

The British Flyball Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Saturday 20 June 1998, 2.00pm Petersfield

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

Apologies: Roger Chambers.

ACTION

1. **Apologies for absence** – received from Roger.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** – Sunday 10 May '98, received by all committee members. All present agreed they were a true record of accounts. *Proposed:* Alison, *Seconded:* Wayne.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- a. It was agreed Carol would be co-opted onto the Committee, although she would not have voting rights.
- b. Peter agreed to act as an observer to ensure the Committee is channeling its energy in the right direction and periodically report back.
- c. Nigel reported he thought the PO Box a good idea, and stressed to Anton, if the workload proved too much for either Carol or Anton, they should not hesitate to call on the BFA for help. Anton agreed.

Anton reported the PO Box would be £104 per year to maintain, plus costs to mail forwarding addresses.

Carol would be the initial contact with the BFA, especially concerning Membership.

Carol to make arrangements to set the PO Box No. up under the name of The British Flyball Association. It was agreed, ANY mail addressed "For the attention, or personal attention of" Or mail for a named individual is to be forwarded UNOPENED straight to the person concerned. All other mail would be opened and distributed as soon as possible with all relevant enclosures and original envelope.

- d. Nigel stated if and when he had items which needed to be sounded out prior to publishing on the website, he would Email Kevin, Peter and Anton, if nothing was heard within 24 hrs, he would presume everything is OK.

PR

RC - note

CP

**NB/KMc/
PR/AW**

<p>e. The necessary changes had been made together with a letter to the bank, re change of Treasurer. Roger to contact the bank requesting 3 x new paying in books (1 for himself, 1 for Carol and 1 for Debbie) together with a new cheque book. All recipients of monies are to compile a form for their own use, consisting of: Name & Address, Tel No., Details of payment, Receipt No., and date received so all monies and mail can be cross referred.</p> <p>f. Kevin gave his apologies, for the delay in the Tigers Flyball Team receiving their “letter”, however, this has now been sorted, and all parties have received appropriate correspondence.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC/CP/DB</p>
<p>4. <u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>a. Nigel reported he was compiling a file, concerning enquiries on points and certificates, and reported each query is dealt with individually on receipt and answered as soon as possible.</p> <p>b. Debbie had received notification of the cancellation of Yorkshire Priory, Carol has already started to contact Team Captains.</p> <p>c. Kevin had received a Newsletter from QUAFF regarding an update on the quarantine debate; a copy of the letter was circulated.</p> <p>d. Kevin circulated a copy of a letter from MAFF, where they hoped to be able to come to some conclusion soon.</p> <p>e. Kevin has written to some of the doggy press, regarding results of recent shows.</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p>5. <u>Treasurers Report</u> – Received from Anton on behalf of Roger, who reported the BFA currently had approximately £1,150-00, however there were a few outstanding invoices to be presented to the BFA, together with some race registration fees awaiting to be paid in.</p> <p>Kevin reported, Roger seemed to be getting on top of things; however, the BFA Committee should ask Roger what he wishes to do/achieve. Anton to enquire how “Budget Report” is getting on, and help Roger with the setting up of the Profit and Loss account.</p> <p>It was pointed out, the BFA need as assets list, who has what and where it is. Lynn had already started one, Roger to see if he has a copy, and where we can add or change items.</p> <p>With reference the recent “Trophy” which was handed back to the BFA, broken. It was unanimously agreed those trophies, which are “returnable” to the BFA, eg: Summer Championship, Winter League trophies, are to be “signed for” on handing out and receiving.</p> <p>6. <u>Secretary’s Report</u> – Debbie reported a few more dates had been added to the BFA Diary, which is starting to look very healthy as far as shows are concerned. The BFA Insurance has been renewed for 98/99.</p>	<p>AW/RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>DB</p>

7. **Statistics & Records Report** - Nigel reiterated that forms are starting to be completed correctly, otherwise, NO DOGS BFA No. = NO BFA POINTS.

Where possible he's now educating "scribes" to initial ANY changes they make on the time sheet.

Although there are currently no persistent offenders, Nigel stated he is happy to bring racing forms regarding disputes of point allocation to Committee meeting, although prolonged periods between meetings may require a Teleconference or Email discussion.

NB

Kevin pointed out, the "sticky labels" which hold the Team Name, dogs/handlers info, was a good idea, as this enabled paperwork to be filled out prior to a show.

The BFA currently have 316 members. Nigel also gave a run down of the Teams currently in the running for Team of The Year, award.

Nigel suggested the BFA now purchase the Gold trophy as there is a dog fast approaching the required number of points. Carol suggested a 'pin', which is worn by the handler, indicating when your dog has reached a Flyball milestone. Carol to obtain quotes for the setting up, reproducing, and amounts needed to purchase, and report back at next meeting.

CP

Nigel asked whether racing sheets could be with him within 7 days, rather than 30 days (as per Rule 4.1h) to enable a faster service to the membership. Anton was concerned that this would fuel the fire for point chasing. A vote was taken and a compromise reached of 14 days maximum for all paperwork and payments to be returned to the stats and records officer.

8. **Regional Reps Co-ordinators Report** – Gwain reported due to personal circumstances, he would be handing the position of Area Coordinator over to Wayne, however, he wished to continue as an Area Rep. Kevin thanked all concerned for their hard work in putting together the Area Rep/Team Captains meeting, and hoped many would attend.

