

THE
FLYBALL
RECORD



British
Flyball
Association

ISSUE FEBRUARY 2004

**A VERY IMPORTANT DATE
FOR EVERY MEMBER**



**THE
BRITISH FLYBALL ASSOCIATION**

A. G. M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 28th MARCH 2004

THE VILLAGE HALL, BEOLEY, WORCS

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**Items for the next Issue of the Flyball
Record must be received by
1st APRIL 2004**

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Hello Flyballers

Welcome to the year 2004

Let's hope we all have a happy, healthy & successful year with our lovely dogs.

We can look forward to some great racing this coming year with a lot of new teams on the horizon and a certain amount of choice on which part of the country we want to travel to. We already have many Tournaments scheduled and in our BFA Diary.

One of the most important dates in the BFA diary is of course the A.G.M. Not everyone's favourite pastime but one that must take place for us the Members to have our say. I do hope as many of you as possible will attend. Let's make it a bumper meeting, after all, it's a good way of meeting up without the noise of the racing scene.

After four years as editor of the Flyball Record I have decided it is time for me to stand to the side and let new blood into your magazine. (see page 21). I'm sure there is someone out there who will do a wonderful job. It has been a real learning curve for me, I could hardly use the computer when I first started out, adding pictures was unknown and I am much more proficient now (not brilliant but much better).

I will always be grateful to everyone who contributed items, reports, news, picture, puzzles etc. Please carry on doing just that, after all it is YOUR magazine and should emulate YOUR ideas.

ED.



OCHO'S REPORT - Birbles Farm

All my team mates have asked if I will be spokes dog for the team, probably because I'm the biggest dog they have, so here goes.

We new dogs have been practising with the Blackpool Super Nova Team for a number of weeks now and the Captain thought we should all go and see what Flyball Competitions are all about. Due to a bit of a mix up some of us ended up in a sanctioned team in Division Six. We were racing almost as soon as we arrived and I was feeling very worried, all those people and dogs, most of them I'd never seen before. Lights flashing, covers over jumps, made it so dark. Mum pointing at the ball in the box and telling me to fetch it (too scared), ran up the side got the ball "HELP, HELP need the loo must run off." Mum kept trying to get me focused but I was too frightened, this isn't a bit like training at home with all my pals, never seen anything like this, so much noise. Never been to a competition before never mind in one. Back to the car, not doing anything now for a few hours, time to think. Mum very quiet, don't think she's cross but she seems a bit unhappy.

After lunch off we go again but this time the humans had got their brains in gear and they walked me up to the box and as Mum ran away I ran after her over all four jumps, no problem, that really seemed to please her and everyone else. After doing that a few times I realised there was nothing to worry about and I ran the next few races without a hitch. Mum did her usual dance of joy, everyone clapped and cheered and I knew at last I'd got it right.

My pals are all reading this over my shoulder and saying "what about us, we were there as well." So now a bit about my team mates:-

HOLLY. She is a Jack Russell and a clever little bitch, she was the only one not worried, up and down the jumps she goes and straight back to Dad (smartie pants), but when I got the hang of it after lunch she was tired and didn't really want to do the full course. I have to agree she is quite a chick.

ROSIE. What a prima donna. A lovely collie and does she know it. Her Mum sends her off and as she gets to the first jump she does a twirl, but I've heard the humans say they are going to stop that as she's wasting valuable seconds. Ha Ha.

MEGAN. Another lovely collie, handled by fifteen year old Adam. She is one of our fastest dogs, but like me she was very worried and the nerves got the better of her but as I said to her "This is our first competition and hopefully they will let us have another go sometime in the future. After all I heard them saying they were proud of us."

BEANIE & TILLY. Handled by brother and sister, Danny twelve years old and Chantelle fourteen years old with Dad on the box to give two very nervous dogs some small measure of confidence. They were good, never put a foot wrong. Well done all of you.

We all had a great day and wish to thank all the folks for their help. Rosettes and dog food as well. WOW. Slept all the way home dreaming about the fun day we all had.

If I'm allowed, I will write again and tell you the story of how I got my unusual name. Thanks Doreen, Ron, Vera and all the Northern Bytes for a great day.

OCHO (Old English Sheepdog)

THE CRAZE OF FLYBALL HAS REACHED THE ISLE OF MAN!!

The Live Wires teams have been asked via an article in January's 'Your Dog' monthly, to go and do a weekend training course for two clubs in Ramsey, Isle Of Man.

The new recruits are happy to travel to the mainland to begin competing next year...*watch this space.*

LESLEY CURNOW

Back to the future: 1994 - 2004

It's January 16th 2004, a cold, blustery day when the thought of doing Flyball is, frankly, not very inviting. But, on this very day, ten years ago, a group of about 50 intrepid Flyball enthusiasts met at Ryish Green Sports Centre, Lower Earley, Berks., for the inaugural meeting of the British Flyball Association.

Of course, Flyball didn't just start on that day. 1990 saw Crufts being held at Earls Court for the last time and included a demonstration of Flyball, a sport that started in America as a spin-off from Agility. Despite 'some handlers having to run up to the box with their dogs', Peter Roberts, our present Chairperson, was so interested that he wrote off to America for a book about Flyball. Other like minded people were also enthusiastic about this new sport and got together to form the Flyball Enthusiasts Group.

