



British Flyball Association
Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
Saturday 6th April 2019
Lode Heath School, Lode Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2HW.

1. Chairperson's opening speech

Sharon Allcorn welcomed everyone present to the 2019 AGM, thanking them for their attendance and encouraging discussion around rule proposals.

2. Apologies

Received in advance from Sarah Wallace, Leanne Hyde, Howard Jones, Samantha Jones, Jacky Walker, Keith Marshall, Nicky James, Tony James, Shaun McDermott, Susan McDermott, Terry Condra

3. Minutes of last AGM – 21st April 2018 agreed by the attending membership and signed by the Chairperson

4. Concise reports for the year 2018/2019 by:

Chairperson – Sharon Allcorn

When I joined the committee, I never envisaged that here I would be, 10 years later, delivering my last speech as BFA chairperson at the AGM.

In a flyball analogy – it's been one hell of a tournament guys!

I arrived at my first BFA committee meeting - or keeping with the flyball tournament theme, committee training session –with lots of enthusiasm, a bit of an idea of what to expect and the hope that I could last my 2 year term having made a small contribution during that time. We met for many years at the Manor Hotel, in the Quartermasters room – everything crammed into one day session and we would all leave, full of coffee and free biscuits, tired but knowing we had managed nearly every item on the agenda.

My committee flyball team has changed over the years – I have lined up with 2 chairman (I've always preferred to be lead dog!) 2 treasurers (someone has to pay the tournament fees and balance the books) and 5 secretaries (that is like being the third dog in the team, the position that maintains the ground you've made and ensures the anchor dog behind has nothing to make up but a great opportunity to be

first through the gates!) Vice chairs have totalled 3 – 2 of which have been great, one started well.

I always wanted to grow and improve the standards within the BFA right from day 1. There were lots of areas that needed a little better “technique” if as an Association we were going to progress and build on the foundations that were already in place – we were, and still are, the second largest flyball organisation in the world – and I wanted that to continue, as have all of my fellow committee team mates over the years.

I’ve enjoyed some great committee training/meeting sessions, making changes and sharing our ideas and vision for BFA flyball – Rachel Child and I once returned from a coffee break to find that we were no longer sitting next to each other as the result of a previous 20 minute fit of the giggles!! We didn’t all agree, we didn’t all have the same agendas at times but through communication and respect, we made some ground breaking changes and decisions.

We have introduced the Judges Board, veterinary advisor, online voting, online membership renewal, rules working party, Accessibility Officer, our EJS have changed and measuring system too. The constitution protects our Association all for the benefit of the Association as a whole – and that’s what I ask you all to keep at the forefront of your mind when you vote today, it’s not about us as individuals, our teams or our dogs, it’s the association now and moving forward, the legacy we leave for those yet to join and those who have only just joined. Not every proposal will be favourable to us as individuals but think about this as what is best for the majority. Just like you do when choosing team line ups –what’s the best for your club as a whole.

As lead dog, back to our committee team, I have a certain racing style, I think it’s fair to say – I once described myself as being “subtly angry” which was met with an astounded silence, I also said that I wasn’t stubborn just determined.....

However, my commitment and decision making has always been for the Association – not always the best for me or my team. You may hear different about me – all I can do is assure you of this and I know that those who have worked alongside me would agree (note I say worked alongside me!) I’ve travelled and competed in other countries – always looking at what they are doing, what is working and if any of this could be tweaked and bought in to improve our association and flyball racing experience. Rachel and I (aka Thelma and Louise) travelled to US and went to CanAm, bringing back ideas which we shared with everyone – this was supposed to be a holiday but we used every opportunity to meet with NAFA board members, learn about training techniques and how CanAm is organised – we learned lots and shared lots. This trip was paid for from our own banks accounts but we were happy to bring these new ideas back for the benefit of the BFA.

There are times that tough decisions have to be made – these are always made for the right reason and for the Association as a whole. If we want our Association to progress and move forward, we must support those that are in the position to make such decisions. As a membership, your support for the committee is important – going back to our flyball race analogy, be the supporters who stand on the side line and applaud the wins, critique the losses and celebrate the really great achievements that really take our Association forward. If you think that you want to be more than a sideline supporter – then maybe becoming a BFA official or committee member is something to consider. I have learned lots from others and also lots about myself as a person – I have enjoyed 90% of my time on the committee – pretty high percentage over 10 years. The other 10% - learned from it and moved on. The BFA is the largest flyball organisation in Europe and we have to continue to build on what we have achieved, be proud of who we are and where we are going. I'm confident that the existing and new committee members will continue to line up together and lead the Association demonstrating sportsmanship, friendship and fairness.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the past 10 years, it's been very much appreciated. See you all soon on the circuit.

Secretary – Rachel Short

The BFA has had another busy year, with many tournaments hosted and history made. First of all a massive thank you to all BFA Officials from the committee, and on behalf of the membership, for all the hard work you do, without you all the association would not function as effectively as it does.

2018 saw 5 BFA members elected onto the committee. Myself, Jenni Wallace and Will Whiteley were elected following being co-opted the previous October and were joined by Craig Burrows and Justin Shearing.

Our hard-working **Membership Secretary**, Pat Wadby, has decided to hand over the reins. Pat has been Membership Secretary for 8 years and has dedicated countless hours to help each and every member. She gets hundreds of queries and deals with everything from new members requests, address changes, team changes, team registration, renewal queries,and the list goes on, as well as attending each AGM to ensure you all sign in. A simple thank you is not enough for the amount of work she has done for the association, all voluntarily. Today is Pat's final day of work in her official capacity as Membership Secretary as he has started to hand over the workload to Jane James and so all your queries will now be handled by Jane. The email address will remain the same. We thank Pat for all her hard work and wish Jane all the luck in the world at taking on this role.

The **Judges Board** have been joined by Jenny Cousins and Tony James to work with Alicia, Alison, Jason, Chris & Andy continually looking to improve judging standards and holding several judging seminars to encourage interaction and involvement of

BFA Judges and also inviting Provisional Judges for the first time. We are currently advertising for new Judges Board members so if you would like any further information about joining the team then please speak to one of them today or email for further information.

Height Co-ordinator – Kate Sermon has done a fantastic job this year, not least co-ordinating and organising the supply of height cards to all members with a registered height dog following the rule changes last year.

Stats Officer – Emma Foxtan (and the Tiger Team which was put together to help her at the height of summer 2018) are doing a great job at keeping us up to date with results and points. She is certainly noticing much fewer errors on the C2s.

Awards Officer – Jeff Hughes for co-ordinating the certificates and awards in a timely manner throughout the year so we can celebrate our dog's achievements.