It was agreed the BFA should start to push the Area Reps, to get things off the ground. At least one training event is to be organized by each Area Rep over a period of 12 months. Gwain reported his team would be hosting a demo and training day over the weekend of 1st /2nd August 1998 at the Breacon show.

Wayne is to contact Area Reps who do not attend Sunday 21 June 1998 meeting, and see if they are still happy at being Area Reps, and find out how they intend "recruiting" new members. Anton stressed he thought certain area reps needed pushing, this was agreed by all.

WO'R

Due to personal circumstances, Karen Cole, has stood down as Area Rep, and Alison Booth will be taking over.

A reprint of the back page of the "Getting Started" booklet will be issued with up to

<p>date Area Rep info and details of the PO Box No. as soon as these are forwarded from Carol to Nigel.</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p>1,000 booklets have been passed to Carol for her to distribute accordingly.</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p>9. <u>Education & Training Officers Report</u> – Peter reported he was not happy at the short notice for this Committee and Area Reps/Team Captains meeting. It was agreed the BFA would plan ahead and inform all relevant parties know of forthcoming meetings etc. as soon as possible.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Peter reported he had provided a large amount of information/guides for the Area Reps meeting, and hoped it would help other teams to think about hosting shows.</p>	
<p>Peter stated he wants to know what the membership want from the BFA – Sanctioned tournaments or Training events.</p>	<p>PR</p>
<p>10. <u>Press and Publicity Officers Report</u> – Kevin reported a lot of information had been sent to the doggy press, and if anyone had “good” photos of Flyball, he would be very interested. Anton thought the press coverage at the moment is OK. It was suggested a note is inserted in the Flyball Record, along the lines of: “The BFA may plan to re-use some of the items covered in the Flyball for distribution to the canine media, unless otherwise stated by the originator”.</p>	<p>KMc</p>
<p>Teams are to be pushed, to get them to push their own accomplishments in their local press, where hopefully this will lead to national coverage.</p>	
<p>Peter stressed the BFA should push for loads of publicity for all forthcoming shows.</p>	<p>KMc</p>
<p>It was agreed by all present, that ANY demos, training days etc which are due to be scheduled, the Secretary should be informed as soon as possible, to enable these dates to go in the Flyball Record, Newsheet and website.</p>	
<p>11. <u>Date and Place of next two meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 15 August 1998, 12.00, Compass Inn, Tormarton, Bath. • Saturday 17 October 1998, 10am, Modern Dog Sports, Petersfield, Hants, followed by an Area Rep/Team Captains meeting at 2pm, Petersfield. 	<p>PR</p>
<p>12. <u>Any Other Business:</u></p> <p>a. Kevin stressed, the 1999 Summer Championship layout, needs to be sorted as soon as possible, there are many ‘learning curves’ which can be used following this year. Anton suggested members from primary teams, such as Alison – Tornadoes, Anton – Jets and possibly Peter – PODs, should get together soonest to discuss this.</p> <p>b. Nigel had received numerous inquiries at Longleat and Sherbourne, regarding the whereabouts of the Flyball Record, some members asked if they would be entitled to their ‘money back’? It was agreed Nigel would coach Stephanie with her software for the layout of the Flyball Record.</p>	<p>AS/AW/PR</p> <p>NB</p>

- c. Alison was approached, to see if she would be happy coordinating a Flyball Newsheet, to go out, in-between issues of the Flyball Record. This would be an informative results/reports and general info sheet keeping the membership informed of what is going on. It was also agreed a “bumper” issue of the Flyball Record would be issued 4 times a year from now on, instead of 6. Nigel would assist Alison through the first few issues.
- d. Nigel and Peter expressed their concern over a team swapping dogs around within their first and second team, especially to the extreme of changing more than 2 dogs at any one time. Although this is within our Rules & Policies, it doesn’t appear to be “sportsmanship” within the sport of Flyball. Nigel to keep a note, if it happens again he’s to report back to the Committee.
- e. Anton referred to ‘sloping ground’. Tournament organisers should be made aware, that if a racing lane proves to have a gradient, it would be advisable to arrange for the racing lane to run “up” to the box, rather than “down”. It was suggested, the Judge and Show Organiser are to be made responsible for the racing lanes. Alison pointed out, ground conditions away from the box as well as towards it should also be taken into account. The matter was discussed in great detail, with a general feeling was that if a slop was severe then running up hill to the box was preferable but not an absolute must.
- f. It would be very helpful for teams wishing to host shows, that the BFA put together “Guidance Notes”. If all Committee members jot down their own pointers, then a Guidance Note could be produced from these pointers.
- g. Nigel pointed out, Racing sheets were now being filled in correctly however, some forms still had dog numbers missing. Carol said, before she hands the sheets to Nigel, she goes through them all and makes sure everything is filled in correctly. Alison questioned as to whether the forms should be “altered” after the tournament, Anton responded: “this is surely it is up to the individual show organiser what they do”. Nigel said his concerns were if a Tournament Official amended/added details to a form after a tournament and they were subsequently found to be incorrect the BFA would open itself to wide spread criticism. At least if there were “blanks” on the form, no one could be accused of altering them. It was therefore felt that no “additions” should be made to the paperwork, likewise, any alterations made during a tournament should be clear and initialed by the person concerned.
- h. Nigel enquired as Anton is a BFA Committee member, and on the Committee for the World Flyball Association, would this constitute him being the BFA Representative, or does each country have a Country Rep and an Association Rep. Anton felt a separate Rep was necessary.

AS/NB

NB

All

**There being no further business,
the Chairman thanked everyone for attending
and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.**