



The British Flyball Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday 7th April 2013 at Wythall Community Hall, Birmingham

Apologies – were received from Tony Hodge, Alison Aubrey Wilson, Dianne Halsted, Dave Bergelin, Leanne Hyde, David Flood, Jason Baker, Peter and Deliah Roberts, Brenda Holland, Kim Sermon, Mary and Phil Amos, Karen Thompson

Minutes of last AGM – 1st April 2012 – 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 interested parties. They were therefore approved as a true record without a further reading.

Concise reports for the year 2011/2012 by:

Chairperson's Report : Sharon Allcorn

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.00 hrs, welcomed those present (84 in number) and thanked everyone for coming.

Thank you all for coming today. We hope that this AGM will provide thought provoking discussions, shared ideas and time to say hello to other members of our flyball family.

This year, we have decided to try a different approach to the AGM. As you know, we have embraced Skype as a medium for communication for the committee and have found it to be of great benefit - even the times when we can't see each other and a twirly pattern appears where a face should be or when we can't hear properly because a certain Mr Crosswell decides to wash the team tennis balls in the washing machine in the adjoining kitchen, and everyone comes out distorted!!

This change in our way of communicating got us to thinking about communication at the AGM, in particular the best way to share information with you and show the work we have undertaken in the past 12 months. So rather than reading lone reports, we have accompanied some of these with PP presentations.....basically a BFA committee "show and tell"!

Before I start my report, I would like to share with you a 4 minute video. During the throes of training, tournaments, packing up cars and trundling up and down the countries motorways, it's all so easy to lose sight of why we do, what we do and what makes us love this wonderful sport. Hopefully, this next 4 minutes will reinforce all of this and focus our minds for when we consider the proposals, digest the reports and go on to make decisions that will promote our sport as we work together to in continuing to confidently move our association forward.

VIDEO – A flyball montage video was shown.

Wasn't it nice to see some familiar faces both human and canine?

At this time of year, it is always good to reflect on the last 12 months and look forward to the next 12 months. As a committee, our year has been busy and productive. The working parties have resulted in really positive outcomes and these will be shown following this report.

As a committee we are very committed to dog welfare, and were delighted when Kate Gilding was appointed as BFA veterinary advisor. With the continual growth of our association, it was a logical step to create this role. Her input has assisted us in making decisions, confident that the welfare of the dog is paramount. As we all know the Gildings have had another child and, we would like to congratulate them on the arrival of their bundle of joy and whether the stork will be taking another flight path for a while? Kate does give her time readily to the BFA committee and I would like to remind you that her role is as advisor to the committee not the membership as a whole. Any correspondence regarding dog welfare in regards to BFA should be directed to the BFA secretary.

Our BFA officials work tirelessly for the association and yes they did volunteer, and yes they knew they would have to give their time freely but no, they do not expect nor deserve to be treated disrespectfully. I was saddened a few weeks ago, when I was told in a passing conversation that a family member of a BFA official was shouted at on the telephone because said official was not at home (it was during working hours and that is where she was!!) This family member does not play flyball nor is he a member of the BFA but he did take messages so that phone calls could be returned. I doubt he is as willing now.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and continued efforts as we lead the association. We do have times when it is all work and no play but we do share lighter moments that result in fits of giggles. We don't always agree, nor would I want that as differing opinions can lead to better outcomes, as all avenues are explored. We are all individuals and therefore bring a variety of skills, experiences and knowledge to the table (Tony is an authority on hoses and Rachel on Kipling handbags!!) We work as a team, we share the same vision and we have the members (both human and canine) of our association at the heart of all we do. There are times when we have to do what is best for the majority and in doing so, upset the minority. Be assured that no decision is taken lightly, everything is discussed thoroughly with all committee members suggestions and thoughts considered. In some cases, this results in a delay in answering members correspondence, we could be trying to gather more information or we may not have reached a majority decision, we aim not to give a knee jerk response and therefore be proactive not reactive.....

We do receive correspondence regarding FB and members posting negative comments about each other. We have no jurisdiction over social forums, nor would we wish to. However, it goes back to respect and tolerance. As my Grandad used to say "there's nowt as queer as folk" we are all individual, have different values and lifestyles. Please think before you comment. We would ask team captains to discourage their team members from getting involved in negative discussions.

Also, whilst we are on the subject of FB, please do not use personal FB accounts to address concerns/requests or ask information of the committee. There is a high chance they will not be answered in a timely manner or missed completely.

The National Championships will be held at Catton Hall this year. This venue is used to hosting big events, including an annual rock festival for 1000's of people. We have conducted ourselves admirably over the past couple of years and I am sure this will continue at Catton Hall. I hope we will all experience great racing as we celebrate our sport and the spirit of flyball will be at the forefront.

Flyball is a sport, there will always be winners and losers, and there will always be faster teams and not so fast teams. However, it's about how you win and how you lose. If you are sporting in both defeat and winning, if you praise your dogs for giving their all, if you race fairly, if you celebrate or commiserate with your team mates and if you applaud your opposition, our sport is the overall winner.

Let's hope that this year brings achievements for all, the sun shines, the racing is exciting and dogs and handlers have a great time playing flyball.

As you are now aware, if you have read the AGM paperwork, Sam has decided to retire from the committee as a new job has meant that she has less time to commit to the BFA as a committee member. I would like to thank Sam for all of her hard work over the last 2 years and we will certainly miss her enthusiasm, knowledge, experience and sense of fun. Skypes were always an unknown quantity as we never knew if Sam would be there in person or voice only, rather like the Wizard of Oz. If we could only see her, she would make a finger drumming gesture so we all knew she was typing her response. Sam would be the first to acknowledge that predictive text and smart phones were the bane of her life, as we would often receive communication that appeared to be in Russian, which was quickly followed by "damn phone!" Sam has been a BFA member for many years and her passion for the sport is on-going. She can recall events from years gone by that bore relevance to decisions and rules that are current. She is forward thinking and often came up with solutions by thinking outside of the box.....sometimes we didn't even see the box!! Her recollection of dogs is unbelievable; in fact she can place a dog before its owner! Her love of dogs is always at the heart of all her decisions.....and I also think her love of dogs is why so many have come to Sam and Andy's home on a temporary basis and never left!!

Please accept these gifts Sam, as an appreciation of your commitment and dedication to the BFA committee over the last 2 years.

Secretary's Report : Rachel Child

The committee have met on 3 occasions between the last AGM and 31st March. We continue to take advantage of SKYPE conference calling and frequently use this as a means of discussing more urgent matters that arise between our face to face meetings. This enables us to resolve issues more quickly than before.

The committee remain at your disposal for discussions at shows up and down the country. We are continually looking for ways to improve communication between ourselves and the membership and all feedback is welcomed. We appreciate your comments both positive

and negative. Put forward in a constructive way this is needed to continue to develop our association.

