

THE BORDER CONVENTION
MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Sunday 5th April 2009

At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, CANNOCK, BIRMINGHAM

1. Meeting Opened. The Chairman, George Eltringham opened the meeting and welcomed the members representing the specialist Border Canary clubs. He said that he was very pleased to see such a good turnout for the AGM. The meeting stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of fanciers who have passed away.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE. Were received from: - Jim Sykes (Merseyside BFCC), Terry Gardner (Border Convention Committee), Terry Cook (Wessex BFCC), Malcolm Barnett (Past President).

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER. John Cox (Clwyd) was appointed as Teller. There were 21 clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2008 A.G.M. held on Sunday, 6th April, 2008. All delegates having had the opportunity to read the minutes, it was agreed by all that they were a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING. Ken Warne said the East of England were making changes to their name and show dates. Andrew Triolo said that this would be picked up in correspondence.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

Border Fife Clubs The East of England BFCC have written to the secretary informing him of a change of Show Date and a Change of Name to incorporate a Border and Fife Club. Don Harrison commented that several clubs are changing to Border and Fife clubs and normally they do not notify the Border Convention and should do so. Ray Morgan said that any club which changes its status should go through the Border Convention. Jim Morton said that Northants BFCC did it correctly when they changed to Border and Fife. It was agreed that in future if a club changes its status both the Border Convention and the Fife Federation should be informed. Ron Williams asked if the question of why a change in status had occurred could be asked, Jim Aitchison said that clubs were going along the Border Fife route to survive, they need more birds and exhibitors to pay for the hall and other expenses.

Insurance The Secretary informed the meeting that there would be no price change for the NCA Insurance and he thought that would be verified at the forthcoming N.C.A. AGM on the 18th April, 2009. The affiliation fee payable by the Border Convention to the Canary Council will also be discussed at the forthcoming N.C.A. AGM. The current insurance cost of the N.C.A. scheme covering public liability up to £2 million is £45. Andrew said that there is a grey area with insurance of show halls when the show hall's owners public liability cover of the hall itself may not cover certain aspects of a club who hire the hall. An example given where someone slips on oat husks they would look to the club for recourse and the clubs would then have to try to put a claim in against the insurance of the hall's owners which may not be successful. Ron Williams said that problems occur if two clubs (for example a Border club and Fife club) both use the hall, unless they are both members of the NCA, insurance through the N.C.A. will not be given to either club. This would be ok if the club was a conjoined Border and Fife club. Andrew Triolo will bring this subject up at the N.C.A. AGM.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The President, Bob Norman said that it was nice to see such a good attendance and he thanked the attendees for making the effort to attend. He thanked the clubs which had voted for him to be the Border Convention President saying that it was a big honour. He said that it had been a trying year at times especially with regards to the controversial letter in the Journal. He said that he would like to thank everybody involved in the resolution of the problem. He thanked the committee and officers for their continued support over the last year and a special thanks to Andrew Triolo for his hard work over the years as Secretary. He asked if all of the affiliated clubs would continue their support for the Border Convention and if they could think of ideas to try to stop the decline of members in the fancy. He said that he supported the chairman's comments last year regarding patronages and we also need to come up with ideas to encourage new members. He thanked all of the delegates for making the effort to travel long distances to be at the AGM.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman, George Eltringham said that following on from the President he was also pleased that there had been a good turnout for the AGM. He thanked Andrew Triolo for his work as Secretary, also the committee for their time and effort over the past year. He thought that the Border Convention committee was representative of the different parts of the country. He believes that the demise of patronages was causing clubs to suffer with reduced membership and if we did nothing about it some clubs would fold. He accepts that times have changed and that pastime is spent differently but we need to do

something to encourage the younger generation to be interested, possibly contact with schools. He thought that the committee must look at this problem and try to bring clubs together to stop the fragmentation.

