

Chairman's Report 2009-2010

As Chairman I would like to thank the team which, in spite of the Recession, made the 2009 RBBA Show a great success and the highlight of the year. Marlene Buckeridge aided by Dot Thomson, Assistant Show Manager, and Amanda Roberts who organised Publicity, worked very hard throughout the year to achieve this. Chris Stimson, Pete Robinson and Jane Trodd, together with myself and the Show Team (and respective families!) worked hard all Friday afternoon setting up the show for Saturday morning. On Show Day, Mike Buckeridge, Bob Thomson and Mark Roberts organised the parking of cars and the unloading of cats. Trevor Turner and Jean Turner welcomed members and cats at the "vetting in". Jean and Trevor were with us for the whole day and as usual gave us their unstinting support. Miggy Ravenscroft provided refreshments for helpers all day and was successful in keeping blood sugars high! Keith Thomson took a day off work to help her. The Table was run by Kate and Jan Kaye, Rosemary Solman and Jackie Williams. The "Cups" table was run by Sarah Williams-Elliss, her friend Beryl, Jane Trodd and Judith Noble. The Club Table was manned by Val Anderson and Judith Armstrong. They had a successful day financially and talked to many people. Val gave a much appreciated talk on the points of the Russian Blue. The all important Rosettes were organised by Clare Bandy, Sue Young and Martine Mapes. Pete Robinson and Chris Stimson helped a lot in "setting up" and "taking down" the show and then ran a lucrative raffle. Dawn and Peter Howe ran the Tombola. The ever popular Cat Stall was run by Mark Roberts. Laurie Curtis and her children Isobelle and Marina organised "William" and sold the "Show Whites". As part of her publicity activities Amanda Roberts walked round Abingdon and invited a lot of people to the Show. Jenny and Ian Fleming sold food and drinks and made an incredible amount of money and Mike Buckeridge guarded "the gate" for the whole day. Keith Anderson and Bob Thomson also took photographs of the proceedings. It was so good to have visitors from abroad and also it was lovely to have three former secretaries, Chris Taylor, Lynn Robinson and Laurie Curtis attend. They enhanced the "family feel" of the day. So, from this list you can see what a team it takes to make a Show good enough to provide a background for the magnificent cats and kittens present. It is so good that so many members want to help in the running of their Club.

Your Committee met four times during the year. Marlene Buckeridge, your Vice Chairman, gives me enormous support. She has so much knowledge about the Cat Fancy and this is evident in her duties as Show Manager, Delegate and Regional Advisor. Val Anderson has had a more difficult task as Treasurer than normal, because of the Recession – but she has kept our heads well above water. Judith Armstrong has dealt with her many duties as Secretary, and this of course includes the onerous task of the Posting for the AGM. Jenny Fleming, in spite of illness, has been very active with the Welfare Section. She and Ian have driven miles to rescue and rehome Russian Blue Cats. She is always so ready to help and advise. We send Jenny lots of Good Wishes for a very speedy recovery. Keith Anderson has produced good editions of Russian Tails. It is always a difficult problem to get people to put pen to paper, but he has succeeded. Unfortunately, the cost of Postage and Printing has risen so much that the Committee have decided to produce a small (A5) results magazine in the Spring, followed by the normal longer magazine in the Autumn.

The Committee meetings now follow the BAC meetings and we have found this works well as it reduces travelling for members and costs as well. We all feel it important to have an Independent Chairman, and are grateful to Maria Chapman for taking on this role.

The GCCF meetings attended by Marlene and me, as your Delegates, have been very stormy. The GCCF have had great Financial problems, which I hope they are beginning to solve. They are also being very active in insisting that affiliated clubs have a Breeding Policy – this – of course – is essential if we are to maintain the perfection of our breed.

This has been a good year for the RBBA and I hope 2010 will be equally successful. We depend on the support of the membership to achieve this. This year's Show is at Abingdon on October 2nd and this year is the 25th Anniversary Championship Show. So I hope to see you all there to make the day unforgettable as well as successful.

Jill Jackson - Chairman