



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFE BOARD 01/23

21st January 2023 – Vienna, Austria

Present

Mrs. Annette Sjödin	-	President	Mr. Veikko Saarela	-	Vice-President
Mr. Leo v/d Haterd	-	Treasurer	Mr. Karl Preiss	-	Vice-Treasurer
Mr. Charles Spijker	-	Vice-Secretary	Mr. Eric Reijers	-	General-Secretary

Abbreviations used

- BCA – Breed Council Administrator
- BRC – Breeding & Registration Commission
- BRR – Breeding & Registration Rules
- CNA – Cattery Names Administrator
- DC – Disciplinary Commission
- GA – General Assembly
- GS – General-Secretary
- HWC – Health & Welfare Commission
- JSC – Judges & Standard Commission
- SC – Show Commission
- SCA – Show Calendar Administrator
- SR – Show Rules
- VCM – Video Conference Meeting
- WCC – World Cat Congress

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting started at 09.15 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Board approved the agenda for this meeting.

3. Approval of previous Minutes

The Minutes 05/22 had been approved and would be sent to the Members. It was decided that future Minutes would be sent two weeks after the meeting.

4. Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes

The appeal to all parties involved in FRU (RU) to come to a consensus, had not been sent (see Minutes 05/22 item 6.1) and would now be sent; an answer should be received by 01.03.2023.

5. Financial

5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments

The Treasurer showed a list of outstanding payments. CCU (CN) had again contacted the Treasurer and promised to settle the outstanding payments the next day, which did not happen. This was a serious matter because CNN had also not paid the membership fee for 2022. The Treasurer would contact them about this.

5.2 Judges Exams

One new judges' exam application was received.

5.3 Other Financial Matters

- a. The two controllers, Mrs. Marie-France Pohl and Mr. Jürg Keller would check the FIFe accounts and the balance sheets on Friday 24.03.2023 in Vienna, the day before the Board meeting. The President, Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer would be present.
- b. A letter to the bank, signed by the President and Vice-President, granting the Treasurer sole access to the accounts, would be sent to the bank and a similar letter granting the Vice-Treasurer bank access would be sent as well.

6. Members' Matters

6.1 Correspondence

- a. Members informed the GS of the following changes: details listed on the FIFe website.
 - * ASFE (ES) – new president, Board, commissions and address
 - * FPL (PL) – new secretary
 - * SFDH (HR) – new president
- b. SVERAK (SE) questioned how to interpret article 9.1.2 of the BRR and the statement that all cats which were the result of random mating or crossbreeding without permission should be registered as XLH/XSH in the RIEX register. They wondered if this meant that all offspring of such matings were to be registered as XSH/XLH without EMS code for target breed and could not be considered being house cats for which pedigrees could not be given. Lastly, SVERAK asked if this was also applicable in cases where the father was unknown or known to be a house cat, as long as the mother was a pedigreed cat? The Board decided to send these questions to the BRC for a recommendation. See item 8.5.a.
- c. FFH (CH) resent the complaint about the actions of a judge officiating during the BIS at the 2022 World show (ref. Minutes 05/22 item 7.1.h). The Board discussed this matter and could find no substance for the complaint and more importantly, no unequivocal proof to support such a serious and even slanderous allegation. The GS informed FFH.
- d. ČSCH (CZ) asked for a clarification of a possible contradiction in two articles in the BRR regarding cattery names, namely, 5.2.5 and 5.2.6. The Board decided to send this question to the BRC for a recommendation. See item 8.5.c.

