

Draft – Subject to final approval at November Meeting

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 5th October 2009.

Present: Glenn Pritchard, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Pat Byrne, Jenny Millar, Eric van Zuyden, Lyn Clyde, Richard Mellon, Maureen Williamson, Catherine Saberton, Wayne Stroop, Ilona Van Galen, Josh Ellen, Joanne Parkes and Penny Lloyd.

Apologies: Kylie White and Leoney Pritchard

Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 7th September 2009;
- 2) Treasurer’s report and Accounts approved for payment.
- 3) Correspondence received (all dealt with under separate Agenda items)
- 4) 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 was one outstanding matters requiring action from earlier Meetings viz: Arrange establishment of \$10,000 Fixed term Investment – Treasurer and Secretary to follow up.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Demo - AFA Stall and Demo – World Dog Games – Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st Nov –ACER Arena.

Competition – Hastings _-Bass Coast Show – Saturday 9th Jan 2010- Wonthaggi _ Approved as a Restricted Entry Competition – max 20 teams. ((Sanction Form and Fee to be submitted).

ITEM - Administrative Matters

Stewards Exam – no passes advised by Rosie.

ITEM - New Members

Following new members approved:

Lauren James; Catherine Taylor; Loukia Tomlinson; Carolien Pappas; Emily Schmelitsche

ITEM – Change of Clubs

Nil advised.

ITEM - 2009 AGM Follow up.

Junior Handler Scheme.

Sub Committee had yet to meet. Ilona (Chair) to call Meeting before November Committee meeting.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.

No matters requiring actions reported since last Meeting.

ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee

The Sub Committee reported it had reviewed the Dog Aggression Penalty Guidelines for situations where dog is injured and recommended a change to the Protocol that would give the Sub Committee more latitude to determine that an incident involving injury to a dog should result in either Suspension or the dog being placed on probation, reflecting the circumstances of each incident. The Sub Committee recommended that the revised Protocol be adopted. CARRIED. (Webmaster to arrange update of Protocol on web).

The Sub Committee had also considered two Rules clarifications concerning the new Forfeit Rules raised by Judge Jo Slade.

First question requiring clarification –“ If the changeover time between the races is less than 3 minutes, eg 90 seconds, do I only have to wait the 90 seconds, or the full 3 minutes before I can declare a non-reporting team has forfeited and start the race? If I have to wait the full 3 minutes, what's the point of having a changeover time less than 3 minutes then?”

Clarification:

The Judge is required to wait the full 3 minutes before forfeiting the late team and starting the first heat without opponent.

When Chapter 7 was being revised considerable debate took place on how much time we should allow a late team – views ranged from the Changeover time 60 seconds / 90 seconds up to 5 minutes (which was the old rule). It was felt that applying a forfeit immediately after the changeover time was too harsh, but that allowing 5 minutes was not in the interests of keeping the race program moving. 3 minutes was seen as a reasonable compromise.

The difference between applying the Changeover time and the 3 minute Forfeit deadline was not seen as an issue likely to cause delays in racing because teams are normally more motivated to get into the ring as early as possible to get the most set-up and training time rather than to delay unnecessarily. The Subcommittee is not aware of any behaviour in recent racing that changes this view.

Second question requiring clarification – “ If a team is late reporting for a race and the first heat is run without them competing and therefore they have forfeited the first heat, is 7(b)(i) saying that they can be declared as disqualified for the rest of the competition for Forfeiting without Just Cause?”

Clarification:

Being forfeit from the first heat for lateness does not automatically trigger a disqualification under 7 b) i).

Explanation: Chapter 7 Forfeits parts a) and b) are intended to be read in sequence, in that part a) covers the sequence of actions if a team is late in arriving for a race and part b) covers what happens if the team does not turn up to the race at all, i.e. enough heats are run under part a) without opponent until the unopposed team has won the race. If and when this occurs, part b) i) requires the team to be disqualified if they cannot demonstrate Just Cause.

The Subcommittee accepted that the current wording could be misinterpreted and proposed that a minor amendment in wording be adopted to remove the ambiguity. The amendment to be incorporated into the Rules reprint as a minor change approved by Committee. The change being to the heading in 7 b) as shown below:

Delete: Teams that forfeit without Just Cause.

Insert: Teams that forfeit all heats in a Race without Just Cause.

CARRIED.

The Subcommittee also recommended that the Secretary write to Jo Slade thanking her for her input and providing the clarifications as shown above.

CARRIED.

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 Update.