9. SECRETARIES REPORT.

Andrew Triolo said that following on from the chairman fragmentation was a problem which need to be looked into. He believes that this problem is not unique to the Border Fancy but across most varieties of canaries. The N.C.A. have discussed who will be the target audience of the future. The general consensus is that the youngsters are so disinterested that bird keeping will skip certainly one probably two generations but at some stage in the future the interest will be resurrected. If this does happen then the bird keeping fancy will need to be aware and capable of supplying the education to cater for a new interest. Currently bird keeping is not fashionable but it is believed that it will come around at some stage in the future. He suggested that organisations like S.A.G.A. or the over 50s be contacted, not necessarily from an exhibition angle but with a view to keeping a few birds in the hopes that some of them will take the exhibition side. This approach is not just the Border Fancy but pigeons and all other types of birds, he believes that the wheels are now turning albeit slowly but in a forward motion. He reported that DEFRA are taking a far more relaxed view in relation to bird flu and it is now being dealt with on a localised basis. He told the meeting that "Natural England" are taking over from DEFRA with the day to day running and management of birds and pet hobbyist of all varieties. The latest report from DEFRA was circulated and it is also available on the internet. Andrew informed the meeting about the England Implementation Group (EIG) which is an advisory body that will oversee the implementation of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain DEFRA have not got the budget to put together and implement all of the requirements for the hobbyist side of the strategy and so they have given control of this to the N.C.A. for recommendations. Andrew suggested that the future could be better if combined shows (e.g. Border and Fife) were arranged to combat costs and low numbers. Andrew thanked Bob Norman and George Eltringham for their kind words and was sad to let it go but work commitments come first, he will however be willing to stay on the committee and continue his roles with the N.C.A. and Canary Council. He wished Colin Egner all the best for his new role as Secretary and he would hand over all of the relevant details to him..

10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S / JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORTS.

Journal Editor - Don Harrison said that he regretted the E. Thomas letter in the Journal and apologised to all concerned, he was not in good health when the letter was published and had not fully taken in its content when typing it out for the Journal. He has changed the way that he processes letters now and all correspondence for printing in the Journal must have a name and address and a contact number. Don thought that the Journal was getting better but he expressed concern over the lack of communication from some specialist clubs, this is borne out by the lack of details forthcoming for some clubs. He has included in the latest Journal the details for the clubs to send to him so that all of the clubs can have a free advert in a supplement to be included in the July issue. The details are the name of the club, show venue, show date, secretary's name, judge's name, schedule distributor and the annual subscription rates. The details must be sent to him from the club's because in the past when he has worked off old details mistakes have been made and then the specialist clubs are not happy. A form is available from the Secretary for completion of all the relevant details.

He also informed the meeting that when the show reports are sent to him one or two clubs are still not marking up the results which can be very time consuming and can also lead to errors and subsequent fanciers complaints. Don also suggested that the best in show (Champion and Novice) is printed with a full name and not just initials. It was suggested that a form be designed to send to any club which is struggling to complete their returns. This will be looked into further. To improve the content of the Journal Don said that he has been trying for years to get all specialist clubs to send in their club's news especially AGM reports..

Publicity Officer – Malcolm Scott reported that there was a reduction in the number of Journals sold for 2009 which is a situation to be aware of for future costs. He said that he would really like someone else to take over the job of Publicity Officer, he outlined the current jobs he has which take up too much of his time. He said that Andrew had probably done more for publicity then he had in the past year. Attendance at shows had been undertaken and there will be an advert going into Cage & Aviary Birds later in the year to promote the Border Hobby and also to offer the various publications to Border fanciers. Old copies of the Border Convention Journal are frequently sent to prospective new subscribers which is proving quite successful. Also old copies are handed out at the shows. There is quite an abundance of old copies and an explanation for this was given, the printer is asked for 700 copies and so he sets the printing machine away but it is only stopped when close to 700 and the automatic run-on results in well over 700 copies being printed which means that we have spares immediately and these are useful to give away as old copies in later years. It was put to the meeting that assistants to the Publicity Officer would be helpful. George Eltringham outlined how he and Malcolm Scott had given talks to clubs in the North East explaining the functions and the organisation of the Border Convention, this talk had gone down very well and the North of England Gloster Club had said that they thought that the Border Convention looks to be very well organised and they were very impressed with the Journal and ring scheme. The idea of going out to give talks to clubs is now being undertaken for CBS clubs in the North East by George and Malcolm. Ray Morgan said that we should make this talk available to all clubs and also clubs need to support each other, the Welsh BFCC have started this with North Staffs BFCC and both clubs send birds to each others shows. It was generally thought that this is what the fancy should be all about.

The publicity side of the fancy provoked a general discussion on how we can best promote the Border Fancy in cage bird circles. Ron Williams said that the Border Convention is not pushing hard enough to encourage new members and clubs in North Wales were struggling for members especially novices, what is needed for publicity is articles in both Cage & Aviary and the Journal. Vic Harris said that unless more fanciers were attracted to Border Canaries, clubs will be really struggling financially in a few years.

The chairman said that at the next committee meeting we will include on the agenda an item to look into ways of promoting the Border fancy. Pat White outlined that the removal of cage entry charges was one of the actions taken by her local CBS to encourage entries which was very successful. She thought it was an option to be considered.

