

## **Minutes of the Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016, held at Over Whitacre Village Hall, Warwickshire.**

Present: Bryan Mayoh (Chairman), Jan Alston (Secretary), Tony Cooke (NFTCC), Amy Heale (NACC), Oliver Joyce (DRCC), Nikki Matthews (CSCC), Rex Matthews (RCC), Simon Neesam (ACC), Tony O'Neill (ESCC), David Oulton (ESCC, voting only after Item 3a), Don Payne (CCC), Joan Phillips (PVCC), Ken Phillips (NTWCC), Pam Ramsden (RVCC), Janet Saynor (NHCC), Allan Trigg (DCC).

(N.B. In line with the time-honoured tradition begun last year, these Minutes are largely confined to documenting the decisions reached rather than the extensive deliberations used to reach them.)

### **1. Meeting Administration**

- a) **Apologies for Absence:** Ian Reynolds (TCC).
- b) **Minutes of the Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015:** The Minutes were agreed as a true record with no requirement for amendment to reflect politically correct terminology.
- c) **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015** (not otherwise on the Agenda): Mrs Phillips reported that the PVCC had agreed the same criteria for judging Clipped Longhairs as approved by the SVCC, namely allowing a small amount of coat to rest on the board. The Chairman expressed his pleasure at this development.
- d) **Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the Meeting, particularly those that were attending their first meeting. He explained that Mr Oulton was in attendance by invitation as Chairman of the NCC, since the ESCC did not at present meet the criteria for two representatives. This matter was to be discussed under Item 3a after which the situation might change.

### **2. Administration of BCC**

- a) **Financial Report:** The Secretary presented the annual Financial Report, which indicated an excess of Income over Expenditure of £119.36 resulting in a C/F Balance of £1,400.74. A significant reason for the excess had been an increase in Prefix Registrations from 32 in the full year 2015 to 46 in 2016 year-to-date. It was agreed that the situation would be reviewed next year with the possibility of using any excess over 5 years' running costs to support a major show, the NCC Combined Show, Real London or Bradford Championship Show Not Sponsored by Burgess Foods being obvious possibilities.
- b) **Prefix Scheme** – In response to the question of why numbers of Prefix Registrations had increased, Mr Trigg suggested that fanciers were becoming increasingly aware of the need to register prefixes in order to claim Championships and Certificates. The vast majority of responsible Clubs are now insisting on the use of BCC-registered prefixes for such purposes.
- c) **Website** - Mr Neesam reported increased numbers of visitors to the website, each accessing a slightly increased number of pages that seemed not to be very many but was in fact highly significant. He then moved on to make his traditional plea for articles on those breeds that are not covered by website features; the list of such breeds remains identical to that when Mr Neesam first

made this plea several years ago. Councillors for the recalcitrant clubs (for those unfamiliar with this term it means ‘clubs that have failed to get their fingers out’) once more agreed to see what could be done. One possibility is to provide Mr Neesam with photocopies of relevant articles that he can transfer onto the website by retyping if necessary.

The importance of the website as a means of reaching potential new fanciers was emphasised; and it was agreed that: (1) a stronger link to allow such people to contact local shows would be provided by both the BCC and NCC websites; (2) the facility to access via mobile phone would be improved.

### 3. Cavy Fancy Issues

- a) **Specialist Breed Club membership numbers and entitlement to additional BCC representatives:** Membership numbers for all Specialist Clubs were circulated, these currently varying between 34 to over 200 total members, the largest being the ESCC with 202 and the next being the RVCC with 75 and the NACC with 74. However, the present BCC Rule 2.2, allowing a second representative for a Club with more than 200 members, refers to numbers of ‘adult members and partnerships’ as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the Meeting, on which basis the ESCC was entitled to only one representative.

It was agreed unanimously that declining trends in Club Membership warranted a change to Rule 2.2, to the effect that a single additional Representative would be given to any Club that either had 100 or more Voting Members (Adult Members, Senior Members, Partnership Members) on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the Meeting in question or has such a number at the time of the Meeting. It was further agreed that this Rule change could take effect immediately. On this basis the Chairman welcomed Mr Oulton to the Meeting as the second ESCC Representative.

- b) Clarification of Specialist Club responsibility for developing colour variants of existing breeds (raised by ESCC); The Chairman explained that, whilst any Club could make a Proposal to introduce a Full Standard for any breed, Rules 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9 made it clear that a 2/3 majority of the Council was required to do this against the wishes of the Club that would cater for the breed after standardisation.

