

British Flyball Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 7th April 2002 at Beoley Village Hall

1. Following a minute's silence in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the Chairman opened the Meeting at 10.25hrs, welcomed those present (69 in number) and thanked Anne Johnson and her team from the Wolf Pack for arranging the venue, refreshments and lunches.
2. **Apologies** - were received from: Tansy Foster (Shooting Stars), Terry Condra (Wolf Pack), Delia & Michael Roberts, Denis Eales, Claire & Steven Evans, Doug Merchant, Dave Green and Hilary Skinner (all Pods), Wayne & Alison O'Rourke (Pawzitiff Pawz), Kay Henshall (Bassett Allsorts), Chris & Lorraine Fulford (Bad Dog Racers), Betty Potts (Yorkshire Bouncers), June Smele (Bristol Ball-istics), Claire Gristwood and Rob Bell (Mad Mutts) and Nigel Bouckley.
3. **Minutes of last AGM - 19th August 2001** - copies had been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and Officers with the revised BFA Rules and Policies in November 2001 and been made available on the Website for all other interested parties at that time. They were therefore approved as a true record without a further reading.

Proposed by: Robert Henshall

Seconded by: Sam Bawden

4. **Election of the BFA Committee** - the following current members had expressed a willingness to remain on the Committee for a second year

Andy Bawden (Bristol Ball-istics)

Robert Henshall (Bassett Allsorts)

Graham Nye (Maple Leafs)

Betty Potts (Yorkshire Bouncers)

Election of the BFA Committee (continued)

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

Alison Booth (Wakefield Tykes) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: John Verity

Seconded by: David Bowles

Roy Hiscock (Mad Mutts) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: Graham Nye

Seconded by: Rob Bell

Peter Roberts (Pods) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: Betty Potts

Seconded by: Sam Bawden

Doreen Smith (The Northern Bytes) - seeking re-election

Proposed by: Maria Brennan

Seconded by: Ron Edge

Election of the Committee (continued)

David Long (Nuneaton Flyers) - seeking election for the first time

Proposed by: Roy Hiscock

Seconded by: Stuart Harrison

The Chairman introduced David to the Meeting prior to seeking approval for the nominations.

Vanessa Haith (Lincolnshire Leapers) had decided to retire and the Chairman thanked her for her contribution over the last twelve months and her offer to retain the position of Regional Representatives Co-ordinator.

All nominations were approved.

Proposed by: Roy Hiscock

Seconded by: Bobbie Perkins

5. Reports for the year 2001/2002 by:

The Chairman - Roy Hiscock

The last year has been yet another good one for the BFA We have got over the problems of the previous year and the late AGM. There has been an increase in income - an unexpected increase that threw the business plan into a forward state, instead of realistically looking for a set of lights in 4 years time, we now find the BFA in a position to purchase a set and look to getting additional sets to cover the BFA's and our membership's needs.

As recent as last year, I could not envisage that by February the BFA diary would have as little as two or three weekends free between Easter and September, this increase in Shows may mean Teams being more selective of which Shows they attend. Once again the Summer Championships saw an increase in competing Teams, although it came to an unfortunate ending with its re-arrangement, but the fact is there was not a solution that satisfied all parties. I personally was overwhelmed by the reaction of the membership and the way you all mucked in to try to save the following day and the good will shown on the day it was abandoned.

The BFA held two successful Judges Seminars, which we intend to continue this year, it was good to see NAFA have recently held their first and intend to have more. We have also been attending other education issues, we now have a Getting Started package, which is a brief, or not so brief, whichever way you look at it, overview of the basics of Flyball and the BFA Tournaments for new Teams joining the BFA. We also have the First Contact publication, a hand out for the public, promoting initial interest and information on the BFA and Flyball. With these we are now in a position to support the Area Representatives with tangible back up, and we hope they will respond with further and increased activity. There is also a Show Organisers package on its way, to aid new Host Teams hold their first Tournaments

The Web discussion board is starting to take off, although many more watch than participate at present it is becoming a source of discussion and ideas for the committee. Although I must state that it is for constructive discussion and if it becomes a platform for anything else it will be withdrawn, that will only harm the BFA and our membership. The Website is getting a lot of attention and we have been pro-active in the face of the increase of Tournaments. We welcome Anne Johnson as Stats Officer's Assistant. She will be inputting the data online to aid the BFA Stats Officer in providing an even more efficient system for getting the points on the Web. Anne will also be handling the height cards as well.

