

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Amended Minutes of Meeting held on 1st February 2010.

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

Apologies Catherine Saberton , Ilona Van Gallen and Jo Parkes (part Meeting)

Meeting Opened at 7.40 pm.

ITEM - Starred Items.

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

- 1) Minutes of Meeting of 11th January 2010;
- 2) Renewal of Membership (as per Treasurers Report)
- 3) Change of Clubs –Leah Curnovic CRN 2210 from Deerbush to Southern Cross and Kay Mattingley CRN 1349 from St.George to Southern Cross.
- 4) Stewards Exam Passes –Catherine Clarke CRN 1322; Julie Pamplin CRN 1103; Andrew Woodall CRN 1352 and Jenni Redmond CRN 757
- 5) Correspondence for noting (Thank you Letter from Jimboomba Dog Club re donation of Jumps by Len.

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 Jan. Bank Balance of \$9090.

Treasurer reported that she had inadvertently paid an Invoice that was a Clubs responsibility. She was in process of recovering the money from J.A. Wales Printers who were in any event still owed a lesser amount of money by AFA for printing of Rules Books.

ITEM – Judges Exam Progress

Rosie reported that Verdelle had passed her written exam and recommended she be approved to now undertake the practical. CARRIED.

She also reported Jennifer Crane had completed her written and practical and recommended she now undertake the Judging stage and that the normal requirement to complete all phases within 12 months be waived in this case. CARRIED.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events.

Following AFA Events Approved:

Demo - Keilor _ 20th and 21st Feb – Seymour Alternative Farming Expo

Comp – Awesome Pawsome- 4th April 2010- Awesome April Antics- Rathdowney Memorial Grounds

Comp – Hastings Flyball Club – 24th and 25th April – Hastings Flyball Com – High St Hastings.

Moved and Seconded that all events are approved. CARRIED

ITEM - New Members

Following new members approved:

Wendy Day; Roy Shuttleworth, Allan Matts, Gerard Lynch, Jan Erling Pedersen, Deborah Thomas and Cindy Christensen.

ITEM - 2009 AGM Follow up:

Junior Handler Scheme.

Lyn submitted a Paper outlining suggested ways the AFA could further encourage junior handlers.

First Proposal : that the AFA introduce a Junior Stewards Cloth Badge plus Certificate of Achievement for juniors who had passed their Stewards Exam. Such Badges to be issued retrospectively to all juniors who have done the Stewards Exam. Moved, Seconded and CARRIED.

Agreed we should ask Liz Coombes (who designed Logo) if she would design the badge. Leoney to send Lyn contact details for Liz. Treasurer to extract list of Junior Stewards from Data Base.

Second Proposal: To introduce a new Annual National Award for Young Flyballer of Year. Proposal outlined by Lyn involved each State nominating one Junior Handler based on a two-page statement submitted by each Junior Handler. Submission to cover how the handler had demonstrated co-operation, good sportsmanship, courtesy and friendliness over last 12 months. State nominations to then be reviewed by AFA Committee (excluding Regional Reps) and one nomination selected.

Committee discussion focused on selection criteria, which was seen as very subjective by some and likely to be influenced by skill of each candidate to express themselves in writing, rather than their actual contribution to flyball. Aster discussion this element of proposed Scheme referred back to Lyn for further consideration.

The Committee agreed to retain the existing age rules for Junior Stewards and Timekeepers in order to protect younger members from the occasional confrontation.

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

Form C1- Competition Entry Form: The Amended Form as submitted by Bill Reynolds was adopted and would now be placed on web for use. Committee expressed much thanks to Bill for his input.

Form C6 – Competition results: Amended form, with space for results of up to 8 Divisions adopted and would now be placed on web for use.

ITEM - Dog Incident Sub Committee Report.

No Incidents to report.

ITEM - Report from Rules Sub Committee

No Meeting since January Committee.

ITEM - Update re Sydney Royal and 2011 Nationals.

Richard reported that his Sub Committee had again met and were progressing well with 2010 Royal planning. He reported that entry/exit arrangements would hopefully be easier in 2010 and ticketing better organized. Format for competitions and demonstrations was same as in 2009 – a one-Day Competition on Good Friday and then a two-Day Competition on Easter Saturday and Sunday followed by a Demo on Monday and both Days of following weekend. Entries had to close early (19th Feb) to allow arrangements to be finalized with RAS re Tickets and with Purina for trophies and prizes.

ITEM –Melbourne Pet Expo Report.

Eric reported that arrangements were finalized and the Demo would go ahead. Treasurer to Invoice for the \$500 donation.

ITEM - Signature Lights Update

Secretary had submitted written report on his discussions with the NZ Agent of Signature Lights (Lyn Sawyer). Lyn was assisting in attempting to get information from Mark Kuznitz re reason for non-delivery of lights. Secretary had also drafted a letter to go from President of AFA to Secretary of NAFA informing them of the ongoing problem of non-performance by Signature. Idea was to see if they would record matter in their Minutes as an attempt to put further pressure on Signature to supply lights or refund payment. This letter would be sent if no progress were achieved via Lyn in next two weeks.

ITEM - Judges Exam Format Review.

The Minutes of the Judges Exam Sub Committee were noted. After discussion the Committee endorsed the recommendations in the Sub Committee report, in particular:
That a multiple choice exam format should replace the “cut and paste” format;
That there be several Exams available.
That the pass mark be 80%.
That existing stewarding and timekeeping practical components be retained.
That candidates should function as Assistant Judges for at least 3 Competitions, with a minimum of 10 races per competition and involving measuring of all height dogs, check of boxes and ring set-up. Written reports on performance required to be submitted by Supervising judge and AFA Rep.

