

## **Draft Minutes – Subject to final approval at December 2010 Meeting**

### **Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010.**

Present: Jenny Millar, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Richard Mellon, Josh Ellen, Maureen Williamson, Julie Pamplin. Leoney Pritchard, Sue Norton, Ian Gauntlett, Wayne Stroop, Catherine Saberton Kylie White, Penny Lloyd and Pat Byrne.

Apologies –Lyn Clyde; Joanne Parkes

Meeting Opened at 7. 40 pm

#### **ITEM - Starred Items .**

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> October meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Membership
- 3) Accounts for Payment.
- 4) Correspondence in and Out
- 5) Stewards Passes –  
Paulette Watson CRN 2141; Michelle Kenny CRN 2190; Donna White CRN 1239
- 6) Judges progress – Supervisory Judge recommended appointment of Verdelle Townsend as level 2 Judge - Approved. Supervisory Judge advised Martin Watt had successfully completed Theory Exam – approval granted to progress to practical.
- 7) New Members - Carmel Green; Judy Sumner, Tim Broome, Hayley Blanch, Karen Dempster, Elspeth Anderson and Ursula Tems.

Moved and Seconded that starred Items be adopted CARRIED.

#### **ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters .**

**Nil Outstanding**

#### **ITEM – Treasurers Report**

Bank Balance \$11,129.99 at end October.

#### **ITEM – Sanctioned Events .**

Comp – Dapto - Xmas No Frills – 11 th Dec 2010 – Dapto Showground.

Comp – Hastings - Hastings Flyball Comp - - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 - Hastings Grounds High St Hastings.

Comp - Norwest Thunderdogs – Hounds in the Hills – Castle Hill Dog Grounds- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011

Comp - Southern Cross – Jess's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Bash – Indoors at Castle Hill Dog Grounds- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Comp – Norwest Thunderdogs - Chills in the Hills – Indoors at Castle Hill Dog Grounds – Sunday 12 June 2011

Demo – Tassie Flying Paws - 23 Jan 2011 – Dog Expo by TCA – Dog Pavilion Glenorchy Showground Hobart.

**ITEM – Members Changing Clubs with exemption.**  
Nil.

**ITEM – Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.**

The Committee noted the Sub Committee Report dealing with Black Card incident at the Frankston Competition involving Cassie CRN 2134A crossing and making contact at the box with the dog in the other lane .The Sub Committee had considered the Judges report, Witness Statements and Statements from the two handlers involved and had concluded that whilst Cassie was a relatively green dog she had already received 3 yellow cards and two red cards for crossing and that two of these incidents were similar to the current incident - in that Cassie had headed straight for the dog in the other lane when released. The Sub Committee also noted that Cassie was a small dog and in the current case if the other dog (a large Rottweiler /Shepherd cross) had retaliated the incident could have been quite serious

The Sub Committee recommended that Cassie's owner be issued with a Warning letter Type 2 that involves a requirement for the handler to undertake and log retraining for a three-month period and then submit the training log to the AFA at the end of the period. During this time the dog is free to compete at the owners discretion. The owner to be advised to consult with Club Instructors and, if possible, an animal behaviorist, regarding ways to maintain Cassie's focus.

The Sub Committee also reported that they had received a request to assess a dog suspended in 2007 (Jem CRN 658A). The dog had undergone a substantial retraining program supervised by Rosie Milton as the Mudd in the Paws Chief Flyball Instructor. The Sub Committee recommended that the dog be assessed in a team environment at the end of an appropriate Competition or during a demonstration. Note - The handler had requested that the dog be assessed if possible at the end of the November Tuggernong competition. Committee appointed Verdelle Townsend to undertake assessment, if possible after Tuggernong and report to Committee. Kylie White to contact Tuggernong re assessment.

Following consideration of the Sub Committee Report the Committee agreed to adopt the two recommendations. CARRIED.

## **ITEM – Report from Rules Sub Committee.**

The Committee noted the Sub Committee Report dealing with Rule 2.3 – “Amateur Competition”.

The Rules Sub Committee recommended the following replacement wording for Rule – being similar to the wording adopted by NAFA.

### “AFA Amateur Competition Policy

The purpose for which the AFA was formed is to promulgate rules for amateur Flyball competition in Australia, to train and approve judges, to sanction amateur Flyball competitions and demonstrations, to promote interest in the sport of Flyball, to encourage amateur Flyball competition and to recognize excellence. The Association is a not-for-profit amateur sports organization.”