We are making good progress, we are not perfect and there is still work to be done, but comparing with discussion about other Flyball authorities the BFA compares favourably. We thank the membership for their continued support, and of course I would like to thank the committee and all BFA Officials and helpers for their continued time and enthusiastic effort. Often without the complimentary acclaim they deserve for devoting their own personal time.

The Chairman then presented floral baskets to:

Anne Johnson for her efforts in providing the Venue and Food on the day.

Sam Bawden, Maureen Hiscock and Jean Meeking in appreciation of their year round work as Awards Secretary, Stats Co-ordinator and Editor of the Flyball Record respectively.

Reports for the year 2001/2002 (continued)

The Secretary - Graham Nye

Having spent the period since the last AGM as Secretary, I am pleased to say that the stresses and strains that appeared to effect my predecessors have again been at an acceptable level.

The Committee held two Meetings between the last AGM and 1st April 2002 and problems that arose between these Meetings were again successfully dealt with by e-mail contact. A revised copy of the BFA Rules and Policies was issued to all current Team Captains, Head Judges and other Officials in November 2001 in company with a draft of the 2001 AGM Minutes. At the same time these documents were posted to the Website.

Under the Editorship of Jean Meeking the Flyball Record has continued to improve and I hope you will agree that its success is an ongoing credit to her hard work and enthusiasm and the able assistance she receives from Neil.

The streamlining of the flow of information between the Membership Secretary, the Statistics Co-ordinator and the Treasurer referred to at the last AGM has continued and is now working to satisfactorily. The mass renewal of memberships for April 2002 is now in full swing and the paying-in of BFA monies at the local branch of Lloyds/TSB is proceeding smoothly.

On the Membership and Team front, in the period 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002 we attracted 248 new members and 11 new Primary Teams. The number of members who have renewed or joined for 1st April 2002 currently stands at 453 with a potential for another 286 to come, making a possible total of 739. Teams on the List of those wishing to receive Tournament Schedules now number 62.

For a second year 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 administration of the BFA running smoothly in the period since the last AGM.

The Treasurer - Robert Henshall

As Roy has already stated this last year has been yet another successful year for the BFA. The continued growth in membership, teams, tournaments has provided us with an extremely strong financial base from which to embark on our equipment purchasing plan, much earlier than anticipated. As this year our surplus exceeded our budget figure by £3220, page 3 of financial report titled BUSINESS PLAN v ACTUALS refers, identifying how this figure has been determined.

I am pleased to say that the Association is in a very strong position financially with £8194.13 in the bank when taking into account, allocated reserve fund and cash float. It has been decided to proceed with the increase in membership fees as announced at the last AGM but having only two membership categories i.e. Single and Joint doing away with Family (now incorporated in Joint).

Firstly I will deal with Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year ended 31st January 2002. 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.

Items worthy of comment or explanation:

Under

INCOME Subscription Fees - an increase on previous year of 31%
 Joining Fees - an increase on previous year of 54%
 Racing Registrations - an increase on previous year of 78%
 Sanctioned Tournaments - an increase on previous year of 191%.
 Training Fees - a decrease on previous year of 63%.

EXPENDITURE

Postage & Stationery Increase on previous year of 12%
Telephone & Fax Increase on previous year of 56%
Training Decrease on previous year of 86%
Insurance Increase on previous year of 140%

Any questions regarding the accounts presented. I will attempt to answer/explain hopefully.

The Treasurer's Report (continued)

BUSINESS PLAN

Page 4 is the rolling 5-year plan. Various figures have been modified from the previous plan, where it has been able to better predict those income and cost items.

The overall membership growth rate for the year 2001/2002 was 17% (2000/2001 - 34%).

The calendar for the coming year is getting full, as more teams put on their own tournaments, giving rise to date clashes with tournaments being held in other parts of the UK. The desire for electronic timing & starting lights remains strong. Therefore, it is apt that the BFA is now able to progress, much earlier than anticipated, with purchasing its own set of 'Lights'. So now we have to turn this desire into reality. This item will be dominating the committee meetings in the future as it is attempted to agree the specifications etc.