The Sub Committee also made recommendations re changes to Grading system (based on number of Judging assignments undertaken and including requirement to complete a short Exam before progressing to a higher Grade was also endorsed by Committee.

In an effort to ensure Judges maintained currency of their knowledge the Sub Committee recommended that all Judges be subject to a multiple choice and/or scenario style exam, mainly focused on new Rules and recent Rule clarification every six months. In discussion the Committee were of the view that an annual review exam was more practical.

Finally the Sub Committee recommended that the AFA indicate that Judges assignments should involve a set minimum number of races per day and that Judges should normally be required to undertake 2 Judging Assignments per year. After discussion the Committee suggested that it might be better to express assignment minimums as a percentage of total available races – say Judges to be allocated at least 30% of the available races per day. This then covered both small and large competitions.

Moved and Seconded that the Sub Committee report, with the above Committee comments noted, be endorsed and referred back to the Sub Committee (with copy to the AFA Supervisory Judge) with the request that the Sub Committee now develop the required Exam formats and questions in order to allow the new Exam system to be introduced.
CARRIED.

ITEM - Purina Sponsorship Proposal

The proposed Agreement is at this time “Commercial in Confidence” Members will be further advised re the Sponsorship once negotiations are complete.

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

Veterans Class - Committee noted the proposals contained in a paper from Secretary regarding a set of “On Trial Rules” for the conduct of Veterans Class event. The paper sought to encourage Competition organizers to consider offering a Veterans Class by clearly setting down the Rules for such classes.

The proposed Rules were largely based on the NAFA Rules. The age requirement of 7 years or older was as per NAFA as was Rule that limited Jump height to 7 inches for all Veterans races and that dogs did not have to be from same Club. The matter of the limit on the number of races and heats to be offered in Veterans classes was discussed. Whilst the proposed Rules set the maximum as 6 races of either 3 heats or best of 3 heats some members of Committee felt this may be excessive and that a number of heats limit – say maximum of 18 heats may be preferable. It was agreed that Veterans teams would not be eligible for Australian record time. Normal points would apply to veteran's races and dogs entered in a Veterans class could not also be entered in the Open class at same competition.

Following discussion Moved and Seconded that the Rules as per the Paper be adopted, with addition of Rule excluding Veterans class from Australian Record time, be adopted as On trial effective from 1st April 2010. CARRIED.

Protocol for considering submissions re new race formats- Committee noted the proposed process for considering any new format proposals.

After discussion it was Moved and Seconded that the following process be adopted:

1. Proposals for AFA consideration of any new race format must be submitted by a proponent being an AFA Member to the AFA Secretary in reasonable detail, including an outline of the rules suggested as being appropriate to the format. Submission should be made before any proposal is submitted to have a Sanctioned event using the format in order to allow the AFA time to fully consider the format.
2. Upon receipt of such a proposal the submission will be circulated to the AFA Committee and be referred to the AFA Sub Committee on Rules for review and input. The Sub Committee will, within 30 days of receipt of the referral, submit a report to the AFA Committee outlining its considerations and recommendation. The report will identify any issues of clarification required and any matters of concern identified. The Sub Committee may seek clarification, if seen as required, from the proponent as part of its review process. This Sub Committee Report will be distributed to the Committee and a copy sent to the proponent. The proponent will have 30 days to submit their comments on any concerns to the AFA Secretary.
3. The Committee will take into account both the report of the Rules Sub Committee and the response of the proponent and come to a decision on whether to approve the format and the associated rules at its next scheduled Meeting as "Rules on Trial". Alternatively, the Committee may choose to amend its instructions and refer the matter back to the Rules Sub Committee for further consideration and development.
4. Proponents should note that, based on this protocol, the minimum time for a new format to be approved is likely to be three months, and could well exceed this if there are difficult issues to deal with.

ITEM - AFA MATTING Protocol

Item Deferred till after experience of Mutts on Mats Competition

ITEM – Nationals – Clarification questions from Berwick.

Email from Berwick seeking clarification re sponsorship and issues of Judges, Officials and Divisional split. Agreed Secretary to clarify via reply to Berwick.

ITEM – Request to clarify AFA position re smoking in or adjacent to Ring.

Committee agreed that in addition to no eating or drinking in the ring the AFA should add no smoking as a requirement. These requirements to be added to the Web document explaining Competition Etiquette.

General Business

- Josh requested clarification as to what should be done when a member witnessed what they considered to be suspected aggression by a dog. He was concerned that in some cases people seemed not to view small dogs crossing and snapping as being aggression whereas a bigger dog would be carded for the same behavior. Clarification – any Member witnessing what they considered to be suspected aggression in the ring should report the matter to the officiating Judge in control of the ring. If the suspected aggression was outside of the Ring the matter should be reported to the AFA representative for consideration. The member should also complete a Witness Statement.
- Concern was expressed that it had now been quite some time since the last Flying Times. In an effort to assist Patrick White kindly offered to compile the next Flying Times. President thanked Patrick and agreed to contact Ilona to get her to send Patrick any material she held.
- Kylie asked for a volunteer to be AFA Rep at Canberra Royal – Lyn offered to be the Rep.
- Question asked about the running surface for Canberra. Kylie indicated that it was now planned to move the flyball rings to a grassed area behind the Dog Judging arena as the normal location was not in a good condition. She advised the proposed surface was in good condition and would now be watered leading up to the Show.
- Jenny asked about availability of 000 Start Badges. Pat indicated she was waiting on Liz to complete the design and would then order the badges. Expected to be soon. Committee agreed badges would be retrospectively awarded for 000 start subsequent to 1st January 2010, provided records showing dogs with 000's were available.
There being no further business Meeting closed at 10 pm.

Signed as a true record.
President