In the case of new Self colours this means that the ESCC is in a strong position to oppose Full Standards with which it disagrees; it is effectively in ‘the driving seat’ as regards Standardisation since it has a large element of control over the brakes. As regards the development of such varieties, the present position whereby both the RVCC and the ESCC put on classes for Guide Standard and NEB Selves represented sensible co-operation that he hoped would continue.

### 4. Breed Standards

- a) **Proposed modifications to description of Eye Colour in Self cavies:** It was unanimously agreed that the description of Eye Colours in Selves, and all breeds that refer to Self colours, would be modified as:

- Black, Red, Blue: ‘Dark’;
- Chocolate, DE Golden, DE Cream, Buff, DE White: ‘Dark with a hint of ruby’ (and in the Guidance to Judges to stress that: ‘In order to differentiate Dark-

Eyed varieties from their Pink-Eyed equivalents, when judging such varieties preference is to be given to a darker eye colour over one that is clearly ruby’).

- Slate: ‘Ruby’;
- Caramel: ‘Light Ruby’;
- Lilac, Beige, PE Golden, Saffron, PE Cream, PE White: ‘Pink’.

In the above descriptions the word ‘ruby’ refers to its traditional meaning in the cavity fancy of a ‘dark red’ colour.

Mr Trigg raised the issue of Eye Colour in Agoutis, where the term ‘dark’ is used for black-based Agoutis and ‘ruby’ for ‘chocolate-based ones, although the eyes of the Silver at least are known to have a ruby tinge. The NACC was asked to consider the matter urgently with the objective of recommending any modifications for inclusion in revisions to Standards due to be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. N.B. This was subsequently actioned with the result that Eye Colours of Agoutis are to be defined as: “Golden Agouti: Dark; Lemon, Silver, Chocolate, Cream and Cinnamon Agouti: Dark with a hint of ruby.”

**b) Proposed Full Standard for Self Slate**

It was agreed unanimously that, following significant improvements in both the quality and quantity of Slates shown in recent years, the Self Slate would be awarded a Full Standard. This will take the form of that for all other Self Colours other than that the Colour Description will be: ‘To be a mid slate-grey with no tendency towards a brownish hue. Eyes ruby. Ears and pads to be a well-pigmented slate-grey.’

Accordingly, Slate versions of Cresteds, Dalmations and Roans, which recognise all Self colours, will become standardised, whilst Slate Satins are already standardised as being of Solid colour. Mr Cooke stated that the NFTCC believed that Slate Tans, Otters and Foxes should be standardised and this was agreed unanimously.

In regard to Slate Agoutis, Ms Heale reported that the NACC was having some doubts about whether, after all, ticked Slates should be recognised as Agoutis rather than Argentes. The Club will consider the matter over the next 12 months, as will the RVCC, after which the expectation is that ticked Slates will attain Full Standard status either as Agoutis or Argentes, dependent on the appearance of the colour and ticking. In the meantime such cavies remain as Guide Standard Agoutis.

Slate Tricolours and Bicolours will have the same status as other standardised Self colours of these breeds (see Item 4g below).

Himalayans continue to be fully standardised only in Black and Chocolate, so that Slate variants are Guide Standard cavies.

Slate Dutch are considered in Item 4c below.

Slate Harlequin, Magpie and Chinchilla (GS) cavies remain as NEB.

**(c) Consideration of which colours or ticked variants of Dutch are standardised:**

The Chairman had raised this issue following a presentation by Ms Heale at the NCC Judges’ Seminar in which the difficulty of judges remembering which Self and Agouti colours of Dutch are standardised had been raised (Lilac and Cream

are, Beige and Buff are not; Cream Agouti is, Lemon Agouti is not; Solid Agoutis are not mentioned). The situation had been further highlighted by an incident at Real London in which two experienced judges had used their 'discretion' to allow an apparently Buff Dutch with good markings to compete as a Cream Dutch, this being the only alternative to disqualification.

It was agreed that all standardised Self colours, excluding White (for obvious reasons) and DE Golden (to avoid confusion with Red Dutch), and all Agouti colours (normal and solid) of Dutch will be recognised as having Full Standards. This will include the newly-standardised Slate. Although Mr Trigg could see the logic for the move, he abstained from the vote since the DCC AGM had not had the opportunity to discuss the move.