In those days, the boxes carried around were 'own design' with, as you can imagine, some pretty weird and wonderful ideas. There were no 'Crufts' boxes so it was a case of one box fits all competitions. Some were pretty much the forerunner of the boxes that most of us still use today. Peter's was like a present box, but extended upwards a further 24 inches and with a loading lever on top! It was so heavy that it had wheels on it. The Thames Tigers box used an electronic solenoid from a car starter motor (very high tech!), but of course it needed a car battery as well.

Two competitions were run each with 4 events, the 'Chum' series that led to Crufts, and a 'Bonus' series. In 1992, Spillers involvement led to Flyball being included in Superdogs for the Winalot Challenge, a multi discipline event for seven television programmes. (As Peter put it) a not very serious event; distances from the start line to the first jump and from jump four to the box were altered, making changeovers for the humans a bit of a problem. Peter tells me that he had the honour of judging the first Flyball event in the UK to use electronic timing; with a link from a simple set of countdown start lights. The countdown lights from this early set has continued to be used by PODS just for demonstrations and is now looked after by Molten Magnets.

In 1993, when the sport had been going for over two years an article appeared in 'Wild about Animals' magazine with the headline **'FLYBALL' the latest team sport for dogs**. I felt it was worth including some quotes:

'Some say team captains try to psych-out doggie athletes on other teams by allowing a dog on their own team to cause a false start, thus making the opposing canine contestant nervous.' (Ron has, of course, perfected this ploy by exhausting the opposing dog with false starts in nearly every run. This is particularly effective when it's boiling hot!).

'in Flyball, the canines do all the running, and do not involve owners...' (I hear howls of protest from all quarters – how come we all walk/stagger out of the ring puffing and panting then?) However, in the early days, the changeovers were static, and on the line – no wonder the times were so slow!

The Kennel Club general committee came up with a 'brilliant' idea that the ball must be seen to 'fly', with, as you can imagine, all sorts of interpretations of what was meant by 'flying'. Officials visited the Crufts qualifiers to check that the ball did indeed 'fly'. The result of this was that teams were qualifying then were being disqualified for having a box that didn't cause the ball to 'fly'. Thus was the Crufts box born, and some teams decided that they would now have no more to do with Crufts leading the Flyball Enthusiasts Group to feel that 'it was time to make a more formal arrangement.'

Ready for the off! Flyball teams are made up of four dogs each, and the smallest member of the team dictates the height of the relay hurdles

START

Flyball took off in the USA and is now exciting dog lovers across the Atlantic



The meeting opened with Kevin McNicholas giving a resume of the aims of the Flyball Enthusiasts Group - which was set up to run Flyball events. This group now wanted to set up the British Flyball Association, and today wanted to get a committee of 7 people from which the officers of the Association would be appointed. Roy McNeil was suggested as Chairman and agreed by the meeting.

There followed a Treasurer's Report that pointed out many expenses were shouldered by individuals, leaving the Group with a small balance of just under £300.

Roy then gave a review of Flyball held under international Rules. He expressed disappointment that Tony Veal and Spillers had not carried on with the improvement of the sport. Indoor League and the summer shows had been good at promoting Flyball and it had progressed rapidly due to support from all teams. There was a good calendar of events for 1994.

I was amazed to find the Flyball Record was already in existence and that the Americans were impressed by it and would like to have a similar one! Anton Witter pointed out that the Record was not the magazine of the Group, but was intended for all people who compete in Flyball. Articles and news items were needed for the magazine. Does this sound familiar? A recent article had been about a demonstration at the Grosvenor Hotel for 600 handicapped children – that must have been mind blowing.

After some discussion about publishing the International Rules, it was suggested that the committee should draw up a standard set of rules to cover every event.

Kevin talked about his visit to Canada and their running of Flyball – pretty much as we were doing except all competitions were indoors and entry fees were £30 - £50 per team per class.

Fees and Subscriptions were next on the agenda tied in with items needed by the BFA. Guess what! Yes electronic timing and lights were the most costly items. However, subscriptions were set at £12, haven't we done well in our 10 years?

Finally the committee was elected: Roy McNeil (Power Paws); Peter Roberts (PODS); Kevin McNicholas (Tornadoes); Christine Dunning (Wasps) Penny Coulter-Smith (Vikings); Anton Witter (Wellow) and Ken Hickman (?). It was suggested that committee members should consider serving for two years, but with only half retiring each year; also that the treasurer and secretary should retire in alternate years.

Acknowledgements:

Peter Roberts;

Our Dogs November 1992;

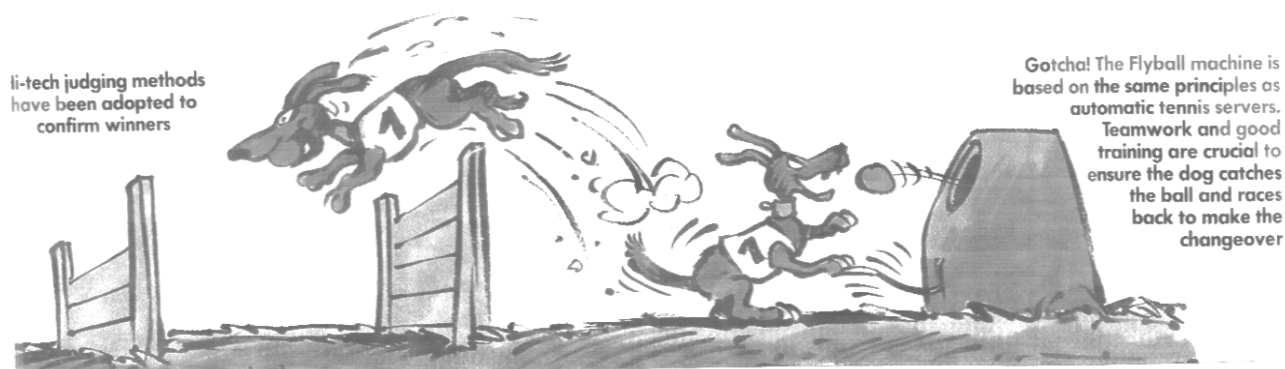
Wild about Animals March 1993;

Flyball Record July/August 1994;

BFA – Minutes of the inaugural meeting January 1994.



