

## **The Border Convention 2024 AGM**

Held Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Acacia Center Nottingham

The meeting opened at 10.30 am with the Chairman asking the meeting to stand for a minutes silence in memory of those who had passed away in the Previous year.

**Acceptance of minutes of 2023 AGM** The Secretary read out the minutes from the previous AGM these were accepted as a true & correct Record

Proposed I Al Brown Seconded Adam Pierce Carried

**Matters Arising** The secretary told the meeting he had a reply from Apha saying they had one case of Bird Flu at an Animal rescue center which had Birds inside and outside and they slaughtered all of them

**Correspondence** None

**Chairmans Report** This years Shows have been a pleasure to go to thanks to the hard working committees, I know only too well what goes in to organising a show I would personally like to thank all those involved who made the events happen. The new Border Convention Glass trophies were well received at the shows I attended.

The Journal was suspended due to low subscriptions and it was difficult to get a true cost of the Magazine from printing, postage, ect. We eventually found the Journal was being produced at a loss so we took the step to suspend it.

Hopefully at this meeting a way forward can be found with people willing to help, if no one comes forward it will prove difficult.

The treasurers job has been done by Colin on a temporary basis but no one has come forward to help, this, cannot continue and some one will have to help with this role as Colin has enough to do, if no one comes forward maybe its time to reformat the Convention to individual membership so more people have a say how we look to the future. The committee have come to the meetings and helped out with decisions but we need more input from them.

The Show at the North Staffs National supported by the Convention went well but more exhibitors would make this a flagship show for the Border Canary.

A deal to get a good discount on some Haiths seed and softfood has been arranged and for a yearly £6 fee you will get £10 + off a bag of deluxe seed also a good discount on other products in the scheme each time you order.

**Secretaries Report.** The Secretary opened his report with the ongoing situation regarding the Bird Flu and APHA's response to his questions. There response being any Birds i.e. Canaries parrots etc. who are housed inside with no access to the outside are exempt from the current Bird registration scheme. All Border shows went ahead with some good entries Doncaster and British Border standing out. Some clubs struggled with entries. The most successful exhibitor in 2023 was Mark Symmonds with three best in Shows including British Border followed by Stuart Percy with two wins. Unfortunately, at the July meeting the Committee decided to discontinue the Journal due to its loss making. The Secretary then informed the meeting that if nobody came forward to do the treasurers job he would be resigning.

**Treasurers Report.** The Treasurer reported that it cost over £1k to send out the Journal He told the meeting it was costing £2.5K to £3k to produce the Journal because Simon didn't send them out till October instead of September. He told the meeting we had £12574 in the bank but we need some way of making money to still help the clubs out as the only income is from the rings and affiliation fees.

**Journal Editors Report** Simon said some people had said to him why not raise the cost to £20 and this would cover the cost. Richard Thorley suggested make it one journal a year and we would still make money, also the Secretary said people would not pay the extra as they had problems when it was raised from £12 to £15.

**Web site report** The Secretary thanked all the people who had sent in photographs and show reports for the web site. He then said he had put an extra page on the web site for people to send in show reports and breeders adverts for a small cost of £10 per year.

**Election of officials.** President for 2024 and the next two years Tim Ward.

Chairman Ron Sillitoe. Vice Chairman Tim Ward. Secretary Colin Egner, a discussion was held on the ins and outs of the Treasurers job Alan Smalley offered to do it jointly with Colin for a year so he could learn the job then he would take on the job himself. Colin agreed to this and the matter was settled.

Minutes Secretary Al. Brown. Publicity Officer Colin Egner. Auditor The Chairman suggested that the new Treasurer do it along with Colin for the next year. Ring scheme Richard Thorley. Web site Manager Colin Egner, Convention Committee. The Committee was re elected with the addition of Stuart Mason and Alan Smalley.

**Mandates.** Mandate from Doncaster that the Convention adopt a Generic Classification for all clubs. The mandate was passed for all clubs to use for the 2024 season. This was now a rule in the Convention

**Judges' application for A Panel** From the Wessex Gary Belsea

This was passed with no objections.

**Honorariums.** All honorariums to remain the same for 2024 except Journal Editor as there is no Journal at the moment

**Affiliation Fees** It was proposed by Stuart Mason and seconded by Al Brown that the 2025 fees be raised to £30 this was carried

**Loss of Clubs** a discussion was held about the loss of Clubs within the fancy namely in Scotland. The International show The Chairman noted he doesn't think they will be able to host the International Show The Chairman suggested The Convention write to the Clubs offering their help.

A discussion was held about clubs not paying their fees it was agreed that any club not paying their fees would not have their shows advertised on the web page, The Secretary read out the clubs that had not paid their Fees.

