

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST 2007
(Subject to approval by the Members at the 2007/08 AGM)

The Meeting opened at 7.11 EST with telephone connections to the following venues:

A.C.T. – CDC Clubhouse – Organiser Kylie White
Victoria - Croydon - Organiser Eric Van Zuyden
Keilor Obedience Dog Training Club – Organiser Brian Crowley
Ballarat Dog Obedience Club – Organiser Bill Reynolds
NSW - Spastic Centre – Organiser Joanne Drake
Queensland – Autolec Offices – Organiser Brian Moore
South Australia – 26 Light Terrace - Organiser Catherine Saberton
Tasmania – Agricultural Society Offices - Organiser Dot Baverstock
Albury/ Wodonga - 10 Chervil Place Baranduda – Organiser Julie Walker

Attendance of Members – 105 members as per the venue attendance sheets.

Apologies – 15 members submitted apologies - as per venue sheets.

Item 1. Minutes of 2005/06 AGM

Moved Glenn Pritchard, Seconded Kylie White that the 2005/06 AGM Minutes be accepted. CARRIED

Item 2. Minutes of General Meeting of 2nd June 2007.

Moved Glenn Pritchard, Seconded Rosie Milton that the record of the General Meeting of 2nd June 2007 be accepted. CARRIED.

Item 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Ilona Van Galen noted that the Minutes of the General Meeting referred to unanswered correspondence from a member who was a vet (Dr. Janet Gridland) and at time advice was that no such person was a member of the AFA. The members name was unfortunately misspelled and should have been Dr. Janet Cridland who was indeed an AFA member. Given that the AFA apparently did not received the member's letter Ilona indicated she would encourage her to submit a copy for AFA Committee attention.

Ian Ferguson stated he would like to thank the Committee for taking notice of member views of wanting access to the AFA Minutes, which were now being posted to the Web site after each meeting.

Item 4. Presidents Report.

Glenn Pritchard read his 2006/07 Presidents Report, which was available to members on the AFA web and in hard copy at all meeting venues.

Moved Glenn Pritchard, Seconded Clare Ellis that the Presidents Report be accepted. CARRIED.

Item 5 Financial Statements and Auditors Report.

The Treasurer introduced the 2006/07 AFA Financial Statements and the accompanying Auditors Report and invited any comments or questions. Ian Ferguson expressed concern that the Auditor had not verified the existence of all AFA assets and suggested that in future there should be a National Auditor or independent Auditors in each State to sight and verify all AFA assets existed and were in good condition. The Treasurer advised that the Committee had obtained declarations from the member holding the AFA assets at 30th June 2007 and these had been submitted to the Auditor. June Hunter asked whether it was actually being suggested that the AFA appoint multiple Chartered Accountants or CPA's to simply examine assets or was it anyone who could sight the asset. I.Ferguson indicated it should be a qualified Auditor. June questioned the practicality of such a proposal.

The President indicated the Committee would look again at how best to assure members that the AFA assets existed.

Moved Patricia Byrnes, Seconded Eric Van Zuyden that the Financial Reports be accepted. CARRIED.

At this point in the Meeting the President asked if the venue scrutineers could advise their head count of eligible voting members.

Sydney	30
Keilor	7
Croydon	13
Ballarat	13
Queensland	15
Tasmania	8
Albury	5
S.A.	4
CDC	10
TOTAL	105

Item 6. Member Ballots.

The President indicated that there had been 14 Resolutions submitted by members for ballot. All had been received within the time specified in the Constitution. The wording of each proposed resolution had been posted to the AFA Web site and was also printed in hard copy in the Meeting papers.

The President indicated that given the number of Resolutions the proposed process was that he would ask for a seconder for each resolution and given there was a seconder he would then ask the proposer to speak to the motion. Members would then be given the chance to speak for and against each resolution. He suggested that people try and limit their inputs to one statement per motion in view of time considerations and that a 5-minute limit apply to all speakers. Voting would occur after each motion was discussed and would be recorded at each venue by the scrutineer. Votes would be phoned through to the Returning Officer in Sydney at end of voting for all Resolutions.

Resolution 1. Aggressive Dog Policy - Moved I.Van Galen, Seconded I. Ferguson.

