

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION **2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Sunday, 15th March 2020

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 attendees stood for a minute's silence in remembrance of past members.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from: - J Aitcheson, M Scott, G Eltringham, S Tamman, R Thorley, A Triolo, A Smalley, B Hodges.

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.

Nigel Leader (Doncaster BFCC) was proposed by C Egner, seconded by J Rance and accepted by all members and appointed as Teller. There were 11 clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2018 A.G.M. (11th March 2018)

The chairman outlined the main points from the minutes of the 10th March 2019. The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed J Pearce, seconded R Morgan.

MATTERS ARISING

N Leader pointed out that he had still not received relevant invoices.

5. CORRESPONDENCE.

The secretary read out a letter from the Italian BFCC saying that they had changed their policy on the novice/champion rule and that everything was now in line with the Border Convention rules.
A Letter had been received by the Cornish BFCC, as this was a reference to the mandate by Nottingham BFFCC which had put forward, the secretary said he would read this out under AOB.

6. PRESIDENT'S/ REPORT.

I would like to thank all the Clubs for the opportunity and honour they gave me to be President of the Border Convention for the last two years.

I also would like to thank all the members of the committee for their continued support during my time as President.

However the group of Border fanciers I really would like to thank and applaud are the Chairmen , the Secretary's, the Show secretaries, the Treasurers, the Catering staff and committee members of our affiliated Clubs for without this band of loyal border men there would be no clubs, no shows and no border fancy.

As a group they put in hundreds of hours of unpaid work, often subsidizing **their Club** from their own pocket to keep the hobby alive, and many of them have been doing it not just for years, but for decades.

One of this band of stalwarts is to be our next President Bobby Parker who as you all know worked tirelessly for the mother club the Border Fancy and I wish him well in his tenure as President.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the hard-working teams who have put shows on last year and all the exhibitors who travelled to make these shows enjoyable.

One highlight from the show season for me was seeing the Welsh fanciers coming together to help each other out at their individual shows which I personally think is the way forward.

Also seeing Doncaster and Nottingham putting talks on during judging which I found interesting and seeing a lot of people engaging in discussions on genetics, breeding problems etc.

In my opinion unless we all start helping each other out some clubs will struggle to keep going, so why not get in contact with your nearest club and offer to assist at their show in return for them helping your club out .

The hobby is in serious decline and this next year I would like to see some serious talking on the way forward with everyone contributing using a common sense approach for without this the future is in doubt as many of our stalwarts in the hobby are getting older, everyone needs help at times and we must not be too proud to ask.

The meeting at Frodsham was a start and brought up a few things to consider, so we must follow this up ,so will set another meeting up at Frodsham and at the International in Scotland in December so fanciers can express their views and ideas.

My message to everyone involved in our fabulous hobby is to start working together because if we don't USE IT WE WILL LOSE IT.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

2019 saw mixed fortunes for many clubs.

North Wales and Wexford both ceasing to exist due to lack of fanciers willing to join their committees, a problem increasingly being encountered by many of our affiliated Clubs.

Southern BFCC unfortunately had to cancel their show due to lack of entries however there is some brighter news that they are moving to a new venue for 2020 with I believe a revitalized committee.

Other good news this year we have seen some Clubs cooperating more to try and increase their core supporters, something the Border Convention have been advocating and trying to encourage. Most notable of these was the cooperation between Cleveland, Nottingham and Doncaster all three clubs supported one another with entries and stewarding also all three Clubs held talks and discussions on various topics around the breeding and showing of Border Canaries and the hobby in general for exhibitors during judging.

Ronnie, John and I had the honour of judging West Wales were very encouraged to see the seamless cooperation and comradeship between West Wales and the Welsh during Judging and for the entire weekend. May this form of cooperation continue and prosper.

The Show season once again threw up a number of surprises from a total of 32 shows we had 19 different exhibitors take Best in Show.

The most successful exhibitor being the partnership of Billy and Paul Heathcote who won 4 best in shows with their variegated White hen.

However, snapping at their heels were Mark Symonds with 3 wins, Lyn Rowlands with 3 wins and the most successful Welsh exhibitor, George McGougan with 3 wins the most successful Scottish exhibitor, and Pompeo Mattia whose variegated yellow hen won all 3 Italian Shows making him the most successful Italian winner.

