

Draft Minutes – Subject to approval at April Committee Meeting.

Australian Flyball Association – Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd March 2009 by telephone hook up.

Present: Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Kylie White, Jenny Millar, Ilona Van Galen, Jess McNamara, Penny Lloyd, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Richard Mellon and Maureen Williamson.

Apologies: Glenn Pritchard, Pat Byrne, Leoney Pritchard, Rosie Milton, Catherine Saberton.

Meeting Opened by Vice President at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

The following Items were “starred” for adoption without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 2nd February 2009;
- 2) Treasurers Report and Accounts for Payment (Bank balance at end February of \$10,267.25 Noted);
- 3) Membership renewals as per treasurers Report

Moved and Seconded that starred Items be adopted CARRIED.

ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters.

The Committee noted the following matters still outstanding and requiring action from earlier Meetings:

Contact with Sasha Blend re sponsorship – Noted - President had recently asked Secretary to follow up the earlier contact and matter was in hand;

Follow up of written Agreement re world Dog Games – matter with President;

Link to Doggo site on AFA Web – matter with Webmaster.

ITEM - Correspondence.

No Correspondence requiring action received in Month.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Comp – Bellarine – 28/3/09 – 2008 a Little Bit Late – Geelong Obedience Club, Breakwater Rd Breakwater Geelong.

Comp – Awesome Pawsome – 5/4/09 – Awesome April Antics – Rathdowney Showgrounds Rathdowney (replaces Demo previously applied and approved).

Comp – Pine Rivers – 13/6/09 – Jumping in June –

Comp – Pine Rivers – 2/08/09 – Pine Rivers Show Special -

Comp – CDC – 5th Sept 09 – Surf 'n Turf – Kioloa Van Park

Comp – K9 Krusaders – 4/10/09 - Irish Flyball fling – Pudman Oval Boorowa

Comp – Pine Rivers – 7/11/09 – Annual Night at the Races

Demo – 29/3 – Kids Artyfarty Fest, Sills Bend, Warringal Park, Beverly Rd Heidelberg.

Demo – Tassie Flying Paws – 17/5/09 - Million Paws Walk Tassie.

ITEM - Approval of New members.

Committee noted and approved the following 5 new Members joining in February: Rebecca Woiwade; Ramona Browne; Aaron Browne; Marianne Armstrong, and Karen Chalmers.

ITEM - Notification of Change of Clubs.

Noted that the following 3 Members had sought approval to change Clubs as a result of relocation and had sought exemption from the 90-day rule based on the fact of their relocation:

Rebecca Jones CRN 1261 – transferring from Norwest to CDC due to move from Sydney to Canberra,

David Strang CRN 843 - transferring from St.George to Hasting Howlers due to move from Sydney to Melbourne,

Michelle Potter CRN - transferring from Para Districts to Belconnen due to move from S.A to Canberra.

Moved and Seconded that approval be granted for transfers with exemption from 90 day rule. CARRIED.

NSW Rep also asked Committee to note transfer of Larry McMaugh CRN . Larry had sought confirmation of his move from Sydney Psychos to Leaps and Bounds following disbanding of Psychos. The Committee noted that approval had already been granted for exemption from 90-day rule.

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

Rosie reported by email that Steve Pitt had now completed all requirements for appointment as a Level 1 Judge, including his final assessment at the Canberra Royal, which she had assessed as highly satisfactory. She recommended that the Committee approve Steve's appointment as a Level 1 Judge. Moved and Seconded that approval be granted. CARRIED.

ITEM - Update of AFA Rule Book for Amendments adopted at 2008 AGM.

Secretary reported that he understood that President had circulated a final Draft for approval. Richard Mellon advised he had submitted several comments on the final draft and asked whether his comments had been considered. Matter to be referred to President for clarification. This and the Race formats appeared to be the only matters now outstanding and Committee agreed to defer ITEM till April Meeting on the understanding that a final Draft would be updated and final approval should be given at April Meeting.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee –

Noted that there were no incidents referred to the Sub Committee in February. Rosie had however advised the Committee that there were several incidents outside the ring at the Canberra Royal Competition that would require investigation by the Sub Committee. The Committee agreed to refer these to the Sub Committee for consideration and report back to Committee.

ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee re mechanisms to improve consistent application of dog aggression Penalties.

The Committee noted the template developed by the Sub Committee based on the assessed severity of the incident and the related appropriate penalty action. Richard suggested that the template be adopted as part of the Protocol for dealing with aggression incidents as it was designed to simply act as a Guide to the Sub Committee when considering action. The Sub Committee would retain the right to take into account all circumstances of each incident. One minor change in wording was suggested regarding the appointment of a person to undertake the assessment

of dogs for readmission to racing – wording proposed was “ – the dogs behaviour has been observed and approved by a person appointed by the AFA etc”. This wording allowed the AFA to appoint what it considered to be the most appropriate person to assess the dog’s behaviour, irrespective of whether that person was a member of the Committee. Moved and Seconded that with this amendment the template be adopted and placed on the web as part of the Protocol statement. CARRIED.

ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal Planning.

Richard reported all was going well with relationships with RAS and Purina. The Close date for entries to the two Competitions was tonight (2nd March) so planning group should know situation this week. A Meeting of the Group was planned for Saturday the 7th. Richard advised that Ian Ferguson had resigned from the Group and the Group would need to consider a replacement.

ITEM - Judges Shirts and Caps

Caps had arrived and were available for distribution to Judges and Committee Members and sale to members. Judges shirts not yet received.

ITEM - Melbourne Pet Expo.

Eric reported that the Expo went well with good Demonstrations thanks to the members who brought dogs along to run. A Bushfire bucket appeal had been held and \$131 was collected to which the AFA added a donation of \$250. Many thanks to all who supported the Expo.

ITEM - Request to reconsider Handicap Race Format as submitted be Julie Walker.

The Committee noted that this requested had been deferred from the February Meeting in order to allow Committee members to consider the points raised by Julie in support of the format.

The Committee noted that most of the points raised by Julie had actually been considered in the original review of the format. In discussion members of the Committee again expressed concern that the format could involve increased risk of injury to inexperienced dogs crossing onto much faster dogs. Richard also expressed view that the format would place significant extra work and responsibility on timekeepers to correctly program handicap times for every race. The Committee again concluded that the proposed format was not as appropriate for full competition as the existing races formats and should not be approved. In making this decision it was noted that the original submission had been considered in some detail by the

Rules Sub Committee, which included 3 experienced AFA Judges who all expressed safety concerns and then by the full Committee and in both occasions the decision not to support the proposed handicap was unanimous. Secretary asked to inform Julie of decision.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update.

The Secretary reported on the problems being experienced in actually obtaining the set of Signature lights ordered in June 2008. Mark Kuznitz has now advised that the lights are in the hands of Australian Customs and are not being released due to a dispute about past Customs Duty claimed to be owing by Mark in respect of previous imports of Light sets. Secretary had contacted Mark on numerous occasions, including a recent lengthy phone contact with the request that if Mark cannot get lights released from Customs he should replace the set with another set. Mark has undertaken to intensify his efforts to clear lights from Customs and had verbally agreed if the delay continued he would build another replacement set.

The Committee noted the situation and requested that further contact be made with mark and details obtained re original shipment date. Ilona offered to see if she could get a letter of demand drafted by a friend who was a solicitor. Suggestion made that we should also approach NAFA to see if they have had problems in dealing with Mark.

Secretary agreed to again contact Mark re what is becoming a saga.

ITEM - Submission re AFA Banning use of Check Chains both inside and OUTSIDE the Ring at all Flyball activities.

Committee noted the submission just received from Jess McNamara advising that she had witnessed a flyballer at Canberra using a Check Chain outside the flyball ring in what she considered to be an incorrect manner and as such representing a punishment to the dog. The submission suggested that the AFA ban the use of Check Chains at any flyball activity given the availability of lots of alternative and more effective types of restraint. This was strongly supported by ilona and Maureen. Several Members of the Committee indicated that the real problem was that many people did not know how to correctly fit or use check chains. Correctly used they could be an effective training aid. Incorrectly used they were a problem and perhaps the simplest solution was to ban there use at Flyball.

Moved and Seconded that the Submission from Jess be referred to the AFA Rules Sub Committee for consideration and if supported the drafting of suitable wording for inclusion in the AFA Rules. In referring the matter it was suggested that members of the Committee advise the Sub Committee of support for the proposal.

ITEM - Flying Times Update

Penny indicated she had ordered the Publisher software but had not as yet received the program. She advised she had lots of input for the next Flying times. Ilona apologised for her recent non-availability and undertook to make herself available. People reminded deadline for input for next Times was end February and if they had input to get it to Penny or Ilona asap.

ITEM - Problems with new Banner in high wind.

Maureen raised issue of problems encountered with the new banners in Tasmania's high winds. Eric indicated Victoria attached their banner to a star post with tie downs when it was windy. Kylie also indicated ACT had to tie down their Banner. Maureen suggested problem might be partially overcome if some windbreak holes were strategically cut into the Tassie banner to allow wind to pass through. She did not want to do this without Committee approval. Agreed that this should be left to discretion of Tassie Members.

ITEM - Problems noted with Victorian Light Set at Canberra Royal.

Richard briefly indicated he would document the problems he noted as timekeeper with the Victorian Light set at Canberra and send to Eric so matter could be further looked into.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 6th April.
There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed as a true record.

Vice President.