

## **AFA Committee Meeting Minutes – 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2009**



Draft Minutes - Subject to approval at February Committee Meeting

AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 BY TELEPHONE HOOKUP.

**Present: Glenn Pritchard, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Pat Byrne, Jenny Millar, Eric van Zuyden, Richard Mellon, Penny Lloyd, Lyn Clyde, Rosie Milton. Kylie White (part Meeting), Catherine Saberton, Leoney Pritchard, Jess McNamara.**

**Apologies Maureen Williamson , Ilona Van Galen, Kylie White (part Meeting).**

**Meeting Opened at 7.45 pm**

ITEM - "Starred" Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**
- 2) Treasurers Report and Accounts for payment**
- 3) Membership renewals**
- 4) Approval of eight new Members (A.Wolf,S.Hellebrand, A.Woodall, P.Percival, P.Galloway, S.Grant, J.Rouse, M.Dannaher).**

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

ITEM – Correspondence

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

**Letter to Daniel Geltch advising 6 month suspension of Oran CRN 1285A, effective from 19<sup>th</sup> October 08.**

**Letter to Catherine Woodward advising warning re Russell CRN 1343A.**

**Letter to Jenny Miller advising warning re Gypsy CRN 190C.**

**Letter to Chelsey Bowman advising warning re Chester CRN 1224A.**

**Email to ANKC advising AFA had not yet reprinted Rule Book for amendments adopted at AGM**

**Committee Noted following correspondence inward requiring action:**

**Letter from Wendy Gauntlett requesting special exemption from 90 day rule for Astro in changing Clubs from Croydon to Bellarine. (See latter in minutes for discussion and Resolution).**

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**Judge Report and Witness statements re incident at Wonthaggi involving Maverick CRN 979A. (Referred to Dog Incident Sub Committee).**

ITEM - Sanctioned Events

**Following Events Approved:**

**Demo – Surf Stormers- 26<sup>th</sup> January – Henley Park Enfield**

**Demo/Seminar – Steve Pitt – 7 and 8 Feb 09 - Townsville Qld**

**Demo - AFA – 13/14/15 Feb 09 – Melbourne Pet and Animal Expo- Caulfield Racecourse.**

**Demo – Tassie Flying paws- 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Bushy Park Showgrounds Tas.**

**Demo - AFA – 15 th March 09 – RSPCA Burwood Highway East Burwood.**

**Competition – Southern Cross – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 09 – Purina Flyball Flurry-Overflow- Sydney Royal Show.0**

**Competition - Norwest – Saturday and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 09 – Purina Supercoat Challenge – Overflow – Sydney Royal Show.**

**Competition – PICSI - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 09 – Holroyd Pet Fest – Holroyd Gardens.**

**Note – Scheduled Tassie Competition – Request to cancel Competition approved.**

ITEM - Administrative Matters.

**Stewards and Timekeepers Exams. Rosie reported that the following Members had satisfactory completed the Stewards Exam: Jo Shirlock, Anne Coleman, Martin Watt, Bill Reynolds, and Amanda Phillips.**

ITEM - Transfer of Clubs

**Committee noted advise from Noela Walton that she had changed Clubs from eastside Flyers to Croydon and that she would have completed the 90 day exclusion period on 12<sup>th</sup> January 09.**

**Committee Noted letter from Wendy Gauntlett re Astro, CRN 253A transferring from Croydon to Bellarine and requesting waiver of 90 day Rule given special circumstances as outlined in letter. Whilst the main reason for the requested exemption related to the special circumstances linked to Wendy's mobility**

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difficulties associated with her new wheel chair, there were also a number of other special factors outlined in the letter. The Committee took into consideration the fact that Wendy needed to travel over 100kms to get to Croydon and that her new wheel chair did not easily fit into a normal vehicle , thus making it very difficult for her to attend Croydon club training. Bellarine Club was close to where Wendy resides and Wendy has always raced her other dog with Bellarine. After full discussion it was Moved and Seconded that given the unique circumstances of Wendy's submission a special exemption should be granted. CARRIED.

