

BRITISH FLYBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAAB LEARNING CENTRE – NORTHAMPTON – SATURDAY 20TH March 1999

- 1) **Chairpersons welcoming speech** The chairperson thanked Peter Roberts for the venue and thanked everyone for attending although it was a full agenda but with positive thoughts
- 2) **Apologies.** These were received from Robert Tappin, Nigel Bouckley, Anton Wittwer, Brian Williams, Anne Johnson and June Smele.
- 3) **Minutes of last AGM 15th March 1998.** A bridge version was read and accepted by Peter Roberts and seconded by Sam Bawden.
- 4) **Matters arising from last years AGM.** Nothing.
- 5) **Nominations for the forthcoming BFA Committee.** Each nominee was given the chance to say a few words.
 - a) **Nigel Bouckley**, This report was read by Lyn Owen, has been with the BFA for the last 4 years and interested with the Website and wishes to continue this and produce hard copies to the teams also to continue to give help and advice.
 - b) **Tim Toller**, from Wales and felt that Wales needed someone to represent them, a newcomer to the sport but had served on various committees sparing some 40 years and wants to bring some of that experience to this committee.
 - c) **Doreen Smith**, lots of reasons, but the north needs help and also a newcomer to the sport, not with a leading team but it seemed that 90% of the work was done by the top teams, lots of enthusiasm , BFA minded and wanted to give credit to all those who have achieved this work so far.
 - d) **Chris Fulford**, been with the BFA for 5-6 years and a BFA Head Judge, wants to put this knowledge to good use. Lots of turmoil over the last 12 months, wants to wipe the slate clean and start afresh.
 - e) **Peter Roberts**, served on the 1998 committee, involved with the training and education side also a Head Judge, likes to give the high and low profiles of the sport, gained TV coverage for the sport. Has a relationship with Kennel Club, can moderate and be independent with own views.
 - f) **Roy Hiscock**, used to procedures, rules and regulations and used to charring meetings.
 - g) **Gwain Theobald**, supported the BFA for the last 2 years on the committee, able to be approachable by everyone, also available to help with training days.
 - h) **Andy Bawden**, previously with agility, but now moved over to entirely flyball. Wants the committee to listen to the members.
 - i) **Betty Owen**, everyone knows her as a Head Judge, does not have a dog to run therefore not in a team. Experience with officiating and wants to help the newer clubs.
 - j) **Robert Henshaw**, a newcomer from last year, likes the help and advice received from other teams, has a wealth of experience on committees and now has time to give to flyball due to early retirement, would like to see some of the new teams on the committee.
 - k) **Fiona Middleton**, again from the North and again a newcomer to the sport, wants to promote it to more people and gets more publicity.
- 6) **Short concise reports for year 1998 from:**
 - A) **Chairman Kevin**, A positive year for flyball, lots of competitions, racing and hopefully this will continue. Disagreements happen, but there was an increase in members and teams, need more people in 1999 to make things work.
 - B) **Secretary Debbie**, have been the Secretary for the last 3 years, the first year was improving, the second year was improving on the existing service, problems arose which had not happened before, but this year matters and issues arose causing future problems. The last 8 months have not been happy ones, therefore resigning from this position and pity the person taking on this position.

