

The British Flyball Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Sunday 11 October 1998, 2.00pm Compass Inn, Tormarton

Present: Kevin McNicholas (KMc), Debbie Bouckley (DB), Nigel Bouckley (NB), Roger Chambers (RC), Wayne O'Rourke (WO), Peter Roberts (PR), Alison Sharpe (AS), Gwain Theobald (GT), Anton Wittwer (AW) & Carol Plumbly (CP).

	<u>ACTION</u>
1. <u>Apologies for absence</u> – None received.	
2. <u>Minutes of last meeting</u> – Saturday 20 Jun '98, received by all committee members, and agreed with the proviso that pertinent issues were already on the agenda for discussion.	
3. <u>Matters Arising:</u>	
a. Rule violation – It was agreed, our current Rules & Policies were a little ambiguous, especially regarding Co-opted members. It was therefore agreed the title of 'Co-opted members' would now be referred to as Committee Assistants, who would not have voting rights. Rules & Policies book to be amended. Co-option was purely for Committee members retiring/leaving early.	DB
b. Treasurer - Treasurer is now receiving all banking correspondence. However, still awaiting bank books and cheque book.	RC/DB
It was agreed, all mail should be sent via the PO Box, and Carol can once a week forward all necessary letters to persons concerned. This may alleviate some postage costs	CP
c. Recipients of monies are compiling an income form (containing Name & Address, Tel No., Details of payment, Receipt No., & date received so all monies & mail can be cross referred). It was agreed these forms would be passed to the Treasurer monthly. Paying in books to be forwarded to the Treasurer once full. Paying	CP/DB
d. What does Roger want to do/achieve. Cost savings, where do we want to go and what does the BFA want. NEXT MEETING.	RC
e. Progress on "Budget Report" – Prediction. NEXT MEETING.	RC/AW
f. Progress on Profit & Loss account. NEXT MEETING.	RC/AW
g. Assets List – who has what? Roger to ask Lyn where the original copy is, to enable a for precise check of items. NEXT MEETING. Roger to discuss with	RC/All

Nigel where all training videos were sent - who was sent what. Nigel has a full list.

- h. **Records & Stats** - Gold Pin Award. Carol reported she had obtained a quote for a minimum order of 500, @ 59p each + £12.50 set up fee. However, this order of 500 couldn't be a mixed order. Kevin forwarded some information to Carol re mixed orders of 500 @ 95p each (no set up fee). Anton asked how many we may get through a year, Nigel reported approx. 250 per year/18 months.

Carol to look into possibly placing an order of 75 gold, 150 silver and 275 for advanced. Badges are to be cast and not enamel.

CP

Debbie to write a letter of apology on behalf of the Committee to A.Payne, who is still awaiting his Gold award, and inform him, we are currently looking into his Gold award.

DB

- i. Receiving of Racing Sheets – within 14 days. Nigel reported sheets are arriving within 14 days.

- j. **Area Rep Coordinator** - Feed back from Area Reps re training events. Gwain and Wayne reported, training events that had taken place to date had gone OK. Eg: Nicky Dickenson in Wales.

- k. Reports from Area Reps who didn't attend 21 Jun 98 mtg. This would be assessed after the Are Reps meeting of 17 October 1998. A full report will be made available for the NEXT MEETING.
Area Reps happy – NEXT MEETING.
How do they intend recruiting? – NEXT MEETING.
Feedback from Area Reps - NEXT MEETING.

**WO
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- l. Area Rep Changes – Belinda Crook and Clive Hildersley wish to stand down. Nigel offered to temporarily stand in for Clive until an Area Rep for Cornwall could be found. Anton advised Wayne to contact these Reps and request written resignation.

WO

- m. Is PO Box working – Carol reported this was slowly getting under way.

- n. **Education & Training** - Anton reported he felt sanctioned tournaments are going well. Carol, Anton and Peter all stated that training days had been very well attended throughout the year and there is an obvious demand for this. Gwain reported the training/fun classes had gone really well in Wales and no doubt Nicky would be pushing for more with the assistance of Stef Banyard. Peter said that the Northern Bytes had been right, not to hold a Sanctioned Tournament, but learnt many lessons and would be sure that with the correct encouragement they too would be in a position to hold sanctioned tournaments in the future.

