

The British Flyball Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 21st March 2010 at Wythall Community Hall, Birmingham.

- 1.** The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.00hrs, welcomed those present (118 in number) and thanked everyone for coming.
- 2. Apologies-** were received from Natalie Holtappel, Ryan Mills, Amanda Mills, Daniella Mann, Steph Randall, Terry Condra, Katie Burns, Genna Wilson, Sandra Long, Ian Hendry.
- 3. Minutes of the last AGM – 29th March 2009** – Copies have been distributed to all Team Captains, Head Judges and officers with the revised copy of the BFA Rules and Policies and have been made available on the BFA website for all other interested parties. They were therefore approved as a true record without a further reading.

Reports were then presented for 2009/2010 by:

Chairman's Report: Steve Leek

I would like to extend a warm welcome from all of the committee to all of the members that have attended today, thank you very much. As I have said before, my role at an AGM is a four part affair:

1. To reflect upon the year just gone
2. To thank people for all their hard work over the last year
3. To look to the future, and lastly
4. To chair the debate on the rule changes proposed by you, the membership

Last Year

Last year I said that flyball was going to get bigger ... and it did, with

- 12.5% more voting members now compared to last year
- 25% more tournaments held last year than the year before, many of which have been oversubscribed.
- 50% more teams entering the BFA Championships, with nearly 800 dogs competing that weekend

On a less positive note there has also been a considerable growth in the demands of some members, with the secretary, membership secretary, show secretary and stats officer all receiving and increasing number of unpleasant messages and phone calls at all times of the day and night. Please, please, please remember that these people are committing their own time for the good of the sport ... whilst I am sure that many people have valid anxieties, it is UNACCEPTABLE to make rude and intimidating phone calls, especially when they are after 9pm at night.

Chairmans Report (continued)

As the association grows, there is a need to increase its “Professionalism”. One aspect of this is the quality and consistency of our judges! Last year I talked about the creation of two new roles at tournaments:

- a Qualified Judge sitting between the Provisional Judge (who requires supervision) and the Head Judge. Aiming to improve the quality of judging and provide a better line of communication to the guys that stand in the middle.
- A Measuring Official – helping to alleviate the pressure on Head Judges, who are currently the only people who can measure a dog.

These proposals have been developed over the year and discussed in detail at the Head Judge Seminar, the proposed changes are now included on the agenda for today!

We have also continued to run training seminars and I have been really pleased with the response to these, all being over-subscribed. We would like to do some more in different regions, south of England and Scotland but need you to come up with viable locations for us. Thanks to all the committee and Head Judges that have helped run these courses.

Lights and consistency of their lights sequences has been another subject for debate this year as there has been no standard within our organisation with different sets of lights running on different start intervals. It has been decided that we will move to 3 orange lights set at 1 second intervals. This will allow those currently running on the standard 2 light 1 sec interval to continue as they have been but also allow those who want to start from further back to do so too. I can hear you all shout straight away that it will be harder to run on the second light. I can assure you that it is easy to adopt, in fact that those of us that went to the Europeans this year had to do so and I was pleased to see that even with this change the Brits had the best starts in Europe.

This year’s British Championships exceeded my expectations and I have already thanked everyone that contributed towards making it such a fantastic weekend in the Flyball Record.

But thanks again and especially to CSJ who kindly sponsored us!

Thanks

As the organisation has grown, so has the army of volunteers that give up their time for the organisation, so I will try to be quick!!

Rachel Child ... taking over as Secretary

Moe Hendry and team (Jo Crosswell and Samantha Clark and her ever loving and doting husband Ian yep that right I did say Ian) ... membership

Suzanne and team (Judy Parker, Rebecca Solomon) ... points

Judy Parker... Show Sec

Anne Alcock, as Treasurer;

Anne Johnston for managing height cards;

Val Currie, for Flyball Record please folks we need more articles;

Steph Rendell, Publicity Officer

Dave Long, lights coordinator

Nigel Bouckley as Webmaster.

I would also like to thank every member of the Committee who have supported me over the last year, without you it would have been much harder. Penny Charlton and Tony Cain are standing down from the Committee this year but more about them later.

The Future

I have decided to be controversial now and I hope by doing so to provide food for thought and stimulate debate so I’m going to talk about POINTS OBSESSION.

Chairmans Report (continued)

Most of us look forward to our dog achieving its next certificate and we all know that for different dogs different milestones have their own significance!

It is also no secret that it takes a vast amount of time to calculate, check and publish our points; print and present certificates! As the sport continues to grow and the number of dogs competing increased the pressure on the stats team also increases!

Last year the stats team was behind before the main season got underway due to the number of members whose dogs competed without renewing their membership! All credit to Suzanne for expanding and organising her team to enable her to catch up by the end of the year! This year this problem has been removed by introducing a cut off date for membership renewals, however this does not remove the fact that the points system is a huge overhead for the volunteers who run it!!!

There are lot of things that could be considered to reduce this burden, from outsourcing the calculation to tournament organisers; to systems based solutions to reduce the manual intervention needed!

However, before we decide the way forward I believe that we need to debate as an organisation whether we want points at all, and if we do whether the current system is the right one!!

I will start the debate by saying that my personal thoughts are that Flyball is about racing not about achieve points. It concerns me the number of teams that insist on re-running their dogs when they have already lost just to get 5 points and no I don't have a problem if it is to correct a dog fault. Also I wonder if we, particularly us northern teams, are over running our dogs and flogging them to early retirement. I do not think it is a coincidence that most records have come from southern teams that do not run as much!!!!

Now I have started this over to you the membership for your thoughts.

We took approx 20 teams to the Europeans last year and we all had a great time this year it looks like we will be taking more this year. On this subject the UK will be running the championships in 2012.

On a more positive note we have arranged more space for this year's British Champs and are expecting to be running 4 rings. Please all come and celebrate our great sport of flyball.

I am also pleased to see a number of people doing research into flyball related safety issues as part of their degree ...

- Katie Ford ... Flyball Related Injuries
- Nichol Fisher ... Factors Affecting Canine Jumping Ability (linked to measurement of jump heights in flyball)
- A friend of Jeanette Shelley's ... The Box impact and Other General Motor Stresses Involved in Flyball

It will be interesting to see the results of these in due course.

