

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at December 2020 Meeting.
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd
November 2020.**

Present: Richard Mellon, Jenny Millar, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Pat Byrne, Josh Ellen, Michael Ashton, Frank Lux, Sam Brown, David Strong, Steve Pitt, Ben Royes, Drew Harrison, Carmel Nottle, Belinda O’Shea and Konrad Moskal.

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 October Meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End November Bank Balance
\$ 1020.94 plus invested funds of \$84142.71.

ITEM 2. Matters Arising

The Committee reviewed the Action Sheet for October.

ITEM 3. Correspondences In.

Nil.

ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events

- Timing changes – Woofers comp Sat 7th Nov.
- Training Day – Orange Krush – 14/11/20 – Elimbah Sportsground – Open to all AFA Members – Entry fee \$5 per dog. (Lights requested).
- Competition - Awesome Pawsome – March Madness - 21/03/21- RSPCA Wacol – on mats – (Open with handicap option, Training in ring)
- Competition – Game On – 11/04/21 – Jimboomba Flyball Muster – Jimboomba Carriage Club Cnr Henderson & Cusack Lane – Open with handicap option, Training in ring)

ITEM 5 – Admin Matter

I) New Members –

Kate Zimmerman
Tennele Steinborner
Carol Roantree
Carlie Marshall

II) Exam Passes

Stewards Exam Pass - Janine Much CRN 3241;
Judges exam Pass – Frank Lux CRN 1255 passed Level 1 Exam and has required number of assignments to be promoted to level 1 Judge.

iii) Review of AGM.

The consensus view was that the 2020 AGM worked well with the joint Go to Meeting and Zoom process. Voting via the comments feature worked well, the only issue was in some cases identifying the venue voting – as different venue names were used.

iv) Corona Virus update.

NSW has further relaxed outdoor gathering rules to allow groups of up to 30 to meet without need for a Covid Safe Plan. S.A. allows large outdoor groups to meet – but the State now has only 3 active teams so competitions are impossible until borders are lifted. ACT allows groups of up to 200 but has same problem as SA with border restriction issues with Greater Sydney area. Tassie is in same position.

v) Review of Committee Protocols.

President took Committee through the requirements outlined in the Committee Protocols Statement – essential elements being Confidentiality, respect, impartiality, avoiding/declaring conflict of interest and penalties for breaches.

vi) Assignment of Committee responsibilities.

President indicated that there were 3 standing sub committees and that we aimed to have 4 or 5 people on each. Called for nominations:

Dog Incidence Sub Committee – nominations Jenny Millar, Ben Royes, Konrad Moskal, Sam Brown and Belinda O'Shea:

Rules Sub Committee – Richard Mellon, Frank Lux, David Strong, Josh Ellen and Phil Lea as Supervisory Judge:

Development Sub Committee – Ben Royes, Konrad Moskal, Steve Pitt, Drew Harrison.

Committees to elect own Chairs.

Web Team – Pat Byrne and Jenni Crane

Gear Coordinator – Frank Lux.

vii) Annual review of AFA Fees.

The Committee noted that in a normal year income of AFA exceeded expenses so current fees appeared adequate. It was agreed however to review fees for Certificates and Awards to ensure they were recovering costs including packaging and postage. Pat undertook to review and report to next Meeting.

viii) Replacement printer for Certificates.

It was noted that a new printer was required to produce Certificates. Pat indicated that new paper was being planned and that a laser printer may be required. Pat to investigate and report to Dec Meeting.

ix) Consideration of criteria/ pro forma for Life Members nominations.

The Committee noted that limited information seemed to be available to assist members in considering nominations. The Life Membership award was designed to recognise extensive service to the Association over an extended period of time and accordingly the nomination criteria had to reflect that requirement. It was agreed that the availability of a Nominations pro forma would be a positive step. Secretary and Sam Brown agreed to work on criteria and proforma.

It was suggested that criteria for Presidents Appreciation Award also be shown on web in same area as Life member's criteria.

x) Revised date for World Dog Games – Sunday the 6th June 2021.

The President advised that the organizer of the World Dog Games had recently contacted us to advise a new date for the Games – being 6th June 2021 at Olympic Venue Sydney. Secretary advised that whilst the main public performance/ TV filming date were Sunday 6th June, nominated dogs would likely be required for 4th to 6th June. Whilst detailed arrangements were yet to be finalized it was envisaged that format would be similar to last Games – 4 dogs sports involved with flyball element being 4 teams of 6 fast dogs in Open format teams. All teams to be capable of running under 17.5 seconds. Organisers are planning to pay expenses of dogs selected in teams who are travelling from interstate in order to encourage entries from other than Sydney based members. Teams to be nominated to World Dog Games who would be responsible for selection criteria. This is not an AFA sanctioned event but the event will be supported by AFA.

Item 6 General Business.

Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.

Nil to Report.

Report of Rules Sub Committee.

David reported that there was a range of business before the Sub Committee, including the next sections of the Rules rewrite. He would arrange a Meeting

of full Committee to consider the Rules rewrite and also a Meeting of the Sub Committee to progress other issues.

Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.

Steve indicated that the Sub Committee was progressing the Landing Page with the Web developer Alex and hoped to have it finalised by next Meeting.

ITEM 7 New Business.

The Committee considered a submission received from Sally Provins of BDOC suggesting the idea of the AFA developing a new race format that would allow a race Meeting to be conducted over multiple locations using handicapped times for all teams and with racing taking place on a phantom basis. This idea was being put forward recognising the current difficulties caused by Covid restrictions that made traveling to competitions interstate difficult. It was also seen as a way that smaller States like Tassie and S.A. with restricted number of teams could take part in more Meetings. Sally joined the Meeting at this point to speak to the idea.

In discussion it was recognised that a new set of Rules would need to be developed to allow the format to operate – some concern was also expressed as to issues of fairness and whether racing at multiple venues could become a single Sanctioned Race Meeting – fairness issues identified included different racing surfaces, different weather conditions, possible wet weather delay at one of the venues, what to do with incidents of interference in one venue etc. One option was to develop the concept as a novelty event rather than a sanctioned competition. The idea was seen as worth exploring with the possible development of a trial of the concept as a mock event under a draft set of rules. A Sub Committee was formed to progress the idea – membership David Strong, Steve Pitt, Carmel Nottle, Frank Lux, Ben Royes, Drew Harrison and Sally Provins.

Item 8 Other Business.

Pat advised that the idea of the Proposed Dog Honour Board for the web site had been reactivated with the suggestion that an Ezri honour Board be developed. Brian indicated that he had suggested earlier both Ezri and Jeddah Boards be developed. She had received some input from a member that she would circulate to Committee for next Meeting. David suggested that AFA also look at options for a successful Teams honour Board. Brian commented that a Premierships Honour Board may be an option.

Brian advised that Michael had now lodged the AFA 2020 Annual Return in ACT.

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 7th December** There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed as a true record.
President.

