

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY OF IRELAND

AGM 2nd July 2016

Chair's Report

It is hard to believe that it is a year all but two days since I was elected Chair. I started out with two mottos – New Beginnings & Fit for Purpose and I think we are on the road to achieving these aims. It has been a busy year and we have had 4 Council meetings and 5 Executive meetings. I think we had a historic event when we held the last Executive meeting in Cork.

A lot of the work has been to do with Registrations and finding satisfactory arrangements in the light of Betty's retirement. We finally made the decision to contract registrations out to the GCCF at our February Council meeting. This has been a painful journey for some but I don't want to dwell on that, as now the decision is made, we need to move on to the next stage in our history. I met with the GCCF Office Manager and the IT system Project Manager in May. Sally Rainbow-Ockwell, the Project Manager felt that as our organisation is small, it would be simpler for the GCCF to deal with our prefix applications, which we will come to in the Rule Changes, show results and title claims, rather than train someone here. The Executive have welcomed this and it appears that the only task we will be left with is dealing with manual registrations and any other manual applications and Caroline Wren has agreed to undertake this. The new GCCF system goes live at the end of the month and hopefully we will follow not far behind. I was given sample registration certificates at my meeting and the Executive have chosen a design which you can now look at. I would point out this is just a draft and the final design and colour will be much better.

Another big and sad event in the past year was the cancellation of the Supreme Show. However, we responded quickly to this and set up a Show Think Tank group which included a couple of non Council members. The group decided to send out a show review questionnaire which will close next week. Teresa has done an excellent job in making this look very professional and will produce a summary report which I hope to present to the Executive next month.

We have done some new things in the realms of publicity and now have a page on Facebook. In response to requests I have got Tony Forshaw, our webmaster to set up a page on the GCCFI website for agendas and summaries of minutes of Council. The first to go on is the agenda of this meeting. In addition Tony has set up a News page and we already have some items there. As an experiment he has allowed a comments section where people can respond to items published. Disappointingly no one has done so far.

I would like to conclude on a note of hope. We have a new exciting event in our show calendar with the advent of our very first two in one show on 16th October when the GCCFI will join with SABCCI in running 2 Championship shows. Recently this has been made even more exciting with an invitation by PetExpo to hold the shows at the RDS alongside the Expo. This will be a marvellous opportunity to show case and promote the GCCFI and I hope as many of you as possible will be there as exhibitors and or helpers. For exhibitors I urge you to enter the Cork Show on 18th September as well as the double show and avail of the chance of achieving cat titles within a month.

I would like to thank the Executive for their support in what has been at times a difficult year. I don't usually like naming people but I must thank in particular Lavinia, who has been a tower of strength in her role as Secretary and in organising the Investigations' Panel, Carmel for looking after our finances, Teresa, who is our Facebook Administrator, for all the work she has done in setting up our page and producing the show questionnaire and last, but not least, Tony, our webmaster who has done a splendid job making new things happen on our website as well as maintaining it.

Lorna Taylor
Hon Chair