- o. **Press & Publicity** – Peter reported he had a video of 4 minutes from the Stoneleigh Show, from Central TV. Thames TV are hoping to follow this up with a program “Mad about Pets” early next year.

<p>All training events etc are to be forwarded via the PO Box to the Secretary/FBR and Newsletter Editors to enable early publication ASAP.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Even though at least 28 teams out of 43 primary teams have internet access, items still need to be forwarded by post. Nigel said in 18 months or so the internet may provide a good source of cost savings with regard postage.</p>	
<p>p. Summer Championship layout – AS, AW, PR, Nothing yet.</p>	<p>AS/AW/PR</p>
<p>q. FBR. There seems to have been a breakdown in communications to date. The last FBR was ready for print, however, didn't get done. Peter suggested that all proof readers pass comments to Kevin and when all were happy, Kevin could go to print.</p>	<p>AW/PR/KM</p>
<p>Wayne pointed out that Stef had moved/moving and may be difficult to locate</p>	
<p>r. Newsheet – Alison and Stef to work in conjunction with each other over the compiling of the FBR & Newsheet, which would both now come out ¼ly. However, the next FBR was ready, so hopefully this would be out by the end of the month. (ie: every 6 weeks). Nigel would get in touch with Stef to forward results etc. upon receipt of Blake Hall results.</p>	<p>AS NB</p>
<p>s. Hosting Teams – Guidance Notes for hosting shows. It was agreed Debbie to put together a specimen schedule with guidance notes, to enable teams exactly what was required on schedules. Peter and Anton agreed that teams should get experience on demos and training days before they consider putting on a full blown Sanctioned Tournament, and possibly limiting no of team entries, on their first few shows. It was agreed that 1hr would be set aside at the next meeting to discuss this subject.</p>	<p>DB</p>
<p>4. <u>Correspondence</u> - would be dealt with as per agenda by Committee Members.</p> <p>a. Committee members were in possession of latest correspondence received from the Secretary. It was agreed that ANY mail that is sent out, is also sent to the Secretary for filing in the main BFA File.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Treasurers Report</u> – Roger reported the balance as at 6 October 1998 was £1,879.45. However, this may not be a true representation, as other members are paying monies in, and there may be debts for postage and other minor items. He did request that others paying monies in, should record all transactions in the paying in books, together with completion of summary sheets (as agreed at the last meeting) to be forwarded to him monthly.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>There seems to be a total income of less than £5,000 per year - which seems adequate for the Association to maintain its current level of activity - We are a non profit making organisation.</p>	
<p>Current and previous records would suggest that postage takes an unproportional amount from the funds, but Roger could not see an alternative procedure to the one</p>	

currently being used. However, it was agreed, all mail should be sent via the PO Box, and Carol can once a week forward all necessary letters to persons concerned. This may alleviate some postage costs.

6. **Secretary's Report** – Debbie reported schedules for shows were STILL arriving late (less than 30 days before a show). If this didn't start to improve she may start to clamp down. Carol asked if the Secretary could ring up and remind her if she was late with schedules etc. Debbie explained other organisations were a lot stricter and the 30 days deadline should be common practice - as are applying for shows, returning results etc all important in their own specific time limit.

Anton asked about short notice shows. Debbie explained, obviously nothing could be done about the 30 day deadline if the show had only just been asked for, or the details of a show that had been changed at last minute. What she was referring to are teams who apply for shows, months in advance but can't get a schedule to her within the time scale.

7. **Statistics & Records Report** - Nigel said he would be asking people for 'Flyball pictures' to put on the Web, as this is fast becoming a well used site. Last month the BFA had 28,000 visits to the site. He had also received 2 inquiries from individuals who wish to purchase "space" for their own advertising. This Nigel stressed, would NOT interfere with the BFA information. Committee to think about for NEXT MEETING as this would be a good 'income' for the BFA web site to start paying for itself.

