

British Flyball Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 19th August 2001 at Southmoor Village Hall

1. Opening the Meeting at 10.30 hrs, the Chairman welcomed those present (43 in number) and thanked Sam and Andy Bawden for arranging the venue and lunches. Subsequent arrivals increased the number to 46.
2. **Apologies** - were received from: Howard & Jackie Campbell (Greetland Grasshoppers), Doreen Smith (Northern Bytes), Jim & Eileen Durrans, Louise Martin, Audrey & Mick Neighbour (all Dodgers), Steph Rendall (Mad Mutts), Ann Atkinson (Melton Rovers), John Verity and David Bowles (Wakefield Tykes), Steve & Gwen James, Tony & Debbie Bagg, Dave Green and Hilary Skinner (all Pods), Wayne & Alison O'Rourke (Pawzitiff Pawz), Joan & Peter Vowles, Daine Halstead, Ken Townsend and Roy Pierce (all Blackpool Super Nova), Kay Henshall, David & Christine Biddulph, Bob Austin, Sally Pearce, Claire Thompson and Berit Aherne (all Bassett Allsorts) and Margaret Care.
3. **Minutes of last AGM - 16th April 2000** - copies had been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and Officers with the Agenda and been made available on the Website for all other interested parties in advance of the AGM. They were therefore approved as a true record without a further reading.

Proposed by: Neil Meeking

Seconded by: Maureen Hiscock

4. Matters arising

4.1 Meeting with the Tornadoes - It was reported that three attempts had been made to progress this matter following the last AGM through the medium of a Meeting. Three letters had been sent; the first in May 2000 had brought no response. The second in September was acknowledged with a suggested solution that was unacceptable to the Committee and the third in December advising of this fact and requesting the provision of three convenient dates for a Meeting again brought no response. As there were no representatives of the Tornadoes present and some members would not even be aware of the background to the matter, it was proposed that it be considered closed.

Proposed by: Pam Nye

Seconded by: Val Currie

CARRIED

4.2 Method of approving new and appraising existing Head Judges - Andy Bawden reported on the position and made the point that there is a need to encourage more Head Judges to come forward.

4.3 Production of a Business Plan/Budget - covered by the Treasurer in Section 6 below.

4.4 Procedure for allowing Overseas Guest Teams/Dogs to compete at BFA Sanctioned Tournaments - It was confirmed that Team Registration No's 991, 991A, 991B and 991C had been set up to cover this aspect.

Nigel Bouckley asked that the BFA make arrangements for a Vet to be available to check paperwork of Overseas dogs and provide any necessary documentation to cover their return journeys, should the need arise.

5. **Election of the BFA Committee** - the following current members will stay on the Committee for a second year

Peter Roberts (Pods)

Doreen Smith (The Northern Bytes)

Alison Booth (Wakefield Tykes)

Election of the BFA Committee (continued)

The nominations for the remaining SIX places on the Committee were as follows:

Roy Hiscock (Mad Mutts) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: Stephanie Rendall

Seconded by: Nicola Rendall

Robert Henshall (Bassett Allsorts) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: Anne Alderman

Seconded by: Hilary Denyer

Andy Bawden (Bristol Ball-istics) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: Bobbie Perkins

Seconded by: Doreen Smith

Betty Potts (Yorkshire Bouncers) - co-opted onto 2000/2001 Committee

Proposed by: John Verity

Seconded by: Peter Roberts

Graham Nye (Maple Leafs) - co-opted onto 2000/2001 Committee

Proposed by: Jean Meeking

Seconded by: Maureen Hiscock

Vanessa Haith (Lincolnshire Leapers) - seeking election for the first time

Proposed by: Betty Potts

Seconded by: Alison Booth

All nominations were approved.

Proposed by: Neil Meeking

Seconded by: Pam Ritchie

6. Reports for the year 2000/2001 by:

The Chairman - Roy Hiscock

The postponed date seems so far away now, as does the year that this report should cover. I had to think long and hard to remember, with so much going on this year, or not as it was at the beginning of the year.