- C) **Treasurer Roger**, a financial statement was distributed to all members, the accounts stands currently at about £1800-£2000. The new committee must decide what to do with this. There has been a 25-30% increase on subscriptions, which is due to an increase of membership, the bank interest is down due to the interest rates, the shop is not showing itself very much this year. Expenditure needed more stamps etc for the increase of members for the Flyball record which was a bit slow this year but its available for all members to have their say, a sterling job by Nigel to keep the cost of the software down, no training expenses to the BFA this year. Badges and Trophies are probably in the sundries. Although shows a deficit of £787 and £600 is waiting to go into the account which will make it on par with last years figures.
A question was raised by Robert Henshaw regarding the figure of the sundries, the Treasurer answered by saying not all the receipts were clear as to which heading they should be placed. **The new committee to consider a Petty Cash system with everything clearly labelled.**
- D) **Statistics Co-ordinator-Nigel**, Again read by Lyn Owen, the membership is now updated by a fax link. Needs more work on the race points and membership. Working on a database for the Tournaments. The forms had been completed better this year, 2 teams get the praise 4 Runners and Barkshire Bandits.
- E) **Membership Secretary- Carol**, Steady improving with membership enquiries especially from the North. 49 primary teams which is down on last year. The PO Box has finally taken off. Regional Representatives are now passed the new members names. 403 active members more due to renew in April, but issuing numbers upto 700. Taken the plunge and used the computers, does everything as a hard copy, but will speak with Nigel regarding a membership database. 22-23% increase in membership gone up suddenly since September. Sam Bawden said if no access to the Internet, you can always ring Carol and get upto date information. Thanks given to Carol.
- F) **Education & Training Officers Report- Peter**, Very brief this year, only held one this year at Petersfield which was self funding, but provided all the packs. To hold a Judges and Training seminar sometime in October in the Midlands, success is down to the membership, the last one was supported well by the Belgium's.
- G) **Regional Representatives Co-ordinator Wayne**, Not much carried out this year, only held 2 meetings, but a good response. Training events to come 8th May Chelmsford with Gwain Theobald, April Wales with Sam Bawden and Carol Plumbly, 18th July Somerset with Stephanie Rendell. Need to publicise these and let Wayne and Peter know. There is usually a training day somewhere every 3-4 months.
- H) **Press/Public Relations Officer-Anton/Kevin**, this was read by Wayne O'Rourke, Not the best of years due to internally problems. Dog World, Our Dogs and Dog Training Weekly gave some coverage, but the TV coverage was not as good as previous years. The glossy magazines need something big, more then just results. The Webbsite hits very encouraging. To remember we are all members of the press.
- I) **Flyball Record/Newsletters Editor-Stef/Alison**, 3 Flyball records out this year, should speak of all aspects of Flyball, the Flyball record is limited by the committee. Need the member's view of what they want. Newsletters, try not to duplicate issues and put more of the committees views. This will be discussed further on in the meeting.
- 8) **Annual Awards**, 20,000 points had been reached by one dog and the award is named after the dog therefore the award was given to Andrew Payne and his dog Blue, there was also an extra award from his wife Liz. A speech from Andrew gave thanks to his wife Liz who does everything for Blue.
Summer Championship goes to the Turbo Jets, speech from Alison O'Rourke, why was this trophy only given out now when the summer is nearly here again, she then gave the trophy to Chris Fulford at it was the last time his dog ran in that team.

Voting notes were given out before the Lunch break.

LUNCH BREAK

2.00pm RESUME

The object of this part of the meeting was that we would not get through everything on the Agenda. Ideas have been forwarded during the lunch break. Consensus of how to tackle the voting and the new committee. It was offered to the members if there was any proposals they would like to have withdrawn.

The proposal of Martin Dickinson was pointed out by Gwain Theobald, Committee request they all stand down and re-stand for election. Martin said that having seen the list of proposals, maybe someone who had not placed anything should chair this meeting. This was put to the vote, for a different Chairperson proposed by Gwain Theobald and seconded by Wayne O'Rourke, the vote was not carried and Kevin McNicholas continued to chair the meeting.

He then placed a suggestion, that the BFA last year had personal problems, 8 people were standing for re election plus the newcomers, but to have only 1 person per team this year as well, therefore if the existing BFA members stand down the newcomers of which there are 8 being 1 person for a team plus 1 other Peter Roberts. All the other existing members have agreed to give the new people a chance.

There was then a lengthy discussion of which the following points were raised, committee people who do specific jobs do not need to be on the committee, only the Treasurer and Secretary need to remain, the others can answer to the committee. The old committee would not completely walk away and leave a new set of committee to run it, if some of the existing committee stayed it would be diluted but probably not work. A dramatic thing to do, would the new committee be able to take this on or could they not call upon the experience of the existing people. Would the new committee stand for 2 years? Could the new committee not have the old committee voting as well? Would not work, as most would be the old faces. It looks like a vote of no confidence with the old committee standing down. Maybe the old positions could be co-opted back on without any voting rights. Appreciate the gesture by the old committee, but the newcomers have stood on a committee before. Explained the period of standing, half the committee resign each year as a position is held for 2 years, therefore half the committee will change each year. The new committee will have to decide how to deal with this. Suggest a time of service or period served in any one job. Is it fair to the newcomers? How do they feel about being on their own with no existing committee members? Will find it very daunting to serve on a new committee. Thanks given to Kevin for agreeing to stand down with the old committee. A rule was then quoted saying that the Secretary and Treasurer can not both stand down together.

To vote Yes or No to the new proposal of removing the whole committee and asking all the 8 new members if they are willing to stand. Views from the new members: -

Robert Henshaw, main concerns to keep continuity, happy to have the help of the old committee.

Doreen Smith, yes, respect that they acknowledge not a fully functioning committee and all members to appreciate that as well.

Roy Hiscock, prepared to continue, best interest is the Flyball.

Andy Bawden, willing to stand and build back the bridges.

Betty Owen, willing to stand and wished to invite the old committee to the first meeting.

Chris Fulford, prepared to stand, everyone has said everything before.

Fiona Middleton, yes prepared to stand and agree with everything said previous.

Tim Toller, a lot of courage and soul searching has taken place to reach this decision.

