



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFE BOARD 01/24

20th January 2024 – Vienna, Austria

Present

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 & Reg. 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
- JR – Judges Rules
- PRC – Public Relations 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 President, Mrs. Annette Sjödin, could not attend.

The Vice-President, Mr. Veikko Saarela, opened the meeting at 09.30 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Board approved the agenda for this meeting.

3. Approval of previous Minutes

The Minutes 05/23 had been approved and were sent to the Members on 17.01.2024.

4. Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes

Email and suggestions of the PRC (see Minutes 05/23, item 8.8).

5. Financial

5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments

The Treasurer presented a list of outstanding payments, which was satisfactory. The Members were reminded that article 9.1 of the General Rules states that invoices must be paid within 60 days; future invoices would not only mention the invoice date but also the date when the payment would be due.

5.2 Judges Exams

Four new judges' exam applications were received since the last board meeting.

5.3 Other Financial Matters

- The Treasurer presented the preliminary budget for 2025.
- In order to save money, the Board decided that of the 5 meetings they had per year, 2 would VCMs, the January and the August meetings.
- The Vice-Treasurer had not yet contacted the Luxemburg bank, regarding additional access to the bank account because of the workload related to development of the new website but this would be done.
- The Board decided to dedicate 10.000€ to the FIFe Feline Fund. The Board appealed to the Members to also donate to the FIFeF.

6. Members' Matters

6.1 Correspondence

- a. Members informed the GS of the following changes: details listed on the FIFe website.
 - * AFA (AR) – new email and telephone number
 - * FFF (FR) – new interim Board
 - * FFG (GR) – new address
 - * ICA (ID) – new president
 - * FFF (FR) – new President, Secretary, address and contact details
 - * ÖVEK (AT) – added secretary
- b. In line with article 3.3 of the JR, the Members and Judges lists had been sent to all Members.
- c. Mundikat (NL) contacted the board for a matter in relation to the registration of Japanese Bobtails. Because of the narrow gene pool in the breed, one of their members imported two Japanese Bobtails from the USA. One of them was silver and should according to our FIFe BRR article 6.8 be registered as a XSH ns 01 22 <JBS>. Not allowed for re-registration and/or breeding. Mundikat tried to find a suitable solution and asked for advice. The Board discussed this matter and decided to send it to the BRC (see item 8.5).
- d. FBe (BE) after having read the Minutes 05/23, sent suggestions regarding charcoal. The Board discussed this email and answered FBe that the restriction regarding charcoal could be found in the EMS System document where charcoal was exclusive designated for the BEN. # FBe also pointed out that using the EMS code “t” both amber and charcoal can may lead to confusion especially when an XSH/XLH cat is registered. The BRC was copied in the answer.
- e. CCU (CN) sent an email asking for a document showing the official registration of FIFe. The Treasurer and GS would send this document.

7. Show matters:

7.1 General

- a. EKL-Felix (EE) sent an email with 2 questions. The first one was if cats, which obtained the titles KCH and/or JCH would retain these titles or if these would be replaced by higher titles? The second question was that if an individual Felix member collected 6 CAGCIBs (3 from Latvia and 3 from Lithuania) but one of the Lithuanian ones was gained at the BWS, can we consider this certificate as from a third country. The Board discussed these questions and the GS answered that cats that obtain the titles KCH and JCH keep these titles. It is of course different from “regular” adult titles, when CH is replaced by IC for the same cat. It might very well be that cats only obtain a KCH or JCH title and nothing else, so these titles stayed with the cats. Regarding the country in which Winner Show certificates are obtained, the last paragraph of article 2.7 of the Show Rules was clear; “*Certificates obtained at shows arranged to article 2 (World and Winner Shows) can be considered as being obtained in any country when needed to comply with the requirement of the number of different countries in art. 4.3, 4.4 or 4.5.*”. This meant that Felix could consider it as a 3rd country certificate to obtain the CAGCIB/CAGPIB title.
- b. FFM (MX) requested an exception to the 6-months' time limit required in art. 1.11.h. of the SR to list a 2-day 3-certificate show on the official show calendar. FFM wished to hold such a show but as a single breed show (MCO) on both days and for all three shows. The Board agreed with this request. The SCA was copied in to the correspondence.
- c. FFF (FR) asked the Board for an exception to article 4.3 of the SR, allowing them the possibility as described in Annex 2 of the SR until 31.12.2024, for cats to get the titles IP/IC, by obtaining 5x CACIB/CAPIB, in 1 country, with min. 3 different judges. The Board discussed this request and decided to grant this until 01.07.2024, as it had done with similar requests.
- d. SK (FI) asked an exception on behalf of one of their clubs, to organize a show on the 20.-21.04.2024 in Ylöjärvi, without veterinary control (FIFe SR 1.8). The club would make sure a vet was available when needed and vaccination certificates would be checked from all cats. The Board sent this to the HWC and SC for recommendations (see items 8.4.b and 8.6.c).#
- e. FBe (BE) asked, after having read the Minutes 05/23 and the recommendation of the SC, to be allowed to accept entries without qualifications for their upcoming NSW. The Board discussed this request, considering the recommendation of the SC, (see Minutes 05/23 item 8.4.a.) and agreed to grant the exception. The Board also decided that this should be valid for all other Winner Shows and the World Show, which will be held this year. The GS would send this decision in copy to all Winner and World Show organisers in 2024.

