



Exotic Cat Club Newsletter

December 2009

My very best seasons Greetings to you all! I cannot believe that a year has flown past since I penned my first report as Chair and it has been another very successful year for the Exotic breed.

There have been some changes in the committee as a result of the AGM in October and as you read this newsletter they will be revealed to you! Firstly who is this Anna McEntee?? Well as I mentioned last year, Anna and Bren had got engaged and it was with great pleasure that I attended their wedding last April and so they are now old hands as Mr and Mrs McEntee. We send our love and congratulations to them again for a long and happy life together.

I must say a huge thank you to Vic Simmons who will be relinquishing his role as Treasurer a role he has undertaken with great care and responsibility and we all wish him a very well deserved rest now. Shelagh Heavens has agreed to take over the purse strings so we know the continued well being of the club is safe in her hands. Mike Barrett as Secretary has agreed to continue his excellent duties for the coming year and I for one am most grateful to Mike for his excellent services to the club in so many ways too various to mention.

The committee has been boosted by the arrival of Carol Tonks and Caroline Bailey-Read thanks and welcome to you both. I know that we have two dedicated people here who will do so much to promote the breed and its well-being. We were also so sad to lose the services of David and Malcolm in the year. They have been involved with us for a number of years and although taking a well earned break will I know keep supporting us when ever they can. Thanks guys!! And to Barbara and Joan who agreed to be co-opted and supported us throughout the year.

7th February 2010 sees our Exotic BAC seminar which is being organised by us this time so please do come along and support us. It is not just for judges there are many topics that will be of interest to everyone including developments on showing our gorgeous exotic longhairs and celebrating our exotic grand class!! Come along and swell the numbers. Please contact Anna for tickets.

The exotic breed has gone from strength to strength and they are constantly winning the top awards at shows throughout the country. We send congratulations to all the owners and breeders of those winning exhibits! Next year will see the arrival of the Exotic Grand class. Here I must say a huge thank you to Barbara McEwen for doing the numbers game and making a convincing case along with the BAC to grant the exotics their own grand class. We can only have one class for all exotics at the moment as numbers did not warrant a self/non self split but we do have a great start in getting this far.

As I mentioned above we also have Executive of GCCF and the Genetics committee very open for debate on the showing of exotic longhairs in the Persian classes so come along and join the discussion at the seminar in February we can do it with your support!!!!

So as we sit back and contemplate the festive season which is almost upon us and make plans for 2010 and those New Year resolutions, please make one of them to renew your membership of your breed club and another one to attend our Easter show on 3rd April 2010. We need every one of your entries. We as the committee really do try to make the day one of friendly competition, relaxed atmosphere and to have something for everyone. We really do hope that you will join us.

Well it only leaves me to say once again how much we value your membership and support, and may I on behalf of the club wish you a really peaceful and happy Christmas, good health and best wishes for 2010 and again may all your kittens be of the short hair variety!

Jane and all at Zendique Exotics

Exotic B.A.C. Seminar
7th February 2010
Mapleborough Village Hall
Studley, Warks. B80 7BT

Exotic BAC Update



Separate Exotic Grand Class!

Hot off the press – the Executive Committee has approved that Exotics should have their own Grand Classes!!

It will go to Council and should come into effect from 1st June 2011!!!!!!! Our thanks must be again extended to Barbara McEwen who has collated all the facts and figures of which Exotics have been shown over the last season to enable this.

Longhaired Exotics

In addition to this exciting news, it appears we are gaining ground with the concept of Exotic Longhairs competing in Persian Classes. This will be discussed at the next meeting before a full proposal is put forward to the Executive – so watch this space!!!

New Judges

Probationer judges promoted to full judges for Exotics during 2009 are:

Mrs C Davies, Mrs J Green, Mrs L Dutton, Mrs L Ashmore, Mrs K Board-Allam and Mrs S Crichton.