Last year saw the beginning of new eras in many ways, the best part for me was the return to the Flyball is fun era, with so many shows being happy and friendly affairs, the smile is back. Just a quick reference to this year, I was very pleased with the reaction to the abandonment of the Trafford Park show, the way members all helped out to re-arrange the course and supply covers for the ground it was all very happy helpful and co-operative. Nigel and Steph had stood down as the Stats officer and the FR editor respectively, and members came forward to carry on the good work that they had been doing. I had no idea of the amount of work that goes into the Jobs, and the committee would like to thank Mo and Jean for all the hard work they have done since taking over. There was an increase in membership and new teams; it was very pleasing to see different teams coming forward to host Flyball shows. There was an abundance of new blood coming into our sport. There was a new format to the summer championships, which seemed to be received very well, with many teams gaining medals for their efforts for the first time, instead of just the first place. There were problems, it was a bit of a learning curve, and all teams winning a medal got them, eventually. We introduced the Members award and Most Improved Team award, congratulations to the Nuneaton Flyers and Naughty Bobby, and of course all those who were winners of BFA titles and trophies last year. These new awards were received with mixed reaction in certain areas. We cannot please all the people all the time, just try our best to do what is right for Flyball. When the committee started out we had a fairly empty bag of experience and a full bag of good will and luck, I believe that we are going the right way to fill the first before we empty the second.

Reports for the year 2000/2001 (continued)

The Acting Secretary - Graham Nye

Having spent the period since the last AGM as Acting Secretary, I am pleased to say that the stress levels that effected my predecessors have not so far been in evidence.

The Committee held four Meetings between the last AGM and 1st April 2001 and problems that arose between these Meetings were successfully dealt with by e-mail contact.

During the year under review, the Primary Team renewal fee was introduced aimed at providing Tournament Organisers with a mailing list for Schedules limited to those Teams that were actually interested in entering Sanctioned Events. This list currently comprises 55 Teams.

In September it was decided to discontinue the Flyball Newsletter and concentrate on The Flyball Record as the only quarterly publication of the BFA. Under the Editorship of Jean Meeking this Magazine has improved and I hope you will agree that its success is a credit to her hard work and enthusiasm.

Following the change of Membership Secretary around Christmas, it was necessary to move the PO Box to Petersfield, a task that was not without its problems. This undoubtedly resulted in loss of mail but hopefully these troubles are now behind us.

At that time, efforts were made to streamline the flow of information between the Membership Secretary, the Statistics Co-ordinator and the Treasurer and this aim was achieved. In advance of the mass renewal of memberships in April 2001, arrangements were also concluded to allow the paying-in of BFA monies at the local branch of Lloyds/TSB. This removed the need to send cheques to the Treasurer with the potential for losses in the post.

On the Membership and Team front, in the period 17th April 2000 to 31st March 2001 we attracted 218 new members and 16 new Primary Teams. The number of members who renewed or joined with a date of 1st April 2001 stood at 488 to which have been added 73, making the figure at to-days date 561.

My thanks are due to the members of the Committee and to Nigel Bouckley as Webmaster, who have supported me in my efforts to keep the BFA Administration running smoothly in the 12 months under review.

The Treasurer - Robert Henshall

The Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st January 2001 (Income & Expenditure Account and Auditors Report) was presented, explained and queries answered.

Like Roy I had to take myself back to what is now last year's accounts and try to remember what was the significant issues on the finances.

The year has been a success in many ways for the BFA and this is reflected in the accounts in a positive way. I am pleased to say that the Association is in a very strong position financially with £3419.00 in the bank when taking into account, allocated reserve fund, cash float and refundable deposit. During the period a new income stream was introduced i.e. Joining/Lapsed fee - £2.50 and Graham has already alluded to the major administration change of reverting to a single renewal date, i.e. 1st of April each year. The pro-rata annual fees introduced, which should have given us a deficit for the year, but with an influx of new members in excess of 50% of the membership, greatly helped in achieving a surplus of £1051.00. Also it was agreed that the membership fees remained unchanged for the fourth consecutive year.

Firstly I will deal with Income & Expenditure Accounts for the financial year ended 31st January 2001. This should be the first page on the financial notes issued to you. You will see that there are four note items a to d and there is a brief explanation of these notes on the reverse of that page.

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Items worthy of comment or explanation: -

Under

INCOME Fees Subscriptions - an increase on previous year of 5%
Racing Registrations - an increase on previous year of 18%
Sanctioned Tournaments - an increase on previous year of 35%
Team Registrations - an increase on previous year of 129%
Training Fees - an increase on previous year of 81%.

