



British Flyball Association

Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 27th March 2021

Via Zoom Webinar due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Commencing at 10.00am

Minutes of Meeting

Note: Only those members who had renewed prior the announcement of the AGM (3rd February 2021) were eligible to vote. Only items and proposals contained or pertaining to the issues on the Agenda will be discussed during the AGM. It would be appreciated if all members would carefully consider the implications of all the proposals, bringing a clear understanding of each item and an informed idea of their voting intentions. No major amendments to these proposals can be permitted at the AGM. Please have your own copy of the Agenda available.

1. Chairperson's opening speech

Good morning everyone and welcome to our second online AGM hosted with the help of Zoom. With the ongoing COVID restrictions still hampering our return to competitive Flyball it is comforting to know that with the use of technology we can effectively communicate with you all and keep the Association working behind the scenes.

I hope you all managed to get onto the meeting safely and have all downloaded the "Zoom Guide" that Katie prepped for you, so you know how to interact with us properly today.

I would ask you to familiarise yourself with the app whilst we go through our initial introductions and speeches so you understand how you can contribute to discussions and the voting process later.

Please note the Chat function where you can interact with Committee Panellists informally. (This is not the format to ask questions about proposals.)

Q and A is the official location for questions and queries to the proposers and Committee. We will try to respond to all points raised but please bear with us if this is sometimes delayed dependant on volume of traffic.

The Poll function will be utilised today to allow all proposals to be voted on. It will function in much the same way that a vote of those present at a physical AGM does and has the added benefit that the result of the proposal will be known to all members once the poll is completed. When the poll is launched it will appear as a pop up on your screen allowing you to submit a response. Only one response per registered attendee is permissible. Can I ask that you all stay in line with the Social Media

Policy, give us all a little understanding and patience as this is our first time with online live voting and let us have a good positive and constructive day.

2. Apologies - received from Jason Baker (Shooting Stars)

3. Minutes of last AGM – 25th April 2020

No questions regarding minutes of last AGM. Minutes signed by Chairperson, David Murdoch today.

4. Concise reports for the year 2020/2021 by:

BFA Officials

Chairperson – David Murdoch

Well, here we are a full year on from our first virtual AGM and my first speech as chair and quite impossible to comprehend is that there has been no actual flyball tournaments at all this year. 12 months ago, I was setting out our plans to get through the pandemic and return to racing as soon as possible and it simply has not happened. Three weeks to flatten the curve has become for many a year of restrictions in some form that has stopped us from training or competing. You would think therefore that there is little to talk about or announce today due to this but far from it. Myself, and the rest of the Committee, have been just as busy safeguarding the Association and carrying on with our work behind the scenes to continue to develop the sport and provide you with exciting and interactive content throughout what I am sure has been a challenging and frustrating year for you all.

So, before I go on to illustrate our achievements this year, let me return to the family message I was highlighting in my speech last year. The word “Family” is now more relevant than ever within our community as I am sure we have all been affected in some way by the COVID pandemic. Whether it is your own personal wellbeing, the loss of loved ones, the restrictions on our liberties and the impact on our working lives. The world has changed for us all in the last year. Now more than ever we all need to lean on our “Family” for support and reassurance. Whether it is your blood relatives or a community such as ours. Even without Flyball racing what is clear is that individual teams and their bonds go beyond simply competing in the lanes. We have become an extended Family and the constant messaging, zooming and contact has I am sure been a comfort to many of us. My own team the Funky Fidos has its own FB group chat and, through the use of this, our team is stronger now than ever and our knowledge of each other as people is more in depth and rounded.

This leads me to the Committee team and how we have worked throughout the last year. Fortnightly Zoom meetings, constant messaging, telephone calls etc... and not only working together but sharing the lockdown frustrations and our own personal circumstances and challenges. I can safely say we know each other much more now than we ever did before. I cannot thank the team enough for their strength, companionship and never give up attitude that has sustained the Association this year and ensured that we are in an incredibly strong position to bring you all a Flyball season come 21st June. (Fingers crossed.) Let me tell you a bit about each of them:

Justin – Wing Commander Shearing, a driving force for the growth of the sport. Intelligent, funny, incredibly productive and passionate to develop the BFA to be a Flyball force globally. I salute you sir.

Rachel – Our Secretary and protector, so hard working and family orientated. Always on hand to keep us in order, productive and using correct grammar 😊. Such an asset to the team.

Katie – The glue of the Committee, so driven and BFA focussed it is scary. Often online throughout the night helping us all with our given tasks with a finger on every pulse. Committed, loyal and supportive.

Will – The idiot of the group.

Craig – The bloomer, after a slow start in his first year has developed into an incredibly strong committee member. A walking rule book, loyal, funny, loves the sport so much and a valuable BFA asset that we all rely on as a team.

Alicia – The mother of the group, protective, passionate and will fight for you all. Has a very naughty sense of humour and has developed into an incredibly supportive member of the team.

Jeannette – The Force of Nature, point and shoot. So funny, full of energy and a whirlwind of activity. Is so good at developing relationships with people and promoting the BFA brand.

Ellen – The first-year wonder. Has fitted into the team so well and chomping at the bit to get back to racing to release her full committee potential. Bright, funny, passionate and speaks a lot of sense.

Will – Sorry Will!!!. A passionate driving force for the BFA. Is a natural at bringing people together, has the ability to light up a room and create a bonding atmosphere that brings the best out of the team. The butt of a lot of jokes but that is because he is so well liked.

Please excuse this bit of self-indulgence but my point is that the enforced lockdown has not all been bad and that we should each take the opportunity and extra time we have had to strengthen team and Family bonds that tie us all together in our love for the sport.

So, moving on to notable achievements this year, I am sure we will hear these a few times today but it's worth noting the considerable work we have carried out this year.

The First Virtual BFA Champs – 270 Entries of Singles, Pairs and Teams from across Europe. With representation from Germany, Belgium, France, The Czech Republic and Northern Ireland. Introduced via video link by legendary Crufts commentator Nigel Davies. The volume of work completed to allow this to happen was truly inspiring with 11000 individual legs across 800 videos edited and cropped to give 4 ½ hours of exciting racing across 4 days. A fantastic achievement by all involved.

Training Videos and Racing Guidelines – There has been a lot of work put in by the Committee and BFA trainers to provide the membership training guidance, return to Flyball racing support and COVID risk Assessments for Tournament organisers which is all still available on line as a ongoing resource. This should be especially useful after such a long competitive lay off and integral for dog and handler welfare.

The Judges Board and Vet Team – Have been working behind the scenes to ensure that we will be ready to return to Flyball racing as soon as possible and have their own presentations to give later today.

The Regional Rep Team – Have also been having monthly Zoom meetings to plan the development of regional Flyball and how they will better support the community. They too have a presentation to give later today to go through their plans.

The Committee lead by Jeannette and Will for this project have continued our partnership with 2 universities for academic studies to carry out research into the relationship between the Flyball Box and the impact its design has on a box turn. They will continue to be assisted by the Box Working Group team. This is developing fast and market research will commence later this year.

The Committee has continued research into the production of BFA branded EJS light Systems. We are currently completing the design stage with the end goal of stopping reliance on 3rd party manufacturers for our light systems going forward. The APES system was also introduced in 2019 and will continue to be rolled out in the years to come.

The continued development of the BFA Foundation which will link into the new starters format, integrate with the training videos launched throughout this year and be a working forum alongside the BFA trainers. More development and news will follow.

We announced but had to delay the recent first Regional Flyball event in Bath. This is now scheduled for next year and the intention is to move these around the UK going forward. We are already looking at Scotland for 2023. More to follow.

There are also other ventures in TV land still in ongoing discussion as well as the partnership with Goodwoof Show which should be rescheduled for next May where the BFA will host a Crufts style invitational tournament to an audience of thousands. I am sure many of you caught our highlights package distributed through their media outlet last year promoting BFA Flyball and sharing a Champs Highlights package that was seen by thousands online.

Outdoor Champs Planning – Booking retained and still to be held at Driffield in Yorkshire again this year with a different format due to the pandemic which I will explain later. This will still include training seminars, other dog activities and entertainment. More to follow.

Indoor Champs – Booking retained and still to be held at 3 Counties in Worcestershire again this year with a difference format due to the pandemic as well. This will also include other content and activities. More to follow.

Before we continue a notable other mention should go to the Media Team for the excellent content they are producing (often with short notice from us) in order to keep you informed and entertained. I am sure you will agree that the work they are doing is fantastic and is aiding in the growth and success of the BFA.