A revised copy of the BFA rules and policies were emailed to all team captains, Head judges and officers. They were also posted on the BFA website for the membership.

We are aware that there has been an issue with email addresses on the BFA website, for this we apologise. I believe that the correct details are now available and I encourage members to please use the information provided to contact the correct officer or official. This will help to provide a quicker response to your question and hopefully save time for all parties. The workload for our volunteers is ever increasing and anything we can do to help them must be encouraged.

The current BFA membership stands at 2433 members. In 2012 we had 260 new members and 2173 renewing members. This figure is lower than in 2011. Of the renewing members almost 30% used the new online membership renewal facility. This is an impressive figure and I expect this to increase next year. We currently have 314 primary teams; this is compared to 294 in 2011. The membership secretary has had many applications for new team names since December. The requests come from far and wide including Scotland and Northern Ireland as the interest in our sport increases.

The committee is a small group of 9 people. Without the help of our dedicated officers the work behind the scenes would not get done. As a committee we are extremely grateful to the hard work and dedication offered by these people. We rely very heavily on their efforts day to day. As secretary, it is my job to offer our thanks.

Ron and Vera The stats team, continue to do a tremendous job keeping the points system up to date. They are a prolific partnership and have certainly found the right formula for the task in hand. Our Awards Secretary Kim Sermon also continues to work hard to make sure our certificates and awards are provided as soon as possible and at the right venue. The work involved to facilitate all this is underestimated and for all their hard work, I thank Ron, Vera and Kim. Your commitment to the role is very much appreciated.

Pat Wadby our membership secretary has yet again done a sterling job keeping all the membership information up to date. Along with her team, Samantha Massey and Jane Allen they have encountered some new challenges this year with the online renewal and the introduction of this facility seemed seamless (They were probably like Swans however, all serene on the surface but paddling like mad underneath). For all the dedication shown to this role, We thank you Ladies.

Judy Parker remains the most experienced officer in her role as Show Secretary. Her font of knowledge in all things show related is unrivalled. As a membership we are very lucky to have her experience at our disposal. Judy continues to offer support to all tournament organisers and as a committee we are as grateful as ever. Thank you for your dedication to your job Judy.

As a membership we have had the privilege of another 12 months worth of our oracle the Flyball record. For this we must Thank Val Currie. Val continues to provide an entertaining yet informative read. I encourage all members to use this tool to share our experiences with the membership. Val cannot singlehandedly fill the publication and relies on features

provided by us, the membership. Please continue to do this. Thank you so much Val for your efforts in getting the editions to print and subsequently in our hand or via email. It is very much appreciated.

Donna Hagland continues to provide a brilliant turnaround with the Height Cards. As Height Card administrator she works very hard and for this I applaud her.

Sam Bawden also works very hard in her role as Junior Handler Administrator. Sam is very encouraging to our youngsters and this continues to increase their participation in our great sport. Thank you Sam.

At last year's AGM, our Webmaster stood down. There is currently a working party for our website and hopefully within the next year we will see an all new and improved website. Ray Lewis is on the working party and acting Webmaster so for this, Thank you Ray.

Finally, In 2012 we re-introduced the regional representatives. I would like to thank all the people who have volunteered for these regional positions. There are still some vacancies so if you fancy giving something back then please enquire. I look forward to seeing how these roles develop and the difference they will make to the membership.

As a member of our association it is easy to overlook the work that goes on behind the scenes. I encourage you all to never underestimate the amount of work that is involved to get your certificate to your next show. There are a team of dedicated volunteers working very hard and giving up their valuable spare time to make sure this happens for you. Next time you see one of our officers, Why not thank them personally?

2012 was a very good year for the BFA.....

As Mentioned earlier, we have had increased numbers of requests from people wishing to register teams. I feel this has to be partly due to the increased exposure our sport has received in the media. Last year saw Flyball feature with Red or Black, Countryfile and Crufts being televised. Our sport was also featured on the Radio. This increased exposure has to be a very positive thing. Thank you to the members who portrayed our sport in a positive light. Please all remember to continue to do so.

Also in 2012 we had a new British record. Achieved by Extreme Racers... 16.06 is the current record. Which team is going to break into the 15's first?

The European Championships was hosted in the UK last year. We welcomed teams from many countries to the Championships. As well as welcoming foreign teams, the EFC was accessible to many British, Scottish and Welsh teams who had not previously attended. The feedback was very positive with many teams now wanting to travel to Belgium for this year's competition. For the first time in its History the current European Champions are a UK team, The Live Wires. Well done Guys, Will you be able to retain your crown in Belgium?

The British Championships were held at Arbury Hall again last year. This was the biggest ever Championships held by the BFA with 42 divisions. Well done to all the teams who triumphed and won their division, with Particular congratulations to the Live Wires who Won Division 1. They have done the double and are currently UK and European Champions. - An achievement to be proud of.

Thankfully this speech is the last one I will have to write and deliver as I have decided to stand down as Secretary this year. I have been the secretary for 5 years and feel its time I gave someone else the opportunity to fulfil the role. I will remain on the committee for another year to assist the new secretary in their first year. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who have helped and supported me. Thank you to the current and past members of the committee who have assisted. Thank you to my team Alpha Dogz, and also thanks to my Family. Everyone has been so supportive and for this I am truly thankful.

I am proud to have served the membership on the committee for 5 years as your secretary and I offer my support and experience to whoever is mad enough to take the role on ☺

Finally, in my last speech as secretary I would like to encourage the following:

Please treat each other with the respect we all deserve. Please let us all continue to keep the welfare of our beloved 4 legged friends at the forefront of everything we do. Please let's strive to continue to improve training techniques so we keep our dogs injury free and safe. Please let's continue to have fun, support each other and above all show good sportsmanship.

Treasurer's Report: Val Currie

It's a relief to be sitting here today feeling 'normal' rather than like 'nothing on earth'!

2012 has been, for me, a much easier task and I'm feeling more confident in my role as your Treasurer. In fact, I'm really beginning to enjoy it.

I'm extremely grateful to the rest of the Committee for deciding it would be a good idea for the Association to have a bookkeeper and asked me to source one. I decided to go down the route of three quotes and made appointments with bookkeepers close to me. After each meeting, I wrote notes about the meeting and what the person/s were able to offer us. Then I sent all three 'reports' to the Committee for their decision as to who we should employ (Key Bookkeeping). Two of the three were very good and very kindly gave me advice that helped me immediately to improve my organisation. Having said that, Key have told me that my spreadsheets posed no problems – made me feel good! The Association's bookkeepers are keeping our spreadsheets on their system and I can just email them with updates. They will do quarterly bank reconciliations thus making the end of the year an easier task.