Regional representatives have been joined by Jackie Bradburn, Adele Carey, Lucy Machell-Webb & Helen Seddon. Big shout out to the reps for their continued work across the country including supporting teams and organising ring party training. We are saying a big thank you to Ryan Mills, Leanne Hyde and Rachel Brown who have all decided to hang up their RR hats after committing their own time and knowledge for many years. We are now looking for some new members of the team so if you are interested then please either chat to one of the reps today or email Jenni Wallace for more information.

Vicky Fraser continues to support the BFA committee in her role as **Veterinary advisor**.

Dave Long continues to co-ordinate the booking of **lights** to ensure each tournament is supplied with a set of lights for sanctioned racing.

Kerena Marchant, who continues to do an amazing job, ensuring **accessibility** options are considered and made available for our members.

Webmaster – Ali Kirk ensuring that we are providing a website fit for purpose. Hats off to the clever I.T. people. With a new feature of Team Captain login to check membership status for their own team members.

Lisa Ashwood, who worked with us as **media officer** on all our promotional tasks and then Kay Dinsdale who did an amazing job in the run up to the 2018 Championships, have now left their roles and our new media team has taken on the promotional and marketing activity for the association.

Show Secretary – Maria Casley for keeping on top of requests and applications from Tournament Organisers.

Also, a huge thank you to all the Head Judges, Judges, Measuring Officials and Tournament Organisers, without whom we would not be able to enjoy this fabulous sport with our human and canine friends.

Our current membership stands at just under 2500 members.

3 BFA members have been suspended for varying lengths of time.

June saw the first BFA team go sub 15 seconds when Aces hit 14.93 at Halefield Stud, setting a new BFA record.

British Flyball Champs 2018 saw the committee host 2 Championships over 9 days starting with the Indoor Champs at Newark then moving to Catton Hall for the Outdoor event.

Indoor: raced during the summer holidays for the first time with Aces being crowned Division 1 Champions with a time of 15.06

Outdoor: saw Back n Forth crowned Division 1 Champions with a time of 15.75, the first Scottish team to win a BFA Outdoor Championships.

Since last year's AGM we have had weekly/fortnightly Skype meetings, held 4 Face to Face meetings and formed a Media Team which has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of our association.

2019 will see some changes with some new Regional Events being organised by the BFA Committee, with the first one being at Mona Showground, Anglesey and we are looking at other venues for further events. We will also see the BFA Championships at different venues this year so exciting times ahead.

As a committee we are working as hard as ever so please bear with us if we take a little longer than anticipated to answer your emails. One word to describe being part of this committeesupercalifragilisticexpialidocious 😊

Treasurer – Katie Burns

I will try to keep this as brief as I can as I'm used to people turning off when I start talking about databases and spreadsheets.

I took over as treasurer following the AGM last year and many thanks to Val for undertaking the job prior to me and for helping ensure a smooth handover, which is never easy when you are working with an insomniac and I normally start work as Val was ready for bed!

There is a summary chart which has been prepared by Alison the accountant and I will quickly run through the content. It is worth noting that all the figures are excluding VAT.

Membership – the figure on the chart is slightly misleading as due to bringing forward the renewal date for 2019 it actually includes two lots of renewal figures.

To clarify the full figure for 2018 was: £37,783.90

The current total for 2019 stands at £31,333.03 there are a number of members that are still renewing and paying the additional late fee as well as new members joining.

Tournament registration and Racing fees – on the accountant report the lights have mostly been added into the tournament fees.

The racing fees total was reduced in 2018 as a number of comps were removed from the diary in the early part of the year. However a number of teams have now decided to become TOs because of this and there are more comps scheduled for 2019, with over 100 in the diary.

Lights – there has been an increase in the income from lights during 2018. Expenditure on the lights was fairly small with some repairs and parts required.

Champs – The income from the champs has remained fairly static whilst the costs continue to increase. This has led to a review of the champs costs and is one of the reasons why moving the outdoor champs to a new venue was seen as prudent. One of the major costs of the outdoor champs at Catton has always been requiring a large marquee and by having buildings included within the hire this negates the need for this.

Racing and camping fees have remained the same for the last few years and it is likely that these will need to increase in line with the overall increase in costs of hosting the championships.

Association expenses - has increased this is due to a number of purchases and general expenditure. Under this heading you have ERS voting, storage containers for equipment, BFA video, tuff spun, livestream equipment and merchandise.

Committee expenses - has also increased but this is due to additional face to face meetings as there was 5 weekend meetings held in 2018 (January, 2 in April, July, September and November). As Rachel has mentioned the vast majority of meetings are due via Skype and I think we all hate the sound of skype calling these days.

Awards – the cost of awards have increased and this will partly be down to the change in points at last years AGM and dogs achieving awards slightly quicker. A review of awards is being undertaken and we have already changed certificate supplier.

Going forward with VAT we are now part of the making tax digital scheme (started 1st April) and need to use accountancy software in order to submit VAT returns. This has complicated the process and has been a steep learning curve but hopefully we are ready to submit the first quarter of 2019 via this route.

The British Flyball Association

Income & Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
Subscriptions/Team Reg	65,892.54	31,248.76
Racing regs/Tournament fees	13,035.17	12,740.35
Championships outdoor	39,497.81	38,646.87
Championships Indoor	9,242.83	10,175.80
Interested	0.80	
Extra Ordinary Meeting	83.33	90.00
Lights	416.67	1,734.09
Complaints		166.68
Total Income	128,169.15	94,802.55
Postage/ Stationary/Phone	357.12	302.30
Association Expenses	19,997.19	5,917.99
Committee Expenses	6,587.92	4,859.65
Website costs	3,869.79	4,072.50
Awards	11,804.43	10,850.89
Lights Expenses	1,049.09	828.57
Championships outdoor	63,237.23	41,839.37
Championships Indoor	17,845.77	16,273.67
Seminars	2,783.03	3,737.54
Extrordinary General Meeting	843.50	2,393.32
Equipment Retrieval		191.00
Insurance	409.73	367.73
Bank Chgs & Paypal Chgs	3,077.25	1,204.27
Total Expenditure	131,862.05	92,838.80
Suplus/Deficit	- 3,692.90	1,963.75
Opening balance current account	61,805.84	
Opening balance VAT account	1,718.18	63,524.02
Surplus/Deficit	-	3,692.90
VAT Owing		3,659.02
		63,490.14
Closing balance current account	62,899.09	
Closing balance VAT account	500.08	
Paypal	90.97	
	63,490.14	

The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account have been prepared from the books and records of The British Flyball Association and I certify them to be in accordance therewith.



AM Gerrard PMAAT FFA/FIPA

Dated: 5th April 2019

AM Gerrard Ltd

Firwood Farm

Samlesbury

Preston PR5 0RE

5. Rule Proposals

Discussion Summary

All proposals are listed in rule number order.