Our 'AIMS FOR THE FUTURE' remain unchanged:

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.

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

The Webmaster - Nigel Bouckley (read in his absence by Roy Hiscock)

If I am not personally presenting this report then the leaders of our great nation have seen fit to employ me elsewhere for matters of national importance, or at least they think so, but seriously for a moment, please accept my sincere apologies for non-attendance this year only the second I have ever missed since I became involved in the BFA many years ago.

Now actively employed as the BFA's Webmaster, I am happy to report that the last 12 months may have been slow on the physical flyball due to the foot and mouth epidemic, the Website has seen the same growth as that of the last 6 months of competition.

Due to the dramatic increase in Flyball it has been necessary to spread the load to ensure, you the members have up to date information on the Website, Anne Johnson is now assisting Mo in the publication of results, with Mo still maintaining overall responsibility.

A new high use area of the Website is the Flyball Forum, run and moderated by Anne Johnson; the topics of discussion are as varied as the people who contribute to them.

In the last 12 months over 1.2 million visitors have dropped in on the BFA Website, with a lot of the international trade being related to the World Rankings, now hosting some 450 teams world-wide.

The on-line database, thanks to the efforts of Mo Hiscock, Graham Nye, Anne Johnson and Alison Booth, continues to provide accurate up to date information, which is almost in constant use by members.

Alas it is not all great news a weak area and one that the committee have been addressing is the publication of on-line schedules, I believe that efforts are being made to ensure this service will improve over the forthcoming 12 months.

As I have said at previous meetings the BFA Website represents our front-door, a shop window to the rest of the world when it comes to flyballing, as a lot of countries will verify the BFA lead and others follow, well it's thanks to the efforts of many that we have such a fine product, which represents great value and in conjunction with the Flyball Record continues to supply accurate information to the membership and the viewing public, thus proving the BFA is a slick well run and highly motivated organisation.

I am sorry I am not there to answer any questions you may have, but please pass through Mo or Graham and I will endeavour to publish answers in the Flyball record or in the on-line discussion area.

Specification for Lights - At this point, referring to the purchase of 'Lights', Tony Bagg urged that the Committee should ensure that the specification for a set of Lights cover the accurate electronic identification of changeover faults. Subsequent discussion covered other faults controlled manually and the use of individual fault lights that should remain on until cleared and be visible to all.

A straw poll on the need for fault lights to come on and stay on until cleared produced almost unanimous support for this approach.

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

Rule changes.

6.1 Section 4 - Sanctioned Competition

- 6.1.1 Rule 4.4 Layout** Proposal - Add 'Separate Entry to and Exit from the Racing Lanes to be provided at all Tournaments'.

It was agreed that this item should not be included in the Rules and Policies but would be incorporated in the 'Guide to Tournament Organisers' on the basis that it should be implemented whenever possible - Alison Booth to action.

Original Proposal by: June Bass Seconded by: Neil Meeking DEFEATED

Section 5 - Rules for Competition

- 6.2.1 Rule 5.2 (h) Teams** Proposal - Amend the first sentence to read 'In multibreed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breed recognised by any Club or Studbook and/or consist of one or four completely different dog(s) of mixed breed parents at the discretion of the Judges.'

On a proposal by: Tony Bagg Seconded by: Alison Booth This item was REJECTED

- 6.2.2 Rule 5.5 (d) Judges** Proposal - Add 'A Steward to be placed at the centre rear of the runback area.'

To avoid the problems that had prompted this proposal it was agreed that education and training on good conduct in the Ring should be promoted through the Flyball Record to encourage general awareness of the subject.

The proposal by: June Bass Seconded by: Roy Hiscock Was therefore REJECTED

At this stage, the Annual Awards listed at the end of these Minutes were presented as a prelude to Lunch.

- 6.2.3 Rule 5.13 (b) Jumps** Proposal - Amend the last sentence to read 'The tops of the jumps are to be flexible and made from BFA approved materials. If foam is used it must be white and attached to the front and back face of the slats only'

Rule 5.13 (b) Jumps Proposal - Amend the first sentence to read 'The jumps must be flexible and breakable and not made of wood. They should be white and have an inside width of 24"', with posts neither more than 36" high nor less than 24" high.'