6A. Probational Members' Matters

Nothing to report

7. Show matters:

7.1 General

- a. Mundikat (NL) requested the Board of FIFe for an exception on the qualification requirements for cats entered at Winner Shows (article 2.6.4 of the Show Rules). They would organise the 2023 NSW very early in the year, on the 04+05.02.2023 after a long period where FIFe COVID-19 exceptions had been in place. They stated that the current number of shows were not yet on the level they were prior to COVID and added that their cats would not have been able to use the full 13-month qualification period because in January 2022, there had hardly been any shows. The Board extensively discussed this request, because at the meeting on 26th of November, it was decided that all general relaxations concerning the Show Rules, valid during the COVID period, would end as of 01.01.2023. However, during that meeting it was also mentioned that exceptions, if needed, could still be granted. In that light, the Board dealt with this request, and decided that considering the fact that the 13-month qualification period could not be fully applied for this NSW due to the early show date in 2023, they granted the exception asked for to article 2.6.4 of the Show Rules, meaning that no qualifications were needed for cats to participate.
- b. SVERAK (SE) asked for an exception to article 1.1.a of the SR, allowing their club, ÄK to arrange a show in Gothenburg during the weekend immediately following the FIFe GA 2023, 27-28.05.2023. The clubs in the Gothenburg area faced huge difficulties finding show halls, since most of them no longer accepted events with animals. Their club lost their show hall very close to their booked show date in December, due to an unfortunate double booking by the owner of the hall. Their only option now was to use an ice rink, with the limitation that this was only available in a limited period of the year. Unfortunately, the only available date was the weekend immediately following the FIFe GA 2023. The Board discussed this request for an exception to article 1.1.a. of the SR and found the reasons given clear and understandable and granted the exception. Later, it became clear that the show would not take place.
- c. FFB (BR) asked for an exception to article 2.6.2 of the SR to organise the first American Winner Show in Brazil without respecting the 1 years' notice, i.e. on 24-25.06.2023. The show entry could not be asked earlier since they only recently had approval from the sponsor. The other Members in the AW organizing group agreed with the date and the organisation by FFB. The Board granted the exception and wished FFB good luck with the organisation of this first American Winner Show.
- d. NRR (NO) and SVERAK (SE) jointly asked for an exception to article 4.3 of the SR, allowing them the possibility as described in Annex 2 of the SR until 31.12.23, for cats to get the titles

IP/IC, by obtaining 5x CACIB/CAPIB, in 1 country, with min. 3 different judges. They motivated their request as follows: *“As we look back to our shows in recent years where COVID exceptions were valid, we saw an increased interest from new exhibitors to show cats. This was also possible because all titles could be obtained in one country. They now experienced that due to the ceased COVID exceptions, a large number of exhibitors would refrain from showing cats in higher classes, because the shape of our countries, which have a long north/south stretch, make it very hard to travel to a second country. Additionally, the situation in Europe is not so relaxed when we consider the ongoing increased energy and fuel costs and the rise in prices of all daily necessities.”*

The Board decided to ask the SC for a recommendation (see item 8.4.b).

- e. AFA (AR) informed the GS that after a long period, without shows, they planned to start again organising shows in 2023 and 2024. They sent a list of these shows and dates, asking them to be included on the show calendar. The GS said that the Board was happy that they would start organising shows again but pointed out AFA should request these shows themselves by using the reserved area of the website. AFA mentioned that they had an offer from a local WCF club to share a show venue and if this was allowed. The GS answered that this was completely up to AFA as long as there would be a clear division between the two show systems and that all valid show rules, including Open Doors applied.
- f. SFDH (HR) requested an exception to SR article 2.6.2 regarding the 2023 MWS. The prices to rent show halls were enormous and SFDH could not possibly afford to pay this. Now they had the opportunity to hold the MWS 2023 in an affordable and very suitable venue on 16-17.09.2023 but this meant they could not respect the rule that the show had to be listed at least 1 year prior to the date. The Board established that SFDH needed a second exception, because the same SR article stated that Winner Shows had to take place between February and June. The Board understood the predicament of SFDH and granted the exceptions.
- g. Bubaste (LT) wondered if they needed permission to organise a 3-certificate show in one weekend. They planned to hold such a show in July. The GS replied that no permission was needed because this option was listed as one of the possibilities in article 1.11 of the SR, namely 1.11.g. as a once per year possibly. He added that such a show had to be included on the official show list at least 6 months prior to the show.

7.2 Ratification of dispensation to the Show Rules regarding the number of cats.

- a. CFCA (LV) – shows in Riga, 10+11.12.2022, as International with less than 150 cats.
- b. Felinolog (BY) – shows in Minsk, 18+19.02.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.