Please note that **FOUR** proposals were amended during the course of the AGM, these are highlighted in **yellow**. One proposal was withdrawn and this has resulted in re-numbering of subsequent proposals.

Constitution

Proposal 1

5.1 b and associated re-numbering – Submitted by the BFA Committee

5. Committee Members and other positions

5.1 Each Committee Member must:

a. be elected onto the Committee by a first-past-the-post postal and/or secure electronic vote by BFA members (i.e. the person who has received the most votes after one round of voting is elected) unless an election is not necessary as the number of those seeking election onto the Committee does not exceed the number of vacant posts on the Committee. In the event of a tie for the final Committee Member vacancy, a further vote will be conducted at the AGM and will only be voted upon by BFA members in attendance. In the event that this vote is a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

b. **REMOVE: be an active member of a BFA registered team who regularly competes in BFA-sanctioned competitions; ADD: have been an active member of a BFA registered team and regularly competed at BFA sanctioned tournaments for a minimum of 3 years preceding their election to the Committee and have attended at least one Annual General Meeting in that period;**

REMOVE: c. have been a member of the BFA for a minimum of three years preceding their election onto the Committee and have attended at least one Annual General Meeting in that period;

REMOVE: d. ADD: c. not have been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under BFA rules for a minimum of five years preceding their election; REMOVE:and

REMOVE: e. ADD: d. be independent of every other Committee Member, when considered reasonably, and so must not be:

- related by way of being their child or step-child, parent or step-parent, uncle/aunt or cousin to another Committee Member;
- the spouse, civil partner, partner or long-term girl/boyfriend of another Committee Member; and/or
- a member the same BFA registered club and/or team of another Committee Member.

REMOVE: f. ADD: e. if they wish to remain a Committee Member, be re-elected to the Committee at least every 36 months or, at the discretion of the Committee, sooner.

Explanation: At the moment the rules imply you only need to be active at the time of nominations to be eligible. Combining the clauses that already exist in sub-para b and c it means that not only do people have to have been a member for 3 years they have to

demonstrably have been active in BFA flyball over a period of 3 years. People do not have to compete or attend shows to be a BFA member, so membership on its own is meaningless in terms of that individual's understanding of how BFA Flyball works. BFA Rules change on an annual basis and anyone standing for the Committee should be able to demonstrate that they have a good depth of experience in BFA flyball racing, and at the moment that isn't a requirement. This is a tightening up of what the Rules meant to say rather than a change.

No comments from the attending membership

Proposal 2

Rule 5.3 Submitted by the BFA Committee

5.3 The Committee will appoint, either from its Officers or the BFA membership, the following who will report to the Committee as and when required and whose appointment the Committee can terminate, with due cause:

- Records and Statistics Coordinator
- Webmaster
- Membership Secretary
- Regional Representative Coordinator and Regional Representatives
- Tournament Secretary
- Media ~~REMOVE: and Communications Secretary~~ ~~ADD: Team~~
- Lights Coordinator
- Judges Board
- Awards Secretary
- Height Card Administrator
- Veterinary Advisor
- Accessibility Advisor

Explanation: To amend role titles in line with the way they are known to the membership (the relevant appendix will be updated accordingly)

No comments from the attending membership

Proposal 3

Rule 8.3 Submitted by the BFA Committee

8.3 An Adult Member may place an item of business on the agenda including any proposed rule

change for a forthcoming Annual General Meeting by submitting the same in writing to the Secretary and the Secretary receiving the same not less than 30 days before the Annual General Meeting. ~~REMOVE: Any person who has proposed a rule change should, if they are able, attend the Annual General Meeting in order to comment on any suggested amendment(s) to the proposed rule change. If they are unable to attend and the majority~~

of attendees entitled to vote on the rule change suggest an amendment to the proposed rule change, the proposed rule change will not be put to a vote and will not be implemented. ADD: Any person who has proposed a rule change should, if they are able, attend the Annual General Meeting in order to clarify the proposed rule change and/or comment on any suggested amendment(s). If the proposer is unable to attend an additional proposer is to be nominated to present the proposal on their behalf. In the absence of any proposer at the Annual General Meeting the proposed rule change will not be put to a vote and will not be implemented. Any AGM agenda items proposed which the BFA Committee consider to fundamentally change the current BFA flyball rules will be subject to a full impact assessment and may be referred for advice to the BFA Veterinary Advisor prior to implementation.

Explanation: This is a tightening up of AGM procedures and rule changes so that time isn't unnecessarily wasted on random proposals that add no value and not wasted debating sensible changes which can't then be implemented because the proposer isn't there; this would ensure that sensible amendments could actually be made, and a meaningful vote taken. If someone has a genuine proposal but can't make the AGM, if it is sensible then they wouldn't have any problem getting someone else to present it for them; indeed if the Committee felt it was a good idea they could actually propose it themselves on behalf of someone who couldn't attend, so this wouldn't ever prevent any good ideas being taken forward, it would stop some bad ones being put forward and eliminate time spent debating something that the rules will not allow us to do anything about.

No comments from the attending membership

A1 Sanctioned Tournaments

Proposal 4 – WITHDRAWN (all subsequent proposals renumbered in line with voting structure)

Starters – submitted by the BFA Committee and Ali Kirk BFA Number 6346

New rules and section (and subsequent renumbering)

ADD: 1.5 A Sanctioned Tournament shall include all types of competitive racing occurring at the same time and at the same venue as sanctioned open and multibreed competitions i.e. all types of development racing such as (singles, pairs) intermediates and starters.

ADD: 1.6 Starters, Intermediates and fun events that take place on the same day and/or the same venue as Sanctioned Tournaments are to comply with the same rules of racing as set out for a Sanctioned Tournament, with the exceptions as enumerated in Section A4.

Subsequent re-numbering of existing 1.5 to 1.11 to 1.7 to 1.13 respectively

ADD: A.4. - Starters and Intermediates

1. The BFA Rules of Flyball Racing shall apply to starters and intermediates except: -

1.1 Handlers and dogs competing in starters or intermediates do not have to be full members of the BFA but should be pre-registered.

1.2 In Starters:

- a. A younger minimum age requirement for dogs of 12 months old at the date of the competition
- b. Jump heights are to be set at the Tournament organisers discretion, provided no dog is made to jump more than what could reasonably be expected to be their own height.
- c. Training aids are permitted
- d. Both the lane and the run back area shall be fully netted down the 'centre line' of the ring, with additional netting or 'wings' permitted on/between the jumps.
- e. No box judge is required. The Dog must collect a ball or item from the box area, but this does not have to require the use or triggering of a flyball box.
- f. Teams may comprise of dogs from different Primary Teams.

