

**MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION**  
**2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

**At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, Cannock, Birmingham**

**1. MEETING OPENS**

The Meeting was opened at 10.45 a.m. by the Chairman George Eltringham and the Secretary Colin Egner. The chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting. The attendees stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of past members.

**2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from: - Malcolm Barnett (IBBA), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), J Miller (Merseyside)

**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 2015 A.G.M. (3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016)**

The minutes from the 2016 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE.**

The secretary read out a letter from Paul and Julie Tooth who informed the Border Convention Committee that they were resigning from the committee due to a change in their circumstances and time availability. Colin then read out a letter from Les Webb which had been forwarded to the Border Convention via both the Cornish BFCC and the Green Cinnamon and White BFCC. In the letter Mr Webb said that he felt it was time the Border Convention took action on the demise of the Border Fancy. The various items covered by him were the size of the Fife canary standard, the number of entries of borders at shows compared to fifes, the price of the some Border canaries, the quality of judges who are not adhering to the model standard, especially splits, a fife classification being used by one club and the demise of clubs in his area. The chairman George Eltringham said that we are the Border Convention and have nothing to do with the Fife standard or the numbers of Fifes at shows. It was pointed out that splits are of course a fault and not to be accepted but all birds have faults and a judge is appointed for his opinion on the day and if a club is not satisfied with the judges opinion then don't ask him to judge again. Ron Sillitoe suggested that Colin write to the clubs who forwarded Les Webb's letter and ask them what their suggestions are for changes to amend these perceived anomalies.

**6. PRESIDENT'S/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

George Eltringham thanked the members of the Border Convention for allowing him to be President. He said that in all of the years that he has attended the Border Convention meetings he never expected to be President and he felt very proud to have been given the honour. He praised the British Border FCC for the success at their new venue of Frodsham in 2016. He thought that to achieve an entry of over 1,000 birds in today's environment was excellent and he hoped that he success would continue. The move by the British Border FCC from Fleetwood was a brave thing to do but the facilities of the new venue had proved to be a winner. George commented on the Border Convention rule of wherever possible one man per job but owing to a lack of fanciers coming forward for the jobs it was necessary sometimes for one person to take on more than one position. As chairman George asked the members if they could be aware of others during the meeting when discussing the various items and try not to talk over each other but give everyone a chance to give their views. He said that he tries to see both sides of any discussion points and also tries to be fair when contentious points are being discussed. He hoped everyone has a successful year and looks forward to his remaining term of office as President.

## **7. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Firstly I'd like to thank the other members of the committee for their support throughout the year, it is a lot easier to do this job when there are others I can contact for information and views on issues that arise between meetings in particular Malcolm who is a great asset to the committee. The Border Convention and the hobby in general success or failure can be summed up by the show season, and overall it seems to have been a very successful time with many Clubs reporting sustained number of entries and in a few cases a large increase notably at British Border with a thousand birds entered and the Welsh with six hundred.

As to the exhibitors there have been twenty two different Best in Show winners, with Malcolm Barnett and Ian Wishart tying on four each for most wins. In the Best Novice category we have had nineteen exhibitors who have taken a Best Novice award, the most successful of these being Alan Differ with four wins followed closely by Paul England and Paul Wright with three wins each. Another exhibitors name to mention is that of Phil Warne who took best in show at British Border for the twentieth time, quite a feat at this prestigious show.

Another success this year goes Simon Tammam who has taken over as journal editor and has produced a new look Journal which with a few minor tweaks will soon be second to none so thanks to him. One item that I feel needs looking at is the news being sent by the Clubs to the Journal and the website, these are two great assets the clubs should be using to maximize their profiles to the hobby, by sending in meeting dates, and A.G.M. reports. Obituaries of members is something a lot of Clubs shy away from, but without these past members there wouldn't be a hobby for us today, let us play a small tribute to their memory on the website and in the journal.

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

Simon Tammam reported on the new journal and said that he had a few teething problems, especially with the format of the show reports he had received. The program that he uses cannot easily take reports which are in a table and he had problems with tab in some of the reports. The reports needs to be in Word format and ideally with the results on individual lines across the page. The first two journals have now been published and Simon obtained agreement to publish on a four monthly basis would be the best approach as n this would not entail a long gap between publications and so the journals will come out in September, January and May. He said that with his contacts abroad he can get articles but he will need articles from the UK as well. He accepts that the Border Fancy is run mostly by pensioners who have good experience over the years and could contribute in the form of articles. The section in the journal for the Vet was well received but Simon would like contributions from fanciers for the Vet to reply to. The Vet who Simon is in contact with is a specialist in bird problems and keeps canaries himself. Malcolm Scott said that Simon had sent a copy of the last Journal to Rob Innes of Cage and Aviary Birds who had previewed the journal in the magazine. This article was read out by Malcolm and it gave great praise to the quality and content of Simon's latest journal.

