

**Delegates report of GCCF Council Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009**  
**ACA Delegates Val Spragg and Steve Parkin**

The June Council Meeting is the electoral meeting at which Members of Council standing for election are voted onto committees. In between the rather complex voting procedure other business was transacted. There were very few new faces elected. Stephen Parkin was re-elected to the Investigation Committee. The main agenda item concerned the critical financial state of the GCCF and proposals for its recovery.

Chairman, John Hansson reviewed the year in general terms and reported that the GCCF Office was in the process of losing several staff members and they would not be replaced. He also warned delegates about the sensationalist approach by the press towards pedigree cats and breeding practices.

Judge appointments were brought forward on the agenda to ensure that they were not carried over. Marlene Buckeridge is now a full judge of Abyssinians.

The GCCF took the unprecedented step of having their Auditor in attendance to present the annual accounts to 31 December 2008. In no uncertain terms he informed Council that unless immediate action was taken to significantly improve the GCCF's current financial state it would become insolvent and unable to continue after January 2010. He then went on to outline an eight point strategy that he had recommended to the Finance Committee.

- 1 Overall price increases
- 2 Review of financial structures
- 3 Cut overheads
- 4 Make the Supreme Show financially viable and if necessary scale it down or make it bi-annual.
- 5 Increase revenue and reduce costs within the disciplinary process.
- 6 If revenue cannot be increased sufficiently and costs cannot be made then the property should either be mortgaged or even sold (necessitating renting office space.)
- 7 Transfer money, currently held in the show abandonment fund, to the general fund to boost cash flow.
- 8 Incorporate the GCCF as a private limited company by guarantee.

The Auditor informed Council that a minimum net increase of £100K was needed in order for GCCF to continue future "trading".

The rest of the meeting was taken up addressing these points. Mr Hansson re-confirmed that 3 members of staff were leaving for various reasons and would not be replaced. Another was on long term sick leave.

Council voted to begin the process of becoming a limited company, something the ACA has advocated for some time.\*

£75K has been transferred from the show abandonment fund to the general fund, leaving £25K in the show abandonment fund.

Celia Leighton, the new Show Manager of the Supreme outlined her plans and cost cuttings for the show which she believed would enable it to break even. In this respect she detailed several major costs that had been reduced. In conclusion she stated that her aim was for the show to be self funding, but it was up to us all to support and enter as at the end of the day, only our support can ensure its success.

Executive would consult with Disciplinary and Investigation Committees to review the number of meetings and how monies could be saved and recovered from their work.

As may be expected, most of the discussion centred on the proposed price increases and additional ways of raising revenue. Members should refer to the package of measures proposed by the Finance Committee circulated to club delegates (full details can be found on the GCCF website) and for further clarification refer to John Hansson's statement on the GCCF website. The proposal of an annual "maintenance charge" or levy on active prefix holders was of course controversial and it became obvious that this package would not be accepted on-bloc with this measure included. An alternative proposal, from the floor was put forward, this being that an additional charge (or levy) of £5 be applied for registering each litter, in addition to the individual charge for registering each kitten. *(This offered several advantages. It would mean that additional revenue would be similar and that as well as prefix holders, non prefix holders would be eligible to pay a levy and the cost to small breeders, with only one or two litters per year, would be considerably less than those breeders of large numbers of litters. We also felt that placing an annual levy on active prefixes could be detrimental and in fact discourage people from buying a prefix.)*

Mr Hansson asked Council if this proposal was acceptable and if so, he would withdraw the proposal on prefixes outlined in the package of measures and replace it with the alternative suggestion. This was agreed and the package of measures was then accepted by Council.

Two other suggestions for increasing revenue from the floor were accepted but are currently only at the discussion stage. Further information will be made available when and if a decision is taken.

A proposal that charges should rise by 5% or the rate of inflation annually to keep revenue in line with rising costs was accepted. There was insufficient time to discuss the

many other ideas from the floor and clubs were invited to write to the GCCF with any other suggestions they may have.

All the other major proposals, including the breeding policy had to be carried over to the October meeting.

The ACA committee would like to put forward any further suggestions and proposals for consideration at the meeting of Executive on 29<sup>th</sup> July . If you have any practical proposals to put forward please e-mail our Secretary, Margaret Howe (details on the committee page of this website) with these.

(\* A copy of a letter sent from our Club to John Hansson following our Annual General Meeting can be obtained from Chairman, Gill Wilson).