

Draft – Subject to final approval at August Meeting

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 6th July 2009.

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

Apologies: Penny Lloyd and Jess McNamara

Meeting Opened by President at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 1st June 2009;
- 2) Treasurers Report and Accounts for Payment (Bank Balance \$19,248.28)
- 3) Correspondence received (all dealt with under separate Agenda items)
- 4) New and Renewal of Membership as per Treasurers Report

Moved and Seconded that starred Items be adopted CARRIED.

ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters.

The Committee noted there were no outstanding matters requiring action from earlier Meetings.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Comp – Eastside Flyers – 26/1/2010 – RACV Australia Day Flyball Celebrations – Kings Domain Gardens Melbourne.

Comp - - Eastside Flyers – 11/4/2010 – Jubilee Park Gardini Ave Ringwood – Ringwood Highland and Flyball games

Demo –AFA – Melbourne Show (5 demo’s) on 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th and 26th Sept – Melbourne Showground Ascot Vale.

ITEM - Change of Clubs.

- Kylie White – from CDC to Mudd on the Paws – 333 A, B and C (Beau, Skye, Jackie)
- Patrick White – 1995 – junior member.
- Clare Ellis – from CDC to Mudd on the Paws – 571 A, and B (Jock and Brodie)
- Rosie Milton – from CDC to Mudd on the Paws - 67B and E
- Justin - from CDC to Mudd on the Paws

Application to include exemption from the 90 day Rule based on the establishment of Mudd on the Paws - a new team.

CARRIED.

ITEM - Administrative Matters – Exam Results.

Stewards Exam - passes for: Edna Pearce CRN 1359, Maureen Williamson CRN 826 and Greg Canham 853

Timekeepers Exam - passes for: Vickie Mc Connachie CRN 1348.

ITEM - 2009 AGM Planning.

Secretary reported that he had yet to hear from ACT re venue – Lyn Clyde to follow up and advise.

Albury/Wodonga Club had requested approval to hold Meeting at private residence -10 Chervil Place Baranduda. Whilst Committee would have preferred a public venue after discussion the proposed venue was accepted.

Secretary asked that each Venue Co-coordinator now consider the appointment of the required independent scrutineer.

Moved and seconded that Belinda Matheson be appointed as Returning Officer (Belinda had undertaken this role at last two AGMs). CARRIED

Committee considered what Rule Changes should be put to Vote. Moved and Seconded that all “On trial” Rules are submitted to members for Ballot. CARRIED.

Other actions - Kylie to commence stock take of equipment; Kylie to place Notice re AGM in ACT papers; Pat to produce end year Accounts for submission to Audit; Secretary to produce Meeting Agenda and associated papers for post out to members early August. Awards Sub Committee formed – Members Leoney, Kylie and Lyn.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.

Sub Committee had scheduled a Meeting for Thursday 9th. July to deal with two Black Card incidents. Chair suggested that recommendations then be dealt with by committee via email. Agreed.

ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee

Rules Sub Committee had meet on the 2nd July and had submitted a written report re recommendations.

First Recommendation related to defining the Role, responsibilities and powers of the AFA Representative as a new Section 10.4 in AFA Rules. Specific wording was being developed and would be circulated to Committee for consideration before next Meeting. Committee agreed in principal to proposal. Agreed any change should be adopted as an on trial Rule.

The Sub Committee had also considered four minor editorial changes to rules suggested by a member and recommended adoption of minor wording changes. These were all seen as being covered by the Delegation given to the Committee at the 2008 AGM and accordingly would be simply included in the next reprint of the Rules. They did not in any way alter existing Rules or their interpretation.