The position of Argente Dutch, no varieties of which are presently standardised, was then discussed. Concern was expressed by Mr Trigg and Ms Heale that the markings on certain of these cavies could be difficult to distinguish. The Chairman expressed the view that this was unlikely to be a greater problem than with Cream Dutch and if markings could not be distinguished then the judge was entitled to fault the cavy on this feature. However, given the opposition of the DCC Representative and the DCC Secretary, the Council decided to leave these cavies as having Guide Standards at present.

- d) **Guide Standard for Self Blue:** The Chairman stated that some RVCC officials had seemed to be under a misapprehension in regard to the process for progressing new varieties towards standardisation, since the view had been expressed that the ESCC should not have proposed the promotion of the Blue to Guide Standard status. However, the position is that any Club may make such a proposal in regard to any variety, although the usual procedure is that the process would be driven either by the RVCC or the Club that will cater for the breed when it is fully standardised. In the case of the Self Blue this is clearly the ESCC and this Club was perfectly entitled to raise the matter, particularly since he himself had brought up the subject at the RVCC AGM over six months ago and the RVCC had since had adequate opportunity to discuss things with the ESCC.

The ESCC proposal was then discussed, there being agreement from all Councillors, including the RVCC Representative, that the move to Guide Standard was appropriate. However, there was disagreement amongst Councillors about whether the suggested phrase 'colour similar to graphite' helped understanding of the required colour or hindered it, with the vote being as many against as for. The Chairman noted that the two ESCC Representatives themselves differed, whilst he did not regard graphite as having the required bluish-tinge.

He therefore proposed to break the dead-lock by removing the comment from the Colour Description in the Guide Standard but appending a Guidance Note to Judges to state that: 'It may be helpful to consider the colour of graphite as offering an indication of the colour of the Self Blue.'

The agreed Guide Standard will follow the lines of the Full Standard for other Self cavies, the Colour description to read: 'A dark blue-grey colour with no hint of brown. Eyes dark. Pigmentation of skin as well as ears and pads to match the blue-grey coat colour.'

In regard to the general process for developing a variety from Guide Standard to Full Standard, it was agreed unanimously, that a period of at least two years

should elapse between granting of the Guide Standard, or making any significant modifications to it, and consideration of a move to Full Standard that must be based on the Guide Standard. This is to ensure there is adequate opportunity to consider the appropriateness of the Guide Standard.

- e) **Guide Standard for Lunkarya:** The Chairman had noticed a significant error in the Guide Standard proposed by the RVCC for the Lunkarya, in that it had been based on the Guidance Note rejected at last year's Meeting as bearing too great a resemblance to requirements for the Alpaca, rather than the Guidance Note actually agreed at that Meeting after considerable discussion. The RVCC Representative confirmed that the Guidance Note she had been sent as the basis for the proposed Guide Standard appeared to have been the wrong version; she agreed that a draft produced by the Chairman and based on the agreed Guidance Note should instead be presented to the Meeting. This Guide Standard was discussed and, subject to minor amendments, was agreed unanimously as below.

#### **LUNKARYA (Guide Standard)**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Frontal, Chops, Head, Eyes &amp; Ears</b> | Frontal and chops should be strong, with hair of one length and no gaps.<br>The frontal and chops should be curly.<br>Head to be short and broad, with muzzle of good width & rounded at the nostrils.<br>Eyes to be large, bright and bold, set with good width between.<br>Ears to be large, drooping and set with good width between.  |
| <b>Coat Appearance</b>                       | Coat on the body should be curly in a ringletted fashion, giving a corkscrew effect that needs to be present from the base of the coat to the tips, which should be intact. The coat should appear full and dense, with even lengths of ringletted curls sticking out from the body in a naturally untidy fashion. Therefore the Lunkarya should not be presented with a central parting.<br>Belly to be curly and dense. |
| <b>Coat Feel</b>                             | The texture of the coat should be harsh and coarse. It should feel full and dense with a thick undercoat but free from grease.  |
| <b>Presentation</b>                          | To be presented clean and unmatted, with the corkscrew effect that the coat naturally develops evident all over the body.<br>Judges must be able to run their fingers through the coat to check for coat quality and presentation, being able to pull their fingers up and out through the coat without encountering tangles, knots or matting.   |
| <b>Body</b>                                  | To have a short, cobby body, thick-set with good width across shoulders.;<br>To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh.<br>To have good size appropriate to age.   |
| <b>Frontal, Chops,</b>                       | Frontal and chops should be strong, with hair of one length and no gaps.  |

#### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

The Lunkarya may be shown in any colour or combination of colours.

