



The British Flyball Association

Notes of Committee Meeting No 3 at the Knebworth Show on Saturday 1st May 1999 12.30pm to 7.30pm

Present: Andy Bawden, Chris Fulford, Robert Henshall, Roy Hiscock, Fiona Middleton*, Betty Owen, Peter Roberts, Doreen Smith, Tim Toller

1. APOLOGIES

Fiona Middleton and Tim Toller

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 2.1. Read and accepted as being a true record of the proceedings.
- 2.2. All rule amendments discussed so far had been listed in the attachment to the minutes.
- 2.3. It was noted that the Committee had agreed at the last meeting that a note should be added to the Show Organiser's Information to the effect that obvious hill racing should be avoided if there was a slope down. The decision to race uphill to the box (rather than downhill) had been affirmed by the majority of those members of the BFA who attended the AGM. It was accepted that this issue was likely to be a 'debating point' for some time to come but at this point the wishes of the majority of the BFA members had to be respected. The issue of uphill/downhill racing is the subject of further discussion for the Safety SubCommittee.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1. Safety Sub-Committee Report – copy attached

- 3.1.1. Insurance - The Secretary advised that the BFA insurance policy is held with DBI (Dog Breeders Insurance) – telephone number 01202 295771. Betty Owen agreed to enquire as to exactly what we were covered for as the Sub-Committee felt adequate insurance is essential
- 3.1.2. It was agreed (unanimously) that the Show Organisers must be responsible for adequate insurance cover at their shows. The Show Secretary agreed to add this to the Recommendations to Show Organisers which is currently being raised.
- 3.1.3. The Show Secretary agreed to raise and hold completed copies of a form to report to the BFA any injuries which might occur at a Show. This Injuries Form should also contain the usual 'disclaimer' reminding owners/handlers that they are responsible for their own actions/overall safety/health of their dogs.



- 3.1.4. It was agreed that in the best interests of safe racing a new rule should be added under Judges Guidelines to the effect that :
- 5.6(h) The Judge may reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc.)
- 3.1.5. Changes in rules regarding down hill racing would be covered under 4.4.
- 3.1.6. Circulation of Improved information should be promoted by reiterating the rules etc. through Newsletters and also through the Judges' Seminars. One cause for concern is the number of people a team should be allowed on the lanes during racing. The present ruling was 6 handlers plus 2 helpers, however it had been noted that some teams have considerably more than 2 helpers.
- 3.1.7. It was felt that the BFA needs clearer guidelines as to what type of balls are allowable. Whilst small dogs obviously need smaller balls it was not felt acceptable that racket and squash balls should be used and it was agreed that any reference to these should be deleted from the rules. (Proposer Andy Bawden, Seconded by Peter Roberts – passed unanimously)
- 3.1.8. Whilst it was accepted that it is not always possible for Show Organisers to make demands of their ground 'providers' it was felt that they should always state quite clearly what conditions are needed for safe racing. If you don't ask you don't get! Show Secretary to add to Guidelines for Show Organisers.
- 3.1.9. It was agreed (unanimously) that the Show Secretary should add a note to the Guidelines for Show Organisers to the effect that the Organiser should arrange for a 'Vet-on-Call' and put a notice up in a prominent position giving directions to the vet's surgery together with a map (if possible).
- 3.1.10. The question of inexperienced dogs causing a danger on the lanes was raised but no decision was reached. This will be considered further at a later date.
- 3.1.11. Workshops – these may be a way forward in cases where agreement between different parties cannot be reached by ordinary methods. This possibility would be considered further at a later date.
- 3.2. Dog Measuring – The Sub-Committee to obtain samples of all the equipment currently being used to enable a sensible decision to be reached on this subject.
- 3.3. Asset Register – The Treasurer reported that not much progress had yet been made regarding this. The Committee agreed to press for further information/help in tracking down any assets held.
- 3.4. Award
- 3.4.1. Awards Secretary – Debbie Bouckley had been asked whether she was willing to act in this capacity and a reply was expected soon.
- 3.4.2. Gold/Silver Awards - The Committee felt that thanks were due to Nigel Bouckley who had kindly supplied certificates for distribution as a stop-gap measure until adequate awards could be sourced. The Chairman tabled a brochure and agreed to make further enquiries at a local wholesale outlet.. To be discussed further at next meeting.
- 3.5. Minutes of AGM – The Secretary received the ok to make one or two amendments to the minutes before they are officially released on the Internet by the WebMaster. These should be posted at



the next competition (Broadlands) and a reference should be made in the forthcoming Newsletter that copies could be obtained from the Secretary on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

- 3.6. Summer Championship – Saturday 10th July 1999 Longleat – Thanks are due to Anton Wittner for his very generous offer of free use by the BFA of all equipment needed to run a one day championship competition. Whilst it was acknowledged that running the competition on one day would pose certain problems it was agreed that at this late stage in the season it was probably the only way to hold such a Summer Championship. Naturally once plans were set for this year's competition it would be necessary to immediately plan for next year's competition.