Val Currie (Molten Magnets)



li-tech judging methods
have been adopted to
confirm winners

Gotcha! The Flyball machine is
based on the same principles as
automatic tennis servers.
Teamwork and good
training are crucial to
ensure the dog catches
the ball and races
back to make the
changeover

NEW MEMBERS

Charlotte Bailey	The Northern Bytes	Karen Milton	Wolf Pack
Kevin Harrison	Bassett Allsorts	Jean King	Daventry Bumbles
Judith Tyrrell	Bassett Allsorts	Lesley Wells	TBC
Jacqui McWhinney	Nottingham Flyers	Ann Hinz	Doncaster Belle Stars
Nigel McWhinney	Nottingham Flyers	Matthew Hinz	Doncaster Belle Stars
Stephen Hyde	Dodgers	Peter Guest	Break-Aways
Tommy Hyde	Dodgers	Donna Johnson	Wellingborough Red Wellies
Rebecca Solomon	Break-Aways	Denise Cierech	Border Patrol (UK)
Andrew Solomon	Break-Aways	Brenda Holland	Pods
Stuart Firth	Doncaster Belle Stars	Catherine Lloyd	Molten Magnets
John Philipson	Doncaster Belle Stars	Lorraine Woods	Wellingborough Red Wellies
Rebecca Philipson	Doncaster Belle Stars	Paul Langley-Sadler	Springers
Carol Ball	Forest Arrows	Ray Burke	Wellingborough Red Wellies
Susan Kannangara	Forest Arrows	Robert Jellis	Wellingborough Red Wellies
Val Parkin	Forest Arrows	Phyl Spencer	Wellingborough Red Wellies
Louise Stanger	Forest Arrows	Roger Clarke	Pods
Julie Kondor	Forest Arrows	Paula Clarke	Pods
Stefan Lloyd	TBC	Jackie Duplock	Molten Magnets
Chris Tennant	Break-Aways	Roger Duplock	Molten Magnets
Sandra Adams	Nottingham Flyers	Katie Boyce	Molten Magnets
Olive Cornes	Live Wires	Bernard Boyce	Molten Magnets
Susan Hands	Live Wires	Holly Goding	Molten Magnets
Kayleigh Harding	Live Wires	Julie Stevens	Wellingborough Red Wellies
Louise Mc Dermott	Live Wires	Linda Bennet-Frost	Nottingham Flyers
Jenny Sheen	Live Wires	John Hickinbottom	Melton Rovers
Dave Taylor	Live Wires	Graham Hunter	Wakefield Tykes
Rachel Ward	Live Wires	Ben & David Sales	Nottingham Flyers
Yvonne Pedley	Wolf Pack		

NEW TEAMS

Kellington Power Racers, Kellington Crusaders, Kellington Hurricanes

Nottingham Flyers

THE POINTS SYSTEM

I read with interest the letter from Rachel Jones and her views on the point system in flyball and being the proud owner of one of the slower dogs I totally agree with her comments. Quite often I have run my dog in Starter Classes to be there to help new team members and so have no points at all for those runs, but still worked hard during the day.

It does take a lot of runs at 5 points a run to become a Flyball Dog and I wonder whether it should be that each Division should have awards that are in keeping with the points:- i.e. a Division One dog would need 500 or 1000 points (for example) to get a Flyball Dog Award – meaning that it had done a certain number of runs/races in keeping with the other Divisions. As it is a dog can become a Flyball Dog in one or two competitions if it is running in the top divisions. As my little dog came into the sport quite late I don't think that she will be around to get 1000 points, but keep up the good work Rachel.

BERIT AHERNE (Bassett Albion)

I AM KIM

I was only very young when I was put into Rescue Kennels because my owner was poorly and could not cope with the attention and exercise I needed. I felt as though I had been there for ages when one day a man came and said he wanted to take me out and see if I would play with a ball.

I had played this game before and when he threw the ball I brought it back for him to do it again. That was obviously the right thing to do as he told me I was a good dog. Then he asked if he could bring in another dog to see if we got on. That other dog was called Echo, she was okay and we agreed to be friends, so we all went home together.

One day, not long afterwards, I went to watch Echo do 'Flyball', she was really having fun. Soon I was kitted out with a harness and I too learnt to 'Flyball'.

Now we go to Flyball a lot. Sometimes we go that far that we live in a caravan overnight. We meet up with lots of other dogs and their owners who do Flyball. We race against each other and get points and awards and sometimes prizes of dog food. When we have finished Flyball, the Tykes dogs (that's my team name) get to run around together and play games of chase and tig, but my ball is never far away as I am a ball mad Crossbreed who loves to do Flyball.

Thank you Gary for rescuing me and for taking me to Flyball.

KIM ROBSON (Tykes Flyball Team)

DO I GO HOME TODAY?

My family brought me home cradled in their arms
They cuddled me and smiled at me and said I was full of charm.
They played with me and laughed with me and showered me with toys
I sure do love my family, especially the girls and boys.