1.3 In Intermediates:

- a. A younger minimum age requirement for dogs of 12 months old at the date of the competition
- b. Jump heights are to be set at the discretion of each Team, provided no dog is made to jump more than what could reasonably be expected to be their own height.
- c. Training aids are permitted
- d. Wings either side of jumps are permitted, but the racing lane, the 'centre line' of the ring, and the run back area are to remain un-netted. **Amendment suggested at the AGM "Wings either side of jumps are permitted, but the racing lane forward of the start line shall remain un-netted"**
- e. No box judge is required. The Dog must collect a ball from the box area, but this does not have to require the use or triggering of a flyball box.
- f. Teams may comprise of dogs from different Primary Teams.

REMOVE: Appendix 8

Explanation: For some time it has been an unnecessarily grey area to have starters racing occurring in the same venue and rings as sanctioned racing, but that in theory falls outside much of the jurisdiction of the BFA. By including these new classes and clearly stating what is and isn't allowed, we can remove the grey area that has always existed around starters and improve the pathway to open racing for green dogs as their training progresses.

Pre-registration - (no charge but their details are on file and they are required to agree to abide by the rules).

Well defined differences between starters and inters.

Comments from the attending membership:

AK explained about netting for intermediates indoors becomes difficult with staggered format.

DL – Stand alone starter comps not included in rules. Lights prioritised for sanctioned comps so what happens when all starter comps are sanctioned? We have a limited number of sets of lights.

AS – why in starters full centre line netting between racing lanes as we net the lanes and do not provide centre netting. AK replied that the centre netting is to prevent interference.

MH – children judging starters – agree not ideal. For many people

RL – comments about eligibility for starters of intermediates only mentions dogs age.

Nothing about when dogs have achieved FD or FDI etc. AK responded that this was deliberate as starters is about getting dog ready for open competition, didn't want the barrier of points thresholds and occasionally dogs achieve an award and should be down to individual.

WW – suggested due to all the queries and proposed amendments it would be beneficial to form a working party and have robust rules

JH – there are 3 junior members judging starters at Epworth and will only get their points if they have a QJ with them.

SR – intermediates – concerns about no centre netting in intermediates

DW – if no centre netting for intermediates then this should be stated on BFA website and people can decide whether to entre.

AW – concerns there are too many changes and there have been many disagreeing about centre netting being needed for intermediates between lanes for safety reasons.

WW – committee have discussed the thoughts and feelings of those present and are preferring to organise

EF – if pre-registered who is monitoring this?

DF – at the moment starters often in second ring and does not have to meet criteria for size etc whereas if this is passed then this criteria must be met. AK replied that starters should be as close as possible to normal racing.

WW – does AK want to take it forward as the committee do not want to take this forward. AK wants to hear from Barracloughs as they have children

EB – feel we need to encourage our children more. Adults are not permitted to judge without having completed ring party etc and would vote against

JW – all members should be full members including starters then all rules apply.

Whilst there was general agreement that Starters and Intermediates could be organised better when conducted at other BFA Sanctioned shows, it was felt that there were a lot of issues that still needed to be resolved such as netting, judging, lights and rules of racing before anything formal is put in place. **Agreement from those attending the AGM that this proposal is withdrawn and a working party appointed.**

Proposal 4

Rule A1 4.3 submitted by the BFA Committee

A1.4.3 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, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when the seed times shall be taken on the 21st 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, MUST be submitted by the Team Captain at least 14 days prior to the Tournament, with the exception of a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championship) when no declared times shall be accepted. If a declared time is not submitted then the last available recorded time will be used (even if this is over 4 months old), if there are no previous times recorded for a team then a time of 22.00 seconds will be used as a declared time. A declared time may be submitted - it must be at least ½ second faster or ½ second slower than the teams seeded time and will be subject to the Team break-out rule. Teams not on the seed list must submit a time and will be subject to the team break-out rule. [ADD: The BFA Committee may organise other sanctioned events throughout the year that will follow the process for a standard Tournament and not a Championships.](#)

Explanation: The Committee are organising Regional events and there is no stipulation that all teams must have a valid seed time.

No comments from the attending membership

Proposal 5

Rule A1.4.13 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

4.13 Only BFA Registered Teams with a valid seed time can compete at a BFA Committee organised Sanctioned Tournament (e.g. Championships). There shall be no declared times permitted at a Championship. [ADD: Teams from other countries invited by the BFA Committee will be sanctioned to submit a declared time.](#)

Explanation: This is to allow the BFA to invite teams from abroad to compete.

Comments from the attending membership:

MH – all for inviting foreign teams to compete but not to a British Champs.

JS responded that many Championships invite teams to compete from other countries, they would not be able to become British Champions

MH – supports inviting them to other shows but not a British Championship

SB – agrees to inviting international teams, fantastic idea but when they applied for wild card as they had missed the qualification criteria they did not get in when other teams did, does not understand why some teams did get their wildcard approved.

JS responded

JW – questioning those who disagree what their disagreement is for ?trophyware.

We are about enhancing the competition

If inviting teams you would need to invite well in advance so how do you know if you will be oversubscribed?

AM – why not do invite only? Agility do invitationals for the best of the best so we could do a division or two of the best in the world.

DM – we have not made any decision about how this will be integrated into the Champs so not to have concerns as the membership will be kept informed.

JS – about the best in Europe etc being a showcase

How about a British Open as well as the Champs?

MB – agree with the idea of inviting but should be a separate division.

SA – confirm no concrete plans. There are several options – could enter Champs or Open divisions. About choice.

KS – understand concerns about oversubscription. Could it be amended so qualified teams are confirmed before inviting other teams

MW - ?postpone bringing it in until we know how it would work

KB – said this was about invited teams being able to declare a time as currently in the rules it is not permitted

DW – suggests let the invited teams race in our divisions, if they win the div they get a separate trophy and best British team gets another trophy

EM – likes idea of separate div

ZC – think it's a really good idea and would support the amendment. I trust the committee to have listened to the comments today and not go off and invite a load of team to the Champs

JS – explained that rule amendment would simply allow the committee to look at all the options people are suggesting. The rule needs to change before anything regarding the potential for international attendance at the BFA Champs can be done because at the moment they cannot compete at all if they don't have a BFA seed time. This rule allows the Committee to start looking at the possible options and scoping interest. This is to allow the potential for the BFA to host the best showcase of flyball in Europe which would in turn improve the potential for sponsorship deals and even TV coverage in the future, which would all have major benefits for the long term development and progression of the BFA.

Proposal 6

A1 4.9 & A1 4.10 – Submitted by the BFA Committee – Removal of single side timing sheets, Masters.

4.9 If the Records and Statistics Coordinator is present at the Tournament, the original Time Sheets (BFA Form C.2), and Tournament Results form (BFA Form C.6) should be handed to **REMOVE: him/her** **ADD: them** at the time. **ADD: If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.**

Otherwise, following the Tournament, the Organiser must post the original Time Sheets and Tournament Results form to the Records and Statistics Coordinator within 2 days to ensure that the latter is in receipt of the same within 7 days after the Tournament. Jump Height form(s) (BFA Form C.9) to be forwarded to the Height Card Co-ordinator via either post or email. Any protests and or reports should be forwarded to the BFA Secretary within 7 days.

