

Draft Minutes – Subject to approval at May Committee Meeting.

Australian Flyball Association – Minutes of Meeting held on 6th April 2009 by telephone hook up.

Present: Glenn Pritchard, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Jenny Miller, Ilona Van Galen, Leonie Pritchard, Jess McNamara, Penny Lloyd, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Richard Mellon, Catherine Saberton and Maureen Williamson.

Apologies: Rosie Milton, Pat Byrne, and Kylie White.

Meeting Opened by President at 7.45 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 2nd March 2009;
- 2) Treasurers Report and Accounts for Payment (Bank balance at end March of \$12,631 Noted);
- 3) Correspondence (email from Ian Gauntlett re Judges Exam and 5 Witness Declarations from Canberra Royal Show (both dealt with under separate Agenda items)
- 4) 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 –Secretary had attempted to follow up the earlier contact by Company on several occasions – will make one final try to make contact;

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

Consideration of check chain ban submission – Rules Sub Committee yet to meet to consider.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Comp – Flyball Fanatics Inc – 17 May 09 – Million paws Walk Flyball - Uni Qld Wes Harris Oval Sir William McGregor Drive

Comp – CDC – 17/5/09 – Million Paws Walk – Venue TBA.

Comp - RA&H Society of S.A. – 12/9/09 – Royal Adelaide Show Flyball – Adelaide Showground Cattle Lawns

Comp – CDC – 7/11/09 – Flyball frolic 2009- Venue TBA

Demo – Albury – 19/4/09 – Paws in the Park – willow Park Wodonga

Demo – Surf Stormers – 3/5/09 – Ku-rin-gai Council Festival on the Green – St Ives Village Green. (Beginner Dogs welcome)

Demo - AFA – 17/5/09 – Million Paws Walk Aughtie Dve Albert Park Lake Sth Melbourne

ITEM - Approval of New members.

Committee noted and approved 10 new Members joining in March: Edna Pearce, Tony Armstrong, Anne Newman, Michelle Santama, Jody Goldring, Joanne Clancy, Brenden Mooney, Pauline Wilkie, Marcus Hold, and Daisy Baker

ITEM - Notification of Change of Clubs.

Following members had notified change of Clubs:

Leigh and Amy Holmes (CRN 1172A and B) transferring to Pine Rivers following relocation to Sunshine Coast. Do not require exemption as have not competed for 6 months – transfer noted and approved.

Phillipa Hurst request for transfer for her dog Trigger (CRN 1251C) from Tuggeranong to Pine Rivers as the dog was being moved to Queensland for approx 6 months for Breed Show purposes and her “new” handler (Carol Blyth) would like to compete in flyball with Pine Rivers. At end of transfer period Phillipa also requested approval for dog to return to Tuggeranong. In both cases Phillipa requested exemption from 90-day suspension rule. The Committee in considering this unusual request noted that the dog was being moved interstate for an extended period and that Rules re transfers did not require both dog and handler to relocate .The Committee was concerned to avoid establishing a precedent of granting exemption for short term transfers. Moved that request for transfer with exemption from 90 day rule be granted subject to the dog being registered as Pine Rivers dog for at least 6 months effective from 1st May 09. CARRIED.

ITEM - Change of Club name.

Committee noted the advice from Club coordinator that Calamvet Flyball Club had changed its name to DNF Flyball Club.

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

Rosie reported that following members had successfully completed Stewards or Timekeepers Exam:

Michelle Potter and Anne Dymock – Stewards Exam
Verdelle Townsend - Timekeepers Exam

Noted and CARRIED.

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

Final Draft of Rules update had been circulated and no unsatisfactory comments received. Quote had been obtained for print production of 150 copies of the Rule Book. Quote was for \$490 that worked out at \$3.30 per Book. Moved that Rule Book now be reprinted and quote accepted. CARRIED.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.

The Committee noted two reports from the Sub Committee re dog incidents.

First incident involved Rex (CRN 608A) at Canberra Royal. Sub Committee noted Rex's lead had somehow come off and that he had crossed the path of another dog with some growling then occurring. The Sub Committee concluded the incident was minor but that it could have been more serious if the other dog had reacted. Sub Committee suggested a warning letter be sent to Rex's handler suggesting more care and supervision of dog whilst on lead was desirable. CARRIED.

