

# The British Flyball Association

## Continued Minutes of Committee Meeting Saturday 28 November 1998, 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) and Anton Wittwer (AW).

It was agreed to abandon the original agenda, and discuss the most important issues still outstanding.

### **ACTION**

1. **Apologies for absence** – Carol Plumbly (CP).
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – Sunday 11 October 1998 - Proposed: Peter, Seconded: Alison that they were correct.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

- a. Gwain expressed his concerns over the Summer Championship results, then proceeded to read out the original recommendations concerning the point scoring system of the Championship. Anton asked if it would alter the positions. Nigel said "yes". It would therefore be addressed later, together with Regional Reps Co-ordinators Report, Flyball Record and Stats.

**All**

4. **Treasurers Report** – Roger reported the balance as of today was currently around £2000, the account is a very static account, it is usually around £1,800 - £2,000. It wouldn't take very long to go under £2,000. Therefore, it is to be decided what do we want to do with it. Gwain and Wayne suggested keeping hold of it for the time being. Roger pointed out that we are "hanging on in there". For example costings have been very erratic, especially concerning the Flyball Record, last year we spent around £1,500, for the reproducing and postage for 4 issues. It works out to be about £1 per copy per issue. Therefore, if we spend anymore than that next year, it will most definitely make a dent in the £2,000 we currently have. If it does, we must look elsewhere to increase our income, eg: increased membership fees. Our turnover is around £5,000 and we spend most of it. If we want to progress further and make purchases, then we need to look at ways of funding it, basically we haven't got any budget at the moment to spend.

Anton suggested asking the membership at the AGM, as it's a membership issue, what purchases they think the BFA should be making, and how we should increase our income, to make the purchases.

**AGM**

Alison asked about certain purchases that need to be made eg: the pins, and about annual costs: Flyball Record, Postage, Newsheet, Web site (£250pa).

The way forward, would suggest that if we are to buy anything, then there must be some way of generating an income, eg purchasing 'pins' for awards, and selling

some of them 'to pay' for the ones we award.

Kevin and Peter suggested getting a gift of thanks for Sally, eg some flowers/bonsai plant to be presented at the next show she attends.

**PR/KMc**

5. **Statistics & Records Report** - Nigel thought it a good idea that only 1 person per team (where permitting) be on the committee. He has already canvassed the membership concerning someone taking over the Stats, on the understanding of a hand over period for the first 3 months of 1999, so Nigel will work hand in glove for the first 3 months. Nigel is happy to continue with the web site for the next 12 months, but doesn't see that he needs to be on the Committee to do so. Anton expressed his concerns that the committee should only deal with committee matters, not the general comings and goings of the BFA. He stressed that whoever is doing Stats, doesn't need to be on the committee, however does need to be answerable to the committee, or chairman, or even having someone on the committee who is responsible for the "Stats" person, and must report back to committee. Nigel expressed his concern on the amount of data currently held on the data base, and if we have someone who is not on the committee, what's to say, the upkeep won't be monitored. Kevin said the BFA currently has 2 assets: the money in the bank and the Stats, without our Stats we have nothing. Peter stressed that someone who is going to put such a large amount of work and time into doing the Stats then they should be able to have their say.

**NB**

Gwain stressed that if 'you're not known to the membership, how do you get on the committee' as far as he was aware - the membership likes "personalities on the committee".

Anton said there are people out there, who want to do things for the BFA, but don't want to be on the committee. Or if the Committee invest a lot of time and effort to someone who wants to do the Stats, but at an AGM doesn't get elected. A long discussion ensued whether the Stats person should be on or off the Committee.

Anton suggested that if the new Stats guy wasn't elected, the Committee can say to the membership, that this is the guy we recommend and possibly do the job.

The best option would be to have a Stats expert on the Committee, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> option would be they are responsible but as a co-opted member who has to attend X amount of Committee meetings.

Peter read out Neil Meekings letter pertaining to Nigel doing continuing with the web site and Stats.

Anton said that the Treasurer and Secretary (whether that is the same person who sanctions shows etc) should always be on the committee. The rest of the committee would be elected members who sort themselves out to be Chairman, Vice Chairman etc. Everything that is done for the Committee doesn't have to be done by a committee member, eg, Press & Publicity Officer and Flyball Record Editor in his opinion do not have to be Committee members, but persons who want to do the job in the interest of Flyball.

Roger stressed that there are 2 or 3 roles that are to be static and must be on the Committee. Peter suggested he thought the Area Reps Co-ordinator should also be on the Committee, that is our way of getting proposals/ideas etc and the correct information to the membership.

Wayne suggested that if the new Stats guy doesn't get elected then the Committee co-opt.

Nigel went on to discuss his other matter, that he would like to see in place for next year. The point system/annual awards - Flyball dog etc we have in place at the moment does not encourage racing.

