



## **The British Flyball Association**

### **Notes of Committee Meeting No 4 at Southmoore Village Hall, Oxfordshire on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 1999 1.30pm to 8.55pm**

Present: Roy Hiscock, Andy Bawden, Peter Roberts, Robert Henshall, Chris Fulford, Doreen Smith

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Fiona Middleton

#### **2. BFA COMMITTEE**

##### **2.1. Tim Toller**

Nothing had been heard from Tim and it was therefore acknowledged that he was no longer on the committee.

##### **2.2. Betty Owen**

Following a telephone conversation to the Chairman Betty had written (14<sup>th</sup> May) to confirm her resignation from the Committee. This resignation was reluctantly accepted although all expressed regret that the Committee would lose Betty's expertise.

##### **2.3. Co-Options**

It was agreed that the Chairman should approach the following BFA members to see whether they would be willing to be co-opted onto the Committee:

Martin Dickinson (Red Dragons) – vote unanimous

Rob Burnes (Tornadoes) – Nominated by Peter Roberts, Seconded by Andy Bawden (vote – 5 for 1 against)

#### **3. KNEBWORTH SHOW**

A considerable amount of correspondence had been seen regarding the format of the above show and in particular to the possible 'over racing' of dogs in hot weather conditions. The Committee considered the evidence and agreed (unanimous) that:

1. The dog which had collapsed following racing had not been over-raced. It had completed 6 legs all told over a total of 4 races. The team captain had reported that the dog in question is prone to 'hyperventilation' problems and is inclined even in cold weather to become over excited. This condition results in the dog collapsing in a manner not easily distinguishable from heat exhaustion.



2. It is not considered part of the Show Organiser's responsibility to provide water for the dogs. However on this occasion the Organisers had provided a container of water, large enough for the dogs to stand in. Dog Owners must be responsible for their own dogs and, indeed, if the Show Organiser does provide a water container all handlers should keep an eye on the water level and either refill as necessary or report to someone else if they notice it needs refilling.
3. The racing format was not found to be at fault – all tournament racing had been completed within the stipulated time and the existence of 'fun classes' had given handlers the opportunity to give their dogs a longer rest in between the various sections of the racing. It is the owners' responsibility to ensure that they do not enter their dogs in too many races.
4. A motion was raised but not agreed (5 against 1 for) that it is not acceptable to make an announcement to the effect that any height dog not measured at the beginning of the day would have to run over 16" jumps. This could lead to 'scare mongering' which was naturally undesirable. The Rules state 'The head judge shall measure dogs jumping less than 16" if time allows. Otherwise, it will be up to the discretion of the team whether to have their dogs measured or not prior to the competition.' It was however accepted that in the interests of smooth running of any show it is desirable that teams get height dogs measured before racing starts. This motion was not passed.

#### **4. DISCIPLINARY OFFICERS**

It was agreed (Roy Hiscock proposed, Peter Roberts seconded – vote unanimous) that Andy Bawden and Robert Henshaw become the BFA's named Disciplinary Officers. They should act on behalf of the Committee to finalise a comprehensive policy for disciplinary procedures. This procedure should start with mediation. The Disciplinary Officers would report back to the Committee on this matter at the next meeting.

#### **5. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **5.1. Carol Plumbley (05.05.98)**

Carol had written formally tendering her resignation due to ill health. It was agreed (unanimously) that the Chairman would formulate a suitable reply.

##### **5.2. Anton Wittwer (as Director of Modern Dog Sports)**

Anton had written to officially complain about the allegations which had been made by a fellow BFA member that his Team/Company had showed a flagrant disregard to dog safety (see recent correspondence sent by open email). The Committee could not find any foundation for such allegations but it was unfortunately not within their power to stop BFA members stating their opinions (right or wrong). The Committee again condemned the use of the email system for spreading such rumours.

