

The British Flyball Association



Minutes of the Committee Meeting No 3 2013/14

Held on Saturday 15 February 2014

At The Manor Hotel, Meriden, Coventry.

Attendees; Sharon Allcorn, Jo Crosswell, Val Currie, Tony Cain, Ray Lewis, Ellen Schofield, Dan Culley, Rachel Child, Dave Long

The meeting commenced at 9:30am

- 1. Minutes of last meeting (No 02-2013/14)** Confirmed as a true record of proceedings
- 2. Chairs Opening Address** Sharon thanked the current committee for the work to date and also the huge contribution made by the officials of the association on behalf of us all. Sharon introduced a discussion on the future of the BFA; our association. The committee 'signed off' on the new Committee Member job description, which has been developed to allow members considering standing for the BFA Committee to have informed choice. All of the committee agreed that the job description was a true reflection of our current duties and agreed that we needed to continue to work at the expected level to deliver the work of the Association. The discussion agreed that it was important to document the future vision, a three year vision was discussed and will be drafted and then receive input from all committee members. Once agreed it can be shared with the membership. The discussion also considered the current committee term; it was thought that a three year term of office would be more appropriate to enable continuity; with one third of the committee standing down (or seeking re-election) each year. This will be considered as a Committee proposal at the forthcoming 2014 AGM. The discussion considered the rapid growth of the BFA since being formed 20 years ago; in the past 4 years the number of registered teams has risen from around 220 to the current 345. Whilst registered teams are not all racing, the rapid growth goes some way to explaining the increase in committee and officials workload. The Committee agreed that the dog welfare, sportsmanship and advancing the association will still be our priority, but also acknowledged that some issues concerning members will not be afforded committee time where it is believed that the issue can and should be dealt with at an individual or team level.

3. Matters arising: Working Party Updates

- ❖ Website Working Party – Work has begun on the development for the Phase 1 work. The committee approved the WSWP recommendation for the design company for the Phase 1 stage. Phase 1 will give the BFA all of the current capabilities but with a contemporary look and feel. The behind the scenes database enabling the work of our officials will be robust and support the continued growth of the association. The

working party continue to consider and plan the additional functionality that phase 2 can allow for both the development and design elements. The working party will provide the required end user testing and will scope the new role of Online Content Manager; it is expected that the Flyball record will have an online version and this is expected to be a part of the role, links to media liaison and public relations may also be in the scope of this new role.

- ❖ **Lights Development** – work continues on the development for the Abtec order, though the pace has lessened due to the priorities of Abtec's commercial business. The intended timescales still plan to enable a working prototype to be presented at the 2014 AGM, though it is unlikely that the prototype will be 'pretty'. The Committee are also interested to hear from members with understanding of metal fabrication and assembly which will be required at a later stage in this work.
- ❖ **Measuring Device** – The replacement measuring sticks have been rolled out to all light custodians and owners. Custodians will be reminded to ensure the laser unit is switched off when stored and to carry spare batteries to ensure the device is operational when needed.

4. Reports had been received from the following officials

- **Regional Representative Co-ordinator – Dan Culley**
The RR's are establishing their identity and gathering momentum; successes include regions holding discussions ahead of the AGM and well-attended Ring Party training events. Dan Cully continues to co-ordinate the RR Network and provides the link back to the Committee to allow consideration of any new initiatives to ensure these are approved both in their scope and where funding is required.
- **Lights Co-ordinator – Dave Long**
The BFA lights are increasingly in demand with the growth of the sport and Tournament Organisers are encouraged to contact Dave Long by email or text to receive confirmation of the availability of the BFA lights. The owners of private sets will be contacted to see if they are able to support shows where there is a shortfall.
- **Awards Co-ordinator – Jeff Hughes**
Awards continue to be issued with the co-ordinator establishing a network of recipients for shows where he is not in attendance. As an additional service; Team Captains will receive an email letting them know which awards to expect to allow any additional team gifts to be co-ordinated.
- **Membership Secretary – Pat Wadby**
Thus far in 2014, 2221 members have renewed and 158 new members have joined. Registered Teams now number 345, though not all are active. New teams find some difficulties in registering an original name, this has led to the committee considering removing team names that are no longer or have never been active in the sport.
- **Height Card Administrator – Donna Culley**
There are no issues to report. A request to add the Height Card Master sheet for Tournament Organisers to be added to the Administrative forms on the website was approved.
- **Show Secretary – Judy Parker**

Judy continues to raise points with the Committee as required and there are no current issues. Judy's report asked the committee to remind members to avoid using any emails ending flyball.org.uk as these are no longer received. Please use the appropriate contact details from the Officials page on the website.

- Webmaster – Ray Lewis

An issue with the Website payment portal has arisen with members pressing 'SUBMIT' multiple times, this has resulted in refunds being required and increased costs to the BFA for using the secure payment process. Members will be reminded to be patient when the payment is being processed to avoid this issue both for themselves and the association. The potential to allow payment for tournament fees and for new membership applications are still being investigated for the future benefit of the Association. Ray is removing any reference to email addresses ending flyball.org.uk from the current website.

- Flyball Record Editor - Val Currie

Val expressed sadness that the contributions for this publication continue to reduce. With this the 20th Anniversary of the BFA, Val is hoping that items of interest to the membership will be forthcoming for her final edition as editor; July 2014. Val will have held the editors role for 10 years. Consideration of an online Flyball Record is within the scope of the Website Working Party.

5. Finances

- ❖ The use of electronic banking facility continues to enable the payments made to the BFA regular suppliers. Current balances as well as expenditure and income were discussed.
- ❖ Expenditure of the Association is increasing for the development of the new Electronic Judging System (Lights), the new BFA Website, and the 2014 20th Anniversary National Championships, the BFA Treasurer is carefully monitoring the outgoings and the forecast spend. The Committee acknowledge that in previous years the BFA finances have been such that subsidised camping or racing has been possible at the Championships, however replacing some of our major assets require substantial investment and it is unlikely that the camping subsidy enjoyed in 2013 will be able to be applied this year.

6. Chairs Correspondence & Secretary Correspondence

Confidential correspondence received by the Chair and Secretary had been dealt with by the committee prior to the meeting by email, responses had been agreed.

7. Judging Qualifications

A review of the current qualification requirements and examinations is continuing led by Sharon Allcorn and Val Currie. Following the discussions at the Judges Seminar the Committee are looking to draft the criteria for a 'Judges Board'. This will be a subcommittee; Chaired by a member of the main Committee, the remit will enable consistency and high standards of judging and oversight of the training programme.

8. HJ & QJ Meeting/s

The judges seminar was only briefly discussed due to time constraints, the event was deemed a success; the Committee all took an action to revisit the notes from the day to ensure any agreed actions or impact for the AGM proposals were pursued.

The next Head Judge and Qualified Judge Meeting is confirmed as Saturday 8 November 2014.

9. Any Other Business

The Junior Handler scheme is being revised and will no longer be an Annual competition. The new scheme is being developed and will be launched at the AGM in this the 20th year of the BFA. The detail of the new scheme is not yet available but will follow a Milestone methodology similar to the BFA Flyball Dog awards. It is hoped that all young people can benefit from the new scheme as it will reward all achievement.

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10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Face2Face meeting will be held on Saturday 12th April 2014. (Other committee business will continue via email and by Skype on Monday 10th March 2014)

The meeting closed at 6pm