Exotic BAC Seminar

The Exotic BAC Seminar has been arranged for Sunday 7th February 2010 at Mappleborough Green Village Hall, Birmingham Road, Mappleborough Green, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7BT Tickets are available priced £8.50 from the BAC Secretary, Mrs Naomi Johnson, The Old Post Office, Cottam, Retford, Notts DN22 0EZ Alternatively, if you have any questions, drop Anna a line at annatonks@btinternet.com

The theme is 'type is paramount', although several other topics including tabby patterns, silvers and report writing are on the agenda and we have a wonderful line-up of speakers and presenters! We have a beautiful selection of top quality Exotics across a wide range of colours on exhibition.

Please support your breed by coming along! It will be a very informative day and a lovely lunch is included in the price of a ticket.

New Treasurer

Our Treasurer Vic Simmons is retiring on 31st December and will be replaced by Shelagh Heavens. The Committee would like to extend their thanks to Vic for all his hard work over the years.

Our Financial year has altered and will be from 1st January to 31st December as from 2010. Members, who pay their subs by cheque, should send them to Shelagh Heavens at:

The Keys, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN 27 4SU

Members who pay by standing order do not need to take any action

Finchfield Exotics



*Grand Champion Finchfield Fashionista
Best in Show Kitten at the Exotic CC Show*

Brenda & Mike Barrett
www.finchfield.org.uk

9th Championship Show – 4th April 2009

Where does the time go? This year was our ninth championship show, which means including the qualifying shows, we have had 15 in total, the first being back in 1994. For my sins I have been to everyone and the Manager since 1998. I am pleased to say I have finally stopped worrying about the number of entries we will get, and just keep my fingers crossed and hope. We had a total of 33 Exotic's this year (15 Adults, 10 Kittens, 8 Neuters), it is a sobering thought to realise that at the first show we had 48 Exotic's and have never since reached that high number. The quality of course has progressed in leaps and bounds and there were some real stunners this year.

We shared the venue with the Egyptian Mau club and as always they were a super friendly bunch. In the current economic climate if you want a good venue with excellent facilities you have to pay and unless you can guarantee a large entry, the only way to do this is to share with another club. We of course did this in the early days, then we had a few years when we were by ourselves but found this to be very hard work. This is the fourth year of sharing with the Mau's and we seem to have ironed out all the little niggles either club may have had, and I feel we get on extremely well. They were in charge of catering and did a splendid job feeding our judges and exhibitors thru out the day.

We tried the TICA idea of having just one rosette on each pen, to this a badge was attached for each class win, what did you all think of it? Do let me know, as no firm decisions have yet been made on what to have next year. If I am honest I was disappointed with the rosettes they looked much bigger in the catalogue, but the added bows and ribbons on the pens helped to make it all looked very festive. Each pen as always was laden with lots of wonderful freebie's and a huge thanks must go to Mike Barrett for all the hard work he puts in to obtain these, I do hope the exhibitor's realise just how lucky they are.

Our judges had a difficult job with some wonderful exhibits. Congratulations to our winners who were: - Adult: Mrs Brown-Percival's GR CH Sandiman Scoundral, Kitten: Mr & Mrs Barrett's Finchfield Fashionista, Neuter and Overall Best In Show: Miss Fisher-Allen's GR PR Zendique Sleepless Knights and household pet, Mrs J Plant's Silver Sam.

Next year our show date is 3rd April and we are again at The Greig Centre in Alcester our judges are Jane Allen, Anne Gregory and Gerald and Linda Martin. It is the Easter weekend so there will of course be an Easter theme, plus I am thinking of having the Easter Bonnet competition again, if you have any ideas please do let me know. We as a committee will do everything in our power to make it a super day but we do need the cats to make it a success, so as they say, support us or risk losing your show, I look forward to seeing you all there.

