

# British Flyball Association



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006 at Wythall Community Hall, Birmingham.

1. The Chairman opened the Meeting at 10.25hrs, welcomed those present (75 in number) and thanked everyone for coming.
2. **Apologies** - were received from Anne Alcock, Maria Brennan, Janice Aird, Pam Wooden, Sam and Andy Bawden, Louise Bolger, Bobbie Perkins, June Smele, Edna Canby, Debbie and Barry Collins, Terry Condra, Steve and Quen James Linda King, Mary Braybrook, John Blackford.
3. **Minutes of last AGM – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005** - copies had been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges, Regional Representatives and Officers with the revised copy of the BFA Rules and Policies, and had 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: Alison O' Rourke      Seconded by: Peter Roberts

Reports were then presented for 2005/2006 by:

### **The Chairman: Chris Fulford**

May I extend a warm welcome from the BFA Committee to all of you attending today's meeting. I see from the numbers attending today's meeting its substantially down on last years record attendance. Well there are two ways of looking at this, firstly if not so many members are attending maybe its just we the committee haven't stressed the importance of this annual general meeting and how the decisions made here today will effect all of us next year and how we participate in this sport we all love.

The other way of looking at this is apathy, now strangely this 'can' be viewed as a positive, I'll explain. If there's not so many of you here then maybe the committee is doing a fair job in it's running of the association. History tells us that when there's a full attendance at an AGM then there's something not quite right. High AGM attendance with low growth opposed to low AGM attendance with high growth, we've got the latter, so I would like to think as a committee we've done a fair job this year. We've had our squabbles through out the year but with nine passionate personalities all trying to get their views across you wouldn't expect anything else.

Over the last year we've completed all the tasks we were asked to look at from the last annual meeting and completed just about all the programs we set out to look at as a committee, this time last year.

My task this year as chairman has been to made relatively easy due in no small way to the hard work put in by the various committee members within their own positions.

Penny as usual doing a very professional job as the Associations Secretary. Judy has been a revelation as Show Secretary. Judy has put in a lot of hard work as Show Secretary, putting in new procedures to make life much easier for Show Organisers and saving teams a lot of money in the meantime. Howard has tidied up section three of the rulebook and produced the appropriate appendixes to go with the revised section we brought in last year. Tony has done a lot of work with the rule change history document.

## **The Chairman's speech (continued)**

When this new rule was voted for last year, I don't think anybody knew just how much work was required to get this started and kept up to date.

Anne J has been busy on the judging procedures producing documents to help our trainee judges qualify to head judge status. Anne's also been busy coordinating our first ever Junior Handler award. Wayne's been setting up the associations new history document and producing our first roll of honour for those pioneering dogs that should never be forgotten. Dave has been running all around the country as our lights co-ordinator and we have some existing news on lights, which I'll come to in a minute.

Outside of the committee we've had tremendous support from the associations officers. Special mention to Suzanne and Lindsay Gladstone in their first year as Stats officers, it's like they've been doing it for years. Nigel as usual working away behind the scenes to maintain and improve our web site. Val now an 'old pro' (no offence Val) as editor of the Flyball Record.

Then there's Graham, our ever-efficient Membership Secretary, who puts in huge amounts of his own time, keeping all our memberships up to date, and a lot more besides.

Also Peter Roberts for running our two training seminars this year. My thanks and those of the committees for all the officers hard work this year. Without them the association wouldn't work.

That just leaves Anne A to mention. Anne's done a superb job with the finances this year. "That why she's in Barbados right now". Seriously though, when Anne took over as Treasurer this year she inherited a system that needed overhauling Anne has worked tirelessly to produce accounts to the highest standard. I believe she should be commended for her efforts in her first year as treasurer.

