that Don Harrison would continue with the Journal for the time being. Malcolm Scott then read out some statistics pertaining to the viability of the Journal in the future. The movement of Journal numbers in 2012 was as follows, the year started with 574 Journals sent out as either paid or expected to be paid for. Over the year 61 Journal subscriptions lapsed and the reasons were cancelled, died or just did not pay and did not inform the treasurer that they were not going to pay. There were 21 cancelled or died and 31 who just did not pay. Over the year there were 32 new members, this meant that overall there was a reduction of 29 Journals in 2012 and the number at the end of 2012 was 545. One fifth of the journal subscriptions were taken at the British Border show at Fleetwood..

For 2013 up to beginning of April there has been 354 Journal subscriptions paid of which 18 are new members, 6 cancelled or died and 194 not paid for as yet, some of these will be paid with members ring orders and others paid at Fleetwood. This makes a total of 554 Journals sent out in 2013.

Ivan Austin informed the meeting that he is buying stamps at a reduced price which saves the Border Convention a lot of money. He was thanked by the members.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Raffle for £100**

The names of the clubs in attendance were put into a hat and Mrs Julie Tooth drew out IBBA as the winner of the £100 donation from the Border Convention. The Border club of Italy had given Malcolm Scott a banner to be presented to the best in show at one of the Specialist Club Shows. This was also drawn in a raffle and West Wales BFCC came out and so they will have the opportunity to include the banner in their show awards.

### **Rosettes –**

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

As there had been a few rosettes left over at the International at Wales last year the allocation of the International Rosettes was discussed. At the moment the clubs allocate the rosettes as they think best. It was proposed that the number of International rosettes and who they are awarded to will be discussed by the committee for recommendations

### **Oat Husks-**

The subject of oat husks had been asked to be included on the agenda by Border Counties BFCC as they are of the opinion that they are not easy to obtain and they can cause a Health and Safety problem in show halls. A number of paper product to be used as floor covering options were passed around the delegates and a number of alternatives were also suggested. Jim Aitchison pointed out that Specialist Show rule 10 states that oat husks are to be used on the show cage floor and so to change this would really require a mandate. He also suggested that if a club wanted to trial other floor coverings and report back to the Border Convention it would be a way forward. The chairman said that other floor coverings have been trialled without any great success. This has been done over quite a few years now, back to the nineteen nineties. He thought that one of the biggest problem with changing the floor covering is the rolling out of any new floor covering across the whole fancy, specialist and CBS shows, and ensuring that all are using and have access to the same new floor covering. The option of sawdust (something like Gold Chip) being used was suggested. Don Harrison suggested that the Border Counties trial paper floor covering and this was agreed. Colin Egner passed comment on the various shredded/processed paper products and having trialled them himself he informed the meeting that they mostly set like concrete when any water is introduced to them. He thought that clubs who have difficulties with oat husks should be allowed to use any floor covering that they wish, so long as ALL cages contain the same floor covering. This would have to be a mandate which he expected from Border Counties next year with the option of any club trialling a floor covering of their choice. Don Harrison suggested that trialling should be available from the forthcoming show season. The proposals were agreed by the meeting.

### **National Cagebird Show -**

The IBBA intend to hold their annual show in conjunction with the New National Cagebird Show held by the Parrot Society at Stafford on the second Sunday in October. This alleviates their current problem of no show hall or staging.

This statement caused concern as to the Border Convention's stance regarding the New National, to explain this to the delegates the minuted paragraph from the 2011 AGM was read out. As follows -

*(2011 AGM Minutes) -National Cage Bird Show (Stafford Show) – This item was brought to the AGM because the committee felt that they needed some direction for the way forward on this subject. Colin Egner said that without direction from the clubs the subject will not be handled democratically. The secretary said that there had originally been a letter from the Parrot Society asking if there would be a Border Section at their show at the Stafford Showground which they now refer to as the New National. The Border Convention's problem is that there are three shows on the same weekend as the Parrot Society Show, namely Northants B&FFCC, Doncaster BFCC and Cornish BFCC. Malcolm Barnett said that Northants and the IBBA are totally against the show because of the potential impact on entries, although he believes that a National Show is a good idea and should have a Border Section but how we achieve this is a problem. Ray Morgan believes that the Border Shows must come first but fanciers have the choice of which show they attend. He would like as many opinions as possible so that the committee have direction as to the way forward. He also thought it would be a solution if one of the Border Clubs took the Stafford Show as their new show venue. Malcolm Barnett said that as Birmingham Area BFC were struggling at the moment they may wish to run their show at Stafford and the other clubs would then have the option to take the Birmingham date. Brian Martin updated the meeting with the current situation regarding Birmingham and he said that the club were struggling for administrators and if no one could run the existing show no one could run the new show. Don Harrison said that realistically in 5 to 10 years a few clubs will have ceased due to lack of support and administrators and it would be short sighted not to be involved with a New National and financially the Stafford Show presents itself as a very viable proposition. It was said that to not support the National would mean that we are not promoting the Border Canary which as Andrew Triolo pointed out is the main theme of the Aims and Objectives in the Rule Constitution. Phil Dewland said that we must support our clubs and if anyone wanted to support the National that was their choice but it would be to the detriment of the clubs whose show is on the same weekend. Andrew Triolo said the best way to encourage newcomers to the Border Fancy is to go to shows like the New National and advertise the Border Canary, this give newcomers the option of starting with Borders. Tim Ward asked if it was possible for Northants to run their show at the New National and Colin Egner replied that this idea had been discussed at Northants but because of the distance it was not practical. Colin thought that if the new National went ahead with a Border section the clubs which have their shows on the same weekend will be back next year trying to find a new date. John Cunningham said that the Cornish BFCC were too far away to be impacted by the National and he thought it would make no difference to them. Ray Morgan said that when the Agenda for the AGM was sent out to the clubs it included a letter from Colin Egner asking for local discussion on this subject with a view to reporting back to the AGM. Howard Kershaw said that Wessex CBS had no interest in running the show at the National but if the Border Convention could find somebody to run it that would be fine. Malcolm Barnett said that Northants and IBBA were not happy with the dates. Doncaster BFCC said they also were not interested in running the show and it could impact on their Saturday show. Don Harrison thought that if we think to the future, clubs are going to close and the National will be a good option then. Colin Egner said that people who run shows want them nearby for convenience. It was again voiced that if any club took the National on their own show date will become available, also fanciers have the right to attend whatever show they wish. Ray Morgan thought that one option available was to ask the specialist clubs (like Colin already has done) for their view on the New national and possibly even a vote.*