REMOVE: 4.10 Times must be recorded on single side timing sheets showing times for both lanes (available from the Website through downloads, Master Sheets, 5 6 or 7 team master sheet) separate from the Time Sheets used to identify dogs running heat by heat. All relevant separate Sheets are to be attached to the appropriate Time Sheets prior to hand over or posting to the Records and Statistics Coordinator. If these documents are not handed over and prior to posting, photocopies should be taken whenever possible and retained by the Tournament Organiser. Advance Results should be emailed as soon as possible after the tournament ends so that the seed list can be updated.

Comments from the attending membership:

EF – I have mentioned already on facebook my feelings on this. ?for staggered racing have someone dedicated to doing master sheet.

KB – historically introduced due to no external timers and times shouted across.

CB – in staggered the master is completed from the C2. Feels it is a pointless exercise.

MH – Lights BFA use have the software to show times etc via a laptop as data so the info is there as back-up

AK – better to do one sheet well rather than 2 sheets badly.

JS – regarding the software MH mentioned, it is there but the information is just lists and lists and lists of info. Wouldn't take into account for errors (eg re-runs, false starts etc) Would need adapting to be useful

ZC – is there a possibility of a different format master sheet for staggered?

KB – if we remove the rule then TOs can still do if they want to

KS – we are assuming the master sheet is correct, but actually not sure which is correct.

Proposal 7

Rule A1 4.14 Submitted by Emily Murdoch BFA No 3699

4.14 To qualify for a Championship, Teams shall have raced three times outdoors for an outdoor championship and three times indoors for an indoor championship within the four months to the relevant tournament being released.

Add: - Teams must declare up to six dogs and their microchip numbers (which may be checked at any time) for each team they are qualifying. These dogs must have all run and contributed to the teams racing times over the four months qualifying period. Dogs may only be substituted if the team drops to five or less dogs, and under exceptional circumstances by written request to the committee. The reasons must be stated as to why the dog needs substituting. Such reasons include, but are not limited to, the dog and handler have left the club, the dog has become injured etc. Dogs removed from one team name must not race with any other qualifying team name within that club.

The committee will have a number of wild cards at their disposal, details of which will be published in the schedule.

Currently only the team name gains the seed time with no limitations to the dogs running within that team. Some teams have listed 12 dogs running under that team name since the January of that year. This makes it an unfair championship as any dog can run in that team name. After watching one division at the outdoor champs within the first three races five out of the six teams had recorded break out times, some had begun to manage their passes discreetly. Managing teams in this way makes a mockery of the championships which is supposed to be the culmination of a season's racing. Also running consistent line ups promotes the dog and handler confidence within the team, making the whole unit feel more like a real team. This rule addition creates a level playing field, and further assists the judges in preventing management of team times. Chip scanners can be added to the measuring kits for measurers to scan the dogs for confirmation if needed. Scanners are available for around £50 each.

Comments from the attending membership

SB – feel this will make smaller teams struggle more than solve the problems that it intends to address. It would be a nightmare to monitor. Dishonest teams will continue to be dishonest. Judges need to be implementing the rules. If I had an injury in my top team all lower teams would have to be amended and this would not allow for that. We already have rules to cover this, we need to enforce them

DW – we are a team of 9 dogs and will be running two teams both indoors and outdoors. If you have a small team then will struggle with this if green dogs in and needing to do loose changeovers for inexperience.

EM – Regarding changing dogs teams, put an exceptional circumstance in to request the changes. As a small team if we have to change dogs in teams then we use a different team name than the one entering the Champs and declare a time.

****Queries about whether all dogs had to run in the qualification period and EM suggested an amendment for clarity. “Dogs must be declared at start of the qualifying period and must run together throughout the qualifying period, thus all contributing to the seed times.”**

Question about what happens about this year as qualifier tomorrow.

DM – will not affect this year as qualifying periods have started before rules changed.-

Majority don't cheat.

SH – agree with what EM is saying but feel that those who want to cheat will still find ways to cheat.

AK – regarding microchip details these can be held on the database. Agree with reasoning but disagree with way it is being done.

CB – easiest way to fix is a team to be disqualified at a Champs, or any competition, for holding back.

MW – Perhaps we are looking at the wrong aspect and judges need to be enforcing rules

RL – if this was to be adopted this would require additional work for the committee, has it been considered just how much.

ZS – If a team has a fast dog it could run it in the beginning of the qualifying period and then stop running it to slow the seed time.

I changed teams and my dog needed time to settle before settling into whichever of the new team's secondary team it would race in

****REWORDED PROPOSAL**

4.14 To qualify for a Championship, Teams shall have raced three times outdoors for an outdoor championship and three times indoors for an indoor championship within the four months to the relevant tournament being released.

Add: - Teams must declare up to six dogs and their microchip numbers (which may be checked at any time) for each team they are qualifying. Dogs must be declared at start of the qualifying period and must run together throughout the qualifying period, thus all contributing to the seed times. Dogs may only be substituted if the team drops to five or less dogs, and under exceptional circumstances by written request to the committee. The reasons must be stated as to why the dog needs substituting. Such reasons include, but are not limited to, the dog and handler have left the club, the dog has become injured etc. Dogs removed from one team name must not race with any other qualifying team name within that club.

The committee will have a number of wild cards at their disposal, details of which will be published in the schedule.

**** this comment and amendment were omitted from the original AGM summary but were discussed at the AGM.**

Proposal 8

Rule A1 6.1 – Submitted by the BFA Committee

6. Tournament Layout

6.1 The minimum area required for two regulation lanes is approximately **REMOVE: 40'** **ADD: 30'** x 120' where the size of ground permits. Any lanes and runback not falling within this requirement must be stated on the Tournament Schedule and Diary page. There shall be two racing lanes set not less than 12' and not more than 20' apart from centre line to centre line. The length of the racing lane shall include an area not less than 29' leading up to the start/finish line and an area behind the Flyball box and in front of the backstops of 7' to a minimum of 5' where space is limited from the front edge of the Flyball box.

Explanation:

The reason for this is for animal safety, when running indoors at the minute, most tournament organisers run with 12ft centres and can only really cover 21ft of concrete or sports hall floor. Therefore, there is 19ft of ring that can't be covered but if it was 30ft wide there would only be 9ft which is 4.5ft both sides which is better than 9.5ft both sides

Comments from the attending membership:

RL – suggests that 30' minimum for indoor and 40' minimum for outdoor

CB – reiterated that it is a minimum.

