

Minutes of the Meeting of 18th October 2014, held at Norton Lindsey Village Hall, Warwickshire.

Present: Bryan Mayoh (Chairman), Jan Alston (Secretary), Jane Betts (NACC), Ted Brearley (NHCC), Tony Cooke (NFTCC), Oliver Joyce (DRCC), Nikki Matthews (CSCC), Rex Matthews (RCC), Simon Neesam (ACC), Tony O'Neill (ESCC), David Oulton (ESCC), Don Payne (CCC), Joan Phillips (PVCC), Bill Seymour (TCC), Caroline Smith (RVCC), Ken Yates (NTWCC).

1. Meeting Administration

a) **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Allan Trigg (DCC)..

b) Minutes of the Meeting of 12th October 2013

All present agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting were a true record.

c) **Matters Arising from the Meeting on 12th October 2013 (not on the Agenda):** None.

d) Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman thanked Councillors for attending, welcoming in particular new Representatives.

2. Administration of BCC

a) Financial Report

The Secretary produced a set of accounts for the year ending December 2013. These indicated a cash balance of £1,216. There was a cash deficit of £103 on the year, including the effect of the £250 donation to Real London Show agreed at the October 2013 meeting.

The Secretary also presented an interim set of accounts from January 2014 to October 2014. These indicated a cash balance of £1,291 with a cash surplus of £75 on the year to date.

It was agreed that the major purpose of BCC funds was to pay for the Annual Meeting and expenses connected to the website, for which funds were more than sufficient. However, in the absence of any compelling reason to allocate surplus funds no distribution would be made this year.

b) Prefix Scheme

Mr Trigg submitted a written report that there had been 49 registrations during the first 10 months of the year and that the income net of costs had been £184.10. One possible cause of the reduced number of registrations was the refusal of the Southern Cavy Club to require that exhibitors could only use prefixes registered by the Council, as agreed by the National Cavy Club and all other Regional and Specialist Clubs. Mr Cooke confirmed that the SCC had originally agreed to this policy when the Council took over prefix registration on behalf of all clubs.

It was suggested that one problem cited by the Southern Cavy Club in regard to its revised policy was the cost to fanciers of registering prefixes; but all agreed that the sum concerned is minimal given that by showing in their own names exhibitors can avoid the need to register prefixes at all.

The policy previously agreed by the Council, that no Specialist Club will recognise for Championship or other awards any wins gained using an unregistered prefix, was re-iterated and Councillors should remind Club Secretaries of this. In addition, they should use their best endeavours to ensure that clubs with which they are associated hold events under National Cavy Club rules wherever practical.

c) **Website**

Mr Neesam reported impressive statistics (5,500 visitors in a month) for the numbers of visitors to the site, indicating its potential to generate valuable publicity for the cavy fancy. He then reported the names of those Specialist Clubs that had failed to take advantage of this opportunity by sending him breed articles that might be uploaded to the site. As in the three previous years Councillors for the clubs concerned promised urgent action to address the shortcoming; and as a result the Fancy can look forward to a full collection of such articles appearing on the website well in time for its centenary celebrations.

Following reports that some Standards that were modified last year were still appearing on the website in their old version, all Councillors were asked to review the contents of the website in regard to the clubs and breeds that they represent and notify Mr Neesam of any errors. The FTCC have already done this. .

3 Specialist Breed Club Issues

a) **Choice of Venues for Specialist Breed Club AGMs**

Mr Joyce made a passionate plea on behalf of the impoverished fanciers who are unable to attend Specialist Club AGMs at venues charging for admission, and proposed on behalf of the DRCC that no Specialist Club should hold its AGM at such events. However, the consensus was that this was a matter for each Specialist Club to decide for itself, and that for many the advantage of holding an AGM where a large attendance was likely might well outweigh the disadvantage to those fanciers not showing at the venue and forced to pay for admission.

b) **Change of Name of Coronet & Sheltie Cavy Club**

Given that certain of the breeds catered for by the Club were now proving more popular than one of its two original constituents, the CSCC proposed to change its name to the Sheltie Varieties Cavy Club. The Chairman expressed his delight at this move, since he had suggested this very name several years ago; and the change was agreed unanimously.

c) **The Exhibition of ‘Clipped Longhair’Cavies**

The PVCC and the newly renamed SVCC jointly raised the issue of Clipped Longhair cavies. The established policy of the Council was confirmed and a note to this effect is to be placed in CAVIES. This will stipulate that:

- Clipped Longhair Cavies do not constitute separate varieties recognised by the BCC; rather, they are forms of existing varieties that can be shown as pets or in restricted conditions as described below.
- Classes for Clipped Longhairs can only be put on as a separate section of a show, with no cross-duplication between this and the Open Section, i.e. Clipped Longhairs are ineligible for any awards in the Open Section of the show.
- Clipped Longhairs should be shown evenly clipped, with the coat just touching the show board to create an attractive appearance.
- Classes for Clipped Longhairs should be judged as per the existing (full) Standards, with the exception of stipulations in regard to length of coat.
- Longhairs shown in the Pet Section should be judged on the same basis as other pets.
- The Council does not foresee any situation in which Clipped versions of recognised breeds will ever be regarded as breeds in their own right.

