

Draft Minutes - Subject to approval at April Committee Meeting

**AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
3rd March 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, Richard Mellon, Catherine Saberton, Pat Byrne, and Justin Allen

Apologies: Clare Ellis and Amy Holmes

Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm.

The Committee noted that in accordance with AFA Constitution the President had invited Richard Mellon to accept the NSW representatives role until the next election thus avoiding need for Member ballot. The Committee AGREED to this action.

President then welcomed Richard Mellon to the Meeting as the newly appointed NSW Regional representative to replace Joanne Drake.

ITEM - "Starred" Items.

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

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

Internet Account – P.Byrne	\$90
Web Hosting – L.Pritchard	\$60
Nationals trophies – All Seasons Trophies	\$420
Stationary – Hawkesbury Stationery	\$65
- 4) new members, renewals of membership and change of Clubs.**

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

ITEM - Treasurers Report.

Treasurer Report circulated and noted. Total income for February \$1245 and expenditure \$635 (see list of Accounts Paid above). End month bank balance \$13,283.

ITEM - Sanctioned Events

Following Events Approved:

Competition – Flyball Fanatics – 18 May 08 – Million Paws Walk- UQ Weptans Oval St. Lucia Qld

Competition – RAHS of SA- 15th Sept 2008 – Royal Adelaide Show Dairy lawn.

Demo – Tassie Flying paws- Sunday 18 May 2008 Hobart Royal Showground.

Demo – Tassie Flying Paws – Sunday 6th April – Derwent Valley Council Autumn Festival Tynwald Park New Norfolk.

Demo – AFA – 24th March 2008 – Sydney Royal Show.

Demo – K9 Krusaders – 9th March (Approved subject to Paperwork being lodged)

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

- **Acquisition of Group email Software. The Meeting noted that Treasurer had successfully trialed use of Microsoft Outlook for email Groups and this would save AFA purchasing Group software. Treasurer to now set up two email groups with approx. half AFA Membership in each to keep Groups to manageable size.**
- **Stewards and Timekeepers Exams. Rosie reported she had two Stewards Exams and one Judges Exam to mark.**
- **Rule Book print problem. Leoney and Brian reported on a print problem that involves approx half of the new Rule Book – page transposition for pages 15 and 44. Pat to take up with printer. Sue Norton had also supplied a marked up copy of the Rules showing quite a number of minor typo's and corrections needed when next reprint done. Pat to ask Printer for Word format version of Rules so we can update for errors.**
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ITEM - Matters arising from AGM discussions.

- Dog measuring Sub Committee - Terry had produced a summary of the Dog measuring Sub Committee discussions. The summary plus the two Reports are to be placed on the web for members information and comment.

- Engraving of equipment – time had not permitted the plan to undertake engraving at Nationals. The Committee agreed that the 3 AFA Signature light sets were the priority and that the Victorian Set should be designated AFA 1, the NSW/ACT set to be AFA 2 and the Queensland set to be AFA 3. Each set to have number PLUS frequency engraved on light poles. Terry to arrange for Victorian set to be engraved, Glenn the NSW set and Amy to co- ordinate the Qld set engraving.

- Laminated membership Cards. Treasurer still waiting on logo design before ordering cards. President reported he had received an updated draft logo design but he felt that the design still needed work. Copies of the design would be circulated to the Committee and any input would be welcome. President to contact a second graphic designer for further ideas. A two week input deadline was agreed given we need to have logo for print run of Membership cards.

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ITEM - General Business

a) Report from Dog incidents Sub Committee

The Committee noted the Investigation into the black card Incident involved Flea (CRN 1007A) at RACV Australia Day Comp and that a submission had been received from the handler and taken into account by the Sub Committee in its consideration of the incident.

The Sub Committee had reported to the Committee between Meeting indicating that extenuating circumstances had been involved given the flea was knocked down by another club dog during the race and had retaliated. The Sub Committee recommended that the Flea be given a 3 months Suspended suspension. This recommendation had been approved by the Committee (via email) and Eric had verbally informed handler. Secretary to now formally inform handler. Rosie pointed out she had received carding reports from the Nationals involving the Flea (a Yellow from the Singles and Pairs) and a Yellow and Red from the weekend Competition – all for crossing. Secretary asked to include in letter the request that the dog be given further focus training in consultation with Club Instructors in an effort to avoid further incidents.

b) Champion Trophy Format Rules.