Second incident involved Titch (CRN 1177B) at Geelong Comp on 28th March. Titch had crossed over and followed another dog back down the lane. The Sub Committee considered that the incident did not involve any aggression on part of Titch and hence found that no penalty should be applied. Titch is accordingly free to resume racing. Owner to be notified of outcome. CARRIED.

ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal Planning.

Arrangements for Sydney royal finalized and details about to go up on web. Many thanks to Richard Mellon who as NSW Rep had chaired the Royal Planning Committee and been the interface with RAS and Purina.

ITEM - Purina / RAS Bid for 2011 Nationals

The Committee noted the bid document submitted by Purina/RAS seeking to stage the 2011 AFA Nationals as part of the 2011 Sydney Royal Show. Arrangement envisaged was similar to the 2009 arrangements and would involve a Nationals Planning Committee being appointed from Sydney Clubs/AFA to work with Purina and RAS. Bid indicated area for two rings and a Day camp would be available at Overflow. Purina would provide all prizes and trophies/ribbons. Purina had been advised that if the AFA supported the bid in principal detailed discussions would be needed to progress issues such as specifics of sponsorship. The Committee noted that no other bid had been received for 2011 Nationals and that Bids had closed at end of March.

With 2010 Nationals being in Victoria a return to Sydney in 2011 was seen as acceptable. The only concerns expressed related to the issues of getting gear into and out of the Royal Show. This years experience would prove useful. Moved that Committee endorse the Purina /RAS bid in principal and that further discussions take place with Purina/RAS after this years Show. CARRIED.

ITEM - Amended Rule re Seed Times

Committee noted the input indicating that Competition organizers and Clubs were having some problems with the current seedtime rule. The issue related to the fact that many Competitions had a close of entry date more than 14 days out from the Competition and Clubs could not be sure of the Web seed time that would be used if an update of times occurred between entry and the 14 days. In some cases a declared seed time may have been more appropriate if the Club had know of the amended web time.

Following discussion it was Moved that the AFA adopt an On Trial Rule that provided for seed times to be determines from Web on the closing date of the competition. This was seen as allowing clubs to check times at close date and hence know the seedtime that would apply for that competition. CARRIED.

Following Rule changes would be trialed effective from 1st May 09 i.e. (new Rule will apply for Competitions with closing dates on or after 1st May 09).

Section 1.4 (a) DELETE "14th day before the competition date" and REPLACE with "nominated close of entry date for each competition".

Section 1.4 (b) DELETE " at least 14 days prior to the" and REPLACE with " On or before the close of entry date for each competition"

This change to be issued as "Rule Notification Number 9 - Seed Times - amended date of application for web and declared seed times".

ITEM - Clarification re Penalty Cards carryover from Round Robin to Elimination/Champion Trophy Competition formats.

The Committee noted the suggestion that it may be advisable for the AFA to clarify to Competition organisers, Judges and Timekeepers that any penalty cards issued in a Round Robin format competition carry over to a subsequent Elimination or Champion Trophy format. All to be reminded that to ensure this applies it is important that carding details are transferred to the new format time sheets before the start of the new format. Agreed clarification should go out as part of next rule notification.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update.

The Secretary again reported on the problems being experienced in actually obtaining the set of Signature lights ordered in June 2008. Mark Kunuts advised that the lights arrived back with him in the US on the 24th March having been released by Australian Customs. He indicated he would need to check the Lights and then arrange to re ship to Australia. Secretary had requested update report on 4th April. No response as yet. In discussion it was agreed Secretary should continue to communicate with Mark and that President should now write to NAFA (who had an association with Mark in that they had provided funding to assist him to develop the Signature Lights for flyball) with a view to obtaining their assistance if the lights were not received by the May Meeting. Committee noted that in future we needed to explore other arrangements that did not involve payment for lights in advance of shipment – even if this was Marks requirement.

ITEM - 2009/10 fees.

Committee noted that there had been general agreement, via email, to the proposal to maintain existing membership fee levels for 2009/10 with exception of the following;

- Late Membership renewal (after end July 09) to involve a penalty fee of \$10;
- Late Club membership renewal (after end July 09) to involve a penalty fee of \$10;
- Title Certificates to increase from \$5 to \$10 – (\$5 fee had been unchanged for years and costs had increased).

Moved that these changes be approved for application from 1st July 09 CARRIED.

ITEM - Flying Times Update

Ilona advised she had distributed a draft of the Flying Times. Point's update and "On Trial" rule advise needed to be added before publication.

ITEM - Canberra Royal Show – Behavior Incidents involving several members.