EXPENDITURE

Postage & Stationery Decrease on previous year of 11%
Telephone & Fax Decrease on previous year of 51%
Newsletter Increase on previous year of 52% Dispensed with.

Any questions regarding the accounts presented, I will answer/explain.

Acceptance proposed by: Val Currie Seconded by: Maureen Hiscock CARRIED

BUSINESS PLAN

Background

The membership fee has remained unchanged for four years (including 2001/2002 year).

The Flyball Record was supposedly a quarterly publication. This has been achieved for the first time this year (i.e. 2000/2001 financial year).

The BFA has developed a culture where it is considered that the association's bank balance at year-end should be in the region of £2000.00, a prudent safeguard I fully condone. This it is intended to achieve in the medium term (5 years).

The BFA is financially sound and is a growing sport. The overall growth rate for the year 2000/2001 was 34%. With increases in new teams and the number of Sanctioned Tournaments. It is this strong growth and the increase in tournaments that the BFA needs to identify the best course of action to maintain interest and further growth of Flyball in the UK.

As more teams put on their own tournaments, there is more likelihood of date clashes with tournaments being held in other parts of the UK. The desire for electronic timing & starting lights is strong and desirable. The demand will far out strip existing supply. It should be noted that some teams are already or planning to invest in 'Lights' themselves. In order for the BFA itself to assist by having its own a set of 'Lights', it needs to create a fund in which to save for the desired equipment.

Other measures that the BFA needs to invest in is Training. To promote the sport, train its members how to perfect techniques and handle dogs correctly and safely, encourage members to participate in the administration and judging at tournaments. Developing Area Representatives, Judges and Head Judges.

To better promote the sport of FLYBALL. The appointment of a Publicity Officer with an identified budget.

AIMS FOR THE FUTURE

To be cost effective.

To maintain a healthy bank balance (i.e. £2000.00).

To ensure the 'Flyball Record' is a quality quarterly publication of the BFA.

To invest surplus funds in such a manner as to further the sport of Flyball. This to be achieved by investment in Training, Equipment & Publicity.

A 5-year budget plan is presented to identify planned expenditure to achieve these Aims.

Acceptance proposed by: Roy Hiscock Seconded by: Nigel Bouckley CARRIED

Copies of the documents can be made available on request to members not at the AGM.

Reports for the year 2000/2001 (continued)

The Webmaster - Nigel Bouckley

One of the primary roles of the BFA is to promote Flyball and one of the ways in which we can achieve this is through the Flyball Record and BFA Website. I have been the BFA Webmaster for some 5 years now and this last year has seen radical changes in the way in which we do our business.

In years gone by it has been the few which have carried the burden of the tasks at hand, now we have many BFA officers and members contributing to make the Website the success it is today.

The last 12 months has seen the Website be a collection of the hard work done, normally behind the scenes by the BFA Secretary, Records and Stats Officer, Show Secretary and Chairman.

At the last AGM I was tasked in providing a facility for the Records and Stats Officer and Membership Secretary to be able to update their respective data to the BFA on-line database, this was achieved early in the year, and once the momentum increased we didn't stop there, the BFA Secretary now updates a variety of information including adverting and news (also Graham in his role as Membership Secretary updates all the membership details - both team and individuals). The BFA Records and Stats Officer now updates all Times, Points, Awards, Tournament Information and more recently full statistical results. The Show Secretary now publishes details of sanctioned tournaments almost as soon as they are approved thus giving members as much advance notification as possible.

Talking of advance notification 2001 has seen the introduction of two new services, the BFA emailing list and the Website Discussion area. Members are signing up fast for this free service, which gives advance information for tournaments, schedules committee news and much much more. The Website Discussion area started of slow but is now almost in constant daily use with a variety of topics being discussed by members often to the benefit of many others who check out the area regularly.

It's not just the BFA who use the site; the World Ranking is used by teams all over the world and gives an indication of how our teams fair against fellow Flyballers around the globe.

At the last AGM I reported the BFA site was getting 50,000 hits almost every month with a high of 60,000 at one point. Since the introduction of the "extra services" and the re-write of some of the slower areas of the site the BFA Website gets regularly hits above 100,000 each month and the busiest month being June with over 110,000 hits.

