

Minutes Of The Border Convention Committee  
Meeting 6th January 2019

At the Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, Cannock Birmingham

Present , C.Egner ,R.Sillitoe ,J.Williams, R.Thorley, A.Smalley,  
B.Martin, J.Pearce P.Dewland R.Morgan R.Norman ,J  
Rance,P.England

1.Apologies From T Ward, S.Tamman.G Eltringham,M Scott,J  
Aitcheson ,A Pearce ,N Leader , M Barnett

## **2 . MEETING OPENS**

The meeting was opened by Chairman R Sillitoe and Secretary Colin Egner the chairman read out the minutes from the previous meeting then asked for matters arising from the last meeting there was no matters arising ,the minutes were accepted as a true record proposed by B Martin and seconded by P England

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

P Dewland asked about what is happening with the way forward/breeding survey

C Egner said articles where getting formulated and that the results and articles were in progress

## **4. Correspondence**

Steve Daniels and Alf Speight have decided not to join the committee

## **5, Journal**

A discussion took place on the journal and the committee decided that it would be a better way forward to have a draft copy sent to the chairman and secretary for sub editing as no one knows what the final copy looks like till we receive it through the post, R Sillitoe pointed out that there is to many articles in the journal not on border canaries and that THE WAY FORWARD should be more prominent ,R Morgan pointed out that the editor may not be receiving enough from the fancy, Colin Egner said that when

sending information and photos he is not receiving a reply to say they have been received. P Dewland pointed out that he had sent photos but that he doesn't know if they were received as he didn't get a reply either. A long discussion was held on the subject with points from most of the committee being put forward.

It was decided that that the secretary contact S Tamman and discuss what we have discussed at the meeting and tell him that we need more contact about what's going in the journal as fanciers around the country were not happy and saying they might not continue getting it if we don't improve the content.

A lot of clubs have problems regarding what format to use and that the editor should be clearer on what is required.

It was also pointed out that S. Tamman has only been to one meeting and that our views were not getting heard by him.

It was also decided that a cut off date for payment should be set and that if payment had not been received by then no journal should be sent.

## **6,Website**

The secretary said the he wanted to thank all the clubs for sending him information it has been a great response this year the best ever, also he thanked people for sending in photos which have more than doubled to 174 being sent, Colin pointed out that he had sent a photo of M Symonds for the front page of the upcoming journal and hoped the editor would put it on as Mark was the top exhibitor of the year with 5 all border wins .

Colin then said that the website had almost 100,000 hits and thats 2000 per week with 1000 different IP addresses

A discussion took place on the website and everyone thought that Colin was doing a great job.

Colin pointed out that there were lots of articles on the website that people were not aware of,P England said could we put them on the feed page and relevant to the breeding season and that also a seasonal programme could be done J Pearce said that would be of more benefit if that was done so when logging on the article for that week was ready to look at instead of looking for it.

## **7. RING SCHEME**

P. England asked if we could order rings through the website as this could be a way forward Colin Egner said that we already have the convention bank details on the site and that we could look into this but the committee were all in favour of moving forward on this issue .P. England asked if we could have an order form and a paypal arrangement on the website as the younger fanciers used this in everyday life and that it was an easy way to get what you want .It was decided to speak with the ring secretary and see what we can do to make things a bit better .

## **8.MANDATES**

### **WESSEX BFCC**

The Border Convention hold the annual general meeting on the same day as the March Stafford sales day, ideally at the show ground but failing that at the current venue the Roman way hotel.

Our reasoning is ,we cannot justify the expense of sending two delegates , we suggest that is also the case with other clubs ,however we believe that if we could “fill” a car ,then the delegates could go to the AGM whilst colleagues could enjoy the Stafford event and the cost to the club would be avoided .

In addition , most Border breeders will find it hard to commit two weekends in early march plus justifying costs along with the nearness of the breeding season, firstly to attend Stafford and secondly to participate in the Convention AGM

### **Email from S Tamman**

I am not happy with the WESSEX BFCC mandate as i will be running my stall at Stafford and wouldn't be able to attend

### **Email from G Eltringham**

As mandates are meant to be for the benefit of the Border fancy as a whole i feel that both of them fall short in this respect

The mandate from the Wessex would only be of benefit to them therefore I feel that they should be asked to withdraw their proposal.

