

Draft Minutes - Subject to approval at November Committee Meeting

AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP.

**Present:** Glenn Pritchard, Eric van Zuyden , Jenny Millar, Terry Hunter, Kylie White, Leoney Pritchard , Dot Baverstock, Pat Byrne, Brian Lindsay, Clair Ellis and Lyn Clyde.

**Apologies:** Rosie Milton, Joanne Drake, Catherine Saberton and Justin Allen

**Meeting Opened at 7.35 pm.**

ITEM 1 - "Starred" Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 Meeting;
- 2) Correspondence Listing; (Schedule of all correspondence in and out)
- 3) Accounts Payable
- 4) New Memberships
- 5) Renewal of Memberships
- 6) Change of Clubs ( Loaded Dog Racing members)

**Moved and Seconded that the above Agenda Items be adopted without discussion. CARRIED**

ITEM 2 - Treasurer's Report

**Treasurer presented Financial Report for September which showed total income of \$1365 and expenditure of \$409.90 giving a monthly surplus of \$955.10 and a bank balance at months end of \$10,853.59.**

**President enquired as to a 'payment' transaction shown in Deposits of \$16. Treasurer explained this was a payment received from a member whose original cheque had been dishonored for insufficient funds. It was actually income.**

**Moved and Seconded that Treasurers Report be adopted. CARRIED.**

**ITEM 3 - Sanctioned Events.**

**The Meeting noted and approved the following as sanctioned events:**

- Demo – 12 th October 07 - Tassie Flying Paws – Rosetta School**
- Demo – 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October 07 – Tassie Flying Paws – Hobart Royal Show**
- Demo – 11 th November 07 – Tassie Flying Paws -Brighton Ag Society Pontville Memorial Oval**
- Competition – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 07 – Para Districts – Xmas Flyball Romp**
- Competition – 19<sup>th</sup> April 08 – CDC ( Note special request to avoid clashes as represents 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CDC)**
- Competition - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – CDC – Kioloa ( Note Limited entry comp 21 teams max.)**
- Competition - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – Berwick - Dandenong Show**

**ITEM 4 - Administrative Matters.**

- a) Development of Protocols for computer back up – in view of Justin’s absence Item deferred to next Meeting.**
- b) Group email software acquisition – again matter is with Justin and deferred till next Meeting**
- c) Judges Email Group - had now been established by Supervisory Judge as a preferred way to communicate with AFA Judges re Rule changes etc.**
- d) Secretary reported on Asset Insurance quotes. Several quotes had been obtained for insurance for the 3 sets of Signature lights and 3 sets of EJS lights for a total value of \$60,000 ( being \$15,000 per Signature set and \$5,000 per EJS set). Best quote was \$3139 p.a. for fire, theft and damage whilst in vehicle transport. No cover was available for damage whilst in use. In discussion point made that the lights were normally well secured and were not considered to be an attractive theft item given limited usage options. Concern expressed re cost of insurance cover. Following discussion Moved and Seconded that the AFA act as a self insurer for the lights by setting aside an amount of \$3000 each year to establish a Insurance and Repair Provision who could be accessed in event of loss or damage. CARRIED**
- e) Secretary also raised matter of Member Personal Accident Policy coverage. Following the injury to Lyn Clyde he had informed insurance brokers of accident and enquired about claim process. Insurance brokers advised that existing AFA Accident Cover provided for Loss of Income (up to \$500 per week) but did not cover medical cost reimbursement. After discussion it was agreed that Secretary should obtain quote for reasonable medical cost coverage under the Accident Policy and report back to next Meeting.**

**f) Secretary advised that the AFA's 2007 Annual Return (to the ACT Registrar Generals Department) had been filed.**

**g) Supervisory Judge reported following members had successfully completed the Stewards Exam :**

**Kevin Crane- Awsome Pawsome; Neil Hamilton S.A.**

**( Secretary asked to check with Supervisory Judge regarding whether Jo Slade's paper had been marked).**

**h) Judges Review – Catherine Saberton – Committee informed by Supervisory Judge that Catherine had now successfully completed all requirements to be appointed as Accredited 1 Judge and had passed the final assessment . Secretary to write to Catherine and to express Committee's congratulations.**

