

British Flyball Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 28th March 2004 at Beoley Village Hall

1. The Chairman opened the Meeting at 10.20hrs, welcomed those present (98 in number) and thanked Anne Johnson and her team from the Wolf Pack for arranging the venue, refreshments and lunches.

He then presented his **Chairman's report**.

We have had a very good year in general with larger entries for more Tournaments, More sponsorship, and more press and TV coverage. Last year at the AGM several officers retired, showing that the rule designed to provide continuity cannot be enforced so is pretty useless. Thus we started the year with A NEW CHAIRMAN, A NEW TREASURER and A NEW SECRETARY.

Early complaints about the statistics caused much upset and wasted a lot of Committee time & energy. Doreen promised she would get the whole thing up-to-date and has proved her case! PERHAPS MEMBERS SHOULD REFLECT - BEFORE CRITICISING HARD WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OFFICERS - these people work very hard for member's benefit, they are not paid and up to now even pay all the costs of travelling to meetings and umpteen hours on e-mail themselves. These people should not have to put up with such vitriolic criticism as has been thrown at them, in particular the Statistics Officers. The members who are so quick to complain are conspicuous by their absence from the volunteer jobs. Enough moans but please remind other members of your teams that this is an organisation run by hard working volunteers for members.

Now on a personal note I am not standing this year BUT I AM NOT RETIRING FROM FLYBALL. I thank all the members who have voted to keep me on the Committee for virtually the whole time that Flyball has existed in this country.

At last the BFA has spent some money on a set of lights, some of us would have liked to spend a lot more on a second set and some covers, but the BFA is a democratic organisation and the majority Committee vote prevailed. Good news then that the Ex MDS equipment is now owned by the Barkshire Bandits so will continue to be used at BFA events. A big thank you to Roy who arranged the supply of the recent sets. Mad Mutts have a set, The BFA have a set currently in the care of Dave Long and Nuneaton Flyers, PODS have a set on Anglesey and Molten Magnets have the Ex Tornados set, still working well. Northern Bytes lights have been much improved. So with six sets in use Tournament Organisers should have no problem obtaining the use of a set.

This year we celebrate the BFA 10th anniversary. Many ideas were discussed for celebrating this, but the majority of Committee members wished to be careful with your money so a compromise is that you will all receive these new car stickers free of charge.

As we get bigger we have some problems deciding on how to run tournaments, I personally and others in our team hate turning teams away from a Tournament. Remember the objective, Flyball is about racing, ideally good close racing. For a couple of years the two one day Tournament arrangement at Market Harborough accommodated most teams, though inevitably spoilt some of the closeness of the racing by dividing up the teams, so that your arch-rival could be racing on the other day. This year so many teams were turned down that we could have had another days racing! As more teams host Tournaments I hope the winter midlands situation will improve.

Now today's meeting - I will endeavour to ensure that everybody has a fair chance to participate in the discussion, but we do want to get to the enjoyable part - giving out the awards. I remind members that rules other than those in sections 1 to 3 can be left for the Committee to decide, so rather than take hours discussing details we may decide on a change but leave the Committee to deal with the detailed wording.

2. **Apologies** - were received from: Anne Alderman, (Bassett Allsorts), Maria Brennan, (Flying Colours), Sue Owen (Dodgers), Natalie Bryson, Jean Price, Bobbie Perkins (Bristol Ball-istics), and Delia Roberts, (Pods).
3. **Minutes of last AGM - 6th April 2003** - copies had been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and Officers with the revised copy of the BFA Rules and Policies in May 2003 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: Howard Campbell

Seconded by: Jackie Campbell

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

Penny Charlton (Barkshire Bandits)

Betty Potts (Yorkshire Bouncers)

Dianne Halstead (Lancashire Weavers)

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

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

Proposed by: Betty Potts

Seconded by: Peter Roberts

David Long (Nuneaton Flyers) - seeking re-election.

Proposed by: Chris Thompstone

Seconded by: Pamela Harrison

Alison Booth (Wakefield Tykes) - seeking re-election.

Proposed by: David Bowles

Seconded by: Graham Hunter

Wayne O'Rourke (Maple Leafs) - seeking election for the first time.

