

Chair's Report AGM 7th July 2018

This has been a year of further changes and developments. Council has met twice since the last AGM and the Executive five times. I have been disappointed by the attendance at recent meetings. In a small organisation such as ours we need as many members as possible to participate and I hope the attendance for the ensuing year will be better.

The on line registration system went live last October, and as is usual with any new system, there have been some hiccups. Things are settling down now but there have been some delays due to staff shortages in the GCCF office. I would particularly like to thank Gloria who helped me enormously in trialling and checking records prior to going live. The new system has led to a lot of changes being needed on our website. Tony has been a great support in looking at these and coming up with suggestions. We now have a new Registration page with a direct link to the on line system. Most of the forms have been updated and we hope to complete this work shortly.

Caroline Wren has now officially been appointed Registration Administrator and is doing sterling work with those who don't want to use the on line services and in dealing with various queries. We have had six prefixes approved this year and another pending. This is quite an increase on recent years.

We have been pleased to welcome Ger & Sarah Bowles on to the Show Managers' training scheme and wish them well with the Cork Show. It is encouraging to find people stepping forward to help.

Just to highlight some of the changes which have or are taking place:

- The 18 month gap between judging engagements for the same classes has been amended to 4-5 shows in the light of double shows. The Executive are at present reviewing these shows, and if they carry on this will be proposed as a rule change.
- Presentation classes were introduced at the Supreme and proved successful and seemed to cause great interest from the public.
- We now have a new section for Non Pedigrees called Pedigree Pets. Entries seem to be increasing and there is a title Super Pet for them to win. I would like to thank the Cork Cat Club for their work and suggestions regarding this.
- A new class, Invictus, for those who have achieved Hibernian status will commence at the Cork Show. This will be for all breeds and is divided into Male & Female, Adult & Neuter. There will be three sections, bronze, silver & gold and four certificates will be needed in each.

Lately the Executive have been busy looking at the new General Data Protection Regulations which came into force at the end of May. This affects the way we hold and exchange data and we hope we hope to finalise some changes at the next Executive meeting in August.

I was recently invited to speak at a club AGM in the UK about the GCCFI and showing in Ireland. I scanned some of our more splendid certificates including one hand done by Margaret Baker and a Hibernian one designed by our Webmaster. These were made into PowerPoint slides and the audience were very impressed.

Finally I would like to thank members of Council for their support, particularly the Executive who work very hard behind the scenes and a big thank you to my fellow Officers.

Lorna Blackmore Taylor
Hon Chair