

The British Flyball Association



Minutes of Committee Meeting No 3-2002/2003

Held on Sunday 16th March 2003 at The Quays, Billing Aquadrome Approach

Present: Roy Hiscock, Robert Henshall, Doreen Smith, Alison Booth, Betty Potts, Peter Roberts, David Long and Graham Nye.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

These had been circulated by the Secretary and were agreed to be a true record of the proceedings. They had already been posted to the Website.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Reports on progress as follows:

- a. Regional Representatives Co-ordinator - Vanessa Haith's report was presented. She had issued each Regional Representative with details of all Teams within their area, to be up-dated as necessary. She had also confirmed her willingness to continue as Co-ordinator if the new Committee so wished.
- b. Training and Education -
 - i. Getting Started Package - Still awaiting possible loading to the Website due to the quality of some of the pictures, originals of which were not longer available.
 - ii. Measuring Hoops - Peter Roberts would still obtain two more sets for issue to Anne Johnson and Andy Bawden. The need for any further 19" (to measure 14") hoops missing from existing sets would be investigated after the AGM in April.
 - iii. BFA Banners - Roy Hiscock reported that these would be available for issue at or before the AGM with two each for Modern Dog Sports, Barkshire Bandits, Pods and Yorkshire Bouncers and one each to The Northern Bytes and Clatto Clangers.
 - iv. BFA Flagpoles - Five poles (each comprising five sections) had been found. No Flags had come to light so Roy Hiscock would obtain replacements.
 - v. Markfield Seminar - Reported as a success with good venue and very good feedback from the participants. Only problem appeared to be dog exercise only allowed on lead. Thanks were due to David Long for arranging the venue and to Peter Roberts and all who help him to run the event. Peter provided Graham Nye with a list of those who had attended.

Peter Roberts to investigate the possibility of running a weekend with one day 'Team Captains/Trainers' and a second day 'Judges' Seminars in the autumn of 2003. Possible dates of 11th/12th or 25th/26th October were discussed and David Long would find out the availability of Markfield on these dates.

- vi. Lights - Roy Hiscock was still awaiting an official response to his last enquiry from Anton Wittwer.

It was the impression that those under development by Martin Pollard were being tested by Anton and when fully operational would only be available for hire.

MATTERS ARISING - REPORTS (CONTINUED)

- vii. Annual Awards - Due to time constraints, the proposed review of Annual Awards by the Committee had been postponed and left in the hands of Sam Bawden.

Some disappointment was expressed at the quality of a 'Blue' award. It was therefore suggested that this review, to include all Awards, should be carried forward and take the form of a presentation to the new Committee by the Awards Secretary covering what was available in the Market Place.

- viii. AGM Agenda - The final draft of the AGM Agenda was approved and a copy would be posted to all members on 18th March using the current Flyball Record mailing list.

- ix. Flyball Certificates - The issue of retrospective Certificates for all levels at and above 20,000 points had not been actioned due to the non-availability of 'blanks'. The procurement of these 'blanks' would be progressed by Doreen Smith, Betty Potts and Roy Hiscock at Market Harborough on 22nd/23rd March, with the possibility of establishing a new Supplier more 'local' to Doreen.

c. Show Secretary/Records & Statistics Co-ordinator -

- i. Doreen Smith expressed her thanks to Mo Hiscock for passing over her Database on which Statistical records were based. Spreadsheets had subsequently been developed aimed at automating the processing of Tournament Results and among other things, identifying Flyball Certificates achieved. The system was now up and running and enhancements would continue to evolve.
- ii. It was confirmed that as in the past, the Stats Officer should hand over a CD copy of the BFA Database to the Secretary at each Committee Meeting. Doreen had already arranged for a copy to be held off-site from her house on a weekly basis.
- iii. It was agreed that the BFA should purchase its own copy of Software (probably Microsoft Office) to run the Statistics. As the property of the BFA it would be handed over to each subsequent Stats Officer who would be required to sign for it and any associated Hardware. Roy Hiscock agreed to cost a list of suitable Software prior to purchase. On the question of Hardware, Mo Hiscock had still to transfer a CD Writer and a Brother Laser Printer to Doreen.
- iv. Tournament Time Sheets would be retained on a minimum 12 months/maximum 24 months basis; e.g. those for 2002 would be kept until the end of 2003 and then destroyed. Roy Hiscock would dispose of 2001 and before in advance of passing 2002 to Doreen.
- v. It was also agreed that the tasks of Show Secretary and Records & Statistics Co-ordinator needed to be split between two people again by the new Committee.
- vi. Doreen presented a draft of the 'Guidelines for Tournament Organisers' and all Committee members were asked to comment on amendments and additions as soon as possible so that she would produce a second draft and circulate a copy for final approval.
- vii. It was confirmed that revised copies of the Tournament Application and Tournament Results Forms together with a new sample Tournament Schedule had been approved and loaded to the Website.
- viii. The Website Diary was now up-to-date.
- ix. It was requested that all Tournament Schedules should be submitted in 'Microsoft Word'.
- x. With the greater use of the Postcode facility on the Multimaps Website, the need for Location Maps for Venues on the Website was no longer seen as necessary.

3. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Howard Campbell had exchanged correspondence on the subject of a Postal Vote by the membership prior to the AGM and had been advised that such a process could only take place after an AGM based on a decision by the Committee (Rule 2.3 refers).
- ii. An e-mailed request from Valerie Rothlisberger-Jones for the possible introduction of a 'Veterans' Division in Sanctioned Tournaments was discussed and declined. Graham Nye to advise her accordingly.
- iii. An exchange of e-mails with Maria Brennan on a method of recognising the efforts of Ring Parties in the effective running of Tournaments was read and it was agreed that anything over and above a grateful acknowledgement by Organisers as it was probably extremely difficult to administer. Her acceptance of this view was much appreciated.

4. APPLICATIONS TO BECOME HEAD JUDGES

Applications received from Dianne Halsted, Penny Charlton, Val Currie and David Long were reviewed and approved.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Robert Henshall reviewed data for the Committee's consideration showing that the financial position remains healthy. Details are available to current BFA members on request.

The Year-end Accounts and up-dated Business Plan to be presented to the membership at the AGM were also discussed. In this context it was noted that despite strenuous efforts no sets of working Lights had been found to be available at a sensible price by a Committee that were committed to safeguarding the members money and spending it wisely.

6. SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2002/2003

Earlier this year it had come to light that six Teams of those in the top three places in the 8 Divisions of the 2002 Championships had not received their Medals and in one case their Trophy. It is now anticipated that Sam Bawden will have rectified the situation by or on 22nd March.

The 2003 Venues, Dates and Format were confirmed as follows:

<u>Round</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Host Team</u>
One	31 st May/1 st June	York Racecourse	Wakefield Tykes
Two	14 th /15 th June	Ford's Sports Club, Daventry	Pods
Three	28 th /29 th June	Birtles Farm, Ashley, Cheshire	The Northern Bytes
Four	9 th /10 th August	Sharnford	Nuneaton Flyers
Five	16 th /17 th August	Windsor Racecourse	Barkshire Bandits

Format:

Same as 2002 with the number of Rounds increased from four to five.

Same points system as 2002 with one less than the maximum number of Rounds scores counting at Team level, i.e. Any Team competing in all five Rounds would forfeit their lowest score.

Teams must compete in a minimum of two Rounds to qualify for inclusion in the Final 'Divisional' placings.

Tied final points results to be decided by the faster time during the Championship.

7. INSURANCE

Following Petplan's announcement that they will not renew any Club Insurance Policies from now on, David Bowles (Wakefield Tykes) has offered to seek an alternative for BFA Registered Teams. Thanks are due to him for his research and efforts to find a solution to the problem. He was given permission to send a note to all current member Team Captains on this subject. Alison Booth to be provided with an address list for the purpose.

8. SPONSORSHIP BY BUTCHERS

- a. The February edition of the Flyball Record had been a one-off trial. The Committee were disappointed that the proof they were given did not include Butchers input. If a future edition is to be printed via Butchers it was decided that the Committee must see a final and complete proof copy (including advertisements etc) for approval before it goes to Press.
- b. Roy Hiscock and Graham Nye had met Lisa Ridgway of Butchers' Marketing Agency, Vital, in December 2002, as a prelude to the establishment of a working link for Sponsorship purposes. Promised follow-up information had not been forthcoming and a proposed meeting not materialised. It is now important that we regain control of the project and early contact with Lisa would be re-established.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Pods were considering the possibility of running a 2 day, 4 Lane Tournament at Ryton or Newark in 2004 and it was agreed the BFA Committee would consider a request for financial assistance in the unlikely event that it was necessary in accordance with previously noted policy.
- b. As all Committee members had a duty to protect their systems for Viruses and Hackers in the interests of common security, the purchase of Norton Firewall and Anti Virus Software was authorised at BFA expense where this was necessary.
- c. Rule changes already agreed since June 2002 were reviewed and would be incorporated with any from the AGM in an updated complete copy of the Rules & Policies Folder to be issued to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and Officers in May 2003.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The 2003 AGM on Sunday 6th April 2003 at Beoley Village Hall to be followed by a Meeting of the new Committee to appoint replacement Secretary and Treasurer.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16.30hrs.