

**Minutes – Subject to final approval at October 2017 Meeting.**

**Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

**Present:** Richard Mellon, Brian Lindsay, Pat Byrne, Jennifer Crane, Candice Leighton. Frank Lux, Jenny Millar, Carolyn Shrides, Leah Dutch, Aline Sinclair, Martin Watt, Louise Stephen, Helen Strong and J. Pamplin

**Apologies:** Josh Ellen, Shireen Pitt, and Steve Pitt.

Meeting Opened at 7.30 pm via Go to Meetings Conference.

The President welcomed the new Committee for the 2017/18 year and suggested that the new Committee consider the Committee Protocol that had been developed to attempt to ensure appropriate behavior of all Committee Members. He drew attention in particular to the need to be aware of sensitivity issues in the use of Social Media by Committee Members.

**ITEM 1. Starred Items.**

The following Items were adopted without discussion:

- 1) Minutes of the August Meeting
- 2) Renewals of Memberships
- 3) Treasurers Report. End August Bank Balance \$ 21033.82 plus Invested funds of \$ 64025.73.
- 4) Correspondence Out

**ITEM 2 Correspondences In.**

(Treated as New Business or General Business)

- i) Email from member querying subsidy to Tassi members for Nationals. (New).
- ii) Email from member re Open format review. (New)
- iii) Email from member re dogs entering in both Open and Regular Format at same comp. (New)

### **ITEM 3 Sanctioned Events Approved.**

Comp – Hastings – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Pets Day Out – Ballam Park Cranbourne Rd Frankston (Open with Handicap option, Training in ring).

Comp – Dover Gardens – 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 – Spring Classic – Quick Rd Mitchell Park SA (Handicap and Training in ring at lunch)

### **ITEM 4 – Admin Matters.**

#### I)– New Members

Catherine Ruskin  
John Henry  
Vanessa March  
Kayleen Renton  
Gillian du Plessis  
Linda Collin  
Christine Gibbs  
Danielle Uebel

ii) Stewards Exam passes – Nathan Buckett CRN 2907 and Mailie Gibson CRN 2949 Junior Steward.

iii) Timekeepers Exam Results – Melinda Meulman CRN 2330 passed theory exam and proceeding too practical.

iv) AGM Review – Richard advised that there had been communication issues, probably as a result of a poor-quality phone line from the NSW venue. Others indicated that they had trouble hearing due to lots of background noise ex NSW. Agreed that we should explore a better system for the 2018 AGM. It was also recognized that as a result of the frustrations associated with the noise problems there were some unfortunate interactions between some members and that this was then the subject of discussion on social media. Richard stressed the need for Committee members in particular to be careful in any use of social media as this was a very public forum and comments could be easily misunderstood. Committee to explore possible communication

options before 2018 AGM.

- v) Rules reprint – The Committee discussed whether we should continue to print hard copies of the Rules after each AGM or simply advise members that the up to date Rules were available on the AFA Web site for members to copy. Cost of a Rules reprint of around 200 copies involved an outlay of \$1500. It was pointed out that hard copy prints were soon out of date if any subsequent minor changes or “On Trial” Rules were introduced. It was also pointed out that most Judges printed of an A4 copy and accessed the rules via phones in real time. After discussion, it was agreed that members would be advised that the up to date Rules were available on the AFA Web site for member access.

- vi) Positions on Committee - the following allocations were agreed:

Rules Sub Committee – Frank Lux; Shireen Pitt; Louise Stephen and Phil Lea as Supervising Judge.

Dog Incident Sub Committee – Jenny Millar; Shireen Pitt; Aline Sinclair; Martin Watt and Josh Ellen.

Development and Promotion Sub Committee – Steve Pitt; Helen Strong; Frank Lux and Leah Dutch.

Web Team – Julie Pamplin, Pat Byrne and Jennifer Crane.

Trophies and Awards – Anne Coleman (Anne had agreed to continue in this role though not on Committee).

Public Officer – Carolyn Shrives.

Secretary to re issue Committee Schedule with allocations shown.

Richard thanked the Committee for volunteering for the roles and also thanked all prior Sub Committee members for a job well done – in particular he thanked Carolyn for her role as Chair of the Rules

Sub Committee as it involved a significant workload. He also extended thanks to Anne Coleman for continuing to undertake the Trophies and Awards role even though not on Committee.