Shelagh Heavens - Show Manager

Open Adult class winners were:

Imperial Grand Champion Male: Sandi Brown-Percival's
GR CH SANDIMAN SCOUNDRAL, (70 31t)

Imperial Grand Champion Female: Brenda & Mike Barrett's
GR CH FINCHFIELD GEORGIEGIRL, (70 1)

A.C. Self Champion Male: Victoria Wyatt's
CH AMZENI EYESTOTHELEFT, (70 1)

A.C. Self Champion Female: Brenda & Mike Barrett's
GR CH FINCHFIELD GEORGIEGIRL, (70 1)

AC Non-self Champion Male: Sandi Brown-Percival's
GR CH SANDIMAN SCOUNDRAL, (70 31t)

AC Non-self Champion Female: Nan Bond's
CH TINABEE CONNIE FRANCIS, (70 31gt)

AC Self Male: Victoria Wyatt's
CH AMZENI EYESTOTHELEFT, (70 1)

AC Tabby Male: Carol Tonks'
ZENDIQUE U'VEBEEN TANGOED, (70 12a5t)

AC Tabby Female: J Allen's
SANDIMAN FASHION. (70 12a1t).

A.O.C Non-self Male: Wendy Wallace's
SHARISHIMA BILLY BOB. (70 12a5)

A.O.C Non-self Female: Wendy Wallace's
BIGWIG LOLLIPOP, (70 31)

Open Kitten class winners were:

AC Self Kitten (5 to 7 months) Male: Kathryn Mitchell's
SLINKYPAWS BUDDY LOVE. (70 9).

AC Non-self Kitten (14w to 5 months) Female: Nan Bond's
MOONWALKERS PRUDENCE. (70 12.1).

AC Non-self Kitten (5 to 7 months) Female: J Plant's
MARLEESH FAITH, (70 52).

AC Non-self Kitten (7 to 9 months) Female: Brenda & Mike Barrett's
FINCHFIELD FASHIONISTA, (70 7).

Open Adult Neuter class winners were:

AC Imperial Grand Premier Male: Edina Fisher-Allen's
GR PR ZENDIQUE SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS, (70 31t).

AC Imperial Grand Premier Female: S Illsley's
GR PR KITTYVILLE MAKUSHLA, (70 22)

AC Self Premier Male: Pam Mallabone's
GR CH & PR FINCHFIELD DEVILINDISGUISE, (70 1)

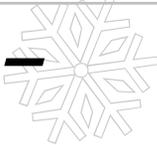
AC Non-self Premier Male: Anna Tonks'
GR CH & PR ICEMOOR TORANDOT, (70 31ft)

AC Non-self Premier Female: S Illsley's
GR PR KITTYVILLE MAKUSHLA, (70 22)

AC Self Male: Pam Mallabone's
GR CH & PR FINCHFIELD DEVILINDISGUISE, (70 1)

AC Non-self Male: Carol Tonks'
GR CH ZENDIQUE ATZAR ISBORN. (70 30 8a)

GCCF Delegate's Report – Thoughts & Musings



2009 has been a watershed for the Cat Fancy without doubt. During the 40 years that I have been involved with Cats, really only one other situation has caused such turmoil. Back in the early 1980's, CFA and Fife tried to start holding shows in the UK. At the time the Cat Fancy was very strong. Cats here in the UK were perhaps the best in the world. The Kensington Kitten & Neuter Show and the National were shows that brought in people from Europe who were looking to buy our bloodlines. Indeed both of these shows used to have Vets on hand to provide the necessary health certificates so visitors could go back to mainland Europe clutching their new purchases.

This situation resulted in GCCF judges being banned from judging for CFA or Fife, GCCF exhibitors being banned with showing in a rival Body being a disciplinary offence and the introduction of the 14 day (now 13 day) rule to prevent people showing in both organisations. The situation today is potentially much more serious with the whole future of the GCCF at stake. The Cat Fancy is not so strong, it is not weak either, but not quite so dominant. But the problems today are all about money – or rather the lack of it. This year has seen money become perhaps the most widely discussed topic especially at Council.

There is, of course, no one cause for the predicament that the Cat Fancy is in. There are many contributory factors. There is now a well established alternative to the GCCF with TICA and Fife successfully running regular shows (although I suspect all is not as bright with that group either). This alternative must have affected the number of cats being shown and registered with the GCCF. Thus income from these sources is down.