Colin Egner asked if anyone attending the AGM would be willing to run the Border section at the New National. Ivan Austin and Jeff Pearce said that they would be willing to run the show but only if it is run by the Border Convention and with agreement from the Border Fancy. Ivan asked the question – “Is the Border Convention supporting the New National”, without an answer to this there is no way forward. John Cox thought that this subject should go back to members for decision. He said that the Border Fancy is dying and he believes that most do not want it to die and so why not show the bird fanciers of this country the Border Canary and put on a showpiece at the biggest show in the country. He said that we must at least try and if it is a failure then we can abandon it but we must at least try. One view was that if we go ahead with a section at the National the other clubs will just have to reorganise their own shows. Don Harrison said that we could use the next issue of the Journal to include a letter to the fancy to ask if they support or not the Border Convention in putting a Border section on at the Stafford Show (New National), Malcolm Barnett said that it would be nice if the show was a Border Convention Show to promote the Border Canary with support from the clubs. Ray Morgan said a letter would provide the views of the fancy. Colin Egner asked the meeting how many of the delegates had a club vote on this subject from the original letter he sent out to the secretaries, there were only a few replies.

Don Harrison then proposed that the Border Convention drafts a letter for inclusion in the next issue of the Journal (due out in the next 2 weeks) to see what the fancy in general thought about the idea of the Border Convention supporting the New National at the Stafford show. Malcolm Barnett seconded this proposal. The response from the fancy to be via either a telephone call to Colin Egner, Malcolm Scott or Don Harrison or by letter or email to same three committee members. The amount of support given to a Border Convention show at the Stafford Show is an unknown quantity and concern was expressed as to the number of exhibits that would turn up.

It was generally agreed that there is a requirement for Border Canaries at the new National. Northants B&FFCC have been given the opportunity to take on this show but appear not to want to take it. Because of the potential impact on other clubs this subject caused many problems. It was generally expressed that clubs change their dates without any consideration towards the Border Convention or other clubs. The various circumstances surrounding the move of club show dates and the IBBA New National date were going to happen despite the Border Conventions views. The IBBA taking on the New National was in theory best for the hobby

Phil Dewland proposed that the Border Convention writes to the clubs who have either changed show dates or who will be impacted by a change of show dates and explains the Border Convention rule regarding show date changes and also explains why the IBBA is having to change their date and the subsequent reasons for taking the show date at the New National. The reason as per the first two sentences in this agenda item are their current problems of no show hall or staging and the financial support from the New National.

Colin Egner said that the rules were not clear and concise enough for the Border Convention to act when show dates are changed. He said there were no rules for sanctions to be taken.

Malcolm Scott then pointed out that the rules are not clear regarding show dates, show rule 30 stating that “Specialist Clubs must give details of show dates and officials as early as possible”. This vaguely implies that you can set your dates to what ever you want. It was then agreed that the committee should go through the rules to clarify and simplify them where necessary.

### **Hall of Fame**

Don Harrison said that in 2012 the Canary Council asked for nominations for their Hall of Fame and as such he would like to nominate Phil Warne, this was seconded by Malcolm Scott. Don read out a report outlining the achievements of Phil over the years. This was accepted and Colin Egner will present it to the Canary Council.

### **19. DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Border Convention AGM for 2014 - Probably the first Sunday in April 2014

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT (28):**

B. Martin (President), G Eltringham (Chairman), R Morgan (Vice Chairman/Welsh BFCC), C Egner (Secretary/IBBA), M. Scott (Treasurer/Northern BFCC), D. Harrison (Journal Editor); P. Dewland (Welsh BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), J Aitchison (BFCC), R. Martin (Birmingham Area Border), I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), H. Kershaw (Wessex Border), R Norman ((Merseyside BFCC), T Ward (British BFCC), J Balme (Doncaster BFCC), T Mooney (Doncaster BFCC), L Smith (Birmingham ABC), A Smith (Birmingham ABC), V Harris (Leicester BFCC), P Tooth (Leicester BFCC), J Tooth (Leicester BFCC), A O'Mahoney (Leicester BFCC), P White (Cornish BFCC), J White (Cornish BFCC), D Powell (Cornish BFCC), L Rowlands (West Wales BFCC), R Edwards (West Wales BFCC),

### **Delegates representing 14 clubs were present:**

Border FCC, Birmingham ABC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, IBBA, Northern BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Wessex BFCC, Welsh BFCC, West Wales BFCC, Leicester BFCC, Cornish BFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC.

### **Clubs Not in Attendance:**

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, East of England B&FFCCGreen, Fauldhouse B&FFCC, Cinnamon & White BFCC, Midland Counties BFCC, Northampton AB&FFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Scottish All Border FCC, Southern BFCC., Sussex & Kent BFCC, West of Scotland BCA.,  
And all clubs from Ireland and 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.