## **Item 5 General Business.**

### **a) Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.**

The Committee noted the report from the Rules Sub Committee re Ollie CRN 2794B and the black Card incident at the SX Cool Running's comp on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Ollie was carded for suspected aggression during the warm up period when he snapped at another dog. The Committee noted that there were conflicting reports as to whether contact had been made. Ollie was a beginner dog and had no prior cards. The Sub Committee recommended that a Warning 1 letter be issued to Ollie's owner. Carried.

### **b) Report from Rules Sub Committee.**

Carolyn reported that the Rules Sub Committee had not meet after the last Committee Meeting and that the carried over items related to the review of Open Format Rules would be dealt with by the new Sub Committee.

### **c) Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.**

Nil to report as no Meeting since last Committee Meeting.

### **d) On Line Form Proposals.**

Pat reported that electronic forms had been developed for Club Affiliations; Applications for Demonstrations or Training Days and Race Sanction applications. These forms were undergoing final testing and should be uploaded for use shortly.

## **ITEM 6 – New Business**

### **i) Tassie Nationals Subsidy –**

The Committee noted that a member had queried why a subsidy had been given to the Tassie members attending the Nationals. This query had arisen as a result of

information provided in the 2016/17 Notes to the Accounts, which indicated a \$2000 Subsidy had been paid to the Tassie members attending the 2017 Nationals. The Secretary advised that the Notes to the Accounts reference to subsidy should have referred to the 2016 Nationals held in Sydney and not the 2017 Nationals in Victoria. No subsidy had been paid to Tassie members in respect to the Victorian Nationals.

The Committee noted that the Tassie members had been subsidised to attend Nationals on 3 occasions – in 2008; 2009 and in 2016. In each occasion, an application had been submitted seeking a level of travel support to offset the additional costs of the Ferry between Tasmania and the mainland. The Committee had on each occasion approved a level of travel subsidy. It was pointed out that teams from other states had also incurred substantial travel costs, without subsidy – for example the Queensland team attending the Victorian Nationals in 2017. The point was made that it was not common knowledge that submissions could be made for travel subsidies. The question was asked whether the Committee should establish Guidelines indicating what activities would be considered for subsidy and what criteria needed to be met. The Committee noted that the only subsidies granted to date were for travel to Nationals and these were in response to applications submitted by members. It was agreed that any members were entitled to submit proposals seeking travel subsidy, presumably based on abnormal travel costs, and that any applications would best be dealt with on a case by case basis rather than via a set of Guidelines. It was also noted that Clubs had the opportunity to self fund raise to support travel costs.

## **ii) Open Format Review –**

The Committee noted the email from a Queensland member who wished to support the retention of the existing option of allowing members to enter dogs in both open and regular formats at a single competition. The member pointed out that this assisted smaller clubs to perhaps run two teams where normally they would not have had enough dogs to run two regular teams. The Committee agreed to refer the email to the Rules Sub Committee so it could be considered

as part of the review of Open Format Rules.

**iii) Concern re Dogs entering both open and regular formats at same comp.**

The Committee noted the letter from a member expressing concerns as to the what they saw as excessive racing at a recent competition as a result of dogs being entered in both Regular or Open format teams. The member pointed out that several dogs had competed in 12 races and over 40 heats. The email also pointed out that on two occasions the dogs had to run in back to back races. In discussion, the Committee noted that the Judges were actually informed by the dog owners of the situation that had arisen as a result of a dog in the Open format having to be withdrawn as a result of injury, thus requiring the other dogs to run more than planned. It was also noted that the Competition Guidelines that contained guidelines for maximum number of heats should be included in the review by the Rules Sub Committee so that they took into account the possibility of dogs entering both classes at a single competition. Agreed that the letter be referred to the Rules Sub Committee to be taken into account in the review of Open format.

**Item 7 - Other Business.**

Pat reported that Frank had designed a possible electronic form for Competition entries and that it was being looked at for compatibility with the existing database.

Next Meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (due to long weekend being on first Monday of month).

There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.28 p.m.

Signed as a true record.

President.