**ITEM 5 - Matters arising from AGM.**

**a)Update of Rules and Policies Documentation. Secretary advised that he had updated the Rules and Policies documentation for all changes agreed at AGM and had then circulated the Draft to the Supervisory Judge and several other members of the Committee for review. A number of minor changes were suggested and incorporated in the document. The amended draft had been circulated to all Committee Members and was before the Meeting for consideration. It was pointed out that the circulated document still needed one minor amendment to the single elimination diagrams and this was under investigation. Moved and Seconded that the updated document be adopted and following reformatting be placed on the AFA Web. Printed copies to be arranged once document finalised.**

**b) Measuring Sub Committee. Secretary advised that he had received only two expressions of interest from non Committee members to serve on the Measuring Sub Committee. These were from Colin Bruce ( Norwest member who had experience with Ufly system of measuring in USA) and Gary Hehir ( Southern Cross member). Both nominations were accepted. After discussion Eric van Zuyden agreed to serve as Sub Committee Chair and Dot Baverstock and Terry Hunter agreed to join Sub Committee to give 5 members. Secretary to circulate Sub Committee member contact details.**

**c)Engraving of Equipment Holdings. Eric and Terry indicated they had not yet had time to meet and discuss process. Item deferred to next meeting.**

**d)Investigation of laminated membership cards. Treasurer reported she had obtained several quotes for membership card production options. Following discussion of options it was Moved and Seconded that the proposal from Braddon Printing be accepted at a cost of \$1860 plus GST for a 1500 card supply which would last over two years. CARRIED. The Committee noted that the quoted cost did not include design artwork. Final cost should be around \$1.50 per card plus**

postage- total additional cost around \$2 per member. Treasurer asked to examine design layout of cards from viewpoint of information content and report back to Committee. Objective is to have cards ready for issue for 2007/08 membership year.

e) Review of Constitution re AFA Discipline Process. Secretary spoke to his circulated paper which summarised the current AFA member discipline process as set down in the Constitution. He indicated that in his opinion the process could be improved from a Natural Justice perspective if the member was given the opportunity to make input earlier in the investigation process before the Committee came to any decision as to guilt or innocence and the matter of penalty. The Committee was in general agreement with this view and discussed whether it was possible to document in simple form a set of Discipline Protocol Rules which included requirement for member input early in investigation process. Moved and Seconded that a Member Discipline Protocol be developed incorporating requirement for member input to be sought early in process. CARRIED. Secretary to draft and submit to next meeting.

#### ITEM 6 - General Business

a) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee re Black Card incidents at Kioloa and Geelong Competitions .

Sub Committee had circulated a comprehensive report on its investigations into the reported aggression incident at Kioloa competition involving Jem (CRN 658A) and Kobe ( CRN 766D). The Report included a full outline of the content of the 6 Witness Declarations. All statements had been considered and a number of subsequent submission had also been received and considered. The two handlers involved had been invited to submit statements and had done so. After taking into account all evidence the Sub Committee concluded that a charge of Aggression against Jem (CRN 658A) had been substantiated. Taking into account this incident and prior history the Sub Committee recommended that Jem be suspended for a minimum period of 12 months effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007 and that any subsequent re admission be subject to the requirements of the AFA's Aggressive Dog Policy. The Sub Committee also reported that there was no evidence re aggression against Kobe (CRN 766D) and recommended that the temporary suspension imposed on Kobe during the investigation be lifted. Moved and Seconded that the two Sub Committee recommendations be accepted .CARRIED by unanimous vote.

The Sub Committee also reported on the Geelong incident, involving Chloe (CRN 955A) crossing over and displaying suspected aggressive behavior towards another dog. The Sub Committee noted that whilst it accepted that there had been some contact between the two dogs it did not appear to be aggressive and the other dog was not injured in any way. It was also noted that Chloe had no prior incident reports and the Geelong cross over appeared to be out of character. The Sub Committee recommended that Chloe be placed on warning and given a 3 months suspended sentence effective from 18/8/07. Moved and Seconded that the Sub Committee recommendation be accepted. CARRIED by unanimous vote.

**The following Card incidents reported since the September Committee meeting were referred to the Dog incident Sub Committee for investigation:**

**Black Card incident at Flyball on Oval involving Lizzie CRN 348A;  
Black Card incident at Boorowa involving Poppi CRN 1191A;  
Red Card Incident at Yarram involving handler CRN 769.**

b) Letter from Trent Shepherd re claimed "aggression" Incident he observed at Southerly Muster.