ITEM - Matters arising from 2008 AGM discussions.

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

The President advised he would have time to complete the proof reading during January school holidays and matter should be listed for discussion at February meeting. He asked Catherine to circulate her update to all Members of the Committee to allow time for review.

The Committee also discussed matter of whether the AFA Policies should be included in the Rule Book. Agreed Rule book should include all AFA Rules and Policies.

The inclusion of the examples of Format Draws was discussed and it was agreed that this section could be shortened to show draws involving up to 8 teams per division as few Competitions involved larger Division sizes than 8.

Discussion extended to what to do with the Guidelines Section and it was agreed that Guidelines should appear on the Web and not in the printed Rule Book.

Item to be listed for finalisation at February Meeting so Rule Book could be submitted to printers for proof setting.

ITEM - General Business

a) Report of Rules Sub Committee

Committee noted that the January Meeting had approved the new Guideline on how to do Division splits and that the Guideline had been circulated to all Clubs, Judges and placed on the Web. The Committee was advised that the new approach had worked well when applied for the most recent competition in Victoria.

The Committee noted the updated Drafts of Rule amendments for Forfeits, Interference and Crossing (to clarify rule situation in warm up period) , and fouling

in ring . Once adopted these amendments would need to be treated as “On trial Rules” until the next AGM where they could be submitted for approval.

The Committee discussed each Rule change - Forfeit Rules Chapter 7 – Amendments discussed at last Meeting had been reflected in the Rule update. Only outstanding issue related to how many heats a team could be “non competitive with just cause” before having to be non competitive for rest of competition. Following discussion it was proposed that the maximum be set at “no more than 5 heats”. This accommodated possibly missing one full race in a 5 heat race format and also possibility of a team being non competitive due to red flag and other team having a DNF which could involve 4 rather than 3 heats. Moved and Seconded that the amended Rule be adopted on trial. CARRIED. Richard to circulate final version for posting to web.

Interference and Crossing Rule amendments Rule 9.1 – Committee endorsed draft Rule that made it clear that Interference or Crossing Rules applied during warm up period. Moved and Seconded that the amended Rule be adopted on trial. CARRIED.

### **Fouling in Ring Rule 9.1**

The Committee again endorsed the amended Rule that made it clear that the penalty for fouling in the ring operated from entry to ring (during warm up period) to declaration of final heat and that both teams should be required to run or complete the heat so that non offending team has opportunity to earn title points. Moved and Seconded that the amended Rule be adopted on trial. CARRIED.

Committee agreed that the 3 on trial Rules should operate from 21<sup>st</sup> February (making them effective for Canberra Royal) and that Club Co-ordinators and Judges should be advised of amendments and date of effect and Rules be placed on web under “on trial “section.

### **b) Dog incident Sub Committee-**

**The Chair of the Sub Committee agreed to convene a Sub Committee meeting to consider the Black Card issued to Maverick at the Wongthaii Competition and to circulate the Sub Committee’s recommendation to the Committee for consideration.**

**(The Sub Committee is still to consider and report on matters discussed at January Committee Meeting re wording of penalties including “suspended suspensions”).**

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.

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Richard reported on arrangements for the conduct of 3 days of competition and 3 Demonstrations at this year's Sydney Royal Show. He advised that the first Bulletin had been placed on the web for member information. The Committee noted that Southern Cross had agreed to host the one day competition, Norwest the two day competition and Sutherland and the Central Coast Surf Stormers were hosting the Demonstrations. Both RAS and Purina were very committed to making Flyball a major attraction at this years Show. A organization structure had been put in place which shared the planning load leading up to the Show. The two Clubs organizing Competitions had agreed to share profits (if any) with the two Clubs organizing the Demonstrations. Members would be kept advised of developments via updates on the web.

