

Minutes of the Meeting of 12th October 2013, held at Norton Lindsey Village Hall, Warwickshire.

Present: Bryan Mayoh (Chairman), Jan Alston (Secretary), Allan Trigg (DCC), Ted Brearley (NHCC), Oliver Joyce (DRCC), Tony O'Neill (ESCC), David Oulton (ESCC), Don Payne (CCC), Nikki Matthews (CSCC), Joan Phillips (PVCC), Ken Yates (NTWCC), Simon Neesam (ACC), Dave Marshall (RVCC), Rachael Wallis (NFTCC), Bill Seymour (prospective TCC),

1. Meeting Administration

a) **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Rex Matthews (RCC) and Penny Bell (NACC).

b) Minutes of the Meeting of 20th October 2012

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

c) **Matters Arising from the Meeting on 20th October 2012 (not on the Agenda):** None.

d) Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman thanked Councillors for attending despite the fact that the Agenda was not a particularly full one. However, it was necessary to hold a meeting since there was a proposal to recognise a new Specialist Club and this was too important a matter to be dealt with by e-mail. To aid discussion of this matter he had invited Mr Seymour to attend to represent the prospective Teddy Cavy Club. He was welcome to remain throughout the meeting and to join discussions, although would not be able to participate in voting.

2. Administration of BCC

a) Financial Report

The Secretary produced an interim set of accounts from January 2013 to October 2013. These indicated a cash balance of £1453.93 and a cash surplus of £134.80 on the year.

It was agreed that the previous suggestion of producing Standards on memory sticks was inappropriate given the increasing use of tablets and smart phones to access websites; and that the most practical way to publicise Standards was to maintain these on the website, ideally with the addition of a version suitable for access by mobile phones. Mr Neesam will look into this and will be reimbursed for any time required to format an alternative version of the website.

After further discussion, including the possibility of allocating surplus funds to Specialist Clubs, it was agreed to maintain a reserve for such purposes as the above but to donate £250 to the Real London Show, as the largest cavy-oriented event in the country, requesting that the show helps with positive publicity to the Council for this sponsorship.

b) Prefix Scheme

Mr Trigg reported that there had been 71 registrations during the first 10 months of the year and that the income net of costs had been £294.50. He raised the issue of certain applications that had been received requesting names relating to generic breeds of cavy, e.g. 'Slate Cavies'. These had been rejected on the grounds that they implicitly 'laid claim to' a specific breed, pending discussion at this meeting.

Similar names had been allowed in the past; but both he and the Chairman felt that whilst, 'Fanny's Pink Cavies' might be a valid name 'Pink Cavies' was not. It was unanimously agreed that such generic names would not be allowed henceforth. Such names that had been granted in the past would be rescinded, with the fanciers concerned (if contactable) asked to choose another name free of choice or refunded the fee paid.

Specialist Clubs were reminded not to register awards for members using unregistered prefixes; and the NCC will look at its show regulations with the aim of strengthening them in this regard.

However, despite Mrs Bell's undertakings to raise the matter with the SCC, no response had been received from this body to the BCC's request that it honour undertakings made when the BCC Scheme was established, namely that only stud prefixes registered by the Council are used at shows held under its Rules. Councillors that are members of the SCC agreed to continue to explain the logic of this request to the SCC Executive, forlorn though the hope of its actually doing anything positive might be. .

c) **Website**

As always, Mr Neesam reported that the site continued to attract many visitors, a number of these being new to the fancy, but he still required articles covering the breeding and showing of several breeds of cavy. Once more, Councillors agreed to consider this, before forgetting all about it for another year.

Mr Neesam is still to discontinue the pdf of Standards that are difficult to update and that are in several cases out of date.

One change that has been indicated by requests from several people using the site is to show contact details for local shows, where potential fanciers can see various breeds of cavy and perhaps become converted into exhibitors. It was agreed that a link to the NCC website having details of such shows would feature prominently on the Home page; and that this would be extended to the SCC website as soon as this body agrees to co-operate with the Council on other matters. N.B. The NCC needs to make sure that local club details are readily accessible on its website, which does not appear to be the case currently.

