

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at May 2020 Meeting.
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting
held on 6th April 2020.**

Present: Richard Mellon, Jenny Millar, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Frank Lux, Pat Byrne, Josh Ellen, Peter Samuels, Phil Lea, Martin Watt, Konrad Moskal, Sam Brown, Michael Ashton, Shireen Pitt, Steve Pitt and David Strong.

Apologies: Sally Elsom.

Meeting Opened at 7.30 pm via Go to Meetings Conference.

ITEM 1. Starred Items.

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of the March Meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End March Bank Balance
\$ 14801.97 plus invested funds of \$84142.71.

ITEM 2. Matters Arising

The Chair asked for the Committee to review the outstanding issues list at end March. Noted all matters being actioned – Pat to finalise volunteer Associate Membership Form, Frank to finalise web documents update re Judges, Timekeepers and Stewards.

ITEM 3. Correspondences In.

Email from member re problems with stewards and timekeepers. Taken as New Business later in Agenda.

ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events

All Events suspended until further notice.

ITEM 5 – Admin Matters.

i) New Members

Angharad Lodwick

Janina Much
Monique Vandenberg

ii) Exam Passes

Stewards Exam Passes – Christine Gibbs CRN 3021; Christa Mellon CRN 1660.

Judges Exam – Ben Royes pass Provisional written exam and can start his Practical.

- i) **Expressions of Interest – 2021 Nationals** – the Committee noted that one bid had been submitted by Belconnen Club to host the 2021 National Championships at their Club Grounds over the period 3rd, 4th and 5th October 2021. The Bid included planned access to Epic indoor areas if necessary. The Committee agreed that the bid covered all required aspects of the championship. The question was raised as to what would happen in the event that the 2020 Nationals could not proceed in November and had to be deferred till 2021. It was agreed that if deferred into 2021 it should still be referred to as the 2020 Nationals. Josh undertook to consult organisers and see if it would be possible to defer to a date early in 2021 – say before end April so there would still be a minimum 6- month period before an October Championship for 2021. Josh to report back at May Meeting. The Committee provisionally approved the Belconnen 2021 bid subject to confirmation of deferral plan for 2020 Nationals at May Meeting.
- ii) **Corona Virus update.** Any further advice to members needed? Not at this stage except for the 3 Administrative Agenda Items below.
- iii) **Membership – possible free extension of 2019/20 membership fees recognizing corona virus impact on AFA activities.** The Committee discussed whether existing members should be granted an extension of their 2019/20 membership, recognizing that all AFA Sanctioned activities ceased in early March 2020 and were unlikely to resume before September – a six -

month period. It was pointed out that granting a 12 month free extension would involve the AFA in forgoing approx..\$18,000 in income. After discussion it was AGREED that all existing members of the AFA would be granted a free 12-month extension of their membership – covering Members, Associates and existing Registered Dogs. Members would be advised that they should still complete the normal renewal application for 2020/21 membership but that no fee would be applied. Normal fees would continue to apply for new membership applications and new (additional) dogs.

- iv) **Club of the year and Novice Club 2020** – the Committee noted that a significant part of the scoring for these awards was linked to Sanctioned activities that had been suspended. The question arose as to whether the 2019/2020 Awards (normally determined at end June 2020) should be deferred and combined with the 2021 Awards – after discussion the Committee agreed to defer the 2019/20 Awards and combine with 2020/21. The new On - Trail Rules regarding points for these awards would accordingly continue until the 2020/21 Awards were determined and the changes put to an AGM.
- v) **Planning for possible options for 2020 AGM.**
The Committee noted that under the AFA Constitution the AFAs AGM should be held within two months of the end of the financial year i.e. be held in August and that planning for the AGM would normally commence in May. – at this stage it appeared unlikely that this timeline would be possible. It was noted that the Associations Incorporation legislation requires Associations to lodge their Annual Returns within 6 months of year end i.e. by end December 2020. At this stage it was determined to defer the 2020 AGM to a date to be determined, hopefully prior to end December 2020, so lodgment on time was still possible.

- vi) **Defibrillators Submission** – David submitted the results of his investigation into potential acquisition of defibrillators for AFA. The report indicated that different options were available in each State with respect to subsidies and that these options would need to be explored in more detail if a decision to acquire was taken. There were several models available and purchase price was of the order of \$ 1600 to \$3000 depending on brand and features. Acquisition options included placing one defibrillator with each AFA light sets (requiring 8 units involving approx. \$20,000) or acquiring one unit for each State requiring 6 units (involving \$15,000). There was also an option of the AFA providing a grant to any individual Club that wanted to acquire a unit. If the decision was taken to acquire units then it would be necessary to mandate that a defib must be available at all AFA Sanctioned activities and that this was the responsibility of the event host to ensure.