Talking about finances ties in nicely the news that the committee has spent some of your money, a lot of your money, on two new sets of lights. For some years now the BFA has sat on an equipment fund of some £10k. Our view was, although a very nice position to be in, this money is of no use to members sat in our bank account, when we are struggling to maintain the elderly equipment teams are being asked to use at the moment. Two new sets of lights have been purchased from Millstream Timers and are state of the art LED units that

hopefully will give reliable service for years to come. The first will be in service at Carlton Towers this Easter. One other thing I would like to mention that the committee are involved with, and that's the Summer Championships. The feedback I got was that most members enjoyed the weekend and it seems to be going from strength to strength in its new single weekend format. Next year we will be looking at ways to extend this show so that all teams will be able to attend without pre-qualifying.

Certainly its one of the highlights of my flyball calendar, being able to meet friends and competitors you perhaps only see a couple of times a year, this coupled with the close seedings make for some fantastic racing. And that's the association's strength, not South, North, East or West but as the British Flyball Association, a whole community.

## **Secretary's report: Penny Charlton.**

Having spent another year since the last AGM as Secretary, I would firstly like to thank Graham, as the membership secretary for dealing with all the membership renewals and for keeping all records up to date. This obviously takes up some considerable amount of time especially at this time of year when all the renewals are due by the beginning of April.

The committee have met four times between the last AGM and the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006, this is not including the numerous discussions that take place at shows around the country, between any committee members that have been present. Any problems that arose between meetings were 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, together with a draft of the 2005 AGM minutes. These documents were also posted to the website.

Val Currie editor of the Flyball record has compiled another four issues, and I am sure you will agree the record has gone from strength to strength.

The BFA has enjoyed another successful year with great racing and competitions and the diary is already very full especially for the summer months. The Association has held more indoor tournaments than ever before with more show organisers taking the plunge in hosting new shows. The Committee wish to thank all show organisers for their hard work making these shows possible.

The Committee hosted the summer championships again for the second year running. 54 teams were present with a total of 9 divisions competing over the two days. We had some excellent racing within all divisions and these were only split by up to half a second in seeded times. This will be run again this year on the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> August. We are considering running a three-day show in 2007, to try to accommodate more teams. It would possibly be run from the Friday through to Sunday. The Committee would like some feedback whether teams would be available for a Friday event, obviously this would have to be the slower divisions that would run on this day.

The BFA are hoping to run a European Championship in 2007 with a possible venue in Kent on one of the May Bank holiday weekends.

The renewal of memberships for April 2006 is still in full flood and in this connection, on the Membership and Team front; in the 12 months ending 31st March 2006 we attracted 376 new members (last year 300) and 13 new Primary Teams (last year 22). At that date total membership stood at 1282.

The number of members who have renewed or joined from 1st April 2006 currently stands at 729 (against 759 on the 10<sup>th</sup> April last year when the AGM was a week later). With the potential for another 589 (against 395) to come, it is possible that we will reach a total of 1318 (against 1154) – once again our highest ever! Teams on the List of those wishing to receive Tournament Schedules now number 91 (last year 88).

I would finally like to thank all members of the committee and to Nigel Bouckley as Webmaster, who have helped and supported me in keeping the BFA Administration running as smoothly as possible for another year. I would especially like to thank Anne Alcock for keeping all the Associations finances up to date. Judy for all her hard work helping show organisers plan their shows, it is amazing how time consuming these jobs are.

Although the committee is made up of people of differing opinions on certain issues, we have achieved a good working relationship over this past year and have seen fewer problems occurring.

## **Treasurer's Report: Anne Alcock**

### **Tony Cain read a report in Anne's absence**

I sincerely apologise for not being able to attend the annual meeting and especially as it would have been my first time as treasurer. The circumstances were beyond my control, my holiday dates/flights having to be changed by the travel agent only a couple of months ago. Unfortunately as I am not present the committee are unlikely to be able to answer any of your questions this time. However if you do have any queries Chris or Penny will write them down and I will get back to you with the answer as soon as I can, once I am back in the UK in a weeks time. I am pleased to say following my first year of office that at the moment the BFA are in a good financial position. Tony went through the accounts in detail, and there did not seem to be any queries.