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

- a. SFDH (HR) – shows in Zagreb, 02+03.12.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- b. FFG (GR) – shows in Athens, 02+03.12.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- c. FFH (CH) – shows in Delémont, 16+17.12.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.

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

- a. FFH (CH) to have Mrs Pam DelaBar, CFA All Breed Judge from Finland, officiating at the shows in Villeneuve, on the 08+09.06.2024.
- b. FFH (CH) to have Mrs Pam DelaBar, CFA All Breed Judge from Finland, officiating at the shows in Neuchâtel, on the 21+22.09.2024.
- c. SK (FI) to have Mr Steven Corneille, TICA All Breed Judge from France, officiating at the shows in Finland (venue tba), on the 19+20.10.2024.

7.4 Ratification of permission not granted to FIFe Members to invite non-FIFe Judges:

ANFI (IT) requested permission to invite Mr. Walter Baraldi, a WCF All Breed judge from Italy to officiate as a judge at the FIFe shows in Pistoia on 27+28.01.2024. The Board decided not to grant permission because of the lack of respect shown by WCF regarding decisions made by FIFe. The Board would not grant permission to WCF judges officiating at FIFe shows nor would it grant permission to FIFe judges officiating at WCF shows and had done so since 2012.

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):

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

8. Commission Matters

General

The secretary of the DC and the chairman of the JSC sent an email addressed to the Board, which was copied to the chairs of the DC, BRC, HWC, PRC and SC. The commissions already had a joint VCM in 2023 and during that meeting a majority considered it a good idea to continue organizing these kinds of meetings e.g. to discuss proposals to the GA, addressing common issues, like a code of ethics for exhibitors and stewards after the World Show debacle. They felt such meetings could improve their functioning and strengthen their cooperation for the benefit of the Members. They took the initiative to call for such a meeting and wondered if a representative of the Board would like to join or if the board would prefer to receive written feedback each time there was such a meeting. A VCM was planned for February this year.

The Board was happy to hear about this initiative and would for sure like to receive written feedback. Maybe Board members would join this VCM meeting.

8.1 Statutes, Rules, Standards, EMS System and forms

Nothing to report

8.2 Seminars

FPL (PL) offered to organise a Judges Seminar in line with article 2.2.2.a. of the JR. The venue of this seminar would be Gdansk on the 20.07.2024. The GS thanked FPL, sent the agenda to the JSC for approval and asked the SCA to add the venue and date on the official show calendar.

8.3 Judges and Standards Commission

- a. The JSC secretary sent minutes of their VCM held on 05.09.2023.
- b. The JSC chairman sent updated 2024 issues of the Judges Exam questionnaires in French.
- c. The JSC chairman sent new sets of exams; both Preliminary and Final Judges exams, updated to the 2024 rules and standards.

8.4 Show Commission

- a. The Board revisited the recommendation of the SC regarding qualifications for the World and Winners Shows (see Minutes 05/23 item 8.4.a). Since the Board decided to grant this exception for the NSW to FBe, the GS would inform the organisers of the World show and all Winner shows in 2024 that this exception was valid for them as well.
- b. The GS forwarded the request of SK (FI) for an exception for one of their clubs, to organize a show on the 20.-21.04.2024 in Ylöjärvi, without a veterinary control (FIFe Show Rules 1.8) to the SC and the HWC (see item 7.1.d). The SC sent a very quick answer and agreed to grant this exception. The Board was still waiting for the recommendation of the HWC before it could answer SK.

