

# **MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION** **2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**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), Malcolm Barnett (IBBA), Chris Gibbs (Green Cinnamon and White BFCC), Jim Sykes (Merseyside BFCC), Ian Perrier (Wessex BFCC), W Angus (Border Canary Association), V Harris (Leicester BFCC), A Holmes (Nottinghamshire BFCC), Colm Southern (Wexford BFCC), D Powell (Cornish BFCC)

**3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.** Ivan Austin (North Staffs BFCC) was appointed as Teller. There were 13 clubs represented.

## **4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2013 A.G.M. (7<sup>th</sup> April 2013)**

It was proposed by Ivan Austin and seconded by Phil Dewland that the minutes from the 2013 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE.**

The secretary reported that he had received correspondence in relation to the mandate to be voted on later but as the rules state that there is no discussion on mandates prior to voting it will be brought up later in any other business.

The secretary reported that he had received a letter from the New Zealand Border Canary Breeders Society seeking permission to use the approved 2005 pictorial model and standard of excellence. The purpose of this is so that the 2005 pictorial model and standard of excellence could be circulated to members to begin the discussion for a possible change from their current standard to the Border Convention standard. Colin has written to the New Zealand Border Society outlining the conditions of use for the 2005 pictorial model and informed them that clubs affiliated to the Border Convention at a cost of £25 per annum have use of all of the Border Convention facilities. Ray Morgan proposed and Ivan Austin seconded his proposal that the committee allows the New Zealand Border Canary Breeders Society the use of the 2005 pictorial model and standard of excellence in their efforts to change their standard and also recommend that they join the Border Convention. The secretary informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Ian Anderson regarding mandates being raised by the committee. A number of emails had been exchanged previously by the secretary and Mr Anderson who queried the right of the committee to raise mandates (Rule 9 of the Constitution). The secretary had replied to Mr Anderson informing him that the rule came about during the 1990's and after a protracted exchange of emails the secretary pointed out various Border Convention rules and regulations. The secretary finally pointed out that complaints and grievances should be submitted through an affiliated club (Management Rule 17). The secretary read out all of the emails from the discussion and the meeting agreed that Mr Anderson had been answered in all of his questions and the matter was now closed.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

The President Brian Martin said that his time as president of two years had gone over very quickly and it has been a position that he has enjoyed. He thanked the committee for their work on behalf of the Border Convention and the fancy in general. Brian also thanked Don Harrison for the journal and Colin Egner for the web site. Brian thanked all of the officials for their time and efforts during his term of office.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

The chairman thanked the officers and members of the committee and also thanked the outgoing president for his term of office and said that we have enjoyed his company and presidency. He said that a recent concern of his has been some of the items on Stuart Mason's website were totally out of context. He outlined from the notes and minutes that he has at home the Border Convention's approach to mandates from the 1997 AGM where a vote was taken to allow the committee to raise mandates to be sent out to the clubs for them to vote on. In 1998 the Border Convention committee submitted a novice rule which was accepted by the clubs. In 1999 West Wales BFCC raised a mandate to reject mandates from the Border Convention committee and only be accepted from affiliated clubs, this mandate was defeated at the AGM. In 2000 the new rule book included the rule which allows the Border Convention committee to raise mandates and so the critics on the web site have not done their research. The chairman did not think that the web site is the correct place to be discussing Border Convention

business and there are two places on the web site, the chat room and the forum and the forum details go world wide which allows all to see any unfounded criticisms. The chairman thought it was a sad situation and the Border Convention is being brought into disrepute. He hopes that the individuals who have unjustly criticised the Border Convention will offer some sort of apology or statement withdrawal when they see his facts and views. He thinks there are always people who wish to knock the Border Convention and there is nothing underhand being done by the Border Convention or the committee and he has great respect for those who try their best to make it work.

Jim Aitchison pointed out that no matter where the mandate comes from it is the clubs who vote either for or against it.

Colin Egner pointed out that the Border Convention committee is a good cross section of the Border Fancy who have the Border Fancy at heart but if the antis continue to unjustly criticise there will be no one left on the committee.

Don Harrison will write an article for the journal outlining what happens in the Border Convention.

