

## **AFA Committee Meeting Minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008**



Draft Minutes - Subject to approval at January Committee Meeting

AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP.

**Present:** Glenn Pritchard, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Pat Byrne, Jenny Millar, Eric van Zuyden, Richard Mellon, Penny Lloyd, Lyn Clyde, Maureen Williamson, Ilona Van Galen and Rosie Milton.

**Apologies:** Kylie White, Catherine Saberton, Leoney Pritchard, Jess McNamara

**Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm**

ITEM - "Starred" Items.

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

- 1) **Minutes of Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008**
- 2) **Treasurers Report and Accounts for payment – (including 2009 Insurance premiums \$1227 and Wickets Invoice \$1590).**
- 3) **Membership renewals**

**Moved and Seconded that the above Agenda Items be adopted. CARRIED**

ITEM – Correspondence

**Committee Noted following correspondence that involved action:**

**Letter from organizer of the "World Dog Games Event" planned for Sydney in September 2009 seeking involvement of AFA in running Demos and workshops on flyball as part of a showcase of Dog Sports. Following discussion Committee endorses the event from a flyball involvement viewpoint. President to advise organizer of AFA's agreement.**

**Letter from Southern Cross Club re delay in decision of Black Card incident involving Oran ( dealt with under Agenda Item "Dog Incident Sub Committee Report")**

ITEM - Sanctioned Events

**Following Events Approved:**

**Competition – Norwest – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb Twilight Stars Competition – Castle Hill Showground dog grounds.**

## AFA Committee Meeting Minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008



**Competition – Ballarat Obedience Club- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 09- Begoniaball Bash – Victoria Park, Ballarat.**

**Competition - CDC – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Bark in the Park – Venue to be advised.**

**Ian Kendt requested approval to amend entry details for Feb 8th Berwick Highland Games Competition to a 18 Team Limited entry Comp as area only allowed one ring. Approved.**

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

**-Stewards and Timekeepers Exams. Rosie reported that she had exam papers from Ann Coleman and Jo Shirlock. Committee agreed to authorise Rosie to advise both of outcome when she had finished marking papers (with copy to Pat for Data Base).**

ITEM - New Memberships for approval.

**Treasurer reported on 5 new membership applications from Sue Wilkinson, Narelle Wilkinson, Louise Stephen, Vicki McConachie and Kay Mattingley - Approved.)**

ITEM - Transfer of Clubs

**Committee noted advise from Joyce and Garry Greenwood that they were transferring from K9 to another Club ( yet to be advised) and that the 90 Day exclusion period would end on 5<sup>th</sup> December as they last competed for K9 on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Noted.**

ITEM - Matters arising from 2008 AGM discussions.

a) - AGM Process Review

**The Committee agreed to defer review of the 2008 AGM process to its May 09 Meeting when planning would need to start for 2009 AGM Meeting.**

b)- Process for updating the Red Rule Book for amendments

**The President reported that Catherine's draft of the Red Rules Book reflecting changes adopted at AGM and the minor editorial changes seen as desirable was still to be reviewed . He indicated he had also received suggested further editorial changes from Secretary. He advised he would have time to proof read during school holidays and matter should be listed for discussion at January meeting.**

### c) - Measuring wicket procurement

Rosie reported she had collected the 5 new wickets and they were ready for distribution to States. She indicated she wanted to produce some written notes on use and safe keeping of the wickets and would get some laminated so they could be kept with the wickets. Eric and Ian asked if the Victorian wicket could be posted to Victoria this week so it could be used at next two competitions. Moved and Seconded that Official Measurements be now reintroduced in each State as the new wickets were available. CARRIED. President to arrange mail dispatch of wickets to each State. Rosie suggested we explore getting a padded carry bag for each wicket. Pat offered to make enquiries.

### ITEM - General Business

#### a) Report of Rules Sub Committee

Committee noted the circulated Minutes of the Rules Sub Committee Meeting and the accompanying Drafts of Rule amendments for Forfeits , amendments to Interference and crossing (to clarify rule situation in warm up period) , fouling in ring and new Guidelines for producing Division Splits.

