

## FRIENDS OF BATH CATS & DOGS HOME

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held at 7.00pm on 28 June 2006  
In the John Hobhouse Meeting Room  
Bath Cats & Dogs Home  
The Avenue, Claverton Down, Bath**

<b>Present for the Executive Committee:</b>	Geoff Fuller	Chairman
	Rae Carpenter	
	Margaret Cole	
	Robin Eastman	Vice Chairman
	Sue Forder	
	Kay Gerrett	
	Anita Hallam	
	Jean Low	Secretary
	Lynda Pearce	
Val Pritchard		

<b>Friends Present:</b>	Jan Clare	Mike Holly
	Noreen Clark	Roy Hulbert
	Elaine Eastman	Greta Keeling
	Julianne Foreman	Sue Marshall
	Pam Fuller	Anne Meddick
	Geoff Hale	Sylvia Musgrave
	Maria Hale	Johanna Morris
	Jean Harley	Chris Pope
	Joan Henry	Adam Rogers
	Jill Herrett	Sue Woodland

<b>Apologies:</b>	Sarah Brooks
	Sara Child
	John Hobhouse
	Ken Hurle
	Myrtle Hurle

### 1. Minutes of 2004 Annual General Meeting

Proposed by Mrs Carpenter and seconded by Mrs Hallam, the meeting unanimously agreed the Minutes of the AGM held on 5 July 2005.

### 2. Trustees' Annual Report, Annual Accounts & Report of the Auditors thereon for the year ended 31 December 2005

- 2.1 Copies of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts and Report were distributed to Friends present.
- 2.2 The Chairman then summarised the report and gave an overview of the main points. Income was now about £0.25m, twice that of 2004 and greatly helped by large legacies. Considerable help was also due to a number of fund raising efforts:-

- Monthly tea and coffee mornings at the Home run by Sue Forder and Lynda Pearce – with many thanks to all who baked cakes for sale;

- A “Race Night” organised by Anita Hallam and other Committee members;
- Various store and street collections;
- T-shirt and sweat shirt sales organised by Robin and Elaine Eastman;
- Table top sales run by Rae Carpenter;
- The annual contributions from the Frome Auxiliary run with great success as usual by Mrs Hurle.

The two raffles raised some £13k, which the Friends once again dedicated to the Home. Grateful thanks to all involved in this massive fund raising effort.

- 2.3 As for outgoings, the main emphasis has been on helping out with the Home’s vets’ bills, to the tune of £250k. The Friends also donated some £20k to a variety of animal organisations which eased the burden on the Home. The total net assets of the Friends at the end of 2005 was approx £0.5m.
- 2.4 Administrative costs continue to rise but have been contained by the excellent work of the Membership Secretary, Anne Meddick plus a huge free contribution from the Committee members and other volunteers, especially our Secretary, Jean Low – to whom grateful were expressed. The cost of communicating with Friends were approaching 50% of the £10 annual subscription spread out over all Friends, including Life Members and some yet to renew. The Chairman made a plea for a voluntary increase in annual subscriptions, however small, and donations (especially from life members) and for a Gift Aid declaration from those who paid income tax – contact Mrs Meddick.
- 2.8 Projects in 2006:-
- Café at the Home;
  - New collection boxes
  - New logo
  - 2006 calendar and newsletter design – helped by SJC Recruitment, to whom he gave grateful thanks;
- 2.9 He should now ask the Treasurer to take the meeting through the financial aspects of the Report and Accounts, but Mr Gough unexpectedly resigned some four weeks ago, so he and Miss Low would attempt to answer any questions today, or in writing.
- 2.10 In the absence of any queries, Mr Fuller commended the Report and Account to the meeting. Mrs Hallam proposed and Miss Forder seconded; the R&A was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

### **3. Appointment of Auditors**

The Committee was not very happy with the current auditors and a search has been initiated to shortlist a more local and responsive set of auditors. Mr Fuller suggested that the meeting agreed to appoint new auditors to be approved by the new Executive Committee, proposed by Mrs Hallam and seconded by Miss Forder, and this was agreed by the meeting.

#### **4. Election of Executive Committee**

The Yellow voting form contained details of all the candidates standing for election. There were 12 candidates, with 12 vacancies. It was suggested that the meeting agree en block to elect all 12, without having to go through the individual voting process. However, the meeting decided that the full election process should take place. Mrs Meddick was acting as the independent returning officer, and the following 12 persons were elected:

Rae Carpenter	Geoff Fuller
Sara Child	Anita Hallam
Margaret Cole	John Hobhouse
Robin Eastman	Jean Low
Sue Forder	Lynda Pearce
Kay Gerrett	Val Pritchard

#### **6. Any Other Business**

- 6.1 The Chairman asked Mr Pope, the Chairman of the Home's trustees, to say a few words about the Home, and the latter agreed. Mr Pope re-emphasised how much help the Friends has given was appreciated in redeveloping the Home, and also other areas. The Home was the top of the RSPCA Homes in rehoming most animals and more economically. To put this into perspective, the annual cost of the Home was £1m, equivalent to £400 per animal, compared to £900 for Battersea and £600 for other RSPCA homes. This represented excellent value for money. The place has changed dramatically with the new buildings. In the 90s, plans had been put in place to revamp the site, resulting in a wonderful new reception building and cattery, plus new modern kennels. Two further new kennels and runs were currently under construction – many of the Friends here tonight had had the opportunity to inspect progress – and the builders have assured him that they will be completed in time for the Open Day in September. The total cost of the redevelopment of the Home to date was in the region of £3m, and he thanked the Friends who have contributed some 2/3rds of this.
- 6.2 The Chairman reminded the meeting of the Toy Sale on Sunday 9 July between 11am and 3pm. Tea, coffee and home made cakes would also be available.
- 6.2 The meeting closed at 7.38m, followed by a short presentation and question and answer session by Adam Rogers, who was a former Animal Care Assistant at the Home and is now a practitioner of the Tellington Touch method of influencing how animals behave. Adam outlined the history of the procedure and gave a couple of examples, both for humans and animals, ably assisted by his 19 year old rescue greyhound Squidy. He claimed amazing results with animals he has worked with. He runs workshops, some at the Home, as well as with individual owners. He can be reached via his website, [www.animals-at-ease.co.uk](http://www.animals-at-ease.co.uk). The Chairman thanked Adam for his very interesting talk, and this was endorsed by the meeting in the usual way.

**JL/June 2006**