### **Email from N Leader**

The AGM needs to be held in a professional environment and doesn't need any distraction by a bird sale next door

P Dewland talked about dropping the £100 raffle at the AGM to give it to clubs needing help getting to the AGM after a long discussion it was decided that lots of clubs have problems getting to the AGM and that it would be difficult to help them all, Colin Egner said that the Convention held a stand at Stafford as do the BBFFCC also one or two had tables booked which would make it difficult to attend the AGM

### **CLEVELAND B&FFCC Mandate**

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

The reason, to ensure that the novice entries receive the same time, care and consideration as the champion section

Email from G Eltringham

This shouldn't even be a mandate if they want to judge the Novice birds first that's up to them to do so, it would be wrong to compel other clubs to do so in the unlikely event that this mandate was passed, therefore may i suggest that the committee ask Cleveland to withdraw this mandate as i don't think its in the best interest of the fancy to allow this to progress.

Email from N Leader

I have witnessed on several occasions this past show season when working as a steward that the standard of judging has slipped as the show goes on and to the end seen some hideous decisions, having had a good show season this is by no means sour grapes but novice birds deserve the same time and consideration as per Cleveland's statement

A discussion was held by the committee on this mandate and R Norman said it was done at the BBFFCC show this year and he found it easier as a secretary to do, Colin Egner pointed out that the rules state all clubs can judge their specials how they see fit J Rance pointed out that this is not about specials it's about judging

classes ,J Pearce said that from his experience that this would benefit novices

## **9. JUDGE'S APPLICATIONS**

### **B PANEL NOMINATION FROM WESSEX**

Paul Wright, 28 Marina Grove ,Porchester,Fareham, Hampshire  
PO16 9HF

After a discussion on his credentials it was decided that Paul's name be forwarded ratification to go on the B panel at the A.G.M.,

## **10. COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

No committee nominations

## **11.Judge's list addresses**

Alan Scott sent an email suggesting due to recent break in's that judges addresses be removed from the website

M Donovan sent an email asking if we could update the judges list as it was out of date

Colin Egner told the meeting that he had sent area specific emails to clubs asking them to inform him of anyone not judging any more in their area but this had had a poor response with only two clubs replying ,the chairman asked if we put a form in the schedules sent out to champions to fill in with if they are showing or still judging which could then be given to club secretary's and this would tell us which judges are active and those not filling in the form could be removed from the list ,also any judges that want their addresses removed could do so if they give an email address or phone number to allow clubs to contact them. C Egner asked everyone to look at the judges list and inform him a.s.a.p. to allow him to remove them if they no longer judge. R Morgan said all judges should have to apply yearly to stay on the judging panel,P England said we could look at who's judging and the look at who's not and promote judges who don't get appointments ,a long discussion took place on how to solve this issue R Thorley said we should appoint a judges coordinator. J Williams said we should write to

every judge to see if they want to stay on the list C Egner said this would cost a lot, as there are a lot of people on the list J Rance said that the way forward would be to send forms out with all schedules and that if Colin could draft a form up to send to all club secretary's to print out and include in their show schedules. Colin Egner said he would be print out a list of judges in your area for clubs to try and eliminate anyone who needs taking off the list

## **12. Heavily variegated/three parts dark**

P Dewland and R Morgan pointed out that a large number of heavily variegated and three part dark and self/foul birds have been wrong classed this year. To eliminate the problem could the heavily variegated and three parts dark classes be put together to stop this happening as novices were confused and this would help them, B Martin pointed out this could make this class very large, a long discussion took place with most of the committee bringing up good points. J Rance said to make wrong classing correct all judges should be consulted and only if it's unanimous should the bird be wrong classed. A Smalley agreed with this and thought this was the best way to deal with borderline birds. The chairman said that we could use the website to highlight the problem, it was decided to put this on the agenda for the AGM. Stating if clubs were not in favour of putting the classes together then a unanimous decision by all judges officiating must be reached to wrong class birds.