**Forfeit Rules Chapter 7 - Following discussion of amended draft Rules agreement that amendments made the interpretation of the Rule much clearer but that several minor wording changes were still required. Secretary to advise Richard of proposed wording and Richard to update Draft and submit to January Meeting for final approval. Once approved would become a "On Trial Rule".**

**Interference and Crossing Rule amendments Rule 9.1 – Committee endorsed draft which made it clear that Interference or Crossing Rules applied during warm up period. Again minor wording changes suggested and Richard agreed to make the minor changes and re-circulated the proposed Rule. Again once approved would become an On Trial Rule.**

**Fouling in Ring Rule 9.1 Rosie suggested Amended Rule be deferred to next Meeting as she wanted to have another look at wording. Agreed.**

**New Guidelines for Division Splits. Rosie explained the new Guidelines which were designed to assist Competition organisers by giving them a "Check System" to confirm where the logical Division splits should occur. She indicated that the Guideline was used by NAFA and should assist both competition organizers and regional representatives in checking Division splits. Moved and Seconded that the new Guidelines be adopted. CARRIED. Given the wording is a Guideline Committee agreed that it should be uploaded to web, sent to all Judges and all Club Co-ordinators.**

#### b) Dog incident Sub Committee - Rosie reported Sub Committee had meet and considered the Black Cards issued to Oran CRN 1285A at Dapto, Russell 1343A at Belconnen and Gypsy 190 at a Victorian Demonstration. The Sub

Committee had received Judges Reports and Witness Statements on all incidents and the owners of each dog had been informed of their right to submit Statements regarding the incident. In case of Oran a Support Statement had at owners request been submitted by another member involved in the training of the dog. In case of Russell and Gypsy both owners had submitted Statements. The Committee considered the Sub Committee's report and recommendation.

**Oran 1285A** – The Committee noted the suggestion in the member Support Statement that Oran should be given a “Suspended Suspension” with the requirement that the dog be subject to retraining in line with the Dog Aggression Policy . The Committee agreed on the need for focus retraining but considered that the incident did involve sufficient aggression on the part of Oran that a minimum 6 month retraining period needed to be applied. Accordingly it was Moved and Seconded Oran be Suspended for a 6 month period dating from the incident (19<sup>th</sup> October 08) and that during this period a retraining log to be maintained and submitted to AFA at end of suspension period with recommendation from Oran's Club Instructors concerning reinstatement. CARRIED. Secretary to advise member and of decision and also members right of appeal under the Policy. The Secretary drew attention to a letter from Southern Cross received on 1<sup>st</sup> December re this matter and in particular expressing concern at the delay in advising Oran's owner of process being followed and outcome. The Committee noted the letter but felt that the circumstances of this incident required the Committee to consider the Sub Committee report at its next meeting after receipt – which was the December meeting. Whilst the delay was regretted it was unavoidable in circumstances.

**Russell 1343A**- The Sub Committee had indicated that in this case it was not clear whether the dog had demonstrated aggression or was just chasing and wanting to play. There was no evident sign of real aggression or injury/trauma to the other dog involved in the incident. The Committee agreed that in this case a Warning Letter should be sent to the owner requiring her to consult with Club instructors and to undertake remedial focus training and to be guided by the Club Instructors as to when Russell would be ready to re enter Competition. CARRIED. Secretary to advise owner.

**Gypsy 190C**- The Sub Committee indicated that as far as they could tell the incident involved Gypsy lunging/bumping into the other dog with no visible signs of damage to other dog. The two dogs were running together for the first time at the demo and were not from same Club. Several Witness Statements were submitted which suggested the incident was relatively minor and that Gypsy was normally a solid dog. The Committee agreed that a Warning letter be sent to Gypsy's owner but not requiring compulsory retraining. CARRIED.

In discussion of these matters the Committee expressed mixed views regarding the existing penalties for aggression and their wording. The view was expressed that placing a dog “ On probation” might be more logical than

## **AFA Committee Meeting Minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008**



applying a “Suspended Suspension”. The Chair of the Sub Committee agreed to convene a Sub Committee meeting to consider the points raised and to review the wording of penalties.

Eric indicated that there was a further Black Card investigation required for a Card issued at the Albury Competition. The Secretary indicated he had not received the Judges Incident Report from Albury but had been advised by the Judge that the Reports would be to hand in a day or so. Rosie agreed to place matter before the next sub Committee Meeting.

c) Submission from Purina re sponsorship of Supercoat Challenge at Sydney Royal Show In 2009 and 2010 and interest in hosting 2011 National Championships as part of Sydney Royal.