I am proud to have been involved in these accomplishments this year and I am sure you will agree that the BFA is still at the forefront of Flyball globally. Leading with high standards, promoting safe technically correct racing, with investment and research into the best equipment ensuring a bright future for the sport we all love. I know this year will be slightly different and our focus as an Association should be on dog welfare and the membership having fun without the normal pressures of competitive racing. Let's work together as a "family" to bring back Flyball bigger and better than ever. Thank you and enjoy this year's AGM.

Secretary – Rachel Short

The BFA has had an unusual year, with no face to face tournaments hosted since our last AGM.

However, business as usual for your committee who have continued to work throughout the many lockdowns to ensure we are being proactive and responding to the changing guidelines in order that we can be prepared when we are allowed to race again.

The BFA Virtual Championships were very well received with several international entries joining in the competition. The sheer amount of work involved in the background was phenomenal, special thanks to those who helped to edit the videos for the first ever (I'm sure) virtual flyball championships Juddy, Katie, Ali, Magda, Jemma, Coral & Dani. The virtual championships was a great success, congratulations to all those who took part and all those who received a limited edition BFA Virtual Championships medal. One phrase which is synonymous with this championships and still rings in my head "yo, yo, yo dogs", thanks for that Juddy!

We would like to say a massive thank you to all BFA Officials from the committee, and on behalf of the membership, for all the work you do, even though it has been unseen this year, there will be updates this morning to inform the membership of the ongoing behind the scenes work. Without you all the association would not function as effectively as it does, even through lockdowns.

2020 saw Ellen Barraclough join the committee. Ellen has had a strange first year as a committee member and has worked incredibly hard in these unprecedented times to integrate within the committee.

Our Membership Secretary, Jane James, has continued to register new members and teams, answer all of your queries, update your details and more recently, co-ordinate all of your membership renewals.

The Judges Board of Andy, Chris, Jason, Jenny, Sharon & Val continually look to improve judging standards. Their update will follow and include their plans for supporting judges and measuring officials when we are able to return to racing.

Height card co-ordinator Kate Sermon has had a quiet year but I'm sure will be bracing herself for a surge in C9s when we begin racing again.

Stats team of Kim Sermon, Caz Higginson, Helen Seddon & Debbie Speed have also had a lull for the last 12 months but will no doubt be looking forward to getting back to racing and allocating points for your dogs.

Awards Officer – Jeff Hughes has continued to provide retirement certificates throughout the last 12 months.

Regional representatives have been continuing their work in lockdown and have an update on what they have been working on. Maria Worrall, Amy Ransom & Adele Carey have decided to leave their roles as RR. Cathy Harland (4x4) has joined the regional reps this year and Helen, Jackie, Joanna, Lucy H, Lucy M, Maria C, Paul & Sarah are still available for help and support and continue to monitor the BFA enquiries emails.

Vicky, Jane, Sam & Nikita continue to support the BFA committee as the Veterinary Team and their update will follow.

Show Secretary – Maria Casley is one BFA official who has continued to work during lockdown as members are planning ahead for 2021/22 tournaments to make up for those we are currently having to cancel. We are also working with Maria to integrate the lights booking within the show secretary role. On this note, we would ask that all lights co-ordinators/private set owners ensure the lights are serviced and functioning well in preparation for the start of racing.

Kerena Marchant continues to be available to advise the committee regarding accessibility options.

Webmaster – Ali Kirk ensuring that we are providing a website fit for purpose and again supporting us with arranging this AGM. He also provides constant tech support to the committee and can answer all of your website queries.

Our media team have continued to promote our association. Helen Ward, Tye Shelley and Ellie Rivington have made the decision to leave the media team. The media team have been joined by Magda Whiteley, Jemma Dakin-Brown, Dani Tuffen and Coral Wright. Many thanks to Adele Carey and Tracy Muir who have continued to work promoting the BFA.

The Young Members Team have continued to think of great ideas, to encourage our young members. Watch out for more to come in 2021/22. Thank you to Moe Hendry, Shannon Mills, Ellen Barraclough, Jackie Bradburn, Paul Horton, Sally Cliffe & Jeff Hughes for putting in the hard work for the future generation.

The BFA trainers have been putting together some of the training videos for you to use. Amanda, Jeannette and Reece will be continuing to provide advice and guidance regarding training your dog safely and effectively.

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. We hope you are all prepared for the restart, fingers crossed for 21st June.

Our current membership stands at 1521 (as of 26/3/21)

Since last year's AGM we have continued to have weekly/fortnightly Zoom meetings. We managed one face-to-face meeting last September but have had to look at each other on laptops/tablets and phones ever since.

2020 has seen some new challenges for us all with the coronavirus pandemic. Cancelled tournaments, no regular training, no face-to-face contact with family and friends outside of our homes, restrictions eased and then reinstated. As a committee we have had to make decisions which have not been easy, despite us knowing that they are in the best interests of the membership and wider community. We appreciate your patience, understanding and all the support you are giving us and your fellow BFA members. We appreciate that this has been a difficult time financially and psychologically for many of us and hope that we can all start to see some positivity, no matter how small, in the roadmaps out of lockdown.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon, in person rather than virtually. In the meantime, please continue to look after yourselves and each other, until we meet again.

Treasurer – Katie Burns

I think it's safe to say that 2020 is a year that none of us will forget but unfortunately for all the wrong reasons! From a finance point of view this has made things harder as an association as we had ongoing expenses and very little coming in as income. We have got a cushion within the account to try to help mitigate for situations like what we have been facing, however some of the spending had already happened prior to racing stopping. This is why we are once again we have spent more money than we had coming in during 2020.

This has led to discussions and more scrutiny over all the expenditure we have and trying to ensure value for money across the board. As ever there is an ongoing battle between balancing the books and ensuring good value for members.

I will now screen share the accountant report and will discuss what is covered under each of the section and how this compares to 2019.

Income

Membership fees – unsurprisingly these are down on 2019. Normally we get renewed memberships and then throughout the year we get a steady stream of new members joining. As we saw very little racing we also didn't see the new members which is why there the figures look so much lower.

As the indoor and outdoor champs didn't take place there was no income from these and therefore the income from the merchandise was a lot lower as most of the 2019 merchandise was sold at the championships.

Tournament fees were also a lot lower as most of the tournaments were cancelled, this will also impact on the 2021 tournament fees in turn as we rolled over the fee for all of the cancelled tournaments.

Expenditure

Association Expenses were the highest item of spend and this tends to be the category where everything gets put that doesn't have its own category. For 2020 the two main areas of spend within this was storage costs for equipment and the AGM voting with CES.

We have a large amount of equipment as an association including enough for five rings of racing as well as enough tuff spun for two rings. We have this in storage in two separate places (north and south) and we are billed monthly for this.

The AGM voting cost in 2020 was £4,182 which accounted for 12% of our total expenditure. This cost covered both the committee election and the voting on proposals and yet on both there was a voting uptake of less than 25%. This has led to us to exploring alternative options to try to reduce the overall costs of administrating the voting whilst still maintaining accessibility to all members to be able to cast their votes.

Awards – the award costs have gone down which is due to very little racing and therefore very little awards being earnt.

Committee expenses have also reduced as we only managed two face to face meetings in person. The rest of the meetings have been conducted on Zoom and we have all got to see a lot of each other's houses.

The insurance cost on the chart is incorrect and I have requested this to be changed with the accountant. The insurance was the same price in 2020 as it was in 2019 of £490.94.

We had some costs for the indoor and the outdoor champs which was mainly deposits which have been rolled over towards the events this year. This is also the same for the regional event which was paid in full but the fee will be moved until 2022 when hopefully we can host there.

Excitingly in early 2020 we purchased a brand new set of Czech lights which hopefully most of the membership will be able to enjoy when we are back racing.

Finally the website costs remained fairly similar to the costs the year before and this covers the hosting charges.

I think that wraps up our whistle stop tour of the BFA finances.

