



**Draft – Subject to final approval at June Meeting**

**Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009.**

Present: Glenn Pritchard, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Pat Byrne, Jenny Miller, Ilona Van Galen, Jess McNamara, Penny Lloyd, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Richard Mellon, Catherine Saberton and Kylie White.

Apologies: Rosie Milton and Maureen Williamson.

Meeting Opened by President at 7.50 pm.

**ITEM - Starred Items.**

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009;
- 2) Treasurers Report and Accounts for Payment
- 3) Correspondence received (all dealt with under separate Agenda items)
- 4) 10 new 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 – Norwest – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Chills in the Hills- Castle Hill Showground.

Comp – Hastings – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Pets Day out – Ballam Park Frankston.



**ITEM - Notification of Change of Clubs.**

Following members had notified change of Clubs:

Joanne Parkes (CRN 319) transferring from Norwest to Awesome Pawsome following relocation to Qld – with request for exemption from 90-Day Rule. Approved.

Jennifer Deane (CRN 1203) transferring from Ballarat to Western Weiners.

**ITEM - Administrative Matters – Exam Results.**

Rosie advised, via Kylie, that she was in process of marking some Stewards Exams and would circulate recommendations when available.

**ITEM - Review of AGM process and Date for 2009 AGM.**

Committee noted the Paper prepared by Richard Mellon immediately following last AGM and held over for consideration at this Meeting when planning for 2009 AGM commences.

Committee noted and endorsed proposal to have blank ballot papers available at all venues in case votes needed.

Committee also agree that in circumstances where a venue did not have an independent scrutineer the members present should be given the option of all votes being by secret ballot.

Proposals in Richards Paper re dealing with mobile phones and noise to be made part of Venue instructions.

Ballot Papers to include option for “Abstain” Vote.

Committee considered matter of Venue selection given the need to limit the number of venues from a Meeting logistics viewpoint. It was accepted that there is a fine balance between reasonably accommodating members from a travel viewpoint and need to control number of venues, particularly in larger States. View put that it was not unreasonable to expect members to travel for up to an hour to a selected venue. It was agreed that all venues MUST have speakerphones. Venues in members private houses not supported and should only be allowed where no other reasonable option exists and very small numbers are involved- such as in Tasmania and S.A.

Following discussion Moved and Seconded that the date for the 2009 AGM shall be Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August and that the AFA should place on Web criteria for Venue selection and call for nomination of Venues by no later than 6<sup>th</sup> July so venues can be finalised at July Committee Meetings. CARRIED.



**ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.**

**The Committee noted report from the Sub Committee re 5 Black Card dog incidents. Summary of consideration and decisions re action follow:**

Marlee CRN 1337A. Black Card issued 18/4/09 at Awesome April Antics Comp. Card was for 3 instances of Interference, none of which involved aggression or any contact with another dog.

Sub Committee recommended that owner be sent a letter suggesting he consult Club instructors and undertake more focus training with Marlee before next competition. No other action required. CARRIED

Bastion CRN 115B. Black Card issued 19/4/09 at Hastings Comp. Card was for Suspected Aggression based upon Bastion chasing a dog and crossing into other dog's lane and following the dog to rear of ring. Bastion was growling but no contact was made. The Committee noted that Bastion had raced at the Competition for two days prior to this heat without any incident and in 3 years of racing had no cards recorded. Sub Committee recommended issue of a warning letter. CARRIED.

Basil CRN 532A., Black Card issued 12/4/09 at Sydney Royal outside the ring by a non-officiating Judge. The Sub Committee noted that the full Committee would deal with Policy issue of non-officiating Judges powers. Irrespective, the Sub Committee considered the carding report on basis that even if a written report had been submitted, indicating suspected aggression (with no black card issued) incident would have been referred to Sub Committee. Incident Report indicated Basil was leaving the ring and lunged at another dog and snapped at that dog, no teeth contact made but possibly shoulder contact. The Committee had Statements from owner of Basil and owner of other dog involved, both of whom indicated that whilst Basil did growl and lunge when exiting the ring no physical contact was made between the dogs. The Committee noted Basil had been racing for over 6 years and in that time had no cards for suspected aggression and only two cards for crossing. Sub Committee recommended that circumstanced did not warrant any finding or penalty but owner should receive letter advising that care should be taken when handling dog outside the ring. CARRIED.

Jasmine CRN 590A. Incident reported by AFA Representative at Sydney Royal Demonstration on Sunday 19/4/09. Incident occurred during pairs racing with Jasmine and other dog from same club. AFA Representative indicated that whilst he did not observe the start of the incident he did see Jasmine being physically pulled away from the other dog and that after the incident it was noted that other dog had a tooth wound. Owner of Jasmine had submitted a Statement indicating he accepted that Jasmine had been the aggressor and that it he should not have paired the dogs as they had prior issues re which was alpha dog. The Sub Committee noted that whilst Jasmine had been in the AFA for over 6 years involvement had been restricted to Demos –mainly at a Club level and that no card had been issued against dog.



