

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 7th June 2021.

(Minutes subject to final approval at 5th July 2021 Meeting)

Present: Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Josh Ellen, Michael Ashton, Sam Brown, Ben Royes, Sally Elsom, Belinda O'Shea, Jennifer Crane, Pat Byrne, Drew Harrison, Carmel Nottle, David Strong (Part Meeting), Konrad Moskal, Jenny Millar and Frank Lux.

Apologies: Steve Pitt

Meeting Opened at 7.35 pm via Go to Meetings Conference. Richard advised that David Strong was having internet problems and would have to leave meeting early, he asked if we could take Rules Sub Committee early in Meeting – agreed.

ITEM 1. Starred Items.

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of the May Meeting.
- 2) New Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End May Bank Balance \$ 12273.95 plus invested funds of \$74143.71.

ITEM 2. Matters Arising

Action Sheet reviewed.

ITEM 3. Correspondence.

- a). Correspondence Out*
 - Completed Grant Support application for Scallywags.

- b). Correspondence In – dealt with as General Business
 - Email from Belinda re Conflict of interest – Judge and AFA Rep
 - Email from Drew re Premiership questions.
 - Email from Belconnen requesting extended close dates for National entries. Request withdrawn.
 - Email from Scallywags seeking AFA assistance re Equipment grant application.
 - Unsigned letter – stated to be from Qld Flyballer – Expressing concern re any decision not to hold indoor comps because of problems getting help to lay matts and indicating willingness to help?

ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved

Comp –Orange Krush – 4/07/21 – The Hotdog Classic – Elimbah Sportsground Elimbah Qld – (Open, Champions Trophy, training in ring).

Comp – Para Districts – 4/09/21 – Royal Adelaide Show Flyball – Dairy Cattle Lawn Adelaide Showgrounds (Open, Training in Ring).
Training Day – Wollongong – 06/06/21 – Dandaloo Sports Field
Kannahooka Rd Kannahooka.

ITEM 5 – Admin Matter

i) New Members –

Liam Sturrock, Yvette Ambrosi, Amy Kinsmore, Josephine Drummond, Elizabeth Specht, Mathew Daprossi, Peter Smith, Katerina Passalis, Jane Arthur

ii) Exam Passes –

Stewards Exams:

Christine Gibbs CRN3021

Makenzie Mills CRN3129

Amanda Pennicuik CRN 844

Level 1 Judge:

Chris Bates CRN2475 passed level 1 judge's exam and meets all the criteria to become a level 1 judge.

Timekeeper:

Ula Lane CRN1134 passing her Timekeepers exam and assignments to become a timekeeper.

iii) Printing of Certificates.

Pat advised that she had now successfully trialed the printing of certificates using the new single multi format and good quality parchment paper. She has also successfully sent Certificates to Anne Coleman who has been able to print. We can now start to use the new formats.

iv) Dog Honour Board update.

Pat advised that the Ezri Honour Board was finished and up on AFA Web. Once Membership renewals were completed she would start to look at a Jeddah Honour Board.

v) Review of Trophies.

Pat advised she had arranged to get quotes for Trophy plaques.

vi) Dual Venue Comp.

Given the situation in Victoria with covid restrictions no progress made re organizing a trial comp. Matter carried over.

vii) QR Code check instructions.

Frank reported on the updated circulated document explaining the new QR code system for equipment inventory control. Committee agreed to adopt the revised Document. Frank to send to Pat for upload to web.

viii) Donations discussion Paper.

Brian reported on thinking behind the idea of establishing an AFA Policy dealing with philanthropic donations by AFA. The AFA had recently been

asked to consider waiving Lights levies so that the normal levy fee could then be included in a donation to a clubs sponsored charity. If approved this would have established a difficult precedent re any future similar requests. The idea of establishing a Policy and Process for AFA to consider supporting relevant charities within a defined annual budget was one way of avoiding the precedent situation. It was recognized that any such Policy would need to clearly set down how bids could be made by Clubs, the timeline for bids and issues such as maximum size of donations. Whilst it was recognized that many organisations now had Policies to support relevant charities the question was asked – should the AFA support charities using member funds. After discussion it was agreed that any such decision should be put to the members at next AGM. A sub-committee was formed to further develop the concept for consideration at AGM – members of sub- committee Frank, Brian and Jenni.

ix) Judge Mentor Expressions of interest.

