



Exotic Cat Club Newsletter

December 2010

Chairman's Report By Jane Allen

I can't quite believe that I am writing this with Christmas nearly upon us again! Where has the year gone?? For the exotic breed I must say it has been another very successful and fulfilling time and for the devotees of the breed such as our members it should be a time to look back with satisfaction but also to look forward to where we want to progress our breed next.

Two things stick in my mind for outstanding achievements for the breed this year, the first must be the exotic kitten winning supreme kitten award at this year (last year the best longhair kitten was an exotic too) so we are continuing to come up trumps. So very many congratulations to Biboukatz Violinka a cute little blue girl owned by Mr Rewcastle and bred by Mrs Basey-Fisher. Then a personal bit if I may be so indulgent, my own Imperial Grand Premier and TICA International Winner, Supreme Grand Champion Alter Zendique Sleepless Knights did a bit of a campaigning with TICA and without even leaving home ground Podge ended up the year as best alter in Western Europe and 6th best internationally!!! So it was with great delight that I went to Santa Clara to receive his award at their banquet and attend the international show. All I can say is that they certainly know how to put on a celebration!!!

I would hate to miss anyone out but what I can say is that judging around the country and still breeding and showing makes me very aware of the super quality of our exotics and they are continuing to win top awards everywhere which heartens me greatly. Well done to you all and please continue to show and breed such wonderful cats.

On a much sadder note I learnt very recently of the untimely death of Ron Gardner. Someone who you will all know very well as the friendly face at vetting in and a great supporter of the Exotic breed. I know that you would all like to join with me in offering our deepest sympathy to Nora and also to the Exotic Shorthair Breed Society on the loss of their President. We will all miss him greatly.

As we look forward to next year, it is with some trepidation that we look to our annual show as Shelagh writes in much more detail later in this newsletter. All I want to say is to please ask you to support our show it is our breed opportunity to have the very best of the exotics there and an opportunity for two certificates with the Tabby Cat Club. Please please support us to make this show the success it truly deserves.

So as this year draws to a close, please also do not put off renewing your subscription make it your New Years resolution to send your cheque to Shelagh and please why not also consider joining your new kitten owners to the club throughout the year to swell our numbers.

May I and all of us here at Zendique wish you a truly magical Christmas filled with good cheer, and festive fun and may 2011 be a year filled with good health, good fortune and much fun with your gorgeous exotic friends.

God Bless you all - Jane

Exotic BAC Update

By Anna McEntee



BAC News

The Exotic BAC meet twice a year – in April and September.

New Full Judges

The following judges have been successfully promoted to full judges of Exotics in 2010:

- Coral Allam
- John Hansson
- Ed Merchant
- Pauline Rogers
- Sally Rainbow-Ockwell
- Celia De Martino

New Probationer Judge

Julie Wilkinson was appointed Probationer Judge in the September meeting.

Other News

The BAC are making changes to the Standard of Points for tabby Exotics. The list of withholding faults will be extended to include:

- ‘Grossly asymmetrical markings on all tabby Exotics’; and
- ‘Extensive brown tarnishing extending beyond the area of the muzzle on silver tabby Exotics’.

Exotic BAC Seminar – By Mike Barrett

The 2010 Exotic BAC Seminar was held at Mappleborough Green Village Hall, Studley, Warks. B80 7BT on Sunday 7th February 2010. This year’s Seminar was acclaimed a success with nearly 60 people attending. The Delegates represented a wide mix of people including experienced judges, Probationer Judges, breeders and exhibitors. There were 13 lovely exotics on exhibition across the colour range.

Delegates were welcomed by Anne Gregory (Beaumaris), the Exotic BAC Chairman. Anne is an experienced judge of Exotics and described the appeal and conformation of the Exotic in the context of this Seminar. The Seminar was to consider that ‘Type is Paramount’ but within the constraints of high standards in cat health, well-being and welfare as set out in the latest GCCF General Breeding Policy. Anne highlighted the great strides that had been made over the last 20 years towards the establishment of today’s excellent cats, thanking those who had so generously brought fine examples of the breed to the Seminar to illustrate this progress.