7.3 Ratification of permission granted to a FIFe Member to invite a non-FIFe Judge:

- a. EKL-Felix (EE) to have Mrs Pam DelaBar, CFA All Breed Judge from Finland, officiating at the shows in Tallinn, on the 18+19.02.2023.
- b. SVERAK (SE) to have Mrs Pam DelaBar, CFA All Breed Judge from Finland, officiating at the shows in Hallsberg, on the 03+04.06.2023.
- c. ČSCH-SCHK (CZ) to have Mr Jean Marc Lagarde, TICA All Breed Judge from France, officiating at the shows in Prague, on the 01+02.04.2023.

7A World Shows

7A.1. General

Nothing to report

7A.2. The complete World Show List (only the first 10 years are published on the Show List):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • 2023 - Strasbourg - FFF (FR) | • 2030 - tba - SFDH (HR) |
| • 2024 - tba - NRR (NO) | • 2031 - tba - FD (DK) |
| • 2025 - St.Petersburg - FRU (RU) | • 2032 - tba - KKÖ (AT) |
| • 2026 - Amsterdam - Mundikat (NL) | • 2033 - tba - Suomen K. (FI) |
| • 2027 - Prague - ČSCH (CZ) | • 2034 - Bucharest - FAF-FR (RO) |
| • 2028 - tba - FPL (PL) | • 2035 - tba - FFH (CH) |
| • 2029 - tba - SVERAK (SE) | |

8. Commission Matters

8.1 Statutes, Rules, Standards, EMS List, lists and forms

The 2023 issues of the Statutes, Rules, the updates to the Standards the new Preliminary Standards, and all new updated Forms and Lists had been uploaded on the website.

8.2 Seminars

The GS would ask the JSC if they could send a (preliminary) agenda for the 2023 GA judges Seminar. He would also ask if there were plans to organise a compulsory student judges' seminar.

8.3 Judges and Standards Commission

The JSC secretary sent the updated 2023 Final Exam Questionnaires in English to the GS.

8.4 Show Commission

The Board decided to send the joint request from NRR (NO) and SVERAK (SE) on an exception to SR article 4.3 to the SC for a recommendation (see item 6.1.d). The SC sent a quick and extensive recommendation informing the Board not to grant this exception. The Board discussed this matter at length and decided for the help and benefit of the Members to grant this exception until 31.12.2023.

8.5 Breeding & Registration Commission

- a. The Board decided to send questions from SVERAK (SE) how to interpret article 9.1.2 of the BRR to the BRC for a recommendation (see item 6.1.b). The BRC considered the question asked by SVERAK regarding litters where complete parentage was unknown or where cross-breeding had taken place without permission. The BRC stated that in such cases, all offspring had to be registered in accordance with BRR rules 5.1.1. Additionally, records had to be kept and the breeding needed to be monitored as outlined in BRR rule 3.3. Kittens registered in the circumstances described, needed to get a pedigree although the kitten itself would be registered as XLH/XSH* without any breed designation as indicated in BRR 9.1.2. Where parentage was unknown, this should also be shown on the pedigree. The BRC did not comment as to whether these cats could be shown as "housecats", since this was not within their remit. The Board discussed the question if such cats could be shown as housecats and with reference to SR 3.1 concluded that this was not possible if kittens were registered in the Pedigree Book; housecats were not registered in the Pedigree Book. Then, the Board discussed this recommendation and agreed and SVERAK would be informed accordingly.
- b. The BRC sent their recommendation on the questions of FFH (CH) regarding BLH/BSH 11 33 (see Minutes 05/22, items 6.2.j and 8.5.c). The BRC had the following remarks:

The pedigree of a cat older than 10 months could simply be re-registered from "21 33" to "11 33" if the cat was originally registered this way and was changed at initial registration or import. If the cat was registered as "21 33" it needed to be re-registered in accordance with laid down rules and procedures. All generations of the pedigree could be corrected in the same way provided the original pedigree was written in this way and it was corrected by FIFe. However, FIFe cannot change pedigrees it did not issue if we do not have the registrations for those cats in our database, or proof that they are a different pattern/colour. Under the current rules, cats do not lose certificates or awards already achieved on change of an EMS code. The Board agreed with this recommendation but at the suggestion of the Vice-Treasurer, one important addition was made. FFH and all Members who needed to re-register these cats, got an exception to the last paragraph of art. 4.6 of the SR and art.5.3.1 of the BRR, which stated: *"All certificates for a title must have been obtained in the same variety (EMS code) / group. If a change in EMS code results in a change of variety / group, then:*