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

Colin Egner said that he had produced a list of pros and cons from his point of view over the last year. He said that in the last year the positives for the border fancy were that the show season had been good because 18 different exhibitors had taken best in show. Along with this 26 different novice exhibitors had taken best novice in show. This shows that the hobby while not thriving is far from dead. The IBBA had run a very successful first show at the New National and hopefully this will go from strength to strength. The only thing missing from the IBBA show were sales birds as there were a few requests for borders. There had been a lot of interest from Cage Bird Societies in the Border Convention and many fanciers asking for advice at the two Stafford shows.

The down side of the hobby was that clubs are not putting forward aspects of the hobby to be discussed and evaluated by the AGM and the committee. Colin also thought that there is a negative attitude by the some clubs to promote themselves and the border fancy. He said there appeared to be criticism of the Border Convention and generally a negative attitude whereas the Border Convention is willing to listen to anything the clubs have to say. He praised Mid-Ulster Border club for their approach to promoting the border canary with a pre-printed leaflet about the club and the border canary which has brought them new members. He thought the Border Convention could look at a similar leaflet for the clubs to see if it can improve their memberships but that is up to the clubs to ask for this. He thought that there is a negative attitude towards the Border Convention and some of the clubs own shows are also suffering because fanciers will not show birds, this will only quicken the demise of the fancy. Colin said that a number of clubs are struggling especially for officers to run them, and possibly some of the clubs should be looking to amalgamate but this is up to the clubs and not the Border Convention. He also expressed regret at losing some of the more well respected fanciers from the hobby.

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

Don Harrison informed the meeting that he had with him the latest journal (Spring 2014) and he hoped to distribute some of them to the delegates as this would save on postage. Because of a shortage of photographs he has had to drop some of the colour pages, he was helped by Stuart Mason who supplied some best in show photos. The IBBA show at Stafford sent a photo of Malcolm Barnett's winner but you could not see it for rosettes, Colin Egner said that will not happen again. This also applies to photos of other show winners. He prefers the show results to be sent by post as a marked up catalogue with a list of winners. He still enjoys doing the journal even though he is isolated with the journal and gets very little feedback from the fancy. He said we do need photographs and we need advertising. Jim Aitchison said that Don does not get complaints which is a compliment. Malcolm Scott said the subscribers send their journal payments to him and lots of them say how much they enjoy the journal and keep up the good work. Malcolm will sort some of these good wishes out for Don. The free advert has been sent to the clubs and Don now waits to see who returns the details. Don informed the meeting that he currently has a problem with the software package on his computer and he will be going into hospital for an operation in June and so the next journal could be a little late. It will however come out during the time period, i.e. "Summer Issue" which can go up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. He is concerned about the photographs not covering the best novices and their birds and asks clubs if they could rectify this. Also mobile phones are not always the best photos.

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

Colin and Don do the publicity via the Journal and the web site. Colin has had a request from Cage and Aviary birds for an article about the Border Convention. He will amalgamate the views of the Chairman and the Treasurer and send the article to Cage and Aviary birds. Don said that the web site and journal are working together. Colin told the meeting that at the recent Stafford Show about 700 old journals were given to fanciers, many who returned and asked for different copies to the one they were given initially, this will hopefully initiate new fanciers into the border canary or gain some new subscribers.

## **11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2013 ACCOUNTS.**

Malcolm Scott handed out copies of the 2013 Border Convention Balance sheet and then explained the background to some of the financial entries. A profit has been achieved for 2013. Don Harrison commented on the increase of postage for the Border Convention journals. Ivan Austin outlined to the meeting the current cost of sending the journals out to the UK, Europe and the Rest of the World. He also explained that he buys his stamps from a company who give discount for bulk buying, he buys £700 face value of stamps for about £600 which is a tremendous saving. It was noted by Malcolm Scott that the postal charges have again been increased from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2014 by as much as 20% for some mailings.

Malcolm Scott thanked Howard Kershaw for the audit and Howard then said that everything balanced ok. The chairman said that it was a healthy balance sheet and it was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Phil Dewland the Balance Sheet was a true reflection of the Border Convention accounts, this was carried. Colin Egner thanked Malcolm for the balance sheet and the accounts.

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

It was proposed by Colin Egner and seconded by Phil Dewland that the Club Affiliation remains the same. This was carried and so the Club Affiliation will remain at £25.