Nigel read out an example of a criteria to be thought about prior to the next meeting. Anton agreed that we've lost sight of the primary reason for Flyball - to race against another team, the winning and loosing of races is what Flyball is all about. Flyball points are a very good thing, he's got nothing against the point allocation - FD, FDA etc. Teams should be striving to beat the opposition. However, the other awards - Flyball Dog of the Year, Flyball Bitch etc. need to be looked at, perhaps we should ask the membership, how to restructure the awards. At the moment it is quantity rather than quality of racing, he's heard it said we should be calling it "Flog Dog of the Year" instead of "Flyball Dog of the Year". We do not want to be seen as a group of people who just do what we can to get the maximum number of races per day, just to fuel the points competition at the end of the year.

Peter said Nigels suggestions are a good idea, and should be thought about in detail.

Kevin suggested Nigel, Anton (to look at NAFA's guidelines) and anyone else who has suggestions regarding the awards etc draw up a format, list the options, what the result of it would likely to be and publish some examples prior to the AGM via Area Reps and Team Captains etc. Eg; "This is the format, this is what I propose, this is what I believe the effect of it will be".

**NB/AW/ALL**

As we want feedback, it was suggested to get the options published ASAP in the Flyball Record/Newsletter.

8. **Regional Reps Co-ordinators Report** – Wayne reported he had received a letter from Clive Hildersley who would be standing down from his area - Cornwall, and he'd put 3 names forward: Lyn Crook, Debbie or Nigel Bouckley.

Wayne had heard that Belinda Crook wants to stand down, but he hasn't been able to get in touch with her, Gwain will try and chase up. There are two other people who wish to be Area Reps for Belindas area. Anton said the Committee ought to think about the possibility of having more than one area rep from a team - is it a good or bad thing?

**GT**

**ALL**

Unfortunately the Area Reps has not developed to what it was initially hoped for.

Wayne stressed that he had heard that Terry Condra doesn't run for a team anymore, therefore, is he any good as an area rep? Wayne to find out if he wants to continue as Area Rep, is he going to do anything to promote Flyball? Perhaps, setting certain Area Reps up, with callers inquiring about Flyball.

**WO**

It may also be a good idea to put together a 'criteria' that area reps have to be an active member. Find out why the Area Reps position isn't working in certain areas.

**WO**

Wayne was concerned that Debbie had been asking for an up to date list of Area

**WO**

Reps, but he was unable to get hold of some by phone, Kevin suggested writing to them politely, asking what their situation is, and what they can offer to promote Flyball. Wayne to let Nigel know in the next few days what the situation is with the "list of Area Reps", so we can get a current list out with the Flyball Record/Newsletter.

**WO**

**NB**

Peter expressed his concerns, over the 'highlighted' minutes following the Area Reps meeting, and that he did not feel it was a full account of what had actually happened. Wayne said this was because there were at least 30 pages of minutes to sift through, and it was hard to pick out the bones.

9. **Education & Training Officer** - Peter thought he thought we were due another Judges training day, in the early part of '99, possibly in conjunction with a training day, even possibly a Show Managers Course, and Guidance for Show Organisers Peter to look for a venue, and try and get the ball rolling for a date in February.

**PR**

10. **Press & Publicity Officer** - Anton reported that if anyone has any reports, get them into as many publications as possible - DTW, Our Dogs, Dog World etc, he thinks we're getting a reasonable amount of coverage, it's a lot harder to get into the glossys. He suggested putting together another starters video, perhaps a short 3 minute video, Gwain suggested putting together a short video for perspective show ground organisers. Anton thinks that 1999 is going to be a hard year to get venues due to the bad turnout this year, especially regarding Living Heritage.

Peter reported 3 minutes TV coverage on Central regarding Stoneleigh. Peter had a video if anyone wishes to see.

Still currently awaiting the Winter League dates, but these will be published as soon as the Tornados hear from Hills.

**KMc**

11. **Rule Changes** - It was suggested that the Committee look through the current Rules & Policies and make suggestions/proposals for changes PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING, so we have an idea of what everyone thinks. We then forward proposals to Team Captains, prior to the AGM. Asking if they think the proposals are a good idea, what they think, is this the way we should go, if not how do you think we could better it, so that we can sculpture the rules for the AGM.

**ALL**

Anton stressed that the Rules & Policies should be looked at and thought about VERY carefully.

**ALL**

Perhaps looking at NAFA Rules again and seeing what approach they have. We could ask Sally what she actually considers are a 'must' to be looked at.

12. **Flyball Record** - Alison spoke to Stef just after the Regional Reps meeting, where Stef reported the Record was just about ready to come out, needed a bit of tidying up, find a printer, get a ball part figure, then get in touch with Roger, get the OK on it and get it out. Alison and Stef had agreed between them that they would alternate with a Flyball Record, Newssheet, etc. Stef was aiming for the Record to come out first part of December, then the Newsletter to come out middle of December or early part of January. The Newsletter is also ready to come out.

