

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION
2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday, 13th March 2022.

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

1. MEETING OPENS

The Meeting was opened at 10:30 by the Chairman Ronnie Sillitoe and the Secretary Colin Egner. The chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting and thanked them for coming in such circumstances.

The chairman asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of past members and in support of the terrible situation in Ukraine.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from: - S Tamman, L Evans, A Pearce, T Ward, F Anderson, L Rowlands, P Dewland, J Aitchison and G Eltringham.

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.

A Smalley was proposed and accepted by all members and appointed as Teller. There were 11 affiliated clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 A.G.M. (26th September 2021)

The chairman outlined the main points from the minutes of the 26th September 2021. The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by A Brown, seconded by R Thorley.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

There was no correspondence.

7. PRESIDENT'S/ REPORT.

The Chairman gave a verbal update from the President, Bobby Parker which advised that he had been honoured to have been given the honour and disappointed that due to Covid there had no really been an opportunity to be more involved. However, he thanked the members for their confidence and wished both the hobby and the New President all the Best.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for coming today, I would also like to thank everyone who was involved in putting a show on and those that helped in any capacity to make things a great experience for all the travelling fanciers that we simply could not do without.

Having been to several shows in 2021 it is blatantly obvious most of those involved are helping other shows to keep going up and down the country.

It is my opinion that we drastically need to get everyone who wants to keep our hobby alive around a table to discuss the future of the Border Canary.

With the increase in fuel and cost of living most venues and hotels will be increasing prices to to keep afloat which will be passed on to fanciers making it difficult for some to attend the number of shows they normally go to, so it's not hard to see it's another obstacle to get round.

Therefore, I propose we send all clubs an email asking them for their opinion on the future, this will hopefully give us an indication of the interest in restructuring the hobby to a sustainable way for more years to come.

We have tried meetings, breeding surveys and I have personally done a diary of a weekly breeding season of which I was ridiculed also a few of us have kept the journal going with numerous articles and insights only to hear the Border Convention does nothing, well the tipping point for the hobby is nearing and now is the time to get a plan in place for the future to save our hobby from extinction as we know it.

9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

It may be only 5.5 months since the last A.G.M but more has transpired than in the previous 18 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Clubs who against the odds managed to hold shows Doncaster, Wessex, Irish, Cleveland, East of England, Mid Ulster, Southern with S & K, Green Cinnamon and White, Border Canary Association, Fauldhouse, Merseyside, British Border, Northern, West Wales? Welsh, and East Antrim.

On the Continent the 4 Italian Club Shows, German and Belgian.

Many of these Shows had to overcome major obstacles to put on their shows. Cleveland whose venue was cancelled after the Schedule was published and only secured a venue 5 days before the Show. Other Clubs were unable to offer catering to their usual standard.

However, the Club members rallied round and my thanks go to them for keeping the hobby alive.

On the exhibitor front in the Champions, it was nip and tuck throughout the show season who have the Best in Show wins with it resulting in a draw between Stuart Percy and George McGougan each having three wins.

In the Novice section we had a 4-way tie between Geordie Foster, Roy Gould Nigel Leader and Alan and Sophie Robertson.

A special congratulation to Nigel, Alan and Sophie in obtaining their ten Best Novice wins and the will exhibiting as champions in 2022.

In Italy Pompeo Mattia won 3 of the 4 Shows congratulations well done.

Exhibiting is not all about winning and I would like to thank everybody who exhibited, judged, stewarded, erected and dismantled staging and catered at the shows, without whom we would not have a hobby.

Usually in my secretary's address I like to look at the future of the hobby, at the present moment in time with covid 19 once again on the increase, bird flu still rampant across the U.K. outbreaks in Aberdeen and Suffolk on Friday, rampant increases in fuel costs and inflation and the possibility of a third world war. Things are pretty dire!

However, we will still have to plan for the future the obvious fact is the number of fanciers keeping Borders is decreasing, and soon it will be impossible for all the clubs to get a viable number of show entries to survive even if they have enough members to host a show.

The cost of travelling long distances will become a limiting factor.

I feel that the Border Convention must be looking more seriously at ways of maximising our presence in the future. Hopefully Later in the meeting we can formulate a strategy to start a fight back

The one good piece of news is that Borders will be again at the National courtesy of North Staffs moving their Show to that Venue.

10. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

First of all, please accept my apology for not being able to attend due my granddaughter resulting positive with Covid.

I know I will sound like a broken record but it is quite disappointing that very few of the Border breeders bother to put pen to paper, but more disappointing is the fact that only a couple of clubs do send something for publication, surely is advantageous for the affiliated clubs to get some free publicity by writing a short article.