Proposed by: Graham Nye

Seconded by: Eddie Carter

Judy Parker (Molten Magnets) - seeking election for the first time.

Proposed by: Val Currie

Seconded by: Jean Meeking

Chris Fulford (Bad Dog Racers) - seeking election for the first time

Proposed by: Penny Charlton

Seconded by: Peter Roberts

Peter Roberts (Pods) had decided to retire after 10 years service to the BFA Committee.

The Chairman introduced Wayne, Judy and Chris to the Meeting prior to seeking approval for the nominations.

All nominations were approved.

Proposed by: Peter Roberts

Seconded by: Howard Campbell

5.. Other Reports for the year 2003/2004

The Secretary - Penny Charlton

Having spent this past year since the last AGM as Secretary, I would firstly like to thank Graham for all his invaluable assistance in aiding me with this job. I had grave doubts when I was appointed this position as I had a very hard act to follow in his footsteps, but hopefully we as a committee have dealt with matters effectively and efficiently.

The committee held five meetings between the last AGM and 1st March 2004 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 May 2003 together with a draft of the 2003 AGM Minutes. At the same time these documents were posted to the website.

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 dedication to Flyball. As you are aware Jean has decided to hang up her Editors Hat and pass the job on to Val Currie who was selected by the committee at our last meeting. We were very grateful to the other three candidates who sent in their CV's for this job and the committee were delighted with the quality of these applicants.

The BFA has enjoyed another successful year with great racing and competitions and the diary for this year is already very full especially for the summer months. The committee wish to thank all show organisers for their hard work in making these shows possible.

The renewal of memberships for April 2004 is now gathering pace and in this connection, on the Membership and Team front, in the period 1st April 2003 to date we attracted 270 new members (last year 249) and 12 new Primary Teams (last year 15). The number of members who have renewed or joined for 1st April 2004 currently stands at 391 (against 569 on 6th April last year when the AGM was after the renewal date) with a potential for another 582 (against 289) to come, making a possible total of 973 (against 858). Teams on the List of those wishing to receive Tournament Schedules now number 74 (last year 68).

I would finally like to thank the members of the committee and to Nigel Bouckley as Webmaster, who have helped and supported me in keeping the BFA Administration hopefully running as smoothly as possible since I took over at the last AGM.

The Treasurer - Betty Potts

I took on the job of Treasurer under pressure on the condition that it would be a purely Income and Expenditure account, as I have little expertise in preparing these more complicated accounts which you have been accustomed to. I therefore make no apology for this.

Increased income has been accrued by the increase of the membership, with more teams competing and more tournaments. If one adds the net gains last year and the net loss this year the association is considerably less healthy than in the preceding few years.

Expenditure has increased even more. Apart from the items costing more each year there are some of special note. The redesigning update of the website. The increased cost of training, which will probably need to be further, increased next year. The increased cost of committee meetings. The increased cost of equipment including a set of lights. The largest increase is the cost of trophies and awards. This is the one that is likely to be even larger this coming year but this improvement appears to be appreciated by members.

It will be noticed that there is no amount for Insurance on this account. The conditions for the use of the lights caused delay although insurance has been operable since late January.

It is difficult to anticipate the effect of these measures (i.e. lights and awards) on this year's expenditure. A cautious approach is recommended until a year of these measures has been experienced.

Other Reports for the year 2003/2004 (continued)

The Webmaster - Nigel Bouckley

Since the last AGM the old website experienced approximately 1.5 million hits from April - December last year. Key areas of use being: - points, team times, discussion areas and World Rankings!

The new Website was launched in December 2003, after a period of consultation with officials to see how the website could best serve them. Over 300 man hours were spent designing, building and implementing the new site, apart from the obvious changes and improvements, there has been substantial improvements to the way BFA officials interact with the site, thus speeding up data input and maintenance of records. Ultimately this makes the website part of our officials less of a laborious task.

