



The British Flyball Association

Notes of Committee Meeting No 7 held at Southmoor Village Hall on Sunday 20th September 1999 10.20am to 6.10pm

Present: Roy Hiscock, Peter Roberts, Robert Henshall, Chris Fulford, Andy Bawden, Martin Dickenson, Doreen Smith, Graham Nye

The meeting opened with a brief introduction from Graham Nye who explained that he had been invited to join the committee but preferred to 'sit in' on the meeting as a non-voting member until such time as he decided whether he was able to take up the position of Committee Member. In the meantime he was happy to help out with any administrative tasks.

1. APOLOGIES

None – although Peter Roberts arrived late due to traffic problems.

2. COMMITTEE POSITIONS

2.1. Resignation – Fiona Middleton

A letter had been received from Fiona resigning her position on the Committee. The Committee acknowledged that she had experienced considerable difficulty attending meetings due to personal commitments. Her resignation was therefore reluctantly accepted.

2.2. Co-opting New Members

- a. Graham Nye (Maple Leafs) – see above.
- b. Gary Metherall (Tornadoes) – The Chairman read out a letter received from Gary advising his reasons for declining our invitation at this time.

3. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

Misconduct letter(Hawks)

The Chairman agreed to investigate the reported incident to enable the Secretary to formulate a suitable reply.

NB: Peter Roberts arrived at the meeting

4. COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIALITY

The Committee was reminded that matters which are currently under discussion at Committee level should not be disclosed to third parties. Although we maintain an open policy on decisions.



5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. Kevin McNicholas

The Secretary reported that three letters had been received from Mr McNicholas. Replies had been sent following circulation to the Committee Members.

One letter requested that future correspondence should be sent to the Member's correct address as per the 1999 renewal form. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Secretary to ask Mr McNicholas to which member of his team this point referred.

It was noted that the Knebworth situation has now been concluded and the respective parties have been informed of the outcome.

5.2. Debbie Bouckley

A reply had been formulated and circulated to the Committee and it was agreed that this should now be forwarded to Debbie.

5.3. Safety Concern

Following an investigation into the matter it was understood that the problem which had occurred was due to a territorial problem within the handler's own home and as such should not cause any trouble at Flyball events. The Secretary was therefore authorised to formulate a reply to the handler concerned formally accepting the assurances the Committee had received. No further action should be required on this matter.

6. REFUSAL OF ENTRIES

6.1. Validity of New Rule

Following considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed that this rule should be withdrawn since, with hindsight, it would be difficult to implement. It was noted that the reasons for introducing the rule had been valid enough at the time – it is always easier to look back with wisdom rather than predict the future.

6.2. Dartford Show Status/Exclusion of BFA Registered Team

As a member of the Organisers team the Chairman announced that he was unable to take part in this discussion and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.

It was noted that:

- a. The Show closing date was 10th July 1999
- b. The letter from the organiser was received on 27th June 1999
- c. The application from the excluded team was received on 27th June 1999

There could be no doubt that the exclusion of the team had occurred as a direct result of the above rule. However because of time constraints it had not been possible to obtain a valid Committee vote until it was too late for the Organiser to alter the exclusion. The following actions were now necessary to redress the situation:

1. The event would retain its sanctioned status.
2. The Secretary should write to the Organiser advising that their actions at the time were 'valid' – however they should note that the rule had now been rescinded.



3. Peter Roberts to ask the Stats Officer whether it would be possible to calculate the flyball points the excluded team would probably have gained had they been permitted to run. If this was possible these points would be added to their 'scores' to redress as far as possible the validity of the BFA Flyball Dog of the year awards system.
4. The Stats Officer would also be requested to now 'issue' any points earned by other teams at the event.

7. RULE CHANGES

The various modifications to the rules were discussed and a format agreed on to enable members to be notified in good time for the proposed EGM.

8. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1. AGM

- a. Item 10(e) Define Heat, Leg and Race – the following definitions were agreed:
 - 'Leg' - no longer to be used
 - 'Heat' - 4 dogs completing one run each to the box and back
 - 'Race' - a set of 'heats', i.e. 3 or 5 heats equals one race
- b. Item 10(g) – Dog Measuring – Although more than one method would probably be allowed all equipment would have to be approved by the BFA. 'Hoops' would probably be the preferred system and Peter Roberts would be providing a full set of hoops for the Judges seminar. All new equipment should be presented to the Dog Measuring Sub-Committee for approval.
- c. Item 9.1.3 – Item 10(h) Time Lapse for Flyball Points – It was noted that this matter, which had been raised at the AGM had now been concluded. As the Committee was not aware of any other similar problems it was noted that no further action was required at this time.