The children loved to feed me, they gave me special treats,
They even let me sleep with them – all snuggled in the sheets.

I used to go for walks, often several times a day
They even fought to hold the lead, I'm very proud to say,
These are things I'll never forget – a cherished memory,
Because now I live in a shelter – without my family.

They used to laugh and praise me when I played with that old shoe,
But I didn't know the difference between the old one's and the new.

The kids and I would grab a rag, for hours we would tug,
So I thought it was the right thing when I chewed the bathroom rug.
They said I was out of control and would have to live outside,
This I did not understand, although I tried and tried.
The walks stopped, one by one: they said they hadn't time,
I wish that I could change things, I wish I knew my crime.

My life became so lonely, in the backyard, on a chain,
I barked and barked, all day long, just to keep from going insane.
So they brought me to the shelter, but were embarrassed to say why,
They said I caused an allergy, then they each kissed me goodbye.

If only I'd had some classes, when I was just a pup,
Then I would have been a better dog when I was all grown up.

"You only have one day left" I heard the worker say,
Does that mean I have a second chance?

DO I GO HOME TODAY??

NEWARK RESULTS – 22nd NOVEMBER 2003

DIVISION ONE – Judge Dianne Halsted

1 st	Barkshire Bandits	18.45
2 nd	Nuneaton Flyers	19.54
3 rd	Mad 4 Mutts	19.50
4 th	Barkshire Bullets	19.76
5 th	Podlets	19.90
6 th	Hillam Hot Dogs	20.25

DIVISION TWO – Judge Joanne Wilson

1 st	Trying 4 Mutts	20.34
2 nd	Doncaster Belle Stars	19.93
3 rd	Sheffield Sprinters	20.48
4 th	Barkshire Bandidos	20.86
5 th	Podextras	20.57
6 th	Four Runners	20.70

DIVISION THREE – Judge Betty Potts

1 st	The Northern Bytes	20.89
2 nd	Podlings	20.73
3 rd	The Giga Bytes	21.41
4 th	The Killa Bytes	21.73
5 th	Fylde Coasters	21.91
6 th	Sherwood Outlaws	21.04

DIVISION FOUR – Judge Val Currie

1 st	Break-Aways	22.30
2 nd	Fun 4 Mutts	22.72
3 rd	Fylde Surfers	25.25
4 th	W'boro Red Wellies	22.32
5 th	Forest Arrows	27.12

JUDGES REPORT

Along with the first indoor Tournament came the first signs of winter, so there was much shivering and stamping of feet at our windswept, damp venue. Indoors it was not much warmer, but the atmosphere was enthusiastic and friendly. A television set made an appearance that drew away a goodly number of our usually fanatical Flyballers to watch some minor sporting activity called the World Cup Rugby Final! I stayed away on the grounds that watching by me would cause the whole thing to go pear shaped. (I did watch the highlight replays – twice)!

I was honoured to be asked to be Head Judge for the day as well as judging Division Four. This was to prove to be an interesting experience as we had a completely new team – coached by distance learning, a team with new members who had not run at all during the summer. There was also another team with new members so it was hardly surprising that there were some problems. The three experienced teams kept their cool and patience, while the inexperienced teams sorted themselves out. The Break-necks decided to go NFC in the second half in order to sort out their problems. My ring-parties brains must have become numbed by the cold because they went off with two races left to run, thinking we had finished. My thanks to those who filled the gap.

Break-Aways and **Fun 4 Mutts** were very close, with the Break-Aways just taking the Division with their very fast 3rd dog. The **Fylde Surfers** kept their cool to finish Third in front of the **Wellingborough Red Wellies** who had a faster time of the day. **Forest Arrows** worked well and achieved a steep learning curve, giving them a good experience to work on for the future. The rest of the day ran smoothly, the only problem seeming to be with the new coloured rubber used by Nuneaton that caused some of the dogs a 'grip' problem.

Barkshire Bandits won the First Division with a slower time than usual and it was interesting to note that most times were down below the normal outdoor ones. How do the North Americans achieve such fast times when they run indoors all the time?

VAL CURRIE (Pods)

JUDGES REPORT – Newark 22nd November – Division Two

Firstly I really must say thank you to the Nuneaton Flyers for being such a brilliant ring party, along with Ken and Daniella from Fylde Coasters they made judging a pleasure.

Right, onto racing

We saw some really tight finishes throughout this division with many races going to five legs. **Trying 4 Mutts** won on this occasion and despite the volume of noise in the hall Roy could still be heard recalling the team dogs. Well done guys!

The **Doncaster Belle Stars** had a great day and showing some super racing finishing Second overall. The **Sheffield Sprinters** gave many a team a run for their money and their pint sized box loader did really well. A well deserved Third was their prize. **Barkshire Bandidos** were as keen as ever with Gypsy pulling back many a race as anchor dog to finish Fourth. Jean Meeking looked like she was going to pass out at some of the crossovers her team were doing! The **Podextras** were on form and unfortunately just a couple of early passes made the difference to place them Fifth on the day. Only their second time out at competition, the **Four Runners** put up a good fight but had to pull their spare dog when an injury occurred. Better luck next time.

Not much separates these teams and as we all know, so much depends on the day. I did enjoy the racing and many thanks to everyone concerned.

