

Draft Minutes – Subject to final approval at June 2011 Meeting

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd May 2011.

Present: Jenny Millar, Ian Kendt, Brian Lindsay, Richard Mellon, Penny Lloyd, Julie Pamplin, Sue Norton, Wayne Stroop, Catherine Saberton, Lyn Clyde, Maureen Williamson Leoney Pritchard , and Kylie White.

Apologies – Jo Parkes, Ian Gauntlett, Pat Byrne and Josh Ellen
Meeting Opened at 7. 45 pm

ITEM - Starred Items .

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of 4th April 2011 meeting.
 - 2) Renewals of Membership
 - 3) Treasurers Report. End April Bank Balance \$4071.84
 - 4) Correspondence Out.
 - 5) Stewards Passes - Mackenzie Phillips CRN 1050 ;Liz Hollingshead CRN 520; and Daryl Crich CRN 2243;
Timekeepers Passes – Nil
Judges Exam Passes — Martin Watt to advance to Judging in Ring under a Supervising judge.(Approved by email)
- CARRIED.

ITEM – Check of Action Sheet for Outstanding Matters . Following Items outstanding:

Develop Jump Specification Standard (Richard).

ITEM – New Members .

Following new members approved : Bev Thompson; Sharon Glover; Thaess White; Lesley Allsopp; Sheila Reynolds; Joshua Houghton; Lee-Anne Riddell; Amanda Brown; Nicole Collis and Tull Luttrell.

ITEM – Correspondence In

- 1) Letter from ANKC seeking to continue to informally extend terms of the original lapsed AFA/ANKC Agreement till October 2011. Following discussion the Committee agreed to advise ANKC that the terms of original Agreement would be informally extended to end

2011 but at that stage if the replacement Agreement could not be agreed and adopted by ANKC then AFA would not agree to further informal extensions.

2) Submission from member suggesting naming of Trophy. The Committee noted the suggestion that the Champion Trophy for Sydney Royal be named "The Presidents Trophy"- Carried.

3) The Committee noted the receipt of a Witness Statement complaint from a member dealing with an incident at the Nationals involving the member, the Competition AFA Representative and the Competition Supervising Judge.

The Committee noted the Statement from the member complained about what he stated as being "bullying and aggressive behavior by the Supervising Judge" when he spoke to the member regarding his sprucing at the Nationals.

The Committee also noted a Witness Statements from the AFA Representative regarding this incident; a Witness Statement from the second sprucker at the event and a submission from the Supervising Judge.

The Statement from the AFA Representative indicated that she had asked the Supervising Judge to assist her in approaching the two spruckers to deal with complaints from several members regarding the volume of the spruckers, the use of inappropriate language in referring to team names and the fact that one of the spruckers had started to enter the competition ring between heats and was potentially interfering with racing. The AFA Representatives Statement indicated that she and the Supervisory Judge jointly approached both spruckers at the same time and requested that they tone down comments and refrain from entering the ring. She indicated that in response the member who later lodged the complaint reacted with anger, tore of his microphone set and handed it to her abruptly, with the comment that "he was sick of this shit and would no longer assist in sprucing at the event". The AFA Reps Statement indicated that in the complaint the member also indicated that the AFA Rep had informed him of certain sprucing requirements at the event – he stated that he had not been advised of any such requirements at pre event briefings. The Committee noted however that the event organizers had actually supplied both spruckers with written briefing regarding sprucing requirements, which included the requirement of not using any offensive references.

The Committee noted that the Witness Statement from the second sprucker included the observation that the two spruckers had been jointly approached and been spoken to together and that at no time did he feel that the Supervising Judge had spoke in a derogatory or demeaning way to either party. He observed that he had been happy to indicate that he would comply with the request to tone down the commentary.

After taking all Statements into account the Committee concluded that the members complaint was groundless and that the AFA Representative and Supervising Judge had both acted properly in dealing with a matter raised by other members at the event The Committee further concluded that there was absolutely no evidence to support the member statement that he had been subjected to bullying and aggressive behavior and accordingly dismissed the complaint. Secretary to so inform member.

4) The Committee noted the receipt of a Witness Statement from a member lodging a complaint against another member for aggressive behavior and the use of offensive language when entering the Ring on Sunday 24th April at Nationals.

The Committee also noted the Witness Statement from the AFA Representative who had been approached by the member making the complaint after the incident.

The AFA Representative indicated that she had spoken to the member who admitted swearing in front of a woman and her children when trying to enter the ring as they were standing close to the ring entry and he had difficulty getting his dog safely past. He apologized to the AFA Rep for his inappropriate behavior. The AFA Representative informed the member making the complaint of these facts and indicated that she felt the member would come and personally apologise for his use of inappropriate language. At the end of the day the member had not received a direct apology and proceeded to lodge the Witness Statement.