8.2. Asset Register/Availability of Car Stickers, etc.

The Treasurer advised that very little progress had been made with the Asset Register but it had not been forgotten. It was agreed that only items which were valued at over £50 should be included.

It was noted that if we reopen the 'Shop' we would be liable for tax, etc. and this was therefore not felt to be a good idea at present. Naturally consideration would be given to any BFA member who wished to sell approved BFA items on our behalf.

8.3. Increase in Revenue/Expenditure to Date

The Treasurer took the opportunity to table his figures for the year so far. It was agreed that since the figures were currently showing a likely surplus for the year no action should be taken at this point regarding increasing revenue.

9. SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

Following the meeting earlier in the year it had not been deemed necessary for this subcommittee to meet since no safety issues had been reported.



10. SHOW SECRETARY

10.1. Forthcoming Events

A brief report was given of forthcoming events. Sanction had been given for three additional shows. It was also noted that an application was likely to be received from Border Patrol for an event in Newark on 19th December.

10.2. Recommendations to Show Organisers

These were virtually complete and a copy would be issued to the Committee for final approval.

11. DISCIPLINARY SUBCOMMITTEE/PROCEDURES

The subcommittee's recommendations were to be included in the amendments to Rules.

12. BFA REPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It was noted that we are receiving a lot of enquiries including 3 from Northern Ireland. The Chairman advised that he had been contacted by some people from Australia who were hoping to visit us at the Blake Hall event.

13. AWARDS SECRETARY/GOLD & SILVER AWARDS

13.1. Awards Secretary

The Committee was sorry to hear that Debbie Bouckley has declined this position. Sam Bawden had expressed interest in undertaking this work and it was agreed that she should be offered the position.

13.2. Gold & Silver Awards

It was noted that the 'stopgap' certificates kindly issued by Nigel Bouckley had been well received and the Chairman agreed to enquire whether Nigel would be able to issue certificates for all future Awards. This would be in addition to the actual 'award'. In the past these awards had taken a variety of forms and it was agreed that the new Awards Secretary would be asked to investigate what form future awards should take.

13.3. Opting Out of Awards System

It was agreed that to maintain the validity of the Awards members could not be allowed to opt to withdraw their dogs from the flyball point system. Naturally any handler would however be within their rights to refuse to accept any Award they attained, if they wished to do so.

The Chairman agreed to advise the handler who had asked for their dog to be withdrawn of the Committee's decision.

14. ADVERTISING TRAINING AND FUN EVENTS

It was noted that although these events are not 'sanctioned' by the BFA they are necessary to the BFA to increase membership and 'spread the word'. Naturally it would not be appropriate for them to be advertised on the BFA's website on the same page as BFA sanctioned events. However it was agreed that the Chairman should discuss with the Webmaster the possibility of having a separate page where organisers could, if they wished, post advice of their non-sanctioned events.



15. PUBLICATIONS

15.1. Flyball Record

It was noted that the content and layout had much improved and it appeared that the membership was much happier with the magazine in general. It was agreed that the Editor should be contacted to congratulate her on the progress made so far and to enquire in what way the Committee can help to ensure that the Record is easier/quicker to issue.

15.2. Flyball Newsletter

The Chairman issued a first pass draft of the next newsletter which should be ready to issue (by post) with the EGM notices, etc.

15.3. Issue Procedure for Both Publications

It was noted that handing the publications out at shows had not proved effective for a variety of reasons and it was therefore agreed that they should be issued by post in future.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1. Membership Renewals

Following a request from the Membership Secretary it was agreed that renewals should be sent by post to members each month. It was noted that the staggered renewals was causing some problems and we should consider returning to the old system of having one renewal date. The Treasurer agreed to consider the introduction of a 'pro-rata' system whereby members joining mid year would pay less than those joining on the actual renewal date. Naturally this would only be for new members, renewing members would join for the full year. Consideration also to be given to the possibility of introducing a 'penalty' system for late renewals.

16.2. Use of PO Box

The Secretary advised that although she had no objection to receiving post at her home address it was becoming extremely difficult to receive Recorded Delivery letters, of which there had been a spate in recent weeks. It was agreed that members should be advised that all Recorded Delivery letters should be sent to the PO Box for onward transmission to the Secretary.

17. PROPOSED DATE OF EGM

It was agreed that, subject to the hall being free on that day, the EGM would be held at Southmoor Village Hall on Sunday 21st November.

18. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Saturday 2nd October 1999 at Blake Hall event.

The meeting ended at 6.10pm.