This was followed by a series of presentations:

The Exotic Standard Of Points & assessments – Jane Allen

- The Exotic Coats & Colours – Shelagh Heavens, Jane Allen, Anne Gregory & Rosemary Fisher
- Report Writing – Mike Barrett
- Exotic Longhairs – Anne Gregory

A full review of the Seminar and copies of the presentations can be found on the Exotic BAC website, www.exoticbac.co.uk



2010 Show Reports

10th Championship Show – 3rd April 2010
11th Championship Show – 2nd October 2010



Unusually I have two shows to report on for this year. In April we held our tenth championship show, and as the close approached I was really pleased as I thought we had at last turned a corner. We had 24 exotics and 20 non pedigrees, obviously I would have liked more but it was a good number to work with. Mike Barrett as always had worked extremely hard and each pen had a mass of freebies. I decided we would go back to rosettes for each class, but kept the bows on each pen which this time were in club colours, so all in all the hall looked very festive. Yet again the Mau's did a superb job of manning the kitchen and providing food throughout the day.

Exotic's standards are now amazingly high and we had some absolutely scrumptious one entered. Our overall winners ended up as follows;- Adult: Mrs Tonks's GR CH Zendique U'vebeen Tangoed. Kitten: Miss V Wyatt's Risingmoon Masquerade. Neuter: Mrs Wallace's IGRCH Vivaldi Whollysmoke. As Jane Allen is the club's Chairmen I felt the honour of picking the overall winner should go to her. I know she debated long and hard and in the end picked the Adult: GR CH Zendique U'vebeen Tangoed, which everyone agreed was the correct choice. The non pedigree winner was Ms V Swingler's UC & GMC Autumn

After the show, the Exotic and Mau clubs were approached by the Tabby cat club who hold their show in October. They asked if we wanted to hold a back to back show and share the venue. This would help with everyone's cost and also give the opportunity for exhibitors to gain two certificates on the same day.

The committee had a long discussion and decided this was an opportunity not to be missed, as the GCCF show year starts on 1st June, it meant we would be holding another show in October this year.

Well what a difference six months makes, at close of entry we had just 9 exotic and 10 non pedigrees. I was hugely disappointed but assumed that people could not get used to the idea of two shows in one year and that this was the problem. Yet again Mike had done a splendid job of gathering freebies and the Mau's again produced some superb food.

Our overall winners this time were Adult: Mrs McEntee's CH Zendique Vivienne Westwood. Kitten: Mrs Tonks's Zendique When'll I be famous. Neuter: Ms J Daniels's Pr Moonwalker Thepurrminator. Mrs Joan Smith picked the overall winner and choose the Kitten: Zendique When'll I be famous. The non pedigree winner was Non Pedigree pet, Mrs Vale's MC Daisy May and Pedigree Pet, Mr & Mrs Lewis's MC Charlotte.

2010 Show Reports

10th Championship Show – 3rd April 2010

11th Championship Show – 2nd October 2010



As I said earlier I had assumed the lack of cats was due to two shows in one year, I was informed on the morning of the show that the reason we had so few exotic's was because at the April show Jane had picked a cat she bred as the overall winner. It seems no one felt that of the three the Adult was not the best exotic, just that as Jane had bred it, she should not have picked it, so as a result were boycotting the October show.

I cannot put into words how angry this made me. For me it calls into question both mine and Jane's integrity. I had thought long and hard before asking Jane to judge. As she is an active breeder I know there are many Zendique's on the show bench and that some of them would most probably be at our show. But I also know when judging, Jane would act in the professional way she always does and pick the best cat. We have only four judges at the show, so for Best in Show they will all have a section, and as Club Chairmen I felt Jane should pick the overall, plus it should be remembered that Tango had to win not only his open but the adult best in show, none of which Jane had anything to do with.