It must be shown with no central parting on a board of appropriate size. This should be large enough to give an outline of the coat shape and be covered in natural-coloured hessian. The coat must not be cut.

## SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

Crest, Missing rump rosettes.

## SPECIFIC FAULTS

Additional rosettes causing a visible impact on the coat, to be penalised according to severity.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

The Lunkarya is a longhaired cavy in the Peruvian model (having a frontal, chops and two rump rosettes), but with significant differences due to the harsh and coarse coat texture and the tendency of the coat to form ringlets. The hair on the frontal, chop furnishings and belly is rexoid but not ringletted.

The Lunkarya's coat is its most important feature and on the body should be curly in a ringletted fashion, giving a corkscrew effect that needs to be present from the base of the coat to the tips, which should be intact. The coat should have harsh texture and be full and dense, with even lengths of ringletted curls sticking out from the body in a naturally untidy fashion. Therefore the Lunkarya should not be presented with a central parting.

Frontal and chops should be strong, with hair of one length and no gaps. The frontal and chops should be curly; the belly should show the presence of dense curls.

In an older Lunkarya the weight of the hair will tend to make the outer coat fall towards the body, but the innate tendency for the coat to grow out from the body should still be evident and there should be no tendency to a parting.

The coat of a Lunkarya grows at approximately 1 inch per month, although because of the curlyness of the coat it may appear shorter. It should therefore be measured by holding the hair straight.

- f) **Modified Guide Standard for Swiss:** The proposed changes to the Guide Standard for the Swiss met with disagreement from a number of Councillors who had viewed good examples of the breed abroad. The general feeling was that an attempt was being made by breeders to produce a Guide Standard describing the rather moderate examples being shown in this country, rather than the longer-coated exhibits often seen abroad. Examples of the Swiss brought for examination, including the one intended to indicate what was desired, were described by Mr Matthews as reminiscent of the 'Bitlonga' cavies that Peter Dawson attempted to popularise, without success, several years ago.

The general thrust of the proposed modification, to allow for substantially shorter coat length, was therefore rejected. Some minor improvements to the Guide Standard were agreed, as:

|                        | <b>SWISS (Guide Standard)</b>   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Coat Appearance</b> | To stand erect from the body, being thick and even in length to give a round and plush overall ('puff-ball') appearance, with sufficient density that the skin is not visible without parting the coat. The length of the coat should be <u>at least</u> 5 cm and be even across the shoulders, size and back. Chops should be strong, even, dense and well-furnished, with no gaps. Ideally to have longer hairs, known as 'horns', over the ears.<br>Belly to be well-covered but with coat shorter in length than on the rest of the body. |
| <b>Coat Feel</b>       | The coat to be dense, plush and springy against the body, coarse enough to support the hair standing erect but soft enough to create the required 'puffball' appearance.<br>It should be free from grease.  |
| <b>Presentation</b>    | To be presented clean and unmatted, with the hair standing erect all over the body to create a full and rounded appearance with no tendency either for the coat to lie forward  |

or for a parting. There should be no tangles or matting.

**Head, Eyes & Ears**      **Head** to be short & broad, Muzzle of good width & 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.

**Body Shape**              To have short, cobby body; thick-set, with good width across shoulders.  
To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh.

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

Swiss may be shown in any colour or combination of colours.

They must be shown on a board covered in natural-coloured hessian

### **GUIDANCE NOTES**

The Swiss is a rexoid, semi-longhaired cavy whose coat stands erect from the body to give a rounded shape of even ('puff-ball') appearance.

The Swiss is inclined to moult at regular intervals, from the shoulder backwards. Accordingly, those in 'mid moult' have longer coats around the rump than on the rest of the body. They should not be shown during the moulting stages

Some Swiss possess a rosette on the forehead. This usually fills out and disappears by 5 months of age. However, Swiss should not be shown with any visible rosette.

**SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS:** None

**SPECIFIC FAULTS:** The presence of any visible rosette in the coat (usually found on the head) is a severe fault. Having coat of inappropriate length, or of differing lengths and texture (particularly extra length on the rump), is a severe fault.