Peter Roberts, stunned as knew nothing before commencing this meeting. Will still stay independent and sorry to see Kevin and Nigel end. Peter stays as no one from his team had offered to stand therefore staying to represent his team, will keep the committee on course and would propose to stand down now after 1 year.

It was accepted that the 8 new members and Peter Roberts take on the roll of committee and half to retire as before and out of these officers' places to be filled. To remain 1 person per team.

Extra ordinary meeting rules must be in place before the end of this meeting, if after 6 months members not happy.

To ensure that the Treasurer and Secretary do not both stand down together next year.

Proposed that the new committee goes away and looks at the rules of the constitution and rule changes over the next 6 months and holds a special meeting at a later date for all members.

BREAK for 20 minutes.

3.00pm RESUME

8) **Annual Awards**

Best of the Rest Eersteen Leonberger, Liz Guy-HalkeGwain

Best Cross Breed 3rd Pia Stephanie Rendall 3431 pts 2nd Amy Sue Goddard 3852 pts 1st Jet Gwain Theobald 5694 pts.

Best Breed Specific Lakeland Terrier Toby Gwain Theobald 2934 pts

Best Breed Specific Golden Retriever 3rd Max Anne Alderman 32 pts 2nd Shannon Pam Wooden 504 pts 1st Henry Pat Hillier 2046 pts.

Best Breed Specific Labrador 3rd Floyd Edna Canby 32 pts 2nd Sandy Stef Banyard 415 pts 1st Mac Julia Kearney 2046 pts.

Best Breed Specific Jack Russell Terrier 3rd Bob Alison O'Rourke 1037 pts 2nd Spud Alison O'Rourke 1700 pts 1st Ted Alison O'Rourke 3783 pts.

Best Breed Specific English Springer Spaniel 3rd Max Debbie Bouckley 83 pts 2nd Spangles Nigel Bouckley 135 pts 1st Mistral Debbie Bouckley 6055 pts.

Best Breed Specific Border Collie / Working Sheepdog 3rd Twistie Kevin McNicholas 6233 pts 2nd Dizzy Shirley Pain 6233 pts 1st Blue Andrew Payne 6748 pts.

Best Flyball Bitch 4th Tegwin Gwain Theobald 3rd Jet Gwain Theobald 2nd Shenna Liz Payne 1st Dizzy Shirley Pain.

Best Flyball Dog 4th Mistral Debbie Bouckley 3rd Dippy Alison Sharpe 2nd Twistie Kevin McNicholas 1st Blue Andrew Payne.

Team of the year Tornadoes

BFA special award Tornadoes

To go through the rest of the agenda and ask the proposer to say something.

Section 1 Committee and Officers Alison Sharpe

Has re written the first 3 rules to benefit the sport. Happy for the new committee to look at it written in they're first few months of offices and then to publish in the Flyball record for all members to see.

Section 2 Extraordinary General Meetings

10% could just be 1 team, reasonably large number to call an EGM. Needs to be a people number, 5 primary team members suggested, 28 days notice suggested or 30 days. The law states 30 or 1/5th membership and 21 days notice.

An Extraordinary General Meeting can convene anytime and convene within 28 days of the requiem of 30 members from 5 primary teams. Such requisition must state the purpose of such meeting required to the secretary of the BFA in writing, who is responsible for notifying all members at their home address. It will be limited to the matter set out in the notice to convene the meeting. The committee may call and EGM at anytime. A reasonably central venue for the membership. Voting without proxy at an EGM.

This was proposed by S. Bawden and seconded by K. Packwood agreed by all and to be carried out immediately.

The chairperson then asked if any more proposals can be removed from the agenda and the following were: - Lyn Owen's Light – same as NAFA, Kevin McNicholas – racing sheets, Kevin McNicholas – clarification of status of children at BFA tournaments – related to disciplinary hearings and Liz Payne – misappropriation of BFA funds.

d. Section 4 Sanctioned Competition

Alison Sharpe read out the proposal re rule change – ground slope. A lengthy discussion then took place and the following points were raised. It is too technical needs to be simplified, venues do not fit this criteria, safety to go up to the box when the dog is fresh than downhill to the box, better to race uphill, it is down to the individual whether to run their dog or not, Pets safety must come first, some people rely on the judge or the team captain, or maybe pressure is put on them, also to consider the ground conditions, weather and pot holes, suggest the organiser let the teams know with the schedules about ground slopes, safety of handlers must also be considered, maybe the new committee have a work team to go out and look at venues and draw up guidelines especially with

the weather, to find out factually which is better for the dogs not from personal injuries, to be careful not to have too many rules.

Committee said it was an unwritten rule to train dogs uphill.

Show organisers to put a footnote on their schedules, which way the slope runs. If not known to put a disclaimer.