In introducing the Resolution the mover noted the AFA had now developed a Draft Policy in this area and indicated that in view of this she would be withdrawing the Resolution. She suggested however that the meeting take the opportunity to generally discuss this matter for a short period as a way of providing Member input to Committee on the Draft Policy. There was little support for this proposal and the mover withdrew the Resolution.

Resolution 2. Definition of Interference. – Moved I.Van Galen, Seconded I.Ferguson.

In introducing the Resolution the mover noted that the Committee had taken on board the need to clarify interference versus aggression and withdrew the Resolution.

Resolution 3. – Height measures to be reduced from 3 to 2 - Moved I.Van Galen, Seconded I.Ferguson.

In introducing the Resolution the mover spoke of the difficulty of getting 3 separate judges in some States. R.Milton spoke against the motion as accuracy and consistency in height recording was essential and 3 identical measures assisted in this regard. Several speakers' who were also AFA judges supported this view. Issue raised that there is not currently a single measuring device or process throughout all States. Pointed out this was the subject of a separate Resolution.

Moved by President that members vote. (Note results of each ballot shown at end of this Item).

Resolution 4 – Proposed Quarterly General Meetings - Moved I.Van Galen, Seconded I.Ferguson.

Mover indicated that whilst Committee had taken on board the need to improve communications between Committee and members there would still be advantage in the membership being able to meet and contribute views and input to Committee on a more frequent basis. .T.Hunter enquired as to cost of each General Meeting. Treasurer advised approx \$1000 per meeting. Ian from Croydon indicated that members would quickly get tired with attending a meeting every 3 months and noted that we appoint the Committee to run the AFA between AGMs.

Moved by President that members vote.

Resolution 5. AFA reintroduce laminated membership cards Moved I.Van Galen, seconded I.Ferguson.

I. Ferguson spoke to the Resolution. Problems with paper receipt when it gets wet and laminated cards were not expensive – around \$1.20 to produce. R.Milton spoke against indicating that the task of laminating 600 plus cards was a big job. I.Van Galen indicated the task could be outsourced, as there were organizations that specialized in producing plastic credit style cards for clubs. Issue of postage costs discussed. Bulk post to each club suggested as a way to reduce postage.

Moved by President that members vote.

Resolution 6 Confidentiality of correspondence to AFA – Moved J.Hunter, Seconded T.Hunter.

Mover indicated she felt members had the right to have their correspondence remain private to Committee unless they gave specific permission to have information published.

I.Van Galen spoke against indicating this proposal was in direct contravention of the Associations Incorporation Legislation . Several speakers pointed out that members had a natural justice right to be given copies of any letter or input involving them or their dogs. S.Norton raised concern that release of names would breach Privacy legislation. Several members disputed this view.

Moved by President that members vote.

Resolution 7. Increase in minimum Number of members required to call a General Meeting – Moved J.Hunter, Seconded Joy Allen.

Mover introduced Resolution to increase number of members needed to call a meeting of AFA from 10 to 7.5% of membership recognizing cost and inconvenience of such meetings. Meetings should not be able to be called by small number of members from one club .I. Van Galen indicated Model Rules

stated a requirement for 5% and that was the upper limit, as you could not exceed the Model Rules percentage. On that basis mover offered to amend the Resolution and replace the 7.5% with 5 %. Several members disputed the idea that the Model Rules percentage was the upper ceiling. The President indicated that the Resolution as submitted should be the subject of ballot.

Resolution 8. Time period for adoption of Rules and Policies placed on trial. – Moved T.Hunter, Seconded T.Shepherd.

Mover explained proposed time structure, which would ensure that members got to vote on Rule changes after a maximum of 24 months of trial. Several speakers for the change – none against. Moved by President that members vote.

Resolution 9. Formation of Sub Committee to investigate methods of measuring dogs. Moved T.Shepherd, Seconded J.Drake.

Mover introduced resolution and indicated measuring systems was a contentious issue within NAFA and that the AFA should be researching various options and seeking a consistent approach that took into account all conformation aspects and not just a dogs height. T.Hunter spoke for the motion and for the need for a standard approach to measuring across all States. R.Milton indicated that there was a need to improve uniformity of approach to measuring. I.Van Galen expressed view that any system should be expressed in metric. . G.Pritchard expressed view that we needed to remain consistent with NAFA heights. Mover by President that members vote.

