

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Sunday 12th August 2018
At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, CANNOCK, BIRMINGHAM

1. Introduction.

The Meeting was opened at 10.30am by the chairman Ronnie Sillitoe and the Secretary Colin Egner. The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Ron Sillitoe, Colin Egner, Ray Morgan, George Eltringham, Brian Martin, Malcolm Scott, Jim Aitchison, Malcolm Barnett, Tim Ward, Phil Dewland, Nigel Leader, Richard Thorley, John Rance,
Observers, Steve Daniels, Alf Speight, John Williams

2. APOLOGIES R Norman, S Tammam, I Austin, P England, A Smalley, J Pearce

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING (14th January 2018)

Ray Morgan asked if we had finalized the situation of the use of miniature drinkers on show cages. Colin Egner said that the Border Convention had agreed that this procedure was acceptable but only after judging and with the show manager's consent. Colin also said that this is not a rule and this was only advisory by the Border Convention. Tim Ward said the it had been agreed that this will be included on the Border Convention web site and it will also be passed to Simon Tammam for inclusion in the journal.

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Richard Thorley and seconded by Malcolm Barnett, this proposal was carried..

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Colin said that there two items for correspondence.

The first item was a letter from Ivan Austin which was his resignation from the Border Convention committee and as Auditor and Teller at the AGM. Ivan said that it had been a pleasure to serve on the Border Convention and he thanked the Border Convention for his time with them. Malcolm Scott said that we would now need a new Auditor. Ron Sillitoe explained briefly what would be required from a new auditor and Nigel Leader volunteered to take on the role.

The second item was contact from Walter Bohner of the German Border who told Colin that the Dutch Border are submitting to O.M.G. (COM) the following -

Proposal to amend the judgment sheet for Fife Fancy and Border.

Regularly there are remarks that we have a little Fancy Fife, which except for the size, is the same as the Border. The Fife, a small round bird, standing on the legs, and on the other side his big brother the Border. Nevertheless, there are still major differences in the judgment sheet. But we can better !

When we look at the judgments cards and the points of the headings with a critical eye, the most important Fife Fancy is the size (25 pts.). All other sections only mark 10 or 5 pts. A small difference between the small breed that is the Fife, and the Border is desirable, but a difference of 20 pts. is too big

In the section 'Size' we can reduce the points from 25 to 15, and the rest (10 pts) we can divide them between ' Hold '(+5 pts.) And' Shape (+5 pts.).Like that it's more accurate. To summarize, for Fife Fancy, we propose the following distribution of points : 'Cut' : 15 pts, 'Hold' : 15 pts. and 'Form' : 15 pts. so more points for things features less for the size. In fact, evaluation of the head, neck, shoulder width, posture, and shape should be better expressed.

Borders are often too big. So we propose to increase the points from 5 to 15 pts for size. It will give a stimulus to breeders to attract more in this section. We can take the 10 pts in the items 'Color' 5 pts. and 'Condition' also 5 pts

It was agreed at the meeting that firstly the Fifes were not our concern and to change any Border points any club must approach the Border Convention for their view first. The members agreed that until we hear officially from O.M.G. we will ignore this request. It was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Nigel Leader that at the moment we ignore this situation.

Since the meeting Colin has been approached by COM-UK for the Border Conventions view, he contacted the committee members for their views and has subsequently produced the following letter to COM-UK.

“Dear Sir,

It has been brought to our attention by one of our affiliated clubs that the NBvV Technische Commissie, Kleure & Postuurkanaries is proposing a rule change to the points on our “Standard of Excellence”.

May I remind the committee that the Border Convention is the governing body of the border fancy with affiliated clubs worldwide, and no change to the Standard of Excellence may be made unless a mandate from one of the member clubs is received and voted on at the Annual General Meeting and receives a majority decision.

NBvV is not a member of the Convention and therefore cannot propose any rule changes, and common courtesy would have suggested they contacted the Border Convention before submitting the proposal.

The Border Convention is worried that the success of this proposal could mean that a precedence is set where any Governing body would no longer be involved in the development of their own breed of bird.