I enjoy watching Dragon's Den and always wondered about this all important turnover figure. The number of people seeking money who obviously had no more idea than I had staggered me as it was one question that always came up from the Dragons. Now I know what it is! It's actually important that I do as we are very close to 'hitting' the VAT threshold and what's more we have to register **before** we reach it. We can voluntarily register and it may be to our advantage as we would be able to claim back any VAT we paid for services we receive that charge VAT. We will be exploring this.

Last year I said we would need to change banks in order to get internet banking but much to my surprise, I received a communication from the bank, shortly after I'd paid in some cheques and asked about changing our signatory arrangements at the same time speaking about not being able to use internet banking with the present arrangements. I'm pleased to

say we now have access to internet banking so I will be able to make transferred payments out and hopefully also allow TO's to pay by transfer to our account. We need to establish guidelines to ensure that the correct payments are made as occasionally incorrect payments (either too much or too little) are made.

Now to the accounts themselves: Since last year I've done a bit of tidying up of my fields to better reflect the expenditure and income. You will note that in the past Working Parties have not been included on their own. One working party has had a face to face meeting that is included in the meetings item.

We have purchased the laser measures as shown in the equipment item. (Also by way of a working party)

Seminars have their own item, this year including the Scottish seminar, which of necessity involved hotel and travelling costs that were reimbursed to the Committee members. There has also been a QJ and HJ seminar that was instrumental in discussing rule changes for January, a most useful exercise. With the re-introduction of Regional Representatives it is hoped that seminars will become organised in regions.

Sundry expenses are for things like re-imbursement of overpaid tournament fees that show on my spreadsheet so need to be shown in the summary otherwise it won't balance!

In the income section I have put together the Subscriptions, joining/new member fees and new team registrations as they all come under Membership.

Likewise with Racing Registrations (advance bookings) and Tournament fees both concern Tournaments. As the racing registrations pay a £20.00 deposit, £10.00 of which is then is deducted from the racing fee, joining the two better reflects the amount of income from Tournaments.

In the changes to previous year, I've put a minus sign just to show which items had less expenditure than 2011 simply to make it more 'user friendly'.

You will have noticed that the Championships expenditure was considerably higher than in 2011 and although the income was also higher, that still left us with a loss overall. The change of venue for this year has meant we have a smaller bill for hiring the venue but I would like to inform you all that we have to pay a £500.00 deposit that will be returned to us as soon as the site is satisfactorily cleared after the event. Therefore we will be relying on members to make sure the site is pristine. Committee members and helpers spend a considerable amount of time going round the site and collecting rubbish members have thoughtlessly not put in the proper place.

I'm pleased to say although that the 2011 deficit was £9,701.87 we reduced our overall deficit to £1,001.86 in 2012.

Veterinary Advisor Report: Kate Gilding

The past year has been a particularly busy one. We have tackled parvovirus and several incidence of kennel cough which have prompted the first additions to our rule books in the field of infectious disease. We have also had discussions regarding bandaging feet, running with stitches and bitches returning to racing after breeding to touch on just a few topics.

Although challenging for owners, BFA members and the committee we have been able to educate the community with regard to infectious diseases and specifically parvo virus and kennel cough, via the internet and the Flyball Record so that the potential for disease spread is minimised and plans to avoid future outbreaks effected. Although no vaccine can ever be considered 100% effective, in a community where multiple dog households are in the majority and these dogs are meeting other like-minded households on most weekends throughout the summer months, the potential for disease transmission is markedly increased. Isolation is so difficult to achieve in these situations and therefore our best line of defence is prevention... we are therefore reminded that vaccinating your dog against all the major diseases AND kennel cough is very important.

We have tried to put rules in to place regarding infectious diseases for a number of reasons. Firstly, to safeguard all dogs with in our community. Secondly, so that we have made our membership and those looking in at us from other disciplines, aware that we take a serious view of dog welfare. Thirdly, so we have a rule basis to build on in the future should the need arise. In medicine sadly nothing is quite as black and white as we would like it to be and as such one defining rule to encompass all infectious disease is probably unworkable. Therefore, as each new case unfolds there may be aspects specific to the individuals involved that mean that suggested actions will be different on a case to case basis. I would like to underline that "infectious diseases" cannot receive a blanket ruling as the diseases differ significantly both in severity and the tests available to diagnose them and due to this each new disease we face will have to be tackled in a different way. The rule that has been put in place gives the membership a general guide of how to deal with outbreaks of infectious disease, but the default setting has to be, if in doubt ask!

There have been several other topics of discussion such as dogs running with stitches or bandages on limbs that I feel cannot receive specific rulings but rely on educating judges (and the membership), so that they can make a call on what happens in the ring with individual dogs that they see. The bottom line being welfare first and if you are in doubt as a judge pull that dog and do not risk making the condition worse. This needs to run alongside making the membership aware that they can and need to approach the committee prior to racing dogs with they know may have certain problems that racing will not worsen. This means they can be advised by us and the judges informed prior to racing. There are after all plenty of older dogs on our circuits who love racing but suffer with arthritis and receive daily medications. Regular exercise should not be detrimental to their condition; they often run well particularly with a height dog and make up a reliable and consistent member of many teams with dogs still living for their racing.

Over the past few years we have all watched the sport leap forward in terms of fastest times and training techniques. This is great to see happening and with all those new techniques we as a membership are hopefully lessening the sports related injuries and wear and tear that occurs to our dogs over their racing careers. However, as speed increases and the sport becomes increasingly more competitive we do not want to lose sight of basic dog welfare.

I would ask the membership to not lose sight of common-sense which should suffice in most veterinary and welfare situations arising in the sport, but if anyone feels unsure please contact the committee and we will respond, helping and supporting as best we can. The rules are not always possible to police as people would like, but between common-sense

and every individual's compassion for their own and their team mate's dogs, they lay the groundings to our flyball mantra that says we care about the dogs we compete.

I want to take a moment to personally thank the committee for their help and a big thank you to those individuals involved in the cases we have dealt with over the past year. It is easy to feel like a statistic, a problem, a guinea pig or just a number on that membership list, but you are not! We are all owners who love their pets and at the centre of each horrible situation is a sick/injured dog that we all care for and though you may think it, we never lose sight of that.

Webmaster's Report: Ray Lewis

As you will no doubt know, our former Webmaster, Nigel Bouckley created, designed, developed and maintained the BFA Website single-handedly from its inception around 14 years ago until October last year. I think Nigel deserves our applause for such dedicated long service – which in recent years he has managed to fit around his commitments in his role within the armed forces.

In advance of last year's AGM, the committee had decided that the time had come to move the web site forwards. There were some reliability issues that needed to be resolved, and it was felt that the web site could serve the membership so much more – especially as the membership had grown massively since the web site was first created.

Following the AGM, a Website Working Party was convened, consisting of members who had expressed an interest in working on this project, and who also had relevant experience. The Working Party consists of Ellen Schofield, Steve Leek, Reece Marsland, Jo Crosswell and with me chairing it. Recently, we have also invited Sam Massey onto the working party.