- The Committee noted that Kylie White had now taken over the role of being the AFA interface with the Games organizers.
- The Games Organisers had advised that 4 flyball Teams had nominated to take part in the Spectacular and all were accepted and individuals written to re Performance conditions and Agreements.
- Insurance coverage of all participants in the Spectacular by Games organizers was now confirmed. This had been seen as a critical issue for protection of participants as this was not an AFA Sanctioned event and thus not covered by AFA Insurance.
- Running Surface for Spectacular will be anti fatigue matting and will be set up down middle of Arena and will have at least a 55 ft run back. The matting will be donated to the AFA after the Games.

Arrangements for Demos and AFA Stall still being discussed with Organisers. Richard reported he had volunteer Clubs for Dogfest on the Saturday and Sunday. Ilona agreed to contact Elizabeth Coombes to discuss material needed for stall (enlarged photos and AFA Flyers).

ITEM – Sydney Pet Expo update.

Richard advised he had sent out information to Clubs re Pet Expo. Contract was the same as in 2008 and AFA would receive \$500 and all involved free parking and entry. Sutherland had volunteered to run Saturday and Southern Cross the Friday. He still needed a Club for Sunday. President suggested South Coast and St.George be approached. Richard to also arrange to call for volunteers from other clubs who wanted to take part in the Demo.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update

President reported he had phoned Mark at Signature and left message on answer machine with a request that Mark refund our payment until he was able to secure Customs release and we would then immediately pay before

delivery. Secretary had drafted a suitable letter that President could send requesting refund. Committee agreed that draft letter should be sent by registered Mail and also via soft copy attachment. Ilona advised she had followed up matter of legal action with firm of Herm Legal and Migratory Services and they had submitted a quote indicating possible fees involved being up to \$10,000. Committee agreed we should seek refund and if necessary request NAFA Executives to bring pressure to bear prior to considering legal action for recovery.

ITEM - Judges Exam Format Review –

Ian advised that there had been no action since last Meeting. Matter to stay on Agenda. Sub Committee Members confirmed as Rosie, Ian, Penny, Jenny and Ilona.

Secretary advised that he had received requests to release to Judge candidates copies of Rules and Judges Guidelines documents in Word format to assist them in doing "cut and paste". Secretary advised that whilst he has Rules in Word he does not have Judges Guidelines. Several members of Committee indicated that it was a simple exercise for people to open the PDF version on web so that it could be cut and pasted. Instructions to be sent to Secretary for on forwarding to candidates. Discussion followed as to why we would not give Judge candidates the Rules in Word to make exercise easier given they could convert the PDF version. Moved that Judge Candidates be supplied with Word Version of Rules on basis that they did not circulate and only used it for exam purposes. CARRIED.

Committee again addressed issue of whether having to undertake a "cut and Paste" of Rules and Guidelines was an appropriate basis for learning. General Agreement that other formats (possible multiple choice questions plus scenario questions or a verbal exam) seemed to have more education logic. Sub Committee to note this discussion. President suggested that each member of Committee prepare one possible Rules scenario question for consideration at next Meeting.

ITEM - Proposal to hold State Championships each year.

Sub Committee members indicated that it was planned to discuss this matter with Steve Pitt at the forthcoming Nationals.

ITEM - Purina Sponsorship Proposal

Carried over to next meeting.

ITEM – ANKC Replacement Agreement.

ANKC have submitted replacement Agreement to their Conference for approval. Secretary has sent them copy of updated Rules for their adoption. They had requested a Word version of the Rules so that they could make minor alterations – such as replacing AFA with either ANKC or State Co-

coordinating Body. Following discussion agreed Secretary should provide Word Version of Rules to ANKC.

ITEM – Request to release Member contact details.

The Committee noted a request from a Queensland member to be provided with contact details of existing members resident in or around Sunshine Coast so she could invite them to join the new Club recently formed on Sunshine Coast. Committee did not feel that this was appropriate as it could be seen as an exercise in poaching. A more appropriate method of advising people of the new Club would be for Club coordinator to submit an article for next Flying Times simply inviting people to contact Club if interested in joining. Secretary to so advise.

ITEM – Fees for new members joining late in AFA Financial Year.

Committee noted that current Policy was that people joining AFA after end march were credited with membership through to end of following year i.e. up to 15 months Membership. One recent request had been received based on extenuating circumstances to apply this treatment to a member who joined during March. Committee agreed that the current Policy should continue but that people seeking to join in March be advised of option of deferring till April unless they wanted to compete in March.