Kevin pointed out, he didn't see there was a problem with someone publishing a Flyball Record type magazine with their own subscriptions, like DTW etc. They are people who are taking info from the doggy world and putting their own

publication together. Wayne stressed the membership feel as though 90% of their membership fees go to the FBR.

Alison stated that we do actually need guidelines and some one to proof read prior to the publishing of information, and Stef's in agreement. There is also a lot of "correct fact" information to be checked, eg: Correct price, up to date/correct area reps info, and making sure no one is slagged off, names aren't mentioned in disciplinary hearings and no one is portrayed in bad light.

Anton pointed out that he didn't think Stef was aware that the job of Editor was to collate, compile, print, envelope and post. Wayne pointed out that at the Area Reps meeting she was asked if she wanted to continue as Editor and do the whole lot, and she said "Yes she would love to continue to do the whole lot", Alison reiterated that when she'd spoken to Stef after the Area Reps meeting, Stef would contact local printers and contact Roger with a ball part figure. So at that point she didn't have a problem with being Editor. Anton stressed he still thought Stef could do with help on the presentation side and getting it out on time. Perhaps she could edit but not publish the Record.

Kevin suggested taking the record from Stef, Anton said that would not be a good idea, but perhaps giving her a helping hand. Nigel said that we have to support a nurture her. The membership want a Record, so why not just let it go out, and leave it up to the membership to comment. Then we offer feedback.

Anton suggested that we still need a committee person who is responsible for checking the Record over. Peter reiterated that we did discuss this at the last meeting.

Anton suggested Alison to write a set of guidelines/parameters "Duties and Responsibilities" for herself and Stef to work to, for the Committee to look over, if the committee approve these, then there's no future need to proof read, prior to printing, but to stay within the parameters/guidelines. Alison asked for all Committee to drop her ideas over the next couple of weeks to enable her to cover everything in her guidelines.

**AS**  
**ALL**

Anton suggested perhaps having a glossy cover for the Record, where you change the issue number, and perhaps having a Techni-cal or Hills advert inside. Nigel said the Getting Started booklet was £500 per 5,000 covers.

13. **Memberships** - Kevin enquired if there was any problem with this as Carol is still poorly. Anton reported that Carol is going in once a week and clearing the desk, but things are very quite at the moment.

**CP**

14. **Certificates** - Nigel reported we are out of Flyball Dog Certificates, could we get some more? Wayne stressed this was very important. Nigel asked for the Committee to think about an award for the dog reaching 20,000 points - our ultimate award.

**NB**  
**ALL**

Kevin to look at getting the pins sorted, as Carol still poorly.

**KMc**

15. **AGM** - Saturday 20 March 1999, 12 noon. Peter to look for a venue near Birmingham with possibly somewhere to stay over.

**ALL/PR**

16. **Summer Championship** - Gwain asked whether we leave the results as they are or

we go with what was written on the original proposal. Kevin thought the whole matter had been dealt with. Nigel said that the results had already been published. Gwain said it was his team that weren't happy with the outcome of the results. Nigel then passed all correspondence to Anton that had been received between him and Gwain. Gwain was asked what he considered "an entry is". A discussion ensued where Gwain stated that he was happy with what had happened, but he knows his team wouldn't be, and they possibly may write to the FBR. Anton said that the best option was to leave everything as it was, especially as the results did not concern 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placings.

Peter put a proposal forward for a Summer Championship: we nominate 8 qualifier events, the 1<sup>st</sup> two teams from each event qualify, all the teams can then continue to run in the subsequent events in which case the 1<sup>st</sup> two who have not qualified go through. Have 8 open shows, it means you are also racing against the 8 best shows. The final to be held as a proper Summer Championship Final. 16 team Double Elimination, then they are broken down into divisions for a Round Robin competition. It was suggested that Peter puts together the above for everyone to mull over and consider. The Committee still need to develop a Summer Championship proposal. Committee to also consider Flyball Team of the Year.

17. **Pet Smart** - Kevin reported that NAFA had struck up a good deal with them. Perhaps the BFA could approach Pet Smart with a view to getting some lights.
18. **Communication** - Peter stressed that we do need to keep in touch with everyone, and talk to each other, prior to Committee meetings. Kevin reiterated that all matters that the Committee have to think about and comment on, can be jotted down and put in the post prior to the next meeting.
19. **Newsletter** - Alison asked what to put in the newsletter concerning the Vet College, and Sherborne. Peter suggested awaiting a report from Sally concerning the outcome of the matters.
20. **Team of Year Championship** - Nigel to look at, and sort out.

**PR**

**ALL**

**ALL**

**ALL**

**ALL**

**NB**

**Meeting closed 6.10pm,  
Next meeting - Tormarton Inn, Bath, Sunday 10 Jan '99 - 1100am.  
Chairman thanked all for attending.**