THE AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

 SATURDAY 24th August 2019

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to attend the AGM this year.

**Highlights**:

Congratulations to Wollongong Wonder Woofs on holding a successful 2018 National Championships in Kiama last September, with some 51 teams over 11 Divisions in 3 rings.

Preparations for the 2019 Nationals at Waco in Queensland are well under way. All the best to the competitors and teams who are going.

A lot of work has been done over the past year to implement the Ulna measuring system for dog heights as voted in by the membership at the 2018 AGM. The Rules have been rewritten and the first “official” measuring device has been developed. It took longer than expected to develop the device, which had some teething problems, but this is not unusual in the first version of a new product, and we hope to have overcome them in the current version.

The Committee is concerned about the numbers of judges and, to a lesser extent, ticketed timekeepers. States with small numbers of judges, such as South Australia, are affected in a major way when one of their judges is unavailable for whatever reason, and Ian Gauntlett’s retirement last year has highlighted the situation in Victoria. Race Meetings can’t go ahead without Judges, and Competition Organisers in Victoria and South Australia have been forced to look interstate, which adds to costs. Members and clubs are encouraged to consider nominating and supporting nominations for judge training.

Comparison between 2018 and 2019 statistics indicate that the Association shrank over the year. The figures might be misleading because of the massaging required to extract the data and because of late renewals, but the numbers of members and racing dogs appeared to be around 5% smaller in 2019 than in 2018. The number of clubs also shrank. Let’s hope this does not become a trend.

The Association’s Insurance situation changed significantly at the start of 2019 due to inability of the Association to obtain participant insurance, which seems to be affecting all sports not just us. I remind Members that new limits apply to insurance coverage at sanctioned events and that they take part at their own risk.

**Subcommittee activities:**

Development and Promotions Subcommittee

The new State Premiership system is up and running thanks to Steve Pitt’s and the Subcommittee’s vision and a lot of work by many people. Progressive results are available on the Web.

The Rules Subcommittee

Prepared the new rules for Ulna measurement.

Developed the new system that allows selected divisions in a Regular Round Robin Race Meeting to be handicapped.

Revisions and clarification to Fouling in the Ring

Web Team

Further developments from the Web team continue to improve the Association’s systems including:

* Entry Receiver- Online Entries
* Trialing has been going on of a new system for Timesheet generation including calculation of handicaps and breakouts for Handicap racing. This is being testing in readiness to go Online and should save a lot of effort for Competition Secretaries.
* Electronic Results is up and running
* Electronic Workbook. Points - Testing at the moment, close to release

Incidents Subcommittee

The Dog Incidents Subcommittee again raises concerns over the number of green dogs who are being issued with Black Cards. It still seems that some dogs are being introduced to racing too early and are not sufficiently trained or focused. Both teams are affected in a Black card situation; the impact of chasing or aggression on the non-offending dog can be significant and receiving a Black Card is distressing. We encourage club co-ordinators and trainers to use Training in the Ring and Mock Comps as much as possible to test-drive your green dogs before putting them into a racing team.

**Rule Changes**

A Postal Ballot was held on two On Trial rules changes, results to be announced shortly.

**Thank you’s**

The 2018/19 Committee members are:

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| --- | --- |
| Richard Mellon | President, member Rules subcommittee |
| Jenny Millar | Vice President, member Dog Incident subcommittee |
| Brian Lindsay | Secretary |
| Patricia Byrne | Treasurer, member Web Team |
| Shireen Pitt | General Committee, member Rules subcommittee, member Development subcommittee |
| Konrad Moskal | General Committee, member Dog Incident subcommittee |
| Sam Brown | General Committee, member Rules subcommittee, member Development subcommittee |
| Steve Pitt | General Committee, Chair Development subcommittee |
| Justin Allen | General Committee (resigned) |
| Jennifer Crane | General Committee, member Web Team |
| Frank Lux | General Committee, Chair Rules subcommittee |
| Michael Ashton | Regional Rep ACT |
| Martin Watt | Regional Rep SA, Chair Dog Incident subcommittee |
| David Strong | Regional Rep Tas, member Rules subcommittee |
| Josh Ellen | Regional Rep Vic, member Dog Incident subcommittee, member Development subcommittee |
| Louise Stephen | Regional Rep NSW, member Dog Incident subcommittee |
| Robert MacDonald | Regional Rep Qld |

Also to Non-Committee office bearers:

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| --- | --- |
| Phil Lea | Supervisory Judge, member Rules subcommittee |
| Anne Coleman | Titles and Awards |
| Paul Newman | Rules subcommittee |
| Julie Pamplin | Points and Seed times |

Committee elections will be held shortly, all the best to any candidates who are facing a vote.

**New dog titles over the year**

And finally, congratulations to all of our dogs and their handlers who have achieved new titles over the year.

Based on points recorded as at 30th June, here are the major dog milestones:

Flyball Master Champion 1000 points: 26 (2018: 24, 2017: 34)

Onyx 1300 points: 26 (2018: 20, 2017: 27)

Flyball Dog Grand Champion 2000 points: 9 (2018: 6, 2017: 7)

Flyball Dog Grand Champion Jeddah 3000 points: 4 (2018: 3 2017: 6)

* 1312A Bowie
* 2352A Toby
* 1250A Sasha
* 1301A Harvi

Flyball Dog Grand Champion Ezri 4000 points: None in 2018/19 (2018: 1, 2017: 2).

In closing, I’d like to wish all the best to all Flyballers, Officials and the new Committee for the year ahead, and thank you for your attention tonight,

Richard Mellon,

President Australian Flyball Association 2018/19.