

**THE AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 15th August 2015**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What can we look back on for the year 2014/2015?

Vital statistics for the Association:

Financial members at the end of the 2014/15 year was 533.

Total membership including Associate members was 746.

Active & new dogs was 774

We have 44 affiliated clubs, an increase of 2 over the year.

55 competitions were sanctioned, an increase over the year, but cancellations brought the number of completed comps to the same as last year

Stewards: 105 (-4)

Timekeepers: 42 (+15)

Judges: 25 (+1)

Events:

A successful National Championships was held in Canberra at the EPIC grounds in February, thanks to joint hosts 4PR and Belconnen.

Sydney Psychos held a competition live streamed on the Web. This is still relatively rare, but will hopefully become more frequent as we get more familiar with the technology.

Continued upgrades to the AFA Website, thanks to Pat Byrne, Julie Pamplin, Jason McFarlane and their team of helpers, include:

- Adding online application for dog Title Certificates and to add an Associate Member
- Automated seed time update and results is now in testing
- Preparing a new Flyball flier tailored for each State, for download and print as needed

Major review and change to the Judge's accreditation system (still being tidied up and needs final approval by Committee), including the proposed introduction of a new class of Judge, the Judge Mentor, to assist the Supervisory Judge in the training of Judges and in the further standardization of judging. Thanks to Sally Lea for providing her considerable expertise and experience to an AFA

Subcommittee in reviewing the current system, analyzing its strengths and weaknesses, proposing a new structure and developing a highly professional training course.

We were able to purchase two new sets of the Signature lights, which has given us a cushion against failures as the existing light sets age, and has secured availability for competition for some years on present trends. These are the last of the current design that we will be able to obtain because Farmtek, the manufacturers, have ceased production of a critical component.

Membership Survey: in October/November 2014, the AFA carried out its first Member survey, the report of which was placed on the AFA web site in December. Particular thanks to Tim Slade for setting it up and to Committee members for contributing to the preparation of the questions and analysis of the results. Members commented on promotion and growth of the sport, Competitions, Rules of Racing, Judging and lack of recognition of titles by ANKC. While we were not able to achieve as much during the year as we would have liked, I would like to think that next year's Committee will continue with this work.

2 proposed Rule changes have been voted on via Postal ballot for full adoption:

- Round Robin Handicap Format, in which an amendment was proposed to provide greater flexibility in the division of teams into divisions for handicap racing.
- Branch Structured clubs. This was the major controversy of the year that consumed a lot of time and energy. It was brought to the Committee's attention by written submissions from a significant number of Members, and was controversial largely because of the belief that it bypasses the "90-day rule". The Committee decided to bring forward membership voting on the change from the usual 12 months in order to minimize the impact on affected clubs if the rule was rejected. We considered this timeframe to be acceptable for two reasons: firstly, because the issue has been public and widely debated since it was reported in the minutes of the November 2014 Committee meeting, eight months before voting closed, and secondly because the level of discussion and involvement, including an extensive Q&A publication on the AFA website, has been high. The Committee did not believe that an additional 12 months would add anything significant to the debate.

Results of the voting will be disclosed shortly.

The next Nationals will be held in Sydney in September 2016 at the Hawkesbury Showgrounds.

Flyball needs officials for competitions and while it is pleasing to see members undertaking judge and steward training, I would encourage more members to

take the tests in order to increase our supply of Judges and to improve the standard of stewarding.

I would like to thank the Committee for their contributions throughout the year. Every member of the Committee has (some) life outside Flyball and yet has volunteered their time to help run the sport. Every Committee member has also taken on an additional role, in some cases several additional roles, and has given up many hours of their time to Committee activities. The 2014/15 Committee are:

Jenny Millar	Vice President and member Dog Incident subcommittee
Brian Lindsay	Secretary AFA and Sec. Dog Incident subcommittee
Pat Byrne	Treasurer and Web Team
Carolyn Shrives	Committee, ACT Regional Rep, Public Officer and member Rules Subcommittee
Ian Gauntlett	Committee and Chair Rules Subcommittee
Catherine Stroop	Committee, SA Regional Rep and Chair Dog Incident Subcommittee
Tim Slade	Committee, WA and NT Regional Coordinator and Sec. Rules subcommittee
Robyn Ferguson (Addie)	Committee, NSW Regional Rep and member Dog Incident subcommittee
Jennifer Crane	Committee, Queensland Regional Rep, member Web Team and member Rules Sub-committee
Josh Ellen	Committee and Victorian Regional Rep
Julie Pamplin	Committee, database and seed times coordinator
Anne Coleman	Committee and Titles and Awards
Ian Kendt	Committee and member Rules Sub-committee
Penny Lloyd	Committee and member Dog Incident Sub-committee
Phil Lea	Committee and member Rules Sub-committee

Significant achievements by the stars of the sport:

Dogs achieving Flyball Master Champion 1000 points: 25

Dogs achieving Onyx 1400 points: 15

Dogs achieving Flyball Dog Grand Champion 2000 points: 14

Dogs achieving Jeddah 3000 points: 4

- Jazzmyn 689B, Ray Ellen
- BC 660B, Christa Mellon.
- Missy 757A, Jenni Redmond
- Flight 823B, Michael Perry

Dog achieving Ezri 4000 points: 1

- Moby 554B, Suzette McFarlane