

Draft Minutes – Subject to final approval at February 2011 Meeting

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2011.

Present: Jenny Millar, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Richard Mellon, Josh Ellen, Maureen Williamson, Julie Pamplin. Leoney Pritchard, Sue Norton, Ian Gauntlett, Wayne Strop, Catherine Saberton, Penny Lloyd, Lyn Clyde.

Apologies –Kylie White, Pat Byrne. and Jo Parkes.
Meeting Opened at 7. 50 pm

ITEM - Starred Items .

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of 6th December meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Membership
- 3) Treasurers Report/Accounts for Payment.
- 4) Correspondence Out
- 5) Stewards Passes – Nil
- 6) Judge Applications approved - Philip Lea.

Moved and Seconded that starred Items be adopted CARRIED.

ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters .

Following Items outstanding:

- Identification of W.A. Dog Clubs (Jo Parkes).

- Jump manufacture specification rules (Rules Sub Committee).

- Paperwork for Euroa Competition.

ITEM – New Members .

Following new members approved:

Maria Dalla Valle; Michael Partyka and April Partyka.

ITEM – Treasurers Report

Bank Balance \$14,561 as at end December.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events .

Demos – Sydney Royal Show - Saturday 17th April; Sunday 18th April; Singles/Pairs Racing (Demo Status) Sunday 24th and Demo Monday 25th April 2011.

Demo – Angaston Show – Sunday 27th February 2011

ITEM – Correspondence In requiring action.

1. Email from member re storage and access to old AFA lights set for use in Demos around ACT area. Matter dealt with under General Business.
- 2 . Email from Supervisory Judge expressing concerns at what appeared to be assistance provided by an existing Judge to a Judge candidate in completing the written theory exam. The Committee discussed this matter in some detail given the import of ensuring the integrity of the Judges exam process. The Committee received assurances from the candidate that the assistance was in area of formatting of answers and not in supplying actual answers to questions in exam. The Committee noted that any questions or clarifications sought by a candidate should be addressed to the AFA Supervisory Judge and that no other Judges should be providing assistance to candidate in answering the exam. Given the specifics of the situation the Committee determined that:
 - The Supervisory Judge should be requested to require the candidate to submit answers to 5 supplementary questions;
 - That the Secretary issue a notice to Judges indicating that they should not be assist candidates with answers to the written exam process and that only the Supervisory judge should be providing advise or clarification re issues associated with the exam.
2. Email from Victorian Supervising judge raising issues with the existing Rules for measuring, in particular whether two people should be required to be involved in conducting Official measures. The Committee noted that the preferred practice was to have two Judges involved in measuring – one to undertake measure and one to verify stand of dog. This was outlined in the Judges Manual. The view was that this happened most of the time but on occasions there may only be one Judge available. It was noted that he current Rules did not require two people to be involved. After discussion it was Moved that the existing Rules be amended to require two people to be involved (either two Judges or a Judge and the appointed AFA Representative or another experienced official appointed by the AFA Representative). This to be adopted as an On Trial Rule effective from 26th January 2011. CARRIED. The Committees attention was also directed to the matter of “practice measuring” of some dogs at competitions using the Official wicket. The Committee agreed that if the Competition Organiser was willing to have a “practice measure” session it should only be done AFTER the competition was concluded and that it had to be available to all AFA Members who wished to take part. The Committee also noted that practice measures using the wicket could be conducted at AFA Demonstrations or AFA

Training days. Moved that this decision to be issued to members as a “Clarification statement”. CARRIED. The Committee also noted that the current appointed “Supervising Judge” in Victoria was Eric van Zuyden who had been authorised by the Supervisory Judge to oversee Judges training.

ITEM – Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee submitted a report dealing with a Black Card issued to Ella CRN 2199A at the Santa Ball Competition on 4th December 2010.