4. Breed Standards

a) **Guide Standard for Chinchilla**

The RVCC presented a proposal to grant a Guide Standard for the Chinchilla cavy and provided a number of examples of the breed for scrutiny by Councillors. There was a detailed discussion of various aspects of the proposal, particularly how light markings on top of the legs and light

feet are to be treated. With some modifications to treat these aspects it was unanimously agreed that the Chinchilla be granted a Guide Standard, as described in the Notice below, from 1st January 2015.

b) Amendments to Fox / Tan Standard

Mr Cooke presented a proposal by the NFTCC in regard to the Standards for the Tan, Fox and Otter. The Chairman suggested that the points made by the Club in regard to errors in the Standards shown on the website were valid, since the changes agreed at last year's meeting appeared not to have been uploaded. This issue will be addressed.

With regard to certain other changes, the Chairman suggested that the FTCC had placed its new Representative in rather an invidious position, since some of the amendments now proposed were aimed to overturn changes requested by a different Club Representative only last year; whilst reasons why it would be inappropriate to reallocate points from Colour to Markings had been given in full on that occasion and reported in the Minutes. Mr Cooke stated that this year's proposals represented the considered view of the Club and that no further modifications along these lines would be raised next year.

After due consideration, the following changes to Fox, Tan and Otter Standards were unanimously agreed, to take effect from 1st January 2015:

- The heading '**Belly & Feet**' to become '**Belly, Legs and Feet**' in each Standard, with the requirement for legs being that: "The inside of each leg should be tan (or white or cream, as appropriate) with base colour on the outside reaching right down to and including the feet. In this regard an excess of the base colour is preferable to an excess of the belly colour."
- Under the heading of '**Colour**', the first stated requirement should be that: "Top colour and belly colour are of equal importance." The Tan Standard should then state that: "Tan to be a rich, golden tan inclining to mahogany or red, richness of tan to be of greater importance than the actual shade."

c) Proposal to add to general disqualifications for all smooth-haired varieties

On behalf of the DCC Mr Trigg had submitted a written proposal that in all smooth-haired varieties pronounced quiffs and ruffled bellies should be regarded as Disqualifications rather than as at present, 'Faults to be penalised according to extent.' His researches had indicated that this had been the case in 1997 and he could see no reason why a rosette should be a disqualification and a belly swirl not.

However, other Councillors felt that the changes introduced several years ago, to penalise such faults according to their severity rather than to treat them as disqualifications, remained appropriate; since, otherwise, particularly finicky judges might seek to disqualify smooth-haired cavies with minor deviations in coat that are frequently encountered around the legs or belly button.

The proposal failed to receive support from any of the Councillors in attendance and was therefore rejected.

d) Discussion on Status of Guide Standard and Emerging Breeds

The Council discussed the progress being made, or otherwise, by all of the Guide Standard and New / Emerging Varieties recognised by it. Particular recommendations made were that:

- More examples of all breeds presently having Guide Standards (Slate, Harlequin, Magpie, Belted, Ridgeback, Swiss and Sable) must be seen at shows and made available for presentation to a meeting of the Council before Full Standards could be considered. It was noted that the ESCC is holding a Combined Adult, Intermediate and Young Stock show next year at which fanciers of Slates, Caramels and Blues would be encouraged to show as many good examples as possible.

- The debate on whether Lunkarya should be kept wrapped or unwrapped seems to be resolving itself in favour of the latter, which is the opposite position to that adopted in Scandinavia. The Chairman noted the difficulty that is likely to be posed by a proposal to grant a standard for a cavy whose defining characteristic is that its coat should look a mess.
- Mr Brearley showed several examples of the Caramel and gave an illuminating talk on their development. All agreed that the colour was clearly differentiated from Beige and was of an attractive hue that could fairly be called 'caramel'. Whilst type qualities could be improved, the major requirement for progress was to get the breed in the studs of more fanciers and seen more often at shows.
- The consensus was that two new varieties, the so-called Blue and Californian, seem to have considerable potential. The Blue is based on the blue dilution gene found in cats, rabbits and mice, which produces a 'battleship grey' colour that appears to be of a consistent shade. The Council strongly recommended that fanciers should concentrate on the solid (self) version based on black before attempting to bred non-self variants or those based on chocolate or yellow. In this way the potential of the mutation will not be dissipated by its being spread too widely too soon. (There is, of course, little likelihood that those for whom novelty rather than quality is the principal objective will take any notice whatsoever of this advice.)

