

Minutes – Subject to final approval at October 2019 Meeting.
Australian Flyball Association Inc. – Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd Sept 2019.

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

Apologies: Phil Lea and Sam Brown

Meeting Opened at 7.30 pm via Go to Meetings Conference. The President welcomed new members and returning members to the 2019/20 Committee and outlined the requirements of the Committee Protocol Policy that had been circulated to all 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 \$24280.61 plus invested funds of \$82161.
- 4) Correspondence Out

ITEM 2. Matters Arising
Nil

ITEM 3. Correspondences In.

Member reports re handler aggression incident at Race to the Beach comp – dealt with under New Business.

ITEM 4 Sanctioned Events Approved.

Change of Date – Comp – Night at Races – Pine Rivers - date changed to 2/11/19.

Comp – Orange Krush, 4/10/20
– Lunar Lights – Elimbah Sportsground Rose Creek Rd Elimbah. (Open with Handicap option).

Comp – Ballarat – 7/12/19 – SANTABALL – Military Drive Victoria Park Ballarat. (Open with handicap option, Training in ring).

Comp – Orange Krush – 19/04/20 – Pineapple Cup – Elimbah Sportsground – Rose Creek Rd Elimbah Qld. (Open Racing)

CDC – Training Day 24/08/19 – ACT Companion Dog Club Grounds Symonston. (Approved by email)

Demo – Norwest – 08/09/19 – Dogs in the Park – Jamison Rd and York St South Penrith.

Demo – Sydneysiders – 15/09/19 – Lions Spring Fair – Trafalgar St Peakhurst.

Demo – Hastings – 13/10/19 Pets Day Out 2019 – Ballam Park Cranbourne Rd Frankston Vic.

Demo – Berwick – 08/12/19 – Dogs Day Out – Westernport Hwy Skye.

ITEM 5 – Admin Matters.

New Members*:

Michelle Barker, Robert Green, Tanya Hergatt, Jacinta Smith and Takiyah Lowe.

Stewards Exam Passes* –

Helen Strong CRN 2510

Joshua Hayman CRN 2434

Wendy Casey CRN 3158

Carmel Nottle CRN 2507

Timekeeper Exam Passes*–

Michelle Gurney CRN 2388 passed both theory and Practical.

Title Certificate Design – Pat reported that Liz had added a border to the Certificate and that the new design had been emailed to Committee. Committee reviewed design and suggested the following amendments – use of larger font size for registered name of dog; AFA No. to be changed to CRN , remove seal reference and add after the Signature (President AFA). With these amendments the Committee approved the new Certificates for printing.

Title Pin reorder – Pat advised that she had sent out examples of the new design which would have black laser printed letters. Committee approved design. Pat to confirm price per pin and notify Committee. Subject to price Committee agreed to proceed to order new stocks as recommended.

AGM Report - Nearly 96 Members had attended the AGM. The two Rules on Trial had been approved and have been updated on web. The new Constitution was approved and is now available on web. The Member Motion to advise members of cancelled competitions via text message to team captains was also approved. The Rules Sub Committee to look at how best to implement this new requirement in AFA Documentation. Following the AGM, the Secretary had produced the Annual return and Public Officer will now lodge. The Proposal to grant Life Membership to Richard Mellon was approved. In discussion David offered to review the Rules and Guidelines documents to ensure they were in compliance with the revised Constitution and report back to Committee.

Discussion re issue linked to attraction of Timekeepers and Judges.

The Committee noted the Secretaries Paper on this subject and the prior comments thereon submitted by Committee Members.

The matter of positive steps that might attract members to take on Timekeeping and Judging roles was discussed. In order to encourage clubs to provide training opportunities to trainee timekeepers it was suggested to add a list of people who had passed the theory exam but need practical training opportunities to the web. Also suggested that AFA undertake a recruitment drive via social media to attract members to Timekeeping and Judging. Subsidisation of travel costs was discussed and it was generally agreed that this should only occur where it was essential to obtain an inter-state judge to allow a competition to occur – currently S.A. and Tassie. It was also agreed that this should continue to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. After discussion a Sub Committee of Frank Lux, Peter Samuels and Konrad Moscal was formed, with the task of developing specific proposals to attract and train timekeepers and Judges for the Committee to consider. The Committee considered the request from Dover Gardens club to subsidise travel for a Judge to attend their competition in November – agreed AFA to meet reasonable airfares.