Betty Owen suggested again a working committee, to get the area rep involved and visit the ground before hand, this would be under the discretion of the ground owners and would usually be no.

Safety to be considered when the dog hits the box, better for dogs to go slower uphill to the box, the dog is at full speed at it goes through the start, not when coming back downhill over 8" jumps and being a collie?

Teams not wishing to compete because of the conditions to be given a refund.

The conscience of the members was for the committee to consider which is best uphill, most go for downhill but depends on the gradient.

Running under BFA Rules

Gwain Theobald read the proposals, need clear guidelines of what is a Heat, Leg and Race means. To go to the new committee and publish the outcome in the flyball record. Fouling in the ring the punishment is elimination, is this the dog and handler or the whole team. Time could be a problem with clearing up; time in the ring is longer than any other type of competition.

e. Section 5 Rules for Competition

Wayne O'Rourke read out his proposal who is responsible for racing – Show organiser or Head Judge? What if they can't agree? Head Judge has the book of the rules, what if the judge turns up and does not like the venue and ask for the lanes to be moved, this could take up to a day to arrange, rule 5 6F was read out, the onus to be down to the show organiser to provide safety, if the judge is still unhappy then they can refuse to judge this show.

If there is an injury to a dog who do you sue the show organiser or the Head Judge, the show organiser carries the insurance and should follow the safety guidelines

Dog Measuring

Wayne O'Rourke read out Anton Wittwer proposal, Head Judge does the measuring and should be experienced, why does dogs height differ making the jumps to high, the height measured is at the point of the withers, if the dog is over 2 years and measured by 3 different head judges, could they not have a life certificate. NAFA says it takes 45 minutes to set up a measuring system, a discussion then took place, suggested to have Kennel Club hoops but would need 8 – 12 different sizes, but the same measuring system to be used at all shows, 2 people to witness this. NAFA have done a lot of things well but this system needs to be addressed for the dogs safety of being put over different height jumps at different show. Dogs to be read 3 times and the lowest should count. Head judges have measured lots of dogs and not once has this been applied. New judges should for a period of time have another experienced judge with them whilst dog measuring, everyone happy with this.

Should measuring equipment be standardised? Yes was the vote, new **committee to look at the stick, hoops or NAFA equipment and reach a decision.**

f. Section 6 Flyball Points

Lorraine Fulford read out her proposal more flexibility on time scale for point's queries, deadline for results to get through, is there a deadline for points to get through? NAFA mean the teams does not get any points, if people join and pay on the day they become members therefore why after 3 shows dogs are still not getting their points. Usually this is brought to the next committee meeting; the letter concerning this will be discussed at the next meeting. It is the team captain's responsibility to get the dogs circled.

Stef Banyard Flyball Record – what do we want for our money

What do the members want from it? The newsletter gives the committee views between the bi monthly issues of the record.

Record is a voice for everyone to use and to be as often as possible, financial only 4 a year the same as the newsletter.

It costs £500.00 per issue to print, post and produce, the record is needed more frequently, they used to be given out at shows to save on the cost of posting.

Does Stef have her editing rights?

It needs to carry reflections of tournaments i.e. starters, mixed and division racing with no restraints on Stef on what she publishes. Stef was questioned if she could cope with more than four copies a year, yes was the reply, but need to increase income by £2,000 to make the extra copies. Our membership covers some of the cost of the record and not everyone can have access to the Internet.

25% of the last issue covered clever dogs which is not BFA, clever dogs has a disclaimer bearing BFA rules.

BFA Luton results from last year still have not appeared has anyone passed these on to the editor? Clever dogs had 200 dogs entered and received major publicity in other magazines therefore this item was published.

Summer tournaments results have still not been published and only today received the results.

Clever dogs not a problem but the size given over to it to the size of the layout is at question.

The record and Stef are on a learning curve with the layout. The BFA take precedence over anything else printed depending on space. 99% were members of the BFA competing in clever dogs; do they not want to see their achievements? The 1% is now a BFA member.

Head judges must be prepared to write a report on their judging to go into the record.

How many times has Stef asked for reports? 9 time out of 10 they do get supplied.

The last record was a bumper issue due to problems; therefore extra costs for postage, smaller issues will keep the costs down.

Stef happy to discuss with the new committee the cost budget.

Not an independent magazine a BFA magazine therefore the disclaimer comes back to the BFA committee. New committee to look at these guidelines and speak with Stef.

Debbie Bouckley – Show & BFA Secretary

Debbie explained her proposals need to have 2 independent people and perhaps have some sub committees, from her experience difficult to decide who would get the preferences to the time allowed.

The chairperson asked all award winners to complete forms held at the table.

Andy Bawden wanted to thank the old committee for their foresight.

5.20pm meeting closed.