8.5 Breeding & Registration Commission

The GS forwarded the question of Mundikat (NL) regarding the registration of Japanese Bobtails (see item 6.1b). to the BRC for advice. The BRC stated it was not for them to give permission to break our rules. They suggested the cat should be registered the cat according to the rules as XSH/XLH and that Mundikat could bring a proposal this year to remove the silver restriction on JBL/S.

The Board agreed with this recommendation.

8.6 Health & Welfare Commission

- a. The chairman of the HWC sent an email asking the Board to reconsider their decision not to agree with the ticket price of 1900 USD for the trip of Mrs. Petra Černa, who is still residing in the USA, to the venue of the 2024 GA. The Board understood Mrs. Moroni's concern that 1/3 of the HWC could not be present at the GA but the Treasurer informed all commission members already in November 2023 that if the total of their travels costs would exceed 600€, they had to contact him. Mrs. Černa did that, but the Board decided that 1900USD just for the ticket was disproportionate. Moreover, during the presentation of Mrs. Černa's candidature it was stated that as of July 2023 she would reside in Europe. The Board did not reconsider its decision but recommended Mrs. Černá to try to find judging engagements in Europe, either before or after the GA so that the travel costs could be shared.
- b. The chairman of the HWC contacted SK with the suggestion to have a VCM together with Mr. Veikko Saarela, SK's chairman, Mrs Riikka Turpeinen and the EU-parliamentarian Mrs. Sirpa Pietikäinen on the 30th of January 2024, concerning the pedigree cats. For example, on work that needs to be done in terms of breeding guidelines and correct communication between authorities and cat fanciers. And what needs to do in the near future.
- c. The GS forwarded the request of SK (FI) for an exception for one of their clubs, to organize a show on the 20.-21.04.2024 in Ylöjärvi, without a veterinary control (FIFe Show Rules 1.8) to the HWC and the SC (see item 7.1.d).

8.7 Disciplinary Commission

Nothing to report

8.8 Public Relations Commission

The Board discussed the reply from the PRC in detail and the GS would send a reply to the PRC mainly asking who would do the work for the ideas they suggested.

9. Judges' Matters

Obituaries:

Mr. Carl-Kristian Gulsett

On the 23rd of December 2023, the FIFe Board was informed of the recent death of the Honorary and International FIFe Judge for the categories 1, 2, 3 and 4C Mr. Carl-Kristian Gulsett. Carl-Kristian was 81 years old. Carl-Kristian joined BERAK a club of the Norwegian Member NRR in 1968, and his cattery name Hymes was registered in 1969. He was the first to import cream Burmese cats to Norway and he bred them for several years.

He took his judge's exam in category I and II in 1972 and in category III in 1974.

Many of us remember him fondly; he was very active, but in the last 10 years his health deteriorated, and he put judging on the shelf.

Carl-Kristian was a knowledgeable and popular judge. He spoke several languages and was very well liked as a judge where he represented FIFe with style and class.

Carl-Kristian will be sorely missed, and the FIFe Board extends its deepest condolences to his family and friends and the Norwegian FIFe Member NRR.

Mr. Gianmichele Romano

On the 29.12.2023, the FIFe Board was informed of the recent death of the International FIFe Judge for categories 1 and 2, Mr. Gianmichele Romano. Gianmichele was 66 years old. Gianmichele was always known as 'Giangi.' In 1984, he began to breed Persian cats under the cattery name 'Kenfthis', registered in 1987 in FIFe. His cats were very successful at shows and appear as ancestors in Persian pedigrees all over Europe. He took his judge exam in category I in 1998 and in II in 2003. The Board of FIFe extends its condolences to Mr. Romanos family and friends and to the Italian Member ANFI.