Allocation of roles on Committees

Following changes agreed – Josh to step down from Development Sub Committee, Frank to step down from Rules Sub Committee, Sally to join Development Sub Committee.

2020 Nationals – Judges and Officials.

Josh advised that organisers had received 13 expressions of interest to Judge at 2020 Nationals. Committee considered list of Judges and noted that all States were represented. Organisers were seeking to appoint 9 Judges on basis that three rings would be required and 3 Judges per ring. At this stage no consideration had been given to AFA Reps. Matter deferred to October Meeting to allow Organisers to finalise proposals re Judges and AFA Reps.

Club Affiliation Issue.

Pat raised issue of clubs that fail to renew affiliation by 30th June and before or after that date propose a competition for sanction whilst non-financial. After discussion agreed that a check should be made of all Club renewals as at end of June each year and any club that had not renewed be blocked from sanctioning a competition (and if already approved have sanction withdrawn) until Club affiliation paid. Unfinancial clubs at end June to be reminded of need to affiliate to host competitions.

Issues of late member renewals (including need for new membership approvals) to be discussed at October Meeting.

Supervisor Judge Position.

The extended expression of interest period closed on 1st September and as at that date two expressions had been received. The existing Supervisory Judge had indicated he would be willing to undertake a further term provided the marking of Steward and Timekeeper written exams was undertaken by someone else to allow him to concentrate on Judge training and development. An expression of interest had also been received from a Level 2 Judge. The Committee noted that it was a requirement that the Supervisory Judge be a Level 1 Judge with substantial judging experience. It was also considered important that the Supervisory Judge be currently active in judging assignments. Both Martin and Shireen offered to assist in the marking of steward and timekeeper exams. The Committee agreed that Phil Lea be appointed for a further term and that an expression of appreciation be sent to Tim Slade for his interest in the position.

Application to become a Trainee Judge – Gordon Chalmers CRN 462.

The Committee noted the application from Gordon to be appointed as a trainee Judge. Gordon currently meets all prerequisites for appointment except the completion of the written exam. The Supervisory Judge subject to satisfactory completion of the written recommended his appointment. The Committee approved this recommendation.

Item 6 General Business.

- a) **Report from Dog Incident Sub Committee.** Nil to report
- b) **Report from Rules Sub Committee.** Nil to report
- c) **Report on Ulna Measuring System.** Josh reported that the new parts had just been dispatched to all States. President requested that upon receipt this be confirmed to Josh, so he was aware of arrival.
- d) **Report from Sub Committee on Flyball Development.** Steve reported that the Sub Committee was progressing the landing page design and was also looking at possible foundation sponsors.
- e) **2019 Nationals update —** Jenni advised that all arrangements progressing well and under control.

Item 7 New Business

Pat raised matter of the agreement at AGM to recognize the passing of Geoff Brown recognizing his contribution to the sport and to Australian flyball. Geoff's partner Amanda had now requested that rather than flowers a donation be made to a named individual suffering from cancer. In discussion one member of the Committee suggested a donation to a charity rather than an individual would be more appropriate. The Committee noted however that the specific donation to an individual was Amanda Brown's wish and accordingly should be followed. The Committee, in recognition of Geoff and Amanda's contribution agreed to a \$500 donation.

Pat and Martin raised issue of availability of a form on AFA web to allow issue of Height Cards, under the ulna system, when we did not as yet have an approved measure and had not therefore agreed to permanent measures. This had caused some confusion as to whether height cards could be applied

for at this time. Agreed to remove Form until process was finalised.

The Committee noted the 7 Member reports that had been received regarding an alleged handler aggression incident that had occurred at Race to the Beach comp. These reports identified two AFA Members who were alleged to have been guilty of mistreating a dog during and after a race at the competition. The Committee noted that whilst one member had been spoken to at the competition regarding the behaviour the written incident reports suggested alleged misconduct under Rule 2.1(e) and were of sufficient concern to warrant investigation under the member discipline processes of the AFA. Accordingly a Sub Committee of Brian, Martin, Shireen and Konrad was appointed to investigate and report to Committee on whether it was assessed that the named members had a case to answer regarding the alleged mistreatment of the dog.

Item 8 Other Business. Nil

Date of Next Meeting- **Monday 7th October 2019.** There being no other business the Meeting was closed at 9.55 p.m.
Signed as a true record.

President.