Richard reported on the Meeting between representatives of AFA, RAS and Purina which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Meeting had been very positive with both RAS and Purina indicating they wished to showcase flyball as a Premier event at the Sydney Royal Show in 2009 and onwards. The problems with access and exit from the Show were discussed and the RAS undertook to examine how to overcome – Possible by provision of a gear transport truck. It was also agreed flyball would have secure storage facilities at the Overflow so that those involved in more than one day could leave gear. Ways to overcome late availability of entry passes was also discussed.

Purina and RAS indicated they wanted flyball as a major draw card on all major Public attendance days. Their preferred schedule was to have flyball Competition's underway on Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday and to have 3 Demonstration events on Easter Monday and the following weekend. RAS were also looking into a 30 Minute Demonstration in the main arena on Easter Monday. Purina undertook to sponsor all such events and to offer Trophies, Prizes and ribbons for all competitions. The RAS indicated they wanted to promote flyball as a major activity at the 2009 Royal. Richard had undertaken a survey of Sydney Clubs re the program as outlined and 5 Clubs had responded indicating good support for 3 Days of Competition.

The Sub Committee recommended that the Committee endorse the requested commitment and that the Good Friday Competition be a single day comp and be followed by a two day Competition on Easter Saturday and Sunday. Organising Committee would then look at getting Clubs to volunteer to host these Comps and the Demos. The Committee noted that there appeared to be sufficient support from Clubs to approve what was a major public exposure for flyball at Sydney Royal in 2009. Moved and Seconded that the proposed program be approved. CARRIED.

d) Handicap Racing as a stand alone Format.

The Committee was advised that the organisers of the recent Albury Competition had wanted to run the event as a handicap Competition. At this time handicap racing was not an approved Competition Format and no Rules for the conduct of handicap competitions existed. Rules did exist for “Champion Trophy Format” (which was a handicap event that followed a Round Robin Competition format) as a means of deciding an overall winner from the teams that won their Divisions in the Round Robin. In this event seed times were determined based on the best time of each winning team during the Round Robin.) Rosie indicated that as the Handicap format was not an approved competition format and had no Rules she had not been in a position to approve the format as requested. The event had been conducted as a Round Robin format.

Julie Walker of Albury Club had now submitted a draft of suggested Rules that might be adopted for Handicap Flyball Racing. The Submission had only just been received on the day of the AFA Meeting and the Committee members had not had chance to read or consider. It was proposed that the submission be referred to the AFA Rules Sub Committee for consideration and report. CARRIED.

ITEM - Other Business

a)- New Judges Shirts

**Treasurer reported she was about to go out to Judges with approved design and get measurements and orders.**

b)- AFA Promotional Material

**Leoney to provide update report on banners via email.**

c) – 2009 pet Expo.

**Richard reported organisers were looking to AFA to make a commitment at an early date for 2009 Sydney Pet Expo along same lines as in 2008. Eric indicated he had not heard back re Melbourne Pet Expo and he would follow up.**

d)- On Line Membership application process.

**President reported process was about to be made available on Web.**

e) – Flying Times

**Ilona advised Flying Times was in final production stage and should be available for web release within few days.**

## **AFA Committee Meeting Minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008**



f) – Web content needing update.

Ian indicated Web Racing Formats needed updating to reflect new Rules re countbacks. Others commented on need to review many sections of Web for changes in Jump heights and other updates. Webmaster indicated she simply did not have time to undertake review and called for assistance. Ilona offered and prior offer by Jess also noted. Webmaster to follow up offers of help and schedule out sections for review.

g) – Title Shields

Eric asked was it acceptable for AFA award shield to be sold without plaque being purchases. Committee agreed that plaques could be purchases as stand alone items at \$5 each.

h) – Urgent Membership approval Delegation.

In view of increasing number of requests for urgent membership approval to allow people to compete it was Moved and Seconded that the Committee delegate authority to treasurer to approve urgent membership where the application and urgent approval fee had been submitted. Approvals to be reported to next committee Meeting. CARRIED.

Next Meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 - (Note Second Monday in January.)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed as a true record.

President