

Draft Minutes - Subject to approval at March Committee Meeting

**AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
4th February 2008 BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP.**

Present: Glenn Pritchard, Leoney Pritchard, Jenny Millar, Terry Hunter, Kylie White, Dot Baverstock, Brian Lindsay, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Rosie Milton, Joanne Drake, Clare Ellis, Pat Byrne, and Justin Allen

Apologies: Catherine Saberton. Amy Williams

Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - "Starred" Items.

The following Items were 'starred' for adoption without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 14th January 2008**
- 2) Correspondence; (Schedule of all correspondence in and out)**
- 3) Treasurers Report**
- 4) Accounts for Payment:**

Insurance (Qld Trailer)	\$110
Postage Stamps	\$100
Headset Microphone	\$632.54
Reimbursement Internet Upgrade	\$62.44
- 5) 12 new members.**

Moved and Seconded that the above Agenda Items be adopted. CARRIED

ITEM - Sanctioned Events

Following Events Approved:

Demo – Pine Rivers – 18 May 08 - MPW Maleny Qld

Competition - Para District – 18 May 08 – Elder Park Adelaide

Competition – Pine Rivers – 7 and 8 June 08 – Rob Akers Reserve Strathpine

Competition – Pine Rivers – 3 August 08 – Pine Rivers Showground

Competition – Pine Rivers _ 8 November 08 – Rob Akers Reserve Strathpine

ITEM - Review of Action Sheet

The January meeting Action Sheet was reviewed and all tasks other than those shown below had been actioned:

Engraving of equipment – to be progressed at Nationals

Finalisation of Logo Design – President to follow up.

Lights Insurance Provision transfer (with Treasurer)

Design Judges Certificate (under development by Pat)

Develop Exam for AFA Rep position (under development by Rosie)

Produce Champion Trophy Rules (under development by Kylie)

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

- Acquisition of Group email Software. The Meeting noted that Treasurer was in process of trialing use of Microsoft Outlook for email Groups and if successful this would save AFA purchasing Group software

- Stewards and Timekeepers Exams. Rosie submitted a schedule of members who had passed the Stewards and/or Timekeepers Exam since last meeting. 10 members passed Stewards and 5 passed the Timekeepers Exam. Names to be added to those already approved for posting on Web. Committee discussed issue of situation where partners studied together and submitted identical/very similar exam answers. Agreed that this was an acceptable situation in circumstances of joint study.

ITEM - Matters arising from AGM discussions.

- The Sub Committee for Dog measuring had now reported to the AFA. The Sub Committee had submitted two separate Reports prepared by the two non Committee Members on the Sub Committee plus a series of support tables containing comparisons of dog measurements and conversions to jump heights under different assumptions. The submission of two reports reflected the situation where it had not been possible to get agreement on a single report within the Sub Committee. The Committee noted that the Terms of Reference approved at the last AGM required the Sub Committee to report to both the AFA Committee and the membership. The Committee discussed what should be reported to the membership and agreed that both reports needed to be made available but that this should be under the cover of a summary indicating key aspects of each report. Moved and Seconded that both reports and the support material be released to the Members for comment under cover of a summary statement prepared by the Chair of the Sub Committee - CARRIED. President to arrange to have material placed on AFA Web as soon as summary was available, hopefully before Nationals. Committee then discussed how these matters would be progressed to any decisions on preferred measuring method, how to ensure consistency of measuring application and how to convert measurements to jump heights. General agreement was that members needed to be given the chance to read and comment on the reports before any consideration of action was possible. It was noted that if a Rule change was required members would need to vote on specific motions and consideration would have to be given as to the date of implementation in light of the Agreement with ANKC which contained agreement not to implement any new Rules until 1/1/10.

- Engraving of equipment – planned to undertake at Nationals.
- Laminated membership Cards. Treasurer still waiting on Logo design before ordering cards.

ITEM - General Business

a) Report from Dog incidents Sub Committee

The Committee noted two black card Incidents requiring investigation. First Incident involved Flea (CRN 1007A) at RACV Australia Day Comp.

Second incident involved Matilda (CRN 634C) at Melbourne Pet Expo Demo.

Sub Committee had met to consider these incidents. In case of Matilda the Sub Committee had received a Statement from Matilda's handler as well as the Incident Report from AFA Rep and accordingly was in a position to fully consider the incident. In case of Flea the Sub Committee did not have a Statement from Handler and was now in the process of asking the handler if he wished to make a Statement before the Sub Committee considered the matter.