The BFA Website is our shop window to the world, it portrays our organisation as the professional body that it is and encourages others both domestic and abroad to approach the BFA for help and advice, you should be proud of the facility and those that give their time and effort to provide this service for you, I am simply a front man for the many who strive to make this a great service for all, and long may it continue.

7. **Proposals** - All proposals were discussed, amended as necessary and voted upon as follows:

Rule changes.

7.1 Section 1 - Committee and Officers

- 7.1.1 Rule 1.2 Committee and Officers (f)** Proposal - That the **NOTE** be amended from 'Flyball News' to 'Flyball Record', as the former is no longer published.
- 7.1.2 Rule 1.6 Records and Statistics Co-ordinator** Proposal - Add © Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.
- 7.1.3 Rule 1.7 Membership Secretary** Proposal - Amend © to read 'Transmit the appropriate details to the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator and to the Treasurer' Also add (d) 'Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website.'
- 7.1.4 After Rule 1.6** Proposal - Insert an additional section to cover '**Webmaster**' since the position is now split from that of '**Records and Statistics co-ordinator**', with responsibilities defined as:
- (a) Approved by the Committee, the Webmaster shall be responsible for the administration and technical maintenance of the BFA Website, including both web and mail servers.
 - (b) On request advise the Committee on all aspects of the Website.
 - (c) Liaise directly with Membership and Show Secretaries, Records and Statistics Co-ordinator and the BFA Secretary to ensure the smooth running of their respective areas.
- 7.1.5 Rule 1.10 Show Secretary** Proposal - Add 'Keep all relevant data up-to-date on the BFA Website'.
- 7.1.6 Within Section 1** Proposal - Create an additional section to cover '**Publicity Officer**' To promote and publicise Flyball and BFA activities in general within an agreed Budget.

All six items were approved.

Proposed by: Nigel Bouckley

Seconded by: Neil Meeking

CARRIED

Proposals (continued)

7.2 Section 4 - Sanctioned Competition

- 7.2.1 Rule 4.1 Requirements (f)** Proposal - Add 'All Entry Forms must be submitted direct to the BFA Registered Host Team of a BFA Sanctioned Tournament'

Proposed by: Roy Hiscock Seconded by: Bobbie Perkins CARRIED

- 7.2.2 Rule 4.1 Requirements (g)** Proposal - Replace existing Rule that reads:

'The host team may not limit entries to less than four BFA Registered Teams. In cases of limited entries the host team must accept entries by the date received. All entries may be from the same team (i.e. Front Runners A team, Front Runners B team, Front Runners C team, Front Runners D team etc.) however, multiple entries of the same team are to be treated as one entry until after the closing date. Any remaining openings are to be filled by the second entry for those teams that enter more than two teams and so on until all entries are filled.'

With the following (amended to read and split into three sections):

- (a) 'A Tournament may be limited but to no fewer than four BFA Registered Teams and no more than 50% of the entries may be from any Team with the same Team Number (e.g. 0015, 0015A, 0015B, 0015C). Multiple entries from the same team are to be treated as individual entries from each team (i.e. Front Runners A team, Front Runners B team and Front Runners C team are treated as three different entries).

Proposed by: Nigel Bouckley Seconded by: Betty Potts CARRIED

- (b) The closing date for entries of a LIMITED Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the show.

Proposed by: Nigel Bouckley Seconded by: Alison Booth CARRIED

- (c) As soon as the Tournament is full all further applications may be placed on a reserve list and the Host Team must advise all Teams immediately of the status of their entry. All entries are to be taken strictly on date of receipt.'

Proposed by: Nigel Bouckley Seconded by: Betty Potts CARRIED

- 7.2.3 Rule 4.5 Seeding** Proposal - After 'A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, may be submitted by the Team Captain at least 10 days prior to the tournament.' Add '**This declared time to become the Seed Time for three months**'

Proposed by: Penny Charlton DEFEATED

Proposals (continued)

7.3 Section 5 - Rules for Competition

7.3.1 Rule 5.2 Teams Proposal – Add a new section between (e) and (f)

‘Overseas Guest Teams must only include non UK resident dogs.’

Proposed by: Roy Hiscock Seconded by: Jean Meeking CARRIED

7.3.2 Rule 5.5 Judges Proposal - That all FLYBALL JUDGES wear some kind of identifying vest, shirt, armband or whatever when judging at Sanctioned Tournaments.