These two proposals made by June Bass and Penny Charlton respectively were considered together.

After much discussion it was agreed that **Rule 5.13 (b)** should remain unchanged and that these proposals be replaced with a change to **Rule 5.13 (c)** which required the addition of the words '**this height to include any protective material**'. It was also agreed that the 'Guide to Tournament Organisers' should include reference to taping the foam to the top slat.

Amended Proposal by: Graham Nye Seconded by: Peter Roberts CARRIED (5 Abstentions)

Proposals (continued)

6.2.4 Rule 5.13 (c) Jumps Proposal - Amend to '... with a minimum of 8' and a maximum of 16'.

This amendment had four proposers, Penny Charlton, June Bass, Sam Bawden and Wayne O'Rourke.

After much discussion, voting was tied at 31 For and Against. The Chairman therefore used his casting vote in favour of the status quo.

6.2.5 Rule 5.18 ((f) Rules of Racing - Fouling Comment by Penny Charlton that she would like to see this Rule about Fouling in the Ring, either reinforced or omitted altogether.

Having highlighted discrepancies in the implementation of this Rule, Penny Charlton was happy to support its retention on the basis that it is left to the discretion of the Judge.

Original Proposal by: Penny Charlton Seconded by: Graham Nye DEFEATED

7. Proposals - Other than Rule Changes.

7.1 Submitted by June Bass - 'The BFA to put on at least three Tournaments a year. Also to postpone the Summer Championships until the BFA can host their own'.

It was pointed out that the members ARE the BFA. A straw poll on retaining the Summer Championship run over a series of Tournaments rather than one weekend showed that the series of Tournaments was more popular.

Original Proposal by: June Bass Seconded by: Roy Hiscock DEFEATED

8. Annual Awards for 2001.

The 2001 Annual Awards are listed below. With few exceptions, these Awards had been presented to the recipients or their colleagues who were in attendance between items 6.2.2 and 6.2.3 above. Outstanding Awards would be distributed in the near future.

Team of the Year	1st	Barkshire Bandits		24,404 pts
	2nd	The Northern Bytes		22,944 pts
	3rd	The Mega Bytes		20,058 pts
BFA Special Award		The Northern Bytes		
Flyball Dog of the Year	1st	Tyson	Sue Goddard	7,386 pts
	2nd	Mork	Doreen Smith	7,285 pts
	3rd	Tex	Peter Sleath	6,830 pts
Flyball Bitch of the Year	1st	Mistie	Theresa Chamberlain	7,951 pts
	2nd	Ellie	Penny Charlton	7,808 pts
	3rd	Tara	Sue Allen	6,983 pts
Best Breed Specific Border Collie/ Working Sheepdog	1st	Mistie	Theresa Chamberlain	7,951 pts
	2nd	Mork	Doreen Smith	7,285 pts
	3rd	Tara	Sue Allen	6,983 pts
Best Cross Breed	1st	Ellie	Penny Charlton	7,808 pts
	2nd	Tyson	Sue Goddard	7,386 pts
	3rd	Tex	Peter Sleath	6,830 pts
Best Breed Specific Jack Russell Terrier	1st	Bobby	Claire Gristwood	3,850 pts
	2nd	Milo	Nicola Jackson	2,644 pts
	3rd	Binnie	Lorraine Fulford	2,643 pts
Best Breed Specific Labrador	1st	Charlie	Christine Redfearn	3,268 pts
	2nd	BJ	Christine Redfearn	1,596 pts

	3rd	TJ	Daniella Mann	1,489 pts
Best Breed Specific Spanish Water Dogs	1st	Bonita	Faye Allen	6,862 pts
	2nd	Azor	Faye Allen	1,871 pts
	3rd	Bramble	Kay Burrows	814 pts
Best Breed Specific English Springer Spaniel	1st	Jed	Carolyn Higginson	2,115 pts
	2nd	Spike	Nicky Stedman	1,592 pts
	3rd	Roo	Vanessa Haith	1,186 pts
Best of the Rest		Jazz	Alison Booth	1,298 pts
Most Improved Team of the Year		Sheffield Speeders		

9. The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and contributions and formally closed the Meeting at 16.10hrs.