## **10 WEBSITE**

Colin informed the meeting that the Border Convention web site visitors by the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 had reached the landmark 250,000 hits and by today we are at 268,000 which means we have 78,000 hits in the year.

Colin thanked all those who have helped us make the site so popular by sending in show reports, news articles, photos, obituaries, etcetera. Without their help the site would not attract the viewers it currently does.

New content on the web site for this year is the Breeding Season Update. Colin gave thanks to the members of the two Clubs whose members have agreed to take part namely Cleveland and Doncaster. He said it was not too late for other clubs to take part if they wanted to. There was however two items that don't seem to attract interest on the web site and they are the letters page where fanciers can air their views on the hobby and the question page where queries will be answered by experienced border men. Colin finished off by reminding the Clubs that it is their website and they can use this to put their clubs at the forefront of the border world.

## **11. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2016 ACCOUNTS.**

Malcolm Scott handed out copies of the 2016 Border Convention Balance sheet and then explained the background to some of the financial entries. Journal

The balance sheet was proposed by Jim Aitchison and seconded by Linden Evans as a true reflection of the Border Convention accounts, this was carried.

## **12. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018.**

It was proposed by Phil Dewland and seconded by Colin Egner 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 George Eltringham and it was proposed by Ron Sillitoe and seconded by Tim Ward that to help the Journal Editor with show reports the Honorariums for Colin Egner and Malcolm Scott go up to £500 each. This was agreed by the meeting.

|                       |      |   |                |
|-----------------------|------|---|----------------|
| Secretary/Website     | £500 | - | Colin Egner    |
| Journal Editor        | £750 | - | £250 per issue |
| Treasurer/Ring Scheme | £500 | - | Malcolm Scott  |

## **14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

The chairman went through the officers individually and all officers were voted on by the attending delegates. There was a show of hands for all offices. All officers were elected unanimously.

|                       | <b>2016</b>            | <b>2017 Nominations</b> | <b>2017 Elected</b>   |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| President:            | Mr. George Eltringham  | Mr. George Eltringham.  | Mr. George Eltringham |
| President Elect       |                        | Mr. Colin Egner         | Mr. Colin Egner       |
| Chairman:             | Mr. George Eltringham. | No nominations.         | Mr. George Eltringham |
| Vice-Chairman:        | Mr. Ray Morgan.        | No nominations.         | Mr. Ray Morgan        |
| Secretary:            | Mr. Colin Egner.       | No nominations          | Mr. Colin Egner       |
| Treasurer:            | Mr. Malcolm Scott.     | No nominations          | Mr. Malcolm Scott     |
| Journal Distributor:  | Mr. Ivan Austin        | Mr. Simon Tamnam        | Mr. Simon Tamnam      |
| Journal Editor:       | Mr. Don Harrison.      | Mr. Simon Tamnam        | Mr. Simon Tamnam      |
| Minutes Secretary:    | Mr. Malcolm Scott.     | Mr Ronnie Sillitoe.     | Mr Ronnie Sillitoe    |
| Publicity Officer:    | Harrison & Egner.      | Egner & Dewland         | Egner & Dewland       |
| Novice Rule Co.       | Mr. Colin Egner        | No nominations          | Mr. Colin Egner       |
| Auditor:              | Mr. Ivan Austin        | No nominations          | Mr. Ivan Austin       |
| C. Council Delegates: | Mr. Colin Egner        | No nominations          | Mr. Colin Egner       |
| Ring Scheme Sec.      | Mr. Malcolm Scott.     | No nominations          | Mr. Malcolm Scott     |
| Web Site Manager      | Mr. Colin Egner        | No nominations          | Mr. Colin Egner       |

**Convention Committee:** Messrs. George Eltringham (Chairman), Ray Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Colin Egner (Secretary), Malcolm Scott (Treasurer), Brian Martin, (Past President), Don Harrison (Past President), Malcolm Barnett (Past President), Jim Aichison (Past President) Bob Norman (Past President) , Ivan Austin, Phil Dewland, Jeff Pierce, Tim Ward, Ron Sillitoe, John Rance.