JOANNE WILSON – (Northern Bytes)

NEWARK RESULTS – 23rd November 2003

DIVISION ONE – Judge Doreen Smith

1 st	Pods	19.01
2 nd	Dodgers	19.45
3 rd	Wakefield Tykes	19.44
4 th	Nuneaton Bees	19.54
5 th	Greetland Grasshoppers	19.79
6 th	Blackpool Super Nova	20.92

DIVISION THREE – Judge Scott Harrison

1 st	Yorkshire Racers	20.52
2 nd	Wolf Pack	21.51
3 rd	Crazy Crossbows	21.29
4 th	Border Crossing	20.66
5 th	Nova Next Generation	21.75
6 th	Wolverines	22.43

DIVISION TWO – Judge William Whiteley

1 st	Podantics	19.84
2 nd	Greedy Grasshoppers	20.16
3 rd	W'boro Red Wellies	20.26
4 th	Crazy Cannons	20.37
5 th	Wakefield Terrortykes	20.99
6 th	Border Patrol (UK)	21.85

DIVISION FOUR – Judge Neil Meeking

1 st	Daventry Bumbles	21.67
2 nd	Nuneaton Cyclones	21.67
3 rd	Greeny Grasshoppers	22.07
4 th	Doncaster Northern Stars	23.67
5 th	Doncaster Swift Stars	22.35

EAT SLEEP and TALK FLYBALL

As we are all aware, our lives pretty much revolve around Flyball. We talk Flyball a lot, some of us even dream about Flyball, but how many of us actually go to the extent of 'eating' Flyball. A certain Nuneaton Cyclones Captain (who is no stranger to 'blonde moments') went off to work one day taking with her an apple and an orange from home, for her lunch. So after what I'm sure was a busy morning at work and building up an appetite, she sat down to eat her lunch and pulled out the apple and a **'tennis ball'!** Wonder how many of her colleagues wanted to share??

If anyone would like more information about this new diet, please see Chris Thompstone.

An anonymous blonde helping Pam seek revenge

JENNIE'S WORLD

My name is Jennie, or to give my full title, Fairlea Jenni and I am a Border Collie. I was originally from Ewloe, North Wales. My life started traumatically when on Easter Sunday my Mum collapsed and was rushed to the Vets for an emergency caesarean operation. So me and my seven brothers and sisters came into the world two weeks prematurely. Music, our Mum, was too poorly to look after us so Pam, though human, became our new Mum and hand reared us all. We were very tiny and we needed feeding every two hours at first, even through the night. People said that it would be a miracle if we all survived but gradually day by day and fed on lamb's milk, we all grew stronger and ready to take on the world. When we were five weeks old I heard my human Dad, Bill, say he was going to find us new homes but we didn't want to move away as we were having a great time sleeping, eating and playing together. Also we were quite famous in our street and lots of little people came to see us. I am sure Pat didn't want us to go either, as we were all so close.

Eventually Bill told us that some people were coming to visit to choose on of us and Anne and Geoff came in May. Bill and Pam seemed to know them well and I could tell they were 'doggy' people by the smell of their clothes. I was very excited when it was my turn to be picked up and cuddled. I soon realised they had two older collies who were also Fairlea's like me (Jodie and Gypsy). They said they were sad that another dog they had, called Trixie, had passed away soon before I was born and so wanted another dog, like me, to replace her. They were telling Bill that they did something called flyball with their two dogs. That sounded quite exciting as I liked playing with toys Pam had in the garden. Before Anne and Geoff left, all eight of us crawled onto Anne's knee and fell asleep.

I like Anne and Geoff but I was quite happy where I was. They must have liked me too because they visited once more and played a lot with me. They started calling me 'Jennie' and I was chuffed to specially selected. When they had gone Bill said they were coming back to pick me up in about three weeks time. Eventually the day came but not before several other people had chosen some of my mates. If we were all going away then I was glad I would be going to live with two dogs that looked a bit like me. I was sure that they would look after me and keep me safe. By the time Anne came two of my litter had already gone away with strange people so it was a relief that I was going home with someone I knew. I behaved myself in the cardboard box they brought to bring me home, but I was a bit nervous and had just one wee.

I really liked the new house and garden but my new sisters were not very friendly, their loud barks frightened me and I did my best to run away and hide. Eventually though we all got used to each other and we are now great mates. Jodie likes to chase me and Gyp and I wrestle and bite each other. I had a special cage so I could go for a ride in the car and after watching the others go for walks in the field I was eventually allowed to go too. It was exciting going for car rides and especially when we went to the seaside as I was able to splash in the sea. Most of all I liked going to watch Jodie and Gyp run for the Live Wires at flyball competitions. There were lots of dogs racing and it was great fun chasing them back and to along the outside of the orange netting before lying down to catch my breath between races. At the end of the race I could get in the huge bowl of water and make waves. Everyone thought it funny.

Everything was going well and I had no cares in the world until one day after we came back from a seaside holiday. We were going to flyball practice and I was in my cage, in the back of the car with the other two dogs and a flyball box. Geoff was in a hurry and as we drove into the Sutton Fields training centre he careered round the corner tipping me in my kennel on my side. It really was a shock and has now made me very nervous of getting in the car. Anne has been encouraging me so I will jump in again now but once in I hide my head at the back and keep my eyes shut until we are well underway. I am OK once we get going and when we get to our destination – especially flyball – I soon forget my worries.