9.1 General

- a. The International BG A+C and category 3 judge, Mrs. Janet Green, requested, in line with article 3.11 of the JR, to be reactivated because she knew she was going to be listed as dormant as of 01.01.2024. The GS requested the JSC to send the questionnaires, and they sent 4 of them, for the General Part, category 3 and BG A and BG C. The GS forwarded these to Mrs Green, who now had two months to send him the answers. On 15.01.2024, Mrs. Green sent the answers to the reactivation questions to the GS, who in turn sent these to the JSC to be checked. The JSC checked these within 3 days and informed the Board that Mrs. Green had successfully reactivated herself and would not move to the dormant judges list.
- b. The International All Breed Judge, Mrs. Sabine Mösch (CH) after receiving the decision of her temporary suspension for 1 year (see Minutes 5/23, item 6.1.d) resigned with immediate effect. The Board wishes her the best of luck with her future endeavours.
- c. Mr. Dietmar Sagurski, International All Breed judge from Germany changed his membership to ÖVEK (AT). The judges lists were amended.
- d. Mrs. Olga Poluektova, International category 2, 3, 4 an BG B judge from Russia changed her membership to Felis Moldova (MD). The judges lists were amended.
- e. A total of 11 out of 195 judges had not sent in their engagement forms and were considered not to have judged in 2023. The GS would inform the seven judges who were moved to the dormant list and how to reactivate themselves.
- f. Four international judges (Mrs Waltraut Sattler, Mrs. Nathalie Smits, Mrs. Lucie Pánková and Mr. Jaroslav Pánek) had judged in November 2023 at a show in Switzerland and informed the Board that the local state veterinarian stopped several cats (DRX, PER, EXO) from entering the show. The Board was concerned about this development but unfortunately cat shows are governed by local legislation which can only be challenged by local people or organisations.
- g. The Board discussed the increased number of dormant judges and would ask the JSC for a recommendation how long judges should remain listed as dormant.

9.2 Permission to sit the FIFe Judges' Exam

- a. Mrs. Wioletta Buss (PL) to sit the exam in category 1, in Porsgrunn (NO) on the 10.02.2024 in English with Mr. Vladimir Isakov (BY) and Bobby Funk (DE).
- b. Mr. Francesco Cinque (IT) to sit the exam in category 1, in Genoa (IT) on the 10.02.2024 in English with Mr. Mirosław Skotarczyk (PL) and Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo (IT).
- c. Mrs. Brigita Guobe (LT) to sit the exam in category 3, in Riga (LV) on the 11.02.2024 in English with Mr. Marcin Biernaczyk (PL) and Mr. Alexey Shchukin (NL-M).
- d. Mrs. Petra Černa (US) to sit the exam in category 2, in Milano (IT) on the 02.03.2024 in English with Mr. Alessandro Ghibardo and Mr. Fabio Brambilla (both IT).
- e. Mrs. Ksenia Karpinska (SE) to sit the exam in category 2, in Trondheim (NO) on the 02.12.2023 in English with Mrs. Mira Fonsén (FI) and Mrs. Anna Wilczek (PL).

9.2.1 Theoretical Part

9.2.2 Practical Part

For the above items there was nothing to report

9.3 FIFe Judges' Examinations passed:

- a. Mrs. Christin Lütken (NO) passed the Breed Group A exam in Stange (NO) on the 02.12.2023 in English with Mrs. Caroline Stoa and Mr. Geir Edvardsen (both NO).
- b. Mrs. Carin Sahlberg (FI) passed the practical part of the BG A exam in Hårlev (DK) on the 02.12.2023 in English with Mr. Mirek Skotarczyk (PL) and Mr. Eric Reijers (CZ).
- c. Mr. Jaroslav Pánek (CZ) passed the category 2 exam in Łódz (PL) on the 09.12.2023 in English with Mrs. Sona Ivanková (SK) and Mr. Henry Hornell (PL).
- d. Mr. Marcel Frank (NL) passed the category 3 exam, at a show in Henstedt-Ulzburg (DE) on the 16.12.2023 in English with Mr. Ad de Bruijn (NL) and Mr. Veikko Saarela (FI).

9.4 Judges Appointments – 1st category

Nothing to report

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

- a. After passing the Breed Group A exam at the show in Stange (NO) on the 02.12.2023, Mrs. Christin Lütken (NO) was appointed an international category 1 Judge.
- b. After passing the practical part of the BG A exam at the show in Hårlev (DK) on the 02.12.2023, Mrs. Carin Sahlberg (FI) was appointed an international category 1 and a FIFe All-Breed Judge.
- c. After passing the category 2 exam at the show in Łodz (PL) on the 09.12.20, Mr. Jaroslav Pánek (CZ) was appointed an international category 2 and a FIFe All-Breed Judge.

9.6 Mentor Judge application

The following judge applied to be a mentor judge and sent the required application form:

- Mrs. Laura Scholten (NL) – categories 3 and 4.

