

British Flyball Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 6th April 2003 at Beoley Village Hall

1. The Chairman opened the Meeting at 10.20hrs, welcomed those present (86 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: Hilary Denyer, Anne Alderman, Kay Henshall and David & Christine Biddulph (all Bassett Allsorts), Christine & Tony Gardner and Nicola Rendall (all Wolf Pack), Peter Sleath (The Northern Bytes) Mo Hiscock and Sue Bell (Mad Mutts), Hilary Skinner (Pods) and Nigel Bouckley.
3. **Minutes of last AGM - 7th April 2002** - copies had been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and Officers with the revised elements of the BFA Rules and Policies in May 2002 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: Roy Hiscock

Seconded by: Robert Henshall

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

Alison Booth (Wakefield Tykes)

Doreen Smith (The Northern Bytes)

Peter Roberts (Pods)

David Long (Nuneaton Flyers)

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

Betty Potts (Yorkshire Bouncers) - seeking re-election.

Proposed by: John Verity

Seconded by: David Bew

Penny Charlton (Barkshire Bandits) - seeking election for the first time.

Proposed by: Penny Laver

Seconded by: Colin Laver

Dianne Halsted (Fylde Coasters) - seeking election for the first time.

Proposed by: Les Chapman

Seconded by: Daniella Mann

The Chairman introduced Penny and Dianne to the Meeting prior to seeking approval for the nominations.

Roy Hiscock (Mad Mutts), Robert Henshall (Bassett Allsorts) and Graham Nye (Maple Leafs) had all decided to retire. All nominations were approved.

Proposed by: Ron Edge

Seconded by: Sam Bawden

5. Reports for the year 2002/2003 by:

The Chairman - Roy Hiscock

Four members were left from the March 1999 committee meeting, Robert, Doreen and myself being the new ones, the first committee meeting after nearly the whole BFA committee resigned, only the constant Peter Roberts remained from the previous committee. Alison was co-opted later that year and Betty joined at the next AGM, although she did not intend to before attending. Since that fateful day at the 99 AGM it has been a rollercoaster ride, and we have experienced many emotions, not all of them good. During that time the BFA has had some stability, the accounts have grown by some £10,000, partly due to the committees frugal approach to the use of the memberships money, one which I am sure will continue. Which brings me to my first point, the membership will want to know why, if we are ahead in our business plan and have such healthy accounts, do we not have a set of lights of our own. The simple fact is that there is not a set of good working lights available to us at the right price and conditions, despite an extensive worldwide search. There have been many good leads, good intentions but ultimately they have led to disappointment in our chase for lights. The crusade, as it has now become, continues.

Another bumper year for the BFA, growth in all areas. It is getting boring announcing this year after year but the BFA continues to improve and go from strength to strength in all areas, always looking for better ways to do things. The BFA is not perfect but even in our weak areas we are better than we were and are looking to improve further. We can look the dissenters in the eye and say we did our best for what we thought was the best for Flyball.

Once again we thank the membership for their support throughout the year, without that there would have been no point. Thank you also to the Show Organisers and all the people that help out at shows, from organising venues, cutting the grass to laying out the lanes, on to Judges, Line Judges, Box Judges, Scribes and the list goes on, the BFA have unfortunately nothing to offer you but our heartfelt thanks and the knowledge that you are the main stay on the BFA at the sharp end. Without you, the show could not go on.

A massive thank you must go to the people stepping down this year from their official positions within the BFA, leaving a very hard task to follow and carry on into the future. Thanks to Graham as BFA Secretary who so efficiently oversaw the administration of the BFA, thanks to the Treasurer, Robert who so professionally and diligently looked after our money, and thanks to Mo Hiscock who put so much time and effort, in some difficult circumstances, into ensuring that you all got the points and awards allocated that were so hard earned.

We leave the BFA in a healthy position, but as always there is still much work to be done.