In regard to the Californian, the possibility of producing Himalayan-type markings with body colour that is red, golden, cream or even white, carries obvious attractions; and, since the mutation is a dominant one, there exists a ready means of improving type by crossing to Selves. Again, the best approach would be to concentrate on a small number of colour combinations.

- The Council was advised that those that had viewed so-called Lakelands ('Skinny carriers') or 'Curlies' (short-coated Lunkarya) had seen little merit in them, and no Guidance Notes were likely to be proposed by the RVCC. The Council also voted that it did not wish to encourage the exhibition of Skinny cavies, whose presence or not at shows is ultimately a matter for National Cavy Club Show Regulations.

5. **Correspondence:** The Chairman reported that he had received no correspondence requiring discussion.
6. **Motions of Urgency (accepted at the Chairman's discretion):** None received.
7. **Any other business:** The Chairman reminded Councillors that the posts of Chairman and Secretary were to be considered every two years and the time for this had arrived. Encouraged by the excellent standard of debate and decision-making evident today, he would be willing to remain in the role if Councillors so wished. Showing a commitment to the cavy fancy that was to be sorely tested by events the next day, the Secretary agreed that she would do likewise. Councillors agreed unanimously that, since, in the words of Mr Cooke, the queue of applicants outside the door had not been noticeably long, the Chairman and Secretary would be re-elected for a further two-year period.
8. **Date and location of next meeting:** To be arranged by the Secretary at a similar time / location in 2015, subject to the Chairman's judgement that the matters raised cannot be resolved effectively by mail / email / carrier pigeon.

BRITISH CAVY COUNCIL: DECISIONS OF MEETING OF 18th OCTOBER 2014

The following decisions were taken by the Council at its Meeting on 18th October 2014. These are effective immediately, other than the new Guide Standard for the Chinchilla and the revised Standards for the Fox, Tan and Otter, which will take effect from 1st January 2015.

Stud Prefix Scheme

The Council reminds all fanciers that the BCC Stud Prefix Scheme was originally set up so that the situation that previously applied, whereby fanciers had to register multiple names with different clubs and on occasion the same stud name was used by different fanciers, would be avoided. It therefore regards the decision of the Southern Cavy Club (which originally agreed to participate in the unified BCC scheme) to allow exhibitors to enter shows using unregistered stud names as a retrograde step that is in the interest of no serious fancier. There appears to be nothing preventing a fancier from using any stud name that they choose when showing under Southern Cavy Club rules.

However, the National Cavy Club and all other Regional and Specialist clubs recognise the benefits of the unified stud prefix scheme run by the British Cavy Council. Specialist Club Secretaries are therefore reminded that they must not register awards for members using stud names or prefixes; that are not registered with the Council; and fanciers showing under stud names that have not been so registered should be aware that this will invalidate any claims that they may make for championships and other awards, other than to a single club of only regional significance.

Status of Clipped Longhair Cavies

Clipped Longhair Cavies do not constitute separate varieties recognised by the BCC; rather, they are forms of existing varieties that can be shown as pets or in restricted conditions as described below. Classes for Clipped Longhairs can only be put on as a separate section of a show, with no cross-duplication between this and the Open Section, i.e. Clipped Longhairs are ineligible for any awards in the Open Section of the show.

Clipped Longhairs should be shown evenly clipped, with the coat just reaching the show board to create an attractive appearance. Classes for Clipped Longhairs should be judged as per the existing (full) Standards, with the exception of stipulations in regard to length of coat.

Longhairs shown in the Pet Section should be judged on the same basis as other pets.

The Council does not foresee any situation in which Clipped versions of recognised breeds will ever be regarded as breeds in their own right.

Renaming of Coronet and Sheltie Cavy Club

The Club is henceforth to be known as The Sheltie Varieties Cavy Club. It caters for the four standardised varieties that have been derived from the Sheltie, namely the Coronet, the Texel, the Merino and the Sheltie itself.

Guide Standard for Chinchilla

The Chinchilla is recognised as a Guide Standard cavy, the details being shown below.

Modification to Tan Standard (plus Fox and Otter Standards as appropriate)

The Standard for Tan, Fox and Otter cavies is to be modified as:

- The heading '**Belly & Feet**' is to become '**Belly, Legs and Feet**' in each Standard, with the requirement for legs being that: "The inside of each leg should be tan (or white or cream, as appropriate) with base colour on the outside reaching right down to and including the feet. In this regard an excess of the base colour is preferable to an excess of the belly colour."
- The requirement for **Markings** on the belly is to be modified to: Belly to be a clear tan / white / cream colour (as appropriate) with minimal darker undercolour showing and with belly colour only just visible when viewed from the side, other than an area around the forelimb extending from the belly.