Credit where credit is due, it is the officials that make the site current which is a very important factor in the BFA's window to the world - so thanks to Graham, Penny, Dianne, Jean and probably the highest user of the web - Doreen! The way members use the site has been a major factor in the new design and although we only have feedback from January and February it would appear the numerous cross-linking and breed analysis areas have been extremely well received and used so far. Despite the success of the BFA website, the organisation will not be resting on their laurels. Already Diane is in consultation with regional reps to see how the website can support them better particularly with dedicated training info and area specific flyball information.

If you have any ideas or "would like to see" areas then let us know, it's a members website first and foremost. Rest assured we are striving to give you the very best flyball "shop front window" for our organisation.

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

6.1 Rules Section 6 – Points

6.1.1 Rule 6.1 Points Proposal by Rachael Jones - The present points system be amended. Teams running at 22 seconds and receiving 5 points should instead receive 15 points instead of 5, and teams running 26 seconds and over should receive 5 points instead of 1. Teams running over 30 seconds should remain the unchanged.

6.1.2 Rule 6.1 Points Proposal by Maria Brennan - That the current points system be amended to the following: under 30 seconds - 5 points, under 25 seconds - 10 points, under 22 seconds - 15 points, under 20 seconds - 20 points, under 18 seconds - 25 points

6.1.3 Rule 6.1 Points Proposal by Anna Brasted - To bridge the gap in the points system, change the 5 points to 15, or at least 10 and the 1 point up to 5.

6.1.4 Rule 6.1 Points Proposal by Penny Charlton - If the present points system is changed I would like it amended to teams running sub 18 seconds receive 30 points, sub 22 seconds receive 25 points, sub 26 seconds receive 15 points, sub 30 seconds receive 5 points, over 30 seconds remain the same

6.1.5 Rule 6.1 Points Proposal by Sam Bawden IF the point system is changed then ALL dogs that have raced in Flyball from January 1994 be credited with the same level of points

Before discussions on these proposals the members were asked to vote on whether they wished to change the current points system.

Voting on this proposal: FOR: 19 AGAINST: 75 DEFEATED

As a result the Items listed under 6.1 above were disregarded.

6.2 Section 5 - Jumps

6.2.1 Rule 5.13 © Jumps Proposals by Anne Johnson and Chris Fulford - Amend the maximum Jump Height from 14" back to 16"

Voting on these proposals: FOR: 58 AGAINST: 37 CARRIED

It was passed to the committee to decide when to implement the new 16 " Height jumps.

Proposals (continued)

6.3 Section 5 - Rules for Competition

6.3.1 Rule 5.18 (m) Break-outs Proposal by Judy Parker - Amend to read a team running more than 1 second faster than the top team in their division (whether seeded or submitted).

6.3.2 Rule 5.18 (m) Break-outs Proposal by Penny Charlton - Amend to read a team running more than 1 second faster than their submitted time will be declared the loser of that heat.

These proposals were discussed and the majority of members present voted in favour of a change to this rule, the Committee to decide the wording at their next meeting.

6.4 Rules Section 5 - Amateur Competition

6.4.1 Rule 5.1 Proposal by Roy Hiscock - Remove section 5 rule 5.1 'Individuals or teams that accept money or other compensation for Flyball competition or demonstration over the amount specified above may not compete in BFA sanctioned competitions'.

There was a unanimous decision to delete this rule. CARRIED

6.5 Rules Section 4 - Sanctioned Competition

6.5.1 Rule 4.1 (i) Proposals by Nigel Bouckley - Increase in the tournament returns fee for manually submitted returns.

6.5.2 Proposal - The BFA set up audit team, to audit the BFA database at least once, maybe twice a year.

6.5.3 Proposal - The BFA incorporate a system for electronic tournament returns and with it a scaleable fee for tournament returns.

These proposals were discussed. It was agreed that the Committee should keep them under review as it was felt that Tournament Organisers and the BFA were not quite ready for these new methods.

6.6 Rules Section 8 - Annual Awards

6.6.1 Proposal by Anne Johnson - The BFA should present a long service award to dogs that have competed consistently for at least 9 years but have failed to attain the level on the Ice Blue Moon Award.

This proposal had limited support by the members present but it was agreed that the committee should look at the possibility of creating a Hall of Fame Award or Roll of Honour through a Sub-Committee.

