

Minutes – Subject to final approval at December 2018 Meeting.

Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 5th November 2018.

Present: Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Louise Stephen, Frank Lux, Pat Byrne, Martin Watt, Jenny Millar, Konrad Moskal, Sam Brown, Justin Allen, Michael Ashton, and David Strong,

Apologies: Josh Ellen, Robert MacDonald, Steve Pitt and Shireen Pitt.

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 October Meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End October Bank Balance \$ 13420.12 plus invested funds of \$82568.21.
- 4) Correspondence Out

ITEM 2. Matters Arising

Alleged Breach of Committee confidentiality re decision at October Meeting – The Committee noted the various items of correspondence related to the alleged breach of Committee confidentiality, resulting in a member sending an email message via Messenger to two members of the Committee which contained the extracted statement “ I find it very disappointing that our friends, if not family, did not have the guts, for any better term, to tell ___ and myself that you voted against us etc”. This statement suggested that the member sending the message had somehow ascertained how members of the Committee had voted. Upon receipt of a complaint from the Committee member about the behavior of the member the Executive had asked all Committee members if they had inadvertently or directly informed the member of voting decisions. The Executive also asked the member

directly how he had obtained the information as to voting. Neither approach produced any information and the Executive was unable to progress the matter further. Subsequently the Committee Member decided to withdraw the complaint against the member but requested that the Committee focus on how to best ensure that all members of the AFA were informed of what is acceptable behavior.

The Committee, in discussion, noted that the complete correspondence from the member to the individual Committee member could be taken to reflect bullying behaviour and accordingly be in breach of the AFA Policy on Anti Bullying (Policy 8). Given the complaint against the member had been withdrawn the Committee determined not to proceed with any action re possible bullying breach.

The Committee did agree that all members should be reminded that the correct protocol where they feel aggrieved about a decision of the Committee is to write to the AFA via the Secretary bringing the matter to the attention of the full Committee and NOT to send private or public comment to an individual member of the Committee. Secretary to produce a suitable statement for publication on AFA Web page.

The Committee also noted the importance of all members of the Committee respecting the Committee Confidentiality Protocol.

The Committee also briefly discussed the apparent potential conflict of interest dilemma for the Executive when a matter could potentially involve a member of the Committee or indeed the Executive that required investigation. In the circumstances it was accepted that no apparent alternative was evident to the process followed in this case.

ITEM 3. Correspondences In.

Email re Club access to promotional Signage – See New Business

ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved.

Comp - Norwest 14th Birthday Bash (Rescheduled comp)
- 11/11/18 – Dog Complex Castle Hill Showground – (Open with Handicap Option and Training in ring).

Comp – Maximum Velocity – 09/02/19 – Maximum Velocity at Morisset Show – Ourimbah St Moresset NSW (Open with Handicap option, Champion Trophy and Training in ring).

Comp – Norwest -16/03 /19 – Hounds in the Hills – Dog Complex Castle Hill Showgrounds (Open with handicap option, Training in ring).

Comp – Norwest – 11/05/19 – Hawkesbury Show – Dog Grounds Hawkesbury Showground Racecourse Rd Clarendon (Training in ring).

Comp – Redlands – 8/06/19 – Redlands on fire – Judy Holt Park Bailey Rd Birkdale (Open with handicap option and Training in ring).

Comp – Awesome Pawsome – 20/07/19 – Lets Raise the roof – RSPCA Wacol Qld (On Mats, Open with Handicap option).

Comp – Awesome Pawsome – 21/07/19 – Lets Raise the roof higher – RSPCA Wacol Qld (On Mats, Open with Handicap option, Champions Trophy)

Comp – Norwest – 10/08/19 – Chills in Hills – Dog Complex Castle Hill Showground (On Mats, Open, Training in ring).

Comp – Norwest – 12/10/19 – Norwest 15th Birthday bash – Dog Complex Castle Hill Showground (Open, Training in ring).