The Secretary indicated that as at end of May – the close date the AFA had received 6 expressions of interest from Level 1 Judges to become Judge Mentors (1 in Victoria, 2 in NSW and 3 in Queensland. The Supervisory Judge had indicated that all applicants were assessed as suitable, experienced Level 1 Judges and had indicated that in his opinion one Supervisory Judge in each of the main Regions (Qld, NSW, Act and Vic) would be adequate to ensure the mentor role was available. The Committee discussed the issue of basis of selection. Question was asked – was there a need to restrict numbers or could the Supervisory Judge allocate mentor responsibilities? It was agreed that the Secretary would now ask each of the applicants to address the criteria for a Judge Mentor position in more detail (one applicant had already done this) so that a selection process could be followed.

x) Old Wicket Measuring system.

The Committee discussed whether there was a need to continue to have the old withers measure system and equipment in place – it was originally retained in case there was a challenge to a withers height card which would require a remeasure. View was expressed that the Ulna system had now been fully implemented and we should terminate the old withers measure challenge option. Proposed that members be advised that challenges to the old wither height card measure would no longer be accepted post the 2021 AGM date of 16th October. That would allow the withers measures to be disposed of. AGREED.

xi) New Landing Page – process for updates and search of web via page.

It was pointed out that the Sitemap feature did not work on the new landing page – the view was expressed that this meant it was difficult to find material if you did not know where it was located on a drop-down menu. It was pointed out that the sitemap feature still worked on the web pages below the Landing Page. A concern was also expressed that material prepared for publication on landing page had not appeared more

than 3 weeks after submission. Editor explained that the article was seen as being more appropriate to issue as a Notification to members rather than an article on landing page. Suggestion made that where that is the case the web team be so advised so it could be issued as a Notification. Suggestion made that over time the pages of the AFA web site be reviewed with a view to updating and making the site easier to navigate. Ben undertook to take on the task.

Item 6 General Business

i) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

Nil to report

ii) Report of Rules Sub Committee.

A summary report was submitted showing the status of the Rules update process and what remained to be review. The Committee noted the project was still on- line to allow the updated Rules document in totality to go to this year's AGM. It was suggested that a special meeting of the Committee would be advisable once remaining sections were available for review.

iii) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.

Nil to report.

ITEM 7 New Business.

i) - **Email from Belinda re any Conflict of interest if a Judge and AFA Representative were related.** Committee confirmed that this would not be a conflict of interest situation as roles and duties of the two positions were different and unlikely to produce any conflict situations.

ii) - **Email from Drew re process to be followed in conduction a Premiership race off.** After discussion it was agreed to refer the questions to the Development Sub Committee for clarification and confirmation of Rules given that any run off would be the first of its kind.

iii) - **Email from Belconnen requesting extended close dates for National entries.** Request now withdrawn – notified close dates would stand.

iv) - **Email from Scallywags seeking AFA assistance re Equipment grant application.** AFA provided requested assistance in completing grant application.

v) - **Unsigned letter – stated to be from Qld Flyballer – Expressing concern re apparent decision not to hold indoor comps at RSPCA because of problems getting help to lay matts.** Committee advised that there was no decision not to hold indoor comps – the RSPCA facility allowed both indoor and outdoor racing and indoor comps were scheduled for later this year. The upcoming fundraising comp for RSPCA was scheduled outdoors in order to increase the profit to be

donated to RSPCA. It was pointed out that all Queensland clubs had access to the RSPCA indoor arena – not just Awesome Pawsome. (Reservation of venue dates can be arranged by contact with Awesome Pawsome who act as booking managers for flyball use of arena).

- vi) **Email from Ben Royes seeking clarification regarding Rules for conduct of Novelty events (like Singles, pairs and 000) especially when linked to a race meeting.** The clarifications involved issues as to how novelty events were to be conducted and what, if any, Rules of racing applied. It was recognised that Novelty events had been conducted as part of Sanctioned competitions (examples at Nationals and at Sydney Royal) and that in at least one occasion a black card for aggression had been issued after a Novelty event. It was decided that rather than the Committee attempting to document appropriate guidance and rules the matter be referred to Rules Sub Committee for consideration.
- vii) **Update re Nationals** – Michael reported that close of entry date will remain as originally approved. Approval sought to add Gordon Chambers as Judge – approved; Champions Trophy event shown on web is a mistake – needs to be withdrawn.
- viii) **Victorian competitions** – competition scheduled for 19th June may not be able to go ahead – if cancelled approval will be sought to schedule a replacement comp for July 17th.
- ix) **New Members** – suggestion to add Club name to new members list – Pat to investigate how to add Club.

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 5th July 2021**. There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.43 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.