In addition to chairing the working party, I have also taken on the role of Acting Webmaster to handle the day-to-day issues and requests relating to the web site.

The first step we undertook was to transfer the web site into the care of a professional hosting company who could ensure that it could be counted on to be reliably available for members to use.

The Working Party selected three alternative providers to compare in terms of cost and service. The best option proved to be a company based in London called Room101 (nothing to do with the BBC television programme of the same name). The Committee accepted this recommendation and the task of transferring the site was undertaken in October 2012 with support from the outgoing Webmaster,

Inevitably there was a period of down-time – but we managed to minimize this and with the help of Room 101 we had the site up and running again on the new server within three days.

The second project undertaken was the provision of on-line payments for membership renewals. Although rather simple in concept, the devil is always in the detail with these things – and one difficulty we encountered was getting the various banks to understand that we are a membership association, mutually owned by its members, rather than a business selling goods and services to members of the public.

Again, we looked at a number of different providers, in terms of their cost, their service and how it could be made to integrate with the web site. We selected an on-line payment system operated by SoEasyPay, and backed by the commercial bank Valitor, and we commissioned Room 101 to integrate the system into the web site.

I must apologize to the members that the on-line payment facility went on-line one month behind schedule. The delay was principally due to the bank redefining how certain information should be shown on the web site. For example, there was a week's delay because the bank gave conflicting information about where they wanted to see Visa and Mastercard logo's displayed! Nevertheless, the delay was most frustrating.

On-line renewals were finally available to the membership from 31 December. Writing this in mid-March (so about 3 weeks ago) - there have been a total of 370 transactions totaling £5900 – this of course includes joint and family renewals, but the figures I have indicate that this represents around 580 members renewing online which is around 30% of the membership renewals to date.

And while we are on statistics – here are some more to interest, entertain or just mind-boggle! These are for the period December to March.

The web site is serving up just shy of 9,000 pages per day, which amounts to very nearly 1GB of data. The busiest day of the week is a Tuesday, and the busiest time of the day is between 8pm and 9pm. The most popular parts of the site are in order: the Web Forum; dog points data; Team data; tournament results and the list of judges. The most used links into the site are of course from Google, Yahoo and Bing – and naturally Facebook is high up the list – but there were 248 “click-through”s from the Racing Herts web site after the report about them on Countryfile on the BBC.

I would now like to hand over to Jo who will explain about what we are thinking for the future of the web site.

The PowerPoint presentation given at the AGM by Jo Crosswell discussed the various stand-alone uses of BFA data by each individual official through their separate systems, it went on to explain how the intention is to invest in the development of a BFA database and website which ensures reliable access to all the data requirements for the Association and its officials going forward. This will be developed by and hosted by a company to ensure a full back up facility. (See Appendix)

Regional Representative Co-ordinator: Dan Culley

The PowerPoint presentation given at the AGM reported progress on the role introduced following a proposal at the 2011 AGM, subsequent work carried out by the RR Working Party and finally a ‘carried’ vote at the 2012 AGM. Some regions still require representatives and members were encouraged to consider the vacancies, visiting the role requirements on the official announcements page of the BFA Forum. (See Appendix)

Electronic Judging System (EJS) BFA Lights Update: Dan Culley

The membership were provided with an update in respect of a computer based EJS in development by ABTEC Network Systems. There is already the foundation of a workable set. The distinction was explained between all previous ‘electronic’ EJS light systems and

the proposed computer based systems. Dan invited feedback from the membership and a discussion took place where members highlighted aspects of the current and previous sets of BFA Lights that can be considered to improve future development. The Lights Working Party (LWP) will continue with members; Dave Long, Dan Culley, Tony Cain, Ian Hendry, Jason Baker and Keith Newman. Future development will comply with the specification detailed in the minutes of the 2012 AGM. The BFA Committee have commissioned ABTEC Network Systems to provide one EJS for the BFA.

Laser Measure Device: Tony Cain

The membership were provided with an overview of the work of the measuring device working party (MDWP). The equipment for the new device has been procured and is available to be taken from the AGM meeting. The equipment will accompany each set of lights approved for use at BFA Tournaments (both private and BFA sets). Use of the new equipment is subject to a rule change on today's agenda. The equipment will be eligible for use in respect of racing and height card applications after a period of 14 days from the publication of the AGM Minutes.

The equipment has to be used on a flat surface. The equipment was demonstrated over the break period on several height dogs available. The committee confirmed that dogs carrying a height card can be re-measured using the new equipment if the owner wishes, however any application for a new height card with a change of measurement will require to be applied for in line with the current rules (3 measures at least one at aged 30 months, by the correct number of authorised officials).

AGM Proposals

ALL PROPOSALS WRITTEN AS RECEIVED AND LISTED IN RULE NUMBER ORDER

Rule Changes

5.1 SECTION 4 – Sanctioned Competition

Three items submitted by the BFA Committee

5.1.1 Rule 4.1 – CARRIED

Tournament organisers can only book a maximum of 6 open or limited open tournaments from 1 April to 30 September. A tournament in addition to the 6 can be applied for and may be accepted under certain circumstances by the Show Secretary with the support by the Committee.

Explanation - Reason for putting dates covering the Summer Season allows all Tournament Organisers (TO) a fair chance of getting their competitions booked into the diary, but then TO's can host more over Winter when the diary is less full. The option is to allow additional tournament/s under certain circumstances, for example where no competition is booked in the area just prior to the deadline. This would allow the Show Secretary (or Show Secretary with support of Committee) to make exceptions where this is felt to be a benefit to the membership and the sport.

5.1.2 Rule 4.1 – CARRIED

Tournament applications venues must be within 50 mile (crows' flies) radius from the team captain's home address. Anything outside the 50 miles will require further consideration by the Show Secretary and committee and may be allowed where they consider the best interests of the membership are served.

Explanation - This proposal is to allow a team to host in their own area and encourage fairness to the availability of diary dates within the BFA diary. Co-hosting between new teams as Tournament Organisers and experienced teams etc. would benefit by a flexible approach in the decision made by the Show Secretary (supported by the Committee).

5.1.3 Rule 4.1 – CARRIED

addition to the current rule re number of tournaments where it is considered in the interest of membership to ensure sufficient racing opportunities

Explanation - Applications may be approved for Sanctioned Tournaments in excess of 50 miles (as the crow flies) – as determined by the show secretary from an existing Sanctioned Tournament taking place on the same date. For applications for Sanctioned Tournaments within this 50 miles radius of an existing Sanctioned Tournament, (add) [The Show Secretary, supported by the Committee, can reduce the distance between shows where it is considered to be in the best interests of the membership and the provision of sufficient racing opportunities.](#)

6.1 SECTION 5– Rules for Competition

One item submitted by the BFA Committee

6.1.1 Rule 5.6 (c) – CARRIED

If the Division or Tournament Head Judge later determines that the team is jumping below the proper height, the team will forfeit any races won at the incorrect jump height. 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 correct 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 Judge/ Official and observing Judge/Official and this BFA C9 form in addition to the height card will take precedence over the BFA C2 time sheet. 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 (add) **Or board to between** 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 (add) '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 (add) **Between** the withers.

