

SOMALI CAT CLUB

Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting Held by Zoom on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 6pm

In attendance: Alison Lyall (Chairman), Lorraine Burns, Linzey Friend (Secretary), Carole Hack (Vice Chairman), Brenda Horsley, Patrick MacDowall, Sandra Melia, Di Taylor, Emily Butler, Nadine Daniel, Kathy Hines, Sally Masey, Rita Masters, Beverley Watson, Gill Mackenzie, Patrice Torrey, Joanna Shackleton, Annelies van Wamel, Shelagh Heavens, Ketill Game, David Howells, Deborah Forbes, Mary Nation, Nathan Gilbert

1. **Chairman's opening remarks:** Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Due to members' commitments it had been impossible to find a mutually convenient date to meet in person hence the meeting being held by Zoom, but Alison encouraged everyone to attend the seminar to be held jointly with the Norwegian Forest Cat Club on 8 October at Wythall Village Hall.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Brian Gregory is indisposed and unable to attend. Vicky Taylor had a prior commitment but had helpfully set up the Zoom call.
3. **Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting:** with one amendment to correct that Barb Pointing had given apologies to the previous meeting, and also correction to the spelling of Nadine Daniel's surname, the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Carole Hack, seconded by Brenda Horsley
4. **Matters arising:** Alison welcomed Nadine Daniel onto the Committee as sadly Barb Pointing is resigning.
5. **Committee Report:** Linzey reported on the successful Annual Show held jointly with the Norwegian Forest Cat Club in February. Great efforts had been made on social media to publicize the event which led to an above average attendance by members of the general public, and there was an impressive amount of sponsorship.

Membership currently stands at 113 paid members which includes some joint memberships, plus another 8 Honorary members, totalling 121 current Club members. Only 8 people lapsed since last year which is better than usual. Most now pay via the website with only a few paying by cheque. As agreed at the last Committee meeting, we will have to increase the cost of membership order to keep up with rising costs. The new prices will be published in this year's journal.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Unfortunately as Brian has been indisposed he has been unable to complete the accounts. The GCCF are aware but the consequence is that the Club aren't allowed to have a delegate at this Saturday's Electoral Meeting. Brian was able to submit the following: The SCC Current account currently stands at £6,313.23, The Reserve

Account £505.20. The BAC Current Account £417.01 and the Reserve account £203.71. Steven Bunce was approved as an independent person to inspect the show accounts proposed by Alison Lyall and seconded by Lorraine Burns. Shelagh Heavens was approved as an independent person to inspect the Club accounts proposed by Lorraine Burns and seconded by Di Taylor

7. **Announcement of Committee Members of the Somali Cat Club 2023:** Brenda Horsley, Sandra Melia, Carole Hack, Linzey Friend, proposed by Lorraine Burns, seconded by Brenda Horsley.
8. **Ratification of GCCF Delegate** The meeting ratified the committee's selection of Alison Lyall with Linzey Friend as substitute.
9. **Breed Advisory Committee Report** BAC Secretary Naomi Johnson had supplied the following:

At the Meeting on 6 November 2022 Mr John Harrison's application for promotion to Full Judge was accepted unanimously. There had been no further updates regarding the Grand Group BAC trials.

At the Meeting on 15 April 2023 (Electoral meeting) - Brian Gregory unable to continue as Treasurer due to health problems; post to remain vacant for the moment. Fiona Hermon and Naomi Johnson to continue as Chair and Secretary for 2023-24. Alison Lyall elected as Vice-Chair. Mr Steve Crow's application for promotion to Full Judge was accepted unanimously.

Additionally, Nathan Gilbert has applied and been accepted as a steward.

10. **Welfare & Rescue Report.** Alison reported on a quiet year with currently one 10 year old usual FN, Nala, at Brizlincoat looking for a home alone, and two others on the website but remaining with their owners until they can be re-homed direct to single cat homes. Lady remains with Di who has decided that she will be a permanent resident on the farm. Ghost, Nala's companion was rehomed after only a week with Di. Tiffany was rehomed direct in September and her companion Gus had a total personality change when he became the only cat and has been taken off the website by his owners. We were approached in February about a much loved epileptic 3 year old MN who had attacked his owner's new baby and were able to advise before he was re-homed to a friend of the owner.

There is around £15,900 in the Welfare account. £256 has been received from the sale of the Calendar, and Alison encouraged everyone to support next year's calendar by submitting photos and buying a calendar.

Alison and Di have instigated a questionnaire for new welfare cases being taken into Brizlincoat (along the lines of the Cats Protection League) in order to have a full history and be better able to treat successfully.

At this point unfortunately the clock ran out on the Zoom call and we were unceremoniously cut off. Nadine Daniel had the foresight (and the

business account!) to set up and circulate details for a new call. There was a short delay while participants re-joined.

11. **GCCF Delegate:** all the details of meetings are now on the GCCF website. From 10 June 2024 all cats must be microchipped. It will be the responsibility of new owners of kittens to get them microchipped.
12. **Show Managers Report:** Shelagh and Kit (joining from Cyprus!) reported that this year's joint show had gone very well with a good number of entries. Next year's show will again be held jointly with the NFC and Kit has managed to book the hall at Ettington which is a really good venue. Judges have been confirmed as Daphne Butters, Sandra Moore, Val Anderson-Drew, John Harrison, Lynn Fryer and Steve Parkin. Alison has offered to continue with the catering. The larger hall would accommodate around 70 double pens, plus there is the option of the smaller hall (with a capacity of 25-30 single pens). Di suggested that in order to keep the separate identities of each club, the larger hall is used for NFC and the smaller hall for SCC. Alison thanked Shelagh and Kit for sticking with us.
13. **AOB:** Alison thanked Nadine for reissuing the Zoom details so that we could continue the meeting. The next meeting will be face to face (date to be announced) and Di has offered to host at Brizlincoat Farm. Kit and Shelagh thanked the Committee for their continued support, with special thanks to Alison for exceptional catering.

The Muriel Harvey Award was presented to Emily Butler for all her work on the internet promoting Somalis and membership of the club, including information on shows where they will be present so members can visit.

The Anne Rickson Award was presented to Ch & GrPr Somantikks Hoban Washburne ("Wash"). Wash is the face of the Somali on FaceBook and Instagram and has his own following. He really does showcase the best of the Somali.

Lorraine announced the results of the Awards and Certificates for cats performances at Shows. Due to the interruption caused by the pandemic, the period covered was beginning of 2020 to end of 2022. Results were:

Best Neuter: OGICh & UK OBICh Supatof Somantix Tygalily

Best Kitten: VanRegel's Twix

Best Adult: ICh Somantikks Jorja Dreamin

The meeting closed at 7.17 pm.