### d) Ways to encourage participation in Demonstrations

Richard raised issue of whether the AFA needed to explore ways to further encourage Members to take part in Demonstrations. Several options were discussed including allocating points towards Club of the Year, awarding a set number of AFA Title Points for participation, creating a separate Club Award for Demo attendance. All seemed to require additional record keeping, reporting and establishment of ways to confirm accuracy of date being submitted and hence added to an already growing workload. Whilst all agreed that Demonstrations were an important method of promoting flyball the consensus was that increased recognition of this type of activity via Flying Times articles and the web was the best method of recognition. State Reps were reminded to submit articles re Demo's.

### ITEM - Other Business

#### a)- New Judges Shirts

Treasurer reported she had all orders for extra shirts and expected to finalise order this week with a two to three week delivery promised. She sought approval to order 3 "spare" shirts. Agreed.

#### b) Handicap Racing as a standalone Format.

The Minutes of the Rules Sub Committee's consideration of the proposal to establish Handicap Flyball format had been circulated to Committee. Rosie indicated that the Sub Committee felt it should identify what it saw as the pro's and con's associated with the format in order to allow an informed discussion at Committee level.

The Sub Committee reported they saw the Format as potentially useful for small competitions with limited team entries as the format could assist to overcome possible problems in Division splits and sizes. The suggested requirement for this format to be pre advised a minimum of 120 days in advance was however seen as making its application only for small Competitions difficult.

The Sub Committee felt that with a larger number of teams the format would be time consuming (especially for Timekeepers who had to do all normal recording and then set handicaps on the Lights for each race) and might not provide exciting racing for spectators, given one team might start significantly later than the other and the race only be seen as a race at last seconds. There was also concern in the Sub Committee that some start dogs may become overly excited in being held for extended periods when other team was racing.

The Sub Committee expressed a unanimous concern over safety issues where slower teams involving new or unreliable dogs were racing against teams involving much faster and experienced dogs. Dog interference into the fast dogs lane might result in serious incidents/injury. With The Champion Racing format the handicap event only applied at end of competition and involved only the winners of each division in a very limited number of races – thus the slower teams with green or unreliable dogs were less likely to be involved. Under the proposed format all teams raced each other in one combined Division under handicap for the full Competition.

Following discussion and taking into account concerns over increased safety risks seen as being associated with the proposed handicap format it was Moved and Seconded that this format not be adopted by the AFA as an approved format for Competition. CARRIED.

c)- AFA Promotional Material

State Reps to contact Kylie White to indicate if they wanted the new banners posted out or whether they intend to collect at Canberra Royal.

d) – 2009 Melbourne Pet Expo.

Eric reported he would focus on event planning once Australia Day comp arrangements completed.

e) – Flying Times

President suggested a date needed to be set for production of next Flying Times. Given Ilona was not at Meeting it was agreed that the matter be followed up with Ilona by Penny as co-editor. Leoney suggested the inclusion of an article on the new Queensland Club.

f) - Sasha Blend Sponsorship enquiry

Committee noted the email from Sashas Blend enquiring about potential sponsorship of the Australian National Flyball team ( the email indicated they were the sponsor for the Canadian National Team going to the world championships). Given the AFA does not have a “National team” it was suggested that we explore

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**with Sashas Blend other sponsorship options – such as sponsorship of the AFA via the AFA Web Home page. President agreed to contact Sashas Blend and explore mutual interest in any sponsorship options.**

**g) Clarification of Rule re Jumps knocked down during race.**

**Ian raised issue of whether the Rules should be amended to require a Judge to halt and rerun a heat where a jump had been knocked and was no longer in alignment. Currently Judges are only required to stop the race if a safety concern exists. This clearly must involve a subjective assessment by each Judge. After discussion the Committee agreed to leave stats quo in place.**

**Next Meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 09**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm**

**Signed as a true record.**

**President**