Resolution 10. Natural Justice considerations re AFA discipline processes. Moved G.Hehir, Seconded I.Ferguson.

Mover expressed concern that the current AFA Constitutional requirements were not in line with natural justice concepts. Currently the Committee must decide whether a member has a case to answer and if so what penalty it feels is appropriate and only after that process does write to inform the member and invite the member to respond. The Committee considers any response and confirms or amends it original finding. The Member should be given the opportunity to see the charges and make input before any decision is made re case to answer or penalty. Several speakers supported this general viewpoint but wanted specific details of any proposed change to the Constitution. Mover explained he was asking Committee to address the issue and come forward with suggested specific wording. Moved by President that members vote.

Resolution 11. Date from which suspension commences to be backdated to date of incident. Moved G.Hehir, Seconded D.Ford

Following introduction and initial discussion mover withdrew the Resolution.

Resolution 12. Judge to consult with stewards before issuing any penalty card. Moved G.Hehir, Seconded P.Byrne.

Mover introduced Resolution and indicated that whilst he supported the situation where the Judge was the sole decision maker he still felt the Judge should be required to ask Stewards what they had witnessed before coming to a decision. J.Hunter questioned whether stewards had enough knowledge of Rules to make educated input. Several speakers supported view that stewards should only be asked, "what did you see" not for their views on the incident. President moved that the members vote.

Resolution 13. Removal of "eyeballing" from Aggressive Dog Policy wording. Moved G.Hehir, Seconded T.Shepherd.

Mover spoke against including "eyeballing" as an example of aggression in view of difficulty in producing tangible evidence of such action and problem of Judges interpretation. R.Milton indicated it could be the first sign of aggression in a dog. I.Ferguson indicated it was a natural behavior of a pack animal but agreed it should not be in Policy.

President moved that the members vote.

Resolution 14. Average days racing to apply at all Competitions. Moved G.Hehir, Seconded D.Ford.

Mover explained that the Guidelines for Competition Organisers suggested that an average days racing should involve between 20 and 30 heats per Division. At the recent Nationals there were far fewer than the Guidelines suggested and people only found out about that a few days before the Competition. Members spent a lot of money to get very little racing. Alternative view put that it was up to each competition organiser to propose racing structure taking into account availability of space for rings, number of entrants, time available. T.Hunter expressed view that it may be preferable to hold Nationals not as part of a larger event and to schedule then for a holiday period like Easter so that there was time to travel.

President moved that members vote.

Following phone input from each venue the Returning Officer reported on the results of the ballot. All Resolutions required 75% majority to be passed EXCEPT

Resolution 7 (involving a specific wording change to Constitution), which required a majority of 66.6%.

RESULTS OF VOTING

Resolution 1 and 2 Withdrawn

Resolution 3 LOST (36 Yes, 65 No and 4 Abstain - 34% For).

Resolution 4 LOST (14 Yes, 84 No and 7 Abstain – 13% For)

Resolution 5 LOST (67 Yes, 30 No and 8 Abstain – 64% For)

Resolution 6 LOST (14 Yes, 74 No and 16 Abstain – 13% For)

Resolution 7 LOST (21Yes, 36 No and 45 Abstain – 21% For)

Resolution 8 CARRIED (84 Yes, 5 No and 13 Abstain – 82% For)

Resolution 9 CARRIED (84 Yes, 13 No and 6 Abstain – 82% For)

Resolution 10 LOST (66Yes, 11 No and 28 Abstain – 63% For)

Resolution 11 Withdrawn

Resolution 12 LOST (60 Yes, 39 NO and 5 Abstain – 58% For)

Resolution 13 LOST (62 Yes, 33 No and 6 Abstain – 61% For)

Resolution 14 LOST (40 Yes, 36 No and 29 Abstain – 38% For).

The President declared Resolutions 8 and 9 as CARRIED.