I know I sound boring by repeating myself again and again but it makes it very difficult to do this job without the input of breeders and clubs.

When I was the editor of the IOA journal, I always had 10 or 12 spare articles to use for future issues.

As I mentioned on my editorial in the journal, it is easy to do the impossible but miracles do take a lot longer.

I know that we are down on subscribers for 2022, but if last year's trend follows, I am confident that most of those that have not joined in yet, will do in due course.

At the time of writing, we have about 175 subscribers.

Even with a smaller number of subscribers, we are still not losing money in producing the journal, actually we are making a small profit.

If we base the cost on 170 copies, taking into account printing, postage, franking machine costs, envelopes, labels and editor's honorarium, the total cost for each journal comes to £4.00, and if we produce 200 copies the total cost per copy is £3.81, so by charging £5 per copy, we are not doing too badly.

The cost for sending to Europe including the free issue we are sending to the vets for their contribution, is £7.65 and we are charging £8.33.

For sending to Canada the cost is £9.20 and we are charging £10

For the USA the cost is £9.35 and we are charging £10.

We only need two or three more pages of advertising to be much more comfortable.

With this in mind, looking at the advertising rates, we have three different prices, this makes it not so appealing, I would like to propose that we have only one rate for everyone as after all I have not seen a specialist club advert for the last five or even 10 years.

I would like to propose that the advertising prices per issue, to be as follows:

Full page £35.00

Half page £20.00

Eight page, breeders only £5.00

These prices will encourage more business and breeder to advertise and we will gain more revenue for the journal.

We can also give the advertiser an advantage by publishing their adverts on the website, and definitely only publish on the website those that advertise on the journal.

I hear some of them saying that there is no point advertising on the journal if they get the advert for free on the website.

11/12. PUBLICITY OFFICER AND WEBSITE REPORT

The site had been successfully removed to a new hosting site, and once again the Border Convention has a secure site. One or two pages were lost in the transfer, but nothing of vital importance. Once I have mastered the new format and the new editing technique, I plan to radically refresh the site and incorporate new features over the coming months. If any of the member Clubs have any useful suggestions on new features that could be incorporated to improve the site, and benefit the Fancy, please contact me.

It is important that Clubs recognise the website is there for them, and as such it is there to pass on up-to-date news of their Club.

Many Clubs complain to the committee after a show they didn't have enough help. After a show is too late. The time to ask for help is before the show so we can highlight the problems, put out requests for help and if necessary, contact people to help.

13. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2020 ACCOUNTS

Bob reported that he'd only had about 10 weeks from the AGM in September 2021 to 31 December 2021 to examine and finalise the accounts.

However, he was pleased to report the balance of £16,110.49 and £3,521.25 in stock which totaled £19,631.74, a healthy balance.

Bob's report was accepted on the proposition of J Pearce and seconded by C Egner. This was passed unanimously.

14. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022/23.

A good discussion ensued about affiliation fees and the Treasurer reported that sadly there seemed to be a lack of clubs paying their affiliation. It was agreed that the Treasurer would write to those clubs that were in arrears.

Therefore, on the proposition of K Wadkin and seconded by A Brown the affiliation fee for the coming year was unanimously agreed as £25.00.

As part of the wish of the Convention to help clubs, further discussion was had and resulted in a proposition, by K Wadkin and seconded by A Brown that clubs which had paid their affiliation for 2021,2022,2023, a one-off sum of £50.00. will be paid. This was unanimously voted for.

15. HONORARIUMS.

The current Honorariums were read out by Ron Sillitoe was as follows.

Secretary/Website	£500	-	Colin Egner
Journal Editor	£250	per issue	S Tammam
Treasurer	£300	-	R Hodges
Ring Scheme	£200	-	R Hodges

Those for Secretary, Treasurer and Ring Scheme were agreed.

As the issue of Journal Viability was scheduled for item 19 of the agenda it was agreed to hold the Honorarium until discussion had been held.

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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

	2021	nominations	2022
President:	Mr Bobby Parker	J Beddows	Mr J Beddows
President elect		Mr J Beddows	
Chairman:	Mr Ronnie Sillitoe	No other nominations.	Mr Ronnie Sillitoe
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Tim Ward	No other nominations.	Mr. Tim Ward
Secretary:	Mr. Colin Egner.	No other nominations	Mr. Colin Egner
Treasurer:	Mr Richard Thorley	Mr B Hodges	Mr B Hodges
Journal Distributor:	Mr. Simon Tammam	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tammam
Journal Editor:	Mr. Simon Tammam.	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tammam
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Ronnie Sillitoe	Mr I Perrier	Mr I Perrier
Publicity Officer:	Mr Egner & Mr Dewland.	No nominations	Mr Egner & Mr Dewland
Novice Rule Co.	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner
Auditor:	TBC	Mr I Perrier	Mr I Perrier
Ring Scheme Sec.	Mr. Tim Ward	Mr. B Hodges	Mr B Hodges
Web Site Manager	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner

The new President, John Beddows said he was pleased that the hobby had granted him the honour and hoped to contribute over his tenure.