NB

Summer Championship – Nigel reported 19 of the 28 teams had 'tied' and he felt as he was the only Committee member who knew the placings, he should not be party to the decision on dealing with ties. Gwain suggested working out how many teams had entered the most shows, and collate the points that way. Peter reiterated, this is what we said we wouldn't do when we announced the Summer Championship Layout.

ALL

Debbie suggested, scrapping the whole Summer Championship.

Kevin suggested working out how many points dogs had attained, for the shows entered, then dividing by the number of shows. This however, wouldn't sort the final positions effectively. Anton pointed out he wanted to get away from the 'point chasing'.

Anton, Roger and Carol said the idea of fastest times typified the spirit of the Championship - as teams entered with the idea of doing their best to win the Championship.

It was agreed: all teams 'tying' would be put in order of fastest time first. Final positions would be made available soonest.

Ghost Teams – Nigel reported, racing sheets were coming in with times and points for dogs, when in fact they hadn't run against another team (due to not turning up). This may leave it open for organisers to falsify how many teams had officially entered, to enable racing teams to gain more points. Therefore, ALL racing sheets

NB

(including blank ones for teams that didn't turn up) together with entry fees are to be made available. Carol asked Nigel if he wanted 'back copies of blank forms' he said it wasn't necessary at this stage. Anton asked Nigel to keep a check, that this procedure is followed from now on.

It was suggested rather than a team race 'no one' in the lane next to them, then these empty racing lanes could be 'saved' until another team is due to race the 'empty lane'. Both teams then run in lanes next to each other (NOT AS A RACE - because both teams will actually 'win', because in actual fact they are racing the 'ghost' team.

NB

8. **Regional Reps Co-ordinators Report** – Wayne reported an Area Reps meeting would be taking place on Saturday 17 October at Petersfield. Concern was raised over telephone calls received by Peter, Roger and Nigel concerning the contents of the meeting, together with letters that 'some' Regional Reps/Team Captains had received, whilst others seem to be missing. Wayne stressed letters had been sent to ALL Regional Reps/Team Captains. Together with a letter to ALL Committee members, informing them their presence was not requested.

Roger said the tone of the letter he had received implied 'something' was going on and he was not to attend. Wayne said he was not responsible, as the Area Reps had contacted him and all said they wanted the Committee excluded.

A lengthy discussion ensued on this matter. Wayne read out a copy of the letter which had been sent. Peter stressed he thought the manner in which these letters had gone out, together with the telephone calls received, were NOT in the interests of the BFA. Wayne said, up until this meeting, he felt the membership needed to know what was happening with the committee. A letter would be sent by the Secretary on behalf of Wayne, TO ALL Regional Reps/Team Captains ASAP, to clarify what meeting was taking place, where and when and that all Team Captains/Regional Reps were urged to attend.

Debbie voiced concern, whether Wayne did in fact have the best interests of flyball at heart, and whether a vote of no confidence should be raised concerning his position on the Committee.

Wayne informed the Committee that Sam Bawden would be chairing the meeting for him, and he would forward the minutes following the meeting to ALL committee members ASAP.

Nigel pointed out that the Regional Reps were not elected by the membership and that the items on the agenda thus far received may be beyond their remit as Regional Reps. Gwain said some Regional Reps had been elected, if their was more than one candidate in the specified area.

WO

It was agreed by Committee, Wayne would make a statement at the beginning of the meeting, informing the Regional Reps/Team Captains that the Committee had worked out a number of differences and were now working as a united team for the best interests of the membership and ultimately the BFA.

Members of the Committee who are Area Reps/Team Captains would be present if

possible with their Area Rep/Team Captain hats on, and not in their capacity as a BFA Committee Member. Peter would answer questions re Committee matters only if asked.

WO

All other members of the committee agreed not to be present themselves, but would probably be represented.

A//

The Committee felt that a role change concerning members on the Committee. Anton said he for one would happily resign if the way ahead was one member per team on the Committee, and this would be sounded out at the Regional Reps meeting.

It was decided to temporarily close the meeting at 8.30pm, due to time.

The Meeting will continue with the ORIGINAL Agenda on Saturday 28 November 1998, 1100am, Compass Inn, Tormarton.

The Chairman thanked all for attending.