Amended to read – ‘Judges to wear a Black and White Rosette provided by the BFA when judging at Sanctioned Tournaments’.

Proposed by: Roy Hiscock Seconded by: Vanessa Haith CARRIED

7.3.3 Rule 5.13 Jumps (b) Proposal - Following from Rule 5.4 (b) Code of Ethics that ‘Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that keep in the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball’ I would like to propose that the last line of Rule 5.13 (b) be altered to:

The top of the jumps are to be flexible/breakable **AND** protected with foam or soft material.

Proposed by: Neil Meeking Seconded by: Bobbie Perkins CARRIED

7.4 Section 6 - Flyball Points

7.4.1 New Rule 6.3 Points Queries Proposal - It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their Dogs in good time and they will therefore have SIX months from the date of any Sanctioned Tournament to lodge queries concerning these points with the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. After this period enquiries will only be considered at the Committee’s discretion. In such cases an administration fee of £10.00 must accompany the enquiry.

Proposed by: Maureen Hiscock Seconded by: Roy Hiscock CARRIED

7.5 Section 8 - Annual Awards

An Observation from Penny Charlton.

7.5.1 New Awards - BFA Members Award - I think this should have gone out to all Team Captains to vote with a short resume of why they think the dog should be nominated. It seems a bit unfair you have 2 Pods dogs, 2 Mad Mutts and 2 Bristol Ball-istics in the nomination list and those Teams have a Representative on the Committee. Teams that don’t have an Area Representative, Head Judge or Officer are being excluded.

After due discussion, it was agreed that **BFA Members Award** would be discontinued - the 2000 winner to retain the Trophy.

The **Most Improved Team Award** would be continued in 2001. The method of selection would be that all Primary Team Captains would be asked to nominate three Teams, excluding their own, in order of preference. Guidelines would be issued as necessary to assist them in their choices. The winner would be calculated from the returns.

Proposed by: Nigel Bouckley Seconded by: Roy Hiscock CARRIED

8. Presentation of Annual Awards.

For the record, the 2000 Annual Awards are listed below. With few exceptions, these Awards had already been presented (mainly at the Daventry Tournament), when the recipients or their colleagues were in attendance. The two outstanding items to be sent out by post in the near future.

Team of the Year	1st	The Northern Bytes		15,303 pts
	2nd	Barkshire Bandits		14,232 pts
	3rd	Melton Rovers		12,700 pts
BFA Special Award		Pods		245 pts
Flyball Dog of the Year	1st	Tug	Ron Edge	4,576 pts
	2nd	Mork	Doreen Smith	4,467 pts
	3rd	Jack	June Smele	3,689 pts
Flyball Bitch of the Year	1st	Misty	Carol Lenaghan	4,576 pts
	2nd	Rosie	Gill Frost	4,501 pts
	3rd	Amy	Sue Goddard	4,020 pts
Best Breed Specific Border Collie/ Working Sheepdog	1st	Tug	Ron Edge	4,576 pts
	2nd	Mork	Doreen Smith	4,467 pts
	3rd	Fern	Jacqueline Campbell	3,835 pts
Best Cross Breed	1st	Misty	Carol Lenaghan	4,576 pts
	2nd	Rosie	Gill Frost	4,501 pts
	3rd	Amy	Sue Goddard	4,020 pts
Best Breed Specific Border Terrier	1 st	Dodger	Angie Howe	3,569 pts
	2nd	Gilly	June Richardson	897 pts
	3 rd	Tina	Louise Makin	160 pts
Best Breed Specific Spanish Water Dogs	1st	Azor	Faye Allen	2,803 pts
	2nd	Bonita	Faye Allen	1,175 pts
	3rd	Rayo	Sarah Grey	574 pts
Best Breed Specific Jack Russell Terrier	1st	Bobby	Claire Gristwood	2,735 pts
	2nd	Binnie	Lorraine Fulford	2571 pts
	3rd	Ted	Alis on O'Rourke	1461 pts
Best Breed Specific Labrador	1st	BJ	C Redfearn	753 pts
	2nd	Mac	Julia Kearney	484 pts
	3rd	TJ	Daniella Mann	248 pts
Best of the Rest		Lark	Sally Sanford	875 pts

9. The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and contributions and formally closed the Meeting at 15.50hrs.