Coat faults, where the coat direction visibly goes against the general lie of the coat, such as swirls (usually found in the hip area) should be penalised according to the extent of the fault.

- g) **Reclassification of Bicolour, Tricolour, Brindle and Tortoiseshell:** The RVCC Representative reported that the Club had considered the Council's stated intention to review the status of these breeds at this Meeting and concluded that they might indeed benefit from a change to Guide Standard status. The principal reason for this is that the requirements could be reviewed with the intention of creating a Standard that was more likely to be viable, in the case of patched cavies perhaps placing less emphasis on the rigid geometric pattern required of Tort & Whites. In addition, these breeds might compete against the similarly marked Harlequins and Magpies, along with Belteds, in Marked Guide Standard classes and thereby regain some popularity.

Mr Joyce argued that the existing Standards were already viable, given enough effort and focus by breeders, whilst Mrs Saynor suggested that it ought to be possible simply to change the Standards if more appropriate ones were felt to be required. The Chairman expressed the view that Standards for these breeds would not be approved if the Council were approached to grant them today, given that few if any reasonable examples had been seen in at least 40 years. He recognised that the Tort & White is a long-standing breed whose extreme difficulty should be cherished as an example of fanciers trying to achieve a near-impossible dream.

However, Full Standards for these other Marked breeds based on Tort & White requirements did little for either the breeds themselves or the Council's credibility. If significant revisions to the existing Standards were required, the appropriate route was to do this via Guide Standards.

The matter was put to a vote, with 7 Representatives voting in favour of changing these breeds to Guide Standard status, including the RVCC Representative, with 4 against and 2 abstentions. The initial Guide Standards will be based on the present Full Standards but the RVCC will make recommendations for potential modifications in 12 months time.

Mrs Phillips asked if it might be a good idea for the NTWCC, with the approval of the RVCC, to put on classes for such cavies at its Stock shows. Given that such a move could only encourage breeders of Marked varieties, this was welcomed by the RVCC Representative and the rest of the Council. However, these breeds will remain under the control of the RVCC.

h) **Discussion on the Progress of Other Guide Standard and New / Emerging Varieties:** The RVCC Representative reported on the situation in regard to various Guide Standard and NEB varieties as follows:

- **Harlequin and Magpie** are regularly shown to a good standard. However, concern has been expressed that the use of the word 'Roaning' in the Guide Standard for Magpies leads to the belief that the roan gene might be present, thereby preventing Magpie to Magpie mating if microphthalmic whites are not to be produced. This is not the case. It was agreed that any reference to roaning in the Guide Standard should be replaced by 'intermixture of Black (or Chocolate) and White hairs'.
- **Belteds** are being shown in relatively small numbers with little evidence to support a move to Full Standard.
- **Ridgebacks** are shown mainly by one breeder. Mr Matthews commented that those he had seen frequently didn't even have complete ridges and that, even if they did, the possession of a relatively simple defining factor, a ridge running down the back, hardly justified any move to Full Standard. It was unanimously agreed that the potential of the breed, as currently defined, seems to be limited and that, since Guide Standard status is meant to be the final step before grant of a Full Standard, the Guide Standard should be withdrawn for this breed, which would revert to NEB. The Chairman advised the Council that 12 months notice need not be given of the intention to move a breed from Guide Standard to NEB and it was agreed that this would occur from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.
- **Chinchillas** seem to have made little progress since being given a Guide Standard. However, the potential for the 'chinchillation' effect of a wide band of white colour on a dark / white agouti-type cavy remains, and breeders are encouraged to select for the features required by the Guide Standard.
- **Caramels** are shown by relatively few exhibitors but the Chairman commented that a particularly good example of the required toffee colour had been exhibited at the NCC Combined Show; this had won Best NEB Self over the Blues in the ESCC Show judged by that eminent cavy authority and socialite, Mr Rubery. Both the RVCC and ESCC are to encourage Caramel



breeders to distribute stock more widely and support Specialist Club shows in order to encourage a move from NEB to Guide Standard.

