

**THE AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

While Covid has not left us and possibly never will, the community has become sufficiently accustomed to it so that mass lockdowns are (at least temporarily) a thing of the past. This has allowed a gradual return to something like normal competition in the most affected states and territories as well as the timing for this AGM.

2021/22 saw the impact not only of Covid but also of extreme weather events particularly in the Eastern states.

The Covid effect has become less heavy compared to the previous two years as communities and government have learned to live with the disease. However, it did force the postponement of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Flyball Nationals from October 2021 to March 2022 as well as the 2021 AGM from its normal August timeslot to December.

As well as Covid there were significant rainfall events in the Eastern states including major flooding which led to many cancellations of training and race meetings, and caused the clubhouse of the Pine Rivers club to be submerged with loss of or damage to significant amounts of equipment.

It is notable that 35 race days out of a total 61 sanctioned race days were cancelled over the 12 months from July 2021 to June 2022, however, there isn't enough information to report on the reasons for the high rate.

Returning to the subject of National Championships, congratulations to the Belconnen Dog Obedience Club for a successful event in March, and best wishes to Norwest Flyball Club for a successful event in October.

As at time of preparing this report, no bid has been received for the 2023 Nationals. The closing date has been extended to the end of August, which is not long after this AGM. Clubs are encouraged to consider putting on this prestigious annual event.

**Highlights:**

Enhancements were made during the year to the Team Entries system to further improve security and restrict access to team seed times prior to the close of entries for a race meet. The new system blocks seed time information from the

confirmation email sent to the Entry Receiver. It also ensures web team members can only process data for race meets held outside of the state they reside in. These changes also remove the need for an independent entry receiver for National Championships.

Refinements were made to the Premiership system including clarification of the rules for Finals series racing and approval granted to purchase rosettes, medals and perpetual trophies for Premiers. Changes to the Premiership Season were also made but are the subject of a Member Motion to be dealt with later in this AGM.

Our Judges have been given new jackets to protect them when they are required to officiate in inclement weather while still identifying them as AFA Judges.

Ongoing reviews and improvements to Flyball documents and processes include review of existing policies, protocols and guidelines to bring them into line with the updated Rules book, again, thanks to Paul Newman for another big effort. The Nationals Guideline and Nationals Policy have been reviewed, updated and consolidated into a single Policy. A number of documents covering the Signature Lights have been updated and consolidated into a single AFA Light Sets Manual which is planned to be released shortly.

The AFA – ANKC agreement was renewed in February 2022 for a further 5-year term.

The practical experience component of accredited Timekeeper certification was reviewed and adapted to make it more achievable in areas where race meetings typically did not have the required number of races to make up a full assignment under the original requirements.

The Association’s financial position improved over the 2021/22 year. Income was higher than the previous year and expenses were lower, resulting in an improvement in net earnings of approximately \$4,500, while the total of the Association’s Bank Account and Fixed Deposit increased by nearly \$13,000 over the year.

The Association is essentially the same size as it was last year in terms of Financial Members, Associate Members and racing dogs. While this may be a reasonable result given the impact of Covid over the last two years, it is not a reason to be complacent.

### **Appreciation**

Members of the 2021/22 National Committee were:

Richard Mellon	President, member Rules Subcommittee
Jenny Millar	Vice President, member Dog Incident Subcommittee

Brian Lindsay	Secretary
Patricia Byrne	Treasurer, member Web Team
Ben Royes	Chair Development Subcommittee, Deputy News Editor
Drew Harrison	Member Development Subcommittee, member Dog Incident Subcommittee
Jennifer Crane	Member Web Team
Paul Newman	Member Rules subcommittee
Sam Brown	Member Dog Incident Subcommittee
Tracey Rose	Member Development Subcommittee
Michael Ashton	ACT Representative, Public Officer, member Development Subcommittee
Frank Lux	NSW Representative, member Rules Subcommittee, Equipment Co-ordinator
Kathryn Royes	Queensland Representative, member Dog Incidents Subcommittee
Carmel Nottle	South Australian Representative
David Strong	Tasmanian Representative, Chair Rules Subcommittee
Josh Ellen	Victorian Representative, member Rules Subcommittee
Belinda Fry	Chair Dog Incident Subcommittee, member Web Team

We also have a number of non-Committee members who supported the Association in other ways:

Anne Coleman	Titles and Awards
Julie Pamplin	Points and Seed times
Jodie O'Brien	Chief News Editor
Shireen Pitt	Premiership Administrator
Robyn Addie	Supervisory Judge, member Rules Subcommittee

On behalf of the Association, I thank all Committee members and non-Committee office bearers for their contribution and commitment over the year. The Association would grind to a halt without people being prepared to volunteer their time and skill.

## Achievements

Congratulations to all of our dogs and their handlers who have achieved new titles over the year, a real achievement given the restricted racing. Based on points recorded in the AFA Database as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, here are the numbers of competitors that have achieved major title milestones over the year:

Flyball Master Champion 1000 points: 11 new recipients

Flyball Master Champion Onyx 1300 points: 7 new recipients

Flyball Dog Grand Champion 2000 points: 7 new recipients

Flyball Dog Grand Champion Jeddah 3000 points: One recipient, 1359B Kylo, owned by Edna Pearce. Congratulations Kylo and Edna on achieving a major milestone!

There was no recipient of the Flyball Dog Grand Champion Ezri 4000 points award in 2021/22.

In closing, I would like to wish all the best to Flyball Members, Officials and the new Committee for the year ahead, and let's hope racing conditions continue to improve.

Richard Mellon,

President Australian Flyball Association 2021/22.