Finally as to bringing the Border and the Fife into alignment the two varieties are separate breeds, and it should be the right of their individual governing body to decide which attributes they wish to enhance by the use of the points awarded.

We as the governing body cannot express too strongly our objection to this proposal.

Colin Egner” Secretary to the Border Convention

Also since the meeting O.M.G. have met with a decision not to do any changes. Simon Tamnam is a UK-COM representative and he sent the following email to Colin.

Hi Colin

A short message just to let you know that the motion from Holland to change the standards was defeated as follows

Fife Fancy 9 against 1 in favour (Holland)

Border 8 against 2 in favour (Holland and Spain)

I am glad I managed to get the positive result.

All the best Simon

The outcome of this original proposal from the Dutch Border is that there will be no changes.

5. THE WAY FORWARD

THE BORDER CONVENTION IMAGE

Ron Sillitoe said that to improve our communications was a must to allow the Border Fancy to go forward, we need a balanced view across all members and they are not responding to contact (mostly emails) in an efficient way, Occasionally we need a quick response to solve a problem and this is not happening. Malcolm Barnett said that clubs were going downhill and fanciers should work together better. There was a general discussion on the possibility of clubs merging and it was agreed it should be the clubs themselves who do this.

We need more details available in the way of help topics and an improvement in the attitude of fanciers to those less knowledgeable. These topics to help especially novices should be produced on the web site and in the journal.

It was thought by some of the members that the journal content should be made available to the committee before the journal is printed. This could be achieved by a draft copy of the journal being sent out first to certain members.

The content of the journal was discussed and it was thought that the British border details should be used in preference to foreign details. Malcolm Scott said that we have discussed articles for the journal many times and if we are to improve the way forward we must get committee members and specialist clubs involved in the production of articles. Another subject discussed was a spotlight on clubs and fanciers. There is already a list of questions available which when answered can be reproduced as an article.

The next subject was questions from novices which would be answered by Ron Sillitoe, Malcolm Barnett, Phil Warne and Brian Chandler. The web site already has three questions which have been answered by Ron and Phil. Ron Sillitoe thought that the lack of questions was another communications problem and hoped for more questions in the future. He said that if the fanciers with questions did not wish to use the web site they could ask some of the more senior members at their local club who would hopefully help them, or send a letter to the Border Convention. Jim Aitchison said that in the past guest speakers at club meetings were very good at answering questions on problems fanciers had. This does not happen so much these days but there is no reason that it could not be used. Ron asked what can we do for the future putting forward a suggestion that at some of the shows we could arrange a discussion to be run by senior champions. Malcolm Barnett said that it would be feasible to invite experienced

fanciers to come to your meeting and have a seminar of questions and answers after the meeting, this is similar to Jim Aitcheson's guest speakers.

Ron Sillitoe asked the meeting for the best three ideas to be put onto the web site for someone who is struggling to breed their birds. It was agreed that it had been a poor breeding season in 2018. The idea of putting advice on the web site was continued and monthly details were requested, Colin Egner thought every 2 weeks might be better. Malcolm Barnett informed the meeting that he had been asked by Cage and Aviary Birds for twelve articles and these could be changed and adapted to be included on the web site and in the journals.

Because of timing it would be best if these monthly reports were on the web site but they could also be included in the journal. To help this production it would be useful if we could get articles from club members. It was pointed out that a lot of fanciers are not confident about their ability to write an article, this can be overcome by the fancier just writing down some note and someone from the Border Convention will convert it into an article, the originator will still gain the credit.

The following topics were suggested as items of interest and use to fanciers, especially novices:-

Breeding Programs; Lighting; Set Up; Egg Food; Seed; Sheds (facing direction and construction material); Mite; Cage Colour; Perches; Sawdust; Drinkers; Show Cage Training; Show Preparation; Managing the Moulting

And so if anyone has any views or comments on any of the topics please let us hear from you. It was agreed that the first articles will be 1. Breeding Programs and 2. Lighting, ideally for the Feb Journal and web site. The next articles will be 3. Breeding Preparation, 4 Show Cage Training, and 5 Managing the Moulting.