The Sub Committee recommended that Jasmine be placed on Probation for the maximum period of 12 Months and that owner is required to undertake compulsory retraining during this period, with training log submitted to AFA each month. Any further aggressive incident during this period to involve suspension. CARRIED.

Hades CRN 705D. Incident reported by Judge at Sydney Royal Comp on 11/4/09.

Incident occurred when Hades crossed to other dog's lane, commenced to chase and made aggressive contact with other dog on two occasions. Report indicated there was clear aggressive intent and that other dog had saliva on coat. Sub Committee noted that Hades had only just come off 6 months probation for aggression including compulsory requirement for retraining. The Sub Committee recommended that Hades be Suspended for 9 months with compulsory retraining and with Training log submitted to AFA each Month and that application to be re-assessed for suitability for racing at end of the Suspension period. CARRIED.

**ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal and 2011 Nationals.**

**Final Report on outcome of Sydney Royal available and would be placed on web. Royal Competitions and demonstrations had been great success- with good expose and publicity for flyball. Dialogue was about to commence with Purina and RAS re 2011 Nationals Planning. NSW Representative agreed to continue to act as Chair of planning activity.**

**ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee – Check Chains.**

**Committee noted report from Rules Sub Committee that dealt with a submission seeking an AFA ban on use of check chains outside of the ring. Committee noted that AFA Rules do not allow use of check chains inside ring (Chapter 8 e of Rules) with only flat collars and harnesses being accepted. The Sub Committee Report indicated that if properly fitted and used check chains were simply another training and control aid and that it would be very difficult for the AFA to start to ban, for general handling use, various forms of restraints where these were legally allowed. The Sub Committee pointed out that if a member incorrectly used a check chain to discipline a dog then provision existed under Rules for action to be taken for misconduct. Sub Committee recommended members be advised that where used check chains must be correctly fitted and used as a control and not a means of punishment. Members to also be reminded that Judges have a responsibility to deal with any abuse of dogs. CARRIED.**



**ITEM - World Dog Games.**

The Committee noted the summary of ongoing discussions between the AFA and the organisers of the event to be known as World Dog Games. Given the event has not as yet been publicly announced the AFA had been requested to keep details confidential. Official announcement of AFA involvement should be possible in June once the details of the event were made public.

The Committee noted that the organisers were experienced event managers of good reputation and that negotiations had progressed to a stage where it appeared the AFA would be in a position to take part in the event via demonstrations, a AFA stand and possibly training seminars and to invite individual Members to nominate to be part of a “ Sporting Dog Spectacular” which would be a two hour performance based event involving a number of sporting dog activities, including flyball organized and conducted by the organizers as a commercial entertainment event held over 3 days. It was envisaged that participation in this part of the Games would involve a Performance contract arrangement solely between individual members and the organizers and that it would not be an AFA accredited activity. The organizers stated they had arrangements in place to have this element of the Games filmed and edited for later TV release.

The Committee noted the need for further discussions between the parties to clarify AFA involvement (including proposed basis of verification of ticket share to be paid to AFA for involvement, contractual arrangements and insurances).

Following extended discussion the Committee endorsed continued discussion on AFA involvement in what potentially appeared to be an exciting and rewarding promotion experience for flyball.

**ITEM - Signature Lights Update**

Secretary reported that he had been advised by Signature that the AFA Lights had been dispatched to Australia on 29<sup>th</sup> April and should arrive within 10 days. Signature had advised they would shortly email details of Consignment, including flight information. Hopefully this matter would now be resolved.

**ITEM - Judges Exam Format Review – Terms of Reference**

**The Committee noted and endorsed as appropriate the draft Terms of Reference for the Review produced by the Secretary. The appointed Sub Committee was now in a position to commence the review. Lyn offered to be the Chair of the Sub Committee and call the first meeting in view of Rosie’s current circumstances. CARRIED.**



**ITEM - Letter from St.George Club re non-compliance with alcohol ban at 28<sup>th</sup> March St.George AFA sanctioned Competition.**

The Committee noted the letter from St.George Club regarding a breach of the conditions of entry to their March competition caused by the consumption of alcohol by several AFA members, including a member of the AFA Committee.

The Committee also noted a brief submission by the Committee member in response. The Committee member then took no further part in discussion of this item.

In discussing this matter the Committee noted that the Committee member's submission acknowledged he had consumed an alcoholic beverage. He indicated he had been in what he considered to be a private area (inside his vehicle) and that he was not, at the time, aware of any alcohol ban applying to the area where he was parked. He indicated he was happy to apologise to any member of the AFA he had offended.

The Committee agreed that the issues raised by St.George needed to be taken seriously and the Committee had a responsibility to implement any action deemed appropriate in response. A significant number of members of the Committee, not involved in any way with the incident or related to either the organizing Club or the club of the members involved in the consumption of alcohol, expressed concern with the concluding comments in the St.George letter given these indicated that they believed the Committee would not treat the matter in a serious manner. This was seen as offensive to Committee member's integrity.