On 2 wins was Phil Warne who once again won the International show at the British border and Paul Glennon who was the most successful Irish exhibitor

In the Novice section we had 19 exhibitors taking Best Novice from 29 shows the leading Novice Exhibitor was Nigel Leader with 4 wins and also took Best in Show at Merseyside. The 2nd best exhibitor with 3 wins was Willie Netherton who sadly passed away earlier this year. This was followed 4 exhibitors with 2 wins Gary Bishop, Ken Powers who was also best Novice at the International, Silvio Morra best Italian Novice and I believe now has gone up to Champion, George Foster and Steven Kinghorn who also will be exhibiting as Champion next year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the committee for the support they have given me over the last turbulent twelve months. With a special mention to Ronnie for the enthusiastic support, which not always coincides with my Time management plan.

9. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

Unfortunately, the Journal Editor was unable to attend the meeting

10 PUBLICITY OFFICER AND WEBSITE REPORT

Once again, I am pleased to report the number of hits on the site have once again increased to a total of 598,300.

An increase on the year of over 127,000 which is an increase over last year of 17,000 or 15.5% with 1,250 different IP addresses in peak months. November as always is the peak month for hits.

The success of the site is as always down to the people who take the time to e-mail Show results, A.G.M. Reports, news items, obituaries photographs, articles and news. My thanks go out to everyone who has contributed.

Once again, the Show gallery on the front page proved a great hit with 211 photos, everyone likes a visual record of their success, but as always there is plenty of space for more.

R. S's Diary, a new innovation for 2020 is proving popular, (maybe not with him), from the reports I have received and the spike in hits on a Thursday/ Friday. Once and pass on their and pass on their experiences again, I would like to request other fanciers to come forward and pass on their experiences through the breeding season, so, if you are feeling brave or foolhardy please contact me.

In fact, 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 as other clubs have in the last twelve months, A new feature I am trying to innovate is to advertise the show dates and contact numbers for C.B.S.'s that are sponsored by or receive patronage from affiliated Clubs. I fully believe this is the best route to attract new members for your Clubs.

To sum up if you want free advertising for your Club, contact me and I will try to help.

Remember if you don't ask you don't get.

11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2018 ACCOUNTS.

A presentation of accounts was given by auditor N Leader as M Scott was unable to attend the meeting. It was proposed by N Leader and seconded by I Perrier the acceptance of the accounts and this was passed.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020.

It was proposed by Colin Egner and seconded by T Ward 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 Ron Sillitoe, and that there was a need to split up the treasurer's and ring scheme honorariums as the jobs were going to be done by two different people and it was proposed by P Dewland and seconded by B Wilkes that the Honorariums are..

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

14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The chairman went through the officers individually and all officers were voted on by the attending delegates. Colin Egner said that the new president would be Bobby Parker and that R Thorley had put his name forward to be the new treasurer.

	2018	2019 nominations	2020
President:	Mr.Colin Egner	Mr.Colin Egner	Mr.Bobby Parker
President elect		Mr Bobby Parker	
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. Malcolm Scott.	Mr Richard Thorley	Mr. Richard Thorley
Journal Distributor:	Mr. Simon Tammam	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tammam
Journal Editor:	Mr. Simon Tammam.	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tammam
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	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:	Mr. Nigel Leader	No nominations	Mr. Nigel Leader
C. Council Delegates:	Mr. Egner & Mr Thorley	No nominations	Mr. Egner & Mr Thorley
Ring Scheme Sec.	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	Mr. Tim Ward	Mr. Tim Ward 2020
Web Site Manager	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner

Convention Committee: Messrs. Ronnie Sillitoe (Chairman), Tim Ward (Vice-Chairman), Colin Egner (Secretary), R Thorley (Treasurer), Simon Tammam (Journal Editor), Brian Martin, (Past President), Ray Morgan (Past President) Bob Norman (Past President), George Eltringham (Past President), Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce, John Rance, Alan Smalley, John Williams. Paul England, Brian Wilkes Nigel Leader and A. Pearce.