11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS.

Copies of the 2008 yearly accounts were given to the delegates for perusal. The details contained a balance sheet and a list of explanatory notes to clarify some of the entries. John Cox had examined the accounts and agreed them to be a correct representation of the Border Convention accounts. John Cox said that the accounts had arrived on time and consisted of a CD containing the accounts details backed up by the necessary paperwork where required. This was most acceptable. He explained the difference between an audit and an examination, an examination is made by an auditor who is no longer registered with a professional body, if still registered it would be a full audit. He was very satisfied with the quality of accounts especially as they were computerised which he prefers and understands well.

The Treasurer, Malcolm Scott informed the meeting about the accounts and balance sheet, firstly that he had followed John Cox's recommendation from last year's AGM and invested more in the Halifax where a better interest rate is given. The Treasurer has increased the Halifax account by £1,500. Certain figures were explained, for example how the ring sales were still quite high despite a drop of ring sales of 1,000 rings. The difference was made up primarily by extra ring cutter sales and the sale of some old rings from five years ago which are a smaller size than those being used on Borders these days but they will fit (albeit slightly large) fife canaries. The Journal sales looked very good but a lot of this is down to about £2,000 in advance sales (2009). In 2007 the Journal costs had been extensive but in 2008 it more realistically reflected the income and expenditure. There had been an ongoing sale of the new model laminate and rule books which were purchased in the previous year and only contributed to 2008 income, the only costs being postage. The other items were more or less straightforward. The upshot of all of this was a profit for 2008 of £2,768.50. Don Harrison thought that postage costs might have gone up more. The only savings that the Treasurer could identify was that the extra Journals that he received were not sent by post but delivered by Ivan Austin at the various meeting held throughout the year. The Treasurer expressed concern about the increasing Border Convention bank balances and to what purpose the current funds could be used. The Chairman suggested that this be discussed further at committee meetings. Don Harrison thought that the way costs were going in general would entail a rise in Journal subscription within 3 years. The Treasurer outlined the Journal subscription numbers to the meeting, number of subscribers in 2007 was 624, this dropped to 588 in 2008, this was as the result of 70 members who did not renew their subscription and there were only 34 new subscribers. At the current time there are 120 Journal subscriptions outstanding for 2009. Some of these will be paid at the same time as the fanciers purchase their rings but it is still a high number. The accounts were proposed as a true record by Ray Morgan and seconded by Ron Williams, this was carried.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009.

It was proposed by Ray Morgan and seconded by Sid Moyers that the Annual Specialist Club Subscriptions (£20.00) remains the same for 2009. This was carried.

13. HONORARIUMS.

It was proposed by Ron Williams and seconded by Phil Dewland that the honorariums for 2009 remain the same. An amendment was then proposed by Sid Moyers and seconded by Ken Warne that the honorariums remain the same apart from the Treasurer's to be increased from £100 to £150. The chairman took a vote and the amendment was agreed.

The honorariums for 2009 will therefore be as follows:-

Secretary	£300	-	Andrew Triolo
Treasurer	£150	-	Malcolm Scott
Journal Editor	£600	-	Don Harrison
Ring Scheme Organiser	£200	-	Malcolm Scott

14. RULES & JUDGES PANEL HANDBOOK.

A list of the current judges by club was sent out to the specialist clubs in early February and all but two clubs have returned the lists updated with who is no longer judging. Don Harrison arranged for the original judges booklets to be printed but these have all been used and so the updated lists will be forwarded to Don who will produce another booklet for free distribution to the fancy. The rule book is ok but because of a few changes since it was printed in 2007 an update flyer will be printed and made available.

15. WEB SITE.

The web site manager Stuart Mason unfortunately could not attend. Ray Morgan said that the Web Site needed updating.

Stuart had spoken of updates and pointed out that he needed to be informed of new changes. Malcolm Scott will email Stuart to see what the current position is regarding his time availability for the web site update.

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Chairman, George Eltringham went through all of the offices and the elected officers were as follows:-

Colin Egner was voted in as Secretary. Malcolm Scott asked if someone else would be willing to stand as Publicity Officer. Pat White suggested that an assistant could be selected for the Publicity Officer which she would be willing to take on. Andrew Triolo suggested that a joint publicity position be arranged and he would be willing to stand with Pat White for the job, this was agreed. Andrew Triolo said that he was still willing to stay on as Canary Council representative but that Dennis Norton would be stepping down after 20 years of service to them. Colin Egner was co-opted as the new Canary Council delegate. The list now contains all other members who contribute to the Border Convention management and running.