- Under the heading of '**Colour**', the first stated requirement is that: "Top colour and belly colour are of equal importance." The Tan Standard should then state that: "Tan to be a rich, golden tan inclining to mahogany or red. Richness of tan to be of greater importance than the actual shade."

Bryan Mayoh, Chairman British Cavy Council

CHINCHILLA (Guide Standard)

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and gently rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with deep, broad shoulders. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.
Ticking & Markings	To have a long-ticked agouti pattern all over the body except for unticked white or cream markings in specific parts of the body, as defined below.. Ticking should be long and even in all but the marked areas. Markings should be clearly defined and confined to 'eye circles', nostrils, jowls, chest, belly and an area around the forelimb extending from the belly. Belly must be wide enough that it is just visible when the cavy is viewed from the side. Feet to be ticked and should ideally match the body colour.
Colour	Top colour to be of a muted, pastel shade produced by a combination of the desired long ticking and a pale base colour each showing through. Belly should be of an unticked white or cream colour, as detailed below. Base colour should be paler than on the corresponding Agouti, to be as light a shade as possible without losing the desired pigmentation of eyes, pads and ears.
Coat	To be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs.

DESCRIPTION OF COLOURS

Silver	Light grey base with long white ticking, white markings.. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads grey.
Lemon	Light grey base with long cream ticking, cream markings.. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads grey.
Cinnamon	Light chocolate base with long white ticking, white markings.. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads pink / light chocolate.
Cream	Light chocolate base with long cream ticking, cream markings.. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads pink / light chocolate.

GUIDANCE NOTES

In judging Chinchillas the emphasis is on quality of ticking, clarity of markings and achievement of the desired colour, along with the requisite type and condition.

U/5 exhibits may be paler in colour than adult exhibits. This should not be unduly penalised as it may well clear as the cavy matures.

Size is very desirable, but not at the expense of quality or cobbyness.

Grooming is essential to produce the effect of even ticking on the body and sides of the cavy.

SPECIFIC FAULTS

Too dark a shade of body colour

Patches of solid white or cream hairs

Uneven ticking

Inappropriate toenail pigmentation.

TAN

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, and set with good width between.	<u>10</u>
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with good width across shoulders and body. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.	<u>10</u>
Markings	To have solid base colour all over the body except for tan areas that must be solid, clearly defined and distinct, both from the base colour and from each other:	<u>50</u>
of which		
Nostril, Jowls, Chest & Throat	Nostril area, jowls and chest to be tan. There should be a clearly-defined band of base colour across the throat, evenly laced with tan ticking.	(15)
Eye Circles, Pea-Spots	Tan eye circles to be even and clearly distinguishable. On the forehead beside each ear should be clear tan markings, known as 'pea-spots'. These should not run into the ears.	(15)
Belly, Legs & Feet	Belly to be a clear tan colour, with minimal darker undercolour showing and with belly colour only just visible when viewed from the side, other than an area around the forelimb extending from the belly. The inside of each leg should be white, with base colour on the outside reaching right down to and including the feet. An excess of the base colour is preferable to an excess of the belly colour	(10)
Sides	Sides, including sides of hips, to be thickly laced with long tan-tipped ticking.	(10)
Colour	Top colour and belly colour are of equal importance. Base colour to conform to ESCC requirements, be even, with glossy sheen and carried down to the skin. Tan to be a rich, golden tan inclining to mahogany or red. Richness of tan to be of greater importance than the actual shade. Eye colour to match requirements of relevant ESCC base colour. Toenail pigmentation to match ESCC requirements appropriate to toe colour.	<u>25</u>
Coat	To be soft, clean and groomed free of guard hairs, other than on flanks where grooming may remove the desirable tan markings.	<u>5</u>

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COLOURS

Tan cavies are only recognised in the following standardised base colours:

Black

Chocolate

Lilac

Beige

GUIDANCE NOTES

The **Tan** is a smooth-coated solid coloured cavy with sharply defined tan markings around the face, chest and belly, with tan-tipped ticking on the sides.

It is important that tan areas must not run into each other.

Hairs inside the ears may be either of base colour or tan.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

Solid areas of tan on top or flanks that exceed the size of a £1 coin.

SPECIFIC FAULTS

Paleness of tan colouration should be penalised.

Hairs of a different colour in the top colour to be penalised according to quantity.

N.B. This does not apply to the tan-tipped ticking on the sides and flanks.

Short ticking on the belly, giving the appearance of an 'Agouti belly', should be penalised according to the extent of the fault.

Tan markings should not spread up from the nostril area to meet the eye circles.