 - *already approved titles must always be retained (for recognised varieties)*
 - *all certificates for the next title must be obtained in the new variety / group.*
- c. The Board decided to send the question from ČSCH (CZ) on the possible contradiction in articles 5.2.5 and 5.2.6 of the BRR to the BRC for a recommendation (see item 6.2.c). The BRC commented that they thought the two sentences were not being read in the context of their meanings. The first excerpt quoted, related to a change in ownership of the cattery name - this is a part of the requirements:

After the death of the owner of a cattery name, it cannot be used for the next 20 years, unless it is transferred to a lawful heir who is a member of a FIFe Member.[→ BRR § 5.2.5]

The second excerpt related to the deletion of cattery names; the period a lawful heir has to actually claim ownership and the transfer of the cattery name - and again forms only part of the requirements:

A cattery name may be re-allocated if the owner of the cattery name died without the name being claimed by a lawful heir within 5 years .[→ BRR § 5.2.6]

The BRC concluded these articles were not contradictory as they were not comparable. The Board discussed this recommendation and did not agree with the BRC. In their opinion, these 2 articles were in contradiction. The GS would ask the BRC to re-examine this matter.

8.5.1 Breeding & Registration Statistics 2022

The GS would send all Members an updated Excel form for their 2022 Statistics; this form could also be downloaded from the website. At the date of this meeting 3 Members had already sent the form.

8.6 Health & Welfare Commission

Nothing to report

8.7 Disciplinary Commission

Nothing to report

9. Judges' Matters

Obituary: Mrs. Marie Helena Westerlund

It is with great sadness and a feeling of shock and disbelief that we inform you that on the 13th of December 2022, we learned that the International FIFe All-Breed Judge, **Mrs. Marie Westerlund** died, completely unexpectedly, in her home in Sweden on the 11th of December. Marie was only 58 years old. Marie joined the SVERAK club, Stockholm's Kattklubb in 1989 and was an active and passionate breeder of Abyssinians under the cattery name "Rackarkatten" for more than 30 years. She stated herself that Abyssinians were her "love and passion." Marie passed the first judges' exam in category III in 1999, followed by category II in 2004, category I in 2011 and finally became an All-Breed Judge when she passed the category IV exam in 2013. Marie was cheerful and a competent and popular judge, judging all over the world. She was very active in the Swedish cat fancy, locally and nationally and a much valued, active member of the FIFe JSC since 2016. She was, in her own words "active on all fronts of the cat fancy" and most committed to all she did.

The Board of FIFe extends its sincere condolences to Marie's partner, Max, her family and friends and to the Swedish FIFe Member SVERAK. We wish you all the best to cope with this great loss and the void that Marie left behind. Marie, her big smile and warm friendship will be sorely missed by all that knew her.

9.1 General

- a. The GS informed Mrs. Ietje Röhr-Dubbeld, International category 2 and BG B judge from the Netherlands, that it was now 2.5 years ago that she passed the theoretical exam in BG A. She needed to sit the practical exam before the 31.12.2023. The GS hoped that she could find a venue to sit this exam. Mrs. Röhr-Dubbeld replied that it was difficult to sit this exam in the Netherlands but she would try to find a venue abroad. This was found, see item 9.2.2.
- b. Mrs. Anne-Gro Edström, International All-Breed judge from Norway, informed the GS that she decided to resign as a judge, as of the 01.01.2023. She stated that during her 43 years as a judge she had a fantastic time with like-minded around the world and that she would have a different focus enjoying our hobby in 2023. The Board respected Mrs. Edström's decision, thanked for her 43-year activity as a FIFe judge and wished her good luck for the future.
- c. Mrs. Karina Bjuran, International category 1 and 2 judge from Norway, informed the GS that she decided to resign as a judge. She wrote that she would surely miss it, after having been a judge for 45 years. The Board respected Mrs. Bjuran's decision, thanked for her 45-year activity as a FIFe judge and wished her the best of luck for the future.
- d. Mrs. Marie Perčynská-Říhová, International All-Breed judge from Czechia, informed the GS that she decided to resign as a judge. The Board respected her decision, thanked her for her almost 40 year activity as a FIFe judge and wished her good luck for the future.
- e. Suomen Kissaliitto (FI) informed the GS that Mrs. Pia Nyman could not sit the BG A exam in Karkilla on 31.12.2022 due to a lack of EXO/PER cats entered. A new date would be sent.

