

Draft – Subject to final approval at December Meeting

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd November 2009.

Present: Glenn Pritchard, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Pat Byrne, Leoney Pritchard, Jenny Millar, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Richard Mellon, Maureen Williamson, Catherine Saberton, Josh Ellen, Kylie White and Penny Lloyd.

Apologies: Joann Parkes, Ilona Van Galen, Wayne Stroop

Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 5th October 2009;
- 2) Correspondence received (all dealt with under separate Agenda items)
- 3) 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 two outstanding matters requiring action from earlier Meetings.

1. Arrange establishment of \$10,000 Fixed term Investment – (Treasurer and Secretary to follow up).

2. Carried over item - Issue of Title Points for a Team involving a non-financial dog. Committee noted correspondence re the circumstances leading to the dog in question not being financial at time of competition and agreed that sufficient confusion existed to explain why member might have thought Membership Card indicted dog was financial. Dog had been registered and paid for as soon as matter brought to members attention. In circumstances Committee agreed not to deduct title points from team.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Sue Norton - Training Day – Rod Akers Reserve Strathpine – 17th January 2010

Berwick – Competition – Berwick Highland Games Berwick Showground’s – Saturday 13th Feb 2010. (Limited Entries – 20 teams max.)

Bellarine – Competition – Geelong Showgrounds – 12th December 2009

ITEM – Treasurers report

Accounts for payment:

Purchase of Headset Mike system for Qld \$ 1014.75
Photo posters for stands at W.D.G.s and other Demonstrations \$500
AFA Flyers (1000) for hand out at Demos \$ 255
All approved.

ITEM - Administrative Matters

Stewards Exam –
Merran Boesenberg 559
Tim Slade 834
Karen Bland 854
Mark Lord 1069
Diana Michalek 1222
Ros Taber 366

ITEM - New Members

Following new members approved:
John Sampson, Penny Campbell, Kimberley Mills, David Ryan, Sonia Gulec,
Gill Cochran, Beth Wise, Sarah Butler and Samantha Barrow.

ITEM – Change of Clubs

Nil advised.

ITEM - 2009 AGM Follow up:

Junior Handler Scheme.

Sub Committee had yet to meet. Lyn and Kylie to contact Ilona and arrange for Sub Committee to meet before next AFA Meeting.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.

4 Black Card incidents had been investigated and following recommendations made:

- Phoebe (CRN 959A) incident at Boorowa – this was a first Black Card incident with no injury to other dog. Recommendation – Phoebe to receive a Warning 1 Letter with suggestion for need for further training.
Agreed.

- Flea (CRN 1007A) incident at Nationals – Sub Committee reported this was the second Black Card incident-involving Flea. Earlier incident was in January 2008 and involved extenuating circumstances as Flea had been knocked down by another dog and retaliated. Flea had also had a number of yellow and Red Cards for crossing. Current incident involved Flea shoulder charging another dog whilst carrying a ball in mouth. No injury sustained by either dog. Handler reported Flea was displaying play behavior. In circumstances Sub Committee recommended Flea be given a 9-month Probation period from nationals with requirement to submit Training logs for first 6 months of Probation. **Agreed**

- Jack (CRN 1083E) incident at Euroa – Sub Committee reported incident involved Jack chasing other teams dog after crossing after turning on box. No contact made between dogs as handlers intervened. Recommendation was “No Finding” to be recorded. **Agreed**

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- Gracie (CRN 2162A) incident at Euroa – Sub Committee reported that incident involved Gracie crossing into other lane and interfering with another dog. Conflicting views as to whether there was any contact or evidence of aggression. Steward indicated contact was made but not with aggression. Other Witnesses indicated no contact made between the dogs. Recommendation was No Finding to be recorded. **Agreed**

ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee

Noted that a request had been received to clarify Rule when a heat has to be rerun after a false start. The Committee noted that the wording of the AFA Rules (Section 5) indicate Team cannot substitute a dog. There is no reference in the Rules, which would prevent a change in the teams running order. Noted that the common Judges interpretation has been that no change can be made to running order in the restart. Brian Fay of NAFA had advised that the NAFA Rules wording was the same as the AFA's and that NAFA allowed teams to change running orders but not substitute a dog. Suggestion made that our Rules need to be clear on this matter. Moved and Seconded that a clarification be issued to judges and Club coordinators indicating teams could change running orders (including start dogs) but could not substitute a dog.

CARRIED (with one dissent vote). Given the decision no change needed to existing Rules wording.

ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal and 2011 Nationals.

Richard indicated that nothing currently needed attention. Planning would start late in 2009 for the 2010 Royal.

ITEM - World Dog Games Report.

Kylie reported on the event and indicated it had been a great exposure for flyball with close and exciting racing between all 4 teams. All involved should be proud of what was achieved. Flyball was the clear crowd favorite.

The AFA had received the matting from the event (12 rolls of anti fatigue with a value of \$8,000) and will also receive \$1 per ticket sold in due course.

Glenn raised fact we now needed to find secure permanent storage for the matting. Agreed pending a permanent store it could be located at a Norwest members shed. Glenn agreed to explore Norwest Canine Association building a secure storage area at their undercover area and renting this to AFA at reasonable annual fee. All Sydney clubs could then book the undercover arena and matting for any indoor competition. Weight of matting will be an issue if interstate Clubs want to use. If demand is evident for matting in another state AFA to consider purchase of second set of matting. Committee agreed to these arrangements in principle – with Glenn to report back re permanent storage arrangements and cost.

ITEM – Sydney Pet Expo update.