Again, thank you all for taking this day out of your lives and I strongly feel it is an important thing to do, let's get on with the more interesting people and discussions.

Secretary's Report: Rachel Child

I would like to begin by thanking Steve and the current committee members for having the confidence in me to elect me as Secretary of our great association. I am sure the rest of the committee would like to join me in thanking Penny for all her hard work in the past 6 years. I realise that they were big boots I had to fill and with my size 4 feet I always knew it was going to be hard. I would personally like to extend

Secretary's Report (Continued)

my gratitude to her for making the transitional period less troublesome. It would have been a lot harder without your support and for this I thank you.

The Committee have met on two occasions between the last AGM and 31st January 2010. We have however discussed many issues by email and teleconference as they arose, and held many discussions at shows across the country,

Due to the busy diary during the summer months the committee will continue to use teleconferences to deal with issues that arise and will all be available to discuss any issues the membership want to bring to our attention.

A revised copy of the BFA Rules and Policies were emailed to all Team Captains, Head Judges and officers. They were also posted onto the BFA website.

Membership, we have 1888 members in the BFA from 1st Jan 2010 to present day. This is made up of 1671 membership renewals received so far this year and 217 new members.

At the end of 2009 (31st December) we had 2199 current members, this was made up of 665 new members in 2009 and 1534 renewals.

So this year already we have more renewing members than we had this time last year. These figures are constantly changing as new member applications arrive each day and im still receiving renewal forms.

We have 226 primary teams, including secondary teams we have 1110 teams on the BFA database

Since the last AGM we have enjoyed 4 more issues of the Flyball Record. The committee would like to thank Val for the time and effort she puts in to get the numerous editions to print. I know the membership is grateful too.

The BFA website is certainly one tool that the association could not be without. It is invaluable for promoting the sport and keeping us all updated. It has undergone some changes over the last year, for this and all the hard work he puts in I would like to thank Nigel Bouckley, the Webmaster.

I would like to thank Anne Johnson for the Height card and Junior Handler administration.

Our thanks also go to Judy Parker the Show secretary for all her hard work.

The support she offers to tournament organisers is invaluable and I am sure you are all grateful to her.

Both the membership and stats roles have become so huge that both Moe and Suzzanne have enlisted additional help this year.

For the Membership administration we now have the extra help of Jo Crosswell and Samantha Clarke , and for the Stats we have Rebecca Solomon.

I would like to extend mine and the committee's thanks for the hours of hard work given by all the members of team stats and team membership, Especially Moe and Suzzanne for the orchestration of the tasks involved. Well done Guys!

All of the above roles are very time consuming, and without the volunteers who offer their time, the association could not run. It is often overlooked that these people give

Secretary's Report (Continued)

their time and support to the organisation freely and I would like to thank and applaud them for that.

Now I have all the official stuff done, I would like to share a few of my highlights from the last year with you.

The 2009 British Championships in my opinion were a triumph. All teams showed great sportsmanship and consideration to the other teams, and it was an amazing 3 days of racing. I would like to offer my congratulations to all the division winners, including the New British Champions, the Bassett Allsorts.

I was among the British Tribe that attended the European Flyball Championships in Belgium Last year. I was so proud to be part of the association that the Belgian teams said had the best camaraderie. The other Europeans were amazed at the support all the British teams offered each other, and this was totally alien to them. Well done to all the teams competing who showed flyball at its best and maybe showed the Belgians a thing or two about sportsmanship and team morale.

As the summer season approaches we have a very full diary with new and existing teams hosting tournaments. We would like to thank the host teams and look forward to a great racing season.

I will now hand you over to Anne for the Treasurers report.

Treasurers's Report: Anne Alcock

BANK BALANCE (£33,345)

Is just over £2,100 more (surplus) than last year. The surplus is just £1,400. Since I joined the Committee the Bank balance overall has kept rising (from £11,000 in 2005 – 5 years, it has tripled) but it is the lowest surplus we've had since then. We've been aiming to reduce the bank balance and plough it back for the membership, so we have made a start. This year we'll be shelling out much more for competition hard-wear.

INCOME

Whilst we spent £6,700 more than this time last year our income increased by £5,300 with show income increasing by the highest percentage.

I am not going to go through each item but let me have any questions after.

Largest increases in income were **Championships & Racing Registrations** of (£9,400) so this shows how well our Competitions are supported, plus this time we charged a £20 entry fee for the Championships.

What brought in (£5k) less this time **were Subscriptions** – With them coming in from Dec – end of Jan we now seem to get it split into 2 separate financial years – We usually gain most membership income at renewal – [last Jan '09 we had less subscriptions come in than we did for the month previous (Dec 2008), but this time it has been the reverse with less in the bank prior to 2010 (7k) whereas I know Mo has banked more than 12k in this January and probably a lot more since as well]. Overall adding Dec 2009 & Jan 2010 together we've got about £3k more in over the equivalent period – which is more realistic as a comparison. Moe will tell you that our membership numbers are still increasing.

Treasurer's Report (Continued)

Everything else increased but the **lowest individual increases were for Show bookings & Lights**. It sometimes depends when I get the cheques from our to bank, as to what financial year it is allocated to. The show diary I know certainly increased a lot last year and I expect it will be the same for this. Championships and Racing fees account for the bulk of Show increases. I think I worked out there were something like 80 shows held over the 12 months.

EXPENDITURE

Having a surplus means our expenses increased less (by £2000) than the income we gained. The highest costs were fairly close in comparison. The **costs of running shows** was up £2.700k and **running the BFA** cost just under £2k more

However within each section there were individual differences. Highest percentage increases were in order:- Website 100%, Flyball Record 87%, Championships 46%, & a small increase for the Committee- 36%

Lower increases were for Training 26%, Trophies & Certificates 4%

Whilst we spent less last year on:- Equipment 77%, Lights maintenance 50%, Events 24%, Postage etc 14% & Insurances 5% etc than for 2008

I did a rough balance sheet for the **British Championships 2009** which shows though we charged entry fees and had **65 more teams** we still made a big (£7,000) loss again - yet it was almost £1,200 improvement than for 2008. The expenses were 6k more than the income we received.

Overall we are still in good shape and we will use the money well this year for use at shows around the country. Over 12 years or so now the subscriptions haven't increased at all and I am pleased to say that whilst this trend continues you will still gain the advantage of low costs, giving you more in your pocket for travel costs and your entry fees for shows you attend.. Compared to many sports associations you are getting a really good deal from us.