The Secretary - Graham Nye

Having spent a third year as Secretary, I feel it is now time to step down and let someone else take over the reins. I hope that I leave the administration of the Association in a far better state than when I arrived in 2000 and that my successor will carry on the good work. During this time I have also carried out the task of Membership Secretary and been custodian of the BFA Post Box. If the new Committee so wish, I am willing to continue with that job and the PO Box for the time being. It would be particularly difficult for someone to take over the membership at a time when annual renewals are still arriving in numbers and in any case the vast majority of incoming post is membership related. I may also be available to the new Secretary for advice and guidance if and when this is required.

The Committee held three Meetings between the last AGM and 1st April 2003 and items that arose between these Meetings were again successfully dealt with by e-mail contact. Selected amended pages of the BFA Rules and Policies Folder were issued to all current Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and other Officers in May 2002 together with a draft of the 2002 AGM Minutes. At the same time these documents were posted to the Website.

I would like to remind the new Committee of a point Nigel Bouckley, our Webmaster, made at the AGM in 2000 to the effect that Committee nominees must have sufficient time to devote to BFA business to do the job properly. With the growth of the Association in recent years, it is even more necessary in the current climate. A reliable PC with current Software and a robust e-mail system and the ability to use them are absolutely vital to the efficient day-to-day workings of the Committee.

Secretary's Report (continued)

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

The mass renewal of memberships for April 2003 is now in full swing and in this connection, on the Membership and Team front, in the period 1st April 2002 to 31st March 2003 we attracted 249 new members and 15 new Primary Teams. The number of members who have renewed or joined for 1st April 2003 currently stands at 569 (against 453 this time last year) with a potential for another 289 (against 286) to come, making a possible total of 858 (against 739). Teams on the List of those wishing to receive Tournament Schedules now number 68 (last year 62).

For a third and for my part, final 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. I must also thank my wife Pam, for her support in regularly relieving me of many household duties to enable me to concentrate on BFA matters.

I cannot leave without paying tribute to Roy Hiscock who as Chairman for the last four years has worked unceasingly and driven the Committee to achieve the results which have benefited the Sport in particular and us as members in general - I believe he will be sorely missed.

The Treasurer - Robert Henshall

What Roy has already stated, I can only confirm that this last year has been yet another successful year for the BFA. With the continued growth in membership, teams, tournaments, race registration fees, etc. has provided the BFA with an even stronger financial base. Last year I said that we were able to embark on our equipment purchasing plan, much earlier than anticipated. As Roy has already stated this ambition has been frustrated by the lack of reasonably priced, working set of lights in the market place. This now sees us with an equipment reserve of £10,000.00.

To repeat myself, the Association is in a very strong position financially with £12406 in the bank when taking into account, allocated reserve fund and cash float. As you will see from the I & E account the income generation streams continue to grow with the growth of our Flyball Sport.

The overall membership growth rate for the financial year 2002/2003 was 16% [259 new members reduced to 110], (2001/2002 - 17%).

Firstly, I refer you to the Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year ended 31st January 2003. This is the first page on the financial notes issued to you. You will see that there is only one note this year, item a which is a breakdown of the Postage & Stationery figure.

Items worthy of comment or explanation: -

INCOME	Fees	Subscriptions - an increase on previous year of 45% (31%)
	Joining/Lapsed	- an increase on previous year of 11% (54%)
	Racing Registrations	- an increase on previous year of 53% (78%)
	Sanction Tournament	- a decrease on previous year of 39% (191%).
	Training	- a decrease on previous year of 85% (63%).
	Team Registrations	- an increase on previous year of 26% (63%).
EXPENDITURE		
	Postage & Stationery	Increase on previous year of 34% (12%)
	Telephone & Fax	Increase on previous year of 17% (56%)
	Training	Decrease on previous year of 45% (also decrease 63%)
	Insurance	Increase on previous year of 82% (140%)
	Trophies & Certificates	Increase on previous year of 128% (decrease 31%)

NB	Computer Hardware	- £229.99	Printer for Stats Officer
	Computer Software	- £360.49	Acrobat update s/w for Show Secretary £199.99
			Website upgrade s/w £150.00
			Membership Sec & Sec Annual lic. Virus s/w £10.50
	Equipment	- 649.06	- £265.08 Banners
			- £140.00 Measuring Hoops
			- £243.98 Printer/Cable Membership Sec

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

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 incomes and cost items.