These will appear on the web site and eventually in the journal.

It was suggested that the Border Convention go onto Facebook but this was not accepted.

The journal production was discussed and the meeting thought that some of the margins were too big and the print font was also too big in places. If these two things were changed there would be more room for reports and articles in the journal. This was the discussion for the way forward and it was agreed that Colin and Ron were the two to liaise with for what goes onto the web and into the journal and when.

SHOW PROMOTION

Show promotion is working well with Colin putting dates and details on the web site and Simon printing all show dates and details in the August/September journal. Colin informed the meeting that he can advertise on the web site for more entries if a club thinks their entries are low. This was done for Merseyside this year and it worked well. Colin also said that if clubs were going to be short of workers for stewarding or staging erection he can also advertise for that. He suggested that if any fancier had not had a good breeding season the exhibition of flighted birds would appreciate the support.

JOURNAL AND JOURNAL CONTENT

Covered in Border Convention Image.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

A lot of the web site activities were covered in "the way forward" but Colin is always looking at the web site for improvement. He said that for some of the clubs he was not getting the results in a reasonable time and to overcome this he has produced a form to be completed by the clubs and hopes that the clubs buy into his idea. Colin said that obituaries were not forthcoming and he said that clubs should be a lot better when giving him details,

FLYER

Ray Morgan said that flyers used to be of great benefit to the public coming to the shows but in his view it no longer worked. The shops and businesses no longer accept the flyers. Colin reported that Mid Ulster had been very successful with flyers this year but no other clubs had reported a success. The meeting thought that it was up to the clubs themselves if they wanted to use flyers. It appears it works for some but not for others. It was agreed that the Border Convention would not get involved with the clubs and flyers, the web site and the journal being their areas to advertise the show details.

6. ANIMAL ACTIVITIES LICENCE

Because of the recent DEFRA rules applicable to Bird Shows it was suggested that fanciers should keep a list of all of their expenses and costs in connection with their birds. This includes seed, other foods, lighting, heating, transport costs and any other expenses. It was pointed out that DEFRA had said it was only applicable to anyone who has bird sales of £1,000 or more. It had been said that a pet shop licence was a possibility to bird sales but the Border Convention do not know what is going to happen and can only give advice on what is currently known.

7. RING SCHEME

Malcolm Scott said that 8,200 rings had been sold in 2018 which is a big drop from a few years ago when the Border Convention was selling 17,000 rings. He thought that the ring scheme will make a small profit in 2018. Rings for 2019 will again be bought from Avian ID which might not be great rings but they are the best aluminium split rings available. Malcolm Barnett suggested that Border Convention rings should be compulsory for specials at specialist shows. A discussion on closed rings ensued but it was agreed that there were too many fanciers against them and so split rings are the way forward. The meeting had many arguments for and against rings and it was pointed out that if we did go forward with "Border Convention rings should be compulsory for specials at specialist shows" then we would need "BC" initials on the rings. It was also pointed out that mandates would need to be raised if any changes were forthcoming because Specialist Show Rule 11 states "The use of rings, closed or split, is optional on show birds ". Colin suggested a round robin asking if this was ok.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Colin proposed Steve Daniels, Alf Speight and John Williams for committee members. John said yes, Steve and Alf are going to discuss the proposal and reply to Colin. The number of committee members was queried and Colin pointed out that 15 is the number but past presidents are not included in this number.

Ron Sillitoe asked if clubs could promote the Border Convention web site for the Question and Answers for novices.

Ray Morgan asked if the Border Convention could be opened up to individual membership, removing the club affiliation payment. Malcolm Barnett thought this was a good idea. Membership charge and benefits would have to be discussed. The mandates which change the rules would also have to be reviewed.

The meeting gave a big thank you to Richard Thorley for the sandwiches and scones that he brought for all.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next Border Convention Meeting will be the January meeting on the 6th January 2019 then the AGM on Sunday 10th March 2019, at the Roman Way Hotel, Cannock.