

Draft – Subject to final approval at February 2010 Meeting

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January 2010.

Present: Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Leoney Pritchard, Jenny Millar, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Richard Mellon, Catherine Saberton, Wayne Stoop, Josh Ellen, Joanne Parkes and Maureen Williamson.

Apologies Glenn Pritchard, Pat Byrne, Kylie White, Ilona Van Galen, Penny Lloyd

Meeting Opened at 7.43 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 7th December 2009;
- 2) Renewal of Membership (as per Treasurers Report)
- 3) Change of Clubs – Carolyn and Michael Henry CRN 1015 from X Factor to Mudd on Paws and Liz Barnes CRN 1194 from PICS I Scallywags
- 4) Stewards Exam Passes – Craig Pearce (Associate to CRN 1359).
- 5) Correspondence for noting

Moved and Seconded that starred Items be adopted CARRIED.

ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters.

The Committee noted there was no outstanding matter requiring action from earlier Meetings.

ITEM – Treasurers Report

Committee noted End Dec. Bank Balance of \$10,446.71, which was after the approved \$10,000 transfer to Investment Account and Payment of AFA 2010 Insurances of \$1317.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Comp - Norwest Canine – Sat 13th Feb 2010 – Mutts on Mats – Castle Hill Showground – Twilight Comp on Matting – Special conditions requested pre event practice sessions – see Agenda Item 13 m re query - training in ring.

Comp – Ballarat Dog Club - Sunday 7th March – Begonia Ball Bash – Victoria Park Ballarat.

Comp - Pine Rivers – Saturday 13th March – Purely for Points at Pine Rivers - Rob Akers Reserve Strathpine. (Replacement format).

Comp - Southern Cross – Friday 2nd April 2010 – Supercoat Good Friday Flyball Flurry – Sydney Showground Homebush. Special condition- no leaving showground before 5 pm.

Comp – Norwest Canine – Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th April 2010 – Purina Supercoat Challenge Cup. Special condition – no leaving Showground before 5 pm.

Demo - Vic Rep – Sunday 28th March 2010- Eastern Regional Pet Expo – Furntree Gully Reserve Furntree.

Demo – Vic Rep – 12,13th and 14th February 2010 – Melb Pet Expo Caulfield Racecourse Melbourne.

Demo – Tassie Flying Paws – 20th Feb – Westpoint Hotel – Paws on the Point

Demo –PICSII– 26th January – Henley Park Burwood.

Moved and Seconded that all events are approved. CARRIED

ITEM - New Members

Following new members approved:

Allan Matts

Myke Sutherland

Narelle Wilkinson

Kate Jarvis

Luke Beamont (Associate) – approved between Meetings.

ITEM - 2009 AGM Follow up:

i) Junior Handler Scheme.

Lyn reported that she had completed a Draft Paper on suggestions re the Junior Handler Scheme and sent to Kylie for review. Lyn to follow up with view to circulating to full Committee before February Meeting.

ii) Member suggestions re amendments to Forms C1 and C6.

The Committee noted the suggested changes to Forms C1 and C6 submitted by Bill Reynolds with a view to simplifying and eliminating unnecessary data.

Following discussion it was agreed that the following changes be made to Form C1 - Competition Entry Form:

Accept the redesign submitted by Bill but also delete requirement to show dogs Titles and each Members phone number and increase size of

CRN/ANKC column. Secretary to request Bill to amend and resubmit revised Form for final approval.

Form C6 – Competition results:

Delete the Competition Format Statistics Section from bottom of Form and replace with results for Divisions 5 to 8 on one Form. Leoney agreed to update and amend on Web.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.

No Incidents to report.

ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee

No Meeting since December Committee.

Ian reported on the results of his email to Judges List re issue of location of Ball Buckets – in particular the suggestion that they should be placed behind the Back Boards. General consensus was that the buckets should be placed behind the Box Loader with balls not visible to dogs racing in either lane. After discussion it was agreed that a Rule Clarification Statement should be issued stating” The ball bucket should be placed behind the box loader in such a way to ensure balls were not visible to dogs in either lane. There is no requirement in Rules to require the ball bucket to be placed behind the backing boards”. CARRIED.

ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal and 2011 Nationals.