So get to as many shows as you can to boost our income and also come to the Championships in August for a great weekend's racing

Webmaster Report: Nigel Bouckley

Apologies to all you valiant Flyballers who have once again made the journey to this year's AGM, I wish I could be with you, but another kind of Duty calls AGAIN!

The last 12 months have seen a leveling off of visitors to the BFA website, roughly just over 4 million in the 12 month period, which equates to 12 million hits on the web server.

As regular users will be aware that during this period there have been hardware, software and security upgrades, some have which have resulted in a little down time, others have been seamless, the common aim though is always to improve service and maintain the information flow to you the membership.

There is an ever growing wealth of information and statistical data on the BFA website, and this year has seen a change in some of the personnel responsible for

Webmaster Report (Continued)

inputting the information, my thanks therefore go once again to all those involved, who make the site the success that it is today.

Some of the members have highlighted a need to “move with the times”, as the amount of data processing is almost overwhelming for the small army of volunteers involved with tournament result data. To this end a very useful discussion ensued on the BFA forum, with a plethora of ideas and suggestions, the committee are considering these and hopefully over the next 12 months we will see some beta testing of data uploading from tournament secretaries data, thus preventing hours of manually inputting the same data. This is my primary aim over the next year, if not to fully implement then at least to have working models based on the committee’s instructions so an informed decision can be made as to the way we advance together, members and committee.

Security has reared its ugly head once again, with a small number of members being banned from posting to the Forum, this has unfortunately been due to the internet’s use of shared IP addresses and some members sharing their IP addresses with some “less desirables”, hence their IP address is flagged as a. A spammer or b. A hacker. I’m sure you can all appreciate the necessity to protect the web server from misuse. In general a quick call by the member to their ISP (Internet Service provider) and the situation is resolved.

It has been my pleasure once again to be the BFA’s Webmaster, and long may I do so, but please remember, the website is very fluid, and there is always room for change, improvement and additions, what it needs is the idea from a member or group of members to open up the path to newer and better facilities, so if you have ideas or suggestions, please post them on the discussion forums, and allow the rest of the membership to comment and share their thoughts too.

Enjoy the rest of the meeting.

4.Proposals – All proposals were discussed, amended as necessary and voted upon as follows.

5.1 SECTION 4 – Sanctioned Competition

One item submitted by Rosemary Batten

5.1.1 Rule 4.1(L) Requirements. (ADD) In a division of six or seven teams, all tournament organisers should provide rosettes to 4th place.

Explanation: It if a team is seeded 6th or 7th in the division and succeeds in winning 2 or 3 races to get to 4th place it is a reason to celebrate and is very disappointing not to receive a rosette in recognition of a great achievement.

DEFEATED

One item submitted by Tony Cain

5.12 Rule 4.4 Layout (Add) The judging tables should be set 2ft away from the timing gates

Explanation: You get a better view of the line from a distance and no training aid is provided by the tables being so close

DEFEATED

One item submitted by BFA Committee

5.1.3 Rule 4.5 Seeding

Teams should be seeded based on the information available from the BFA website. Seeding times for a tournament will be based on the fastest time recorded by a team during their last 3 sanctioned events and a seed list will be supplied from the latest available data on the 14th day before the tournament date. Any time recorded more than 4 months before this date is null and void. A declared time, to be used as the seeding time, may be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, to be accompanied by a written justification for the change, which may be referred to the Committee. A declared time may be submitted - if it is slower than the Team's seeded time it must be at least 1 second slower than that time and will be subject to the break-out rule. **A declared time faster than the Team's seeded time will not be subject to the team break-out rule but will be subject to the division break-out rule. (see Rule 5.17 (I))**

Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the **team** break-out rule.

Explanation: The Committee felt that this should be implemented immediately after the AGM.

CARRIED

6.1 SECTION 5. – Rules for Competition

One item submitted by Melissa Shearing

6.1.1 Rule 5.14 Reporting for Races, (ADD) A time limit is to be set between races

Explanation: Many teams take a long time getting organised between legs, sometimes this is tactical & sometimes disorganisation. If there was a set time to get ready between legs all teams would know they need to be ready rather than organised teams lining up & waiting for the other team to make a decision. This would be fair for all & we would all know where we stand as you can't argue with time!

DEFEATED

One item submitted by BFA Committee

6.1.2 Rule 5.17 Rules of Racing (o), Judges & the Conduct of Racing: **ADD After the warm up period when the judge has shown his/her intention to begin racing he/she shall signal to the teams to be ready to start. If one team acts in an unsporting manner or wastes time preventing the heat to start at the judges request, the Divisional Judge will at first issue a warning to the team for timewasting. Should this offence be repeated, with the other team ready to race, the Judge will signal his/her intent and start the race.**

Explanation: This is becoming an increasing problem and such a rule added will make it clear how much will be allowed before action is taken. Some teams are plain slow to get ready but others deliberately hold back to try and make their opponents edgy i.e. a crucial last leg in a 5 setter. We feel this will make teams aware they need to get themselves organised before going in the ring and that delaying tactics to try to un-nerve the opposition isn't tolerated

CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT

After the warm up period and (add) between heats when the judge has shown his/her intention to begin racing he/she shall signal to the teams to be ready to start (add) each heat. If one team acts in an unsporting manner or wastes time preventing the heat to start at the judges request, the Divisional Judge will at first issue a warning to the team for timewasting. Should this offence be repeated, with the other team ready to race, the Judge will signal his/her intent and start the(add) heat (delete) Race.

One item submitted by BFA Committee

6.1.3 Rule 5.14 Reporting For Races (a) If one or more team member is more than 5 minutes late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the Division Judge may declare a forfeit by that team.

(Delete (b) Teams that win by forfeit must complete the minimum required heats scheduled to qualify for points awarded in round robin or to advance in double elimination competition. If another team is not available to compete, the team shall race without an opponent.) . *Also see amendment to this - rule 5.17 (m)*

Replace by

(b) Should 4 dogs from the missing team appear before 8 minutes have elapsed and with less than 3 heats awarded to their opponents, at his/her discretion the Divisional Judge may allow normal racing between the two teams to take place. Any heats won by forfeit would be counted as an average time on the time sheet

(c) Forfeiting teams that do not show just cause, may be excluded from the Tournament by the Organiser and may be subject to further discipline.