The Sub Committee noted the judges Report, statement from the owner and 4 other Witness Statements. All Statements indicated that Ella dropped her ball in her return run and when the 3rd dog in the team went passed her on way to box she turned and chased and there was a fumble between Ella and the other dog that resulted in a jump being knocked down. The dogs then ran back towards the start with Ella still chasing. Several low growls were heard coming from Ella. The Judge interpreted this behaviour as suspected aggression. Several witnesses who are familiar with the two dogs involved indicted that the behaviour was play and that Ella and the other dog are regular companions. No contact occurred between the dogs.

The Sub Committee also reported that Ella had no prior cardings on the Data Base.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendation that Ella be issued with a Warning Letter level 1. CARRIED.

ITEM – Report from Rules Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee had meet but Minutes were yet to be finalized. Report would be available for February Meeting of Committee.

ITEM - Farmtek Timing System Update.

Leoney reported that the second of the new Farmtek systems had been delivered to South Australia.

Leoney further reported on her enquiries regarding ordering one additional Type A system. Farmtek had advised that the frequencies used in virtually all components of the Type A system were outside the range approved for use in Australia.

The Committee noted that currently the AFA only has one Type A system in Australia and the advise from Farmtek that two Type B Systems cannot be used together without potential for interference. It was suggested that the AFA enquire from NAFA how they were able to have up to 6 Light Sets in use in one area without interference. Leoney agreed to pursue this matter and report back to Committee.

ITEM - Nationals Planning Policy.

The Committee noted the report of the Sub Committee set up to review the Draft Nationals Planning and Presentation Policy. The Sub Committee had made a small number of minor amendments and additions to the Draft policy and with these minor amendments recommended that the Policy be adopted as an "On trail Policy" effective from 1st March 2011.

ITEM – Update re status of old EJS Systems and their location/storage.

Catherine had submitted a report indicating that the situation with the 3 original EJS Systems was as follows:

Tassie now has one complete Working system (it is the old Tassie light set with the Console from S.A.) The non-working Tassie Console is now in S.A. with Catherine.

Catherine has in storage the old S.A. lights set with the non-working Tassie console.

The old ACT light set is still in storage at Kyle's minus its console. The ACT console is about to be sent to Dave Blow for repairs. Once repaired it will give the AFA a second working EJS.

The Committee agreed to also submit the Tassie Console to Dave Blow to see if it can be repaired.

The Committee considered the request from Verdelle Townsend to store one of the EJS systems on the understanding that it would be available for use in AFA approved Demonstrations. It was agreed that once one of the Consoles was repaired the ACT set would be transferred to Verdelle for storage and use in AFA Demonstrations. CARRIED

ITEM - Purina Sponsored Competitions .

The Committee noted that the 2011 situation was as follows:

Purina agreement was to Sponsor 6 Competitions, spread across Australia and involving major crowd presence (suggested min 10,000 spectators a day) with preference for two-day events.

Competitions already approved for Purina Sponsorship –

Feb - SAFE Competition Victoria

Feb – Canberra 2 Day Royal Show Competition

April – Sydney Royal National Competitions (2 Day Nationals)

April – Sydney Royal Veterans Nationals
Competitions submitted to Purina for approval:

September – Redfest Queensland 2 Day Competition.

November – Victorian Dandenong 2 Day Competition.

Richard to follow up Purina.

For 2012 there are only two “ approved events” at this stage - the National Championships to be held at the Canberra Royal Show in Feb 2012 and Sydney Royal Show.

It was agreed that for the other 2012 the AFA would invite all States in early March to submit bids for proposed Purina with a close date of end June- with a view to AFA finalising the 2012 program of sponsored events by no later than end July 2011.

ITEM – Development of Flyball in W.A.

Item deferred till next Meeting.

ITEM – 2011 Nationals – Recommendations re Officials .

The Committee noted the submission from Sydney Flyball Associates (SFA) recommending Judges and AFA Representatives for 2011 Nationals.