Anton had also noted that members of the BFA were in direct touch with NAFA, presumably acting on the BFA's behalf. The Committee felt that it would be desirable to appoint a Committee Member to act as Liaison Officer with all other international flyball organisations. It was agreed (unanimously) that Roy Hiscock would undertake this duty and naturally he would be grateful for any help that was forthcoming from BFA members with existing contacts within these organisations.

The Chairman agreed to speak to Anton and also to Kevin McNicholas to try to help heal the breach which had undoubtedly come between two of our most respected and long standing teams.



## **6. KC EVENTS AT THE SAME VENUE AS BFA EVENTS**

Following a report from the KC Liaison Officer regarding his discussions with the organisers of the Knebworth Show and also on an unofficial basis with the Kennel Club it was agreed that if flyball is to spread in the UK it needs to be seen by the public. There was no evidence to suggest that the KC objects to BFA tournaments being held on the same showground as a KC event. The BFA would in future seek written assurance from organisers that if they are co-locating on the same showground as a KC event the coordinator will endeavour to physically separate, as far as is practical, the BFA sanctioned rings from their other dog events.

The BFA Show Secretary must be advised of any other dog events which may be scheduled to be held at the same venue.

It was agreed (Proposed by Chris Fulford, Seconded by Roy Hiscock, vote – unanimous) that rule 4.1j should be added: 'The Show Organiser must declare on the application form any dog event to be held at the same venue of which he is aware'

## **7. DOG MEASURING**

5. It was agreed that optional height cards should be introduced after the Judges Seminar to be held in October of this year. The details of the scheme will need to be worked out at a later date. These cards could be applied for once a dog has been measured on three separate occasions by two head judges. These could be amended once as necessary by the Head Judges or member of the BFA if found to be incorrect. Any further changes would require requalification and reissue of a height card.
6. The Committee examined several different measuring methods.
7. The Alpha Verifier was found to have too great a differential and it was therefore agreed (unanimously) that it could no longer be used for measuring dogs at a BFA event. This ruling would come into affect following the Judges Seminar in October.
8. It was agreed that other means of measuring dogs would be tried and tested by the Committee and a recommendation would be made before the Judges Seminar.

## **8. ACTING MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

1. Permission was given for more numbered membership cards to be ordered.
2. The Secretary agreed to produce a Team Certificate and Rule Book for the Wolf Pack Team.
3. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to redesign the membership forms to enable them to be 'single sided' to save on printing costs.
4. It was agreed that the new membership form would state that 'a receipt will only be sent if an SAE is enclosed'.

## **9. PO BOX**

1. This was operating well and it would therefore not be a good idea to change it at the moment.
2. In future all requests for 'getting started' booklets should be passed to the Area Reps Coordinator.



## **10. BFA REPS COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The Coordinator gave a resumé of the brief meeting had been held at Knebworth and his decisions regarding reorganising certain areas to maintain better coverage.

## **11. STATS OFFICER**

It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Nigel to request copies of the Membership List for all Committee Members. It was also noted that Nigel had agreed to collate the information raised by the new 'Injury/Incident' form.

## **12. BRITISH SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP – 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1999**

1. To be held in one ring at Longleat. Anton Wittwer had offered free use of his equipment for the purpose of this competition but it was agreed that it would be more appropriate for the BFA to pay a nominal fee.
2. The racing format would be double elimination
3. A maximum of 20 teams could be accommodated
4. The competition would be open to all primary teams, with secondary teams being admitted if numbers allowed.

## **13. AMENDMENTS TO RULES**

It was agreed that all Committee Members should study the Rules and proposed changes during the next couple of week with a view to discussing them in detail at the next meeting.

## **14. PROVISIONAL DATES**

5. Judges Seminar 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> October – at Petersfield (offered free of charge by Anton Wittwer)
6. EGM – either 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> September – venue to be agreed but possibly ..... School Hall.

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Minutes of meeting raised by Doreen Smith