British Flyball Association
Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Subscription/Membership Fees	£ 21,883.08	£ 40,082.81
Indoor Champs		£ 9,437.10
Outdoor Champs	£ -	£ 28,150.12
Merchandise	£ 276.41	£ 3,534.49
Tournament Fees	£ 1,119.15	£ 11,951.67
Sale of light		£ 291.67
	£ 23,278.64	£ 93,447.86
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Association Expenses	£ 11,513.19	£ 28,396.23
Awards	£ 176.22	£ 8,266.54
Awards postage	£ 215.39	£ 391.76
Committee expenses	£ 2,453.41	£ 5,774.41
Expenses	£ 100.59	£ 2,140.68
Insurance	£ 1,142.97	£ 490.94
Indoor Champs	£ 1,699.00	£ 9,828.34
Outddoor Champs 2020	£ 1,975.50	£ 40,619.37
Regional Event	£ 2,533.43	£ 166.67
Lights	£ 4,116.75	
Virtual Champs	£ 190.37	
Website	£ 5,542.32	£ 5,100.00
Young Members Scheme	£ 60.00	£ 1,709.66
Paypal fees	£ 1,021.70	£ 1,613.03
	£ 32,740.84	£ 104,497.63
Surplus/Deficit	<u>-£ 9,462.20</u>	<u>-£ 11,049.77</u>
	£ 32,740.84	
Opening balance current account	£ 51,374.79	
Opening balance Paypal account	£ 78.96	£ 51,453.75
Surplus/Deficit	<u>-£ 9,462.20</u>	
VAT Owing	<u>-£ 1,366.66</u>	
	<u>£ 40,624.89</u>	
Closing balance current account	£ 40,494.68	
Closing balance Paypal account	£ 130.21	£ 40,624.89
		<u>£ 40,624.89</u>

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 FMAAT
 Dated: 23rd March 2021
 AM Gerrard Ltd
 Firwood Farm
 Samlesbury PR5 0RE

Q – one member asked if they could see a breakdown of the Associations expenses. KB explained that the accountant does not break it down though this can be added into the minutes (see below)

Category	Sub category	Sum of Net
Association Expenses	Storage container	£4,580.00
	AGM voting	£3,485.00
	Worlds expenditure	£666.67
	Newark Champs 2018	£583.88
	Accountant	£400.00
	AGM expenses	£385.07
	Lights	£297.42
	Radios	£269.48
	Adobe Spark	£260.75
	Quickbooks accounting software	£240.00
	Box working group	£199.77
	APES	£192.19
	Postage	£111.66
	AGM gifts	£70.00
	Expenses	£37.67
	Unpaid Cheque	£20.00
Refund	£20.00	

5. Regional Representatives Update by Alicia Marsland



Regional
Representatives

Who we are
and what we do

- We are a group of experienced flyballers from across the UK. We look after different regions. We can help with training, competitions, paperwork, setting up new teams and any other general enquiries linked to flyball.
- We hold ring party training days to help members understand how the ring works.
- We are contactable through the Facebook page or our email address.
- bfaregionalreps@gmail.com



New Regions


- We have simplified the regions down to 4 regions.
 - South
 - Midlands
 - North
 - Scotland & Northern Ireland
- We will shortly be launching new Facebook pages for our regions. Please keep an eye out and encourage all members to join to keep up to date with our information.



Online Ring Party Webinar

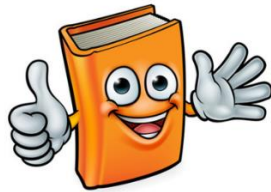

- We are pleased to announce a joint webinar with the Judges Board on 15th May. This will help to ease us all back into racing. This will include a short webinar with Q & A sessions. Keep an eye out on the BFA website and Facebook page, for further details.






Captains Handbook

- This will be a new handbook for all current and future captains.
- This is a one stop place for useful information any captain will require.
- This handbook is due to be launched after the AGM.

Ring Party Training Videos

- As soon as training is able to restart, we will be producing videos on ring party duties for everyone to access.

Vacancies

- We will be shortly advertising for 3 new regional reps in the Midlands and South areas. Please keep a look out on the BFA website and Facebook page. If you would like to know more about the role, please get in contact with any of the regional reps.



6. Judges Board Update by Sharon Allcorn

Over the past year, the Judges Board have continued to hold regular meetings to discuss how we can support the judges and measuring officials in the BFA to continue to improve judging standards in our sport.

As our long awaited return to flyball racing draws closer, the Judges Board have started to focus on how we can ensure a smooth return to tournaments for our judges and measuring officials.

We have made plans for reintegrating Qualified judges, Provisional judges and Measuring officials to tournaments as well as considering:

- how we can facilitate the likely additional demands for dog measuring when we return to racing; and
- the safeguards that we can put in place to ensure that dogs are fit to return and compete in racing.

Qualified judges

We are in the process of confirming with currently qualified judges and Head Judges whether they intend to return to judging over the summer months. All individuals intending to return to judging duties will be asked to attend an online judging seminar, likely to be held in May 2021 to pre-empt our return to racing in June 2021.

Topics to be discussed at the seminars will include a refresher of rule changes from the 2020 AGM and ways that judges can be supported in their initial return to judging appointments, including the potential for a buddying/shadowing system for judges during tournaments in June and July.

All seminar attendees will be asked to complete a refresher survey to help shape the topics covered in the seminars and focus on areas of uncertainty.

Provisional judges

Provisional judges will also be asked to attend an online judging seminar prior to returning to judging and ring party duties.

Individuals who are waiting to take an exam in order to commence the qualification process to become a judge will be offered online exams only for the time being, which we anticipate taking place on weekdays, or on weekends when the candidate is not racing.

Measuring officials and additional demands for dog measuring

We intend to produce guidelines for how dogs can be measured safely once we return to racing and how greater demand for dog measuring at tournaments can be accommodated.

Once we have confirmed that measuring officials intend to return to their role within the BFA in the coming months, we will invite all measuring officials and Head Judges to a meeting to discuss our proposed guidelines for dog measuring at shows this summer and invite their views on how we can best implement this guidance.

Safe return to racing for our dogs

To ensure the safe return to racing for our pets, we will be working closely with the BFA Veterinary team to consider how we can effectively identify and support handlers whose dogs are struggling with a return to full racing due to issues such as:

- lack of racing experience
- lack of racing fitness
- outlying body condition scores
- poor technique or deterioration of technique (particularly in relation to box turns)

We will discuss this matter with all judges prior to our return to racing and hope that a BFA Veterinary team representative will be available at shows in June and July to provide support in this matter.

Recruitment to the Judges Board

We are currently looking for at least two new members to join our Judges Board and will issue a formal role description in the coming weeks. Please do consider applying for a role with us if you are interested in improving and maintaining our judging standards in flyball and please do apply again if you have previously expressed an interest in the last 18 months so that we can ensure that all applicants are still interested.

6b. Veterinary team Update by Vicky Fraser

The team consists of myself, Vicky Fraser from Muskerhounds, and Jane Connolly from Carry On's as the vets on the team, with vet nurses Sam Fullagar from Aces and Nikita McNiff from Commandos. Over the last year we have reviewed the welfare section of the rules and put together a presentation on canine body condition scoring and weight management strategies, which can be found on BFA Members facebook group. This was designed to help members learn how to evaluate their dogs

weights, identify if they are not at their ideal weight so changes can be made before returning to training and tournaments.

Our plans going forward include:

Undertaking a study where we will be collecting dogs body temperatures before, during and after racing at tournaments to see if there should be a maximum environmental temperature after which racing should be suspended/stopped for the day, due to the risk of dogs developing heat stroke.

Taking a role in judges training days and provide support for judges at competitions so we can improve dog welfare by reducing, and hopefully eliminating, the presence of overweight dogs from the racing lanes.

We have been putting together canine first aid kits, which will be available for members to purchase. These should be available shortly.

We are looking into providing the veterinary first aid cover at BFA Committee hosted tournaments.

We would like to take this opportunity to advise members on getting their dogs back to flyball fitness. While most dogs have been getting lots of walks to maintain their cardiovascular (aerobic) fitness, their anaerobic fitness, such as flexibility and strength, may not be as good as it was. I have the following suggested activities to help you prepare your dogs for returning to racing:

-Anaerobic stamina (twice a week). 20-30 metre sprints/recalls, do 5 times with a 20-30 second rest in between, repeated every 10 minutes for 3 goes during a walk. Make sure there has been a 5 minute on-lead walk, followed by 5 minutes on-lead trotting or off-lead gentle running before the sprinting to make sure the dogs muscles are warmed up adequately. After the sprinting do the reverse of this to cool the dog down.

-Strength – press ups and sit to front feet up (to dogs shoulder height). Do 10 repetitions of each exercise after, or during, a dog walk on the days you are not doing the stamina training dog walk.

-Flexibility – nose to hip and nose to back feet. Hold each stretch for 10 seconds, stretch on both sides 3 times at the end of each walk.

The strength and flexibility exercises were demonstrated live on the meeting.

7. Rule Proposals

All proposals are listed in rule number order (unless linked to other rule proposals)

Proposal 1

Proposed by the BFA Committee

Constitution

Name and Objective

- 1.1 The British Flyball Association (“BFA”) is an unincorporated association of members [ADD governing flyball in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland](#) with the following objectives:

- a. furthering the sport of flyball;
- b. promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship in the sport through its committees, rules and policies, tournaments and other activities;
- c. promoting co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs.

Reason:

To clearly identify which nations are included in the BFA remit for sporting purposes.