Clearly the current economic climate in the country (the worst in a couple of generations – thanks bankers!) has contributed. The loss of major sponsorship for the Supreme Show (with Pedigree Petfoods pulling out) has resulted in great difficulties that are only now being fully recognised and being addressed. Operating costs of the GCCF perhaps have not been as rigorously controlled to remain in line with what we can actually afford. Of course, the GCCF is also an organisation unique in the Cat World in having a disciplinary policy which defines a code of practice for Breeders and Exhibitors. But just having a disciplinary policy is not enough, it needs to be acted on and this also costs money. Of late the disciplinary process has been too easy to those with trivial complaints with the costs of investigation and trial being borne by all of us. The result of all these and other contributory factors became apparent when it was realised earlier this year that the GCCF was likely to become insolvent during the first quarter of 2010.

Thus urgent action was required to be taken and a strong list of measures, some unpalatable, was introduced to Council at the summer meeting. Several price increases were introduced, some from instant effect, in order to make an immediate impact on incoming revenues. A series of cost cutting measures were also introduced in the Office. Fortunately, several retirements meant that redundancies were not necessary to reduce the head count in the GCCF Office. Great efforts were put in place by the new Supreme Show team to control costs with the expectation that the Show would break even. The predictions are that if revenue input is similar to last year, the GCCF would gradually return to a sound financial position. There is a silver lining following the rescue plan but that will require support for some time to come. The financial crisis brought into focus perhaps for the first time in the Fancy's history, the consequences that would result if the GCCF did go insolvent. Any outstanding debts would be the responsibility of the affiliated Clubs. Thus a proposal has been made to convert the GCCF into a Limited Liability Company. This move would limit the liability of individual Clubs to just £1.00. Though not yet finalised, I think the proposal will be carried at the next meeting, although there are some who feel uncomfortable about the implications for GCCF Officers and members of Executive Committee.



The Fancy has many small Clubs especially Breed Clubs, that would be in serious trouble in the worst case scenario. So my personal view is that it is a good move and should be encouraged. A decision may well be made at the Council meeting in February 2010. The Company name GCCF Ltd has already been allocated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman in readiness, to protect the availability of the name.



A further change with the tradition of the GCCF has been the demise of Our Cats. After what seems a lifetime of Watmough's "Fur and Feather" (yes, I am old enough to have been a regular subscriber – and who remembers the "The Cat Breeder" of the 1970s) followed by "Cats" and "Our Cats", the GCCF now does not currently have a printed Official Journal. After an acrimonious affair at the beginning of 2009, Our Cats finally went out of business due to the lack of commercial viability.

In August of 2008, the BBC screened a programme about dogs and how breeders in the UK with the collusion of the Kennel Club were breeding dogs without real consideration for the welfare or well-being. Thus the damage was one to the dog world, the BBC stopped filming Crufts (although the alternative on the internet was significantly better with much superior coverage) with some breeds being almost vilified. Interestingly criticisms made to Ofcom, the communications watchdog, were upheld in many cases although the BBC's lawyers are preventing Ofcom from publishing their findings.

Although the GCCF has had a Breeders' Ethics Policy for many years, a Breeding Policy is being developed by the Genetics Committee in order to define the general principles of breeding methods and to declare the criteria for selecting those cats that should be used within a breeding programme. Not only do I think this is a good idea, but hopefully it will reduce the probability of public criticism. We have seen the recent Sunday Telegraph article about the Supreme. Once the GCCF Policy has been finalised, a supportive Breeding Policy will be required to be issued by the Exotic BAC specifically for our breed. A proposal has been submitted to the Exotic BAC for this policy.

Breed registration numbers have been amended and implemented from the summer of 2009. The amendment only involves the Silver Tabby Exotic series to allow easier recognition of the Exotic and Exotic Longhair. The numbers involved are 7.7.30 series that have changed to 7.30.7 series.

Probationer Judges that have been confirmed to Full Judges for Exotics during 2009 are: C Davies, J Green, L Dutton, L Ashmore, K Board-Allam and S Crichton.