Finally the Sub Committee had considered the current Rule dealing with "Inhumane treatment of a dog (including racing a dog under 12 months of Age). Current Rules indicated such action would involve issue of a Red Card. A Red card only means that the dog is excluded from next 3 heats and this was not seen as the correct action. The Sub Committee accordingly Recommended that Rules be amended to show a penalty of Black Card (issued to handler) for running a dog under 12 months of age and that dog is immediately withdrawn from competition and all heats run with that dog be forfeited. The Sub Committee also recommended that a new offence of "Mistreatment of a dog" be introduced. This offence would include unreasonable treatment of a dog short of violence that causes the dog to display obvious and sustained distress. Penalty to be issue of Red Card on handler. This would give the Judge the power to decide whether an offence by handler warranted Red Card or Black card. As the offence was against handler the dog would be free to run with another handler except where it was under 12 months of age. Specific Rules amendments to be developed and circulated to Clubs and Judges and placed on web as an on trial rule effective from 1st August.

All Recommendations CARRIED.

ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal and 2011 Nationals.

Royal Planning Committee had meet with Purina and RAS to discuss 2010 Royal Show planning and to also early planning for 2011 Nationals.

RAS and Purina were committed to improving arrangements that had not worked to everyone's satisfaction in 2009.

Issues under review included:

Exit arrangements – gear truck would be brought forward to a 6 pm exit (earlier exit not possible due to Parade).

More seating to be sourced

Ticket issue co-ordination to be improved so all passes issued at one time.

Promotion material to be better checked

Entry and Exit Gates to be standardized (probably in via Gate 10 and out via Gate 6)

Purina to provide assistance for set up and pull down of ring.

Ribbons to be provided for all participants

Flyball demonstration in main Arena under consideration by RAS

Wash down of toilet area or other solution being looked into.

In considering 2011 Nationals Purina asked for letter of confirmation from AFA and they would then prepare a draft Agreement re Sponsorship and logistics. Space for two rings and extra cabana's would be allocated and extra storage space provided. Issue of camping discussed and RAS indicated no likelihood of camping in vicinity of Show. AFA to see if camping at Castle Hills Showground is possible.

Purina advised that in future there would be a strict requirement that NO competitor signage was to be displayed on Cabana's etc.

All above Noted and Secretary to send Purina letter of AFA Commitment re 2011 Nationals at Sydney Royal Show.

ITEM - World Dog Games Update.

Information had been placed on AFA web and sent to all Clubs regarding Nomination of teams for the Spectacular. Arrangements re Dog fest element still needed to be progressed with organisers, in particular the running surface needed to be confirmed.

Under the Agreement with the organizers the AFA now had to take a number of actions viz:

Clause 11 - Nominate an "expert presenter" to commentate on the flyball Demos. Person to be available for all 6 Demos over the 3 days. Kylie White volunteered for role.

Clause 12 – AFA to arrange teams of dogs for Demos.. Organisers had indicated a desire to have 4 teams of mixed dogs at each Demo. Suggestion that Regional rep co-ordinate (as done for Pet Expo) but secretary to confirm running surface before any action to invite members.

Clause 13 – AFA to arrange Flyball stand and people it with at least 2 people for duration of Dog fest. Suggestion that AFA form a Sub Committee to arrange all logistics including Demos and stand. Volunteers - Richard, Glenn, Kylie and Ilona.

Clause 14 – AFA to provide a list of people who are qualified to judge the Flyball Competition. Suggestion – AFA to simply supply Organisers with complete list of accredited Judges and note some may be involved in running dogs – and leave it to organizers to select and contract.

Clause 15 – AFA to nominate a member of Committee who would be available for at least 4 sessions in September/ early October to work with event producers to “script” the flyball (how flyball races are run, equipment and to provide advise re Rules). Noted these sessions would be during normal working days and organizers would determine times/venues. In circumstance Committee considered that a number of people needed to be nominated to cover availability issues. Nominations – Brian, Rosie and Kylie.

Clause 36 – AFA to supply still photos and footage of flyball. Volunteer for contact – Ilona.

Under Agreement AFA is also to supply “ Officials” for Spectacular. Secretary had confirmed that Organisers expected us to nominate Stewards (5) and Timekeepers (2).