Discussion: Juddy explained we will discuss this further later in the meeting regarding Sport England. One question on social media asked about Isle of Man but explained that it does not have it's own Sports Council. No further comments on the day.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 134 (99%)

Against 2 (1%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 2

Proposed by The BFA Committee

Constitution 2

2. Code of Ethics

- 2.1 One of the objectives of the BFA is to promote co-operation and good sportsmanship in the training and exhibition of dogs.
- a. Co-operation and good sportsmanship should not be recognised in passive observance, but in all BFA related communications as a way of life and in training and competition treating committee, members and guests fairly and with respect, promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment. BFA members shall at all times be courteous and friendly. At no time should they show displeasure with a dog, a judge, ~~REMOVE exhibitor~~ ADD competitor, BFA representative, sponsor, host or spectator in or out of the ring. Never conduct yourself in a manner that would bring discredit to the sport of Flyball. As a participant whether it be ~~REMOVE exhibitor~~ ADD competitor, trainer, judge, host team or BFA representative, you typify the sport of Flyball.
 - b. Training and exhibiting shall be carried out by such methods that are in keeping with the best interests of the dog and the sport of Flyball.

and B.3 2.11, 2.12, 2.15

B.3. Divisional Judge

- 2.11 The Divisional Judge's responsibility also extends to the ~~REMOVE exhibitors~~ ADD competitors, to the host team, or organisation, to the spectators and sponsors. A Divisional Judge must be arbiter and diplomat. A Divisional Judge must leave ~~REMOVE exhibitors~~ ADD competitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage. Therefore all Provisional, QJ's and HJ's have the responsibility to bring any rule anomalies to the attention of the Committee and may not use a discrepancy for gain
- 2.12 A Divisional Judge is not to engage in conversation with a disgruntled ~~REMOVE exhibitor~~ ADD competitor. A judge's decision following mediation is final.

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 Divisional Judge shall exercise common sense, fairness and initiative. Above all else, the safety and wellbeing of the ~~REMOVE exhibitors~~ **ADD competitors** and their dogs should be foremost.

Reason:

Change of the terminology from "exhibitor" to "competitor"

Discussion: Juddy explained that this is mainly a tidy up in the rules. Exhibitor is not a term we use in flyball, unlike other disciplines. The change to competitor makes it more recognisable. No questions raise don social media. No further comments on the day.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 136 (100%)

Against 0 (0%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 3

Proposed by the BFA Committee

MINOR AMENDMENTS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SINGLES & PAIRS RACING IS CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES

Rules of Racing: A1

A.1 Sanctioned Tournaments

ADD Tournament formats sanctioned by the BFA are open, multibreed, singles and pairs. Singles and pairs racing is an additional sanctioned format where dogs compete on an individual basis or as a pair of dogs rather than in a 4-dog team like traditional BFA open or multibreed racing - where these rules refer to 'teams' this includes a dog entered in singles.

Clarifies that sanctioned racing is not just 4 dogs (can now be singles and pairs).

1.1 A BFA Registered Team wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament (the Host Team) must submit an application using BFA Form C3 to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a non-refundable deposit (per Sanctioned Tournament), as detailed on the C3 form, at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries. The closing date for entries of ~~DELETE an OPEN or LIMITED~~ **ADD a Sanctioned Tournament** must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament.

1.4 A dog may not be entered in more than one open sanctioned tournament on the same weekend. A dog may be entered into ~~DELETE an open sanctioned tournament and a sanctioned multibreed tournament~~ **ADD different sanctioned formats at the same tournament (open/singles/pairs/multibreed)** on the same weekend, but not the same day (see rule A.2.5.2).

1.6 Tournament organisers can book a maximum of 6 ~~DELETE open or limited open~~ **ADD sanctioned** 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 of the Committee.

3.1 A Tournament schedule for all ~~DELETE~~ **Open or Limited** **ADD Sanctioned** Tournaments should be submitted to the BFA Show Secretary for approval, prior to distribution, no later than 7 days prior to the schedule release of the Tournament.

A.2 Rules for Competition

5.2 Dogs may not be entered for racing in more than one team at an open or multi-breed BFA Sanctioned Tournament. Dogs may not take part in ~~DELETE~~ **starters, intermediate** **ADD Flyball Foundation** or fun events on the same day as they are entered in open or multi-breed.

5.5 At a tournament, each team **ADD entered in open or multibreed** shall consist of a minimum of four dogs and a maximum of six dogs; a current BFA member responsible for each dog; and a current BFA member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run for that team. Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of injury. **ADD Singles is an entry for a single dog, pairs is a maximum of 2 dogs (no standby).**

A.3 Rules of Racing

4. For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 6" and a maximum of 12", this height to include any protective materials. **ADD This rule applies equally to the pairs format but for dog welfare reasons jumps may be set at any height for dogs racing in singles format.**

It is not fair to exclude dogs who normally run with a height dog from singles as sensible owners won't run over higher without training for it. Choice is the fairest and safest way to do it.

10. The Finish - The first team to have all ~~DELETE~~ **four** dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last ~~DELETE~~ **of the four** dog reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat.

B.3 Divisional Judge

2.8 A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances. a. A WFC team running against a team presenting with less than ~~DELETE~~ **4** **ADD a full complement of** dogs (i.e. due to injury or other exceptional circumstances)

Discussion: Explained that some was change of terminology to make singles and pairs inclusive in sanctioned racing. One point raised on social media about the wording in first part of proposal meant that points could be gained as part of singles and pairs. This was certainly not the intention by the proposer last year so we are proposing a minor amendment to that to state within the rules of racing, as points are not part of the rules of racing, but in a separate section (see amendment below). This is not to say that singles and pairs should not gain points but this wasn't the intention initially and we didn't want t sneak this in unintentionally. In future it can be revisited if a proposal is made.

Raised on social media about why singles could run over any height. Explained this was for dog welfare and not to exclude dogs who may wish to compete. Further discussion about singles choosing own height, suggest that they could go NFC and run over any height. We did have a discussion about how this could be managed, once each dogs has a seed time they will be racing against other dogs with similar seed time. Committee have discussed how to organise seed list and by applying the information of which height the dogs ran at this would be a fairer way to organise. Suggestion of limiting minimum height to prevent possible concerns of a dog which normally runs

over full height being put over much lower jumps to get a faster time but being unable to control their speed at the box and risking injury – explained we need to trust the membership and ask judges to keep an eye on it if any concerns raised. Break out rule mentioned and clarified that they are also subject to the break out rule, this may need to be reviewed if the generic break out rule does not appear to fit with singles and pairs. Suggestion about limiting lower height to no more than 3” lower than usual height, but not enforced currently and would need to be monitored and again, trust the membership. Member asked if the singles height rule could be split out as a separate proposal and voted on separately.

Committee discussed the option of splitting the singles height proposal out and agreed. After a break the committee returned with the following amendments.

Amendments as below:

AMENDMENT

MINOR AMENDMENTS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SINGLES & PAIRS RACING IS CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES

Rules of Racing: A1

A.1 Sanctioned Tournaments

ADD Tournament formats sanctioned by the BFA are open, multibreed, singles and pairs. Singles and pairs racing is an additional sanctioned format where dogs compete on an individual basis or as a pair of dogs rather than in a 4-dog team like traditional BFA open or multibreed racing - where the Rules of Racing (section A) refer to 'teams' this includes a dog entered in singles.

Clarifies that sanctioned racing is not just 4 dogs (can now be singles and pairs).

1.1 A BFA Registered Team wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament (the Host Team) must submit an application using BFA Form C3 to the BFA Show Secretary, complete with a non-refundable deposit (per Sanctioned Tournament), as detailed on the C3 form, at least ninety (90) days prior to the closing date for entries. The closing date for entries of ~~DELETE an OPEN or LIMITED~~ ADD a Sanctioned Tournament must be at least 28 days before the date of the Tournament.

1.4 A dog may not be entered in more than one open sanctioned tournament on the same weekend. A dog may be entered into ~~DELETE an open sanctioned tournament and a sanctioned multibreed tournament~~ ADD different sanctioned formats at the same tournament (open/singles/pairs/multibreed) on the same weekend, but not the same day (see rule A.2.5.2).

1.6 Tournament organisers can book a maximum of 6 ~~DELETE open or limited open~~ ADD sanctioned 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 of the Committee.

3.1 A Tournament schedule for all ~~DELETE Open or Limited~~ ADD Sanctioned Tournaments should be submitted to the BFA Show Secretary for approval, prior to distribution, no later than 7 days prior to the schedule release of the Tournament.

A.2 Rules for Competition

5.2 Dogs may not be entered for racing in more than one team at an open or multi-breed BFA Sanctioned Tournament. Dogs may not take part in ~~DELETE starters, intermediate~~ ADD Flyball Foundation or fun events on the same day as they are entered in open or multi-breed.