4. BFA COMMITTEE AND NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- 4.1. The Chairman advised that Tim Toller had tendered his resignation from the BFA Committee. The Committee regretted this occurrence and accepted that this resignation was final. The loss of one Committee Member should not adversely affect the Committee's ability to function at this time.
- 4.2. The Committee was dismayed to learn from the Secretary that Carol Plumbley due to poor health had been forced to offer her resignation as Membership Secretary. Carol has always worked hard to keep the records up to date and naturally she will be sorely missed however the Committee understood that Carol's health must come first. Following considerable discussion it was decided (unanimously) that effective immediately Carol would be offered a leave of absence due to ill health rather than resign. In the meantime Lorraine Fulford would take over the Membership Secretary's tasks together with all PO Box work, etc. It was recognised that this would mean that two BFA positions would be held within one household but it was not felt that this would cause a problem since one was a Committee position and the other a Non-Committee position. The appointment would be for a nominal 6 month period. The Committee wished to express its very real sorrow at the loss of Carol's services and asked the Secretary to pass on its best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery.

It was agreed that the PO Box was working well with a great improvement in communication with the members and as such it should be continued in its present form with Lorraine forwarding post as necessary.

5. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1. Graham Nye (Maple Leafs) – Re Transfer of Dogs to New Team

It was agreed that the rule regarding transferring dogs from an existing team in a newly registered team was perhaps a little ambiguous and may need a slight amendment for the sake of clarity. The Secretary agreed to advise Graham that the Committee saw no problem with the dogs racing for the new team providing they notify the BFA Stats Officer in writing enclosing a letter from their previous team captain to the effect that he/she is happy for them to transfer.

- 5.2. Alison Sharpe – Re Editor of Newsletter

The Committee was surprised to find that Alison had not realised that she would no longer be acting as Editor of the Newsletter since it had been clearly stated in previous minutes that this would be the case. The Chairman tabled a reply to Alison and received the Committee's approval to forward it.

- 5.3. Terms of Reference

It was acknowledged that Nigel had obviously put a great deal of thought and effort into preparing this document which was very comprehensive. One or two points needed clarifying (i.e. backup disks should perhaps be held by the Chairman). It was therefore agreed that the Chairman should get in touch with Nigel and report back the essence of his discussion at the next meeting.



5.4. Signing on Behalf of the BFA

It was agreed (unanimously) that everyone should guard against signing letters in the BFA's name. The Chairman agreed to contact anyone who had inadvertently done this and ask them to amend their templates, etc.

5.5. Kevin McNicholas – Flyball Run Slope Safety Issue

The Secretary agreed to raise a formal reply to this letter. Unfortunately there is no easy solution to the issue of uphill/downhill racing and it is therefore likely to remain a debating point for some time to come.

However the Committee wished to state that it would prefer to receive correspondence of this kind directly. It did not feel that it was appropriate to issue it via open email. It is an emotive subject which needs reasonable 'across the table' discussion rather than broadcasting grievances in this manner.

The Committee was also extremely unhappy about some of the terms which had been used in recent email. It condemned the use of such media to make personal attacks on fellow members of the BFA and felt that such behaviour was inappropriate.

(NB – this was agreed at the first meeting but not minutes. All Rule changes are being listed separately for final discussion and agreement prior to the anticipated EGM.)

5.6. Kevin McNicholas – BFA Sanctioned Events/KC Events

The KC Liaison Officer agreed to discuss with the Show Organiser and Martin Pollard (who had acted in the past as intermediary with the KC) the subject of KC events being held at the same venue as BFA events. He would report back to the Committee on this subject as soon as was possible since it was recognised that this issue must be dealt with on an urgent basis.

It was noted that the Knebworth Show Organiser had advised the previous Committee that KC events might be held at the same venue as his forthcoming BFA sanctioned tournaments. Since the previous Committee had sanctioned the events it was not felt appropriate to withdraw that sanctioning at this point in time although the present Committee felt a certain amount of concern regarding this issue.

6. FLYBALL RECORD

Steph had forwarded the copy to the Committee and it was due to be issued at the Show.

Thanks were due to Steph who had obviously worked hard to produce a magazine which was a great improvement on the last edition and made good reading.

At this point Betty Owen had to leave the meeting due to prior personal commitments.

7. AREA REPS

The Area Rep Controller asked for his title to be changed to 'Coordinator' and it was agreed that this should be done immediately

He gave a brief summary of current status and advised that he intended to hold a 'quick' reps only meeting the following evening immediately after racing. This was an ideal opportunity for him to liaise with the reps since most of them were at the tournament.



8. JOINT MEMBERSHIP

It had been noted that some people were abusing the system. It was therefore agreed that to qualify for joint membership the two people concerned must be living at the same address. Family Membership would cover any child under the age of 16 and living at the same address.

The Membership Secretary and Stats Officer should liaise on this matter to clarify things.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 9.1. The Treasurer handed over a monthly cash flow and agreed to liaise with everyone regarding centralising the BFA's finances.

It was agreed that in future all cheques would be sent to the Treasurer for him to bank. Whilst this may delay paying in cheques by a day or two it should drastically improve the Treasurer's ability to correctly allocate all funds received.

- 9.2. The Treasurer has made enquiries regarding publications insurance. Full 'litigation' type cover would be too expensive at say £2,000. However his brokers were investigating a limited liability insurance which may be more reasonably priced. He will report back as soon as further information is received.

10. OUTSTANDING MATTERS

- 10.1. It was agreed that it would be useful for Show Organisers to have access to a 'specimen schedule' to ensure that they gave competitors enough information.
- 10.2. Andy Bawden to liaise with Betty Owen regarding the review of Disciplinary Procedures.
- 10.3. EGM – Consideration to be given to the venue/date of the EGM.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 15th May 1999 – Andy Bawden to arrange venue in Oxford area.

The Committee issued a vote of thanks to Modern Dog Sports for the use of their facilities and 'The Girls' for the provision of refreshments for the meeting

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Notes of meeting prepared by Doreen Smith 10th May 1999