Teams are to supply own Box loader and ball shagger (1 only per team). Secretary indicated Organisers indicated they would prefer to limit number of people in ring and that they suggested that any other duties (like gap calling) be undertaken by one of the team members not running a dog in the heat. No one will be allowed into ring unless they have signed the participant Agreement and Waiver.

Moved and seconded that AFA now call for volunteers for Stewards and Timekeepers from members with this qualification. CARRIED.

President suggested that AFA purchase AFA T shirts to be issued to all members taking part in Dog fest and AFA stand. Concern expressed by one Member as to likely cost involved in view of possible numbers. Moved and Seconded AFA obtain quotes for 50 and 100 shirt with logo and submit to next Meeting. CARRIED.

Secretary to advise Games organizers of above decisions.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update

President reported he had contacted Sam Ford of NAFA to see if he could assist re lights. Sam had in turn contacted Mark at signature and had been advised Lights were actually in Australia and should be delivered in two weeks. Problems with Agents claimed to cause the delay. Sam had indicated if we did not get Lights in two weeks call him again. Noted two weeks will have passed tomorrow. President to again phone Sam Ford and ask for help, including any suggestions re how best to institute legal action.

ITEM - Judges Exam Format Review –

Rosie reported that Sub Committee had meet and had submitted a report, which included a “concept statement ” outlining the direction of thinking of the Sub Committee. Direction being considered was to redefine Judges grades based on both exam and experience. All current level 1 and 2 judges to be classified as “Judge”. Those who have completed 20 + competitions AND who pass a “scenario” test quiz would then be classified as “Senior Judge”. A six monthly scenario test on new Rules would be introduced. All those wanting to sit Judges exam to have to pass Stewards and Timekeepers Exam first. Judges manual to be completely rewritten. Sub Committee sought Committee endorsement before proceeding to flesh out new structure. Moved and seconded that concept for Judges be endorses. CARRIED.

ITEM - Proposal from member to hold State Championships each year.

Initial Meeting of Sub Committee has occurred and points for and against State championships identified. Several issues under consideration – including whether only Teams from the State in question can compete or is it open to all – and if so can the State Champion be from another State. Sub Committee to continue to meet and progress.

ITEM – Nationals advertising Proposal.

In line with Committees earlier decision to allocate up to \$1,000 to support promotion of the AFA Nationals each year subject to availability of funds and specific approval of organizing Club proposal Norwest submitted proposal to take a quarter Page add in “Urban Animal” Magazine (distribution of 40,000 copies in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and surrounds) for \$1000. CARRIED. Ian requested Secretary write to Berwick Club to specifically advise them of Committee decision re advertising of Nationals and processes required to access the funds in 2010. Agreed.

ITEM - Purina Sponsorship Proposal

Kylie introduced a draft submission to Purina seeking sponsorship for AFA' main events each year and also suggesting possibility of Purina also sponsoring smaller events at the specific request of individual Clubs. Kylie indicated she had discussed the matter of Sponsorship of Canberra Royal with Purina (as Advance were withdrawing from Sponsorship of that event) and Purina had suggested the AFA put together a package of sponsorship of major events for Purina's consideration.

Committee members were asked to consider the draft letter and in particular to check the current sponsorship situation with the major events listed and to get back to Kylie with comment.

Question asked – what term of sponsorship Agreement was envisaged – Kylie suggested a possible two-year term.

ITEM - Little Springer Trophy

Tassie Flying Paws sought approval to add a wooden base to the Trophy, which could be used to affix shields showing the winning club each year. Also asked if they could bring the Trophy to nationals to hand over. Both requests approved.

Other Business

Next flying Times – ilona advised next edition about ready to send out. Would do a special edition for AGM.

Sanction Form for Albury Competition on 25th July. Leoney asked did we have an application for sanction form as it was not shown as approved in June Minutes. Treasurer confirmed Form had been received. Agreed event should be sanctioned if this had not already occurred.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 3rd August. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 10.15 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.