Howard Kershaw said that as the Border Convention had a very healthy bank balance he would like to propose that all clubs who have paid their affiliation fees during 2014 should be given a free year in 2015, this was seconded by Jim Aithchison. Ivan Austin then proposed that clubs which turn up at next years AGM be given free affiliation for the year, this was seconded by Phil Dewland. Don Harrison pointed out that for some of clubs (for example in Scotland) it was too far a journey and so they would never benefit from the amended proposal. The chairman then took a vote on the original proposal and this was carried, therefore any club whose Border Convention affiliation is up to date at the end of 2014 will receive a free affiliation in 2015.

## **13. HONORARIUMS.**

The current Honorariums were read out by George Eltringham and it was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Ivan Austin that the Honorariums remain the same. This was carried. The Honorariums for 2014 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 said that he enjoyed doing the website and reported that since the new web site had gone live (16 months ago) there have been 58,000 hits. The countries viewing the web site are UK, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Turkey, Germany, Denmark, Spain Holland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, Ecuador, Columbia, Poland, Syria and Greece. He said that he has had great support from the clubs especially Ireland in sending in show dates, judges, schedules and entry forms. He also thanked the leading exhibitors who have sent in advice and articles. He has started a FAQ (frequently asked questions) section on the web site but is still waiting for the questions. Colin said there should be a link between articles and questions on the web site and in the journal and anyone can send articles in.

The down side Colin reported was that obituaries did not always come in quickly as he thought many of the fanciers deserved respect and recognition for what they had done in the fancy. Some of the clubs do not use their notice boards on the web site and if they did not want to do it themselves they could either give Colin a ring or drop him a line, he said that the clubs can put what ever they want on the web site and it is a great way to advertise any aspects of the clubs. Colin emphasised that the web site is for the clubs and not for the committee as some thought and he would like to see the web site club lead.

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

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

	<b><u>2013 Elected</u></b>	<b><u>2014 Nominations</u></b>	<b><u>2014 Elected</u></b>
President:	Mr W B Martin	Mr M Scott	Mr M Scott
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	Joint –Mr Colin Egner	Joint –Mr Colin Egner and

Auditor:	Mr Howard Kershaw.	and Mr Don Harrison	Mr Don Harrison
Canary. Council:	Mr Colin Egner.	No nomination	Mr Howard Kershaw
Ring Scheme Sec :	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner
Novice Co-ordinator:	Mr Colin Egner	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Web Site Manager	Mr Colin Egner	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner

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

It was proposed Paul Tooth joins the committee, this was agreed.

## **16. MANDATES**

**Mandate** from the Border Convention Committee.

Any Border Specialist Club that withdraws from the Border Convention will no longer have access to any of the Border Convention facilities; this includes panel judges, pictorial model and any other Border Convention facility.

**Reason -** The Border Convention is run by the clubs for the clubs and therefore any rules and facilities are applicable to Border Convention affiliated clubs only. This is not clear in the rules.

The voting was 4 clubs in favour of the mandate and 7 clubs against and so the mandate was not carried.

Colin Egner then pointed out that the clubs which had voted against the mandate were in fact saying that Border Specialist clubs do not need to join the Border Convention to have the facilities. This brought about a lot of discussion and a general opinion was that the mandate had not been worded correctly in the first place, however no one had an alternative set of wording which may have been more acceptable. Also no one could explain why their club had voted that way. Ray Morgan thought it was a vote against the Border Convention and the committee more than a vote for the actual mandate. He also asked why the members who attend the meeting bother because of the negativity.

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

**“A” Panel**      None

**“B” Panel**

Antony Bristow 19 Drax Gardens, Manadon, Plymouth, Devon PL6 5BJ

Colin Farrell 4 Eskragh Terrace, Granville, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland. BT70 1NP

George McGougan 6 Kirton Place, Bathgate, West Lothian. EH48 1RY

Cornish B.F.C.C.

Mid Ulster B.F.C.C.

Fauldhouse B.F.C.C

There were no objections to any of the proposed judges on the “B” panels and Colin Egner will write to the new judges and inform them of the result.

## **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 British Border FCC 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. Colin asked the meeting if the clubs wished to continue with the convention rosettes, the members said that they did.

### **Journal Postage Costs**

It had been discussed previously in the meeting that postage charges have gone up substantially in the past two years and it was calculated that especially the overseas postage meant that it with another postage rise we will be charging less for the journal than it costs to print and send out. It was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Colin Egner that all journal subscriptions be increased by £5.00, Tim Ward proposed an amendment and Phil Dewland Seconded that we increase the journal subscription rate by £5.00 for overseas where the postage has increased more and increase the UK subscription by £2.00. A vote was taken and the amendment to the original proposal was agreed and so from 2015 the journal subscriptions will be £17.00 for the UK, £25 for Europe and £30 for the rest of the overseas journals.

