

Minutes of the meeting held at Doncaster on January 21st 2005

Present: B Mayoh (Chair), N C Hadley (Secretary/Treasurer, Minutes), E Brearley (NHCC), J McCormick (NTWCC), B Crick (CCC), P Avery (RVCC), A Rolph (DRCC), A Trigg (DCC), P Bell (NACC), H Pashley (RCC), B Wiles (ESCC), A Sparkes (ACC), J Phillips (PCC), F Holmes (CSTCC),

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Agreement to Minutes of Meeting of 25th September 2004:** Betty Crick proposed the minutes as a true and correct record. All present agreed.
3. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and there were no matters arising that were not covered on the agenda.
4. **Chairman's Remarks:** None
5. **Financial Report and Accounts - verbal.** The secretary gave a verbal report for the full period 1st January 2004 to 31st December 2004 and distributed copies of the accounts prepared by Mr P E J Wilkins for the Prefix Scheme. She stated that, whilst she had received this information from Mr Wilkins, that she had not as yet seen evidence in the form of bank statements to back up the information, although this was in hand.

From the information provided by Mr Wilkins, the BCC had funds totalling £273.79, this being the balance of £499.01 from the prefix scheme, less payments made to Fred Holmes of £120.00 for the production of the Standards Handbook and of £20.00 in balancing payments made to specialist breed clubs, together with a further £149.94 of expenditure made by the current secretary for the following items:

Postage	£36.78
Copies	£22.78
Stationery	£30.28
Room Hire	£60.10

and accounting for an opening balance of £64.72 from the BCC Fund Account.

The secretary confirmed that no payments would be required from specialist clubs towards the running of the BCC for the year ending 31st December 2005.

Further it was noted that arrangements for the new single bank account with Bryan Mayoh and Nicola Hadley as signatories were still ongoing with Andrew Sparkes and were expected to be concluded by the end of February.

6. **Stud Prefix Registration Scheme**
 - **Update.** The secretary gave a verbal report to Councillors following correspondence from Mr Wilkins. Briefly, this updated members of the scheme's continuing success; and noted that there had been 34 new registrations for the year ending 31st December 2004.

- **Appointment of new officer.** Following the discussions held at the last meeting, the Secretary had, through CAVIES magazine, sought applicants to take on the running of the scheme in the medium term. Four applications had been received. The Secretary and Chairman had evaluated these and following discussion with Councillors it was unanimously decided to offer the position to Cheryl Proctor, who had a great deal of experience of running similar database schemes for the NCC. Councillors suggested that the Secretary, with help from Mr Wilkins, worked together with Cheryl Proctor to agree a way forward to attempt to strengthen the scheme and to make the information more widely available to Club and Show Secretaries, perhaps through a website.

The Secretary was asked to contact the other applicants thanking them for their applications.

7. **Proposed Transfer of the Merino cavy to the jurisdiction of the Coronet and Sheltie Cavy Club.** Pauline Avery confirmed that, following a request from the CSTCC to cater for the Merino cavy, a recent RVCC ballot had confirmed that RVCC members were content to relinquish the Merino cavy to the CSTCC. Councillors unanimously agreed to the transfer. The Chairman asked the CSTCC representative if the Club's name would be changed following the transfer. Fred Holmes stated that he thought it likely that the name adopted would be 'The Coronet, Sheltie, Texel and Merino Cavy Club' (CSTMCC).

The Chairman further enquired of the two longhair clubs if any discussions had been held regarding the Alpaca, which now remained the only longhaired breed still within the RVCC. Joan Phillips confirmed that the matter had been discussed at the PCC's recent AGM and that a decision had been taken not to request the breed at this stage but to reconsider the matter for a further year. Fred Holmes confirmed that the CSTCC would be prepared to take the Alpaca if the PCC did not wish to proceed. The Chairman stated his opinion that the breed would best be catered for by one of the specialist longhair cavy clubs and that if the PCC did not wish to take the breed then the CSTCC would be appropriate. He asked if the matter could be raised at the RVCC AGM and if Mr Holmes would confirm with the CSTCC's Executive that they would be willing to take the breed subject to RVCC agreement. It was agreed that the Club representatives would action these matters and report back to the next meeting of the BCC.

The Chairman also asked if any more discussions had been held regarding a merger between the longhair clubs. Joan Phillips reported that a majority of the PCC's Executive would not agree to any merger but accepted that the Executive would need to ballot the Club's members to find out the views of members. The PCC was asked to report any progress back to the next meeting of the BCC.