3 **Specialist Breed Club Issues**

a) **Recognition of Teddy Cavy Club**

Mr Seymour described the various activities of the Teddy Cavy Club during the period of its existence under the guidance of the RVCC. It was unanimously agreed that the organisation of the club and its success in attracting a reasonable number of members warranted its acceptance as a Specialist Club in its own right, as a full member of the Council. This will take effect from 1st January 2014.

b) **RVCC/ ESCC Update on progress of the Self Slate**

Mr Oulton reported that the ESCC Executive did not consider that the quality of Slate cavies being shown justified the promotion of the breed to a Full Standard. The major problem is a 'browny cast' in the coat of many cavies, this being well exemplified by a demonstration of Slate cavies organised by the RVCC two years ago when, in the opinion of most judges, only one cavy showed the requisite colour. Mr Marshall confirmed that the RVCC shared this view. More selection for a true slate coat colour is therefore required before the breed can progress.

The Chairman commented on the great progress in the colour of Caramels being shown by Mr Brearley this year. This shows that selection for colour can be effective in producing improvements in such breeds.

c) **NACC / RVCC Status of Slate-based Ticked Cavies**

The Chairman raised the issue of whether Slate-based Ticked cavies were to be regarded as Agoutis or Argentes. The current Standards made no ruling on this point. The difference between the two in Standards is not just of eye colour (dark-eyed being Agoutis, pink-eyed as Argentes) but that Argentes were required to have a 'shimmering, shot-silk' effect rather than the 'sharp, level ticking' required of Agoutis.

After discussion it was agreed that sharp ticking was a more appropriate feature in slate-based ticked cavies, so that these should be regarded as Guide Standard Agoutis.

4. Breed Standards

a) Clarification of Rex Colour Categories

The Rex Cavy Club had presented a proposal that a cavy should only be termed an Agouti Bicolour 'when both of the colours are visible when the cavy is viewed from above.' This proposal was eloquently presented by Mr Payne, who stated that the intention of the Club was to prevent cavies with small white patches on their feet from being shown as Agouti Bicolours. The Chairman pointed out that the proposal as worded meant that such a cavy would have to be regarded as an Agouti Bicolour if its feet were sticking out from the body but as an Agouti if they were beneath it, which is clearly nonsensical.

It was agreed that a clear white patch on a foot means that a cavy is a bicolour unless the RCC wishes to specify a minimum size for the patches on such a cavy, which it has not done. In the absence of such a proposal, it was agreed that the definition of a Bicolour to include the qualification that 'Both colours should be clearly visible without disturbance of the coat.'

It was noted that the existing Standard for Agouti Rex already covers the situation of cavies showing faults that occur in smooth agoutis, e.g. white belly, eye circles, bonnet strings; and defines these as Agoutis.

It was further agreed that, in order to minimise confusion to judges, the colour definitions in the Rex and Teddy Standards should be aligned. N.B. This does not mean that classes for all possible colours have to be put on or that the same classes must be held for both breeds, e.g. Teddies could have a class for Bicolour and Agouti Bicolour with Rex having a class confined to Agouti Bicolour (with other Bicolours being shown as AOC).

b) Amendments to Fox / Tan Standard

Ms Wallis presented a proposal by the NFTCC to modify the Standard for the Tan cavy. This was aimed to ensure that Tans that are too dark are not favoured over cavies of a slightly lighter hue that carry much clearer markings.

The Chairman pointed out that one aspect of the proposal was inappropriate, namely that it sought to achieve this by increasing the points for Markings and reducing points for Colour, whilst simultaneously stressing colour features within the Markings. He pointed out that the review of Standards carried out a few years ago had determined several fundamental principles.

One was that similar breeds of cavies should have the same number of points for similar features; and that the Tan is a Marked Pattern cavy like the Himalayan, it being deemed that a ratio of 50 points for Markings and 25 for Colour is appropriate in these cases. A second was that requirements for the colour of Marked cavies should be shown in the points for Colour, not under Markings, as was being attempted here.