ALSO New Rule inserted

5.17 (New m) Forfeit of heats/Empty Lane

If another team is not available to compete, the team shall be awarded with a win over the minimum number of required heats. This qualifies them for points in a round robin or to advance in double elimination competition

The team must report to the ring and can race against the empty lane over 3 legs for practice and dog's points. If the team choose to take the win without racing they shall not be awarded dogs points and an 8 minute delay will be applied, before the next race takes place in the division. Teams winning by forfeit that don't complete the heats will gain an average time on their time sheet.

NOTE: This doesn't apply to those opponents that have less than 4 dogs left to race or are NFC, where the race will continue as normal.

Explanation: Rule 5.14(b) says that in all situations where teams have been awarded the win, to gain their point towards the divisional result all 3 heats must be completed.

This compared to other sports seems extreme – ie a bye is usually awarded and the individual or team automatically either go through to the next round or in a divisional contest gain their points without competing at all. A 'bye' means their opponents gave up the right to a win and the norm in most sports is that individual or team are awarded an un-contestable win. Why not in flyball?

I feel we ought to accept that a team gaining a 'bye' has won the heat (s) without having to race. This amendment would change very little and the majority of teams will still prefer to race than not - ie for dogs points, extra practice etc In contrast there may be a good reason why a team may not want or need to race – but have to. Extreme weather or ground conditions could be one of these. At least they have another option. Also where there is only one team present in the ring, the divisional judge could apply a time limit so alleviating the problem of a team having raced just before with just one race rest before competing again.

Another point - lumping all empty lane situations as 'winning by forfeit' is not made clear in Rule 5.14 (b) and also contradictory. The dictionary meaning says 'having to pay the penalty as a consequence of breaking the rules'. Winning by default therefore means opponents have won and like other sports should be credited with a bye and in theory shouldn't need to run their dogs.

The other scenario here is opponents withdrawing prior to the competition or over the day due to a dog injury, for example. As they didn't officially break any BFA rule it shouldn't be classified as winning by

forfeit. In these cases their opponents once they withdrew gave up their rights to win the minimum number of heats. In empty lane situations the team remaining should already have gained the winning point and the minimum heats should be theirs whether they race or not bringing in line with other sports.

WITHDRAWN BY THE COMMITTEE

One item submitted by John Percivaldi

6.1.4 Rule 5.17 Rules of Racing (h) Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dogs **(delete... running/completing its race & replace with...)** from being given an equal opportunity to win the race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference.

If a dog or any team member interferes **(insert ..)** in the racing lane **(delete... in all bound areas)** and in the area where dogs are waiting to run, with the opposing team during a heat, the team causing the interference will forfeit the heat.

The offending team will not forfeit the heat if they have already completed before their opponents have finished running all their dogs, including those doing re-runs. The affected team will receive an average time on the Time Sheet, reflecting the number of faults incurred and will be given the opportunity' to re-run any of their dogs that were involved.

If there are similar indiscretions by the same team involving intimidation of opponent's dogs will mean they will forfeit the remaining heats in that race. If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, at the Division Judge's discretion it may be excluded from racing.

Explanation:- Firstly a heat being one round in a competition between two teams of dogs, each should be given an equal chance to win (A judge is to be fair & impartial). Interference can deny one team the chance to complete the run/win with their 4 or more dogs. It is clear cut decision that if a dog is prevented from running – or intimidated their team would be disadvantaged – but in some instances it may have little or no effect (except by the Judge intervening) on the overall result. All we've done is to have moved the emphasis from an individual dog to the overall team position. As the rule stands we feel there are certain occasions when a team having completed, with their opponents still running or re-running dogs and in no position to catch up, awarding a win by default is unfair practice. We also realised that in that situation by awarding a win whilst the affected team was being delayed from finishing as they wished, dog's points would be lost. So both are addressed in the changes.

We don't condone the serious issue of interference/intimidation in the lanes or where dogs are waiting to run/re-run so that is why the majority of the rule isn't changed, albeit it has been altered around a bit. Also if the same team/dog repeats going across to the other lane, a divisional judge still has the authority to award a win to the opposition by default, the dog can be stopped racing altogether and he/she will still only make a final decision when both teams have completed all they want to.

DEFEATED

One item submitted by BFA Committee

6.1.5 Rule 5.17 Rules of Racing (i) The first team to have 4 dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when either the last of the 4 dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A heat may be won due to a default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. **Add - once a team has completed , dogs may not be re run due to handler error.**

Explanation: The committee feel that it is not necessary for dogs to be re run for a handler fault and therefore tiring the dogs unnecessarily.

DEFEATED

One item submitted by Len Titterington

6.1.6 Rule 5.17 Rules of Racing (i), The first team to have 4 dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when either the last of the 4 dogs reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat. A heat may be won due to a default by the opposing team according to the rules of racing. *Add - A Judge at his discretion can stop a race at any time to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a race. A win and no time would be put on the racing sheet.*

Explanation: If you have 2 teams racing each other, and neither team can complete, the divisional Judge can bring proceeding to a halt, and make a decision on which team completed most of the course. This will put an end to people continually sending their dogs up and down, when they are not going to complete.

CARRIED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT

Add - A Judge at his discretion can stop a race to allocate a win to a team that has not completed a race. A win and no time would be put on the racing sheet.

One item submitted by BFA Committee

6.1.7 Rule 5.17 Rules of Racing (l), with the exception of division 1, a team running more than 1/2-second faster than its **slower declared** time will be the loser of that heat.

*A declared time faster than the Team's seeded time will not be subject to the **team** break-out rule but will be subject to the **division** break-out rule. (see Rule 5.17 (l))*

Division Break-out – with the exception of division I, a team running more than one second faster than the time of the top team in a division (whether seeded time or faster declared time) will be the loser of that heat.

If both teams 'break-out' in a heat or one team 'breaks-out' and the other fail to finish, both will be declared losers. A team that 'breaks-out' three times in a tournament will be ineligible for any placement in that tournament. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply.

NOTE: This rule applies to all Teams entered.

Explanation: The Committee felt that this should be implemented immediately after the AGM.