9.1.1 Judges changing membership

The GS was informed that the following judges changed membership:

- Mrs. Helene Reiter (DE) International All-Breed Judge from 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE) to KKÖ (AT)
- Mr. Luigi Comorio (IT) International All-Breed Judge from ASFE (ES) to FBe.(BE)
- Mrs. Anna Wilczek (PL) International All-Breed Judge from FBe (BE) to FPL.(PL)
- Mrs. Sabine Mösch (CH) International All-Breed Judge from Aristocat (LI) to FD(DK)
- Mr. Leslie van Grebst (DK) International All-Breed Judge from FD (DK) to Mundikat (NL)
- Mrs. Diana Di Natale (IT) International category 1 + 2 judge from ASFE (ES) to SFDH (HR)
- Mr. Gianfranco Mantovani (IT) International All-Breed Judge from ASFE (ES) to FFB (BR)
- Mrs. Nurit Pahl (IL) International All-Breed Judge from ASFE (ES) to FAF-FR (RO).

The judges' lists would be amended.

9.2 Permission to sit the FIFe Judges' Exam

- a. Mrs. Pia Nyman (FI) to sit the exam in Breed Group A, in Dragør (DK) on the 04.03.2023 in English with Mr. Michael Edström (SE) and Mr. Vladimir Isakov (BY).
- b. Mr. Danijel Iveta (HR) to sit the exam in category 2, in Heemstede (NL) on the 25.03.2023 in English with Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo and Mr. Luigi Comorio (both IT).

9.2.1 Theoretical Part

Nothing to report

9.2.2 Practical Part

Mrs. Ietje Röhr-Dubbeld (NL) to sit the practical exam in Breed Group A in Bologna (IT) on the 25.02.2023 in English with Mr. Dietmar Sagurski (DE) and Mrs. Marina Vinkel (EE).

9.3 FIFe Judges' Examinations passed:

Mrs. Lena Vencliková (CZ) passed the BG A exam, at the show in Olomouc (CZ) on the 03.12.2022 in English with Mrs. Britta Busse (DE) and Mr. Jaroslav Pánek (CZ).

9.4 Judges Appointments – 1st category

After passing the required stage at the shows in Łódź (PL) on the 10+11.12.2022, Mrs. Wioletta Buss (PL) was appointed an International FIFe judge in category 2.

9.5 Judges Appointments – 2nd, 3rd and 4th categories

After passing the BG A exam, at the show in Olomouc (CZ) on the 03.12.2022, Mrs. Lena Vencliková (CZ) was appointed an international category 1 and a FIFe All-Breed Judge.

9.6 Mentor Judge applications

Nothing to report

9.7 Ratification of permission granted to FIFe Judges to officiate at a non-FIFe shows to:

- a. Mr. Martin Kabina (CZ) – IDP (WOC) shows in Malta (MT), 25+26.02.2023
- b. Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen (FI) – CFA shows in Madrid (ES), 18+19.03.2023
- c. Mr. Martti Peltonen (SE) – CCCA show in Quebec (CA), 29.03.2023
- d. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) – GCCF show in Cricklade (GB), 15.04.2023
- e. Mrs. Dorte Kaae (DK) – ACF show in Perth (AU), 22.04.2023
- f. Mrs. Dorte Kaae (DK) – ACF shows in Armidale (AU), 29+30.04.2023
- g. Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo (IT) – IDP (WOC) shows in Malta (MT), 06+07.05.2023
- h. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) – GCCF show in Coventry (GB), 19.07.2023
- i. Mr. Martti Peltonen (SE) – CCCA show in New Brunswick (CA), 13.08.2023
- j. Mrs. Anna Wilczek (PL) – CCCA show in Grenville (CA), 17.09.2022
- k. Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen (FI) – CFA shows in Hamilton (US), 25+26.11.2023