It is noticeable as the new seasons show list is published that the Executive Committee are realising the financial difficulties that many Clubs are facing. This has led to the inclusion of more breeds in some breed specific shows. Examples are the inclusion of Semi-longhairs at the Central and the extension of the tabby breeds to include Maine Coons and Norwegians etc. at the Tabby Club Show.

I sincerely believe that the GCCF goes into 2010 in a much stronger and improved position. Although it has often required hard decisions, the Cat Fancy is set to continue.



Mike Barrett



Iggy's Diary (Part 2)

Well I can't believe a whole year has passed! Lots of things have happened in that time, I hardly know where to start! I have a new sister and more importantly, I have 'apparently' officially retired (so my Mum says!). What I do know is it has been a while since I last went to one of those show things and I don't get dunked in water and then blow dried half as much!

Anyway back to the beginning of the year, I went to loads of shows. Every two weeks I went to another place AND for two days in a row each time! The fun bit was I got to stay in these fancy hotels, with huge beds for me to sleep on! My Mum told me that I was campaigning and I had to be very well behaved for the judging and also win lots of rosettes as that meant I would finish higher up the rankings. I was really good in February and was 'Best of the Best' at the Valentines show and reached all the finals! Boy was my Mum happy with me, I got loads more biscuits than normal!

The next thing that happened is my Mum and Dad got married! My Mum told me that I was going to be page boy and would have to wear a little suit but thankfully she never went through with that one! They even delayed their honeymoon so I could go to the last show of the season and this time my brother Indy came with me. Can you believe he actually beat me three times, I was so embarrassed, but still made another seven finals.

That was it and then we had to wait until all points were added up and checked but it was good news! The letter finally arrived which said I was officially 8TH BEST NEUTER OF THE YEAR IN NORTHERN EUROPE and BEST EXOTIC SHORTHAIRED NEUTER OF THE YEAR IN NORTHERN EUROPE! I get some huge special rosettes and my Mum is going to an awards ceremony to get my prizes very soon!

Enough about me, on to other news! My brother Indy is still going to lots of shows (ha ha) and he keeps bringing back these very glitzy rosettes with 'Imperial' written on them. He also had to go to that big show and came back looking all smug with a special card that said 'UK Grand Premier Certificate' on it, so he is doing really well! The most exciting news is that a few weeks ago, my new little sister arrived. She is called Minnie and she is so pretty! We get on great but she insists on attacking my tail when I am asleep - it is so annoying!

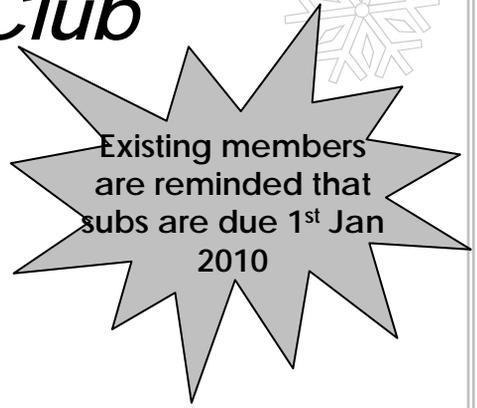
Enough from me - except to say hope you all have a lovely Christmas and get to eat lots of lovely turkey!

Iggy x





The Exotic Cat Club



Membership Application Form



Annual Subscriptions

Single £5 Joint £7 Juniors (under 16 years of age) £2.50

I/We wish to become a member/members of The Exotic Cat Club.

My/Our prefix is

Name

Address.....
.....
.....
.....



Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

All applicants must be proposed and seconded by existing club members

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Cheques should be made payable to "The Exotic Cat Club"

Please return this form to The Treasurer:



Shelagh Heavens, The Keys, Gardner Street, Herstmonceux, East Sussex BN 27 4SU

Seasons Greetings!

The Committee of the Exotic Cat Club wish all its members and their cats a Merry Christmas & a successful New Year, especially at our show on the 3rd April 2010 at the Greig Centre, Alcester, Warwickshire