Item 7. Announcement of results of postal Rules ballots

The President asked the Secretary to read the results of the postal ballot for the Rule changes

Jump Heights	CARRIED
Changing Teams	CARRIED
Club of the Year	CARRIED
Rule 1 Section 1.4 Seed Times	CARRIED
Rule 2 Section 1.4 (e) Points where a breakout applies	Ballot WITHDRAWN
Rule 3 Section 9.2 (I) Interference and points	CARRIED
Rule 4 Section 9,2 Signal Cards	CARRIED
Rule 5 Appendixes E 7 Timekeepers	CARRIED
Rule 6 Appendix E 6 Judges Responsibilities to report	CARRIED
Rule 7 Appendix E 6 Judges Reporting Policy	CARRIED
Rule 8 Section 11.1 points where a breakout applies	Ballot WITHDRAWN
Rule 9 Section 1.4 (b) Breakouts policy	Ballot WITHDRAWN
Rule 10 Section 2.5 Protests during Competitions	CARRIED
Policy 1 In and Out Gates for each lane	CARRIED
Policy 2 Practice Runs	CARRIED
Policy 3 Minimum recommended ring size	CARRIED
Policy 4 Signaling False starts	CARRIED
Policy 5 Minimum age for handlers	CARRIED

Policy 6 AFA Sanctioned Demonstrations Policy
Policy 7 Start Tapes Policy
Policy 8 Impartial Stewarding Policy

CARRIED
CARRIED
CARRIED

The President indicated the new Rules and Policies shown as CARRIED would be included in the Official Rules and Policies document as soon as was possible

Item 8. AFA Annual Awards.

The President announced the following awards:

Club of the Year – (Springer Award) - Norwest Thunderdogs)
Team of the Year - Croydon Rocket Scientists
Novice Club of the Year (Little Springer Trophy) – Southern Cross

Congratulations to the winners.

Item 9 Life Membership ballot.

President read the two nominations for life membership recommended by Committee – namely Kylie White and Rosie Milton.

Members asked to vote for Kylie – CARRIED

Members asked to vote for Rosie – CARRIED

President congratulated both members.

Belinda Matheson, an independent non-member of the AFA, was appointed as Returning Officer. All positions declared vacant.

The following Members were the sole applicants for the positions shown and as such were declared elected unopposed:

President - Glenn Pritchard
Vice President - Eric Van Zuyden
Secretary - Brian Lindsay
Treasure - Patricia Byrne
ACT Representative - Roycelyn Clyde

NSW Representative - Joanne Drake

At this point the secretary informed the meeting that due to an oversight on his part the Nomination of Eric Van Zuyden for Victorian representative had been omitted from the papers. Issue of whether a member could hold two positions on Committee raised. President indicated that there was precedent for this and as far as he could ascertain there was no restriction in the Constitution other than where it involved positions on the Executive. Meeting agreed to have Eric serve as both vice President and Victorian Representative.

Nominations were called from the floor for vacant positions of Regional Representative for Queensland, S.A. and Tasmania.

No nomination received for Queensland and position remained vacant.

Catherine Saberton nominated and seconded for S.A. Representative. No other nominations and Catherine declared elected.

Dot Baverstock nominated and seconded for Tasmanian Representative. No other nominations and Dot declared elected.

Secretary advised Meeting that whilst the voting form for General Committee members showed that there were 9 valid nominations for the 7 vacant Committee positions. He indicated he had received advice that one member had submitted a nomination which had not been received by the AFA. He asked the meeting whether there would be any objections to that members name being added to the ballot. If there were any objections he recommended the matter be put to the vote.

One Member indicated an objection to the proposal and the matter was accordingly put to the vote. Following voting 100 For adding the member to the ballot and 5 Against. CARRIED.

The Secretary advised members to add Justin Allen's name to the ballot. Members asked to vote for maximum of 7 candidates.

After voting Returning Officer announced following 6 members elected:

Kylie White
Rosie Milton
Jennie Miller
Leoney Pritchard
Terry Hunter
Clare Ellis

Returning Officer indicated 3 candidates had received same number of votes and a second ballot was required for the one remaining position on the Committee. Candidates were Les Scott, Mechelle Stephens and Justin Allen.

After second ballot Returning Officer declared Justine Allen elected.

President resumed Chair and congratulated the successful candidates. He requested venue organisers to ensure that they submitted the scrutineers certificate and hard copy ballot results to AFA Secretary within 7 days.

There being no further business the Meeting was declared closed at 10. 50 pm.

Signed as a correct record of discussions

President.