### **Webmaster: Nigel Bouckley**

#### **Chris read a report in Nigel's absence**

Firstly may I apologize to the committee and members present for being unable to attend this year. It had been my intention to attend, but a last minute "crisis" in the fleet prevented this. I truly hope all of you present enjoy the meeting and awards ceremony, and I will look forward to reading all about it.

This last year has been another busy one for the BFA website, spurred on by the "Gladstone Girls" constant updating of the result, keeping the website current, it would appear to be just the ticket to attract people back time and time again to the website.

The usual areas have been a hive of activity, the results, points and seed times. Interestingly there has been a rise in the usage of Breed Analysis pages with many users looking at not only the current years points, but also the previous years and milestone awards listings too. The video page introduction initially had a massive download listing, but has trailed off a little, so get your videos to me and I will endeavor to publish them for others to watch.

You will also noticed that the Photo area has changed, this has risen out of a need for pictures to be screened by the committee prior to being made public, this is now almost seamless with most pictures being approved by the secretary within 24 hours, so get your photos posted it's free, and if you need a club / team album to post you pics too, simply ask it's free too!

The Web board has taken off, with some 400 members having used the site over the last year, and we have replaced the mailing list with and enhanced email notification facility from the web board.

In addition the rules history has taken shape, with all credit to Tony Cain who has worked hard to get the data loaded, and added another string to the website bow.

Wayne has worked hard to collate the historical data, for the association, but information has been unfortunately slow, in fact the first report was submitted only a week or so ago, and will form the basis of the "History of the BFA" pages that will be developed over the forthcoming year and will hopefully start the ball rolling.

In addition Wayne and Chris are also working on the Hall of Fame, which too will hopefully go live during the forthcoming year.

The main "moan" this past year is the lack of pictures of the Regional Reps, I have asked, but alas I think members need to "bully" their Regional Reps into submitting photos, else we may have to resort to "candid" shots!

We are currently looking at around 4 million hits per year, but as I have said time and time again, all credit to keeping the site current is down to the respective officers - in particular Graham, Penny and the "Gladstone Girls" my thanks to all who make it what it is and for the membership for their support, suggestions and comments. I look forward to serving the BFA in the forthcoming year and remember it's your website so all suggestions welcomed.

**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)

**Anne Johnson** (Wolf Pack)

**Anne Alcock** (Live Wires)

**Howard Campbell** (Greetland Grasshoppers)

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

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

Proposed by: David Long                      Seconded by: Wayne O' Rourke

**Wayne O' Rourke** (Maple Leaf) - seeking re- election for the first time.

Proposed by: Penny Charlton                      Seconded by: Judy Parker

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

Proposed by: Anne Johnson                      Seconded by: Penny Charlton

**Tony Cain** (Cheshire Set) – seeking re- election to make up the numbers

Proposed by: Anne Alcock                      Seconded by: Howard  
Campbell

**Steve Leek** (Dolphins) – seeking election for the first time

Proposed by: Peter Roberts                      Seconded by: Maria  
Brennan

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

#### **5.1 SECTION 1- Committee and Officers**

**5.1.1 Rule 1.3(a) Committee and Officers.** Proposal by BFA Committee – Amend last three sentences to read, ‘One shall be appointed from within the Committee to act as Chairperson, and others shall be appointed from within the Committee to act as 1) Secretary and 2) Treasurer

**(Delete)** who shall oversee and facilitate committee business, head discussions for the Committee and General Meetings, decide the outcome of votes, If a vote is tied, use a casting vote to finalize the decision. Sign the Minutes of Meetings

Place the deleted section under the following number: -

#### **1.5 Chairman**

**1.5 becomes (1.6 Treasurer)** all remaining numbers incremented accordingly.

CARRIED

## **Proposals Rule Changes (Continued)**

**5.1.2 Rule 1.3(c) Committee and Officers.** Proposal by BFA Committee – Amend to read, “Election of Committee members shall take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by the members present.”

**(Delete)** following a postal ballot of the membership

DEFEATED.

**5.1.3 Rule 1.3(c) Committee and Officers.** Proposal by BFA Committee - Amend to read “At the AGM half the committee members (rounded down where the Committee is made up of an uneven number) shall retire.”

