

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION
2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Sunday, 12 March 2023
The Acacia Center, Acacia road, Nottingham, NG17 9BH

1. MEETING OPENS

The Meeting was opened at 10.30 a.m. 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.

The chairman asked for a minute's silence in remembrance of past members.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from: - J Aitchison, I Perrier, , T Ward, A Scott, B Hodges. J Cunningham, F Anderson, M Thomas, L Rowlands.

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.

Mr C Egner proposed A Smalley, seconded by J Rance and accepted by all members and appointed as Teller. There were 7 clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 A.G.M. (15th March 2020)

The chairman outlined the main points from the minutes of the 13th Match 2022. The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed J Pearce, seconded R Thorley.

5.MATTERS ARISING

The secretary pointed out he had wrote to clubs regarding help/numbers/state of the club etc but the response was poor with not much information to go on or none at all.

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

Resignations were received from Bob Hodges and Ian Perrier.

7. PRESIDENT'S/ REPORT.

Johnny Beddows said he was honoured to be president and wished everyone well for the forthcoming breeding and show season.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The last year from the AGM started on a positive footing with everything in what looked like a good position but ended up for the convention on a disappointing situation with Bob Hodges resigning followed by the minute secretary Ian Perrier resigning within hours of Bob going , I would like to thank them both and wish them well.

Going around the shows I was pleased to see North Staffs At the National supported by some of the Border Convention committee resulting in a success bringing Borders back to the National following that I was really pleased to see Doncaster have a good turn out and their organisation was excellent as well as some great Borders on show. I also enjoyed the British Border socialising and catching up with friends from across the UK at the show.

Numbers at some shows were down but all shows I went to had a good atmosphere and I hope 2023 brings a few more birds to keep everything going.

We are ongoing with DEFRA / APHA on bird flu and hope to get something from them soon.

The Convention have successfully managed to get oat husks from Morn Flakes and Mick Jurik has a big supply so contact mick for orders.

We are in contact with Haiths to see if any discount can be obtained for Border canary clubs/members and we await them coming back to us.

A sample of replicas have been got for Best Champion and Best Novice for all affiliated clubs but costs need to be discussed.

Let's hope 2023 is a good year

Remember USE IT OR LOSE IT

Ronnie

9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The show Season got off to a good start with Borders being featured once again at the National Exhibition courtesy of Norths Staffs. Club, assisted by the Border Convention committee. Whilst the overall numbers were below expectations the quality of the exhibits showcased the Border Fancy and the team of helpers had an enjoyable day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Clubs who against the odds managed to hold shows National (North Staffs), Doncaster, Wessex, Irish, Cleveland, Birmingham, Nottinghamshire, West of Scotland, , Green Cinnamon and White, Merseyside, British Border, Mid Ulster, Northern, Border Counties, Border Fancy, Northern Ireland, Cumbria and East Antrim.

On the Continent the 3 Italian Club Shows, Belgium and German. Shows

Many of these Shows had to overcome major obstacles to put on their shows.

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

On the exhibitor front in the Champions, we had fifteen exhibitors who were successful in taking Best Champion.

The most successful of these being Stuart Percy who had five wins which included The International Competition at British Border.

Valentino Cherubini had a very successful show season taking Best in Show at all three Italian Border Shows making the pink jacket his for the full 2023 Season.

Champion Exhibitors with 2 wins, were Cyril Guildea, Sillitoe and Rance, and Norman Courtney. Well done chaps.

In the Novice section we had 14 Best Novice Winners leading the way was Geordie Forster with an excellent 4 wins, followed by Paul Selby, John South and Neil Tench each with two wins, Neil taking the Best Novice at the International

A special congratulation to Geordie Forster in obtaining his ten Best Novice wins, and he will now be exhibiting as a champion in 2023.

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

I would like to thank the Committee for their endeavor and support throughout the year. However, we at the moment are in need of a Treasurer and Minutes Secretary.

What does 2023 hold for the Fancy?

Well once again I'm afraid the future is looking a little bleak. D. E.F.R.A is hell bent, once again to make life more complicated, and is trying to make all owners of cage birds register with them this will be discussed later in the meeting.

I will however at this time inform you I have made a Freedom of information request to A.P.H.A on behalf of the Border Convention.

How many outbreaks of Avian Influenza H5N1 have originated solely in housed Cage Birds?

Clubs still are struggling for committee members and East of England B.&F CC has disbanded. However, good news from Wales is that the joint Clubs will be having a 2-day Show incorporating the International.

10. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

Articles for the journal, as you could see from the January issue of the journal, I had a much better response about articles and I would like to thank Colin for sending me the show reports.

Also, Ian Perrier for an article about the Wessex Club, and Phil Neill for sending an article about his Judging venture in the USA.

So far, for the May issue, I got Northern Ireland, East Antrim and the Italian show reports

I look forward to receiving the rest of the reports, as I am still missing the following:

Irish Border, Birmingham Border, East of England, North of Scotland, Border Canary Association, Welsh Border, West Wales Border, Mid Ulster, Northern BFCC, Sussex and Kent, Border Counties, Cumbria, obviously not those that had to be cancelled, and they would complete the May issue.

You will also notice that the questions for the vet is missing the January issue as the questions arrive too late for Dr. Picci to get them answered on time for publication, Now I have them so they will be in the May issue.

I would very much appreciate it if many of you will send an article or two so we can have a full-size issue in May.

Surely it is on the interest of the clubs to have something published on the journal? I really hope to see more activity from you all.

I notice the new venue for the meeting, and hope that a more central one is found as this one is over 230 mile distant from where I live and would take me about 5 hours drive to get there.

Ian Perrier mentioned to me that if he is to attend the meeting, he would have to get up at 2am to enable him to get the 4am ferry, the same problem with Southern Border and Sussex and Kent, so for this reason no delegates are present from these southern clubs. (Wessex, Southern, Sussex and Kent)

Regarding the franking machine, it is very useful to have as it will avoid queuing at the post office purchasing stamps, and also even for a small number of subscribers it is more cost efficient as it saves 30% on the cost of stamps.

Pitney Bowes, have now a new system in place where we can subscribe at only £4.50 plus VAT a month and still get the same discount on postage by doing away with the franking machine and do it via an app on the computer, this will also save on the cost of ink cartridges, the only thing needed will be the special labels. I think this could be a good alternative to the franking machine at a lower cost to the BC.

I have no objection about Vitor Neves wanting to join the Judges Panel, but doing it through the British Border? While he is running the Portuguese Border Club, cannot understand why is not affiliating his club to the B.C.

Adverts on the website that should be removed as they are not willing to advertise in the Journal, It was agreed previously that only paid up adverts in the journal to be published free on the website.

Ian Perrier advert for self-catering accommodation

Mik Jurik 2 ads

King egg food

Peter Jewell
Superior Birdroom Products.

I wish everyone a good breeding season.

Simon

The secretary responded that adverts on the convention website were for things absolutely necessary to the hobby but agreed to remove any that were not .

11/12. PUBLICITY OFFICER AND WEBSITE REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Club officials and fanciers who over the last 12 months have sent in club news items, show reports, photographs and articles without your help the website would fail to get the massive viewing figures it does.

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.

Our chairman, once again has put his head above the parapet by writing a weekly update on the breeding season, and it is second only to the home page this week for viewing figures. If anyone else and brave enough, please contact me.

13.TREASURERS REPORT AND PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2020 ACCOUNTS

As Bob Hodges was away on holiday there was no report but he had sent the accounts to Ian Perrier who had audited them and said they were all in order.

The accounts were £16,090-49p and stock value £3,721-76p, total balance £19,812-25p.

14. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021.

It was proposed by H Taylor and seconded by A Brown that the Club Affiliation remains the same at £25 and payable by all clubs. This was carried unanimously.

15. HONORARIUMS.

The current Honorariums were read out by Ron Sillitoe, and that as the treasurer and ring scheme were separated the amount paid to those two jobs was as follows.

Secretary/Website	£500	-	Colin Egner
Journal Editor	£500	-	Simon Tamman
Treasurer	£300	-	Colin Egner
Ring Scheme	£200	-	Richard Thorley

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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

	2022	nominations	2023
President:	Mr J Beddows		Mr J Beddows
President elect		Mr T Ward	
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 B Hodges	Mr C Egner	Mr Colin Egner

Journal Distributor:	Mr. Simon Tamnam	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tamnam
Journal Editor:	Mr. Simon Tamnam.	No nominations	Mr. Simon Tamnam
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Ronnie Sillitoe	Mr A Brown	Mr. A Brown
Publicity Officer:	Mr Egner & Mr Dewland.	No nominations	Mr Colin Egner
Novice Rule Co.	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner
Auditor:	TBC	Mr A Smalley	Mr A Smalley.
Ring Scheme Sec.	Mr. B Hodges	Mr. R Thorley	Mr R Thorley
Web Site Manager	Mr. Colin Egner	No nominations	Mr. Colin Egner

Convention Committee: Messrs. Ron Sillitoe (Chairman), Tim Ward, (Vice-Chairman), Simon Tamnam (Journal Editor), Colin Egner (Secretary /Treasurer), Jeff Pearce, Al Brown, John Rance, Alan Smalley, Adam Pearce, R Thorley, M Thomas, K Wadkin, H Taylor, M Lowe

Past Presidents Malcolm Barnett, Don Harrison, Jim Aichtison, Malcolm Scott .George Eltringham Bobby Parker

17. MANDATES

No Mandates

18. JUDGES A & B PANEL.

A Panel.