Richard reported that he had volunteer Clubs to run both Comps (Southern Cross and Norwest) and two of the Demos (Sutherland and Southern Cross). He was still seeking a third Club to host the third Demo. Richard was in process of arranging meeting with Take Two, Purina and RAS to finalise arrangements for 2010 Royal.

ITEM –Melbourne Pet Expo Report.

Eric reported that arrangements were underway and the Demo would go ahead.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update

Secretary reported that he had again made contact with the NZ Agent of Signature Lights (Lyn). Lyn’s wife passed away after a long illness just before Christmas and this had resulted in a delay in Lyn’s action to try and force Mark to supply lights or refund money. Lyn was still positive about attempting to assist AFA. Secretary proposed that the AFA formally write to NAFA advising them of the situation and asking them to notify and warn all US

Clubs, via their Minutes, of the non supply of Signature lights 18 months after full payment was made

ITEM - Judges Exam Format Review.

Ian indicated he had received the US Multiple Question Exam format from Leoney and would now Chair a Meeting with Jenny and Penny with a view to reporting to the February Meeting.

ITEM - Purina Sponsorship Proposal

Deferred till February meeting in absence of Kylie.

ITEM – S.A. EJS Problems

Wayne reported that he had been able to fix the fault in the EJS Power Supply. He was still to fully test the Lights but hopefully the problem was resolved.

ITEM – Process for consideration and approval of alternative race formats and establishment of Rules for approved formats.

The Secretary introduced this item by pointing out that the AFA had several “approved formats” for classes such as “veterans” but had no published Rules. NAFA had published Rules but these should be reviewed by the AFA to see if any changes should be applied for Australian application. Richard indicated it would also be desirable to establish a process protocol for dealing with proposals that might come forward for new race formats, such as the recent proposal for handicap racing. The Secretary suggested such a protocol might include referring the proposal to an appropriate Sub Committee for review and comment prior to full Committee consideration and allowing the proponent to comment on any issues of concern or uncertainty raised by the Sub Committee prior to the Committee decision. The Secretary offered to develop a discussion paper for the February Meeting on both these matters. CARRIED.

ITEM - AFA MATTING ISSUES

Given the recent donation of two racing lanes of Fatigue Matting valued at \$8000 from the World Dog Games there was a need for the Committee to address a range of issues related to storage, uses, fees for use, transport and laying. It was noted that a proposal was before the Committee to conduct an indoor competition on the matting on the 13th February – which would basically allow a trial run of all processes.

The Committee addressed what it saw as the urgent matters that needed to have provisional decisions made before the February Competition. It was agreed that final decisions on all matters might best be made after

the February Competition organizers reported on the logistics of racing on matting.

The matting was currently temperately located in the Treasurers stable block at Cattai but required a permanent secure storage area. It needed an area of approx. 12 feet by 10 ft - a small room as it is best stored in single rolls and not stacked. The Committee noted that the Norwest Canine Association was in a position to offer secure storage in a lock up garage below the Club House at Castle Hill Dog Grounds.. They had a number of such storerooms that they rented to other dog organizations. Rent cost would be \$400 per annum. In reply to a question the Secretary advised he thought that Norwest Canine would be agreeable to up to a 3-year lease term. This would locate the matting close to the indoor arena at Castle Hill which was not only available to Norwest Thunderdogs but to any Club who wished to rent the complex for Competition or Training days. Question put – does anyone have alternative options for storage. No suggestions at this time. Moved and Seconded that the Norwest Canine storage. be provisionally approved at \$400 p.a.subject to confirmation on three year term.

The Committee noted that to use the matting for a competition will involve an application of over 1000 feet of tape (each run of matting having to be taped down for its 120 ft length and there being 4 tape runs per lane. To do this in any reasonable manner required the use of a Tape dispenser. Wayne reported he had priced available machines and prices ranged from \$330 to over \$1000. The Committee APPROVED the purchase of a dispenser at the \$330 price level.

In order to ensure that the correct tape was used the Committee AGREED that the AFA should procure the tape but that the Competition organizer should purchase the required tape from the AFA at cost – this would be in addition to any Matting hire cost.

After discussion a PROVISIONAL matting fee payable to the AFA of \$10 per team was agreed as appropriate for the February Competition. A fee was seen as appropriate to fund costs such as storage, tape applicator and eventual replacement cost of matting or possibly procurement of matting for other regions.