5.5 At a tournament, each team ADD entered in open or multibreed shall consist of a minimum of four dogs and a maximum of six dogs; a current BFA member responsible for each dog; and a current BFA

member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run for that team. Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of injury. [ADD Singles is an entry for a single dog, pairs is a maximum of 2 dogs \(no standby\).](#)

REMOVE A.3 Rules of Racing

4. For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 6" and a maximum of 12", this height to include any protective materials. [ADD This rule applies equally to the pairs format but for dog welfare reasons jumps may be set at any height for dogs racing in singles format.](#)

[It is not fair to exclude dogs who normally run with a height dog from singles as sensible owners won't run over higher without training for it. Choice is the fairest and safest way to do it.](#)

10. The Finish - The first team to have all **DELETE four** dogs successfully complete a run wins the heat. The finish shall be when the last **DELETE of the four** dog reaches the finish line with any part of its body and the Divisional Judge has declared the winner of the heat.

B.3 Divisional Judge

2.8 A loss for both teams shall be recorded in the following circumstances. a. A WFC team running against a team presenting with less than **DELETE 4** [ADD a full complement of](#) dogs (i.e. due to injury or other exceptional circumstances)

Poll launched for present membership to vote on whether to accept amendments as above and split proposal 3 into two proposals (3 & 3b)

Poll launched

For 136 (100%)

Against 0 (0%)

Amendment passed.

Voting subsequently continued for Proposals 3 & 3b

Poll Launched for proposal 3

VOTE

For 133 (98%)

Against 3 (2%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

AMENDMENT

Proposal 3b – as a separate proposal

A.3 Rules of Racing

4. For each heat, jump heights shall be set at the Jump height of the smallest dog (running, not standing by), as recorded on the Team's Time Sheet for competing dogs, with a minimum of 6" and a maximum of 12", this height to include any protective materials. [ADD This rule applies equally to the pairs format but for dog welfare reasons jumps may be set at any height for dogs racing in singles format.](#)

It is not fair to exclude dogs who normally run with a height dog from singles as sensible owners won't run over higher without training for it. Choice is the fairest and safest way to do it.

Poll Launched

VOTE

For 111 (82%)

Against 28 (21%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 4

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.4.3

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 **REMOVE 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** **ADD then their entry will be void and they will not race.** 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. The BFA Committee may organise other sanctioned events throughout the year that will follow the process for a standard Tournament and not a Championships.

Reason:

In the absence of a valid seed time, teams must declare a time for racing purposes.

Discussion: current rules suggest a team can enter a competition without declaring a time or a valid seed time and be allocated a time of 22 seconds. This would not be conducive to good racing.

Explained that teams which do not declare a time should have their entry voided. No discussion on social media. No further discussion on the day.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 136 (98%)

Against 3 (2%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 5

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.4.5

4.5 Only BFA Registered Teams and non-UK teams competing under the European Flyball Charter will be officially seeded. REMOVE Non BFA Registered 'scratch' Teams (i.e. made up from more than 1 BFA team, all handlers etc. being BFA members) may enter a Sanctioned Tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser if there are places available not filled by Registered Teams and be seeded by declared time. Any such non-registered (UK) teams shall run 'Not for Competition'. A BFA registered team, which contains one or more dogs not eligible to run with that team, for any reason, must also run 'Not for Competition' and will only be accepted if places are available. Team captains must declare this prior to the show, preferably on the show entry

Reason:

This rule is contrary to rule A.2.5.4 which states that all dogs running have to be eligible for that team.

A.2.5.4

At a tournament, each team shall consist of a minimum of four dogs and a maximum of six dogs; a current BFA member responsible for each dog; and a current BFA member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run for that team. Each team is to have four dogs running in each heat, with a maximum of two alternates as standbys close at hand. The alternates may be used at the team's discretion or in the case of injury.

Discussion: Explained that the rules contradict each other as one states all dogs must be eligible to run for a team, yet the other says a scratch team can be made up from different teams. We felt the rule about scratch teams was the most logical to remove. No comments on social media. No comments on the day.

Poll launched.

VOTE

For 137 (98%)

Against 3 (2%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 6

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.5.4

Sanctioned classes are: open, multibreed, singles, pairs. Other unsanctioned classes may include: REMOVE various 'Fun Classes', starters, intermediates ADD Flyball Foundations etc.

Reason:

Flyball foundations have replaced starters and intermediates as an introduction to flyball racing.

Discussion: No comments on social media. No comments on the day.

Poll launched.

VOTE

For 134 (96%)

Against 5 (4%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 7

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.1.7.1 and 1.7.2

7.1 There shall be a distance of 6' from the start/finish line to the first jump, 10' between each jump (4 in total) and 15' from the last jump to the front edge of the flyball box. The distance between the box line and the start/finish line shall be not less than 51' and not more than 51' 1 inch (").

REMOVE: (note the illustration here does not show the 1" tolerance)

7.2 Backboards

The host team shall provide a solid backboard (Approx. 24" high) 7', to a minimum of 5' where space is limited, from the front edge of the flyball box, in a horseshoe shape so that the backboard is no further forward than the box line. The total length of the backboard should be 24' and can be in sections for ease of carrying/transporting. Backboards 2' high approx., 24' in total length, may be in sections for ease of movement.

Reason:

The diagrams are not representative of the rule and are not required.

Discussion: Someone asked that if there is a tolerance on the full lane then there should be a tolerance on each of the measurements. Response was that there is nothing to state whether the tolerance is permitted. CB explained he is considering removing the inch tolerance in the future. This is not to remove anything other than the diagrams.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 139 (95%)

Against 7 (5%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 8

Proposed by the BFA Committee

A.2.8.2

REMOVE If one or more team member is more than 5 minutes late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the Division Judge may declare a forfeit by that team. ADD If one or more team member is late for the start of a race (after warm up time has been completed) the Divisional Judge shall start the first heat. If the opposing team arrives during this, or any subsequent heat, they shall wait outside the ring until the end of the heat. Any remaining heats will be raced as usual. Each heat a team does not race shall be declared a loss.

Reason:

5 minutes is a long time for a team that is ready to race to have to wait for another team to present to the ring for racing. If a team is ready they should be entitled to race.

Discussion: concerns raised on social media about if there was a legitimate reason for being late (if previous race, judging etc). This remains the situation presently and should inform judge or TO that you will be late and this is at judges discretion. Committee confirmed this is about removing the extra 5 minutes only. Question about if team still gets their 2 minute warm up if late – explained that if late it is at judges discretion about length of warm up, could be detrimental to team who attended on time who would be standing down. Should be limited warm for dog welfare (box-turn, run-back). After further discussion, agreed to amend proposal due to further concerns about if you have a valid reason for being late for division. If teams do not attend a race then they will be classed as withdrawn from racing, this is already covered in the rules. Needs to be consistency about judge's discretion and guidance can be issued by Judges Board. As long as a team attends and completes at least one leg then they will not be classed as withdrawn. Discussion about Champs and distance teams may be from ring, but advised that teams need to keep up with racing and at Champs normally times are stated for division switches so can be amended to ensure teams can arrive in a timely manner. Short discussion about using technology to aid teams in knowing where racing is up to.

Due to concerns about teams being late for specific reason it was discussed about amending the proposal to add in about prior notification. Poll of those present to ask if prefer wording of proposal to be amended to incorporate prior notice to be given.

VOTE to agree to amend proposal

For 129 (91%)

Against 12 (9%)

Outcome: Membership present agree to amend the proposal. Committee will amend as discussed and further vote on proposal will follow

AMENDMENT

A.2.8.2

REMOVE If one or more team member is more than 5 minutes late for the scheduled start of a race, all else being in readiness, the Division Judge may declare a forfeit by that team. **ADD** If one or more team member is late for the start of a race (after warm up time has been completed) **ADD without prior notification to the Tournament Organiser or Divisional Judge,** the Divisional Judge shall start the first heat. If the opposing team arrives during this, or any subsequent heat, they shall wait outside the ring until the end of the heat. Any remaining heats will be raced as usual. Each heat a team does not race shall be declared a loss.

Reason:

5 minutes is a long time for a team that is ready to race to have to wait for another team to present to the ring for racing. If a team is ready they should be entitled to race.