**The President reported that following the decision at the last meeting to establish a Sub Committee to investigate the matters raised by Mr. Shepherd in his letter of 20<sup>th</sup> August he had written to Mr. Shepherd advising that the AFA had moved to investigate the matters raised, correcting a number of comments attributed to other judges by Mr. Shepherd in his letter and pointing out that Mr. Shepherd was questioning another judges integrity and invited his response.**

**He noted that Mr. Shepherd had informed him and also used the forum of Flyball Oz to indicate that the Minutes of the Sept. AFA Committee Meeting suggested that the purpose of his letter was being misinterpreted and he was accordingly withdrawing his letter.**

**The Committee considered whether in these circumstances the matter should continue to be the subject of investigation. After discussion the Committee decided it would accept Mr. Shepherds statement of the letter's withdrawal and take no further action at this time.**

c) **AFA Privacy Policy. Circulated Draft Privacy Statement discussed. Issue raised as to need to clarify whether the AFA should continue its policy of only releasing summaries of documents such as Judges reports and Witness Declarations or whether, upon request, the documents should be released. Following discussion Moved and Seconded that in future the AFA should, upon request, make copies of such documents available to members involved in investigation and that this decision be communicated to Members prior to implementation. CARRIED by unanimous vote. Following this decision the Secretary was asked to redraft the Privacy Policy to reflect this decision and bring back to next Meeting.**

d) **Clarification of Breakout Policy wording and intent. Committee noted the need to clarify the intent of the breakout Policy re points awarded. Agreed to refer this to the Dog Incident Sub Committee given it contained 3 Judges and was about to meet.**

e) Storage of AFA archives. Update report indicating that existing boxed records could continue to be stored in Queensland. President authorized to arrange to have any currently relevant records couriered to Secretary.

f) Review of suggestions re changes to format of Competition Timesheets and proposed new Excel formats for draw. New Timekeeper worksheet originally submitted by Karen Shields had been further developed and were ready for actual competition trial. Comments from those involved in review were very positive. Kylie offered to use the new design at the Flyball Frolic Competition in October and report on outcome. Agreed.

g) AFA Logo redesign. Noted no member had expressed interest in redesigning the AFA Logo . Several members of Committee expressed view we should still review the Logo . The President agreed to follow up ilona re the original offer to redesign the logo. Design brief should indicate any new design had to be suitable for use on letter head, membership cards and in promotional material.

h) Need to clarify written protest procedure (Form C14) and \$50 protest fee. Secretary spoke to circulated paper which indicated that to date no member had actually been required to use Form C14 and protests and complaints were still being processed by letter. He suggested that it was far from clear when Form C14 should be used. Moved and Seconded that C14 be withdrawn and the complaint handling fee of \$50 be abolished. CARRIED.

i) Letter from G.Hehir enquiring about Resolution process at 2007 AGM. Committee noted that Mr.Hehir's letter raised two issues- the restriction on number of times a member could speak to a Resolution and whether submitted Resolutions could be amended at meeting from floor. President indicated he had suggested the 'one speaker per Resolution' simply as a way of dealing with the very large Agenda of Resolutions in a reasonable time. In a 'normal' meeting this would not be necessary. Issue of how to deal with amendment to Resolutions submitted 14 days prior to meeting needed to be investigated and Chair had again made a ruling on the night. Secretary asked to investigate amendment process and to advise Mr.Hehir of above.

j) Champion Trophy Racing Format Proposal. Committee noted the submission from Steve Pitt to introduce into flyball competition formats the "Champion Trophy Format". This would involve the winners of each Division racing off at end of competition under handicaps based upon their fastest time at the competition. Result would be an overall Champion team. Following discussion it was agreed that the AFA should arrange a trial of the format. Kylie White offered to trail the format at Flyball Frolic in October. Moved and Seconded that the Champion Trophy format be adopted for trial. CARRIED by unanimous vote.

k) Australian Record run – Norwest Thunderdogs Team 1

Vice President indicated that given President was a member of the record team he had been asked to sign off on the recent Australian record run of 17.309 seconds. Run had been checked on day by Joanne Drake and the AFA Representative. Eric indicated he had verified the run and was satisfied that it qualified as an Australian record and should be recognized and posted on the AFA Web.

l) Proposed AFA Conference.