Simon Tamnam was asked to join the committee in his capacity as journal editor, he said that it would be dependant on the dates and he might not be able to attend all of the meetings.

Alan Smalley and Rob Thorley were proposed as members of the committee the meeting agreed.

## **15. MANDATES**

### **Mandate From The Border Fancy Canary Club**

The B.F.C.C. proposes a change to Management Rule1. Which reads:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of April each year with due notice of two months to be given.

Instead to read :- **The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of March each year with due notice of six weeks to be given.**

**Reason** - The April date impacts on the breeding season so that Clubs are unable to find delegates to attend the meeting. Six weeks instead of two months to allow the secretary ample time to circulate the Agenda after the January committee meeting.

The voting was 13 clubs in favour of the mandate and 1 club against and so the mandate was carried.

It was agreed that future AGMs would be held on the second Sunday march unless Stafford Show was on that day then the AGM would be moved to the first Sunday in March.

## **16. JUGES A & B PANEL.**

### **A Panel**

|                    |  |                   |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Michele Apuzzo     | Via Catullo, 1 Castellamare di Stabia (NA), Italy 80053      | Italy             |
| Bernadino Di Troia | Via Calata San Vito, 107 Salerno (SA) 84126                  | Italy             |
| Arthur Mederios.   | 4 Slab Bridge Road, Assonet, Massechusetts                   | Southern BFCC     |
| Luis Belchor       | 11 Anthony Street, Berkley, Massechusetts                    | Southern BFCC     |
| Adam Pearce        | 190 Banbury St, Saxonfields, Longton, Stoke on Trent St3 5BP | North Staffs.BFCC |

### **B Panel**

|              |  |                 |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Phillip Neil | 30 Derryhale Road, Portadown, Co. Armagh BT62 4HE  | Mid Ulster BFCC |
| Alan Telford | 37 Mullalelish Road, Richhill, Co. Armagh BT61 9JT | Mid Ulster BFCC |

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.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **AGM Date**

Colin reported that he had received an email from Ian Perrier recommending that the AGM if moved to March could be held at the Stafford Spring show. This was discussed but it was generally thought that as we had tried in the past to arrange meetings in conjunction with other events without any success the Stafford venue would no doubt suffer from the same problems. Fanciers go to Stafford to look around the trade stands, run a stand themselves or to sell their own stock. This means that a number of the attendees of the Border Convention AGM are busy doing other things and would not be available to attend the meeting. While the meeting commends Ian for coming up with an idea at this stage it was decided not to change.

### **Raffle for £100**

The names of the clubs in attendance were put into a hat and the President George Eltringham drew the Border Fancy CC as the winner of the £100 donation from the Border Convention.

### **Do we need a new Model**

The current Border Convention model was agreed 12 years ago and so the members were asked if the Border Fancy needed a new model. The result of a subsequent vote was no.

### **Rosettes –**

Colin Egner had brought the Convention Rosettes to the meeting for clubs to take and save postage.

A brief discussion took place on pictures of border canaries being adjusted on a computer with a Photo Shop package.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday August 2017  
The meeting closed at 1.30 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT (22):**

G Eltringham (President/Chairman), R Morgan (Vice Chairman), C Egner (Secretary/IBBA), M. Scott (Treasurer/Northern BFCC), S Tamam (Journal Editor); B. Martin (Birmingham ABC), R Norman (Merseyside BFCC), J Aitchison (BFCC), J Balme (Doncaster BFCC), K Howsam (Doncaster BFCC), I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), P. Dewland (Cornish BFCC), R Sillitoe (Cleveland B&FFCC), J Rance (Cleveland B&FFCC), L Evans (Welsh BFCC), J Furmage (Welsh BFCC), T Ward (BBFCC), A Smalley (Nottinghamshire BFCC), R Thorley (Nottinghamshire BFCC), B Wilkes (Observer), D Jones (Observer)

**Delegates representing 14 clubs were present:**

Border FCC, Birmingham ABC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, IBBA , Northern BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Cornish BFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Welsh BFCC, Fauldhouse (B&FFCC).

**Clubs Not in Attendance:**

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Wessex BFCC East of England B&FFCC, Green Cinnamon & White BFCC, Wexford BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Southern BFCC,. Sussex & Kent BFCC, West Wales BFCC, West of Scotland BCA,. And all other clubs from Ireland and abroad.