As a result of this boycott we have, for the first time ever, made a loss on the show, a lot of effort and time goes into producing a show and if we do not get the support of the members it really is pointless. So to this end the committee and I, have decided we will have a show next year on 1st October, it will again be at the Greig Centre in Alcester and will held jointly with the Tabby and Mau. If we do not get enough cats to at least break, even then we will not be having any further shows.

So it really is a **'Use it or Lose it'** scenario. The choice is in your hands.

Shelagh Heavens - Show Manager

Treasurer's Report

We changed our financial year and now in line with most clubs it runs from January to December. Previously we went from 1st July and I am hoping it is this that has made membership renewals a little erratic, as a result we are desperately short of members and have just about enough to entitle us to have a delegate at council.

So please, please encourage as many people to renew as possible, and enrol anyone you sell a kitten to as a member.

At the end of November our bank balances are:

Lloyds/TSB £527.71 (this includes a welfare allocation of £333.40)

Alliance & Leicester Reserve £5606.39.

Shelagh Heavens - Treasurer

GCCF Delegate's Report

By Mike Barrett



There have been two major topics for discussion and concern during 2010 – the incorporation of the GCCF and the GCCF's finances.



Perhaps the drive to Incorporation of the GCCF as a limited Company was stimulated by the financial position of the GCCF. But as time has progressed so the arguments for incorporation have moved on. The process is seen now as mainly to trying to put the management structure of the GCCF into a more flexible and accountable position. Over the last year or so it has become clear that the decision making process within the Fancy has been too slow to successfully react to changes in its business. Although the Fancy is a hobby for most of us, the central organisation requires to be operated as a business. A lot has changed. For example costs of operating the organisation have changed; the Office has been through change in both its venue and also its management and the Fancy now has viable competition from other registration and Show organising bodies.

Thus during the past year, several active people have volunteered their services to help the Fancy to become an incorporated limited Company and 5 November 2010 this process was completed. The title "Governing Council of the Cat Fancy" has been retained as has the abbreviation "GCCF". As part of this change the old "Constitution" and "Rules" will become the "Articles" and "Memorandum". The majority of the content of the Constitution and Rules remains unchanged. So our fancy will not change in this regard.



One of the changes is that affiliated Clubs will now have limited liability should the GCCF ever become insolvent. A more important change has been the development of a strategic business plan. This plan of objectives and tasks identified for the GCCF is reviewed on a regular basis. The Plan can be seen on the GCCF's website. It is highly recommended that all Club Members should read this Plan to understand the actions within the GCCF's organisation and emphasis that is being placed on those actions.

Becoming a limited Company seems to have improved the impetus to getting both a better organisation but also getting support in a variety of ways outside the GCCF to help us achieve our objectives and goals.

Without doubt, the health of the GCCF's finances has been a cause for serious concern over the last year or two. Two good items of news comes during 2010, firstly we are privileged to have the services of Stephen Bunce once more as GCCF Treasurer. Stephen has brought a keen eye to both income and expenditure. The result of sharp increases in fees during the past 18 months together with a drastic review of expenditure has resulted in a significant improvement in the financial situation. It is perhaps an overstatement to say the GCCF was near to insolvency as the capital assets are more than enough to meet any liabilities. But using the capital assets is not really an option for a working organisation such as ours. The real concern was having enough liquid assets (money in the bank) to ensure that we could operate satisfactorily. As a limited Company we are likely to have greater access to funds from other source than previously available. But the real improvement has been the improvement in our liquidity and the additional comfort that brings to the operation.



GCCF Delegate's Report

By Mike Barrett



These two issues have overshadowed a lot of other good work that has been done to help all Cats, Clubs and Club members during 2010.



- The GCCF has issued a general breeding policy to lay down the foundation for Breed BAC's to develop breed specific breeding policies. The Exotic BAC has been working hard to fulfil this requirement.
- The requirements for running Championship Shows have been changed eliminating the need for qualification through Sanction and Exemption Show. Qualification is now dependant on the quality of the Show Management.
- The Young Exhibitors Scheme (YES) has been introduced to encourage young people into the world of Showing and Breeding cats. This should greatly aid the growth and sustainability of the Fancy in years to come. See the GCCF's website to get more details.