CARRIED

One item submitted by BFA Committee

6.1.8 Rule 5.17 The Ring (n) Add **Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multibreed tournaments**

Explanation: It seems the common sense thing to do, this would give judges who become aware of non members being in the ring the opportunity to invite them to leave

CARRIED

One item submitted by BFA Committee

6.1.9 Rule 5.4, Judging

Summary

Type	Qualifications required	Allows them to ...
<i>Unqualified Individual</i>		Act as Line Judge or Box Judge assisted by a Qualified Head Judge
Provisional (Unqualified Individuals Provisional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min age 14 • Supervision for Provisional Judges under the age of 16 must be provided within the ring 	Act as Division Judge under the constant supervision of a Qualified Judge or Head Judge
Qualified Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Years Old • Completed 5 assignments as Judge, Box Judge and Scribe (half a division start to finish) • Completed 10 Division Judge Assignments • Recommended by 3 Head Judges from own team) • Passed multiple choice exam on Section 5 of the BFA Rules (Judging Competition) 	Act as Division Judge unsupervised Supervise Provisional Judges and Unqualified Individuals
Head Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the above ... • Have completed at least 10 Division Judge Assignments as a Qualified Judge before getting log book • Have attended a BFA Training Seminar, within 2 years of the application • Must have been a Qualified Judge for 3 Years • Recommended by 3 Head Judges • Completed log book (current requirements, updated for me) • Pass exam on relevant section of BFA Rules (covering Ethics, Layout, Rules of Racing, Safety, Flyball Points and Tournament Format) 	Act as Tournament Head Judge Validate the ring layout Verify records Dispute Resolution Etc etc
Measuring Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured 20 different dogs • Of at least 4 different breeds • Supervised by 3 head judges or Measuring Officials • over a minimum of 5 Tournaments • • At least 18 years old • A BFA Member for at least 3 • • Years 	

Current Rules

5.4 Judges

- (a) Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.
- (b) One Line Judge shall be positioned at each team's starting line, facing each other. Two Box Judges are to be located at the box end, with a good view of the box loader, but not standing so as to interfere with, or distract the dog. A fifth judge shall act as starter, Division Judge and referee.
- (c) The Box Judges and Line Judges shall remain stationary during each heat. If a ball goes around or bounces off a judge, it shall be deemed in play. The principle responsibility of each Box Judge and each Line Judge is to watch for violations in the racing lane to which they are assigned.
- (d) The Division Judge (starter and referee) who will wear a Black and White Rosette provided by the BFA shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area between the start/finish line and the lead dogs in the lead dogs to start the heat. During the heat he/she should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations. He/she shall maintain a consistent sequence for electronic starting. When starting manually, the Division Judge shall maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament and he/she should be in a position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats. He/she should always confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner. If necessary a Division Judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing.
- (e) Division and Line Judges shall indicate with a signal which dogs must re-run. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run his/her dog. If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Division Judge shall use a whistle.
- (f) When judging with approved electrical equipment accurate to 100th of a second, ties should only be allowed when both electrical readouts are identical to 2 decimal places.
- (g) Unqualified individuals judging BFA sanctioned Flyball competitions shall be supervised by a qualified Head Judge.
- (h) Provisional judges desiring to be approved by the BFA must apply to the BFA Secretary for their Log Book to be considered as a trainee Head Judge. All applicants wishing to become a Head Judge must be experienced judges and have carried out a minimum of 10 divisional judging appointments, preferably more, at sanctioned tournaments. The date of application will be logged and they will be sent a Training Log Book and any other necessary paperwork. This Log Book should be used to record the successful achievement of the criteria, and returned to the BFA Secretary when completed, with an application to be approved as a Head Judge. To be approved by the BFA, provisional judges must:
 - (i) Be a competitor/dog handler with at least three years experience in the BFA.
 - (ii) Be in good standing with the BFA and a current member.
 - (iii) Within two years of the application have judged a division, at a minimum of five separate Sanctioned Tournaments, hosted by at least three different Teams and under three different Head Judges. Each Head Judge must provide a written report on the candidate's competency on the day, completing the sheet provided for the purpose in their Training Log Book. This does not necessarily need to be the tournament Head Judge but can be any Head Judge who is willing to write a report after observing the trainee Judge during a division at a sanctioned tournament.

- (iv) Have competently carried out dog measuring in the presence of two Head Judges on separate occasions where they must measure at least six dogs in total, preferably of different breeds.
- (v) On three separate occasions, have Box Judged, Line Judged (operating the light sequence), and Scribe, preferably for at least half a Division from start to finish.
- (vi) Have attended a BFA Training Seminar within two years of the application, where they will take a written examination on the current Rule Book. Alternatively, this examination may be taken at a Sanctioned Tournament. Before taking the examination, prior arrangement must be made with the BFA Secretary who will forward the question paper to the supervising Officer, who will return the paper when completed to the BFA Secretary. The Secretary will mark the paper and indicate a 'pass' or 'not ready' in the candidate's Training Log Book. All the above duties must be recorded in the Training Log Book and each discipline when completed, must be signed by the Tournament Head Judge, Tournament Organiser or nominated Officer (where appropriate), who should be informed beforehand that the person concerned intends to undertake these duties. The applicant's name shall be published when he/she has qualified as a Head Judge. If the Committee rejects the applicant, he/she shall be notified and advised under what conditions he/she can re-apply.
- (i) The minimum age of a Head Judge is 18 years, except with the approval of the BFA.
- (j) To retain their status, qualified Head Judges must be current BFA Members, and attend at least one Head Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last three years. This Head Judges' Seminar may be incorporated, as a separate half-day session, within a BFA Training Seminar.

5.5 Judges Guidelines

- (a) Judges should be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. Judges must have a thorough understanding gained through personal experience. A Judge must be familiar with the regulations, rules and requirements.
- (b) The Judge's responsibility also extends to the exhibitors, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.
- (c) A Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled exhibitor.
- (d) Upon arriving at the site a Tournament Head Judge shall immediately report to the Tournament Organiser. Judges should be at their ring at least ½ hour before the competition to check the ring, jumps, matting and backstops. If dogs are to be measured and boxes inspected before the competition, the Judge should allow additional time by agreement with the Tournament Organiser.
- (e) Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the Judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands a Judge shall exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and well being of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

5.6 Judging Procedures

- (a) Prior to the scheduled time for competition the Tournament Head Judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations. Jump placement, jump heights, backstops, barriers and box location should be measured to make sure they meet these regulations. A deviation of a ¼" on the jump heights is considered minor and acceptable. Each box shall be inspected by the Tournament Head Judge and shall not be allowed if, in his/her opinion, it has been constructed or altered in a manner that does not meet the box specifications.
- (b) Two Head Judges shall measure dogs jumping less than 14" if time allows. Otherwise, it will be up to the discretion of the team whether to have their dogs measured or not prior to the competition. If the Judges are uncertain of the dog's height after 3 accurate measurements, the height shall be recorded as the lowest for the benefit of the dog.