- **Californians** are proving particularly popular in NEB classes. It appears increasingly apparent that Himalayan-type markings can be selected for, but it seems that the best youngsters become over-marked Adults whilst less heavily-marked youngsters can develop into the best Adults. However, Mrs Saynor observed that this phenomenon is frequently found in Himalayans too. It was agreed that the RVCC should look at bringing forward a proposal to move Californians to Guide Standard next year.
- **Silver (and Cinnamon) Agouti Himalayan:** Very few (i.e. Ted Brearley) exhibitors are promoting these breeds. The difficulty that a fault that is undesirable in 'normal' Himalayans ('peppering') is inevitable in Agouti Himalayans is one that appears likely to inhibit their potential.
- **Dark Sable and Sable Fox** are rarely seen and their prospects are undermined by the difficulty of discerning the sabbling in normal show conditions.
- **'Mini-Pli'** apparently result from crosses of Lunkarya with Alpaca. Since the longhair gene is common to both but the rexoid Lunkarya gene is dominant and the rexoid Alpaca gene recessive, these appear to be Lunkaryas genetically but (for some reason) with generally shorter coats. The Council took the view that Mini-Plis are cross-breeds to all intents and purposes, with the curliness of Lunkaryas but not the coat length; and they might well prove damaging to both of the parent varieties if crossed back. Although the Council has no right to ban the showing of this variety in NEB classes, it takes the view that the breed has no real future; it is misleading to other fanciers to sell them as show stock; and responsible judges should not put them up in NEB classes.
- **'Lakelands'** are short-haired, rexoid 'skinny carriers' with mediocre coat qualities. These have similarly moderate show potential; breeding them together will produce an average of 25% Skinnies; and again, whilst the Council is unable to proscribe them, it strongly discourages exhibitors from showing Lakelands and judges from placing them in NEB classes.
- The **'Curly'** cavy is a smooth, short-haired version of the (dominant Rexoid) Lunkarya. As yet there is no evidence that it satisfies any potential need for a new variety in the cavy fancy.
- The **'Dapples'** that have been reported in Europe appear to consist of an intermixing of Chocolate (or DE Golden) and white hairs distributed all over the body including the head and feet but with the white hairs in a minority. It is uncertain whether this is due to the long-known 'grizzle' gene or some other factor, but many more examples need to be bred before the breed's potential can be assessed.
- **Self-coloured cavies carrying the blue dilution gene** will undoubtedly be seen in chocolate and red-based colours, as well as in combination with partial pink or pink-eyed dilutions of black, chocolate and red. Whilst it is possible that some of these colours might prove of sufficient attractiveness to warrant development, many of the genetic combinations are likely to be indistinguishable, or appear inferior to, existing breeds. For example, the blue-dilution version of Red is often regarded as an unattractive yellowish colour.

Mr Cooke commented that, correspondingly, the 'Blue Tan' will have a poor tan colour that is likely to render it undesirable in the eyes of the NFTCC.

- As regards the standardised Argente breed, there is an anomaly in that Solid Agoutis are standardised whereas **Solid Argentes** are not. The RVCC will consider the matter and make a recommendation to next year's Meeting.

**5. Correspondence:** None received.

**6. Motions of Urgency (accepted at the Chairman's discretion):** None.

**7. Any other business:** Two years having passed since the last hotly-contested contest for Chairman and Secretary of the Council, the time had come for another one. There being no one foolish enough to put themselves forward for either position and the incumbents being sufficiently inured to the task to remain in position, Mr Mayoh and Mrs Alston were reappointed with great enthusiasm.

Having agreed to continue her onerous responsibilities, the Secretary once more asked for the Council's help in minimising the difficulties caused by having to communicate with certain Councillors by mail rather than email, since this often involved lengthy treks on foot over snow-covered mountains and dangerous ravines in search of a post-box that had not been vandalised. On this occasion the Council unanimously agreed that Clubs whose Representatives do not have access to email should identify a Member to receive email communications and pass them on by letter to the Representative. Any failure to communicate with the appointed Representative would then be one of the Club not the Secretary.

Mrs Saynor agreed to do this in order to communicate with the NHCC Representative, Mr Brearley, whilst it was suggested that the DRCC Deputy Representative, Mr Joyce, could perform the same task for the Club's Representative, Mrs Rolph. It was noted that this might well involve him in lengthy treks on foot over snow-covered mountains and dangerous ravines in search of a post-box that has not been vandalised, and Mr Joyce was thanked in advance for his diligence in this regard.

**8. Date and location of next meeting:** To be arranged in a similar part of the country in October 2017.

**N.B. The effective date for all changes to Full Standards, Guide Standards, NEB Guidance Notes and changes to the status of Breeds as Full Standard, Guide Standard or NEB will be 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.**