	<u>2008 Elected</u>	<u>Nominations for 2009</u>	<u>Elected 2009</u>
President:	Mr. R S Norman	No nomination	
Chairman:	Mr. George Eltringham	No nomination.	Mr. George Eltringham
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Ray Morgan.	No nomination.	Mr. Ray Morgan.
Secretary:	Mr. Andrew Triolo.	Mr Colin Egner	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
Journal Printer:	WPG Ltd	No nomination	WPG Ltd.
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination.	Mr. Malcolm Scott.
Publicity Officers	Mr. Malcolm Scott	No nomination	Mrs Pat White and Mr Andrew Triolo
Auditor:	John Cox MBE esq.	No nomination	Mr. John Cox MBE
Canary Council :	Messrs. Norton & Triolo	Messrs. Triolo & Egner	Messrs. Triolo & Egner
Reserve Delegate			Mr. K Warne
Ring Scheme Sec:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott.
NCA Representative	Mr. A Triolo.	No nomination	Mr. A Triolo.
Novice Co-ordinator	Mr. Bob Norman	No nomination	Mr. Bob Norman
Web Site Manager	Mr. Stuart Mason MBE	No nomination	Mr. Stuart Mason MBE

Convention Committee:

Ron Williams asked if the Border Convention committee was supposed to be restricted to 15 members as there were more than 15 committee members now, also the attendees were not representatives of Britain as most of the committee were from the Midlands. The meeting thought that the representation could be better spread, especially with more members from Scotland but with attendees travelling to committee meetings at their own expense and the time taken to travel to a convenient central point for the meeting it would be very difficult to convince any other fanciers to attend. Jim Aitchison said that there three reasons why fanciers did not attend as in the past, firstly apathy from some of the clubs, these clubs do not feel that (for whatever reason only known to themselves) the Border Convention benefits them in any way, secondly a general shortage of fanciers with the subsequent knock on effect of a shortage of delegates, and thirdly the time and expense required to attend for long distance travellers. He said that it cost him personally over £400 a year just to attend the Border Convention meetings. The reason for there being more than 15 members on the committee comes from a discussion at a past AGM whereby John Cox proposed that the committee numbers could be increased to 20 in the knowledge that not all would turn up but we would have near to a working group of 15, this was agreed at the time. Ron Williams pointed out that this contravened the rules. (post script – the original mandate to restrict the number of committee members to 15 was not accepted). It was agreed that the committee would look into this to clear up any ambiguity.

The Border Convention Committee is now as follows:-

Officers :- Messrs. George Eltringham (Chairman), Ray Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Colin Egner (Secretary), Bob Norman (President), Malcolm Scott (Treasurer), Don Harrison (Journal Editor), Stuart Mason MBE (Web Site Manager), Ivan Austin (Journal Distributor) Andrew Triolo (NCA/Canary Council Representative)

Past Presidents: Sid Moyers, Malcolm Barnett, Dennis Norton, Don Harrison.

Committee: Brian Martin, Jim Aitchison, Terry Gardner, Frank Pye, Phil Dewland, George Ikin, Mark Alexander, Terry Cook, Howard Kershaw

17. MANDATES

Mandate 1

From the IBBA

The use of Convention Rings only for Champion Borders at Specialist Shows to be made compulsory, this should create no problem because the Border Convention rings are split and can be put on at Any Age. Birds with closed rings are also acceptable.

Voting for = 2 ; against = 16 - **The mandate was not carried.**

Mandate 2

From West Wales BFCC

When a club omits the Judges Classes from their Schedule, these details will be printed in their catalogue.

Voting for = 14 ; against = 4 - **The mandate was carried.**

Mandate 3

From West Wales BFCC

The Best Junior Border will be included when judging "Best in Show"

NB This is a change to Specialist Shows Rule 25.

Voting for = 7 ; against = 12 - **The mandate was not carried.**

Mandate 4

From North Wales BFCC

Dissolve the Committee in its present form and reform same on a regional basis by election with club officials barred from election. The same applies to the chairman who should be neutral in all aspects.

The reason why the mandate has been raised is that from past A.G.M.s the committee has been asked to look at issues and they have not been resolved i.e. Floor Covering and Show Dates. We feel that the make up is part of the problem i.e. Made up of officials of clubs therefore it could affect the clubs, also it is not representative of the whole UK, the Midland dominates. With the whole season consisting of showing in October clashing is evident and entries cannot exceed 300 it is time to take a look at the fancy.