The Committee accepted that the complaint was substantiated in that the member admitted using offensive language in front of the other member and her children. The Committee also noted that whilst the incident was one between members it was made more serious given that the member who used the offensive language held an official position within the AFA and should have been well aware of the AFA Code of conduct.

After discussion the Committee determined that the following action should be taken:

The Member should be reprimanded for the use of offensive and inappropriate language, be asked to directly apologise in writing to the other member (via the AFA Secretary) and be reminded that given that they held an official position within the AFA their behaviour should accordingly be of a higher standard. CARRIED. Secretary to send member extract of agreed Minutes of this Item.

ITEM – Sanctioned Events .

Comp – 6th August 2011 – Muddies – Dolphin Point Burrill Lake

Comp – 9th October 2011 – Hastings – Pets Day Out – Ballam Park Frankston.

Comp – 8th October 2011 – Jimboomba Dog Club – DogOctober Fest – Tully Park, Beryl Pde, Nth Maclean Qld.

Comp – 5 Nov 2011 – Muddies – Dolphin Point Burrill Lake

Comp – 9th and 10th June 2012 – Belconnen – Winter Classic ACT State Titles – BDOC Grounds Flemington Rd Mitchell ACT.

The Committee also noted the request to make the two indoor Competitions scheduled for 11th and 12th June “Restricted Events with a maximum of 24 Teams” CARRIED.

ITEM – Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

No Matters to report.

ITEM – Report from Rules Sub Committee.

No Meeting of Sub Committee in April and nil to report.

ITEM - Farmtek Timing System Update.

Leoney advised the Committee that at the Nationals we had successfully operated multiple light sets of the same without interference. In discussions with the US Judge he had advised that in the US they found that interference was minimal if the Rings were kept at least 20 feet apart. Based on this information the Committee agreed that we should now order a further Set of Lights that would be based in Victoria given the likelihood of two ring competitions occurring in that state. Moved that Leoney again proceed to order the Timing System Light set from Farmtek. CARRIED.

ITEM – Report re 2011 National Championships.

Richard reported on what was a successful Nationals. The main Nationals competition took place over Friday and Saturday with 34 teams involved in 269 races. Whilst the weather was threatening at times the full program was achieved. Easter Sunday saw veterans and Singles/Pairs racing and a full day of activity with large crowds. Richard noted that whilst there had been a small number of complaints that the race schedule involving mainly 8 races a day was too demanding all teams had coped. The Format had been necessary in order to ensure two full days of racing which was a requirement of our Sponsors Purina and the RAS. The Committee congratulated the SFA on what was a successful Nationals.

ITEM – Report regarding issue of standardisation of measuring Wickets .

Ian Kendt reported that he had brought the Victorian wicket and board to Nationals so it could be inspected. The Inspection demonstrated that the baseboard assisted in obtaining an accurate measure irrespective of the ground surface. The proposed cover for the board was also seen as acceptable provided it was glued underneath the board. After discussion it was agreed that Ian should be requested to make bases for all wickets. Richard also suggested that the AFA should produce a specification drawing of the wicket and board. The Committee also noted that the Victorian wicket had been adjusted so that the measure arm was exactly 5 inches wide and that this assisted correct measure and asked that Richard discuss with Phil Lea the same adjustment for all wickets. CARRIED.

ITEM - Standard Jump Design specification

The Committee noted the substantial input received from Rodney Gooch regarding material and their flex characteristics, demonstrated by photos. Based on this evidence the

Committee agreed to require all jumps to be used at any AFA Sanctioned event (Competitions, Demonstrations and Training Days) to have 4 inch, 3 inch, 2 inch and 1 inch spacer boards made of PVC foam board material . To allow Clubs time to comply with this requirement it will operate for any event to be held on or after 1st January 2012. Jump wings and baseboards should be made of ply (use if PVC foam boards is not recommended as the Jumps then are very lightweight and are likely to move in wind gusts) of a thickness no greater than 12 mm (nominal ½ inch). All baseboards to be 6 inches in height (rather than 7 inches) to allow use of a 1 inch spacer as the top board. The Committee also discussed the matter of the length of the 1inch spacers. The shortened spacers that had been trailed had been easily dislodged. The full-length spacers were however still seen as a potential hazard when they bowed and stuck in the jump wings. The Committee requested that Richard discuss with Les extending the 1 inch spacer length to at least 700 mm and that the new compromise length be tested for adoption. Clubs to be notified now of these decisions so that early warning was given re the implementation. CARRIED.