Past Presidents M. Barnett, D. Harrison, M. Scott, J. Aichison

15. MANDATES

NOTTINGHAM BFCC

It is proposed that this is added to judge's rule 5

Under judges training scheme 2020 champions can apply for enrolment on to the scheme after showing for one or more years as a champion.

In their second year they will be allocated to assist a selected "A" Panel judge for three judging engagements the supervising judge to complete an assessment and return it to the BC secretary for scrutiny by the committee.

In their third year subject to the present rules they will automatically become a "B" panel judge.

They will also be allocated to assist an "A" panel judge for three judging engagements. The supervising judge to complete an assessment and return it to the BC secretary for scrutiny by the committee.

If the committee are satisfied with the judge's report, and the trainee is a current year breeder and exhibitor they will be promoted to the "A" panel in their 4th year as a champion.

All costs of travelling to judging assessments shows to be met by the trainee not the organising club.

Advantage to the fancy

- 1 The border convention will have an approved training scheme for judges, not an automatic 2 years /5 years you are capable of judging
- 2 It will provide trained judges 2 years earlier than present.
- 3 Clubs will be more certain of new judge's capability.
- 4 The trainee will know before being appointed whether they are capable /willing to become a judge.

This was passed by 9 votes to 4 votes (This included 2 postal votes)

Vote on ratification of 2019 mandate by Cleveland B&FFCC.

Rule 35 all border convention affiliated clubs must judge the novice section before the champion section
Vote requested by Northern BFCC.

The mandate was ratified by 9 votes to 2votes

16. JUDGES A & B PANEL.

A Panel.

P Neil 30 Derryhale Road, Portadown, Craighaven, County Armagh, N I.

A Telford 37 Mullaleish Road, Ricihill, County Armagh, N I.

F Lepore Via Rosario, laventino, Bari Italy

B Panel

A Giove Via Vitrani 40 Villarbasse(TO) Italy

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. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

C Egner told the committee that as members of the canary council we were not informed of the meetings and that it might be more beneficial to change from the canary council to the NCA .Ian Perrier told the meeting that if the BC paid a fee of £60 we could be members of the NCA and that included insurance for meetings etc., C Egner would look into this and report back.

J Pearce told the meeting that we didn't have a table at the last Stafford show and that he thought that we had lost out on publicity and ring sales etc, it was decided by those present to look into this, i.e. costings etc.

Nigel Leader asked the meeting if the number of journals published should only be that of subscribers plus a few more as the last issue printed was too many, R Sillitoe said he would talk to S Tamman for clarification

R Morgan brought up the issue of judges wrong classing T.P.D. / H.V. birds, it was decided to ask clubs to remind appointed judges to all be in agreement if a bird was to be wrong classed because this would give another opinion.

The chairman brought up that the Southern BFCC had changed their date to try and attract more entries ,the date was to be 7th November 2020, this date is usually the GC&W FCC date but every few years the calendar gives 5 week months in October /November and this year the GC&W FCC date is the 31 October 2020 however whilst it will be ok for the next two years the calendar will change and that both clubs will clash in 2023 .The chairman asked for reassurance from the Southern BFCC delegate Ian Perrier that this would not happen and he said that he was happy to reassure the BC that they would liaise with the GC&W BFCC to make sure it wouldn't.

Jeff Pearce informed the meeting that due to circumstances beyond their control North Staffs BFCC will not be holding a show this year (2020) .There is an issue with the hall so the show can't go ahead .Jeff pointed out that he has sorted things out for next year and apologised to the fanciers in advance.

A letter was read out from D Powell from the Cornish BFCC stating

Dear Colin Egner I see rule 35 is no18 on the agenda at the AGM.

I wish as secretary, show secretary, treasurer and publicity officer of the Cornish Border to give my views on this rule.

I took over these jobs 10 years ago from the much-respected border man.

Syd Keer, my first AGM for the club when I was voted in, i wanted to put something right that i thought was wrong with our show ,we under syd had a sliding scale in our specials as follows

BEST CHAMP £15	BEST NOVICE £12
2 ND BEST CHAMP £10	BEST NOVICE £8
BEST CHAMP FLT £3	BEST NOV FLT £2
2 nd BEST CHAMP FLT £2	2 nd BEST NOV FLT £1

Example in colour specials as follows

BEST CHAMP CL £4	BEST NOV CL £3
2 nd BEST CHAMP CL £2	2 nd BEST NOV CL £2
3 RD BEST CHAMP CL £1	3 rd BEST NOV CL £1

This to me was not respecting the novice fanciers that payed the same entry fee per cage. This we have put right at the Cornish and the novices walk away with the same prize money as the champions.