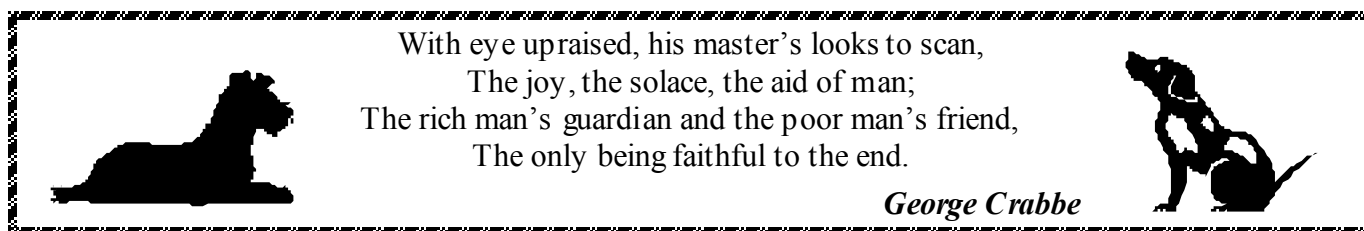
Now, having watched other dogs antics at flyball since I was two months old I have at last been able to join in. In October at the end of the normal training classes my Mum, who trains Live Wires, started a special puppy group, with ‘baby’ jumps and a ‘dummy’ box. Five other puppies were there and although I couldn’t wait to do it myself I thought I was there to watch, as usual. Mum then said “come on Jennie it’s your turn now” and my heart missed a beat. We did run backs to chase a ball and then from a short distance away were able to get to the box to get the ball to bring it back. I just loved all the chasing. At last I had a ball all to myself without my sisters pinching it off me. Anne had given me a short try once at home but this was the first time I had done flyball with other dogs on such a big field. I was ‘hooked’, like my sisters and each week since, have been standing up barking in unison with them long before we’ve even reached the training field. As I am almost eight months old I have joined the starters group. Although I am not allowed to do races until I am a year old I can get a full sized tennis ball from the real box and run over 8” hurdles, so it feels like the real thing.

Just when I thought things were improving I got another shock. I got up one morning to go on my normal walk when we sailed straight past the dog walk field and to this strange smelling place on a busy road. Why had we come here? Gyp and Jodie seemed to realise something was up because they stopped barking and lay down. Maybe they had been here before? I was the only dog to go inside with Anne and just like when I came into the world I was pleased to see everyone but they didn’t want to be bothered with a dog who thought she should be able to jump over the reception desk. In fact Mum kept telling me off and bellowing ‘No’, so I felt quite embarrassed in front of all the other dogs and owners. Then a lady in a white coat took me on my lead into a kennel at the back. Everything smelt of antiseptic and I thought I must have been really naughty. Why did Anne drive away and leave me there on my own? Didn’t she want me anymore?

Later I made a big fuss of the lady who came in my cage and made it difficult for her to push a needle in my leg. I’d seen and felt those needles before and it hurt so I wasn’t going to give in easily. Eventually I had to submit and soon felt sleepy. Next thing I knew I was waking up feeling queezy and with a sore tum. ‘Please Mum come and pick me up, I don’t like this place’. I was so pleased to see Mum and Dad at teatime but struggled to wag my tail and tottered to the car. This time I didn’t complain when I was lifted in. I felt ravenous as I’d eaten nothing since last night and was looking forward to curling up in my basket in front of the fire. Mum said I’d been spayed, whatever that means, but I’d be back to doing flyball again in about four weeks. That long! I soon wished I had never been to that evil smelling place. My head was throbbing and I didn’t feel like doing much. I had a bit of dinner, a wee in the garden and then flopped in my basket and soon fell asleep. That night I slept in my cage next to Mum – so she really does love me after all.

Now I am annoyed with myself. If I try to move the stitches in my tum are really pinching and I can’t stay in one place for long. Gypsy and Jodie ignore me and seem to know I am not allowed to play with them. I’m really upset that I am only able to go out for short walks on the lead whilst watching the other two race around on the field as normal. The good news though is that Mum says I am going to have my wound checked in a day or so and the stitches out altogether next week. Whoopee, can’t wait ‘till I can get my own back on Jodie and Gyp and particularly to be able to do flyball again. I’ll be really good from now on Mum.....

ANNE ALCOCK (Live Wires)



IN PRAISE OF KOBI and SIOUX

I have witnessed Kobi enjoying his flyball both in starters and his debut at Windsor in the divisions. It is heart warming to see the obvious sheer joy and energy he exudes. Just watching Kobi has to make you smile. I know he is a loose cannon to say the least, but we have all experienced novice dogs doing the unexpected in the lower divisions. In fact my team, the Nuneaton Cyclones, frequently fields an entire team of ‘characters’. Buddy, who usually stops to smile at the judge. Tweed, who can look like a thug, has to run last as she will not let anything up the lane after her as she stands guard at the lights. Ellie, either does it perfectly, or up the side and down the jumps, or just for a change, up the jumps and down the side. Indy, who hasn’t quite mastered the recall bit at the end yet. Buster, who is enormous but likes low jumps and has to run first. Cracker is the only normal one. I am sure most of you remember John’s Rottie, Jake, who can do the run with two tennis balls in his mouth and still on occasions puts in an appearance for old times sake.

Seed times are a nightmare, if all goes well 21 seconds, or we go off the clock, with 35 plus seconds not unusual. I don't just celebrate a win. I am over the moon to get four dogs up and down without incident.

I can honestly say that I enjoy being captain of what is usually the lowest seed at most tournaments, but I have never had to resort to photography to check lights, tight changes are a secondary concern. If Kobi wants to join his stable mate Buster he would fit in a treat but I suspect I will see the tiny terror Poppet and the long legs of Kobi gracing Division One sometime soon.

