

Minutes of the meeting held at Doncaster 17th January 2004

Present: B Mayoh (Chair, also ESCC), N C Hadley (Minutes, also NHCC), P Avery (RVCC), L Petherick (NTWCC) part of the meeting, A Trigg (DCC), B Crick (CCC), M Mahoney (PCC), A Rolph (DRCC), P Bell (NACC) part of the meeting, B Emmett (CSTCC), H Pashley (RCC)

At the start of the meeting Bryan Mayoh was requested and agreed to act in the role of Chairman for the meeting.

1. **Election of Temporary Minute Secretary for the Meeting** - Nicola Hadley was requested and agreed to act in this role for the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** A Sparkes (ACC)
3. **Welcome to new Councillor:** Mr B Emmett on behalf of the Coronet, Sheltie and Texel Club (CSTCC)
4. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and the only matters arising not covered on the agenda were the issues raised in CAVIES by Allan Trigg, Pauline Avery and Bryan Mayoh with regard to the classes on show schedules for 'unstandardised or rare variety' cavies. It was agreed to defer this matter for discussion as part of item 7 of the agenda.

It was agreed that the minutes represented a true and accurate record of the meeting of 17th January.

5. **Chairman's letter:** Bryan Mayoh drew Councillor's attention to the letter from Fred Holmes, the Chairman of the BCC, circulated with the agenda, in which he tendered his resignation as Chair of the British Cavy Council (BCC).

Councillor's accepted his decision with regret and it was agreed that the secretary should write to him expressing the thanks of the BCC for the hard work and commitment he had shown to the role over many years.

It was agreed that discussions regarding the appointment of a new chair for the BCC be deferred until the end of the meeting.

6. **Election of new secretary:** It was agreed that this item be deferred until the end of the meeting.
7. **Standards and standard amendments for ratification:** Two applications for full standards (Alpaca and Merino), and one for guide standard (Ridgeback) had been circulated with the agenda for consideration at the meeting.

Allan Trigg had written to councillors prior to the meeting regarding the standards and raised relevant points regarding the standardisation of layout, language and points allocations in standards and that this had particular relevance to the longhair standards. All present accepted that if we were to build constructively on work done over the past two years that these issues must be seriously considered before the standards were accepted and published. After brief discussion councillors agreed **the principle that the Merino and Alpaca be granted a full standard** but that this be subject to a review of the layout, language and points allocations to enable them to be consistent with the recently revised standards for both the Sheltie and Coronet. **Following careful discussion of the Merino and Alpaca standards, with particular reference to the recently revised Coronet**

standard, slightly modified versions were agreed; and these will become effective as full standards one month after publication in CAVIES.

Additionally, it was recognised that the Peruvian and Texel standards were somewhat at variance in layout and points allocations with the more recent longhair standards. This could prove confusing and difficult to remember for to judges; so that it was agreed that the secretary would propose modifications to bring these standards more closely into line, for consideration by the Peruvian and Coronet, Sheltie & Texel Cavy Clubs.

The application for Guide Standard for the Ridgeback cavy was then considered. Councillors agreed in principle to the application subject to a review of the layout, language and points allocations. Again, following careful discussion a **modified Guide Standard for the Ridgeback** was agreed; and this will become effective one month after publication in CAVIES.

In the context of the wider discussion the chairman raised the matter arising from the previous minutes regarding classes on open show schedules for Unstandardised or Guide Standard cavies. After lengthy discussion Councillors agreed the principle that, whilst it is not possible to determine the wording of such classes in Open shows, judges should be clear that whether the wording states 'Unstandardised' or 'Guide Standard' the only types of cavy that should be accepted in this section, on the basis that only these types can be logically assessed against a standard, are:

- a. Those having a BCC Guide Standard, and
- b. Unstandardised colours of standardised breeds (which can be regarded as having a de facto guide standard for the purposes of judging)

Classes referring to 'Rare Varieties' would continue to mean only those breeds catered for by the Rare Varieties CC, and should not be put on by clubs unless this is specifically intended.

There was further discussion regarding 'new breeds of cavy' (i.e. those without a Guide Standard or that are not unstandardised colours of standardised breeds) and how they were to be catered for. Councillors reiterated their understanding that it was the role of the RVCC to bring on new breeds until they are ready for acceptance for Guide Standard by the BCC, and **determined the principle that, until a Guide Standard had been agreed, new breeds should not be allowed to be exhibited in open shows.** They were to be catered for solely by the RVCC.

Councillors accepted that this ruling required a modification to the rules of the BCC in the interests of clarity. The chairman and secretary would rewrite the appropriate rule for discussion at the next meeting of the BCC, following which, if agreed, cavies without guide standards as defined above would not be permitted to be shown in open shows. The chairman encouraged the RVCC to bring forward applications for Guide Standards for any new breeds of cavy that they felt were ready for acceptance, at the next meeting of the BCC.