Amendment explained. Poll launched for present membership to vote on whether amendment is accepted to go on to be voted upon

VOTE on amendment:

For 136 (99%)

Against 2 (1%)

VOTE on proposal amendment – poll launched

For 138 (98%)

Against 3 (2%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 9

Proposed by the BFA Committee

B.4. Ring Party

1. The Divisional Judge is assisted by ring party as follows:

1.1 Line judge (and scribe) Duties and Responsibilities

- e. When hand timing is used or any part of the electronic equipment fails, **REMOVE or non BFA approved lights are used**, this must also be recorded on the Time Sheet(s) heat by heat as such times will be disregarded when calculating fastest times and therefore seeding times.
- f. Indicate with a signal for a false start.
- g. Indicate with a signal:
 - When a dog is to run again (early pass, missing a jump, crossing the start/finish line without the ball)
 - If the handler crosses the start/finish line during the heat (other than to set up a knocked down jump or retrieve a loose ball)
 - Other rule violations for which a dog must run again
- h. It is the handler's responsibility to note the signal and re-run their dog
- i. Advise the Divisional Judge if a Team **REMOVE that submits a** time runs a 'break-out' time in a heat
- j. **REMOVE The Line Judges decision shall be unanimous with respect to determining winners of close heats. If they are not in agreement, the Divisional Judge shall consult with them and either declare a winner or declare the heat to be a tie. ADD In the event of a close heat, the Divisional Judge shall consult with their ring party. If no clear winner is identified then the race shall be declared a tie.**

Reason:

- e. There are no occasions when non-BFA lights are used in sanctioned racing, with the exception of lights going through the approval system, when there is always a back-up approved set available.
- i. Judges should be advised of all heats when break-out times are run.
- j. The line judges should not be the ones to determine the outcome of a heat, the divisional judge shall make the decision by consulting with the ring party

Discussion: no comments on social media. No comments from present membership today.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 141 (99%)

Against 2 (1%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 10

Proposed by the BFA Committee

C.4.1

C.4. Contesting a height

4.1 Any protest with respect to a dog's jump height must be made verbally **REMOVE within 30 minutes of the heat in question** **ADD before leaving the ring at the end of the race in question.**

Reason: The option of 30 minutes after the end of a heat means that a protest could be made at presentation if the concern is noted in the last few races of the day. Any protests should be made as soon as possible to ensure the concern is addressed early and appropriate action is taken as necessary.

Discussion: No comments from social media. At the AGM the comments included that the rule infers only the opposing team can question a dog's jump height. Confirmed that this is not the case and anyone can question a height. The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the timescale as it is unnecessary. Clarification is that the question should be raised before the dog involved leaves the ring, this limits the risk of jump heights having been changed etc. Poll launched and then further comments about if, as a member, you aren't in the ring you cannot leave it. Discussed that this could be clarified in November rule changes to ensure clearer for membership to understand.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 133 (94%)

Against 9 (6%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

BREAK

Proposal 11

Proposed by the BFA Committee

E.1. Dog points and awards

1.1 Each time a team races in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament **REMOVE: with a recorded time, each dog that contributed to the time will** **ADD: each dog racing with that team can earn points towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). Each of the 4 dogs contributing to a clean run (a run without any faults) will be awarded 20 dog points. 5 points will be awarded for each leg which is won. REMOVE: The amount of points awarded will depend on the time gained, as follows:**

1. - Under 18 seconds = 30 points
2. - Under 21 seconds = 25 points
3. - Under 24 seconds = 20 points

4. - Under 27 seconds = 15 points
5. - Under 30 seconds = 10 points
6. - 30 seconds and above = 5 points when the heat is run by 4 dogs without fault

All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. NOTE: 'Fun' Events will not be subject to point allocation.

1.2 Any team voluntarily Withdrawing from Competition (WFC) during racing and rule A3.12 will apply

1.3 REMOVE If an average time is awarded, the time will be calculated based on the average time of that combination of dogs and points will be awarded accordingly. If it is the only instance in which that combination of dog has run, then a no time (NT) will be awarded and no points will be gained. ADD If a time is not recorded for any reason (e.g. EJS failure, interference etc) then points will be awarded if there were no faults prior to the race being ended.

1.4 REMOVE All team captains, handlers (and registered owners if this is different to handler) and box loaders ADD All personnel on the team sheet (captain, handlers and box loader) must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be registered with the BFA and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. NOTE: Flyball Foundation and 'fun' events will not be subject to point allocation.

1.5 It is the responsibility of Team Captains and Members to check points allocated to their dogs in good time REMOVE and they will therefore have SIX months from the date of any sanctioned tournament to lodge queries concerning these points with the Records and Statistics Co-ordinator. After this period enquiries will only be considered at the Committee's discretion. In such cases an administration fee of £10.00 must accompany the enquiry. ADD The BFA will only accept queries relating to the issuance of dog points within 30 days of the points being published on the website.

Reason: The BFA Committee conducted a survey of members regarding their thoughts on the current points system. This rule has been proposed by the committee based on the results from the survey

Discussion: Explained about survey results. Questions on the day asking if the dogs would get 5 points for a win even if not a clean run, 96% of respondents in survey wanted points for clean runs, 60% thought points should be for wins. This proposal is based on survey outcomes and hence the changes, but wanted to retain element of competition so added points for wins. Average time was raised and advised this will remain in rules that if clean runs before interference etc then would still gain points. If a tie, no points awarded for win as neither team has won. Question asked if could be 15 points for clean runs and 10 points for win as ?reduces competitive element – tried to keep the clean run point allocation in line with average gained by dogs over the course of time and this equated to average of 20 points. If teams outclassed in a division then they are unlikely to win any legs so would be at a disadvantage. One mention about points change from last year's AGM which hasn't been used yet (dogs over 30 seconds but clean runs gaining points) and explained that this is incorporated into this rule with the focus being on clean runs anyway. C2 has already been amended for clean runs (as per last year's proposal). Discussion about whether this would impact on teams holding back to gain further points but explained that last year's proposal on change of breakout to ¼ second so this will be more difficult to hold back and judges will receive guidance on how to approach teams.

Poll launched

VOTE

For 125 (84%)

Against 24 (16%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 12 – this proposal with withdrawn by the proposer following the outcome from proposal 11

Proposed by Lynne Laing

E.1. Dog points and awards

E.1. Dog points and awards

1.1 Each time a team races ADD: and the heat is successfully completed by 4 dogs without fault in a BFA sanctioned flyball tournament with a recorded time, each dog that contributed to the time will earn points towards a flyball title (Appendix 2). The amount of points awarded will depend on the time gained, as follows:

- Under 18 seconds = 30 points*
- Under 21 seconds = 25 points*
- Under 24 seconds = 20 points*
- Under 27 seconds = 15 points*
- Under 30 seconds = 10 points*
- 30 seconds and above = 5 points*

All team handlers and box loaders must be current members of the BFA. All dogs must be BFA registered, and registered to an owner/handler who is a current BFA member. Failure to comply will result in the loss of all points. NOTE: 'Fun' Events will not be subject to point allocation.

Reason: This rule change will discourage handlers from re-running dogs just to gain points but will still reward dogs in a team who complete a heat with no faults according to their completed time.

Proposal 13

Proposed by Lynne Laing

B.4.1.1c

B.4. Ring Party

- c. Using the BFA Time Sheet (Form C.2) record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied **ADD and if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults.**

Reason: To record if the heat was completed by 4 dogs without faults to enable points to be awarded. Following last year's rule change to award points for 4 dogs completing a heat in a time of 30 seconds or above with no faults and also if my proposed rule change to rule E1 is approved it would be required for any points to be awarded regardless of time.

Discussion: no questions raised

VOTE

For 138 (96%)

Against 6 (4%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Proposal 14

Proposed by the BFA Committee

APPENDIX 2 - DOG AWARDS

- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 1000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 5000 points.
- BFA will award a certificate of achievement to any dog receiving 10000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 20,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 30,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 40,000 points.
- BFA will award a Milestone certificate and award to any dog receiving 50,000 points.
- BFA will award a valedictory certificate to any dog retiring full time from flyball regardless of points total. Certificate will identify dog and handler details, current club, first and last show, and status gained. A valedictory certificate will only be produced on request of the Club Captain and will only be produced once for each dog.

Reason: Following the market research of members around the current points system, the BFA committee have taken on board the feedback and made amendments to these rules based on results. Dogs will continue to gain points once they are over 50,000 points.

Discussion: Committee explained that the biggest change is that the FD award has been moved as some dogs in faster teams can be FD after 8 legs. Changed to 30-40 clean runs to make the award more significant. Only 8% of responses from survey thought the current number of awards was correct and the majority thought fewer were needed. Economic element that with points changes more dogs may be gaining awards. The accounts show the amount spent on awards (£10000) is considerable.

Questions raised included about valedictory certificates being available for dogs which have passed away before retiring and committee agreed to this. Confirmed that glass awards will continue from 20000 points. Discussion about award names – some responses on survey were that names weren't understood. Committee confirmed that we will make suggestions and put out to membership for further suggestions and will then have wider voting on final decision.