ITEM - Report re flood appeal equipment for Queensland Clubs.

Secretary reported that the equipment was now all ready for dispatch to Queensland. Pine Rivers was to receive two Lea Plastic/ aluminum boxes with a value of \$2700. Flyball Fanatics would receive 2 racing tapes; a set of backboards; 2 sets of Jumps and 2 Lea timber boxes. They had already received a Cabana. Total value \$2750. This listing included both the Norwest appeal funded equipment and the AFA funded equipment. The AFA still held \$591.12 from the appeal – and the costs of transport needed to be funded from these funds.

The Committee noted the above position and extended thanks to all Clubs and members who had supported the appeal. Moved that any funds remaining after meeting transport costs be donated to the Queensland RSPCA. CARRIED.

ITEM – Incident Form Redesign

Sue advised that the Sub Committee had developed two Forms – a simple Summary Incident Record and a redesigned and simplified Incident report Form (C-11), which could be used for more serious incidents where a narrative was desirable. . The forms had been trialed at recent Queensland competition and worked fine. The summary incident report was seen as an optional form to be used for Judges to record minor incidents that then could be uploaded to the database without need for an Incident report Form to be completed. Leoney suggested the Summary Form be designated as C-11A. Agreed that Forms and explanation re use should be sent to all judges and Forms uploaded to Web. CARRIED.

ITEM - 2013 Nationals

The Secretary reported that no bids had been received for the 2013 Nationals. Committee was advised that several Clubs in Victoria were considering submitting a joint bid. In view of this information agreed to defer submission date to end June 2011. CARRIED.

ITEM – Reimbursement of required Inter State travel costs of trainee Judges .

The Secretary submitted a proposal that where a trainee judge was REQUIRED to travel inter state to meet Judging training requirements then the AFA should meet 50 % of travel costs up to a maximum of \$200 per trip. In accordance with normal AFA processes claims for reimbursement to be submitted on the AFA Expense reimbursement form and supported by receipts. Following discussion motion CARRIED. Supervisory Judge to be informed so that Trainee Judges (current and future) can be advised of decision.

ITEM – Review of sandbagging Rules and procedures .

The Committee noted the suggestion that existing sandbagging rules might benefit from a review – particularly with respect to Judges having discretion to simply warn teams of any concerns regarding racing where breakouts had already occurred. Matter referred to Rules Sub Committee for consideration.

ITEM – Review of Rules re Ties .

The Committee noted the suggestion that with the accuracy of the Signature lights consideration should be given to amending the Rules re Ties to be based solely on times displayed and not the .003 second band. Matter to be referred to Rules Sub Committee.

ITEM – Common Procedure for Captains Signing Time Sheets .

Committee noted that in some competitions Team Captains were asked to review and sign Time Sheets before points were inserted for race wins/ties, whereas in other cases the race points were shown on the sheets before the Captains were being asked to sign. After discussion the Committee agreed that a common approach should apply and that race points should be shown on Timesheets before Team Captains were asked to check and sign – the race points then were subject to review as part of Captains check.

ITEM – Seed Time Changes after Competition close date.

The Committee noted that there seemed to be a growing tendency for teams to request changes in seed times after entry close date. At Nationals this had occurred and the NAFA member who checked Division splits expressed surprise that the AFA allowed teams to amend seedtime after close of entries. This was not allowed in US. The Committee noted that if the Competition organizer had not yet started the draw process then it was a simple adjustment. If the division splits had been approved and the draw started it did involve the Organisers in extra work. After discussion it was agreed that clubs and members should be informed that the acceptance of any amended seed time after the Competition close date was a matter at the total discretion of the Competition Organiser who had to take into account factors such as size of competition and status of draw paperwork.

ITEM – Other Business.

- 1) Maureen raised a concern that there club had recently had attention drawn to statement that normal tennis balls were not suitable to be used as dog toys as they contained carcinogenic poisons in the dyes use. It was pointed out that this information had been up on Internet together with a whole list of concerns, including dogs ingesting whole balls and chocking. It was assumed that any risk of exposure was very minor unless dogs were allowed to consistently chew and ingest part of the ball.
- 2) Kylie asked about possibility of AFA advancing Judges travel funds for 2012 Nationals before Purina sponsorship payment received. Agreed that this had already been approved for Dandanong nationals and was acceptable.
- 3) Leoney enquired as to whether Veterans seed times were to be placed on Web – answer - no in via of likely differences in teams and infrequency of competitions.

Next meeting set for Monday 6th June at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business Meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Signed as a true record.

President.