8. **Revised Council Rules.**

Following the most constructive discussion held at the previous BCC meeting in September, the draft set of revised Council rules had been amended and circulated to Councillors. It was this revised version that was under discussion at today's meeting. Again, a most productive discussion was held on the revised rules and following a few minor amendments, Councillors were unanimous in their agreement to the revised Council Rules. It was agreed that these be printed in full in CAVIES magazine, together with an overview and explanation

stressing the Council's intentions not to be a prescriptive or authoritarian body but to aim to encourage 'best practice' amongst specialist breed clubs.

The new rules will become effective from 31st March 2005.

As all Specialist Breed Clubs subscribe to the BCC, it was agreed that each Club would prepare a statement covering the new BCC Rules in their Club Year Books or other correspondence to members, confirming that they subscribe to the new BCC Rules and accept them in full.

9. Update on progress re standardising rules for specialist breed clubs.

The Secretary sought from Councillors an update on their Clubs' progress in standardising certain rules following the discussions held at BCC meetings in January and April 2004. It was agreed that the Secretary contact each Club Secretary seeking a copy of their most up to date rules to ensure compliance with the two Standard rules previously agreed. If these had not yet been adopted, each Club was to be asked to confirm their agreed course of action, with deadlines.

Further, it was agreed that the Secretary would check each set of Club rules to identify which Clubs had an Appeals Procedure in place for Disciplinary Action against members. Those that did not would be requested to prepare such a procedure in order to comply with best practice as stated in the new Council Rules.

10. Review of Breed Standards:

Following the most constructive discussions held at the BCC's September meeting, further dialogue was held regarding the above. There was a general sympathy to the overall concept of attempting to seek common ground amongst the standards. However, it was felt that much discussion within specialist clubs would be needed, in particular where amendments were suggested to points allocations.

The Chairman sought the view of Councillors on the following principles: Does it make sense to go forward in revising standards to use a similar sequence of features and to clarify and simplify standards? And if so, could *similar* breeds be 'pooled' so that small working groups could be formed to discuss possible ways forward for those breeds that have most in common.

It was unanimously agreed that Clubs with 'similar interests' be grouped together to form small working groups to take forward the discussions on breed standards, and also that deadlines should be set and progress chased to ensure that the BCC was able to move things forward towards a meaningful discussion at the meeting in January 2006.

The following were agreed as sensible 'pools' for discussion purposes:

- Longhairs (CSTCC, PCC, RVCC)
- Marked (TWCC, DCC, NHCC, DRCC, RVCC)
- Rex and Abyssinians (RCC, ACC)
- Cresteds (CCC internal)
- Selfs (ESCC internal)
- Agouti and Argente (NACC, RVCC)

Councillors agreed that the following personnel would need to be involved in any working group meetings:

- The Chairman of the BCC
- BCC Representative of each Club
- Selected members of the Executive of each Club.

Working Groups would meet at shows to hold discussions and to formulate proposals to take back to Club Executives and AGM's so that meaningful progress, and possibly decisions, could be reported back to the January 2006 BCC meeting. The first such meetings will be held at Newark on 14th May and will cover Marked, Rex/Abys and Agoutis/Argentes. Council Representatives for the appropriate Clubs are asked to notify the Secretary of proposed attendees. The Chairman will arrange other Working Group meetings after this date.

Hugh Pashley thanked Bryan Mayoh for all his hard work in drafting the Council Rules and the proposed revisions to breed standards. All present endorsed this.

A short discussion was then held regarding the Standards Book and in particular with regard to the prices charged for copies. Councillors considered it important that a consistent price be levied across all the Specialist, Regional and National Clubs authorised to sell copies. The price agreed was £5 per copy.

11. Correspondence. None.

12. Motions of Urgency. None.

13. Any other business. An anomaly had been identified on the new Guide Standard for the Teddy cavy and this was confirmed to have been a typographical error. However, it had raised the matter that the length of coat stated, i.e. 1 to 2 cm, was too large a differential and that it required further clarification. In addition, it was considered important that the 'belly' was defined within the standard. The RVCC representative was tasked with taking this matter back to the RVCC Standards Committee and to bring a proposal to the next meeting of the BCC.

14. Date and location of next meeting. It was agreed that, unless matters of particular urgency arise, the next full meeting of the Council will be held on the Friday of the next Bradford Championship Show at Doncaster, commencing at 1pm. All Specialist Clubs are asked not to arrange their AGMs for this time, so as to allow all representatives to attend.