Explained why some awards were removed. Awards officer mentioned the cost to BFA in current certificates and glass awards – agreed that there will be some certificates which are obsolete but glass awards will not be wasted as they are engraved as we go. Explained cut off of 50000 points as the dogs will have received 7 awards and very few dogs have achieved over 50000 points – teams can have their own recognition system after 50k if they wish. Lower awards discussed and number of points between them and that some may struggle, but now the points have been made equal across times then the dogs who would have struggled to gain them (slower teams) but it is mainly a recognition of how much flyball a dog does. Historic names from flyball history –

discussions will include those awards which have been named after dogs which have reached that award first.

Poll launched.

VOTE

For 109 (74%)

Against 39 (26%)

Outcome: Proposal passed

Action from committee will include consideration of what the awards will be called and then ask the membership for suggestions and get out for a vote of the membership

8. Any other business

i. Consideration of moving AGM to November

This is something the committee have been discussing about moving the AGM to the end of the year as would make proposals etc to be in place at the beginning of the calendar year (1st January) rather than rules changing mid-summer season. Also, to consider about the current committee 3-year term as this may need to be shortened or lengthened.

Discussion included when next AGM would be as 18 months was deemed a long time. Current rules state AGM must be within 15 months so consideration to be given for an AGM in November 2021. This would mean a change to committee members twice this year. Further consideration will be given. Part of the rationale was that members from the previous year were needing to renew prior to the AGM as it is held now, but if moved the end of the year the majority of members will have already renewed in order to race so will be eligible to attend. This would enable more engagement from the membership at the AGM. Question raised about whether the committee will continue to consider the AGM online and the committee confirmed that this is likely to continue as it makes the AGM more accessible to everyone. Also reduces costs for the association. Committee explained that changes would need to be made to the constitution to enable the changes to publication of rules etc. Comments about only 10% of the membership voting on proposals today but generally, even when we offer voting to the entire membership approx. 23% actually vote and this is very costly to the association. Been using CES (ERS) for five years and maximum engagement has been 27% of the eligible membership. Engagement generally depends on the proposals to be discussed. Mentioned that the discussions at the AGM are crucial for members to be able to make an informed decision as those who do not attend the AGM are voting without the same information. Last year, over and above who was in attendance at the AGM, there were around 40 additional votes post AGM, costing approx. £4500. Percentage of eligible membership in attendance today is 12-13%. Engagement of membership on any committee related business (AGM, committee vote, surveys etc) is between 10-25%.

Poll launched re: moving AGM to November (to gauge opinion only)

Poll outcome

For 139 (96%)

Against 6 (4%)

ii. BFA Championships 2021 – David Murdoch

Due to the lack of opportunities to qualify as we normally would, the BFA committee have been considering options for what format to use to host the BFA Champs in 2021. We have decided to host:

The First BFA Flyball Festival. It will not be a Championships as we know it, but a celebration of flyball.

Format will be as follows:

- Speed Trials (placed into speed trial based on declared/seed times as appropriate)
- No pre-qualifying required in the interests of dog welfare due to restricted time available prior to events
- All to be round robin block Divisions to simplify racing.

Seminars, events and entertainment to still take place.

Emphasis will be on fun and dog welfare in a bid to limit pressure.

Festival specific prizes to be announced. One-off prizes to celebrate flyball.

Still at same venues for indoors and outdoors with dates set.

Divisional Trophies will be held over until next year.

Further information will be made available in the near future.

Will added that he has spoken to Driffield and they are gearing up for getting things open from June, their limit would be 4000 people which would not affect us.

Discussion: questions about best of 3 or 5 legs but this will be decided in the further planning of the event. Positive feedback from membership. Scotland are unable to compete until the end of July and concerns about seed times so explained this is why we are running speed trials (this is why we have removed the championship status as this states we cannot accept declared times) so then everyone will be re-seeded into correct divisions after speed trials. All competing members will need to be available for the duration of the event as unable to take requests and running orders will be being done whilst at the tournament following speed trials. Question asked about whether any issues with indoor racing – as currently stands the restrictions are due to be lifted from 21st June 2021 so shouldn't be any issue but we need to await further updates regarding the roadmap. If able to get a seed time then this will be taken 14 days prior to the tournament (as per a normal tournament) but this may be adjusted if there are any changes to the roadmap which reduce racing opportunities prior to the festival. There will be no breakouts applied to speed trials, but the normal breakout rules, as per the rules, will be applied across all divisions (except division 1) for round robin racing. Questions about if shows oversubscribed how would this be dealt with – advised we are considering releasing both schedules (indoors and outdoors events) on the same day and although teams can enter both, they will be asked to state their preference if there is any oversubscription. The committee wants everyone who wants to race at the festival to race at least at one, and with the extra day at both events this should make it more likely that this can happen. Concerns addressed about the space at Driffield for presentation and whether anything has been considered for this – committee explained that presentations may be different and we are considering different ways presentations can be held. We are aware that some people will still be wary of close contact due to Covid-19 and need to factor this into our plans. Question raised about whether evidence of vaccination or test results will be required and we will be discussing this in the near future depending on government guidance. We are aware that younger people may not be vaccinated prior to the event. Questions about whether breakout can be removed or

amended for the first few months of racing as it will be hard to declare within 0.25 seconds but to change this would be going against the rules. Speed trials at the festival will prevent this being a massive issue at the festival events. Best advice is to declare faster than you think you will be if you want to avoid breakout. Question about whether we can consider double points (like NAFA) for a time period. Committee had discussed much around points prior to submitting our proposal and awarding dogs points for a period of time they hadn't raced wasn't something we thought was appropriate.

iii. 5-year plan update

Juddy explained the 5-year plan to show how the committee operate, how we work and prioritise what we do, including the resources we have at our disposal. We appreciate the membership may wonder what we do sometimes. This started back when Sharon was Chair, so has been in progress for 3 years. We were aware we were quite reactive, dealing with things when they arose, and we decided we needed to be more proactive and set our sights further on the horizon to look at what we needed to achieve to take the association forward in the longer term. We set a rolling 5-year plan where we look ahead to the next 5 years and where we feel the association needs to be driven, how we allocate resources and tasks and hold ourselves to account, in terms of what we are doing, how we are progressing, making sure we aren't wasting our own time and resources as well. Good way of ensuring that individuals don't come on to the committee with their own personal agendas, if we are trying to achieve something and it doesn't fit into the plan then it doesn't happen, but if it needs to go into the plan then it is discussed and the plan amended according and resources allocated. This is something we will update the membership on every AGM. Screenshared the plan as below.

BRITISH FLYBALL ASSOCIATION – 5 YEAR PLAN¹

VISION

The BFA aims to be a visionary association leading change and growth in the sport of flyball in the UK and internationally. Within the next 5 years the BFA will be:

- Growing as an organisation,
- Networked, Respected, Recognised,
- Providing choice in racing format (indoor/outdoor, block/staggered, team/singles & pairs),
- Focussed on modern training techniques and dog welfare,
- Financially stable.

OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve this vision, the BFA will work to the following objectives:

- **Be Bigger & Better**
 - Have grown in membership numbers
 - Have a larger geographic footprint across the UK
 - Increased choice and availability of flyball racing formats
- **Flyball Recognised as an Official Sport by the Sports Council**
 - The BFA recognised as the flyball NGB in the UK.
- **Be Focussed on Dog Safety/Welfare**
 - Have a better understanding of the sport in relation to dog safety/welfare

¹ The BFA 5 Year Plan is a rolling 5-yr plan, updated annually by the BFA Committee (1st edition Apr 2018)

- Have a rule set that prioritises safety/welfare of dogs and handlers
- **Providers of BFA Flyball Resources**
 - Provision of training advice and expert knowledge
 - Provision of flyball equipment
 - Provision of innovative technology
- **Have a Reputation for Fair Play & Integrity**
 - Ensure consistent interpretation of the rules
 - Provision of elite accredited judges
 - Be internationally networked/linked
- **Be the Best Flyball Association in Europe**
 - Being innovative and proactive in flyball developments
 - Being respected by other flyball associations
 - Being visionary and leading change

THEMES & TASKS

Progress toward meeting the objectives will require completion of specific tasks, which are linked together in over-arching development themes:

Change – Change the organisational thinking and approach to how we deliver flyball; look at the development of the sport in a new way and not be constrained by traditional approaches or preconceptions because ‘that’s the way things have always been done’. Activities will fall into the following focussed areas:

- Communication
- Influence
- Freeing Committee Capacity
- Empowerment
- Structure & Organisation
- Rule Changes
- Technology
- Innovation