JS – already some segregation between indoor and outdoor – one set of rules, one BFA

CB – the rule would apply to both indoor and outdoor, but it is a minimum and TOs could go larger where space allows.

Proposal 9

New Rule A.1 7.5 Submitted by Penny Charlton BFA No 0338

ADD: 7.5 The maximum height for any Judges score stand to be set at 4ft . This can be of any design but not exceeding 4ft in height.

Explanation: As a head judge of many years I am struggling at times to see the full racing lanes due to the height of some stands whilst judging. I am surely not the only 5ft judge and this has become a problem for me over recent years as some stands have seemed to have grown in height. I sometimes have to put the stand behind me so I can see clearly the lanes but that then causes me a problem if I need to check a false start or the score.

No comments from the attending membership

A2 Rules for Competition

Proposal 10

Rule A2.2 Submitted by The BFA Committee

A.2. Rules for Competition

2. Membership

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multi-breed competitions.

Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

ADD: Temporary membership may be offered to guests, by invitation of the BFA Committee.

Explanation: This will allow judges and teams invited from abroad to compete at BFA events.

Comments from the attending membership:

EB – do they have entitlement to vote

RS responded “NO”

EM – could it include such as photographers etc

JS – can non-members be invited by other teams or just committee.

RS – wording amendment agreed “Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee”

REWORDED PROPOSAL

A.2. Rules for Competition

2. Membership

Only BFA Members are allowed in the ring during the racing of open and multi-breed competitions.

Alcohol is not permitted in the flyball ring during competitions. Smoking of tobacco products (including electronic/vaping type cigarettes) is not permitted within 15 feet of the flyball ring during competitions.

ADD: Temporary membership may be offered to guests, following approval by the BFA Committee.

Proposal 11

Rule 5.8 Submitted by BFA Committee

5. Teams

5.8 In multi-breed only competitions, teams must consist of all different breeds recognised by ADD: recognised by the BFA. REMOVE: any club or studbook, or one dog of mixed breed parents. Border Collies and Working Sheepdogs will be regarded as the same breed. Jack Russell's will be taken to be a breed, as will each of the 4 groups making up Belgium Shepherd dogs. Any deviation from this will make the class a 'fun class'. Any new or unusual breed not recognised by the Kennel Club must have documentation to prove this breed and this must be sent to the membership secretary at the time of registration. ADD: Any new breed requests should be sent to the Membership secretary for approval along with any documentation.

Explanation: To bring the rule in line with the breed list changes.

No comments from the attending membership

Proposal 12

Rule A2 5.9 Submitted by The BFA Committee

5.9 In addition to the handlers/holders and the box-loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by team members to pick up loose balls, set up knocked down jumps, collect times, record changeovers and any other relevant jobs to the team, provided doing so does not interfere with the Judges, or the opposing team. Members of the team who do not have a job may be asked to leave the ring by the Judge. ADD: A racing team may be assisted by up to five additional Members. Teams that required more than five assistants must gain approval from the Head Judge prior to racing. Members may be asked to leave the ring by the Divisional or Head Judge if causing a distraction or in any way impeding racing."

Explanation: To limit the number of people in the ring that can be a safety issue or intimidate the opposition.

DF – asked for clarification on additional members

JW – additional 5 to the handlers and boxloader.

DL – original rule says 6 handlers, boxloader and captain, is this 5 in addition

RL – what if you need more people?

KB – You ask the HJ

RL – there may be inconsistencies between decision of HJs
KB – if concerns then needs flagging to Judges Board
KBI – I can't think of more than 4 reasons for others to be in the ring. As a younger handler I feel intimidated by lots of people in the ring
AK – what reasons for extra people
CB – if my daughter is running a dog I would need to be with her and if already 5 I would ask HJ

A3 Rules of Racing

Proposal 13

Rule A3 2.2 – Submitted by Vicky Fraser BFA No 6931

2.ADD:1 The Judge - After the warm up period and 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 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 time wasting. Should this offence be repeated, with the other team ready to race, the Judge will signal his/her intent and start the heat.

ADD: 2.2 If during the warm up period or during the course of racing a dog is involved in a crash or collision the divisional judge must complete an incident form (to including the name & registered number of dog(s) involved, any witnesses, description of the accident & whether the dog continues to race or received any treatment (if known). This form will be forwarded onto the BFA Veterinary Adviser within 7 days of the conclusion of the show.

Explanation: To have a record of crashes/collisions to find out how frequently they occur & what the cause is (handler error, equipment issue, etc) so measures can be put in place to make racing safer if it needs to be. One argument for the wider jumps was dog safety but no-one was able to say if dogs were colliding in the jumps or not. We need to start getting some facts & figures to help make decisions.

EB – who is responsible for reporting? Judge? Owner? Also, when should it be done – at the time? At the end of racing?

WW – suggested recording on back of C2 as this is currently blank

VF – clarified that reason for collision should be documented (eg handler error, interference)

AM – suggested about using Judges handover form in staggered

KB – mentioned online reporting through google form

AW – 3 part form – judge, owner and TO to complete

DA – is this only for collisions. Over the years there have been many near misses where there has been no contact between dogs, so not an issue.

EB – as judge don't always see what happens behind us and the reasons for it.

SA – brought it back to the basis of the proposal

GM – if there is a collision you report it, if you don't see it then simply report there is a collision but details not known.

Proposal 14

A3 8.1 & 8.2 Proposed by Zoe Colling BFA number 6886 & Trudy Boakes BFA number 3208

A.3. 8.1 Interference – **REMOVE If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat,** **ADD** Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its race. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run.

- A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference if it does not impede "the opposing team from racing.

- The team causing **REMOVE the** **ADD an** interference will forfeit the heat. **ADD The** interference will be noted against the offending dogs' details on the C2 form.

- **ADD** If a dog interferes with the opposing team more than twice during a Sanctioned Tournament the team must not run that dog until the opposing team have fully completed their heat. This will apply for the remainder of the Tournament

- If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, **ADD it is** at the Division Judge's discretion **ADD that** it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.

REMOVE This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. Interference is defined as obstructing the other team's dog from running/completing its race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team's area is not necessarily interference.

8.2 Distractions - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means, **REMOVE nor THROW** **ADD including throwing** any object for their dogs **REMOVE (i.e. motivators such as balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats).** **ADD toy`s treats or motivators**

Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. **ADD at the end of each leg**

The first offence of **REMOVE these infringements** **ADD distraction** shall receive a warning

- a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat.

Explanation: To try and cut down the number of interference instances during racing, especially for repeat offenders. Also, to clarify the difference between interference and distraction. We've had a number of instances where distraction was claimed but in our eyes it was clearly interference.

CB – regarding the loose balls, they cannot interfere.