CHRIS THOMPSON (Nuneaton Flyers)

[illegible]

STARTING OUT

I'd fancied a go at flyball for ages but didn't know how to go about it. However, a casual conversation with a mutual friend resulted in a phone call from Kath (of 'Devil Dog' fame) and arrangements were made to join a training session the next weekend.

Nerves nearly got the better of me, but Sunday saw us walking across to the far corner of a huge field where a group of dogs were making an awful lot of noise! Kath came to meet us and we quickly discovered what a friendly lot flyball people are. Soon we had a chance to show what we could do. Going for a ball wasn't a problem as Skye had always been ball crazy, but getting the ball from a box was a different story. She became known as 'the dog too polite for flyball' as she would sit in front of the box and beg! (Especially if the box loader had treats in her bum-bag, Golden Retrievers do anything for food!!) Taking a box home for more practise finally solved the problem, but the carpet will never be the same again.

Our first starters competition was interesting; facing the lights for the first time was scary, but Skye rose to the occasion. The team achieved a rosette and the bug had really bitten. We've run in some of the divisions since then and although Skye's not the fastest, her team mates are helping her towards her first flyball dog award.

We owe all the Tykes and their dogs many thanks for their help, support and encouragement. Let's hope 2004 is another successful year. We're going to be there doing our best. It certainly beats dog walks round the local woods on a weekend.

CELIA ANDERSON & SKYE (Tykes)

Ed. *Celia sent her contribution on disc as well as paper, very thoughtful, thank*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE 1ST APRIL 2004

ALL current memberships will fall due for renewal on:

1st April 2004.

It is coming up for that time again and although it may be early to issue a reminder on this subject, a separate one-off Renewal Application Form is enclosed with this issue of the *Flyball Record* ready for use in a few weeks time. Please note that New members added to this Form incur the £2.50 Joining Fee.

All Team Captains are asked to ensure that New Member Applications and Lapsed Member Renewals from 1st May 2004 are made on the normal Membership Form available from the Website or from the Appendices in their Rule Book (accompanied by the correct Fee) and NOT on copies of the one-off Form.

Will Primary Team Managers especially note the need to add a £2.00 fee for each Primary Team to the cheque covering their membership if they wish to retain their Team's place on the 'List of Teams to automatically receive Tournament Schedules' from 1st April 2004. (Secondary Teams are automatically covered by this payment).

Annual Fees remain at last year's levels:

**Single £12.00
Joint £18.00**

The limitation on voting rights continues to apply to Joint memberships where they cover more than two members residing at the same address.

Although the membership fees reduce month by month from the end of April, renewals after that date will, of course, require the addition of the £2.50 Lapsed Charge. Completed Forms and Cheques covering the fees should be sent to:

**British Flyball Association
PO BOX 109
PETERS FIELD
GU32 1XZ**

Any queries, please contact Graham Nye on:

Telephone: 01730 828269 E-mail: membership@flyball.org.uk

Taken from the Pet Business World News – November Issue:-

Flyball sponsorship proves 'perfect fit' for Butcher's

Butcher's says its sponsorship of the British Flyball Association's Summer Championships has been so successful for the brand that it is looking at supporting the Winter Championships and 2004 events.

As part of the deal, Butcher's provided all competing dogs with samples of 100% complete. The fact that there has been a 45% increase on last year's participants means that the partnership has given Butcher's a much greater sampling opportunity than expected.

Head of UK marketing for Butcher's Pet Care Yetunde Ige said "Butcher's is committed to flyball, which is a perfect fit for the brand since it's all about health and fitness."



British Flyball Association

Notice of Annual General Meeting

**To be held at The Village Hall, Beoley
on Sunday, 28th March 2004 commencing at 10.00am**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the British Flyball Association will be held at The Village Hall, Beoley, on Sunday, 28th March 2004, commencing at 10.00am. All current members are cordially invited to attend.

Nominations for membership of the Committee and all proposals for inclusion in the Agenda must be received by the Secretary on or before 27th February 2004.

Dog exercise area will be available.

Directions to Venue

Leave M42 at Junction 3 and take the A435 south towards Redditch.
Leave dual carriageway at second turn-off, the B4101 signposted Beoley and go under the dual carriageway.
At the roundabout on the far side of underpass take the left turn, still following the B4101 to Beoley.
Go down long hill, past 30mph sign.
After passing The Village Inn, the road bends to the right and then curves to the left.
The Village Hall is on the left opposite the School.
(Slow down after passing The Village Inn as the Hall is easy to miss).

A map of the Location will be posted on the Website associated with this Notice.

If lost telephone: Anne Johnson on 07973 714705 or
Penny Charlton on 07708458742

Contact for Catering arrangements: Anne Johnson

Telephone: 0121 443 1535 or e-mail abryher@thewolfpack.freemove.co.uk

Catering Arrangements

Arrangements have been made for the provision of a hot buffet style meal (with vegetarian option) at a cost of £3.50 per person. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Wolf Pack' and must be with Anne Johnson by 7th March 2004 at the latest to book a meal.

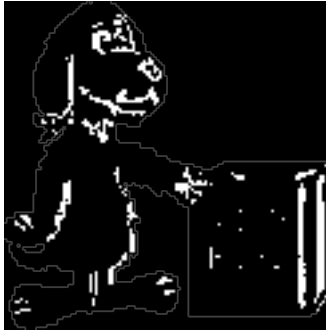
Tear off this slip and send it with your cheque to:
Anne Johnson, 60 Avenue Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7TJ.