Voting for = 2 ; against = 17 - **The mandate was not carried.**

Mandate 5

From Leicester BFCC

The Border Convention seeks to change the current floor covering of Oat Husks soonest, but further trialing other options. A Trial was recently undertaken by Leicester BFCC using an alternative, this needs to be followed through.

The availability of and quality of Oat Husks reducing year by year, as it is used commercially in the animal market – where it attracts a better price. A time line of 12 months is suggested, so this can be implemented for the 2010 show season

Voting for = 2 ; against = 17 - **The mandate was not carried.**

18. JUDGES PANEL.

The following have been nominated for inclusion onto the Border Convention Judges Panel with the name of Border Specialist Club's vetting the applications:

Judges Panel "A"

Robert Atkinson, Spennymoor, Co Durham	- Submitted through Northern BFCC	Panel A
Norbert Baechler, Gronau, Germany	- Submitted through Northern BFCC	Panel A
Stephan Vadder, Gronau, Germany	- Submitted through Northern BFCC	Panel A
Walter Bohner, Bad Laasphe, Germany	- Submitted through Northern BFCC	Panel A
Arno Hof, Dornburg, Germany	- Submitted through Northern BFCC	Panel A
Albert Holmes, Nottingham	- Submitted through Nottinghamshire BFCC	Panel A
David Coles, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts	- Submitted through Nottinghamshire BFCC	Panel A
John Beddows, Bilston, West Midlands	- Submitted through Birmingham Area	Panel A

Judges Panel "B"

Terry James, Berwick, Northumberland	- Submitted through Northern BFCC	Panel B
Bert Phillips, Sherborne, Dorset	- Submitted through Wessex BFCC	Panel B

There were no objections to any of the proposed judges on either the "A" or "B" panels.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Show Cage Floor Covering - Oats husks as the floor covering in show cages was discussed, some of the members thought that we should be trialing other types of floor covering but others thought that oat husks had stood the test of time. The problem appears to be with the availability of quality oat husks, gold chip sawdust was generally thought of as being the next

best alternative. Because of the strong feeling by some members it was agreed that the committee would have another look at floor covering options.

Show Cage Perches – it was pointed out that we have a list of Show Cage Makers and print this list in the rule book and have it available for anyone asking for a copy, however, nothing similar is available for show cage perches and so it was agreed to ask anyone who makes show cage perches to send their name and address and telephone number to the Border Convention for inclusion in the rule book and for publication in the Journal as a one off list.

Specialist Clubs Free Show Adverts - It was agreed to include free adverts in the Journal again this year for the specialist club shows.

Sid Moyers proposed a vote of thanks to the Border Convention committee..

20. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is Sunday, 28th June 2009

Border Convention AGM for 2010 Sunday ,4th April 2010

The meeting closed at 2.15pm .

MEMBERS PRESENT:

R. S. Norman (President), G. Eltringham (Chairman), R. Morgan (Vice Chairman, Welsh Border), A. Triolo (Secretary, Southern BFCC), M. Scott (Treasurer, Northern BFCC), D. Harrison (Journal Editor, Northern Ireland BFCC); J. Aitchison (BFCC), P. Dewland (West Wales BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties), R. Martin (Border Counties), P. White (Cornish BFCC), J. White (Cornish BFCC), G. Ikin (North Staffs BFCC) I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J. C. Egner (Northampton B&FFCC), R. Norwood (Clwyd Border), J. Cox (Clwyd Border), H. Kershaw (Wessex Border), S. Moyers ((Merseyside BFCC), B. Martin (Birmingham Area Border), J. Morton (IBBA), K. Warne (East of England BFCC), M. Alexander (Nottinghamshire BFCC), V. Harris (Leicester BFCC), P. Tooth (Leicester BFCC), R. Gould (Welsh Border), T. Ward (British BFCC), R. Williams (North Wales BFCC), H. Parry (North Wales BFCC)

Delegates representing 21 clubs were present:

Birmingham ABC, Border FCC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Cornish BFCC, Clwyd BFCC, Northern BFCC, East of England BFCC, IBBA , Leicester BFCC, Merseyside BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Northern Ireland BFCC, Northampton B&FCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Sussex & Kent BFCC, Wessex BFCC, Welsh BFCC, West Wales BFCC, Southern BFCC,.

Clubs Not in Attendance:

Cumbria BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Doncaster BFCC, Fauldhouse B&FCC, German BFCC, Green Cinn & White BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, Scottish All Border FCC, West of Scotland BCA.