ITEM – Unfinancial members entering Competitions

The Committee received reports of 3 instances where it appeared that unfinancial members had been allowed to compete in competitions.

The first instances involved a Member who joined in March 09 and who was issued with a Membership card that showed they were a financial member to 30th June 2010. The AFA Data Base however showed them as only being financial to 30th June 09. Committee agreed that as they were new to AFA, having joined in March 09, they were entitled to accept that the dates shown on the Membership card were correct and that they had reason to believe they were indeed financial at time of competing. Given circumstances agreed Treasurer should amend AFA Data base to show membership to June 2010. No further action required.

The second instances involved a Member who added a second dog late in 2009 and was credited with 15 months membership for the new dog. Members apparently had presumed all her membership had been extended to June 2010. Treasurer indicated that the detailed membership statement sent out to member clearly showed that it was only the second dog that had 2010 membership paid. She had also received membership reminders. Committee requested Treasurer to circulate copy of the paperwork and deferred consideration of any action till November Meeting.

Third incident involved a member who raced at Albury competition whilst being unfinancial and who had advised that their membership paperwork must have been lost in the post. The Committee did not see any special circumstances associated with this member and accordingly agreed that the policy of not crediting points in respect of the dogs in the team that ran with the unfinancial members dog be applied.

The Committee agreed to draw members attention to fact that Club co-ordinators and Competition organizers should be checking to ensure members are financial when entering competitions and reminding them that the Policy is not to award points to all dogs running in any team involving a unfinancial member.

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

Catherine as South Australian Regional Rep. had reported on what she understood to be a motion past at the recent RSPCA AGM which might relate to flyball. The Motion sought to ban games involving dogs catching balls from RSPCA Events in view of danger of choking. Catherine had made contact with the RSPCA CEO who indicated that the Motion did relate to flyball. The wording of the actual Motion however did not mention flyball and simply referred to Games involving dogs catching balls.

Following discussion the Motion was put that the AFA should write to the SA RSPCA indicating that there was no basis for concern re flyball dogs choking on balls and quoting statistical evidence. CARRIED.

ITEM – Flying Times Production Schedule.

Iloana had circulated a Flying Times Production Schedule for 2009/10. Iloana. The Schedule showed that the deadline for input for November Flying Times was 5th October. On reflection it would be better to extend the deadline so that reports from the Nationals and Word Dog games could go into next edition. Agreed to extend production input deadline to end October - Committee members however asked to get normal reports to Iloana as early as possible in October.

ITEM – Possible W.A. Regional Rep.

Lyn reported on contact she had made with an ex member of Bullets (Fiona) who now lived in W.A. Lyn had asked her if she would be interested in being the W.A. Regional Rep – initial reaction was that she would be happy to assist in getting flyball started in W.A. but did not want to be the formal Regional Rep. Committee agreed to accept any offer of help. Lyn to follow up.

ITEM – Advertising in Flying Times

Committee noted an enquiry regarding advertising new “topical oil for performance animals”. The Committee discussed issue of accepting adds for such products and the concern that some members may see such action as endorsing a product that the AFA had no real knowledge about. In circumstances the decision was made not to accept this type of product advertising without evidence of clinical benefits.

ITEM – Enquiry re AFA Demo at NSW/ Qld 20/20 Cricket Match – Jan 2010

Richard reported on an enquiry he had received re a Flyball Demo at the NSW/ Qld 20/20 Cricket Match scheduled for 13th January 2010. Cricket NSW have asked if we are interested and if so the fee and conditions. Demo would be part of pre match entertainment at around 6 pm. Agreed this would be great promotion for flyball. After discussion Committee agreed to request a donation of \$1000 plus free (or reimbursed) parking for those involved. Suggestion made that we ask Cricket NSW to suggest flyball as a pre game entertainment to other State Cricket Bodies. Also suggest possible supply of NSW and Queensland Jumpers so it becomes a state verses state Demo. Richard to follow up.

ITEM - Other Business

- 1. Joanne asked about transport of Qld lights as spare set for Nationals. Question - Can lights be transported in secure, enclosed Utility or do they have to travel in a car. Answer – objective is to ensure lights are protected from weather and will not get wet or bounced around during travel.**
- 2. Penny asked for clarification re how to select teams for a limited entry Competition. Answer – entry form should ask Clubs to indicate the priority order they wish to see apply for their entries. Organisers then rotate through Club (all get their first team in, then second etc till number filled.)**

Next meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 2nd November. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.