- (c) If the Division or Tournament Head Judge later determines that the team is not jumping the proper height (in a round robin tournament), the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height. The team will be excluded (in a double elimination tournament). One of these Judges may at any time measure a dog. However, once measured, he/she is under no obligation to measure the same dog again. If in having the dog measured the Judge determines he/she has made a mistake, the team shall in no way be penalised, but will be required to jump the proper height for any remaining heats. Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally within 30 minutes of the heat in question. Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by the Measuring Official and observing Judge. A copy of this completed document should be made available for viewing by the tournament participants. All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment. Only one handler per dog shall be allowed in the measuring area determined by the Judges unless he/she requires further assistance. A dog will be measured from the ground to the top of its withers. It shall stand with all four legs squarely on the ground, neither stretched nor crouched. The head is to be in a natural position. Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed. A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Head Judges will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 19" to the withers.
- (d) Height Cards - A handler may apply for a dog to be granted a Height Card and not be required to have the dog measured after having been measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments, the dog's height having been agreed by two qualified Head Judges on each occasion. The signatories to the Application Form must be at least four different Head Judges. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at final measurement. When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However, in some circumstances an Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing accompanied by a completed Form C.13, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.
- (e) Jump heights shall be set at 5" 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 3/4" becomes 12")
- (f) The Tournament Head Judge shall Reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc).
- (g) The Division Judge shall Stop the heat for interference in the ring.
- (h) Line Judges (who may have stewards to assist them with their duties) shall
- (i) Keep track of the practice runs.
 - (ii) Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
 - (iii) Using BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2), record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied. (NOTE: When appropriate, instead of a time, one of the following may be entered: No time = NT; Interference = INT; Break-out = BO).
 - (iv) When hand timing is used or any part of the electronic equipment fails, this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.
 - (v) Stop the race for the first false start for which the heat is to be restarted.

- (vi) Indicate with a signal: When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball). If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball). Other rule violations for which a dog must run again.
- (vii) Advise the Division Judge if a Team that submits a time runs a 'break-out' time in a heat, (this being more than 1/2-second faster than that team's submitted time).
- (viii) The Line Judges decision shall be unanimous with respect to determining winners of close heats. If they are not in agreement the Division Judge shall consult with them and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie.
- (i) Box Judges shall observe the box loader/spectators for infringements, signal the Line Judge of a possible box malfunction and observe dogs for interference or missing a jump.

Proposed Amendments

5.4 Judges and Judging Qualifications

- (a) Five judges shall officiate when two teams are running.
- (b) One Line Judge shall be positioned at each team's starting line, facing each other. Two Box Judges are to be located at the box end, with a good view of the box loader, but not standing so as to interfere with, or distract the dog. A fifth judge shall act as starter, Division Judge and referee.
Section C,D, E and F moved to Judging Procedures
- (c) Unqualified individuals judging BFA sanctioned Flyball competitions shall be supervised, at all times, by a Qualified Judge . Minimum age for divisional judging is 14, individuals under the age of 16 must be supervised from within the ring.
- (d) To become a Qualified Judge, individuals must:
 - (i) Be 18 Years of age
 - (ii) Have completed 5 assignments as Line Judge, Box Judge and Scribe (at least half a division start to finish)
 - (iii) Completed 10 Division Judge Assignments
 - (iv) Be recommended by 3 Head Judges (not from own team)
 - (v) Pass a multiple choice exam on Section 5 of the BFA Rules (Rules for Competition)
 Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form.
- (e) Qualified Judges desiring to be approved by the BFA as a Head Judge must apply to the BFA Secretary for their Log Book to be considered as a trainee Head Judge. All applicants wishing to become a Head Judge must be:
 - (i) an experienced Qualified Judge and have carried out a minimum of 10 divisional judging appointments as a Qualified Judge, preferably more, at sanctioned tournaments
 - (ii) a competitor/dog handler with at least three years experience in the BFA.
 - (iii) in good standing with the BFA and a current member
 - (iv) must have been a Qualified Judge for at least 3 years
- (f) The date of application will be logged and they will be sent a Training Log Book and any other necessary paperwork. This Log Book should be used to record the successful achievement of the criteria, and returned to the BFA Secretary when completed, with an

application to be approved as a Head Judge. To be approved as a head judge by the BFA, qualified judges must:

- (i) Be in good standing with the BFA and a current member.
- (ii) Within two years of the application have judged a division, at a minimum of five separate Sanctioned Tournaments, hosted by at least three different Teams and under three different Head Judges. Each Head Judge must provide a written report on the candidate's competency on the day, completing the sheet provided for the purpose in their Training Log Book. This does not necessarily need to be the tournament Head Judge but can be any Head Judge who is willing to write a report after observing the trainee Judge during a division at a sanctioned tournament.
- (iii) Have completed the requirements to be a Measuring Official.
- (iv) On three separate occasions, under the supervision of a Head Judge, have Box Judged, Line Judged (operating the light sequence), and Scribe, preferably for at least half a Division from start to finish.
- (v) Have attended a BFA Training Seminar within two years of the application, where they will take a written examination on the current Rule Book. Alternatively, this examination may be taken at a Sanctioned Tournament. Before taking the examination, prior arrangement must be made with the BFA Secretary who will forward the question paper to the supervising Officer, who will return the paper when completed to the BFA Secretary. The Secretary will mark the paper and indicate a 'pass' or 'not ready' in the candidate's Training Log Book. All the above duties must be recorded in the Training Log Book and each discipline when completed, must be signed by the Tournament Head Judge, Tournament Organiser or nominated Officer (where appropriate), who should be informed beforehand that the person concerned intends to undertake these duties. The applicant's name shall be published when he/she has qualified as a Head Judge. If the Committee rejects the applicant, he/she shall be notified and advised under what conditions he/she can re-apply.
- (g) To retain their status, Head Judges must be current BFA Members, and attend at least one Head Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last three years. This Head Judges' Seminar may be incorporated, as a separate half-day session, within a BFA Training Seminar.
- (h) Measuring Officials are qualified to measure dogs in accordance with the BFA Rules. To become a Measuring Official, individuals must be at least 18 years old; have been a BFA member for at least 3 years; have competently carried out dog measuring in the presence of two Head Judges, or Measuring Officials, on 5 separate occasions where they must measure at least 20 dogs in total, including at least 4 different breeds. Each applicant must have been approved by at least 3 Head Judges or Measuring Officials. Evidence of completion of the above criteria is to be recorded on the approved BFA Form. Head Judges automatically qualify as Measuring Officials.