Question was asked as to maintenance requirements and useful life expectations. The main maintenance appeared to be battery replacement every two to three years. Most units seemed to have a 5-year replacement warranty.

In discussion the question was also raised as to options for lease rather than purchase and whether it was possible to consider renting defibs for the smaller States where there were limited numbers of Sanctioned events each year. Agreed David to investigate and report further to May/June Meeting recognizing there was no urgency to acquire at this time.

Item 6 General Business.

Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

Nil to report

Report of Rules Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee reported it was working on the editorial re - drafting of the Rules document and was planning to progressively release draft sections to the Committee for review and feed - back starting in May.

Report on Ulna Measuring System.

Secretary reported that he had posted out the latest prototype measures made by Phil to all States except Tassi (still to be posted). Given successful trail it was planned for Phil to make the Official AFA measures using a denser mix of plastic to increase strength and durability. After discussion it was AGREED that the Official ulna Measures would bear the Australian Flyball Association name on the measure body and that any other measures made for individuals or clubs would not be so branded. This would ensure identification of official measures.

Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.

Steve advised that the Sub Committee was working on draft editorial guidelines and that the recent call for expressions of interest had resulted in a member (Jodie O'Brian) with experience in journalism and publication submitting an expression of interest in taking on the Chief Editor role. A member of the Sub Committee (Ben Royce) had also indicated an interest in taking on the Sub Editors role. The Committee requested brief cv/ bio's so members could be informed. Steve proposed that the Committee appoint the two members for a two-year period (with option to renew) as Chief Editor and Sub Editor – CARRIED.

Sub Committee was also looking at wording of a potential sponsorship agreement.

Member Behavior Sub Committee Report.

The Committee noted the report from the Sub Committee appointed to investigate and recommend action re the member behavior incident at the recent Canberra Royal Show competition. The Sub Committee report identified that a total of 12 Witness Statements had been submitted containing

complaints regarding the behavior of the member at the time of ring pull down at the conclusion of the competition. These 12 Witness Statements were from members of 5 different flyball clubs and basically all referred to loud, bullying and intimidatory behavior by the member, focused towards members of another flyball club. Several of the Statements referred to swearing and belittling remarks.

Statements had also been requested and received from the member involved and several other members referred to in the complaints. The member's Statement questioned the AFA's authority to investigate the alleged event as it occurred after the conclusion of the race meeting. The member's Statement accepted that they had approached and spoken to members of another club regarding several matters, including failure to steward at the meeting and failure to assist in ring pulldown but did not acknowledge that this represented unacceptable behaviour.

The Sub Committee conclude that the member was guilty of breaching the AFA anti- Bullying Policy as set out in AFA Policy Statement No.8 and that this represented "willful action prejudicial to the interests of the AFA" and accordingly the member was subject to action under Clause 14 of the Constitution.

The Sub-Committee recommends that the member be suspended from the AFA for a period of 12 months from a date to be determined by the Committee but that this penalty be held suspended on the condition that the member makes no further proven behavioural breach within the 12 month suspension period, commencing on the date to be determined. In the event of any further proven breach requiring disciplinary action during this period the member to be required to serve the original suspension of 12 months from the date of the latest proven breach plus any penalty imposed as a result of the further breach.

After discussion the Committee accepted the action and penalty recommended by the Sub Committee and agreed that the date of suspension should commence from the date that the AFA establishes for resumption of sanctioned activities.

The Secretary to notify the member of the Committees decision and the provisions of AFA Protocol Statement 2 Dealing with Member Discipline Incidents.

ITEM 7 New Business.

The Committee noted the email from a member who was a Senior Timekeeper expressing concern over the standard of stewarding evident at a recent competition and also questioning whether accredited Timekeepers should be required to undertake a minimum number of timekeeping assignments each year or loose accreditation. It was agreed that it was difficult to ensure the full attention of volunteer stewards who at times could become overly involved in watching the dogs' race rather than look for errors. In considering options it was agreed that in order to improve stewarding focus Judges would be asked to include reminder of basic rules for stewarding in their briefing at competitions and that the Secretary would prepare a Notice to all members covering the basic requirements of stewarding. In the case of timekeepers, no decision was taken.

Item 8 Other Business.

Nil

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 4th May 2020**

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.