At the end of 2010, the GCCF is a much stronger and vibrant organisation with a clearer sense of purpose. Its aims and objectives are more clearly defined for everybody to see. I look forward to seeing growth and more exciting actions through the coming year.

Profile - Brenda Barrett – Finchfield Exotics



By Mike Barrett



Brenda with Gr Ch Finchfield Georgiabrown (dob 2005)

It all started in 1964 when Brenda fell in love with a Siamese Tai-lu, bought one and decided to have a litter. By taking a kitten to a show, this led to the start of an avid interest in pedigree cats and showing. This first kitten went on to be the first Tabby pointed female Siamese Champion.

But a visit to another breeder brought a major change, introducing Brenda to the Persian cat and these longhaired beauties became part of her life for the next nearly fifty years.

Brenda quickly realised that a knowledge of pedigrees was vital and having done her homework spent what appeared to be a small fortune of 15 guineas (£15.75 in today's money) on the purchase of Wisteria of Dunesk, a blue-cream from Mrs Brunton. So started the long line of title winning cats with Champion Finchfield Rag Doll and Champion Finchfield Amanda both beautiful creams.

Brenda has some unique capabilities. Firstly she has the skill of being able to assess an animal's conformation. She somehow knows what looks correct and good – and this seems to coincide with the Standard of Points. Interestingly Brenda can do this for dogs and horses not just cats. Brenda knows and can recall pedigrees due to an intense interest and study. But in addition to just remembering the cats in a pedigree, Brenda can recall both the look of the cats within a pedigree and the consequence of matings. This is a powerful tool when trying selective breeding in the attempt to get the "perfect cat". This "perfect cat" of course does not exist except in the mind of the breeder. Brenda had a picture firmly implanted of the cat she was striving to breed.



In 1972, Brenda owned two Persian females, being SnowMaiden of Pensford (the only white cat bred by Mrs Thompson) and her white daughter Finchfield Fleur. Fleur had a son Finchfield Michael (we had just got married so named after me! – sweet! Eh?). Finchfield Michael had a great show career and went on to make history by becoming the UK's first ever Persian Grand Champion. An impressive achievement when Persian cats almost dominated the show scene. I recall that three cats were in the frame to take the great honour (the other two being Brackenhill Corin – a blue, and Sonata Adagio – a smoke). At that time petrol rationing threatened so ensuring we had enough petrol to get to the shows became a serious business.



UK's first Persian Grand Champion, Finchfield Michael (dob 1972)

Over the immediate following years other white, cream and blue-creams were finally superseded by the fabulous Blue. With this colour, Brenda bred and showed some glorious cats such as Grand Champion Finchfield Nikki who won Overall Best in Show at a Blue Persian Club Show held at the Chelsea Town hall with over 400 exhibits – all BLUE Persians! Also Champion Finchfield Sassie who was Supreme Kitten in 1983.



Grand Champion Finchfield Nikki (dob 1978)

During the early 80's, Brenda became a Probationer judge but withdrew from this finding that the inspiration that attracted her to Shows was the breeding and showing. So after a couple of years, Brenda stopped judging to concentrate on showing.

Brenda was lured by the challenge of breeding Persian in other colours and showed many Blacks, Reds, Torties and Bi-colours to Champion and Grand Champion levels. Many of these cats can be seen on the Finchfield website (www.finchfield.org.uk).

In the 1990's with nearly 100 known titled Persians to the Finchfield prefix, a new breed associated with the Persian was becoming attractive and provided the stepping stone of a new challenge – the Exotic.

Brenda also was proud of her international success with her Japanese Chin toy dogs. These lovely black and white toy dogs delighted both their owners and our family. With 13 Champions here, in Europe and in America the Finchfield prefix is established in this breed being still found prominently in today's pedigrees.