'AIMS FOR THE FUTURE' I hope that the new committee will endorse these values: -

To be cost effective;

To maintain a healthy bank balance (i.e. £3000.00);

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.

I too would like to thank everybody for the support I have been given during my four years on the committee and as treasurer. It has been an eventful period (much of which I have enjoyed). It will be nice to have some so spare time again and no more e-mails at 1am. I certainly have learnt a lot about 'Flyball'.

If anyone is considering coming on (sorry) going on to the committee, then make that step, you may not be popular, at times, but it is well worth having the experience and fresh blood is always good for any organisation.

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)

First of all I would like to apologise for not attending the AGM in person, those in the know will know why.

Well the 2002 / 2003 year has been another success as far as flyballing in the UK and the BFA are concerned, and the website, affectionately known as the BFA's "front window" has been no exception.

Lets start with some statistics -

Last year I reported that the BFA website regularly received over 100,000 hits a month, this year, however, the average is closer to 250,000 a month. Key areas are still the database, including stats, records and awards, as well as the vast resource to forms, schedules and publications.

As promised there is now much more control to users, with all schedules being uploaded directly by the Show Secretary.

There has been a significant use of the BFA's Webboard, an area for members to discuss a wide range of topics with other like-minded flyballers. In the last 2 months there has been some 189 posts to the site, with many taking advantage of the email notifications to read and contribute.

A new area, which has just started is the on-line chat area, where a small number of flyballers regularly get together online and discuss, well anything really. Although this is still in it's infancy I can see this growing into a great addition to the site.

Last Christmas saw a major server upgrade to the BFA web server, and this prepares us for the forthcoming year(s).

The BFA now has the facility to offer webspace to it's members, initially this will be limited to 25 web accounts and BFA teams will be given first refusal, it will be a full package of webspace, email accounts and ftp access, teams will be able to host there own domain name, like www.doncasterflyers.co.uk etc. The final details and cost will be worked out by the 2003/2004 committee and should be announced in the next couple of months.

In addition it is hoped to give much more access to individual secretary's to update their own official areas live on-line.

Webmaster's Report (continued)

Once again we strive to bring, you the membership, a website to be proud of and we are always open to new ideas and suggestions, some we can implement immediately and others we will work towards implementation, but please keep the feedback coming, it makes it just the way you want it.

The age old saying many hands make light work has been proven again as many of you will have witnessed this last year, the information has been kept up-to-date by a dedicated team, whose goal it is to present the BFA as the professional organisation it is today.

You can rest assured that coupled with the first class publication, The Flyball Record, the BFA's website will continue to give you access to up-to date information, publications and provide a host of facilities throughout the forthcoming year.

I am pleased to continue as Webmaster and serve the BFA for the forthcoming year.

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

6.1 Rules Section 3 - Discipline

This Section of the Rules had been re-written following problems encountered during 2002 in implementing the previous system. The revised version was approved as detailed in the Agenda for this AGM subject to one amendment in paragraph 3.3 (a) - the words 'guilt and punishment' to be replaced with 'guilt/penalty and future conduct'

Proposed by: Wayne O'Rourke Seconded by: Bobbie Perkins CARRIED.

6.2 Life time membership for the Webmaster.

Proposed by: Roy Hiscock Seconded by: Those Present en masse. CARRIED.

At this stage, the distribution of Annual Awards and other Presentations listed in Section 7 of these Minutes took place.

6.3 Rules Section 5 - Rules for Competition

6.3.1 Rule 5.10 Balls Proposal - Add to this Rule 'Each Team shall provide a bucket at the end of the racing lane to put all spare balls into at the end of each heat'.

It was accepted that this item was already covered by Rule 5.18 (k). It was agreed that it should be included in future Judges' Seminars and this point was referred to the next Committee Meeting.

Original proposal by Penny Charlton WITHDRAWN.

6.3.2 Rule 5.13 (c) Jumps Proposal - Amend the maximum Jump Height from 14" back to 16".

Voting on this proposal by Wayne O'Rourke For: 36 Against: 49 DEFEATED.