Following discussion the Committee resolved to adopt the amended wording with the deletion of the word “policy” from the heading. Amendment to be an “On Trial Rule” effective immediately. CARRIED. The new wording to be placed on the AFA web and circulated to all Judges and Club Co-coordinators.

The Committee also noted the advice from the Sub Committee that the wording covering Rule 9.2 (i) printed in the September 2010 rulebook was different from the wording that had been submitted by the subcommittee in December 2008, passed as a Rule on Trial by the AFA Committee at its January 2009 meeting, circulated as Notification # 8 and approved by the 2009 AGM.

- Wording approved by the 2009 AGM was: “A dog chasing its team's loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily Interference or Crossing”.
- Wording in the 2009 and 2010 Rulebooks: “A dog chasing its team's loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily the only basis for interference”.

The subcommittee did not know when or why the wording had been changed, but felt that it changed the meaning of the rule away from its intent, and recommended that the wording be corrected to the approved wording.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendation and to issue the amendment as part of the next Rules Clarification statement. Members of the Committee also suggested that the Supervisory Judge should explain intent of Rule to all Judges via Judges Forum.

The subcommittee had also discussed the issue of whose responsibility it was to set each team’s jump heights, and whether or not the rules needed to state this explicitly. The subcommittee concluded that it was not necessary because this was a team responsibility, and the team would suffer any consequences if the heights were found to be set incorrectly. No action required.

### **ITEM - Timing System Update.**

Leoney reported that Secretary had received the new Lights Set from Farmtek. Farmtek had also delivered the poles for the current and a second system to our contact in the US who was now arranging shipping to Australia. Transport costs of \$250 US had been sent to US to cover these costs. If the poles arrive in time the new set will be taken to Melbourne for the Nationals and then be allocated to S.A.

### **ITEM - Purina Sponsorship Update**

The Committee noted that 3 submissions had now been received from Victorian Clubs to hold Purina sponsored Competitions in 2011 – Keilor SAFE Competition on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011- Eastside Flyers Ringwood Competition on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and Berwick's Dandenong Competition on 12 and 13 the November.

Richard had developed a matrix template to assist in assessing and prioritising applications.

The first essential pre requisite was to ensure that no application clashed with any of the existing Purina Sponsored major events (Canberra Royal Show; Sydney Royal Show and each years Nationals.) This was necessary to ensure availability of the Purina equipment and ring surrounds for set up at the major events. It was noted that the application from Eastside Flyers involved a potential clash with Sydney Royal as it was for 10<sup>th</sup> April and the ring set up for Sydney Royal was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> April. Keilor's SAFA date was also close to Canberra Royal date however Keilor had indicated that they would arrange to have gear packed and transported to Canberra for set up by required date of 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

From Purina's perspective a key decider was crowd exposure and they had set a minimum target of exposure to 10000 spectators. The Committee was advised that whilst Ringwood did attract a large crowd most came for the Highland Games and did not visit the flyball. Both SAFA and Dandanong were assessed as involving larger flyball crowds.

As part of the decision criteria it was suggested that given Purina wanted to see sponsored events in different States that a condition be set that no State could host more than two Purina Events in any one year.

The Committee was advised that Queensland Clubs were currently considering what Competitions might be nominated for Sponsorship. Richard also indicated that NSW Clubs might also wish to bid for a Purina event.

After discussion the Committee RESOLVED to support the SAFE event going forward to Purina for approval immediately, given its February 2011 timing. Other 2011 applications to be considered at December Committee Meeting. State Reps to be advised that applications had to be received before December Meeting.

It was suggested that for 2012 the AFA should invite all States to submit proposed bids for the available unallocated Purina events in early March with a close date of end April with a view to finalizing the 2012 program of sponsored events by end June 2011.

#### **ITEM – Development of Flyball in W.A.**

Item deferred till December Meeting.

#### **ITEM – Competition Results Worksheets**

The Committee briefly discussed the existing system for notification of competition results and workbook. It was confirmed that both the Results Sheet (C6 Form) and the Points Workbook had to be submitted by competition organisers.