The recommended Judges being – Supervising Nationals Judge – Trent Shepherd; Judges Geoff Brown NAFA USA; Ian Gauntlett; Steve Pitt and Ian Kendt (plus Verdelle Townsend to Judge Singles and Pairs event).

AFA Representatives to be Kylie White and Verdelle Townsend.

The Committee approved the recommended Officials.

The Committee also approved the proposal to hold a Training Day format on Sunday the 17th April as part of the Demonstration and to hold a “start dog .000 competition” as part of Veterans Nationals/ Singles and Pairs if time allowed.

Finally the Committee approved the payment of the Purina Sponsorship cash component to the SFA in Feb 2011.

ITEM – Report from Sub Committee set up to review issue of standardization of measuring Wickets .

The Committee noted the report from the Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee noted that the addition of a “base board” to the Victoria wicket had been added without prior approval of the AFA committee, and as a result the Victorian wicket was different to other wickets used in Australia. . Given the Victorian base board make the wicket different, the Sub Committee concluded it did run contrary to the objective of having a common National standard.

The subcommittee then examined the concept of introducing baseboards for use across Australia, as it was generally noted that the concept of a uniform base had merit and was worth further consideration.

The subcommittee agreed to put forward the following recommendations to the AFA Committee.

1 That the AFA investigate implementation of a national roll out of baseboards. CARRIED.

(This will require investigation into a suitable material for use in all climates across Australia, whether the boards are to be supplied by a single source for consistency, best non-slip surface and cost of manufacture. Ian Kendt agreed to investigate and report back to AFA.)

2 That no additions or modifications to wickets occur unless prior AFA Committee approval is obtained. CARRIED.

The Committee agreed that pending the decision regarding adopting baseboards on a National level the Victorian wicket baseboard should remain in use.

ITEM – Submission regarding Clubs registering all Team names in order to ensure standard terminology for planned automated web functions.

The Committee noted that currently both Club & Team Names are required to be used in following documents:

- Club Affiliation form
- Comp Entry Forms
- Official timesheets
- Results spreadsheet
- Title Points Workbook
- Seed Times Lists (are based on comp results by team & club name)
- Annual Award for Team of the Year

The suggestion was put forward that the AFA implement a requirement for Clubs to register team names. This was designed to get consistency with the spelling and use of team names in all AFA Data Base systems to allow future automation of functions in these systems.

It was pointed out that existing issues for team names included.

- Inconsistency of name used on Competition entry forms – sometimes names include club identifier e.g. Belconnen Bullets or just Bullets, Scallywag Rockets or Sydney Scallwags Rockets
- Spelling differences and the use of hyphens or spaces e.g. K9 or K- 9, T'Keilor or T-Keilor

This creates the potential for the AFA to calculate revised seed times for the same team under different names. With the plan to use more automatic processes in AFA administration it will be essential that we have consistent data base information re teams.

To assist in this regard the submission proposes that:

- 1) Club coordinators to be required to validate the current list of team names and confirm their spelling:
- 2) That thereafter any a new team names to be registered with the AFA.
- 3) That the Competition entry form be converted from a word Doc to Excel format so that there can be a drop down menu for display of registered team names.

The Committee agreed to commence the above process with Team Coordinators to be asked to verify existing Team names. Leoney to action. Leoney to also investigate conversion of entry forms to Excel. CARRIED.

ITEM – General Business .

1. Malcolm Stewart Trophy to be delivered to Belconnen at Canberra Royal – Ian to send trophy with Eric.
2. Question asked – could ANKC members take part in AFA Demonstrations if they were not members of AFA. Given concerns regarding ANKC acceptance of insurance cover of their members whilst involved in AFA activities answer has to be no.
3. Tassie Flying Paws reported they were encouraging new club members to join AFA at an early stage so they could obtain a CRN and take part in AFA Demonstrations.

Next meeting set for Monday 7th February at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business Meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.