5.5 Judges Guidelines

- (a) Judges should be friendly and courteous, even sympathetic, but above all impartial and firm. Judges must have a thorough understanding gained through personal experience. A Judge must be familiar with the regulations, rules and requirements.
- (b) The Judge's responsibility also extends to the exhibitors, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.
- (c) A Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled exhibitor.
- (d) Judgement calls should be based on the experience, good character, and fairness of the Judge. The intelligent application of discretionary authority demands a Judge shall exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and well being of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

5.6 Judging Procedures

- (a) Prior to the scheduled time for competition the Tournament Head Judge must inspect the ring. It should meet all the requirements of the regulations. Jump placement, jump heights, backstops, barriers and box location should be measured to make sure they meet these regulations. A deviation of a ¼" on the jump heights is considered minor and acceptable. Each box may be inspected by the Tournament Head Judge and shall not be allowed if, in his/her opinion, it has been constructed or altered in a manner that does not meet the box specifications.
- (b) Two Measuring Officials, shall measure dogs jumping less than 14" if time allows. Otherwise, it will be up to the discretion of the team whether to have their dogs measured or not prior to the competition. If the Judges are uncertain of the dog's height after 3 accurate measurements, the height shall be recorded as the lowest for the benefit of the dog.
- (c) If the Division or Tournament Head Judge later determines that the team is not jumping the proper height (in a round robin tournament), the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height. The team will be excluded (in a double elimination tournament). One of these Judges may at any time request that a dog be measured. However, once measured, he/she is under no obligation to measure the same dog again. If in having the dog measured the Judge determines he/she has made a mistake, the team shall in no way be penalised, but will be required to jump the proper height for any remaining heats. Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally within 30 minutes of the heat in question. Height measurements are to be recorded on BFA Form C.9 and signed by the Measuring Official and observing Judge. A copy of this completed document should be made available for viewing by the tournament participants. All measuring shall be carried out using only BFA authorised equipment. Only one handler per dog shall be allowed in the measuring area determined by the Judges unless he/she requires further assistance. A dog will be measured from the ground to the top of its withers. It shall stand with all four legs squarely on the ground, neither stretched nor crouched. The head is to be in a natural position. Aggression during measurement will not be tolerated and Rule 5.19 will be observed. A dog deemed 'NOT MEASURED' by the Measuring Officials will jump at the height of the smallest dog in its team (running, not standing by) if that dog measured less than 19" to the withers.
- (d) Height Cards - A handler may apply for a dog to be granted a Height Card and not be required to have the dog measured after having been measured at three separate BFA Sanctioned Tournaments, the dog's height having been agreed by two Measuring Officials on each occasion. The signatories to the Application Form must be at least four different Head Judges. A dog must be 18 months old prior to its first recorded measurement and at least 30 months old at final measurement. When a Height Card is issued and recorded it must be available for inspection at each Tournament entered. The Records and Statistics Co-ordinator will produce an up-to-date list of all issued Height Cards for each Tournament so that it can be displayed and attached to the relevant Jump Height Form C.9. Jump Height Cards cannot be contested and will normally be applicable for the life of the dog. However, in some circumstances an Owner can re-apply if the dog's measurement is considered to be incorrect. Before re-applying, an explanation must be sent to the Committee in writing accompanied by a completed Form C.13, meeting the criteria set out above in this Rule. Once the Committee have agreed, arrangements will be made for two Head Judges, selected by the Committee, who have not previously measured the dog and do not belong to the applicant's own Team, to re-measure the dog to confirm the height. Handlers who are unable to produce their cards may have their dog's jump height contested.
- (e) Jump heights shall be set at 5" 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")
- (f) The Tournament Head Judge shall Reduce, delay or suspend racing due to inclement weather conditions (i.e. excessive heat, cold, rain, etc).

(g) The Division Judge:

Comment [b1]: Old 5.4(d) and (e) included here

- (i) Shall be positioned between the racing lanes in an area between the start/finish line and the lead dogs in the lead dogs to start the heat.
- (ii) He/she shall maintain a consistent sequence for electronic starting. When starting manually, the Division Judge shall maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 1-second intervals throughout the tournament and he/she should be in a position to assist the Line Judges in determining winners of close heats.
- (iii) During the heat he/she should be in a position to observe the handlers for any violations.
- (iv) If it is necessary to stop a heat, the Division Judge shall use a whistle.
- (v) Stop the heat for interference in the ring.
- (vi) He/she should always confer with the Line Judges and the Box Judges before determining a winner.
- (vii) If necessary a Division Judge shall reposition himself/herself in such a manner as not to distract the dogs competing.

(h) Line Judges (who may have stewards to assist them with their duties) shall

- (i) Keep track of the practice runs.
- (ii) Check jump heights are correctly set for the dogs running.
- (iii) Using BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2), record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied. (NOTE: When appropriate, instead of a time, one of the following may be entered: No time = NT; Interference = INT; Break-out = BO).
- (iv) When hand timing is used or any part of the electronic equipment fails, this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.
- (v) Stop the race for the first false start for which the heat is to be restarted.
- (vi) Indicate with a signal: When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball). If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball). Other rule violations for which a dog must run again. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and rerun his/her dog.
- (vii) Advise the Division Judge if a Team that submits a time runs a 'break-out' time in a heat, (this being more than 1/2-second faster than that team's submitted time).
- (viii) The Line Judges decision shall be unanimous with respect to determining winners of close heats. If they are not in agreement the Division Judge shall consult with them and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie.