Given the February Competition was the first indoor Sydney Competition on matting the Organisers had proposed a pre event training period for teams who wanted to so nominate. This was optional and an extra fee of \$10 per team was proposed. Question asked – why the extra fee and who gets the money. Competition organizers indicated that to accommodate the pre event training they would have to set the matting up at least 4 hours before normal and then they would be involved in scheduling and co-coordinating teams during the 3 hours of training. The Committee agreed to fee proposal on basis that the AFA would receive half of the extra matting fees collected.

Whilst there were other issues needing decisions (such as appropriate surfaces for matting use, transport, etc) it was agreed that these should be documented but decisions deferred till after the February Competition when a report would be submitted on logistics of the use of the matting by the Competition organizers.

ITEM –ISSUE OF WHETHER A PRE EVENT TRAINING SESSION AMOUNTS TO “TRAINING IN THE RING”.

The Committee noted that an AFA Judge had raised via the NSW Regional Rep his concern that the proposed pre event training session at the Mutts on Mats Competition amounted to training in the ring and thus should not be permitted.

The Committee noted that Chapter 8 b of the Rules states “ There shall be no practice or training in the ring for the duration of the competition”. The AFA Rules do not state when a Competition is deemed to have commenced or ended – making the decision as to what is the “duration of the competition” one of interpretation. The Committee noted that NAFA in their definition of terms has actually specified when a Competition starts and ends. The definition used by NAFA is a Competition commences 30 minutes before the scheduled time for the first race and ends at the conclusion of the last race and the removal of the Lights.

Under the NAFA Definition the proposal to allow a pre event training session provided it ended at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of race time would not constitute training in the ring.

The Committee also noted that the proposal by the Competition organizers to allow this pre event training was designed to allow dogs and owners to experience indoor running on mats for the first time in a non competition format. The proposal would not involve use of Signature lights or be conducted in a racing format. It would be a matter for each team as to how they used their allocated training time.

One member of the Committee pointed out that Rule 8 allowed Competition Organisers to set a “Designated time period for warm – ups”. Whilst this was normally associated with the practice run period before each race the Rule could be interpreted as also allowing a Competition Organiser to set a pre event period for warm ups.

It was moved and seconded that the Committee adopt the NAFA term definitions and issue these as a Rule clarification statement. Moved and Seconded that the clarification of a Competitions duration be from 30 Minutes before the scheduled start time of the first race until after the running of the last race, including any run offs. CARRIED.

Under this clarification the proposal to allow a pre event training period at Mutts on Mats was acceptable.

ITEM – Marking of Timesheets - to show actual number of dogs that ran in each heat.

The Committee noted the suggestion by a member that Timekeepers should insert the number of dog who has actually run in every heat rather than just circling the 4 where there has been a clean run with 4 dogs. The Committee noted the member felt this would prevent people altering timesheets to their advantage and prevent Timekeepers from omitting to circle 4 dogs. The Committee considered this suggestion but saw no pressing reason to add to the workload of timekeeper by requiring them to enter more data on Timesheets.

General Business

Following general items discussed:

- Maureen enquired whether it would be possible to also recognize ball shaggers at the end of each Competition in same way as Box loaders are recognized with a ribbon. General view was that this was not really necessary as most shaggers are also handlers and already receive a ribbon.**
- Maureen asked when the last Flying Times had been issued and suggested that the President follow up with the Editor the need for early action.**
- Maureen advised that she was encouraging Tassie beginners to become AFA Members and asked when the membership fee payment extended into next year. Answer - payment after end March 2010 involved fees covered membership to end June 2011.**
- Eric, in his role as Victorian Regional Representative, indicated he and other Victorian Judges and members were becoming increasingly concerned and annoyed about the statements being made by what appears to be a relatively few members in NSW, including one Judge, suggesting that Victorian Judges applied different interpretations of the Rules to those in NSW – in effect making up their own Rules. In his experience this was not the case and he hoped that by formally expressing his concern these statements would cease as they did little to create harmony between members and States.**
- Ian asked for clarification as to what would happen under the Motion passed at the last Meeting re Title Names if the two dogs approaching 4000 points each achieved their Title on the same day. The Committee concluded that if this did eventuate the Title could have a double barrel name.**
- Ian indicated he had been asked to enquire whether the AFA should actually own and supply racing tapes at Competitions rather than leaving it to Clubs. General consensus - leave arrangement of tapes or distance markers to Clubs.**

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.53 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.