6.6.2 Proposal by Val Currie - Open and Multibreed points are calculated separately for the annual awards and therefore a new award or awards should be introduced for multibreed dogs.

This also had limited support by the members present. It was pointed out that Annual Dog Awards were due for revision for 2004 and the Webmaster offered to help with various analyses.

6.6.3 Proposal by Sam Bawden - Introduce the BFA young competitor of the year award.

This proposal had unanimous support and the Committee will look into this award for the future probably with different guidelines from those outlined.

7. Proposals other than rule changes

7.1 Proposal by Andy Bawden - To reduce BFA Membership Fees DEFEATED.

The Committee were reminded that the membership had a 'need to know' what available monies would be spent on, bearing in mind the current level of reserve and the lack of an up-dated 5 year plan.

8. Annual Awards for 2003.

The 2003 Annual Awards are listed below. These Awards were presented to the recipients or their colleagues who were in attendance after the business side of the meeting. Outstanding Awards would be distributed in the near future.

Team of the Year-Open	1st	The Northern Bytes	36,548 pts	
	2nd	Pods	32,171 pts	
	3rd	Barkshire Bandits	26,275 pts	
Team of the Year-Multibreed	1st	Bytes Hotchpotch	6,878 pts	
	2nd	4 Mixed Mutts	4,625 pts	
	3rd	Tykes 57	4,170 pts	
BFA Special Award		Pods		
Flyball Dog of the Year	1st	Bobby	Molten Magnets	10,614 pts
	2nd	Darwin	Molten Magnets	10,410 pts
	3rd	Rogan	Molten Magnets	9,515 pts
Flyball Bitch of the Year	1st	Oggie	The Northern Bytes	11,369 pts
	2nd	Tara	The Northern Bytes	11,121 pts
	3rd	Cassie	Molten Magnets	9,896 pts
Best Breed Specific Border Collie/ Working Sheepdog	1st	Tara	The Northern Bytes	11,121 pts
	2nd	Bobby	Molten Magnets	10,614 pts
	3rd	Darwin	Molten Magnets	10,410 pts
Best Breed Specific Jack Russell Terrier	1st	Dylan	Wakefield Tykes	6,662 pts
	2nd	Ted	Maple Leafs	5,149 pts
	3rd	Bobby	Mad Mutts	4,080 pts
Best Breed Specific Labrador	1st	Charlie	Greetland Grasshoppers	6,897 pts
	2nd	TJ	Flyde Coasters	4,986 pts
	3rd	Charli	Molten Magnets	3,214 pts
Best Breed Specific English Springer Spaniel	1st	Maddy	Flyde Coasters	3,269 pts
	2nd	Roo	Lincolnshire Leapers	2,709 pts
	3rd	Jed	Flyde Coasters	2,438 pts
Best Breed Specific English Cocker Spaniel	1st	Snitch	The Northern Bytes	7,511 pts
	2nd	Holly	Rapidz	2,237 pts
	3rd	Lark	Dorset Dynamos	888 pts
Best Cross Breed	1st	Oggie	The Northern Bytes	11,369 pts
	2nd	Missy	Molten Magnets	9,656 pts
	3rd	Budgie	The Northern Bytes	8,167 pts
Best of the Rest Breed Specific	1st	Jonty	Wakefield Tykes	6,606 pts
Best of the Rest Non-Breed Specific	1st	Kelly	The Northern Bytes	7,182 pts

Floral baskets and chocolates were presented to Joanne and Robin Wilson for their continued help to Doreen as Stats Officer. Flowers for Sam Bawden in appreciation of her continued efforts as Awards Secretary. Chocolates were given to Anne Johnson and Wolf Pack Team for booking the Venue and providing Food on the day. Gifts were also presented to Graham Nye for all his hard work as Membership Secretary and to Jean Meeking in appreciation for all she has done over the past four years as Editor of the Flyball Record. Peter Roberts received a standing ovation when he was presented with a framed drawing of two of his dogs for all his contributions to Flyball over the past ten years as a Committee member and Chairman.

9. The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and contributions and formally closed the Meeting at 16.00hrs.