**Postage** It was agreed to have a long discussion about postage at the July Meeting

**Any other Business.** The Chairman told the meeting he had received a show cage for approval from a fancier in Italy the meeting agreed to give him approval as long as he made certain changes to the cage he had sent then he had to send a photo to the Convention of the cage with the changes made.

Stuart Mason suggested instead of a journal we have a Border Convention Handbook to come out once a year to coincide with requirement of rings and requirement of a Generic Classification, copy of an entry form which then can show all club show reports and list of Judges. The Chairman replied with all those things in it, Its almost becoming a Magazine. Stuart Mason then suggested a working group consisting of the Committee to come up with ideas

For the July meeting. This was agreed by everyone. It was then suggested by Richard Thorley that a Whats app group be set up to accommodate people who cannot attend the meetings. This was to be looked in to. The meeting closed and the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a safe journey Home.

# The Border Convention 2024 AGM

**Date:** Sunday, April 7, 2024

**Venue:** The Acacia Center, Nottingham

## Minutes of the Meeting

### 1. Opening

The meeting commenced at 10:30 am. The Chairman requested a minute's silence in memory of those who had passed away in the previous year.

### 2. Acceptance of Minutes from 2023 AGM

The Secretary read out the minutes from the previous AGM. These were accepted as a true and correct record.

**Proposed by:** Al Brown

**Seconded by:** Adam Pierce

**Carried**

### 3. Matters Arising

The Secretary informed the meeting of a response from APHA regarding a case of Bird Flu at an animal rescue centre. The infected birds, both inside and outside, were culled.

### 4. Correspondence

None.

### 5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman expressed his pleasure with the year's shows and thanked the hardworking committees. The new Border Convention Glass trophies were well received. He addressed the suspension of the Journal due to low subscriptions and the high cost of production, hoping for solutions at this meeting. The Treasurer's role remains unfilled, and the Chairman stressed the need for volunteers to avoid restructuring the Convention to individual membership. More input from committee members was also requested. The North Staffs National show, supported by the Convention, was successful but needed more exhibitors to become a flagship event. A discount deal with Haiths for seed and soft food was announced.

### 6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary discussed ongoing Bird Flu issues and APHA's responses, noting that birds housed indoors are exempt from registration. He reported good entries at Doncaster and British Border shows, although some clubs struggled. The most successful exhibitor in 2023 was Mark Symonds, followed by Stuart Percy. The Journal's discontinuation was confirmed, and the Secretary stated he would resign if no one assumed the Treasurer's role.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the high costs of producing and mailing the Journal, with total expenses reaching £2.5K to £3K. The current bank balance is £12,574. Income sources are limited to ring and affiliation fees.

## 8. Journal Editor's Report

Simon suggested raising the Journal cost to £20 or reducing it to one edition per year to cover costs. However, previous attempts to raise the price had failed.

## 9. Website Report

The Secretary thanked contributors and added a new page for show reports and breeder adverts at £10 per year.

## 10. Election of Officials

- **President:** Tim Ward (2024-2026)
- **Chairman:** Ron Sillitoe
- **Vice Chairman:** Tim Ward
- **Secretary:** Colin Egner
- **Treasurer:** Alan Smalley (jointly with Colin Egner for a year)
- **Minutes Secretary:** Al Brown
- **Publicity Officer:** Colin Egner
- **Auditor:** The new Treasurer along with Colin Egner
- **Ring Scheme:** Richard Thorley
- **Website Manager:** Colin Egner
- **Convention Committee:** Re-elected en bloc with Stuart Mason and Alan Wilson voted onto the committee

## 11. Mandates

A mandate from Doncaster for the Convention to adopt a Generic Classification for all clubs was passed, becoming a rule for the 2024 season.

## 12. Judges Application

Gary Belsea from the Wessex was approved for the A Panel with no objections.

## 13. Honorariums

All honorariums remain the same for 2024, except for the Journal Editor, as the Journal is currently discontinued.

## 14. Affiliation Fees

It was proposed by Stuart Mason and seconded by Al Brown that the 2025 fees be raised to £30. This was carried.

## **15. Loss of Clubs**

A discussion was held on the loss of clubs, particularly in Scotland. The Chairman suggested offering help to these clubs.

## **16. Clubs' Fees**

It was agreed that clubs not paying their fees would not have their shows advertised on the website. The Secretary read out the names of the clubs that had not paid.

## **17. Postage**

A detailed discussion on postage costs was scheduled for the July meeting.

## **18. Any Other Business**

- A show cage from an Italian fancier was approved with requested changes.
- Stuart Mason proposed a Border Convention Handbook instead of the Journal, to include various important documents and reports. A working group from the Committee was formed to develop ideas for the July meeting.
- Richard Thorley suggested setting up a WhatsApp group for those unable to attend meetings, which would be looked into.

## **19. Closing**

The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking everyone for their attendance and wishing them a safe journey home.