Arrangements in hand. Clubs co-coordinating each day of Pet Expo are Southern Cross, Sutherland and Sydney Scallywags. We have more than sufficient volunteers to do the Demos on Saturday and Sunday. Extra dogs for Friday still welcome. Les Scott will be transporting equipment as per usual. Agreed President to purchase a fluid gift for Les.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update

President reported he had sent the Letter of Demand by registered post and had also sent a follow up email requesting a response. He had also sent email to current NAFA President requesting any assistance that NAFA may be in a position to provide to bring pressure on Signature lights to process a refund. NAFA had responded indicating they were having some delivery problems with Mark at present. Agreed Secretary to now contact Signature Lights Agent in NZ to see if they can assist.

ITEM - Judges Exam Format Review –

During Brian Fays visit he had undertaken to send AFA a copy of the current NAFA Judges Exam format that was Multiple Choice and Scenario format. Rosie now had that input and was planning to call a Meeting of Sub Committee to discuss using the NAFA format.

ITEM - Proposal to hold State Championships each year.

No Meeting as yet and no firm proposal had emerged.

ITEM - Purina Sponsorship Proposal

Kylie has been regularly following up progress with Lynn Bennett. Supercoat Brand Manager has been away for last month so no decision possible at Purina. Informal indication is that Purina will be coming forward with a counter offer that will include substantial sponsorship for an extended period. Ian indicated Berwick had just been informed by Victorian office of Purina that they would not be sponsoring the 2010 Nationals. Kylie to see if she can follow up via Lynn. Matter carried over to next meeting.

ITEM - Report re 2009 Nationals

Leoney reported on outcome. She indicated that organizing such a major event was quite a challenge and thanked all of those who assisted, especially the Competition Secretary and the Sub Committee Chairs. Norwest had received lots of positive feedback and Flyball had received lots of local print media exposure right throughout Sydney. Special thanks to Hills Science Diet who were the 2009 Nationals main sponsor. The live streaming of the event to the Internet was a real first.

Committee extended there congratulations and thanks to Leoney and all at Norwest for a great Championship.

ITEM – S.A. RSPCA – Motion at RSPCA AGM

Letter sent to RSPCA. No response as yet.

ITEM – Suggestion that Judges be given discretion to issue Red Cards for minor aggression incidents.

Input from a Judge suggesting that current Rules should be amended to allow a Judge to decide an incident involving very minor aggression should only involve a Red Card. Committee noted that under the current Rules it is up to the Judge to decide if an incident involves aggression – a dog simply crossing and chasing another dog does not necessarily mean a Black Card has to be issued. For aggression to be suspected the Judge needs to feel that the

chase involved “ intent to commit an aggressive act”. This clarification to be advised to all judges. The Committee did not support any change in Rules.

ITEM - Request for AFA to consider a level of financial support for teams traveling to and from Tasmania recognizing need to encourage visits (both ways) and the costs involved in crossing Bass Strait.

The Committee noted that travel to/from Tasmania did involve considerable cost. After discussion it was moved and seconded that in order to encourage flyballers to travel (both from Tasmania and to Tasmania) the AFA Committee of the day would, subject to funds availability, consider requests for financial support based on a maximum of \$50 per vehicle ferry trip i.e. \$100 per vehicle for an over and back visit. **CARRIED.** This decision to also apply to recent National travel for the two Tassie teams - which involved 3 Tasmanian vehicles and hence a \$300 subsidy. **CARRIED.**

ITEM – Request to hire AFA Lights for Club training.

Enquiry received re a single Club wishing to hire AFA lights for a Club Training Day. AFA policy was not to hire lights to Clubs for training but rather to encourage the Club to conduct an AFA Sanctioned training day open to all members. For AFA Sanctioned Training Days lights were made available at no costs (subject only to availability). Agreed current policy should continue.

ITEM - Rule where a dog’s ball goes across the other lane and causes distraction or interference.

Question raised as to what should be rule where a dropped ball bounces of another dog running and goes into next lane. Should heat be stopped and then any dog be carded. General consensus – heat stopped if interference or distraction arises but not a carding offence. Matter however referred to Rules sub Committee to clarify.

ITEM – Issues with Web verses declared seed times.

Some concern expressed that current Rules for Declared times can produce unfair Division placements where the Declared time is towards the slow end of the Division and the one second Breakout then applies. Committee noted that this was the luck of the Division draw – sometimes you may be first in division based on times, sometimes last. Competition organisers get approval for Draws and don’t disclose Team names so there is no favoritism.

Concern expressed that a team with a Web Seed time can change its teams dogs (and include a faster dog combination) once it knows its position in the Division and given it sees it has lots of scope before breakout. Agreed to refer to Rules Sub Committee. One possible option – where a team changes dogs after the draw its Web seed time becomes a Declared seed time and subject to the 1 second breakout rule.

General Business

- **AFA Tee Shirts**

Committee noted these had been well received at WDGs and gave AFA lots of exposure. Off the 40 ordered only 7 left. Shirts were sold for \$30 .We now needed to consider re-order. AGREED to reorder 20 shirts for immediate sale. Also AGREED to do an Order Form in next Flying Times so members could indicate wish to purchase and size.

Kylie indicated she had received request to have colours other than Black and White. Committee considered that brand image would be lost if multiple colours were available. AFA Tees to continue to be Black and White.

- **0000 Start Gap recognition.**

Norwest initiative had been well received. Committee considered continuing recognition. Moved and Seconded that AFA purchase 0000 Start badges. **CARRIED**. Pat to purchase.

- Eric asked if AFA would consider subsidising a training trip to Tasmania. Committee consensus was this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis when trip was being first planned.
- Richard asked did AFA have videos that could be used at Demos. Answer – yes quite a few. Glenn to arrange copies for Richard.
- Richard asked did we have a Getting started Kit. Secretary to send Richard what he normally sends to people making such enquiries.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 7th December. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 10 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.