Explanation - To make measuring dogs easier and less stressful for the dog.

7.1 SECTION 6 – Flyball Points

One item submitted by The BFA Committee

7.1.1 Rule 6.1 – CARRIED

(Remove) **Membership Applications or renewals must be received by the membership secretary within 14 days of competing in a sanctioned Tournament.** Failure to (Remove) **do so** (Add) **comply** will result in the loss of all points and tournament placing for that team.

Explanation - This rule is currently in direct conflict with rule 5.17 (n) which states

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multibreed competitions.

8.1 - Miscellaneous

One item submitted by Leanne Hyde

8.1.1 - Height Cards – DEFEATED

(Referred to Committee for further discussion)

All height dogs who are 30 months should hold a height card. If they are younger than 30 months they should be measured regularly up until their 30 month measurement. If the dog is unable to be measured for what ever reason then the height card forms should be submitted to the BFA with the reason why and signed by two head judges. Height cards should be presented along with the team sheets at the beginning of a tournament and checked off against the team sheet.

Explanation - Previously the BFA has been small enough to monitor height dogs but as it grows in size some things need tightening up on and as height dogs are used as an advantage for some teams this is one area that I think needs tightening up on.

One item submitted by Amanda Liversage

8.1.2 – DEFEATED

That a protocol should be initiated and enforced at shows whereby teams enter at one end of the ring (box end) and exit at the other (run-back end).

Explanation - Given the BFA's recent commitment to backing the Space Dogs campaign and charity, and moreover the commitment to a better environment to dogs needing space, this would allow all dogs to enter and exit the ring safely in what is often a very volatile and excitable environment.

One item submitted by Ian Worley

8.1.3 – DEFEATED

To hold regional competitions .

Explanation - To hold a regional competition either being

1. Open (Bfa points)
2. Regional teams only (NO Bfa points)
- 3.Regional teams only but still award Bfa points . (just the 1 competition per region per year)

One item submitted by Vicki Dawe

8.1.4 – CARRIED *(with minor amendment)*

All members of BFA teams, whether registered or unregistered individuals, are forbidden to use electronic (Insert) **shock** collars, electronic dummy collars or pinch/prong collars on the tournament grounds at sanctioned ~~and non-sanctioned~~ tournaments. The tournament grounds include racing rings, spectator, parking and camping areas.

Explanation - Electronic Shock Collars have been banned in Wales, the UK Kennel Club names them; "a cruel and unnecessary device" (Caroline Kisko, KC Spokesperson)

NAFA and the European Championships have a rule banning the use of the collars. They are far too open to mis-use and training through pain is surely not what our flyballing community is about, both in and out of the ring.

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:

Rachel Child (Alpha Dogz)

Dan Culley (Water Orton Wonderdogs)

Val Currie (Muskerhounds)

Ellen Schofield (Cambridgeshire Canines)

ONE Member has decided to retire and is not seeking re-election

Sam Bawden (Mad Mutts)

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

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers) Seeking re-election

Proposed by Rachel Child

Seconded By Kate Gilding

Tony Cain (Kaos) seeking re-election

Proposed by Brenda Holland

Seconded by Val Currie

Jo Crosswell (Ready 2 Fly) seeking re-election

Proposed by Tom Gilding

Seconded by Sharon Allcorn

Ray Lewis (Lightning Strikes) seeking re-election

Proposed by Joe Mitchell

Seconded by Judy Parker

Dave Long (Nuneaton Flyers) seeking election for the first time

Proposed by Stuart Harrison

Seconded by Denise Cierech

Presentations of Annual Awards for 2012

Flyball Open Team Of The Year

1st	Extreme Racers Ravensknowle Farm 15/07/2012	16.06	Hope Darcie Lou Flash
2nd	Live Wires British Championships 19/08/2012	16.31	Willow Jody Phar India

3rd	High Flyers	16.42	Moss
	BFA Championships		Floss
	19/08/2012		Tanner
			Millie

Multibreed Team Of The Year

The Extremists	16.82	Skye
Drax		Tristan
27/08/2012		Darcie
		Hope

Claire Gristwood Trophy

Teyla owned by Mandy Cain (6675 BFA Points)

Agm Junior Awards

Junior Handler Award (over 12)

1st Kerry Anderson Dundee Dynamutts
2nd Daisy Harrop Ready2Fly
3rd Ellena Novasio Wilmslow Wild Dogs
4th Abbi Reynolds Dobson

Junior Handler Award (under 12)

1st Jessica Short Commandos
2nd Owen Garrett Wilmslow Wild Dogs

Junior Boxloader Award (over 12)

1st Ellena Novasio Wilmslow Wild Dogs
2nd Luca Fiore Fenland Firestorm
3rd Daisy Harrop Ready2Fly
4th Abbi Reynolds Dobson

Junior Boxloader Award (under 12)

1st Jessica Short Commandos

Chairperson's closing speech.

Sharon Allcorn closed the 2013 BFA AGM with thanks to all who had attended, discussed and voted, wishing everyone well for the flyball year ahead.

SEARCH COMPLETE

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FILE FOUND 9034A – Dino Flintstone



BRITISH FLYBALL ASSOCIATION

WEBSITE WORKING PARTY





Membership

Fred and Wilma join the BFA and register Dino to race.

Pat adds the handlers and dogs to the BFA database and issues a membership card.

Dog Measuring

Dino gets measured at competitions and qualifies for his height card.

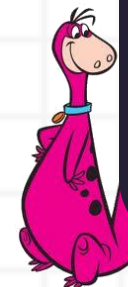
Donna adds his height to her records and issues a height card.

Racing

Dino races in a BFA sanctioned comp.

Judy adds the racing results to the BFA website.

Ron calculates the points and adds them to the database.



FLINTSTONE'S FLYBALL JOURNEY

Awards

Dino gains his Flyball Dog Award.

Kim downloads the awards list from the database and prints the certificate to send to the next comp
Dino's team attend

New Team

Fred and Wilma are enjoying flyball so much they decide to start their own team.

Pat registers the new team BEDROCK BOULDERS issuing a team certificate and TRN.

Changing Teams

Dino and team mates race in their new team for the first time.

Ron calculates the points and lets Pat know if any dogs have changed teams.

Pat will need to process a change of team for the dog also checking that they haven't raced illegally .