- Draft Rules approved for Champion Trophy Format. Committee agreed that they be placed on web as a “on trial Policy” for a twelve month period. Committee agreed that during the trial period Champion Trophy Format races would involve issue of AFA Title points. Noted that there was still a need to add to the Rules the instructions for setting up the console to handle handicaps. Secretary indicated he had just received a request from Awesome Pawsome to add Champion Trophy format to their next two Competitions. Request approved- Secretary to request Club to provide any feed back on Rules and any input re Console instructions.

c) Nationals Update

Kylie White reported on the Nationals. In brief the Singles and Pairs format proved to be overly ambitious and would have been better as a single elimination rather than a double elimination. The draw for the Saturday and Sunday of the Nationals had to be redone late in the planning in order to better spread clubs with multiple teams. The US Judges had provided advice on how they did this - involves allocating multiple teams through the draw first.

The ring set up and the Open Racing format had worked well and the ring caller (Justin) had done a great job. Sunday saw an improvement in the spaced allocation for entry and boxes and this worked much better. Managed to do 17 races per hour on Sunday. There were problem with time sheets and a better system is needed to control movement of sheets from Timekeepers to ring caller.

A problem became apparent in that the Saturday timesheets data on Breakouts and Cardings was not totally transferred to the Sunday sheets. At end of the Competition there was a problem in getting Timesheets scored for races results and then checked for accuracy. A contributing issue was the deadline for finishing presentation and clearing the main oval for the evening set up. A better system needs to be put in place for results collation and checking of results for future Nationals. One suggestion – introduce some form of progressive scoreboard display.

The Committee thanked Kylie and the others involved for all of their efforts and a great Championship. Kylie indicted she would capture her comments and suggestions in writing for future reference.

President reported verbally on an informal Meeting between several members of the Committee and the two US Judges that took place on the Monday after the Championships and which was aimed at getting feed back. Topics covered included need for commonality for Judges signals for race starts; limiting reruns to no more than 2 per dog; ways to speed up racing. {President to provide bullet point summary of discussions for next Committee Meeting).

- d) Non affiliated Clubs

The Committee noted that the following Clubs were no longer affiliated with AFA or active in flyball and should be deleted from the AFA Web listing of Clubs:

NSW:

Full Throttle; Central Coast Flyball; NSW Agility Dog Club;

Victoria:

Altona Civic Obedience Club; Peninsula Obedience Club; Warragul Obedience Club;

Qld:

Caboolture Sports Dog Club; Suncoast Fundogs

W.A. :

Perth Training and Obedience Club; Esperence Dog Club; Easter goldfields Kalgoorlie Club

In NSW further checking to be done to establish situation with Deer Bush, Springwood and Queanbean Bushrangers.

Marborough Flyballs listing to be amended to Luv a Dog Regardless

Webmaster to arrange Web update.

- e) **AFA Web Development**

Webmaster indicated she had not had time to contact the Designer – matter deferred to next Meeting.

- f) **Clarification of Round Robin Points where combined Division applies.**

Committee noted an email submission from Karen Shields, a NSW Judge, seeking Rule confirmation as to the awarding of Round Robin Race points where teams from different Divisions were racing each other. Issue do teams only get Round Robin points when racing against teams in their own Division?. In discussion it was clear that the Committee had a divided opinion and that different practices seemed to be operating in different states. Agree that a clarification was required. Suggested that before Committee considers matter Rosie should seek input for the AFA Judges, particularly as to what is current situation re awarding of round robin points. Matter to be listed for discussion at next Meeting.

- g) **Proposed new Racing Format - elimination handicap based on Champion Trophy style rules.**

Committee noted the submission from St.George Club to conduct their Camden Competition on basis of a round robin in morning and then all teams taking part in a handicapped double elimination format in afternoon, based on morning best times . The Committee noted that the proposed afternoon format was not currently an approved format and that no rules existed. Concern was also

expressed that the format may be open to and encourage sandbagging. The Committee also noted that given the format was not approved no AFA title points could be awarded. The Committee concluded it could not approve the format for the Camden competition.