Network – The BFA has traditionally been quite introspective and focussed on its own activity. There is great advantage to be had in networking with other organisations, tapping into other markets and communication networks, increasing brand awareness through shared media and promotions and reducing duplication of effort and friction. Activities will fall into the following focussed areas:

- External Linkages (other national flyball bodies, EFC, Worlds.FCI)
- Dog focussed organisations (health, fitness, nutrition, rescue centres)
- Collaboration – joint events with other organisations

Growth – This is not simply about membership numbers but the BFA needs to grow as an organisation, be more mature and more sophisticated in the way we work and organise ourselves. The BFA needs to grow what we do, what we deliver, and what we stand for; more education and training, flyball as a healthy lifestyle choice, and grow interest in the youth and attracting new members to the sport. Activities will fall into the following focussed areas:

- Membership
- Social Media/Media
- Promotions
- Seminars
- Advertising the sport in low growth areas
- Collaboration with other dog sports/activities
- Demonstrations

- Website Development
- Rules & Constitution
- Regional Events

Choice – Provision of options and choice in racing formats. Delivering more opportunities for indoor racing whilst retaining support for outdoor racing, introducing new formats for racing especially in a covid/post-covid society. Activities will fall into the following focussed areas:

- Identify cost-effective venues that can host different formats
- Equipment Hire (BFA matting, EJS, APES)
- Committee organised/sponsored shows in difficult areas
- Promoting benefits of different formats
- Supporting TOs in providing a variety of flyball events

Specific tasks and progress toward the objectives are detailed in the BFA 5 Year Plan RAG Rating at Annex A and updated by the BFA Committee.

Screenshare of RAG rating of what has been achieved and what is currently being worked upon and what remains outstanding. Everything we do is measurable. Every activity needs to be linked to an objective in the plan.

No questions from the membership present.

iv. Current research

Will & Jeannette updated on the current research. We are pleased to confirm that the Box project working group have made real progress with the study which is hoped to be started within the next couple of months and will be the first of its kind in the world.

Scott Blake will be heading the project on behalf of both the Writtle and Hartbury Universities. A questionnaire will soon be released and we will be asking all the membership to complete the survey in order that the study can benefit from the vast experience of the membership which will provide a strong foundation for the study. It's really important that as many people as possible complete the survey regardless of whether their dog/s have ever been injured in order that Scott can obtain an accurate picture of the sports impact. Historically studies have only focused on injuries sustained however, we need to know about all those who have never been injured and any potential steps that were taken that potentially help avoid injury over a period of time.

v. Tournament Planning for 2021

Rachel updated on the current situation with tournaments scheduled from 21st June onwards. Screenshare of the tournaments currently in the diary. We had a TO zoom a few weeks ago where we invited all TOs who had a tournament scheduled in 2021. Explained that some TOs had needed to cancel their tournaments due to restrictions. Some of those tournaments which had been cancelled as they were scheduled prior to 21st June have TOs considering alternative dates, as all tournaments prior to June 21st will be cancelled in the BFA diary. Other TOs are considering hosting, especially indoor events as there are limited indoor tournaments prior to the festival events.

First competing weekend in England will be 26/27 June 2021, currently 3 tournaments are due to be hosted. There are still tournaments scheduled most weekends. August Bank Holiday TOs are considering cancelling their multibreed tournaments and hosting extra open divisions or foundation flyball to reduce the likelihood of dogs being raced more that

once per weekend whilst they are returning to racing and fitness. TOs may need to consider any restrictions that may be enforced on camping numbers etc. Reasonably healthy diary, please keep an eye on the BFA website to watch for any new tournaments going in the diary. Please make sure you read the rules of the show to check TOs haven't added any restrictions.

Question about if BFA roadmap will be updated to include guidance from other nations now this is available – agreed that we can update now Scotland's guidance is available.

vi. **Is flyball a sport?**

An update on progress toward official recognition of flyball as a sport was given. The BFA had submitted a formal application to Sport England for recognition of flyball as a sport and the BFA as the National Governing Body (Note: Sport England coordinate the collective response of the national sports councils of England, Wales, Scotland and NI, not just England). Whilst the application met all other qualifying criteria the sports councils could not agree that flyball met the strict definition of sport as laid down in the European Sports Charter due to the lack of specificity within the rules about the amount of physical activity required of a handler when competing in flyball. Although there is a lot of physical activity in flyball, the rules do not specify that this is necessary for the completion of a race of flyball. The current BFA rules are open enough to allow people of all levels of physical ability to engage in the sport and this is what makes flyball such a unique sport; it does not necessarily exclude anyone with a physical, mental or health impairment from participating by specifying a level of physicality that might not be achievable by people with such limitations. The Committee had a follow-on consultation with Sport England to discuss the amendments that would be required to bring flyball within the European Sports Charter definition of sport, and whilst these changes would be relatively straightforward, they would immediately exclude a large portion of the BFA membership from being able to continue competing. The Committee were unanimous in agreement that making rule changes that excluded any of our members was not in the best interests of flyball. We have therefore made written representation to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, outlining the many social and health benefits of our sport, requesting support and advice on what our next steps might be in gaining government support to further the sport of flyball in the UK.

Discussion: the committee were thanked for taking the discussion from last year regarding whether flyball is a sport and for all their work on this.

9. 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:

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)

David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)

Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)

One member has decided to retire: Will Whiteley (Yorkshire Bouncers)

Seeking re-election to the Committee:

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes) Proposed by Ali Kirk and seconded by Craig Burrows

Rachel Short (Commandos) Proposed by Caz Higginson and seconded by Janet Anderson

The nominations for the remaining places on the Committee are;

Paul Horton (Nuneaton Flyers) Proposed by Jenni Wallace and seconded by Lucy Hughes

Christine Thompstone (Primed) Proposed by Avril Wilson and seconded by John Proctor

The result of the committee nomination election has already been publicised and the 2021 committee, which will come into effect after the AGM, is:

Ellen Barraclough (Critical Impact)

Katie Burns (Carry On's)

Craig Burrows (FOCUS)

Paul Horton (Nuneaton Flyers)

Alicia Marsland (High Flyers)

David Murdoch (Funky Fidos)

Justin Shearing (Lightning Strikes)

Jeannette Shelley (Aces High)

Rachel Short (Commandos)

10. Chairperson's closing speech

So that is a wrap, I hope today worked for you and was not too stressful. I am sure you will agree that considering the global situation the fact that we have still managed to host another successful AGM is something we can all rightly be proud off.

Before we sign off I would like to mention the BFA network to thank them again for their continued hard work and support to the membership:

Membership Secretary – Jane James

Show Secretary – Maria Casley

Certificates and Awards – Jeff Hughes

Height Card Coordinator – Kate Sermon

Lights Coordinator – Craig Burrows

Accessibility Officer – Kerena Merchant

Webmaster – Ali Kirk

Proposals working party

Our Media Team

Our Record and Stats Team

Our YMS Team

Our Regional Reps

Box Working Group

Virtual Champs Team

Our Judges Board – Sharon Allcorn, Jason Baker, Jenny Cousins, Val Currie, Chris Mace, Andy Worrall

Crufts Working Party – Sarah Prince & Amy Ransom

Also, a massive thanks to the boots on the ground, the Head Judges, Judges, Measuring Officials and Tournament Organisers.

And not forgetting your Committee

Rachel Short – BFA Secretary

Katie Burns – BFA Treasurer

Justin Shearing – Vice Chair

Committee Members – Craig Burrows, Alicia Marsland, Jeannette Shelley, Ellen Barraclough and lastly our retiring Will Whiteley.

Will is stepping down after 3 years on the Committee and I am sure I speak for the whole team when I say that we shall miss his hard work, presence and humour come tomorrow morning. Will has done so much work for the good of BFA Flyball and represents the county of Yorkshire especially passionately. Always quick to smile, jump in to support a team member and rally the troops when required.

Thank you Will for all your hard work, support and effort throughout your time on the Committee. We are all incredibly grateful and wish you a long and restful retirement from Committee life on the Flyball circuit. I know you will stay in touch and I look forward to sharing a beer with you soon.

Lastly before I wrap up I just wanted to let you all know that this coming year will be my last on the Committee. It will be my 6th and final year and due to this and with a heavy heart I have decided not to remain as Chair but instead step aside to allow a new person to step up to the role with me still present for another year to offer my support and ease the transition. I feel that this is the best decision for the Association and should offer a more stable base for the new Committee going forward at the end of next year.

Thank you all for your support and work throughout the last 5 years and I look forward to another year of achievements together in an association that we can all be rightly proud of that is building and incredibly bright and exciting future for Flyball. Thank you everyone for attending today and see you in the flesh and fur soon.