Demo – Maximum Velocity – 2/12/18 – Pet Dog Event – Dogs in the Park 2018 – Islington Dog Park 2 Park Rd Tighes Hill'

ITEM 5 – Admin Matters.

i) New Members:

Janet Venturini

Laine Hocart

- ii) Stewards Exam Passes – Nil
- iii) Timekeepers Written Exam and Practical Pass - Melinda Meulman CRN 2330 and Emma Gaffney CRN 2893.
- iv) Asset control – Justin reported that he was continuing to research low cost options for provision of asset tracking systems. He outlined the advantages of such an approach from an asset control viewpoint. A more complete report to be submitted in December.
- v) Automation of Comp results – Pat introduced the quote for \$2000 received to enable competition organisers to directly upload their results and points into the database and be verified by AFA thereby saving significant processing time and effort by AFA. A quote of \$500 had also been obtained to automate the team entry worksheet developed by Frank. The Committee agreed that both quotes should be accepted as the next step in automation of AFA Processes.
- vi) Policy for use of Matting – the Committee noted that currently the only agreed policy re use of matting was the charge arrangements for use in Competitions. The Committee had also made a decision in 2017 not to hire mats to non AFA organisation's as such use could not be effectively controlled or supervised and had the potential to risk damage to mats from unauthorized or inappropriate use. The Committee determined that a more comprehensive Policy be developed covering use of mats at training days, demonstrations and promotional activities. Secretary to produce a draft for consideration at December Meeting
- vii) Report on possible merchandise options – deferred to December Meeting.

Item 6 General Business.

- a) **Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.** Nil to report

- b) **Report from Rules Sub Committee.** Frank reported that the Sub Committee was considering 5 issues referred to it, including Fouling in the Ring Rules; Training in ring Policy; Declared seed times and Rules for Ulna measuring. The Sub Committee had progressed most matters but had not as yet finalised its report to the full Committee. A report should be available for consideration at December meeting.

- c) **Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.** Justin reported as Secretary that the Sub Committee had cancelled its last scheduled Meeting. He would be arranging a replacement Meeting shortly at which the Sub Committee would consider appointment of a Chair.

- d) **Report on Ulna Measuring System.** Sam reported on progress being made with the design of the prototype measure – a meeting was to take place next week hopefully to finalise design and method of manufacture and allow a quote for production. Sam to keep Committee informed of outcome by email.

ITEM 7 – New Business.

- a) **Champions Trophy Rules.** Steve had submitted proposed amendments to the Champion Trophy Rules. Members of the Committee indicated that they did not understand the purpose of the changes suggested. In the absence of Steve matter was carried over to December Meeting.

- b) **Proposed ANKC Agreement –** The Meeting was joined by Michelle Gurney who has been Chairing the ANKC Working Group dealing with the possible reintroduction of a Joint ANKC/AFA Agreement recognizing the sport of flyball and allowing reintroduction of ANKC recognized

Titles for dogs that are members of both AFA and ANKC. Michelle had submitted a suggested draft Agreement, based largely on the prior Agreement between the two bodies, for consideration of the AFA prior to submission to ANKC State Bodies for consideration. The draft recognized that the AFA should retain control over the sport of Flyball and the Rules for flyball racing in Australia. Members of the Committee recognised the potential benefits of recognition by the peak dog activity body in Australia. Several issues in the draft were identified as requiring more consideration, particularly those related to aspects of joint Association dog and member discipline communication and action. The Meeting noted the editorial amendments to the draft that had been already suggested by the President. After discussion it was agreed that a small Working Group would be established to meet with Michelle to finalise a draft for consideration by the full Committee at its December Meeting. A Meeting date of Monday 12th November at 8 pm agreed.

- c) NAFA Rule Change re False starts – Martin drew attention to the change in Rules adopted by NAFA, whereby they eliminated reruns for false starts and introduced one practice start per race. He suggested that the AFA keep a watching brief on the new NAFA Rule to see if it was a development of interest in Australian flyball. Sam informed the Committee of the change in UK Rules to only allow one false start per Race – she also indicated that the change had not proven to be overly popular. The Committee determined at this time to take no action to alter Rules for false starts but to maintain a watching brief on the impact of false starts on competition duration in Australia.
- d) The Committee noted the email from Game On Flyball Club enquiring on possible access to the two AFA teardrop banners to be displayed at Club Training. The Committee noted that the banners promoted the AFA and as such should only be used at AFA Sanctioned events where the AFA could ensure all activities were being conducted in accordance with AFA policy and

procedure. Clubs normally used Club banners to promote membership of the Club. AFA Banners could be made available for AFA Sanctioned activities, such as Sanctioned Demonstrations, Training Days and Competitions on understanding that collection and return of the banners was the responsibility of the borrower and use for competitions would always take precedence over other requests. Secretary to notify Club.

Item 8 Other Business.

Frank pointed out that he had spoken to the Supervisory Judge about the need for specialised timekeeper training on handicap racing format and calculation and setting of handicap times on the Light system.

Date of Next Meeting- Monday 3rd December 2018. There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m. Signed as a true record.

President.