FLINTSTONE'S FLYBALL JOURNEY



Host a Tournament

Wilma applies to host their own comp while Fred loads the caravan.

Regional Rep shows Wilma how to complete the application form and send to **Judy** who adds the tournament to the BFA diary and contacts **Dave** to arrange for hire of lights



Bedrock Flyball Tournament

Wilma sends the tournament results from the post office.

Judy adds the results to the database. **Val** cashes the tournament cheque and updates the accounts. **Ron** receives all the paperwork to calculate the points, adding them to the database. **Kim** considers certificates and glass orders



Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again... Fred completes the Flintstone's renewal.

Pat processes their membership, and issues Pebbles a BFA number. Pat's assistant **Jane** updates the Flintstone's new address and preferred email on the database and updates the record to a family membership. **Ron** checks that all the racing dogs are part of paid up memberships.

FLINTSTONE'S FLYBALL JOURNEY



2013 Online Renewals



Design Database



Website
Ideas

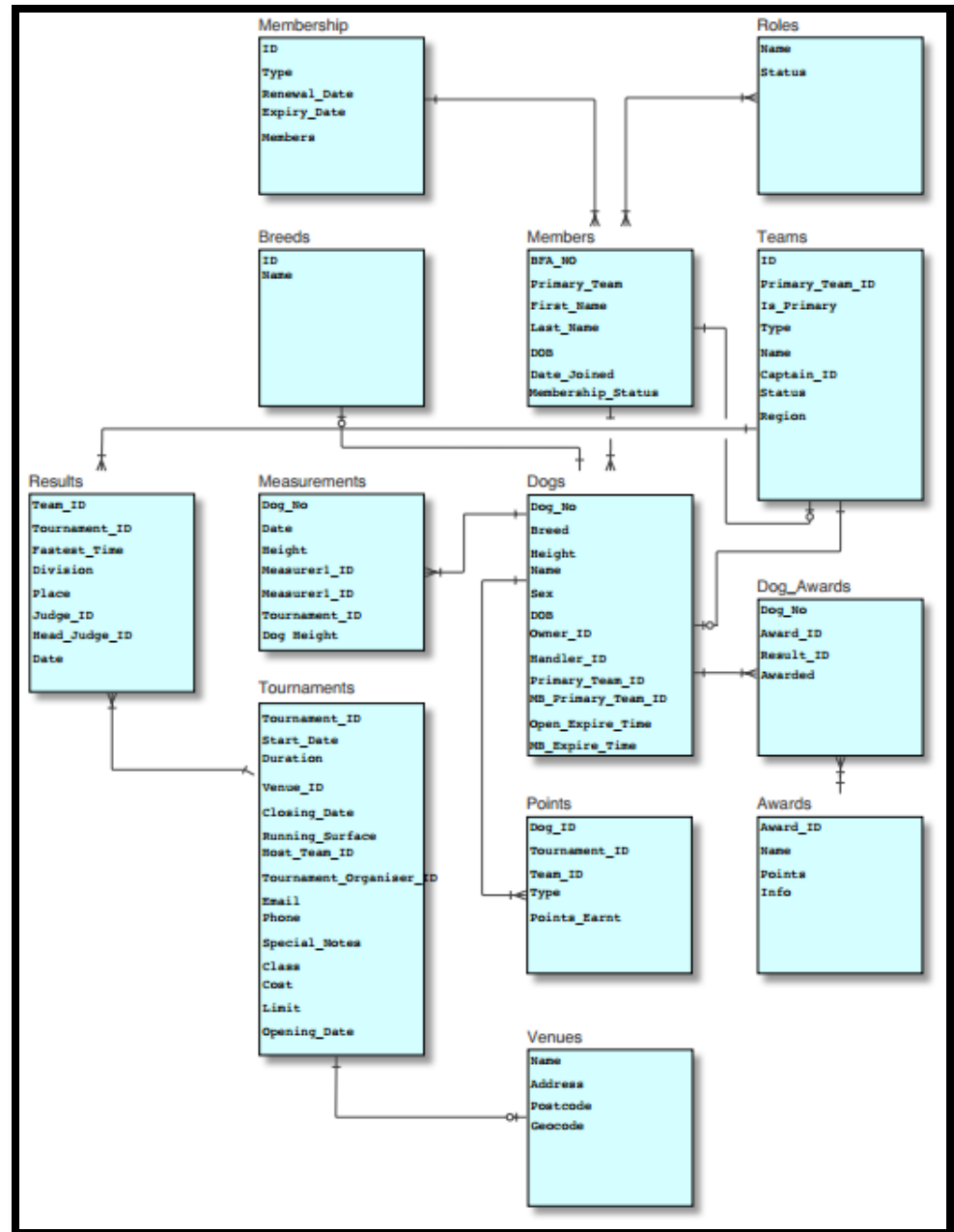
Capture current website functionality

WEBSITE WORKING PARTY



DATABASE

Entity Relationship Diagram





2013 Online Renewals



Design Database



Capture current website functionality



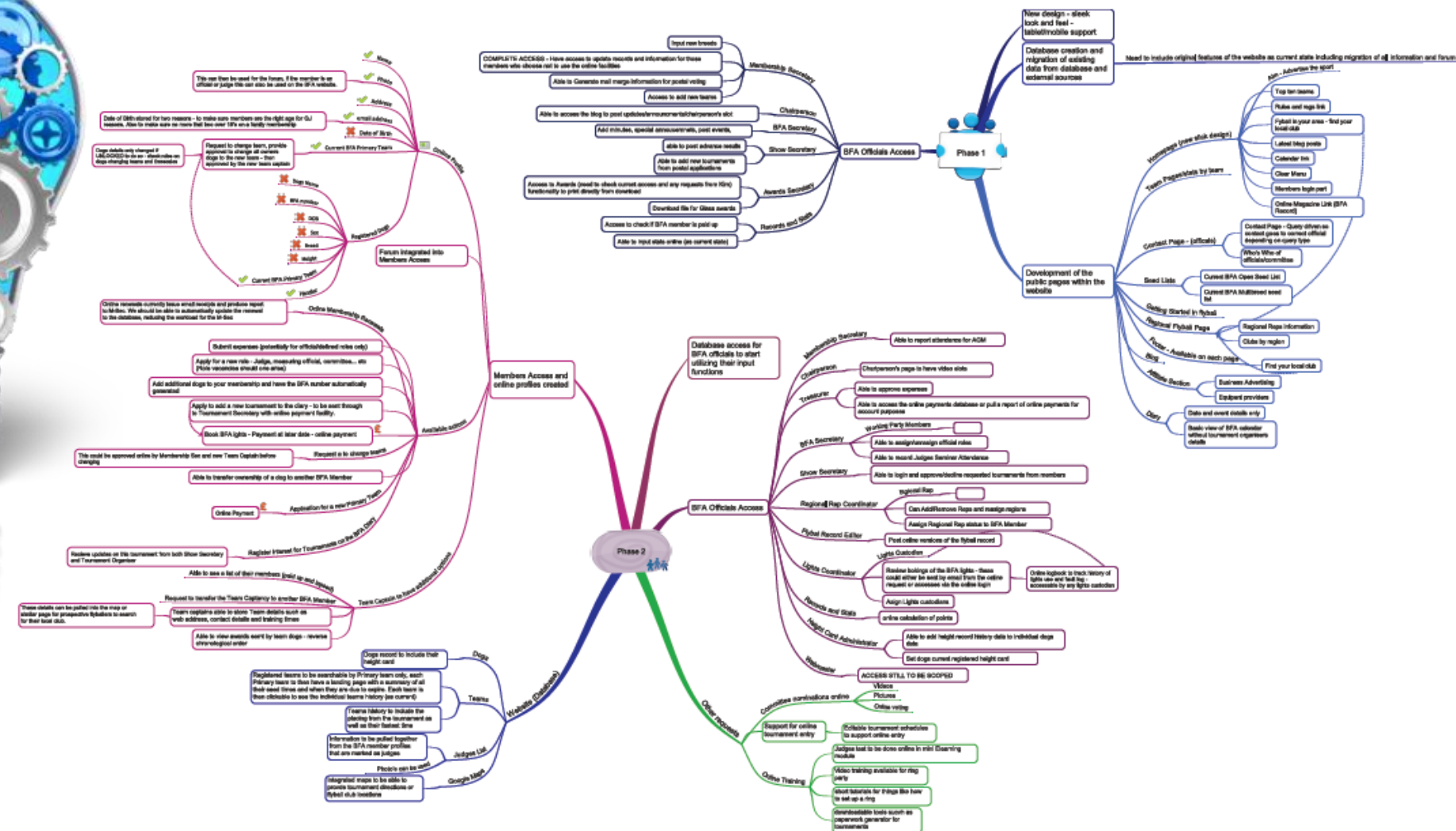
Scope new website functionality

WEBSITE WORKING PARTY



NEW WEBSITE FUNCTIONALITY

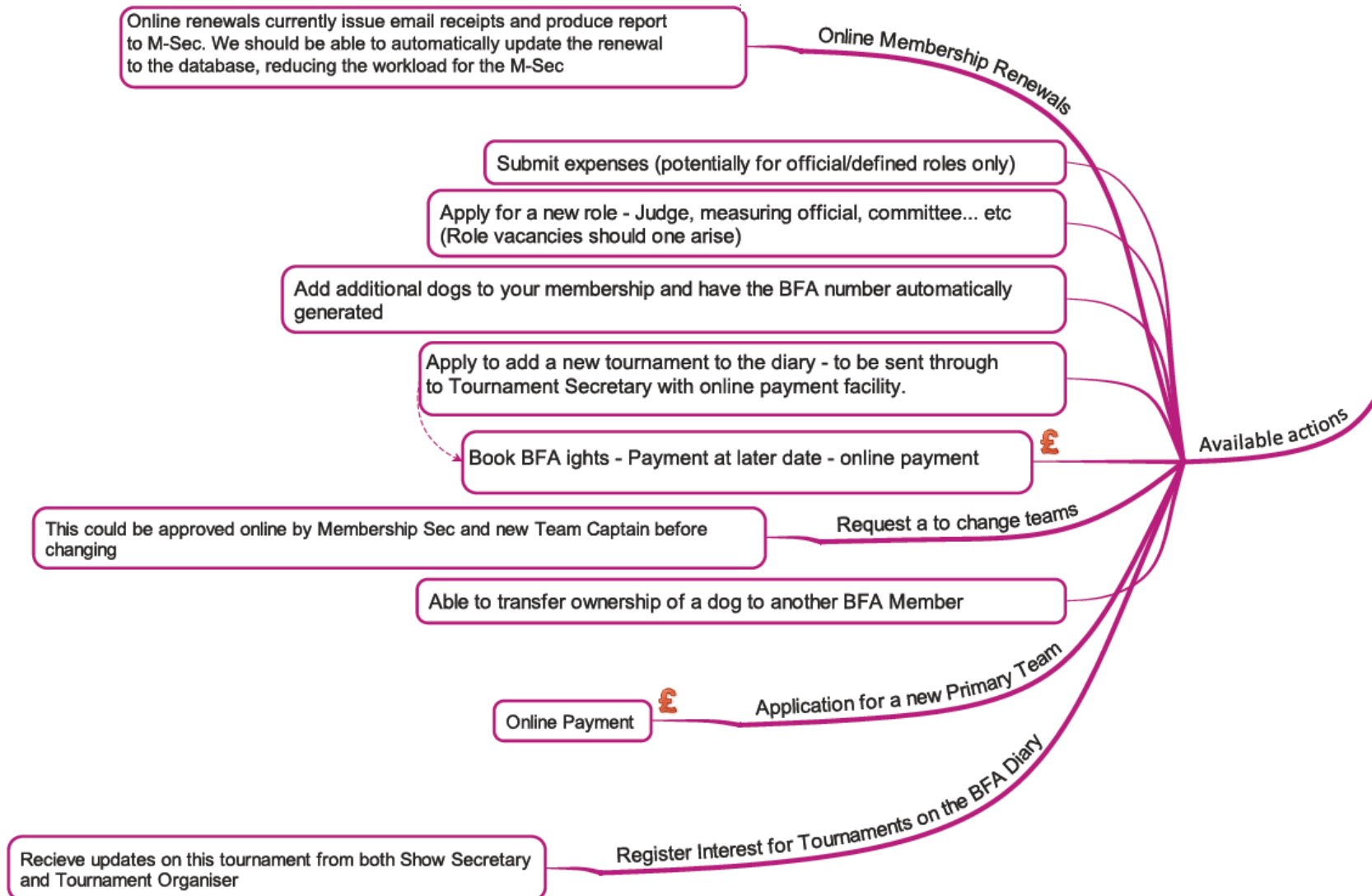
We scoped all the new functionality required ready to go out to tender.