**(Delete)** Up

CARRIED

**5.1.4 Rule 1.3(c) Committee and Officers.** Proposal by BFA Committee – **(Delete)** The Treasurer and Secretary shall not retire at the same time.

CARRIED

**5.1.5 Rule 1.3(d) Committee and Officers.** Proposal by BFA Committee – A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 5 members of the Committee. **(Add)** A quorum shall only convene if all members have been informed of a meeting and have had equal opportunity to attend.

CARRIED but the wording to be defined at our next meeting

**5.1.6 Rule 1.3(f) Committee and Officers.** Proposal by BFA Committee- **Add to this rule (iv)** All other BFA Officials

CARRIED

**5.1.7 Rule 1.5 Treasurer.** Proposal by BFA Committee – **(Add)** to this section:

- (f) Upkeep the association’s insurance policies
- (g) Administer fiscal penalties for late race returns

**This change should be reflected in rule 1.6(a) delete (2) Insurance’s**

CARRIED

**5.1.8 Rule 1.16 Safety Sub Committee.** Proposal by BFA Committee – **(Delete)** the whole of this section.

CARRIED

## **Proposals Rule Changes (Continued)**

### **5.1.9 New Rule Insert after 1.15 Proposal by BFA Committee - Lights Co-ordinator**

The Lights co-ordinator, appointed by the committee, will be responsible for taking bookings and the maintenance of all BFA owned electronic timing equipment.

CARRIED

### **6.1 Section 2 - General Meetings**

**6.1.1 Rule 2.3 Voting.** Proposal by BFA Committee – In general those current BFA members present at the AGM will decide all items that require a vote. **(Add)** All members should be actively encouraged to attend such meetings.

However, if in the opinion of the Committee, an item in question is considered of sufficient importance that it should be decided by the whole membership, the Committee reserve the right to hold a postal vote of all current BFA members. **(Delete) following the AGM.**

CARRIED

**(Add)** If a postal vote is held, for a rule to be changed, or proposal to be implemented, it must be supported by two-thirds (66.67%) of the members entitled to vote for any rule to be deemed of sufficient importance for change.

**Alternatively** – by two-thirds (66.67%) of the members voting

DEFEATED

### **7.1 Section 3 - Discipline**

**7.1.1 Rule 3.2 Misconduct.** Proposal by BFA Committee – Amend to read “Misconduct shall include but not be limited to abusive or foul language, demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge’s decision, inhumane treatment of a dog, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, wilful violation of the BFA Rules, wilful intent to gain unfair advantage, **(Add) physical assault on any person,** or any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of flyball.”

CARRIED

**7.1.2 Rule 3.5(b) Disciplinary Procedure.** Proposal by BFA Committee –Amend to read “The DSC shall appoint an investigating officer who will gather **(Add) evidence** and statement(s) in writing from the complainant(s), defendant member(s) and all witnesses to the alleged incident, **(Add) and ensure the relevant tournament organiser is aware of the said incident.**

CARRIED

## **Proposals – Rule Changes (continued)**

**7.1.3 Rule 3.5(d) Disciplinary Procedure.** Proposal by BFA Committee - The DSC will then consider the misconduct charge(s) and either uphold or dismiss them. If the DSC upholds the charge(s) against a member or members, they shall be empowered to suspend from membership any member or member(s) found guilty of misconduct for an appropriate length of time. In considering the length of suspension, the DSC shall have regard to the member's record and in particular any previous findings of misconduct.

**(Add) If any person is found 'Guilty' by the DSC of a physical assault perpetrated on any person at a Sanctioned Tournament, then they will receive an appropriate suspension.**

DEFEATED

### **8.1 Section 4 - Sanctioned Competition**

**8.1.1 Rule 4.1(f) Requirements.** Proposal by Judy Parker - Schedules will be available to download from the BFA Diary on the website following advance warning on the BFA web board, by the Tournament organiser.