Discussion about wording of interference and distraction

RL – feels there is a bit of confusion. Two scenarios which are being called distraction. One is intentional (not picking balls up, throwing a reward etc) The other distraction is a ball being fumbled and a dog chasing it across. Is this distraction? Also for consistency “leg” should be changed to “heat”

TB – a dog chasing a ball is judged differently by different judges.

REWORDED PROPOSAL

(8.1 remains unchanged from original proposal)

A.3. 8.1 Interference – **REMOVE** If a dog or any team member interferes with the opposing team during a heat, **ADD** Interference is defined as obstructing the other team’s dog from running/completing its race. This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run.

- A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team’s area is not necessarily interference if it does not impede “the opposing team from racing.

- The team causing **REMOVE** the **ADD** an interference will forfeit the heat. **ADD** The interference will be noted against the offending dogs’ details on the C2 form.

- **ADD** If a dog interferes with the opposing team more than twice during a Sanctioned Tournament the team must not run that dog until the opposing team have fully completed their heat. This will apply for the remainder of the Tournament

- If a dog continually interferes with opposing Teams, **ADD** it is at the Division Judge’s discretion **ADD** that it may be excluded from racing and the Team be allowed to use a reserve if one is recorded on their Time Sheet.

REMOVE This includes interference in the racing lane, in all bound areas and in the area where dogs are waiting to run. Interference is defined as obstructing the other team’s dog from running/completing its race. A dog chasing a loose ball into the other team’s area is not necessarily interference.

8.2 Distractions - Team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball, using a Flyball box at the end of the run, or by any other means, **REMOVE** nor **THROW** **ADD** including throwing any object for their dogs **REMOVE** (i.e. motivators such as balls, toys, Frisbees, dummies, gloves or treats). **ADD** toy`s treats or motivators

The first offence of **REMOVE** these infringements **ADD** distraction shall receive a warning

- a second offence or any offence thereafter during the race will result in the loss of the heat **ADD** at the Judge’s discretion.

(MOVED) Team members are required to pick up any loose balls. **ADD** at the end of each heat

Amendment as above agreed at AGM.

Judging and Ring Party

B3 Divisional Judge

Proposal 15

B3 New Rule 2.16 – submitted by Jason Baker BFA No 0284

B3 2.15 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 wellbeing of the exhibitors and their dogs should be foremost.

ADD: 2.16 To retain their status, Head Judges and Qualified Judges must be current BFA Members and attend at least one Head Judges' and Qualified Judges' Seminar provided by the BFA in the last two years. REMOVE: This Head Judges' Seminar may be incorporated, as a separate half-day session, within a BFA Training Seminar.

Explanation: Add 2.16 to the published statement after rule 2.15. As there is no rule number quoted, we are unable reference this statement on any documentation. Remove last sentence from the statement as head judges normally attend the same seminar.

No comments from the attending membership

E Points and Awards

Proposal 16

Rule E.3.3.1 – Submitted by Jeff Hughes BFA No 2505

E.3. Junior Members Award Scheme

3.1 The Young Members Award Scheme will reward all participants with a milestone award for members aged **REMOVE: 7 ADD: 6** to 18.

Explanation of proposed change: To allow a better uptake to the Young Members Award Scheme.

No comments from the attending membership

Proposal 17

Rule E.3.2.5 – Submitted by Jeff Hughes BFA No 2505

REMOVE: 2.5 ADD: 3.5 Points are awarded for;

Explanation: To correct sub paragraph numbering

No comments from the attending membership

Proposal 18

Rule A3 2.5 (3.5) - Submitted by Jeff Hughes BFA No 2505

2.5 Points are awarded for;

- a. judging **ADD: half** a division at a Sanctioned Tournament (minimum 16 years of age) **ADD: or half a division at a Starters Tournament.**
- b. Handling a dog at a Sanctioned **ADD: and Starters** Tournament **ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)**
- c. Box loading at a Sanctioned **ADD: and Starters** Tournament **ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)**
- d. Ring Party duties i.e. Line Judge, Scribe and Box Judge **REMOVE: (for an entire division, or a minimum of 12 races in staggered format)** **ADD: at a Sanctioned and Starters Tournament (for half a division, or a minimum of 7 races in staggered format)**

Explanation: To allow a better up take of the young members award scheme & a faster progression to achieving milestone awards.

EB – Should it be clearer that for ring party they need to be supervised.

CH – ask about if you do a multiple of stated races do you get multiple points

JH – yes you would

Concerns regarding starters not being sanctioned.

Agreement at AGM that points would only be allocated for starters competitions run alongside a sanctioned tournament.

REWORDED PROPOSAL

2.5 Points are awarded for;

- a. judging **ADD: half** a division at a Sanctioned Tournament (minimum 16 years of age) **ADD: or half a division at a Starters Tournament.**
- b. Handling a dog at a Sanctioned **ADD: and Starters** Tournament **ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)**
- c. Box loading at a Sanctioned **ADD: and Starters** Tournament **ADD: (for half a division, or a minimum of 2 races in staggered format)**
- d. Ring Party duties i.e. Line Judge, Scribe and Box Judge **REMOVE: (for an entire division, or a minimum of 12 races in staggered format)** **ADD: at a Sanctioned and Starters Tournament (for half a division, or a minimum of 7 races in staggered format)**

ADD Points will be awarded for starter competitions held alongside a BFA sanctioned tournament but not for stand-alone starter competitions.

Proposal 19

Rule E.4.3 Submitted by the BFA Committee

Claire Gristwood Award - Awarded to the Jack Russell Terrier **ADD: or Parson Russell Terrier** that has accumulated the most Flyball points from 1st January to 31st December exclusively in Sanctioned Open and Limited Open competitions.

Explanation: The breed list has been updated and if PRT were not to be included then some of the previous winners would become ineligible if it was kept at JRT.

GM – for the change but on the award it just says JRT

WW – advised if voted in the award will be amended

DW – has the family been consulted?

WW – we did discuss and decided that it wasn't a significant change as JRT & PRT always been included in the award

One comment was that they didn't think it would be an issue with the family.

F Disciplinary Process

Proposal 20

Rule F.2 & F.3 – submitted by The BFA Committee

F.2. Misconduct

Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to behaviour in opposition to the BFA Code of Ethics, abusive or foul language, demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision, **REMOVE: inhumane treatment of a dog**, demonstration of poor sportsmanship, wilful violation of the BFA rules, wilful intent to gain unfair advantage, or any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of Flyball.

F.3. Gross Misconduct

Gross Misconduct shall include, but are not limited to **ADD: inhumane treatment of a dog**, theft, fraud, disorderly and indecent conduct, physical assault or threatening physical violence on any person, drunk and disorderly conduct, the use of illegal drugs, deliberate damage to BFA property or that of any other BFA member or any other person. All the above will apply at BFA Sanctioned Shows, including outside racing times, and at any other time when gross misconduct is deemed to have been committed by a BFA member.