Mr B McCauley , 49 Berrymoss court, Kelso,TD5 7NP

Mr V Neves , Rua de passage 442 1.10dr,Valongo , Portugal 65-444

OAT HUSKS.

The chairman told the meeting that from the January committee meeting it was agreed that he would contact companies to see if a supply could be obtained.

From that he told the meeting he had secured a supply and that Mick Jurik had agreed to collect them from the company and clean them ready for sale and that he would attend a few shows to sell them .

DISCOUNT SEED FOR CLUBS / MEMBERS

The chairman told the meeting he had contacted Haiths seed merchant to see if anything can be done for our clubs/members, he went on to say Haiths have acknowledged his email and has spoken to them on the phone and that they were considering his request.

ROSETTES

The Border Convention give each paid up member club a rosette for best champion and best novice ,it was decided before covid to get medals instead but with the country shut down during this period it was shelved till now , the chairman showed the meeting a couple of samples to look at, and it was decided to get the glass etched replicas ,each paid up club will receive 2 replicas Best Champion and Best Novice.

20. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

(A) THE JOURNAL

The chairman brought up the cost and viability of the journal, Simon Tamman went on to say the journal was making a profit but the treasurer had questioned that stating he thought it was making a loss, following a lengthy discussion it was decided to do an in depth costing for it and

that the July meeting decisions will be made. The cost of the franking machine was to be considered as an APP can be obtained for less according to Simon Tamman, so it was agreed to get the APP and do a costing for the July meeting.

(B) CONTENT

Simon Tamman pointed out that some clubs were not sending in content ie show reports, articles or anything else and that if all clubs sent in a report that would be enough for 6-7 in each journal, he went on to say that he thought the vets pages were very good and the chairman agreed they were indeed helpful. Colin Egner said that he would help any club as long as they gave him something to work with and between the chairman and himself we had done 9 show reports for clubs, he also said sending in plenty of photos from the shows was very popular.

(C) THE BORDER FANCY AND DIRECTION FORWARD

A big discussion from all around the table took place and a few clubs thought that more dialogue was needed between clubs to help each other run shows. Keith Wadkin told the meeting that the British Border were very grateful to those that helped and those who stayed back to drop the staging and tidy up, Al Brown said the same for Merseyside, so it's evident that if you ask for help you will get it.

AOB

Colin asked the meeting if we should have 3 signatories on the cheque book as Bob Hodges will come off when the paper work is done, R Sillitoe and C Egner are on it the meeting decided that R Thorley will become the third signatory as he may have to order rings etc, this was passed.

The secretary Colin Egner brought up that he was in contact with APHA/DEFRA on the matter of bird flu and how it affects our shows, he had asked them for a freedom of information on how many people had caught bird flu from caged birds as off yet we have an acknowledgement they have received it but have not come back with any information.

Colin also pointed out that APHA/DEFRA were doing a questionnaire on bird flu and whether all bird keepers should be registered, more information will appear on the website when we have it and any responses we may have to make.

.21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged Sunday 30TH July 2023

The date of the next AGM will be 17th March 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT (12):

R Sillitoe (Chairman) C Egner (Doncaster BFCC), J Pearce (BCFCC), A Pearce (North Staffs), J Rance (Cleveland B&FFCC), A Brown (Merseyside BFCC) H Taylor (Nottingham BFCC) A Smalley committee member, K Wadkin (BBFCC) R Thorley (NBFCC), M Lowe committee member, S Tamman committee member.

Delegates representing 7 clubs were present:

Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Cleveland B&FFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC.

Clubs Not in Attendance:

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Welsh BFCC East of England B&FFCC, Wessex BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, Fauldhouse BFCC, Northern BFCC, Sussex & Kent BFCC, West Wales BFCC, West of Scotland BCA.,

Border FCC North of Scotland and all other clubs from Ireland and abroad at 13-45pm and thanked all for coming and a safe journey home

The chairman closed the meeting at 13-45pm and thanked all for coming and a safe journey home