## **13.Border Convention Signs**

J Pearce said that we had a pop up Border Convention sign that was only used once a year at Stafford and that it should be used more often also that it had pockets in that people could take forms from ,after a long discussion it was decided to put several forms in the pockets on various things and that we should use it like an Olympic torch to go from club to club ,several committee members volunteered to take it around the shows and if it proved useful to look into getting another for the other half of the country .

## **14.AOB**

R Morgan brought up the idea of a single classification and that if any Clubs were interested they could get together and formulate a

classification on a voluntary basis that would suit clubs. It was decided to ask any if Clubs are interested at the AGM., and if they wanted to us to look into this. A long discussion was held and some good points made .

Malcolm Scott sent a letter stating

It has been reported that there are Border clubs who are disenchanted with the Border Convention.

The first suggestion to these clubs is to come along to both the AGM and the committee meetings to put their point of view ,suggestions and recommendations.

Another comment passed is what does the Border Convention do for clubs (or more crudely, the Border Convention does nothing for us)

Well how about,

The rule book;

The free judge's handbook with a full list of all Border judges;

A laminated model picture containing the current model from three angles and standard of excellence;

A standard show classification

Specialist clubs with contacts;

Show cage makers;

Show cage plans;

A full and easily understandable club constitution;

Show rules;

Overall an umbrella organisation producing and distributing minutes of all meetings;

A body to send any complaints to;

The policing of the Border fancy;

An excellent quarterly magazine delivered to their homes containing show reports, articles, and up to date details about specialist clubs and shows ,advertises for bird sales, foodstuffs and appliances;

A ring scheme which supplies breeders with discounted rings of the highest quality;

An excellent website which contains the Constitution rules, committee details ,judges ,clubs, minutes, surveys, Defra details, Journal information, obituaries, Novice help, Articles from the journal(which can be downloaded) Ideal standard, model, Show

definitions, Breeding season FAQs, Breeding conditioning, Managing the moult, Show cage training, Breeding improvements, 2013 to 2018 show results, show adverts, Club adverts, Club news for all specialist Border clubs, Show photos, Continental Borders, Articles which can be downloaded, Links to club sites, facebook and personal sites, Online club profiles, Breeder sales adverts, Trade adverts, Ring prices, Oathusks, Perches, Sawdust and catering facilities, Plus more

Apart from that not a lot  
So what can you do for the Border Convention?

### **NOTTINGHAM BORDER FCC LETTER**

R Thorley explained to the committee that he had spotted in BIRD TRADER magazine a request from Fred Kennedy for people to help him as an avian vet had diagnosed that his birds had a rare form of bird flu and that 19 out of his 20 birds had died, A photo of Fred was in the advert and a telephone number which wasn't Fred's was with his photo, a number of people contacted Fred on the number of his personal phone and he knew nothing of it and that all his birds were fine, it was decided to put this information on the website to stop other fanciers getting scammed by sending birds by courier to the scammer, following this another advert was put up by BIRD TRADER supposedly from R Thorley showing a photo of him and saying top border canaries wanted by novice England team member and Border Convention member, due to a terrible breeding season where most of my birds and chicks suffered a virus and died and when a committee friend of mine attempted to breed a few of my remaining birds he had the same outcome, so i desperately need some quality hens and some outcross cocks, my birds are all from a top breeder so price and travel are not a problem i realise that's late in the year, i am abroad until the 27<sup>th</sup> September so if you can help me my phone number is

xxxxxxxxxxxx or you can contact harry on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

A letter from Fred Kennedy was read out stating this was not him and not to respond to it.

R Thorley stated that he had contacted Birdtrader but had had no response as yet.

C Egner said he had phoned birdtrader and they were looking into it.

After a long discussion on the matter with points coming from most of the committee on how to move forward It was decided that we should put on the website a warning not to respond to both of these adverts.

### **15.Date of AGM**

10 March 2019 at 10-30am

At the ROMAN WAY HOTEL,WATLING STREET,CANNOCK

WS111SH tel 01543 572121