Whilst the Sub Committee accepted that there were some mitigating circumstances associated with the Matilda incident (the dogs involved were both beginners and Matilda's handler had asked for other dogs to be held whilst she ran her dog) never the less the incident clearly involved aggression on the part of Matilda (chasing and attacking another dog resulting in the other dog requiring several stitches). The Sub Committee, taking into account all circumstances, concluded and recommended that Matilda be suspended for a minimum period of 6 months and that during this period the dog undergo retraining with the requirement to log the training and that the dog to be reassessed at the end of the retraining period for focus before the suspension was removed. Moved that the Sub Committees recommendation be adopted. CARRIED but with two members of the Committee indicating they felt the suspension period was too lenient. Secretary to advise Member and her Club of suspension and conditions.

Sub Committee would consider the incident involving the Flea after contacting handler re statement.

b) AFA Logo design

- President advised he had not had the opportunity to follow up this matter with Ilona who was coordinating new design options. He undertook to make contact within next week.

c) Champion Trophy Format Rules.

- Kylie indicated she just circulated to Committee Draft Rules for this new format and would now welcome input and comment.

d) Possible Hiring of AFA Signature Lights to ANKC

Discussion covered whether the AFA should be willing to hire the lights to ANKC for flyball comp use if requested. The Committee noted that at January Meeting it had been agreed that AFA would not hire lights to non-AFA parties for use at non-flyball events such as agility. At this stage the AFA had not been requested to hire lights to ANKC for any ANKC flyball competitions. General view in Committee was that ANKC should be required to purchase its own timing system and not rely on AFA lights. Moved and Seconded that the AFA should restrict access to AFA lights and timing systems to AFA affiliated Clubs only. CARRIED.

e) Nationals Update

Kylie White advised that we had received 38 Team entries for the Nationals in Canberra and that she had just received from NAFA the Division splits. We will have 8 Divisions. She asked for Committee approval to purchase 3 additional AFA Trophies. Moved and Seconded that approval be granted within a Budget of \$600. CARRIED. Planning was well underway for the Friday Singles and Pairs program. Kylie asked whether sanction approval was required for the Friday night dinner. Committee agreed that this was an AFA event for insurance purposes.

Appointment of AFA representatives – Justin added as the third AFA Representative. Kylie indicated that Patrick was well advanced in developing a Power Point display of the history of flyball over the past ten years for Nationals. If anyone had any more suitable photos could they send them to Kylie ASAP. Ring set up discussed and still in main arena.

f) Dapto Competition –Judges Report re incidents

The Committee noted a report from the Judge (Ron Richardson) which outlined the circumstances involving conversations he had with first Ian Ferguson and later Trent Shepherd before the start of the Dapto competition. Ian's conversations related to Trent's dog being of lead before the start of the Competition. The Report indicated Ian had approached Ron (as judge) before the start of the Competition and requested Ron issue Trent with a black card for having his dog of lead. Ron advised Ian that there was no provision in the AFA Rules to issue a Black Card for someone simply having their dog off lead. Ron's Report continued " After Ian had left the grounds to return home (due to rain conditions) I was then approached by Trent who asked what Ian had been talking to me about. Said that Ian had been overheard asking about a black card to which I said that was correct." The Report further indicates Trent (who was functioning as AFA Representative on the day in the absence of the originally appointed Representative) requested that Ron, as Judge, submit an Incident Report to the AFA and that it include reference against Ian Ferguson for complaining in an "unsportsmanship like manner".

Subsequent to the Competition the AFA received a Witness Declaration from a member of the St.George Club. The Statement indicated he had witnessed Trent's dog and several other dogs being toileted of lead well away from the ring and that

he then witnessed Ian approach Ron as Judge and make a complaint against Trent but not against the other dogs. He indicated that in his view Ian was harassing Trent and asked the AFA to take action against Ian for behaving in an unsportsman like manner as this behavior was a form of misconduct under Section 2.2 of Rules.

The Committee considered the matter and concluded that the Judge had already dealt with the incident. The Committee was concerned that there seemed to be ongoing animosity between two members despite AFA efforts to act as mediator. Members of the Committee indicated they were disappointed, as much time and effort has gone into the mediation process. The Committee asked the NSW Regional Representative to talk to Trent regarding sensitivity of having Gem off lead outside of a secure fenced area at AFA events given the dogs suspension for aggression. Secretary to write to St. George member who submitted the Witness Statement and indicate Committee position and that matter had been dealt with on the day by the Judge.

g) Policy re Dogs off lead at Competition venues.

The Committee considered whether there was a need for a Policy to be developed regarding the subject of dogs off lead at AFA event venues. It was noted that under Competition Etiquette there was indication that dogs should be appropriately restrained when not involved in the ring (on lead or crated). The Committee noted that at AFA events it was not unusual for members to toilet dogs off lead before the start of competition. This was normally done well away from the ring and there had not been any reported problem or incidents. The Committee concluded that it was the responsibility of members to ensure that if their dog was off lead it was well away from the ring, under close supervision and not causing a problem to other dogs. If requested by an AFA official members should immediately place dogs on lead. Members should be reminded that once an AFA event starts no dogs should be off lead in the area adjacent to the ring.