Comment [b2]: From 5.4e

(i) Box Judges shall observe the box loader/spectators for infringements, signal the Line Judge of a possible box malfunction and observe dogs for interference or missing a jump.

(j) The Box Judges and Line Judges shall remain stationary during each heat. If a dog goes around or bounces off a judge, it shall be deemed in play. The principle responsibility of each Box Judge and each Line Judge is to watch for violations in the racing lane to which they are assigned.

Comment [b3]: 5.4c

(k) When judging with approved electrical equipment accurate to 100th of a second, ties should only be allowed when both electrical readouts are identical to 2 decimal places.

Comment [b4]: 5.4f

Explanation: There are two main thrusts to this proposal; firstly trying to improve the quality of judging within the ring; secondly to provide a qualification for those competent to act as Divisional Judge who do not wish to become a Head Judge (reducing the supervision requirements for Head Judges); thirdly to improving the lines of communication to Divisional Judges within the ring.

CARRIED

One item submitted by Anne Alderman

7.1 SECTION 6. – Flyball Points

7.1.1 Rule 6.2 Titles ADD The BFA will award the initials FB Ch (Flyball Champion) to prefix the name of a dog that has run in the winning team of Div 1 at the British Championships.

Explanation: Other dog sports award Champion status to dogs that have excelled in their Sport As the winning team are crowned Flyball Champions, would it not be appropriate to allow the dogs to also be recognised as Champions in their own right. This title should also be awarded to all previous winners

DEFEATED

One item submitted by Ray Lewis

8.1 NEW RULE – BFA develops and adopts a Child Protection Policy

Explanation: - Flyball is a sport suitable for people of all ages – and indeed the BFA rightly encourages the participation of children and young people, for example through the Junior Handler Award scheme. Children and young people have a right to enjoy their participation in Flyball, free from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

As the sport grows, so does the possibility that children and young people may be put at risk while attending Flyball activities. Team Captains, Tournament organisers, Flyball Judges, Head Judges and ultimately the BFA itself all have a duty of care to the children and young people who participate in the sport.

By adopting a Child Protection Policy the BFA will have in place a set of guidelines designed to minimise any risk to children and young people, and provide a clear course of action should a situation arise where it is suspected that a child or young person is at risk from any form of abuse.

In fact, adopting a Child Protection Policy is not really optional for the BFA – unless it closes its doors to children. The Government has published a document “Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006)” which states (section 2.8) “all organisations which provide services for, or work with children must have ... policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children ... including a child protection policy”.

The development of a Policy does not need to be an onerous task, nor one which lands the BFA committee with a mountain of extra work. It could be achieved, for example, by one or two volunteers from the membership of the BFA who have a good knowledge of Flyball. Ideally there would be someone within the BFA who, as a social worker, school teacher or a police officer, would have knowledge of the issues. In addition, help and advice can be sought from Local Safeguarding Children Boards as well as the NSPCC Child Protection in Sports Unit.

The NSPCC are experts in the field of Child Protection Policy, and the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit was established to work with sport organisations to provide support and advice on developing child protection policies and procedures in order to help them safeguard children and young people. They are able to provide the BFA with information, resources and advice – and if required consultancy in order to create a suitable Policy.

CARRIED

One item submitted by Valerie Rothlisberger-Jones

8.1 NEW RULE – I would like to propose that at the annual BFA Championships, rescue organisations be invited to have their stands on the grounds, free of charge, to sell their merchandise.

Explanation: This would be a very kind gesture. Other discipline's competitions, Obedience, Agility etc, always invite/allow rescue organisations to have stands at their competitions. A lot/most of the dogs that do flyball are rescue dogs, and it would be the BFA members way of saying "thank you," and of course to do some shopping for their dogs and themselves. They would make more profit than the raffle at last year's championships that was supposed to be in aid of rescue organisations.

DEFEATED, AS THIS IS ALREADY DONE

5. Election of the BFA Committee - Having been elected to the Committee at the last AGM, the following current members have expressed a willingness to remain on the Committee for a further year:

Anne Alcock (Live Wires)

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers)

Howard Campbell (Greetland Grasshoppers)

Maureen Hendry (Mansfield Marnicks)

TWO Members have decided to retire and are not seeking re-election

Tony Cain (Cheshire Set)

Penny Charlton (Barkshire Bandits)

The nominations for the remaining **FIVE** places on the Committee are as follows

Jason Baker (Shooting Stars) seeking election for the first time – NOT ELECTED

Proposed by Penny Charlton

Seconded by Wayne O' Rourke

Rachel Child (Alpha Dogz) seeking re-election - ELECTED

Proposed by Steve Leek

Seconded by Sharon Allcorn

Val Currie (Red Rose Rockets) seeking election for the first time - ELECTED

Proposed by Len Titterington

Seconded by Lucy Hughes

Steve Leek (Dolphins) seeking re-election - ELECTED

Proposed by Penny Charlton

Seconded by Maureen Hendry

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

Proposed by Rachel Child

Seconded by Steve Leek

Judy Parker (Molten Magnets) seeking re-election - ELECTED

Proposed by Steve Leek

Seconded by Penny Charlton

John Percivaldi (Hotshots) seeking election for the first time – NOT ELECTED

Proposed by Penny Charlton

Seconded by Chris Fulford

Nigel Rose (Kiveton Katapultz) seeking election for the first time – NOT ELECTED

Proposed by Tony Cain

Seconded by Ian Hendry

Presentation of the Annual Awards for 2009

Team of the Year – Open	1 st	Basset Hotdogs	16.60
	2 nd	High Flyers	16.66
	3 rd	Shooting Stars	16.87
Team of the Year – Multibreed	1 st	Doncaster Team Pow Wow	17.76
BFA Special Award	1 st	Doncaster Belle Stars	664 Points
Claire Gristwood Award	Riva	Molten Magnets	10,840 Points
Junior Handler Award 7-11 age	1 st	Shannon & Sophie Mills	
	3 rd	Jake Woodman	
Junior Handler 12-16 age	1 st	Ashley Jennison	
	2 nd	Jakob A G Aubrey Wilson	
	3 rd	Jessica Norman	

A Present was given to Penny Charlton for all her hard work as Secretary and to Tony Cain for all his hard work on the committee

Presentation of the Annual Awards for 2009

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