The chairman described how in the past the BCC had perhaps been reticent to receive and approve applications for Guide Standards but that this should not to be perpetuated. A Guide Standard is simply offering guidance to breeders and judges on what to look for in a developing breed, but does not necessarily imply that full standardisation is imminent or even appropriate. A closer working relationship was sought with the RVCC with regard to this as a positive outcome for the fancy as a whole.

Communication with club secretaries, members and judges was felt to be paramount and to this end the secretary of the BCC, working alongside specialist club and show secretaries, would try to ensure that the new rules were quite clear.

It was agreed that further discussion would be held at the next meeting regarding the BCC's preference for terminology to be used on show schedules with regard to the above classes of Guide Standard/Unstandardised cavies, and on the issue of the status of unstandardised colours of Guide Standard cavies and their eligibility or not for Open shows.

8. **Correspondence:** None had been received.
9. **Reports:** The Chairman asked representatives from the Peruvian CC, the Coronet and Sheltie CC and the Dutch CC to report back on items as requested at the previous meeting.
 - a. **The Peruvian Cavy Club:** Myra Mahoney reported that discussion had been held at the PCC AGM in November; regarding the BCC's request that they moderate their recent decision to expel a member following disciplinary action in the light of the amendments in 2003 to the rules of the BCC in clarifying disciplinary procedures. She reported that the AGM had unanimously agreed not to alter their decision in any way.
 - b. **The Coronet, Sheltie and Texel Cavy Club:** Brian Emmett reported also that discussion had been held at the AGM of the C, S and T CC with reference the same matter. They too had decided not to moderate their decision in any way.

The chairman expressed his disappointment that these clubs had decided not to reconsider their previous decisions, given that the BCC had since introduced a disciplinary procedure that would have prevented reciprocal action by the PCC unless approved by the BCC as a whole; and which should lead to clearer and more defensible disciplinary actions in the future.

Pauline Avery and Betty Crick expressed concern that Club members were still unaware of the basis for the disciplinary action. Myra Mahoney and Brian Emmett both stated that neither Executive was under any obligation to make the minutes of their meetings known to members. As far as both Clubs were concerned they had acted in accordance with their own rules, no appeal had been received and the matter was now closed.

Brian Emmett went on to outline the serious problems that the C, S and T CC had undergone during the previous six months. He confirmed that Club rules had been strictly adhered to and that matters were ongoing following legal advice having been sought. Two complaints had been registered by Club members and were being investigated by the Executive.

Myra Mahoney briefly outlined similar difficulties being experienced by the PCC. Again she confirmed that Club rules had been strictly adhered to and that matters were ongoing following legal advice having been sought. Two complaints had been registered by Club members and were being investigated by the Executive.

The Chairman stated that the matter must also now be regarded as closed by the BCC.

The Dutch Cavy Club: Allan Trigg described that the Dutch CC had altered and restructured their rules in line with discussions held by the BCC at the previous meeting. The chairman asked Allan to circulate the restructured rules to all clubs

for consideration at their own AGM's. **Specific discussion was referred to in the context of subscription terms for juvenile members. Councillors agreed to discuss this as a specific agenda item at the next meeting of the BCC.**

The Agouti Cavy Club: Councillors queried why no application for a Guide Standard had been received from the Agouti Cavy Club for the Solid or American agouti, as requested by the BCC, to this meeting. As their representative was not present at the time that the discussion was held the chairman asked the secretary to **write to the Agouti CC asking them to confirm clearly in writing the name and the standard for discussion at the next meeting of the BCC.**

10. Motions of urgency: There were none.

11. Any other business:

The chairman noted that two representatives had today left the meeting before it was completed. He asked that the secretary write to all clubs again reminding them that it was unanimously agreed at the previous BCC meeting that the role of club representative to the BCC was an important one that carried significant responsibilities. **Representatives should not leave meetings until they were finished** and it was expected that arrangements should be made to ensure this.

Stud Prefix Scheme - Councillors agreed that they would like to receive updates of newly registered stud prefixes on a quarterly basis. The chairman suggested that perhaps updates could be printed in CAVIES and included on the NCC website. The secretary was asked to contact Mr Wilkins to ask that this be done.

Update of the BCC Standards Book: As there have been a number of changes to standards recently the BCC standards book is out of date. It was agreed that the secretary be tasked with this matter once other more pressing business had been completed.

12. Date and location of next meeting: Lengthy discussion was held about the venues and timings for future BCC meetings. The chairman was concerned that attendance would be poor if a meeting was held not in conjunction with a major show. He suggested that the next meeting be held at Keighley. Councillors agreed unanimously.

3pm in conjunction with Yorkshire Championship Show at Keighley, 10th April 2004.

Election of chairman - Councillors unanimously agreed in asking Bryan Mayoh to accept the role of Chair on the two year basis specified by the rules. He accepted.

Election of new secretary - Councillors unanimously agreed in asking Nicola Hadley to accept the role of Secretary on the two year basis specified by the rules. She accepted.