

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at November 2019 Meeting.  
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup>  
October 2019.**

**Present:** Richard Mellon, Jenny Millar, Brian Lindsay, Jennifer Crane, Frank Lux, Pat Byrne, Shireen Pitt, David Strong, Josh Ellen, Martin Watt, Sally Elsom, Peter Samuels, Phil Lea, Sam Brown and Steve Pitt

**Apologies:** Michael Ashton, Konrad Moscal

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 September Meeting.
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End September Bank Balance \$ 20759.69 plus invested funds of \$82161.
- 4) Correspondence Out

**ITEM 2. Matters Arising  
Nil**

**ITEM 3. Correspondences In.**

- Emails from Judge re recognition of his US Judging assignments and suggesting process of selecting Supervisory Judge be reopened. The Committee noted that there was no reason to alter the original decision to re appoint Phil Lea as Supervisory Judge. The Committee noted that the Judge had been advised of the selection process and encouraged to commence the Level 1 Judges accreditation.
- Email from Phil Lea accepting Supervisory Judge appointment till 1/11/2021 and indicating he would discuss exam marking directly with Martin. Noted.
- Application to become a Judge Daniel Popic. Committee approved application. Phil to advise Daniel.
- Member Complaint –complaint submitted by 4 members re behaviour of another member after club training. See New Business.
- Member complaint re Singles and Pairs being reopened at Nationals for selective entries – The Committee noted that matter had already been responded to via email prior to Nationals. The Committee confirmed that Singles and Pairs were not official competitions and were in the nature of demonstration events. In line with that fact the Committee agreed it was a

matter for the Organisers of the event to make decisions regarding how the demonstrations were conducted, including how entries were accepted. The Committee discussed whether, in future Nationals singles and pairs should still be left to Organisers and after discussion the decision was taken to continue to leave non - official events, such as singles and pairs, as a matter for organisers.

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**ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved.**

Demo – Tassie Flying Paws – 5/10/19 – Burnie Show – Burnie Agriplex  
Ridgely Hwy Burnie.

Demo – Tassie Flying paws 19/10/19 Longford Show – Longford  
Showgrounds Marlborough and Hobhouse Sts Longford.,

Demo – Tassie Flying Paws – 10/11/19 – Brighton Show – Pontville Oval – 80  
Midland Highway Brighton.

Comp – Dover – 16/11/2019 – November Splendor – Quick Rd Mitchell Park  
(Open with handicap option, Training in ring).

Comp – Awesome Pawsome - 29/03/20 – March Madness – RSPCA Wacol –  
On Matts – (Open with handicap option, Regular handicap option)

Comp – Awesome Pawsome - 24/05/20 – May the Points be with you –  
RSPCA Wacol – On Matts – (Open with handicap option, Regular handicap  
option)

Comp – Awesome Pawsome – 18/07/20 – Lets raise the roof - – RSPCA  
Wacol – On Matts – (Open with handicap option, Regular handicap option)

**ITEM 5 – Admin Matters.**

**New Members\*:**

Jacinta Smith  
Emily Sunnucks  
Takiyah Lowe  
Caitlin Lawrence  
Natalie Wilkinson  
Melissa Hyde

**Stewards Exam Passes\* –** Mel Fisher CRN 3066  
Ellie Rivet CRN 382

**Timekeeper Exam Passes\*–**

Theory and Practical passed

Ben Royes CRN 2970.A1

Daniel Popic CRN 2364

**Title Pin reorder – Pat** advised that the order for new pins had been placed and the per pin cost was \$3.95.

### **Discussion re issue linked to attraction of Timekeepers and Judges.**

The Committee noted the report submitted setting out suggested short, medium and longer term actions designed to improve the process of becoming an AFA official (steward, timekeeper or Judge). The actions focused on matter designed to upgrade available documentation available on the web, make location of that documentation more accessible via improved search mechanisms and develop new training and learning tools such as on-line videos of examples of fouls. The Committee discussed how best to progress this matter and after discussion agreed:

- That matters related to the further development of the AFA Web site and its content and navigation should be allocated to the Development Sub Committee to take on board during its review of the landing page development;
- That the 3 members of the existing Sub Committee be asked to review and update/upgrade the documents dealing with training for stewards, Timekeepers, and Judges.
- That the diagram submitted, capturing the Official training programs, be added to the web – it was suggested that the Supervisory Judge selection process be added to the document if possible.

### **2020 Nationals – Judges and Officials.**

Matter deferred till November Meeting

**Late Member Renewal -** The Committee noted that where a membership has lapsed as a result of a late renewal then that person has ceased to be a member of the AFA and in line with Constitutional requirements their renewal must involve approval by the Committee in same manner as for a new member. The Member will still retain their original CRN. In discussion suggestion made that the AFA investigate PAYPAL system for payments by members. Pat indicated that this could be done after digital electronic membership cards were introduced.