In discussions a Committee Member not involved in the incident who was also at the Competition in an Official capacity indicated he to was totally unaware of the alcohol ban and saw no signage or heard no announcement re this matter .He advised he only became aware of the ban when he read the St.George letter.

The Committee agreed that greater care needed to be taken to ensure that any special conditions applicable at any future competition were clearly made know to members both before and at the event. It therefore determined that organizers will be requested to clearly state any special requirements, particularly bans, as part of the Racing Draw posted to the web and to encourage organizers to supply a full Catalogue with all Rules and Regulations for posting to the web if possible.

The Committee also determined that the Committee member should be formally written to with the request that he submit an apology to the St.George Club with respect to his actions at the Competition. Moved and Seconded that these decisions be accepted. CARRIED.



**ITEM - Requested need for clarification re authority of non-officiating Judges to issue cards at competitions.**

**The Committee noted a letter from an AFA Judge seeking clarification of the power of a non-officiating Judge to issue cards for incidents occurring outside of the flyball ring at an AFA Competition.**

**In discussion the following opposing points were noted:**

- **The view that the AFA Rules and Policies make no provision for a non officiating Judge to issue a card or take any action other than that in the capability of any member of the AFA i.e. to draw incident to Officials notice and, if necessary, submit a Written Incident report. In support the view was expressed that section 9.2 of Rules is headed "The Race" and refers to cards issued by "the Judge". Chapter 10 refers to there being "One Judge" who officiates when teams are running. Section 10.2 (d) indicated, "a judge shall immediately report to the competition organiser and Section 10.3 refers to "the Judge then inspecting the ring". All of these references were seen as indicating it was the officiating Judge only who held authority.**
- **The alternative view that all Judges had the authority to issue cards for incidents they observed outside the ring and that several precedents existed when such cards had been issued to both Members and to dogs. In support of this view that the non officiating Judge would be in breach of a duty of care if they did not take immediate action to exclude by black card any dog suspected of aggression outside the ring.**

**After considerable discussion the following motion was Moved and Seconded in order to see if a majority view existed either way.**

**"That the Committee issue a clarification to indicate that non officiating Judges have no authority to issue cards outside of the flyball ring at Competitions and they should inform officials of any incident and if necessary submit a written Incident report." LOST.**

**Several Members of the Committee indicated they wished to consider the matter further before issuing any clarification. It was noted that the AFA Supervising judge was not present and had not had opportunity to comment. It was agreed to list the Item for further discussion at next Committee Meeting.**



**ITEM - Submission re AFA monitoring dog vaccinations each year.**

The Committee noted the submission from a member expressing concern that not all Clubs were overseeing that Club dogs had either current vaccinations or were the subject of Titre testing for immunity. The letter suggests that either the AFA itself check all dogs' vaccination status each year or require all affiliated clubs to do so.

The Committee noted that with approx 1000 dogs involved in the AFA we did not have the resources to undertake policing of vaccinations. The Committee did agree to draw to Clubs attention the need to ensure that member's dogs were annually checked for Vaccination or certificate of immunity via current titre test if that option is Club policy. Clubs also to be reminded that where titre test is used that test does not cover kennel cough. CARRIED.

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

Item deferred to June Meeting in view of lateness of hour and time constraints.

**ITEM –Suggested amended process for recording Incident reports.**

Item deferred to June Meeting in view of lateness of hour and time constraints

**ITEM - Purchase of AFA Bumper Stickers**

Treasurer advised that she had priced the purchase of Bumper stickers with AFA Logo and she recommended AFA purchase 1000 stickers and send one to each Member upon renewal of membership or joining. Cost involved a little over \$1 per member. CARRIED.

**ITEM - Letters of Complaints re Judges manner, attitude and aggressive behaviour.**

The Committee noted two letters (one from a member and one from a Club) expressing concern over the manner, attitude and aggressive behaviour of two different Judges at two different AFA Competitions. Both letters stated that the Judges involved did not display a friendly and courteous manner, as required in the AFA Policy, and that there perceived behaviour bordered on bullying in one case and rudeness in the other. The Committee considered how best to deal with these complaints and decided to refer both letters to the Supervising Judge for consideration and to issue a general reminder to all AFA Judges regarding the requirements of Rule 10.2 which requires judges to be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm.



**Other Business**

- President asked if Committee was happy to approved purchase of flowers for Rosie's husband John who was still in early stages of recovery from a very serious accident. AGREED. Treasurer to arrange.
- Ilona asked if Committee wanted to set input deadline for next issue of Flying times. Agreed deadline to be in 3 weeks i.e. 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- President reminded members of Committee that Rosie was still very much preoccupied with her husbands recovery and that all needed to do whatever they could to relieve pressure of Rosie.
- Leoney joined meeting and advised that she proposed to ask Web designer to now focus on making Judges Incident reports self entry to data base so that Judges could submit electronically in approved format. This would help take some pressure of Supervisory judge.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 1st June. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 10.40 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.