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

- a. Mrs. Laura Scholten (NL) – CCCA show in Sydney (AU), 31.03.2024
- b. Mr. Leslie van Grebst (DK) – CCCA show in Sydney (AU), 31.03.2024
- c. Mrs. Laura Scholten (NL) – CCCA show in Darwin (AU), 07.04.2024
- d. Mr. Leslie van Grebst (DK) – CCCA show in Darwin (AU), 07.04.2024
- e. Mrs. Laura Scholten (NL) – CCCA show in Perth (AU), 14.04.2024
- f. Mr. Leslie van Grebst (DK) – CCCA show in Perth (AU), 14.04.2024
- g. Mrs. Helene Lis (SE) – ACF show in Clarendon (AU), 08-09.06.2024
- h. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) – GCCF show in Doncaster (GB), 09.11.2024
- i. Mrs. Pauline Kröger-Stokhof (NL) – GCCF show in Doncaster (GB), 09.11.2024
- j. Mrs. Nathalie Smits-Peelen (NL) – GCCF show in Doncaster (GB), 09.11.2024
- k. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) – GCCF show in Oxford (GB), 23.11.2024

9.8 Permission denied to a FIFe Judge to officiate at non-FIFe shows to:

Nothing to report

10. Student Judges' matters

10.1 General

SVERAK (SE) informed the GS that their pupil in categories 1 & 2, Mrs. Maja Karlsson, decided to resign as a student judge. Her name was removed from the student judges list

10.2 Request for a preliminary student judges' examination:

KKM (MY) for their member Mr. Yuen Wai Cheong in category 3 on 04.02.2024 in Kuala Lumpur (MY) with Mr. Muhammad Hasbullah Bin Abraham and Mr. Noramin Bin Nordin (both MY).

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

SK (FI) that Mrs. Josefiina Huhta-aho passed the prel. student judges' exam in category 2 on the 09.12.2023 in Kempele (FI). Mr. Veikko Saarela would be her mentor.

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

Mundikat (NL) to include Mr. Siemen Overboom as a student judge in category 4.

11. Cattery Name Business

Nothing to report

12. General Assemblies

- a. The Treasurer sent all commission members the procedure for the reimbursement of expenses regarding the 2024 FIFe GA in Parndorf (AT) and informed them that hotel rooms had been booked.
- b. The Treasurer would visit the hotel in Spain where the 2025 GA would probably take place.
- c. The programme of the GA week would be published on the website.

13. The FIFe website and social media

- a. The GS would inform the current webmaster, Mr. Rafal Lewandowski (PL) that his services would no longer be needed. The Board thanked him for all the work he had done over the past years.
- b. The Vice-Secretary contacted the JSC and the BCA, informing them that on the new website the breeds would have their own presentation, including a photograph of the breed and a link to the Standard. He asked the JSC and the Breed Councils (via the BCA) to assist in defining the breed information to be shown on the new website.
- c. The Vice-Secretary contacted all judges, asking them to a recent photograph to be published on the new website.
- d. The new website would be launched in the weeks to come.

14. World Cat Congress

The organiser of the 2024 WCC, WCF, sent a programme for the meeting, which would include a seminar with some very interesting subjects. The participation of FIFe judges at shows in conjunction with the WCC is generally granted due to the WCC membership of FIFe in the WCC.

15. FIFe Breed Councils

The BCA forwarded a question from the BOM BC secretary regarding an alleged omission in the 2024 BRR. The BC secretary sent a copy where it was stated that permitted outcross was BUR n and AMS non but this document was unknown to the Board. The 2022 Minutes and article 7.2 of the BRR contained the correct information.

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

- a. The GS received a question from the WCF President, Mrs. Anneliese Hackmann. WCF had a request from Mr. Philippe de Guerny Ventura stating that he has left FIFe himself and would now like to join the WCF as a judge. She was aware that he had been a FIFe judge and asked what the reason was why he left FIFe. The GS answered that Mr. de Guerny Ventura had been a category 2+3 judge and that as far as he knew, he left for personal reasons.
- b. The Vice-Secretary would get access to the GS email box and the GS would make all FIFe files including the archive available.

19. Next Board meetings

- Saturday 06.04.2024 Vienna (AT)
- Tuesday 28.05.2024 Parndorf (AT), in connection with the GA
- August 2024, VCM
- Saturday 23.11.2024 Vienna (AT)
- January 2025, VCM

20. Close of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 18.00 hours

Veikko Saarela – Vice President

Eric Reijers – General-Secretary