- h) Non affiliated Clubs

The Committee noted the fact that there seemed to be a number of active Clubs who have not paid Club/Team affiliation fees to the AFA. Whilst the Committee noted that there was no requirement for a Club to pay Affiliation fees unless it wanted to run a AFA Sanctioned activity the norm was for Clubs to renew Affiliations at start of each year. The Secretary also reported that there were quite a few Clubs listed on the AFA Web site who no longer seemed to be active or affiliated. The Committee requested the Secretary to prepare a listing on non-affiliated clubs and circulate to Regional Reps so they could contact any active Club and advise them that as from next year the AFA would only list on its Web details of Affiliated Clubs.

- g) Use of Generators to drive AFA Lights

President reported that at Australia Day comp power had not been available and a large generator had been used to power lights. There was a problem with the

backboard displays not working under generator power. Indication that small Honda generators had been used at other comps without a problem. Suggestion that problem could have been caused by length of power cord in use at Australia Day. Discussion occurred as to whether AFA should purchase its own small generator. Concluded that hiring generators locally when required was best approach.

- h) AFA Web Development

Webmaster reported that the AFA Web needed to have some development work undertaken including creation of several new pages (e.g. 2008 Results Page, Page for Protocols under the Rules section) and some clean up work. This required a Web designer's input. She asked for Committee approval to engage a designer to undertake this minor work within a Budget of \$300. Moved and Seconded that approval be granted. CARRIED. Webmaster indicated that a more substantial project was involved in a phase two activity which would substantially upgrade site functionality, including allowing members access to data base elements and also the ability to update personal details like email addresses, phone numbers and home address details. She would discuss phase two with designer in order to get some idea of work involved and likely costs.

- i) Correspondence re experienced members not having to sit AFA Exams.

The Committee noted receipt of a email submission proposing the AFA members with considerable experience not be required to sit AFA exams for stewarding, timekeeping and upgrade to Judge level 1. Submission was based upon fact that members with extensive experience knew how to undertake the tasks in question. Whilst the Committee accepted that some members did indeed have extensive experience there was a real problem under the proposal of deciding who should be exempt and who should sit the exam. The view was expressed that all sports were having to become more professional and exams for Officials was now an accepted part of any sport administration. Experienced members should have little trouble sitting and passing exams. The Committee concluded that in fairness to all members there should be a common requirement for qualifications to be linked to the passing of the relevant exam in all cases, no exemptions. Secretary to reply to correspondence.

- j) Clarification on Crossing policy

As a flow on from the adoption of the separate Policy statement regarding dogs crossing (as opposed to interfering) there was a need to clarify what the AFA points and competition points situation was regarding crossing incidents in a heat. Agreed that points result should be exactly the same as for Interference. Webmaster to update Timesheet Instruction Guidelines and place on web.

Rosie reported that there seemed to still be some confusion about fact that the only change from the old Policy was that an incident where the dog simply crossed the centre line and did not interfere was now recorded simply as

“Crossing”. Crossing incidents would be seen as less significant than incidents involving actual interference. She was preparing a follow up article explaining this for the next Flying Times. Correspondence was noted from one AFA Judge questioning the Policy and how it was to be applied – the questions suggested a misunderstanding that the new Policy was somehow significantly different from the prior policy. Chief Judge to reply to correspondence pointing out that the Rules had not changed. Noted that several other Judges had provided comments indicating that the new Policy was clear and had caused no problems at their recent competitions.

ITEM - Other Business not on Agenda.

- **Melbourne Pet Expo Report**. Eric reported event had gone well except for the aggression incident. He advised that organiser (David Lewis) had been attentive and had provided parking passes but no donation. In discussion it was suggested that the AFA should continue to press for a small donation for events like Capital City Pet Expos (view that a daily donation of around \$200/\$250 was not unreasonable).
- **President Reported that ANKC had now advised that they were in the process of setting up State based committees to work on implementation of ANKC coordinated flyball within each state. Several of the State Committees included dual AFA/ANKC members.**
- **Dapto Competition – Lights Levy**. NSW Regional Rep raise issue of what was the position re the AFA Lights Levy given the lights had not been used at Dapto. President advised that he was transporting the lights and his car broke down and hence the lights did not arrive at Dapto. Committee agreed that as no lights had been supplied then no AFA Levy was payable to AFA. Suggestion was made that given the competition fees included a \$15 per team AFA lights levy that this element of the entry fee should be refunded to all teams. President indicated he would discuss this suggestion with comp. organisers.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.45 pm

Signed as a true record

President.