Meeting noted a suggestion from G.Hehir that communication at AGM was difficult given phone hook up and that the AFA should take the opportunity at National Championships to arrange a short member communication forum to allow communication between members and committee. President indicated he supported the concept as it would allow interested members to contribute views. Following discussion Moved and Seconded that a Members Forum be arranged at Nationals for 4.30 to 6pm on Friday night. This would be followed by a AFA Dinner for those interested. CARRIED.

m) Flying Times Deadlines. Next issue due out end October. Deadline for Regional Representatives input set for 22 October with Newsletter to be produced at end October.

n) Correspondence from I.Ferguson requesting his letter of 13 June 07 be dealt with by Committee. The Committee noted the further correspondence which was related to an original letter dated 30 January 2007 . The January letter raised a series of protests against claimed Judging inconsistencies. The Committee noted that this original letter had been fully replied to by the then President Steve Pitt in a letter dated 12 February 2007. The Presidents letter advised Mr Ferguson that his protests had been dismissed and offered suggested explanations for the various Judges decisions under question. Mr.Ferguson had in turn responded (via his letter of 13<sup>th</sup> June) requesting that his protests be reconsidered and questioned the explanations given. The Committee had considered Mr.Ferguson's letter of 13 June at its July meeting and concluded that the matters had been fully dealt with and that no point would be served by readdressing the matters. Mr.Ferguson had been so informed but had again requested that his original protests be readdressed. The Committee noted that the original protests were basically against Judges decisions involving rulings on interference due to cross overs or the involvement of other officials (timekeepers and stewards) in race decisions by the Judge. After discussion the Committee concluded that the Judge had the authority to make the decisions based upon the circumstances at the time and that the Committee was not in any position to question these decisions 9 months after the event. The Committee noted and accepted the need to attempt to ensure all Judges were applying consistent interpretations of the Rules . Significant effort had been made in recent years by the AFA to ensure Judges were well trained and versed in the Rules. The fact

remained however, as in every sport, that the Judge had to exercise best judgment in the light of the facts as evident to the Judge at the time. Moved and Seconded that Mr. Ferguson's protests be again dismissed and Mr. Ferguson be so informed. CARRIED by unanimous vote.

o) Sydney Pet Expo. President reported that the initial discussion re flyball demonstrations at this years Pet expo had taken place between the NSW Regional Representative and the event organisers. Following last year Expo which involved approx 60 – 70 NSW members and their dogs spread over 3 days the decision was taken to ask the organisers to recognize this extensive involvement via a small donation to the AFA.

The organisers had responded by indicating they had no budget to cover any donation to the AFA..

The Regional Representative had handed over negotiations to the President. Recent discussions indicate that the organisers have not altered their position. In view of the lack of progress re any donation, the limited time now available and also a number of logistical problems it was decided that the flyball demonstrations will not be part of this years Sydney Pet Expo. Members will be so advised shortly.

Eric reported on initial discussions along similar lines he is having with Melbourne Pet Expo organisers. He has also suggested a small donation and to date he has had no response.

p) Canberra EJS Problems. Kylie reported that the old EJS had problems at Boorowa and that she was planning to purchase a new cable as it was suspected that the cable connections might be faulty.

q) Purchase of Judges Shirts. Kylie reported that she would pick up the two shirts on order this week. Karen's shirt is a first issue and hence costs will be meet by AFA, Ron's shirt is a replacement and he will meet costs.

Item 7 - Promotion and Media Marketing of AFA. President again raised issue of importance of flyball media marketing. He indicated that he would ask all Clubs to consider appointing a media liaison officer and to do more to promote the sport. He advised that Ilona had agree to accept the AFA Publicity and Marketing co-coordinator position which would link with Club contacts to obtain National exposure. The details of the position duties would be developed in discussion with Ilona .

Kylie also reported on CDC flyball Demonstrations at half time in Canberra Basketball competitions. Had been a great success and further planned demos would give wide media exposure .

**Item 8 - Review of Aggressive Dog Policy and extension to better cover and explain interference, distraction, and suspected aggression. Sub Committee ( Rosie, Terry, Brian, Jenny and Joanne) had not yet had chance to address the review and expansion of the existing Policy. Deferred to next Meeting.**

**1) Date of Next Meeting. Next regular Meeting is scheduled Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10. 35 pm.**

**Signed as a true record**

**President**