CARRIED

### **9.1 Section 5 – Rules For Competition**

**9.1.1 Rule 5.4(e) Judges.** Proposal by Penny Charlton – The judge presiding over a division calls a halt to the racing by blowing the whistle as soon as one team has completed a race. The only time a dog can be re-run if a dog has made a genuine mistake of any kind.

DEFEATED

**9.1.2 Rule 5.6(e) Judging Procedures.** Proposal by Penny Charlton - Jump heights shall be set at 4" lower than the dog's height at the withers with a minimum of 8" and a maximum of 16" adjusted to 1" increments to the lowest whole number (e.g. 12 ¾ becomes 12").

DEFEATED

**9.1.3 Rule 5.6(e) Judging Procedures.** Proposal by Wayne O' Rourke – Jump heights shall be set at 4" lower than the dog's height at the withers with a minimum of 7" and a maximum of 14" adjusted to 1" increments to the lowest whole number (e.g. 12 ¾ becomes 12").

**Amend rule 5.12 (c) – reference to 8" to 7"**

CARRIED

**9.1.4 Rule 5.13(b) Set Up.** Proposal by Jean Meeking – At outdoor Tournaments NON METAL STAKES to be used to hold up netting at the end of the run back area.

CARRIED -- wording to be changed to include all solid stakes



## **Proposals – Rule changes (continued)**

**9.1.5 Rule 5.13(b) Set Up.** Proposal by Penny Charlton & Wayne O' Rourke – On the grounds of safety, show organisers should not be permitted to use netting down the centre of the run back area. I would like to see a rule instated to ban this netting from use.

DEFEATED

**9.1.6 Rule 5.13(b) Set Up.** Proposal by Penny Charlton & Wayne O' Rourke – If the above proposal is rejected I would like to see the maximum length of the netting restricted to make sure that there is a large gap from the start line and also at the rear end of the run back area. The final details can be left to the Committee to implement.

CARRIED – The Committee will look into how much gap should be implemented

### **10.1 Section 6 – Flyball Points**

**10.1.1 Rule 6.1 Points.** Proposal by Rachel Jones - Change to the current points system.

For teams running under 22 seconds, the points system to remain unchanged.

For Teams running over 22 seconds, points to increase from 5 to 10 points. For teams running over 26 seconds, points to increase from 1 to 5 points. Teams running over 30 seconds to remain unchanged.

**Explanation:** This contentious issue has been on the BFA Annual General Meeting agenda for the past three years and has remained unresolved. The present points system causes disadvantage to teams running over 22 seconds in that they are unable to achieve the awards afforded to those teams running under 22 seconds. This disparity is too wide and thus unfair to both dog and handler.

This situation happens despite the fact that dogs and handlers travel as far for competitions, enter as many competitions and offer as much commitment and dedication to the sport as faster teams. Under point 6.1 of the BFA Rules, teams pay the same fee to do exactly the same thing. Therefore, if they are not treated equally, it begs the question as to whether or not they are getting value for money. They also pay the same annual membership fee and are therefore, in effect, paying for faster teams to gain awards at their expense.

Statistical information would indicate that the numbers of teams running over 22 seconds is fewer than around 20% of all teams running. Therefore, the cost implication for this proposed change is small set against the benefits.

CARRIED

**10.1.2 Rule 6.1** Proposal by Penny Charlton - Introduce a BFA Consistency Award

**Explanation:** At present all the annual awards are based on points, the more shows you attend the greater number of points achieved. If you live in the middle of the country it is easier to go to more shows because of where you live.

I would like to see an award that rewards consistency of results rather than points orientated. This award could be presented to any team in any division.

If this is accepted the Committee can look into the details of how this can be achieved.