#### **ITEM – Complaint re Judging – Dapto Competition.**

The Committee noted a complaint had been received from a member regarding an aspect of Judging in one heat at Dapto. The matter related to a Judge starting the race after giving instructions to the member to hold her dog. The Committee had received an explanation of the situation from the Judge. The Committee concluded that it was not in any position to adjudicate on the circumstances and that these type of issues should properly be taken up with the Officials and in particular the AFA Representative at the time of the competition so that circumstances were clear and hopefully the matter could then be promptly resolved. Member and Judge to be so informed.

#### **ITEM – Reorder of Judges Shirts**

Treasurer reported that stock of Judges shirts needing replacement. She had requests for some spare shirts (to be paid for by Judges) and needed a shirt to issue to Verdelle. Manufacturer had advised they would do a reorder at original shirt price– minimum order was 20 shirts and would involve expenditure of \$1000. Committee requested Treasurer to contact all Judges to see if any wanted to get spare shirts and then to order minimum 20 shirts taking into account sizes of people underway with judges Exam. Approval for expenditure on shirts CARRIED.

#### **ITEM – Assessment Report on Flea. (Matter dealt with in absence of Joshua).**

Committee noted the reports received regarding Flea's assessment to return to sanctioned competition. The reports were all positive and indicated that Flea had been trialed in all 4 dog positions with no issues and with strong focus on tug evident. Based on reports the Committee RESOLVED to approve Fleas suspension as lifted effective from 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

**ITEM – Tassie request to confirm minimum 90 Second change over’s to operate at Nationals .**

Secretary advised that he had received a request from Tassie Flying Paws to confirm a minimum 90 Second change over would apply at Nationals. Tassie had limited number of helpers and some were now in Masters category so needed a little more time. Committee confirmed that the clarification issued some time ago continued to apply and a minimum 90-second change over applied to all competitions – unless exceptional circumstances developed during the competition that necessitated a reduction.

**ITEM – Rule Clarification Required – Rule 6.1 J) re dogs not standing for measure.**

Secretary suggested that the Rules Sub Committee be asked to review Rule 6.1 j) re action to be taken when a dog clearly below 14 inches is presented for measure and will not stand for measure. Issues needing clarification include definition of “ a teams height dog” and what would trigger “ exclusion” decision. Committee agreed to refer to rules Sub Committee for clarification.

**ITEM – AFA support for annual Nationals Competitions .**

The Committee noted the Discussion Paper prepared by Secretary which suggested that AFA should take a little more ownership of the Nationals each year, including nominating one or two members of Committee to be part of the Nationals planning (and acting as link between Committee and Club/s organizing) and setting some minimum standards for the competition. The Nationals had grown to be a major annual event attracting 40 plus teams and involving significant pre event costs The Paper also suggested that AFA should be willing to take some of the financial risk exposure if the event had to be totally cancelled and if so should also expect to receive some of the surplus if the event was successful. Point made that this would necessarily involve the AFA receiving and approving a Budget for the event and having a say in matters such as costs of items such as catalogues in order to make a decision re level of underwriting. Following discussion the Committee agreed in principal with the points made in the Paper. On this understanding the Secretary was asked to translate the Paper into a Draft AFA Policy for consideration and potential adoption in 2011. Draft Policy to be circulated for consideration by end 2010.

**ITEM – General Business .**

1. Request received from member to have box loaders nominated on entry forms and accepted as part of a team for ticket issue purposes. Committee noted provision already exists to nominate box loaders on entry forms. Input indicated tickets were allocated to nominated box loaders where they were not also running dogs.
2. Request from Judge for AFA to issue Member with a “rough handling” warning letter. The Committee noted this request but felt that the correct approach was for the matter to be dealt with at source by Judge (if within Ring) or AFA Rep (if outside the Ring) by issue of a Red warning card for mistreatment of a dog. If rough handling behaviour continued the Rules provided for a black card to be issued.

3. Question asked – electronic entry forms submitted for Nationals are not signed – what action should occur – answer – Captains to be asked to sign before start of Nationals.
4. Nationals Running Orders – hopefully will be up on Web by 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Request to include Teams Seed times within each Division when posting Running order.
5. Clubs with nationals Trophies to be reminded to bring to Nationals engraved for prior year.
6. Kyle reported she was still having issues with getting Canberra running surface improved and accordingly was delaying posting entry forms to web in order to bring to attention to need for action re grass surface.

**Next meeting set for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm.**

There being no further business Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.