Explanation: This type of behaviour is very serious and should be treated as such.

DA – very subjective as no definition of inhumane treatment

Comm – we will look at producing definition/examples of inhumane treatment

6. Any other business

- A. The committee and officials have had a thorough review of the rules and have decided to ensure consistency that several references in the rules will be standardised. For example, any references to him/her will be changed to them/their; any reference to judge will be clearer and changed to divisional judge. Spelling mistakes and typos will also be changed where necessary. There were no objections in the room to these amendments.
- B. Google Forms for reporting/requesting. The Committee are in the process of streamlining the reporting/requesting processes. For example requesting a dog to return to starters or reporting an incident will soon be done by way of a standard form (one for each type of report/request) in to ensure all relevant information is made available to the committee. We can discuss this in further detail if required. The committee advised those present that the provision of google forms would streamline the process of all reporting/requesting and these would be rolled out in due course. If the proposal regarding dog collisions goes through then we would devise a google form for this as well and link in with the webmaster to ensure links were easily visible and accessible on the BFA website.
- C. Submitted by Dave Anderson BFA Number 5034 – Box Specifications Working Group. I would like to propose that the committee appoint a working group to review section A2. 7.1 of the rules, which covers the specification for Flyball Boxes. The specification has changed recently to increase the size of the box, but the remainder of the specification is outdated and does not really take into account the variety of different boxes teams are using. Terms within the specification are generalised and subjective for example "Each team shall supply its own Flyball box, which should be safe and fit for the purpose intended." It is left to the team/box builder to decide what is safe and fit for the purpose, if as an organisation we are truly concerned about the safety of our dogs then surely we should be saying what is safe. My reason for asking for a working group is that developing a set of rules/standards to control box design and safety is a complex process which shouldn't be rushed. Many teams/box builders are developing their boxes at a very fast pace and I believe a level of control is needed to protect our dogs. A working group could be given a remit to provide an outline specification/proposal for the committee. Specific items which I feel are relevant and the committee may wish to include in the remit are:-
- 1 The requirement for a box to fire 24" and how the distance is measured.
 - 2 The way a box is loaded in a test and what ball is used.
 - 3 There is no tolerance built into the specification on box size.
 - 4 Whether a safety limit on the maximum/minimum of the incline on the box should be included in the specification.

5. The possibility of an individual box accreditation/registration scheme.

A discussion ensued about this item and there was support in the room. Several members showed an interest in this working group and the committee advised that they would form a working party and request expressions of interest from members in the near future.

D. Crufts Flyball Update

JS gave a short update on Crufts flyball. The Committee had been in regular contact with the Kennel Club about Crufts flyball in general, and specifically to represent the interests of BFA members affected by their decision to not allow long-standing supporters of Crufts flyball to host qualifying events anymore, in favour of giving all the qualifying events to UKFL and changing their rules to UKFL rules. As a Committee we were not happy with the lack of open dialogue and the disrespectful manner in which long-standing supporters of Crufts were treated. However, we are very pleased to note that the Kennel Club have since retracted their public support for UKFL and changed their flyball rules back to normal KC rules. We have continued to engage to represent the interests of the BFA members and Crufts flyball, and are also pleased with their recent announcement to confirm there will be flyball again at the 2020 Crufts show. We offered our support to the Crufts Flyball Steward, an offer which was unfortunately rejected, but we will continue to support the Working Party that has been established to coordinate next year's event. Whilst we are really pleased 2 highly experienced BFA flyballers have volunteered to help, this is slightly tempered by our concerns about the overall impartiality of the Working Party given that it is led by the same person that was involved in the decision to let UKFL run Crufts flyball; but we will continue a proactive engagement to ensure the interests of BFA members are taken into account. We also have concerns over the current idea of an invitation only event and have expressed those concerns directly, suggesting that re-instatement of some form of qualifiers is a much fairer and inclusive approach all round. Crufts is an excellent showcase for our great sport, and we recognise it is an event that many of our members look forward to each year, and whilst we have not been allowed direct access to have an open and transparent dialogue with the KC, we will continue to engage constructively, as best we can, in order to facilitate the best outcomes possible for our membership.

Secretary's Note: For clarification it should be noted that the KC Flyball Steward is **not** a member of the BFA and has not been authorised to represent the interests of the BFA direct to the KC in any way.

7. Election of the BFA Committee

Having served on the Committee since the last AGM, the following current members have expressed a willingness to remain on the Committee for a further year:

Katie Burns (Carry Ons)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)

Rachel Short (Commandos)
Jenni Wallace (Lomond Raiders)
Will Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)

Two members have decided to retire;

Sharon Allcorn (High Flyers)
Val Currie (Muskerhounds)

Seeking re-election to the Committee;

David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)

Proposed by Richard Allcorn and Seconded by Simon Brown

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;

Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)

Proposed by Andrew Short and Seconded by Jason Baker

Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)

Proposed by Ali Kirk and Seconded by Sonya Taylor

8. Presentations of Annual Awards for 2018

Open Team of the Year

1st – Aces 094M with a BFA record of 14.93 at Halefield Stud on 16th June 2018

- Heist 3216B handled by Maria Worrall 3216
- Shoots 2842G handled by Andrew Worrall 2842
- Nova 2039F handled by Emma Powell 2039
- Hustle 1497L handled by Jeannette Shelley 1497

2nd – Critical Impact 408 with a time of 15.13 at the BFA Indoor Championships on 11th August 2018

- Lunatic 2476E handled by Katie Ash 2476
- Flame 6243 handled by Emma Mason 6243
- Orb 5822C handled by Maddison Barraclough 5822
- Ripple 6244B handled by Christopher Mason 6244

3rd – Focus 414 with a time of 15.26 at Newark on 15th September 2018

- Mouse 4091D handled by Ian Hendry 1713 (owned by Kim Gillespie 4091)
- Rebel 6690B handled by Mike Hallam 6690
- Panik 2190E handled by Craig Burrows 2190
- Onyx 4061D handled by Garry Minnikin 4061

Multibreed Team of the Year

1st – Aces High Multi 094Z with a time of 15.77 at Newark on 2nd April 2018

- Nano 3940E handled by Reece Marsland 3940

- Hustle 1497L handled by Jeannette Shelley 1497
- Amber 2532C handled by Nikki Marlow 2532
- Senka 2428F handled by Chloe Allcorn 3630 (owned by Sharon Allcorn 2428)

Claire Gristwood Award

- Ditto 5059B owned by Magdalena Whiteley 5059 with a total of 7895 points gained in Open racing

9. Chairperson's closing speech.

Sharon thanked those present for attending and engaging in discussions. She thanked the membership for all their support during her time on the committee and wished the new committee well for the future.