10. Student Judges' matters

10.1 General

- a. AFA (AR) informed the GS that Mrs. Sabina Donadio, student judge in categories 3 + 4, had decided to stop with her studies. Her name was removed from the student judges lists.
- b. SFDH (HR) asked permission if one of their student judges could have a break as a student judge because of professional and personal reasons. The GS answered that this was within the remit of SFDH itself and that the Board would respect their decision.

10.2 Request for a preliminary student judges' examination:

KKÖ (AT) for their member Mrs. Eva-Katharina Novak in category 1, on 26.02.2023 in Stockerau (AT), in English, with Mrs. Anne Veland (NO) and Mrs. Helene Reiter (DE).

10.3 Notification of the pass of a preliminary student judge's exam:

NRR (NO) that Mrs. Karin Neergaard passed the preliminary student judges' exam in category 4 on the 13.12.2022 in Bryne (NO). Mrs. Aina Hauge would be her mentor.

10.4 Notification of new student judges in an additional category or breed group:

- a. FFS (SK) to include Mrs. Lucie Pánková as a student judge in category 1 as of 14.12.2022.
- b. 1. DEKZV (DE) to include Mrs. Katia Pocci as a student judge in BG A as of 04.01.2023.
- c. NRR (NO) to include Mrs. Karin Neergaard as a student judge in category 1 as of 05.01.2023.

10.5 Theoretical Exam sessions

Nothing to report

11. Cattery Name Business

The CNA, Mrs. Eva Wiéland-Schilla asked the Board's decision on a request from FFG (GR) to change a cattery name. The new name requested was very similar to 3 other registered FIFe cattery names, which was in conflict with article 5.2.3 of the BRR.

The Board decided not to grant this request. The CNA and FFG were informed of this decision.

12. General Assemblies

- a. The hotel reservation forms for the 2023 GA had been sent to all Members and Judges and will be available for downloading on the website.
- b. The Treasurer booked rooms in hotel Yellow in Monte Gordo for all Board-, commission members and officers.
- c. The Vice-Treasurer suggested a promising venue for the 2024 GA in Austria.

13. The FIFe website and social media

The Vice-Treasurer presented a detailed overview, which compared the offers of 6 providers for the website. The two most expensive ones, which were double in price compared to the rest, were not considered as was one offer, which was not provided by a company. The remaining offers were scrutinised on experience and longevity and for the Board one company looked most promising. The Vice-Treasurer and the Vice-President would try to find a date to visit this company to discuss final details and to meet the team.

14. World Cat Congress

The FIFe delegate for the 2023 WCC in Tasmania would be the President, Mrs. Annette Sjödin and the advisor would be the Treasurer, Mr. Leo van de Haterd.

15. FIFe Breed Councils

- a. The BCA informed the GS that the RAG BC Secretary had resigned. Mrs. Marian Groenendijk agreed to fill the vacancy and was appointed RAG BC Secretary until the next official election.
- b. The BCA informed the GS that the SBI BC Secretary had resigned. Mrs. Nettie Bosch agreed to fill the vacancy and was appointed SBI BC Secretary until the next elections.
- c. The BCA informed the GS that a new CHA BC member, Mr. Patrick Watrin, was willing to function as CHA BC. The Board agreed to appoint him until the next elections.
- d. The BCA informed the GS that the BOM BC Secretary had resigned. Mrs. Mary Hellmann agreed to fill the vacancy and was appointed BOM BC Secretary until the next elections.

16. GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

FIFe follows the GDPR regulations with regard to the storage of personal data.

17. Membership change

Nothing to report

18. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

19. Next Board meetings

- Saturday 25.03.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Monday 22.05.2023 Monte Gordo (PT), in connection with the GA
- Saturday 19.08.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 25.11.2023 Vienna (AT)

20. Close of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 19.00 hours

Annette Sjödin - President

Eric Reijers – General-Secretary