Convention Committee for 2022/23 is as follows;

R Sillitoe, T Ward, B Hodges, S Tammam, C Egner, B Martin, R Thorley, K Wadkin, J Rance, A Smalley, B Wilkes, A Pearce, I Perrier, J Pearce, A Brown and M Thomas. (16)

Past Presidents M. Barnett, D. Harrison, J. Aitchison, R Parker, M. Scott and G Eltringham

17. MANDATES

There were no Mandates

18. JUDGES A & B PANEL.

Mr P.S. Selby, 10 Livingstone Road Wimborne Dorset BH21 2AX	Wessex
Mr. P. Wright, 28 Marina Grove, Porchester, Fareham Hants. PO16 9HF	Wessex
Mr. M King, 31 East Street, Wareham Dorset. BH20 4NW	Wessex
Mr. A. Van den Eynde Jaarmarkstraat12 Boischot 2221 Belgie 2221	Belgian
Mr M. Thomas Sunnymeade Enmore Bridgewater Somerset TA5 2AS	British Border

All the above having been vetted by their nominating clubs and agreed by the Convention were unanimously accepted. The Secretary would inform them accordingly.

19. JOURNAL VIABILITY

There was much discussion around the issue of the Journal which included, disappointment in the content, concern about the financial viability, concern at the level of honorarium now that the production had basically halved and several persons present stated that they would not be taking the Journal going forward.

On the proposition of B Hodges seconded by J Rance the committee were empowered to review and address the issues surrounding the Journal currently.

This was unanimously agreed.

However, and again to ensure that this issue was addressed and rectified the committee were empowered on the proposition of J Cunningham and seconded by K Wadkin to, if necessary, look at finding a new editor.

Again, this was unanimously agreed.

20. FUTURE OF BORDER CLUBS/THE HOBBY

The Chairman again raised his concerns about the future of Border Clubs and sadly the hobby. Many clubs are struggling not only financially but more importantly with workers, mostly in admin roles to actually run the clubs.

Many clubs relied on one or two persons and some even on just one person!!

Discussion was had but no one present had the answer. It was agreed that the committee would contact clubs and report back on specific issues that individual clubs faced in order to be in a position to consider solutions.

Sadly, this would not be a quick fix, but would be an agenda item for the July Committee meeting.

21. OAT HUSKS, AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION

The issue of availability of oat husks was raised, previously it had been reasonably easy to source these but some fanciers were having difficulty.

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Morn Flake and that members around the table would look at possible sources of supply. Again, a report back would be had at the July meeting.

22. JUDGES LIST UPDATE

Colin reported that he had grouped the current judges into geographic areas which he would share with club secretaries, hopefully they would be in a position to advise to those that were no longer meeting the criteria.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked whether the meeting would agree to setting up an "Exec" which would be empowered to address and agree issues that arose between meetings that needed addressing.

This was unanimously agreed and the members would comprise of, R Sillitoe, Chairman, C Egner, Secretary, B Hodges, Treasurer, T Ward, Vice Chair and I Perrier, Minutes Sec.

Aims and Objectives, Constitution and Rules

At the January 2022 Committee meeting it muted that the above could possibly be outdated and should be reviewed.

The members at the AGM agreed that preliminary work could be undertaken and that would be brought back to the committee in July 2022 for initial thoughts. It was agreed that this exercise would be carried out by Bob Hodges and Ian Perrier.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is 24th July 2022 at Roman Way commencing at 10:30.

The date of the next AGM will be 12 March 2023 at Roman Way commencing at 10:30.

MEMBERS PRESENT (): B Hodges, R Sillitoe, J Rance, J Beddows, A Brown, K Wadkin, J Pearce, M Lowe, R Thorley, B Martin, A Smalley, M Thomas, I Perrier,

Delegates representing Affiliated Clubs were present: Wessex, Southern, Cleveland, Border Counties, Merseyside, BBFCC, North Staffs, Birmingham, Doncaster, GC&W and Nottingham. (11)

Clubs Not in Attendance: BCA, BFCC, Cornish, Cumbria, East Antrim, East of England, Mid Ulster, North of Scotland, Northern BFCC, Sussex and Kent, Welsh BFCC, West of Scotland, West Wales BFCC and all European and overseas clubs.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 13:50 and wished all attending a good breeding season and looked forward to a much better show season later in the year.