CARRIED

## 11. Annual Awards 2005

The 2005 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	Molten Metals		47831 pts
	2nd	Sheffield Speeders		41580 pts
	3rd	Crazy Comets		35676 pts
Team of the Year-Multibreed	1st	Grasshopper Multi		6869 pts
	2nd	Random Rapidz		4798 pts
	3rd	Rapidz Sortz		2651 pts
BFA Special Award	1st	Molten Magnets		
Flyball Dog of the Year	1st	Charliegoo	Cheshire Set	12286 pts
	2nd	Bobby	Molten Magnets	12087 pts
	3rd	Paddy	Sheffield Speeders	11784 pts
Flyball Bitch of the Year	1st	Missy	Molten Magnets	12625 pts
	2nd	Chica	Molten Magnets	12389 pts
	3rd	Riva	Molten Magnets	12058 pts
Best of the Rest	1st	Riva	Molten Magnets	12058 pts
	2nd	Jess	Cheshire Set	11952 pts
	3rd	Kelly	Cheshire Set	9466 pts
	4th	Charlie	Greetland Grasshoppers	8334 pts
	5th	Woody	Doncaster Belle Stars	6500 pts
	6th	Nina	Rapidz	6168 pts
	7th	Dylan	Greetland Grasshoppers	5922 pts
	8th	Maddy	Flyde Coasters	5576 pts
	9th	Jaz	Mansfield Marnicks	5487 pts
	10th	Bramble	Goufours	5239 pts
Best Border Collie/WSD	1st	Chica	Molten Magnets	12389 pts
	2nd	Bobby	Molten Magnets	12087 pts
	3rd	Paddy	Sheffield Speeders	11784 pts
	4th	Rogan	Molten Magnets	11289 pts
	5th	Jay	Sheffield Speeders	10974 pts
	6th	Milly	Molten Magnet	10858 pts
	7th	Cassie	Molten Magnets	10134 pts
	8th	Lassie	Sheffield Speeders	9870 pts
	9th	Sky	Sheffield Speeders	9747 pts
	10th	Rolo	Cleveland Comets	9324 pts
	11th	Tarn	Cleveland Comets	9225 pts
	12th	Bracken	Cleveland Comets	9201 pts
	13th	Sam	Cleveland Comets	9077 pts
	14th	Jack	Blackpool Super Nova	8936 pts
	15th	Diezle	Mansfield Marnicks	8844 pts
	16th	Mistie	Barkshire Bandits	8660 pts
	17th	Marble	Mansfield Marnick	8575 pts
	18th	Jack	Blackpool Super Nova	8536 pts
	19th	Tillie	Barkshire Bandits	8460 pts
	20th	Lara	Barkshire Bandits	8339 pts
Best Crossbreed	1st	Missy	Molten Magnets	12296 pts
	2nd	Charliegoo	Cheshire Set	10139 pts
	3rd	Oggie	Cheshire Set	9836 pts
	4th	Chloe	Rapidz	7355 pts
	5th	Belle	Doncaster Belle Stars	7185 pts
	6th	Millicent	Molten Magnets	7179 pts

	7th	Casey	Greetland Grasshoppers	6863 pts
	8th	Tyson	Barkshire Bandits	6501 pts
	9th	Gypsy	Barkshire Bandits	6306 pts
	10th	Ellie	Barkshire Bandits	5690 pts
	11th	Charlie	Barkshire Bandits	5511 pts
	12th	Charlie	Dog Friendly Flyers	5471 pts
	13th	Lara	Blackpool Super Nova	5455 pts
	14th	Megan	Barkshire Bandits	5209 pts
	15th	Chance	Blackpool Super Nova	5101 pts
Claire Gristwood Award	Riva	Molten Magnets		
Junior Handler Award 7-11 age	1st	Jakob A.G. Aubrey- Wilson		
	2nd	George Hall –Lambert		
	3rd	Nicky Bawden		
Junior Handler Award 12-16 age	1st	Katie Merryman		
	2nd	Mathew Hardwick		
	3rd	Stefan Russ		
	3rd	Scott Merryman		

Presents were presented to Graham Nye for his continued hard work as the membership secretary, to Val Currie as Flyball Editor and to The Gladstones in appreciation of their hard work with the Stats. A Present was presented to Dave Long for all his hard work on the Committee.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and contributions and formally closed the Meeting at 15.30hrs.