**Green Cinnamon and White BFCC** have asked Phil Dewland to ask the Agm if there was any possibility of splitting the Border Convention meetings into North South East and West. The idea being more people would attend when the meeting was in their vicinity. It was agreed that more local people would turn up when the meeting was in their area but others would not travel the extra distance. The chairman said this had been tried before when we held a meeting at Carlisle but we got less people attending. The secretary pointed out that we tried for a meeting at the British Border show at Fleetwood last October where most of the fanciers were but still very few turned up and the meeting was of the few who did bother to attend was convened in the hotel foyer.

### **Floor Covering**

Brian Martin said that the trial to use corrugated paper at the Border Counties show had basically met with the approval of the fanciers who used it. The chairman said that to change the rule for another floor covering would require a mandate. Concern was expressed as to a mixture of floor coverings resulting in marked birds. It was agreed that Border Counties can trial corrugated paper again this year with a view to the possibility of a mandate to allow other than oat husks. Whatever the other floor covering may be the promoting club will have the responsibility of supplying it to all exhibitors. It was agreed that the committee will look into formulating a mandate to cater for all clubs show cage floor coverings. There is a possibility that clubs who use oat husks may lose their show halls because of the mess made by them. Colin Egner suggested that the Border Convention Committee formulates a mandate at their next meeting to be sent for agreement to Border Counties. This was agreed.

**East of England B&FFCC** The secretary read out a letter from the East Of England club which said that they agreed in principle with the mandate but not the wording. Another club or individual who disagrees with the wording but gives no alternative words. It goes on to say that foreign clubs are in a different position and have different issues to the UK clubs. Examples of this are the foreign cages, drinkers, flooring, numbers entered and judges. Consideration should be given for the foreign clubs but the East of England thought that the UK could abide by the mandate. Colin explained that this letter could not be brought up in correspondence as it was before the mandate was voted on and the rule is no mandate discussion before voting

### **Patronage Requests and Returns**

Malcolm Scott reported that Ronnie Sillitoe from Cleveland BFCC has commented on the costs of patronage requests and returns in line with increased postage. He has suggested that patronage requests and returns could be successfully achieved by email. Also patronages which are long standing and could be agreed for example for the next 3 or 5 years with the clubs sending judges, numbers, dates, and venues for the year when known. There are no rules debarring email and so clubs can use this system if they wish.

**Show Insurance** Malcolm Scott asked if Show Insurance was still available. Colin Egner said that the NCA still do it.

**Carriers** Malcolm Scott has been asked if there are still carriers in the UK who will transport birds. Colin Egner said that anyone knew of carriers could they give him the details and he will put them on the web site.

**Judges Move from Panel "B" to Panel "A"** Malcolm Scott said that after discussion with a few panel B judges he realised that they in general do not know that they have to apply to go up onto the A Panel and they thought it was automatic progression. It was agreed to publicise this point in the Journal and on the Web Site. Malcolm went on to say that someone could write an interesting article for the journal outlining why a fancier who has the qualifications should go forward to become a judge.

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

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Border Convention AGM for 2015 - Probably the first Sunday in April 2015  
The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT (24):**

B. Martin (President), G Eltringham (Chairman), R Morgan (Vice Chairman), C Egner (Secretary/IBBA), M. Scott (Treasurer/Northern BFCC), D. Harrison (Journal Editor/Northern Ireland BFCC); P. Dewland (Committee), 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 ((British BFCC), T Ward (British BFCC), S Lucas (Merseyside), J Balme (Doncaster BFCC), T Mooney (Doncaster BFCC), L Smith (Birmingham ABC), A Smith (Birmingham ABC), P Tooth (Leicester BFCC), J Tooth (Leicester BFCC), L Evans (Welsh BFCC), J Barry (Welsh BFCC),

### **Delegates representing 13 clubs were present:**

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

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

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Cornish BFCC, East of England B&FFCC, Green Cinnamon & White BFCC, Fauldhouse B&FFCC, 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 Wales BFCC, West of Scotland BCA,. And all other clubs from Ireland and abroad.