The foundation Exotic was Mrs Roger's Tzarkesh Allegra in 1994. It was clear to Brenda that the best of Persian bloodlines were essential to improve the Exotic breed and to match the cat with the "perfect Exotic cat" in Brenda's mind. With this aim in mind, a trip to Florida led to the import of Ch Hapajo Hallmarque of Kozy and Starwinds Decibel. Both of these black cats had some of the best American Persian bloodlines and so started the Finchfield Exotics.



Grand Champion Finchfield Floridagirl (dob 1994)



In the mid 1990's it was becoming clear that Persian and Exotics potentially carried Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), a debilitating and inherited disease effecting the kidney and greatly reducing the life expectancy of cats with the disease. A vet in Essex was one of the first to offer testing using ultrasonic scanning and Brenda started a programme of testing. There was, of course, good news and bad news. But in the best interest of the cats, this programme was essential. So that only cats tested "negative" for PKD were kept within the breeding programme. At times this was heart breaking. Cats that sadly had the disease were neutered and found loving homes. This desire to ensure a PKD free cattery could be expensive. A tabby Exotic male imported from Italy (allegedly scanned free of cysts) was tested on arrival, sadly found to be positive and stayed in the UK for only a week before going back home. As there is a degree of uncertainty with ultrasonic scanning as soon as DNA testing became available, testing continued as the certainty of detection significantly improved.

Exotics eventually replaced the Persians as Brenda's passion. Exotics gained Championship status in 1995 after Preliminary recognition in 1986, so were quite a "new" breed. Blacks and Brown tabbies caught Brenda's eye and she introduced the best of her Persians in order to strive for her "perfect" cat.

The breeding programme was helped by importing Ch. Eddores X Yipes Stripes a Brown Tabby from Sweden. Yipes suddenly died only a few days after having won his first Grand and being Best in Show. He was a beautiful cat and his sudden death caused a sadness to descend on the whole family.

A couple of years later an opportunity to buy Int. Grand Champion Vibrations Harley D, a black and white bicour Exotic presented itself. Harley was of excellent body conformation and type as well as a proven stud. Fortunately the Pet passport Scheme was now in place and as Harley had all his shots, we were able to take the car to Belgium. Harley's owners were kind enough to travel from their home and meet us at a Campanile hotel. A long day and a good few miles but well worth it to introduce such a lovely boy into our home.



**Imperial Grand Premier &
Grand Champion
Finchfield Carboncopy
(dob 2001)**

Although the Brown tabbies were exciting, Brenda had always wanted to breed the Silver Tabby Exotic. With the Standard of Points allowing the orange eye this was a possibility. However the real challenge is to breed this colour without tarnishing marring the pale silver. After careful research, Brenda imported Polar Bear Sato from Russia. A big leap of faith based on pedigree research and a few photos. Sato eventually came to our home having spent his six months European residency with a dear friend in Portugal. Sato is a very pale spotted Silver Tabby and when mated to our girls, has produced some stunning kittens. Of these perhaps Brenda is most proud of is Finchfield Fashionista who gained her Imperial earlier in 2010.



**Imperial Grand Champion
Finchfield Fashionista
(dob 2008)**

Brenda has now decided after all these years to retire from the Show scene. However a couple of her Finchfield cats will continue to be around on the show bench being shown by Pam & Derek Mallabone and Sheila Cairns.

And who knows, Sato is still keenly looking at Twinkletwinkle – hoping one day to get his wicked way.....



**Imperial Grand Premier
Finchfield Stare Ifyou dare
(dob 2003)**

Iggy's Diary (Part 3)



Hi again everyone...it's me, Iggy! Well another year has passed and for me, it's been a very lazy year. My Mum was true to her word, I am retired! No more shows for me and I've only been in the bath about 3 times this year!!! What a result! My Mum has told me I'm going to be 'Pedigree Pet' several times, whatever that means, but she has not gone through with it so far at least!!

As usual, there has been lots going on in my house. My brother Indy has continued to do well at shows and tells me he has got not just one new title this year but two!! He said that he is a UK & Imperial Grand Premier – it has all gone to his head rather and he is acting very cocky! But more fool him, I say – it means he will have to go to more shows!