However, the problem expressed by the NFTCC appears to be a real one, namely that the darker Tan cavies favoured by some judges as being of the mahogany shade required by the present Standard are too dark to show clear tan markings on the body. This could be addressed by changing the wording for the required Markings and Colour in the Standard, along the lines suggested by the Club, rather than by modifying the Points Allocation.

It was unanimously agreed that the Tan Standard be modified in several respects:

- Under **Markings on Nostrils, Jowls, Chest and Throat** that 'There should be a clearly-defined band of base colour across the throat, evenly laced with tan ticking';
- Under **Markings of Eye Circles & Pea Spots** that 'Tan eye-circles to be even and clearly distinguishable'; and under;
- Under **Markings on Belly** that 'Belly should be a clear tan colour';

- and under **Colour** that ‘Tan to be rich in colour approximating to ESCC Golden’ (rather than the mahogany currently required’.

These changes should emphasise the quality of markings that is desirable and that is more likely to be achieved with a slightly lighter shade of tan than that originally suggested. They (and corresponding changes to the Fox and Otter Standards) will take effect from 1st January 2014.

- 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 Secretary raised the issue of the difficulty of reaching some Councillors who still made no use of email. It was agreed that she should press these to at least nominate an email address at which they could be contacted. However, a vote on the Secretary’s suggestion that contacts with Councillors would only be made by email was tied 6-6. With regrets, the Chairman had to resolve the tie by casting his vote on what was clearly an issue of some controversy in favour of the status quo, namely that contact would continue to be attempted by mail to those Councillors who were unable or unwilling to provide an email address. This paralleled a similar decision in 1357, when it was agreed after a tied vote that the use of carrier pigeons would continue so long as an adequate number (and food for these) were provided by the relevant Clubs; but on that occasion the Black Death ultimately resolved the situation satisfactorily.

Mr Joyce stated that he had been asked to raise the question of travelling expenses for Councillors attending meetings. After discussion it was felt that the Council’s limited funds would be eroded even by modest payments. It was in the interests of the Specialist Breed Club to send the person most suitable to represent their club and they may consider making a financial contribution in cases of limited means.

- 8. Date and location of next meeting:** To be arranged by the Secretary at a similar time / location in 2014, subject to the Chairman’s judgement that the matters raised cannot be resolved effectively by mail / email / town crier.

CAVIES NOTICE

BRITISH CAVY COUNCIL: DECISIONS OF MEETING OF 12th OCTOBER 2013

The following decisions were taken by the Council at its Meeting on 12th October 2013. These will take effect on 1st January 2014.

Stud Prefix Scheme

Stud prefixes using only the name of a particular breed of cavy, e.g. 'Dutch Cavies', will not be allowed henceforth. Such names that have been granted in the past will be rescinded, with the fanciers concerned (if contactable) asked to choose another name free of charge or refunded the fee paid. Fanciers are free to register a stud name that incorporates a breed, e.g. Triggy's Dutch Cavies, but not one where only the breed name is used.

Specialist Club Secretaries are reminded not to register awards for members using unregistered prefixes.

Teddy Cavy Club

The Teddy Cavy Club is recognised as a Specialist Breed Club in its own right from 1st January 2014, at which time it becomes a full member of the British Cavy Council.

Status of Slate-based Ticked Cavies

Slate-based Ticked cavies are to be regarded as **Guide Standard Agouti**, rather than as a form of Argente, with the guidance features being as in the Standard for the Agouti and the Slate Guide Standard.

Colour Descriptions in Rex and Teddy Cavies

In order to minimise confusion to judges, the colour definitions in the Rex and Teddy Standards will be aligned, with a slight change being made to the definition of **Bicolour** in each to stipulate that 'Both colours should be clearly visible without disturbance of the coat.'

N.B. This does not mean that classes for all possible colours have to be put on or that the same classes must be held for both breeds, e.g. Teddies could have a class for Bicolour and Agouti Bicolour with Rex having a class confined to Agouti Bicolour (with other Bicolours being shown as AOC).

Modification to Tan Standard

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These changes should emphasise the quality of markings that is desirable and that is more likely to be achieved with a slightly lighter shade of tan than that suggested by the previous wording in the Standard.

Bryan Mayoh, Chairman British Cavy Council