The Committee noted it had received 5 Witness Declarations about two related incidents that occurred at Canberra Royal Show Competition outside the flyball ring. The first incident involved an accusation of inappropriate behavior by a member in the handling and submission training of a dog outside the flyball ring. The second incident occurred subsequent to the first incident and involved a confrontation between several members over

the first incident. The AFA's Supervising Judge had indicated she been involved in attempting to defuse both incidents.

The Committee considered whether, based on the Declarations and other information, any member had "a case to answer" with respect to breach of Rules or the Constitution. After discussion the Committee concluded that there was not sufficient grounds to institute a Member discipline investigation. The Secretary was requested to write to all parties involved pointing out that, in future, the correct course of action was for these type of issues to be taken up with the AFA Representative or the Competition Organiser rather than directly approaching the other party. The Member involved in the "training" complaint to be advised that the Committee had found he had not acted inappropriately.

ITEM - Jump Height Cards – situation from 1st July 09

The Committee noted that members would be issued with new membership cards at 09 renewal and these would have the correct jump height under the new "On Trial rules". Old Jump height cards should no longer be accepted from 1st July onwards.

ITEM - Approval of Record Run

The Committee noted that Thunderdogs 1 team had recorded a 17.138 second run at the Hounds in the Hills Competition. This had been submitted as a new Australian record run. The required paperwork had been completed on the day and was held by the Supervising Judge. The Vice President and the NSW Rep indicated they had verified the video of the race and all crossovers were clean. The only issue was that the DVD copy of the run did not show the date and time. This was however shown on the actual video footage. The Committee agreed that the actual video should be examined by the Supervising Judge and NSW Rep. Subject to them confirming that the date and time was recorded on the video Moved that the Committee approve the record run. CARRIED.

ITEM - Submission re current Judges Exam Format

The Committee noted an email submission expressing concern about the current Judge exam format and the requirements in answers to questions for extensive cut and paste of extracts from Rules, and various Guideline documents. As a result the expected exam submission was of the order of 100 pages, mainly consisting of extracts from AFA documents. In discussions several members of the Committee expressed the view that a more appropriate format would be to establish a range of "what if scenarios" which would test the candidates knowledge of the Rules. These could require the candidate to indicate what action/decision would be taken and under what rule. It was suggested that the Timekeeper exam needed similar reconsideration. Suggestion was also made that Candidates seeking Level 1 status should have to complete a certain number of judging assignments before being graded at this level. Moved that a Sub Committee be formed to review and redevelop the AFA's approach to judges and timekeepers exams within a framework of maintaining or improving standards. CARRIED.

Following Committee Members volunteered to form Sub Committee:
Ian, Penny, Lyn, and Ilona with supervising Judge to Chair.

Lyn agreed to obtain information on how other sports bodies approached accreditation of their officials.

Secretary agreed to draft a set of Terms of Reference for the review. Committee accepted that the review may take an extended period and that current arrangements should continue to apply pending the adoption of any new exam process.

ITEM - Submission re AFA funding a promotion of flyball as part of each years National Championships

The Committee noted a submission from Norwest, the hosts of the 2009 National Championships, indicating that whilst they would attempt to obtain maximum local exposure and promotion for the National Championships they were not in a position to obtain National or State Wide promotion which would be targeted at lifting the profile of flyball. The submission proposed that the AFA consider funding some form of profile exposure advertising at each years Nationals. Indicative quotes submitted suggested that a ¼ page full colour add in a National magazine such as Dogs Life could be obtained at a cost of approx\$1000.

Following discussion it was Moved that the AFA allocated up to a \$1000 Budget each year for profile advertising at time of National Championships with the decision on specific adds placement to be taken in consultation with that years Nationals host. Expenditure of the \$1000 to be subject to availability of funds in each year. CARRIED.

ITEM –Establishment of Signature lights maintenance and replacement provision fund.

The Treasurer reported that in order to open the Lights provision investment fund the bank required a resolution regarding the establishment of the separate investment. Moved that the AFA approve the opening of a separate investment account with a transfer of \$6.000 being the 2008 and 2009 Provision transfers already approved by Committee. CARRIED.

ITEM - Other General Business

Eric reported he was dealing with Channel 7 regarding a possible flyball feature on Guide to the Good Life show. He was also negotiating with Melbourne Royal Show organizers re a Flyball Competition as part of this year's Royal. He expected to know more about this after end April.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 4th May. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 10.00 pm.

Signed as a true record.
President.