NEW WEBSITE FUNCTIONALITY

An idea of some of the actions that we are hoping to make available on the new website





2013 Online Renewals



Design Database



**Develop
Phased
Approach**



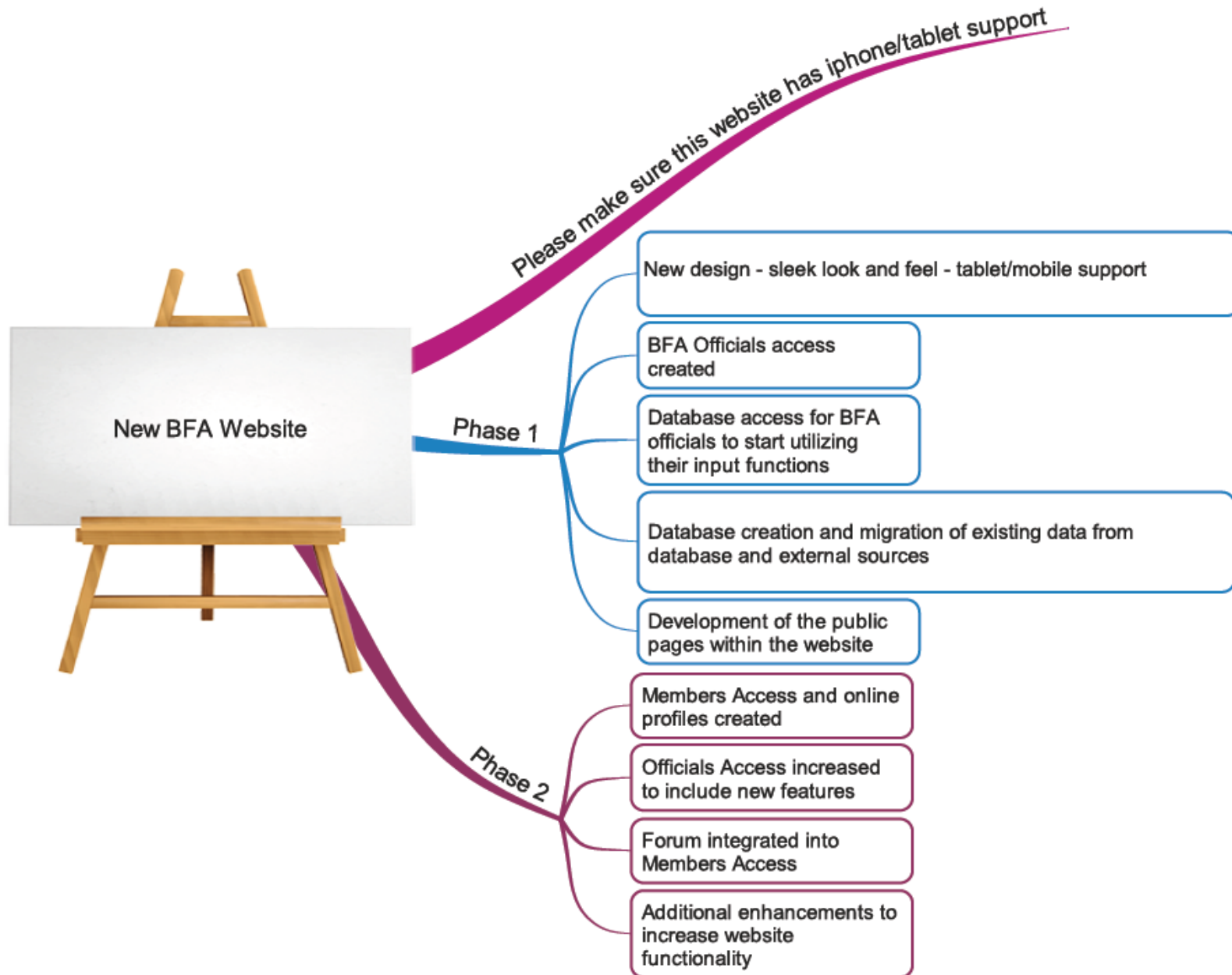
Scope new website functionality

Capture current website functionality

WEBSITE WORKING PARTY



PHASED APPROACH





2013 Online Renewals



Design Database



**Develop
Phased
Approach**



**Appoint the
company to
complete the
work**



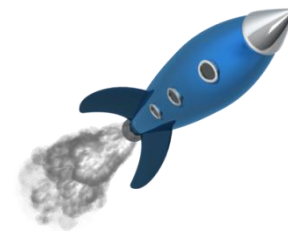
Capture current website functionality



Scope new website functionality



**Invitation to
Tender**



Launch new Website

WEBSITE WORKING PARTY



Website Working Party



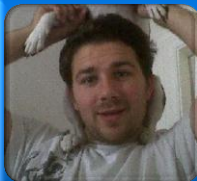
Ray Lewis



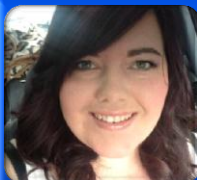
Ellen Schofeild



Steve Leek



Reece Marsland



Samantha Massey



British Flyball Association

BFA Regional Representative Summary 2013

Dan Culley – BFA Regional
Representative Co-ordinator

Early days

- Implemented from April 2012 following working party report presented at the AGM
- Appointed the co-ordinator 18th May 2012
- First advert for RR's to apply went out July 2012

British Flyball Association

Appointments

- Following the initial application process and on-going recruitment we now have the following area's served;
 - Scotland – Sarah and Jenni Wallace - (Lomond Raiders)
 - North England – Leanne Hyde – (Karma)
 - North and East Yorkshire – Rachel Short – (Commandoes)
 - West Yorkshire – Katie Ford – (Leeds Owlers)
 - Humberside and South Yorkshire – Ryan Mills – (Extreme Racers)
 - Lancashire – Gail Baker – (Rotherham Rockets)
 - Severn – Katie Burns – (Carry On's)
 - East Anglia – Kristian Allcorn – (High Flyers)
 - South East – Joe Mitchell – (Tails We Win)
 - South – Karen Marks – (Delta)

British Flyball Association

Vacancies

- We still need the following areas to be covered;

- East Midlands
- Midlands
- Wales
- West England/South West

WE NEED YOU



British Flyball Association

What we have done so far

- 2 skype calls
- All team captains from appointed regions have been e-mailed
- Ring Party/Judging survey completed (Extreme Winter Comp)

British Flyball Association

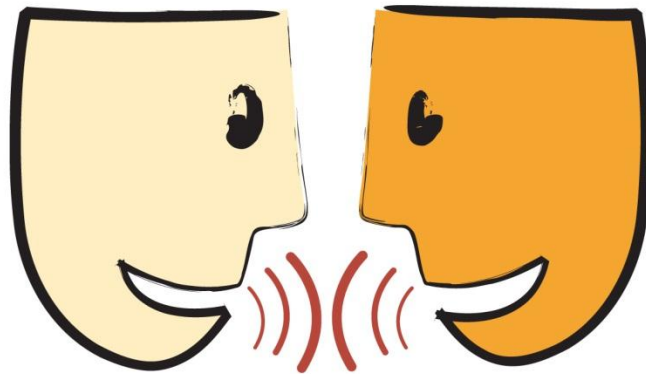
2013 onwards

- Regional Ring Party Training Days
- Box testing days
- More surveys to improve experiences all round.
- New team and hosting help
- Team profiles
- More active part on the website

British Flyball Association

Key to Success

- Communication/support from the membership to the RR



Association



Questions?

British Flyball Association