6.3.3 Rule 5.13 (c) Jumps Proposal - Reduce Jump Heights by 3" for the smaller dogs disadvantaged by the maximum Jump Height Rule.

Amended to a proposal on Rule 5.7 (e) to read - 'Jump Heights shall be set at 6" lower than the dog's height at the withers.....'

Voting on this proposal by Roy Hiscock For: 23 Against: 55 DEFEATED.

7. Annual Awards for 2002.

The 2002 Annual Awards are listed below. These Awards had been presented to the recipients or their colleagues who were in attendance between items 6.1 and 6.2.above. Outstanding Awards would be distributed in the near future.

Team of the Year-Open	1 st	Wolf Pack		30,940 pts
	2 nd	Barkshire Bandits		23,175 pts
	3 rd	The Northern Bytes		21,220 pts
Team of the Year-Multibreed	1 st	Fylde Pick 'n' Mix		6,415 pts
	2 nd	Mad Multi Bytes		6,396 pts
	3 rd	Grasshopper Multi		4,860 pts
BFA Special Award		Pods		
Flyball Dog of the Year	1st	Rogan	Jean Meeking	7,755 pts
	2nd	Jed	Carolyn Higginson	7,613 pts
	3rd	Bob	Natalie Holtappel	7,568 pts
Flyball Bitch of the Year	1 st	Oggie	Ron Edge	10,316 pts
	2 nd	Rosie	Doreen Smith	8,619 pts
	3 rd	Sally Spice	Edythe Clack	8,386 pts
Best Breed Specific Border Collie/ Working Sheepdog	1 st	Tara	Sue Allen	8,367 pts
	2 nd	Bess	Ray Clack	8,229 pts
	3 rd	Cassie	Neil Meeking	7,914 pts
Best Breed Specific Jack Russell Terrier	1 st	Bobby	Claire Gristwood	5,969 pts
	2 nd	Dylan	Ronald Spink	4,166 pts
	3 rd	Ted	Alison O'Rourke	3,557 pts
Best Breed Specific Labrador	1 st	Charlie	Christine Redfearn	6,214 pts
	2 nd	TJ	Daniella Mann	5,784 pts
	3 rd	Lucas	Susan Dore	2,592 pts
Best Breed Specific English Springer Spaniel	1 st	Jed	Carolyn Higginson	7,613 pts
	2 nd	Roo	Vanessa Haith	1,497 pts
	3 rd	Jini	Elizabeth Glass	861 pts
Best Breed Specific English Cocker Spaniel	1 st	William	Sam Dowell	3,035 pts
	2 nd	Snitch	Doreen Smith	2,042 pts
	3 rd	Lark	Sally Sanford	1,500 pts
Best Cross Breed	1 st	Oggie	Ron Edge	10,316 pts
	2 nd	Sally Spice	Edythe Clack	8,386 pts
	3 rd	Jade	Helen Buttery	6,753 pts
Best of the Rest Breed Specific	1 st	Bonita	Faye Allen	4,928 pts
Best of the Rest Non-Breed Specific	1 st	Rosie	Doreen Smith	8,619 pts

Awards and Presentations (continued)

Engraved Tankards were presented to Ron Edge and Neil Meeking in appreciation of their provision of Lights at Tournaments throughout the year under review and to Roy Hiscock, Robert Henshall and Graham Nye in acknowledgement of their work for the Committee and to mark their retirement.

The Chairman then presented the following Flyball Points Awards:

Sheena (Elizabeth Payne) Blue (20,000 points)

Jack (June Smele) Blue (20,000 points)

Amy (Sue Goddard) Platinum (25,000 points)

Blue (Andrew Payne) Pearl (30,000 points)

Floral baskets were presented to Jean Meeking and Sam Bawden in appreciation of their continued efforts as Editor of the Flyball Record and Awards Secretary respectively and to Anne Johnson and her Team for booking the Venue and providing Food on the day.

8. The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and contributions and formally closed the Meeting at 15.15hrs.