In 2017 i had the honour to be invited to jointly judge the British Border after picking our 10 best champions and 10 best novices we moved to the best in show .We as judges were asked to judge Mr Differs best novice against the best champions ,as we thought against the 10 best champions as normal procedure ,but no all we had to judge was the best novice against the Mr Chandlers best champion the bird was judged best in show.

But I can assure you that if the novice bird had of gone up against the line up of the 10 best champions the novice bird would have been in front of a few well-known champions and I can assure you in the top 10 birds on the day. Is this respect to the novice fancy?

I can assure you no novice exhibiting at the Cornish after staging their birds is treated any different to the champions and I have never seen any judge disrespect the novice entry, they are normally there to help and advise any novice queries.

So, I can assure you in 2020 we at the Cornish will be judging the champion classes FIRST along with every bird other bird show held across the country in all fancy's, in my opinion got it wrong again Border Convention.

I stated at the beginning of my letter what my jobs are at the Cornish ,this does not mean i am it alone ,without our other small band of fanciers there would be no show ,plus my computer man John White not even a border man without him and others no Cornish border ,and also the help we get from our much travelled exhibitors.

As to the content of this letter all Border clubs pay an affiliation fee to the Convention and all clubs should have access to all correspondence that is submitted to the Convention ,maybe then you would get more response from a wider opinion in the fancy . You discuss at meetings about letters received and you state you will send a reply ,but the general fancy no none of the content of letters either way .

Don't dismiss this letter it's not just for the Convention it's for the border fancy and their views, but it is the view of the Cornish border.

As regards to the Nottingham mandate well wow. Here we are in a dying hobby struggling to get new blood in the fancy let alone new judges. Maybe when the Border fancy was strong 20 to 30 years ago fine, but not now with the age of the general members in the fancy we can't put barriers up in front of fanciers that are prepared to go out of their way to take on the challenge of judging like all your present border judges were prepared to do. Why o Why is anything like this going to HELP our STRUGGLING FANCY

Yours sincerely
DAVID POWELL

Bob Norman pointed out that British Border in their Schedule states their specials are for Best in Show, 10 Best Champions and 10 Best Novices which is in accordance with **Rule19. All Clubs are allowed to judge for Specials according to their own management.**

Rule 35. All Border Convention Affiliated Clubs must judge the novice section before the champion section.

Ronnie Sillitoe pointed out that this rule was voted on by the affiliated Clubs and passed in 2019 and ratified at this meeting by a democratic vote by the Club delegates.

The Secretary pointed out as to the Nottingham Mandate it states **It is proposed this mandate is added to Judges Rule 5.**

This will not replace rule 5. Fanciers will still be able to qualify under the 2years for B. panel and 5 years for panel A.

However, this rule will enable and assist committed and dedicated fanciers to become panel A Judges 2 years earlier, thus benefiting the hobby

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged Sunday 26th July 2020

The date of the January meeting will be 10th January 2021

The date of the next AGM will be 14th March 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT (19):

R Sillitoe (Chairman), T Ward (Vice Chairman/Green Cinnamon & White BFCC), C Egner (President/Secretary/IBBA), B. Martin (Birmingham ABC), R Norman (BBFCC), K Wadkin (British BFCC), N Leader (Doncaster BFCC), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), A Pearce North Staffs, J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), R Morgan (Wessex), P. Dewland (Cornish BFCC), J Rance (Cleveland B&FFCC), J Williams (Nottinghamshire BFCC), B Wilkes committee member, I Perrier (Southern BFCC) A Thorne (Wessex BFCC) A Brown (Merseyside BFCC) P England (Doncaster BFCC)

Delegates representing 11 clubs were present:

Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, IBBA, North Staffs BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Wessex BFCC, Southern BFCC, GC&W 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 Mid Ulster BFCC and North of Scotland.