The Secretary indicated that he had verbally informed Joanne Drake from St.George that it was unlikely that the proposed format would be approved for use on the 8th March event. He indicated that Joanne had commented that they would still like the Committee to consider the approval of the format for subsequent use. The Committee suggested that the Secretary reply to St.George suggesting that they consider drafting what they saw as a suitable set of rules for the Handicap Elimination format they were proposing for adoption.

ITEM - Other Business .

- a) 2010 Nationals Bid Submission.

The Committee noted the submission (via DVD) of the bid by Berwick. The 2010 Nationals Bids were to be considered at the April Meeting. Kylie proposed that she contact Berwick to obtain some clarifications regarding things like did they have room for two rings, planned promotion for event etc. so that their bid could be fully assessed in April. Agreed. Webmaster to remind Clubs via web that bids close end March.

Committee also considered submission date for 2011 Nationals and AGREED to set end March 2009 as close date.

- b) ANKC Correspondence.

President proposed that the AFA form a Sub Committee to deal with any issue of implementation clarification required from ANKC. There was already a request for AFA to check and comment on proposed ANKC Time Sheets and Instruction. Following agreed to be on Sub Committee President (Chair), Terry Hunter, Lyn Clyde, Leoney Pritchard, Jenny Miller, Catherine Saberton. AGREED Sub Committee to meet by phone hook up Wed 5th March at 8pm.

- c) Proposal to purchase US measuring wicket for trial use.

The Committee noted the suggestion that the AFA purchase one of the "approved" measuring wickets now in use in USA by flyball and Obedience clubs. Details had been obtained from visiting US Judges and Judge Brian had offered to order and ship to us. Cost estimate \$350 US. AGREED to purchase for trial use.

- d) Letter from St.George Club re Process used to determine Division one winner at Nationals.

The Committee noted letter from St.George Flyball Club seeking information and clarification regarding the process used to determine Division One results at National Championships. Committee also noted the Reports from the AFA Representative (Justin) and the Supervisory judge(Rosie) providing input regarding the protest submitted by St.George at the Nationals and the process they then used to confirm results and to explain to St.George that the correct Division one result had been announced.

Given the Division One winning team was from Norwest Flyball Club all members of Norwest on the AFA Committee indicated that they would stand down and not take part in the discussion of this matter on basis of avoiding any suggestion of conflict of interest. The President vacated the Chair, which was assumed by the Deputy President.

The remaining members of the Committee noted all 3 submissions . The Committee noted the assurance from Rosie and Justin that they had fully checked the result and had confirmed that Norwest had validly won Division One of the Championship. They indicated they had explained the circumstances to St.George at Canberra and that they understood that St.George had accepted that Norwest were the winners. This was also supported by the current letter which sought information regarding the processes followed to establish Divisional results and to check the results but did not question the announced result.

Kylie White indicated that virtually all the matters raised in the St.George letter were matters properly addressed to her as Competition Organisor and not the AFA Committee. She indicated that it was the Competition Organisors responsibility to establish the procedures to be followed to determine results and to have the results checked and confirmed. Accordingly she PROPOSED that the letter from St.George be referred to her for reply. After she had replied St.George could then consider if any matters still required AFA consideration. AGREED.

The full Committee noted that there were suggestions regarding process improvements in both Justin's and Rosie's submissions that needed to be considered by the Committee for future Championships. AGREED to defer consideration till next Meeting at which time the Committee would also have Kylies reply re processes actually followed.

- e) Letter of Thanks to Joanne Drake.

The Committee agreed that the Secretary should send a letter of thanks to Joanne Drake for her service to the AFA as NSW regional representative.

- **f) Clarification of Division one Breakout where a Declared time submitted by a First Division team.**

Justin raised the issue of whether the “No break out in First Division “ Rule applied where a First Division team had submitted a declared seed time. He felt that existing Rule wording on declared break out times being one second slower than the declared time could be interpreted to mean that this should also apply in Division one. View expressed that in Division One no breakouts applied irrespective of basis of seed time (web or declared). Committee agreed to defer Item till next Meeting so that Justin could develop suggested clarification rewording.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm

Signed as a true record

President.