### **Item 6 General Business.**

#### **a) Report from Sub Committee re Incident at Race to the Beach**

## **Competition.**

The Committee noted the Report from the Sub Committee set up to investigate the reports dealing with claimed unacceptable treatment of a dog at the Race to the Beach competition. The Sub Committee noted that there were a number of statements submitted re the incident, including one from the Judge and two from stewards who witnessed the behavior and several from other AFA members who stated they witnessed the behavior. The Sub Committee also noted the statements submitted by the two parties involved in what was claimed rough handling of a dog.

The Sub Committee noted that only one statement submitted contained any reference to the behavior of the initial handler of the dog – and that referred to her yelling at and dragging the dog. None of the other statements made any reference to this person or the behavior. The handler involved submitted a statement claiming her behaviour was simply designed to effectively control the dog. In the circumstances the Sub Committee took the view that there was insufficient evidence to support any charge of unacceptable treatment of the dog by this handler.

The Sub Committee then dealt with the complaints related to the party who took over the handling of the dog subsequent to the warm- up period. The complaints against this member included throwing the dog to the ground, tugging of the lead and in one statement kicking the dog when leaving the ring.

The Sub Committee noted that several of the statements referred to the handler turning away when the dog jumped towards him when returning from a run. The Member admitted doing this as a reflex action to avoid claw injury when the dog jumped almost at his head height. The statement indicated he had no intention of hurting the dog by his action but accepted that the dog fell heavily to the ground. It also stated that when taking the dog from the ring on a short lead (as the dog was hypo at the time) he unintentionally tripped and stepped on the dog's paw – the statement disputed there was any kicking of the dog.

The Sub Committee concluded that this member's behaviour certainly amounted to rough handling of the dog resulting in harsh treatment and that was not a good look for the sport of flyball. The sub committee recommended that the member be written to and advised that any repeat of this type of behaviour will be seen as unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action being instituted.

After discussion the Sub Committee recommendation was accepted and the Secretary was requested to write to the member with the agreed warning re future behaviour.

**Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.** The Committee noted that there had been two incidents of dog aggression outside the ring at

the Nationals and these had been dealt with by the AFA Representatives – both dogs had been dismissed from the competition after the incident and as such were the equivalent of black cards. In one case the dog was subsequently put to sleep and no further action is necessary. The second incident is currently being investigated by the Sub Committee. There was also one Black Card issued for the 3<sup>rd</sup> incident of interference. The Committee noted that this card had lapsed at the end of the Competition and the member had been so advised.

- b) **Report from Rules Sub Committee.** Nil to report – it was Noted that the Sub Committee needed to appoint a new Chair – to be done at next Meeting of Sub Committee.
  
- c) **Report on Ulna Measuring System.** Josh advised that the new stronger sliders had been sent out to all States. With the new part the measures appeared to be working well. It was noted that the click in mechanism was less effective with the thicker parts, however the consensus was that this did not have any impact on accuracy of measurements. After discussion it was agreed that members should be advised that applications for height cards under the ulna system would be commenced effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 with measuring being possible at any sanctioned event where an official measure was available (accredited trained measurer and ulna measure present). Matter of additional measures was briefly discussed and Sam agreed to obtain new prices for the updated measures and report to November meeting. Phil to look at how to best train any Judges who had not as yet been involved in measuring.
  
- d) **Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.** Steve reported that the Sub Committee would be meeting prior to November Committee Meeting and would be focusing on development of the new landing page and what was involved from a Web design viewpoint and would also now address the issue of how best to improve the search mechanisms on the site to make finding documents more efficient, including provision of link mechanism.
  
- e) **2019 Nationals post review –** The Committee noted that the 2019 Nationals had been a great success and that the event had run smoothly for the 3 days. Jenni thanked all Officials for their help. The Committee offered its congratulations to the organisers for a job very well done. The Chair suggested that if the Organisers had any suggestions to pass on to the next Nationals organisers that these be submitted to the Committee. Jenni suggested that one matter might be how to allow teams to enter by an early date but for seed times to be submitted closer to event.

## **Item 7 New Business**

**Member Complaint –complaint submitted by 4 members re behaviour of another member after club training –** (One member of the Committee withdrew from the Meeting at this point as a result of potential conflict of interest).

The Committee noted the complaint submitted by 4 members claiming that the actions of a named member amounted to verbal abuse and was action that was prejudicial to the interests of the AFA under Section 14 (a) ii of the Constitution. The Committee noted that this matter had occurred at the conclusion of a Club training activity and involved a dispute between members of the Club. Whilst it was claimed that new members of the AFA who had recently joined the club were present the Committee did not accept that the incident involved other than club members. After discussion the Committee concluded that the complaint related to a club matter and as such should properly be dealt with at the club level and that in line with past policy the AFA should not involve itself in club matters unless there was an issue such as widespread public exposure (such as via social media bullying) involved. The members to be so advised.

**Item 8 Other Business.** Nil

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019.** There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 10.00 p.m.  
Signed as a true record.

President.