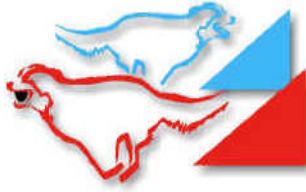


The British Flyball Association



Minutes of Committee Meeting No 3-2000/01

Held on Sunday 3rd December 2000 at Cogenhoe & Whiston Village Hall

Present: Roy Hiscock, Alison Booth, Betty Potts, Robert Henshall, Doreen Smith, Andy Bawden, Peter Roberts

Apologies for Absence: Chris Fulford, Graham Nye

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

These had been circulated by the Acting Secretary and were agreed to be a true record of the proceedings.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Reports on progress as follows:

- a. Regional Representatives Co-ordinator - Reported that she had started the database of people wishing to join in with Flyball. So far no one had objected to having his or her name added. An Area Rep for Kent had now been found and paperwork would be forwarded in the next few days. Peter Roberts is still listed as Area Rep for Scotland, although it was hoped that this situation might change following the Training/Competition planned by the Pods in early May 2001. It was agreed that (with people's permission) in future anyone asking to join in with Flyball should have their name and area published in the Flyball Record with a note to contact the Co-ordinator for further details if anyone could help out. The Co-ordinator agreed to raise a new list of Representatives to send to the Editor of the Flyball Record and also to contact all Team Captains to enquire whether they are willing to train/take in new members.
- b. Getting Started Package - This was still under development but now in a format which could be used. The Chairman agreed to provide an electronic copy to the Committee members as soon as he had incorporated the new improved lane layout diagram a hard copy of which was handed over by Peter Roberts at the meeting.
- c. Video and Training Aids - About 2 ½ hours of tape had been obtained at the Snaith training day, from which maybe 20 minutes was perhaps usable. It was agreed however that it would be appropriate for a special day to be set aside especially for the 'video man' to obtain the footage he requires. Betty Potts and Alison Booth agreed to check which day would be best for the 'expert' to hold the 'video day' and everyone agreed to bring along as many dogs of various breeds as possible to ensure that the video shows a wide variety of dogs training for Flyball.
- d. Snaith Training Day - Betty Potts advised that a report on this event should be available before Christmas. Overall it was thought to have been successful although perhaps there had been a few too many people on the Trainers course.

- e. Show Secretary – a number of Sanctioned Shows had already been booked for 2001 as follows:

21 st January 2001	-	Market Harborough (Pods).
18 th February 2001	-	Slough, Berkshire (Barkshire Bandits).
25 th March 2001	-	Market Harborough (Pods).
15/16 th April 2001	-	Easter - Carlton Tower (Yorkshire Bouncers).
28 th April 2001	-	Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry (Pods).
5 th May 2001	-	Glasgow (Pods).

Applications are expected in the near future for following:

8 th July 2001	-	Yorkshire (Tykes) - Probably the week before Nostell Priory.
June/August/September	-	Cheshire - 3 Northern Bytes Competitions - Venue to be advised.

It was agreed that the Show Secretary should contact the Organisers of the Agricultural Show at which Peter Scott wished to hold a Sanctioned Tournament. Unless car parking can be arranged for at least some of the team vehicles it was felt the venue would not be suitable.

- f. Appointment and Review Procedure for Head Judges - it was noted that Andy Bawden would be producing a brief report following the Thetford Seminar. Although the number of attendees at this event had been disappointing the smaller group had provided a good forum for discussion of ideas etc. and it was therefore felt to have been a success.
- g. Secretary's Correspondence.
- i. Publicity Officer - It was confirmed that Kevin McNicholas had accepted the position of Publicity Officer.
 - ii. Tornadoes/Committee meeting - A letter on this matter had been received from Kevin McNicholas in reply to the most recent letter from the Acting Secretary, in which he (Kevin) had suggested an alternative solution to the problem that the Committee found unacceptable. It was agreed that the Committee should make a third (and final) attempt to carry out the wishes of the members at the AGM and arrange a Meeting. The wording for a letter to be sent to Kevin by the Acting Secretary was agreed.
 - iii. Red Dragons re splitting racing within one Division over two days - It was agreed that although this Show format might cause problems for some members, for others it might be an advantage. It is not actually disallowed by the Rules. The Committee considered formatting of Shows to be a matter for the Show Organisers - but if such a split format were to be used it should, as previously agreed, be clearly stated on the Show Schedule to ensure members understood on what basis they were entering.
 - iv. Lists of current Committee, Head Judges and 'Active' Teams - These were generally accepted by the Committee. However it was noted the format could be improved and the Acting Secretary would implement the necessary changes.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer produced various financial statements for the Committee's consideration. During the Treasurer's report the following points were noted:

- a. The financial position remains healthy. Details are available to current BFA members on request.
- b. The Treasurer agreed to investigate and arrange for a new Insurance Policy to be taken out for the Association.
- c. The Judges Seminar had shown a slight loss and the figures for this would be included in this year's accounts.
- d. It was agreed that Peter Roberts should order three more sets of Measuring Hoops for the BFA.

4. MEMBERSHIP PROCESS CHANGE

A letter had been received from the Stats Officer requesting help from the Committee to ensure that information is forwarded to her in a useful and timely manner. The content was not discussed as the Membership Secretary had unfortunately been unable to attend. It was therefore agreed that the Committee would intervene with the Membership Secretary to try and ensure that this matter was resolved as soon as possible.

5. SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

A discrepancy had been brought to light showing that errors had been made in the calculations for this event resulting in some awards being made to the wrong teams. This had occurred due to a genuine mistake that did not affect the winners of the first place, which was undisputed. The Committee did not deem it appropriate to take back awards which had been made and received in good faith as this would undoubtedly have a de-motivating effect on those very teams which the BFA wished to encourage. It was therefore agreed that duplicate awards would be made to those teams that should have received them. A letter would be sent to team captains with the team medals being forwarded under separate cover.

6. FLYBALL RECORD

It was agreed that the Jean Meakin (Editor) deserved a special thank you from the Committee for producing yet another good issue of the magazine.

7. WEBSITE

The Webmaster had reported that the Website continues to be extremely popular with between 45-50,000 hits per month. Nigel had agreed to provide the Show Secretary with a password to enable her to enter Shows directly onto the site as soon as practical. This should ensure that members are given as much notice as possible of forthcoming events.

Thanks were undoubtedly due to Nigel Bouckley for his continued support and unstinting work to ensure that the BFA continues to have such a well-maintained and professional looking Website.

It was agreed that managing the Website's advertising side should be left in the capable hands of Nigel and Graham Nye. It was however agreed that a suitable disclaimer must be added to the site to ensure that the BFA is not held responsible for the wrongdoing of Advertisers.

8. BFA MEMBERS AWARD AND MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

It was agreed that the Acting Secretary should send a letter to all Head Judges, Area Representatives and Officers explaining the purpose/intent of the Awards and asking them for nominations for these Awards. A note should also be put in the Flyball Record to ensure that everyone is aware that these Awards exist.

9. STANDARDS FOR FLYBALL LIGHTS

This matter was deferred for discussion at a later date.

10. TOURNAMENT RULES

Betty Potts agreed to review the Round Robin team formats as soon as practical since it had been noted that in one of the formats a team had to change lanes for consecutive Races.

11. REVISION OF FLYBALL POINTS

Alison Booth had spent a considerable amount of time studying the changes to Flyball Points that would result from various additional levels of points being awarded. Unfortunately it was noted that none of the proposals so far had resulted in any marked change of points allocation. It was noted however that all the suggestions made so far would substantially increase the amount of work undertaken after each competition by our Stats Officer. It was therefore agreed that no change should be made at this time. However investigations will continue to be made into this matter.

12. VENUE FOR 2001 AGM

The date for the AGM is Sunday 1st April 2001 and the Committee agreed that the best venue would be Southmoor Village Hall. Andy Bawden therefore agreed to investigate its availability.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. The Chairman reported congratulations were due to Nikki and Martin Dickenson on the birth of their baby and it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Treasurer to arrange for a suitable bouquet of flowers to be sent to them.
- b. It was agreed that that a request should be made via the February Issue of the Flyball Record for any nominations or rule changes to be put before the AGM.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Sunday 11th March 2001 at Southmoor Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 17.30hrs with the Chairman's thanks to Peter and Delia Roberts for arranging the Venue and providing Refreshments throughout the day.