If you remember last time I wrote, I told you about my new little sister, Minnie. Well, she is not so little any more and well and truly rules the roost here. She eats all the food (but not my biscuits, ha!) She even bosses around my other sister, Scamp (the moggie)! She's done well at the shows too...I saw at least 5 rosettes hanging up that said 'Grand Champion' on them! She had to go to the vets last month and came back with a funny shaved patch on one side...but apparently it means she can't go to another show until all her fur has grown back!

Enough from me – except to say hope you all have a lovely Christmas and get lots of new toys!

Iggy x

ATTENTION PURRLEASE.

Place your bottom firmly on the newspaper your human is reading, being careful to cover the area scanned by its eyes.

Pause with your tail up and waving gently in front of the TV screen or start patting the screen with your paw. If this doesn't work, sit on the TV with your tail hanging down.

Jump on the mantelpiece or dressing-table and swipe off any-thing standing there. This is useful for waking up sleeping humans.

Chew telephone wires and electric flex. You wont have to chew very much before your human picks you up



Exotic Cat Club



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A GCCF Affiliated Club

THE EXOTIC CAT CLUB'S AIMS ARE TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS AND TO ADVISE ON THE BREEDING, EXHIBITING AND WELFARE OF THE EXOTIC CAT.

The Exotic Cat Club offers:

Help, support and advice to breeders and members;

A kitten list for breeders, members and potential owners

Representation on the Exotic Breeders Advisory Committee for the promotion of the breed and to monitor and encourage training for Stewards and Judges for the Exotic breeds.

An Annual specialist Championship Show for Exotic Cats.

11th Championship Show
- Photos, videos and results [here](#)

THE RESULTS, PICTURES AND REPORTS FROM THE 10TH CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW ARE AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

updated 14 November 2010

▶ NEWS

@ 17 October 2010

Club Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 17th October 2010 at 1.00 p.m. in Newton Village Hall, NEWTON, Rugby CV23 0DY. Details and the Agenda has been sent to all Members. We look forward to seeing you there. Light refreshments will be available.

@ 2 October 2010

11th Club Championship Show

The Club's 11th Championship Show will take place on Saturday 2nd October 2010 at the Greig Leisure Centre, Alcester. See more [here](#)

@ 19 February 2010

Exotic BAC website launched



Please note that the Exotic Cat Club website has moved to www.exoticcatclub.co.uk



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 1st October 2011 at the Greig Centre, Alcester, Warwickshire



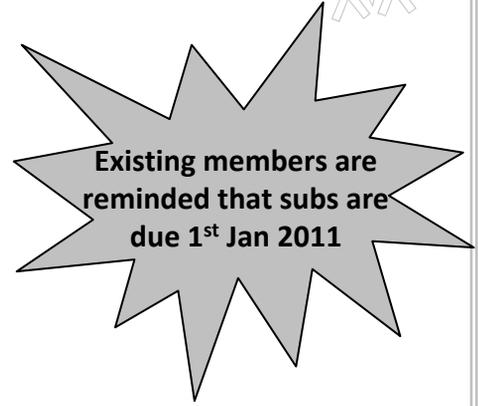
Please visit the Exotic BAC website at www.exoticbac.co.uk



The screenshot shows the website for the Exotic Breed Advisory Committee (BAC). The header features a cat image and the text "Exotic Breed Advisory Committee". The navigation menu includes Home, Policies, Standards, Breed Nos, Judges, Links, and Seminar. The main content area has a heading "What is a Breed Advisory Committee (BAC)?" followed by a detailed paragraph explaining the BAC's role within the GCCF. Below this is a section for "Documents" with links to BAC Constitution, Judge Appointment Scheme, Procedure for Judge Training & Selection, Guidelines for Probationer Judges, and Forms for Probationer Judges and Stewards. There is also a "Some Exotics" section with a grid of cat photos. At the bottom, there is a "Date of next meeting" section showing "Sunday April 10th 2011" and a "Who is on the Exotic BAC?" section.



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.....

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 BN27
4SU