I requiremeal(s),vegetarian meal(s).

I enclose a cheque for £..... (at £3.50 per person).

Name: Telephone No:

**For further details of Food contact Anne on 0121 443 1535
or e-mail abryher@thewolfpack.freemove.co.uk**



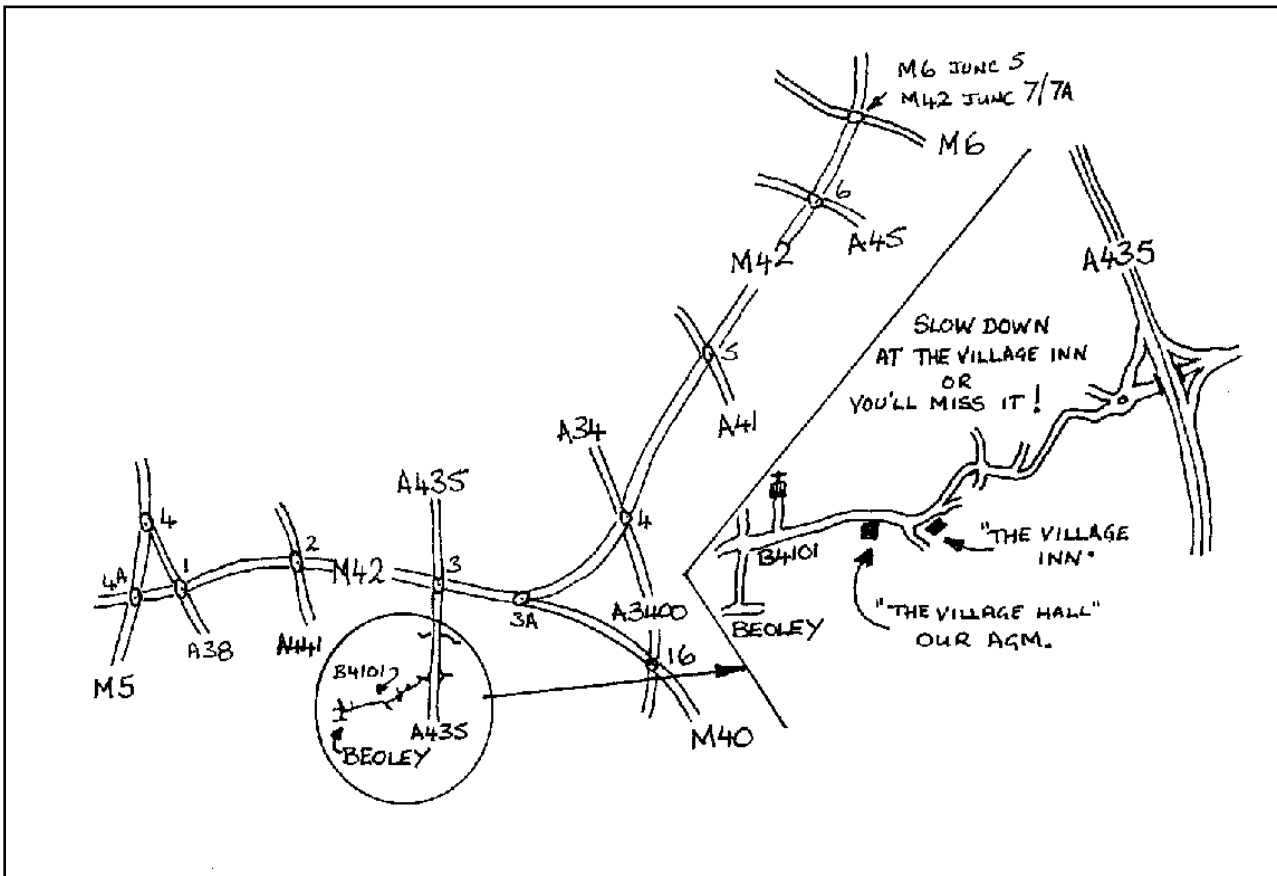
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

at

The Village Hall

on

Sunday 28th MARCH 2004
Commencing at 10.00am



EVERY MEMBER IS WELCOME

We look forward to seeing you all.

This is your chance, the Membership, to have your say in how your Flyball is carried forward in 2004 through discussion and debate. Please come along and represent your team. It isn't all red tape, there are the Annual Awards for 2003 to be presented and a chance to meet all your Flyball friends without the pressure of racing, also the Wolf Pack provide a wonderful lunch.

CRACKER

There's a space now where my basket used to be,
There's a place in your heart that was always meant for me,
Please don't be sad because I have gone,
Just smile within 'cos I love you Mum.

By the time this is printed it will be forgotten news, but Cracker will never be forgotten, not by me, that's for sure. How could it be so, that a dog so big in personality with so much to put into life, could leave that life so quickly, so soon? Questions, questions, questions.

I've read for years in various canine publications, obituaries about peoples 'once only dog in a lifetime'. I now truly appreciate these words and their meaning. It's early days. I still feel numb, I simply can't make much sense of the last few days. A trip to the Vet, three trips in three days but the third time I came home alone. Home to Tess, nearly fourteen who relied heavily on Cracker to supplement her failing senses. Home to Ellie, my little black rescue who was my 'fun dog' and didn't sort of count because having a little dog (or so I thought) would seem like having half a dog – WRONG. How do you explain to them that it doesn't matter how long they wait, Cracker is not going to support and guide them and play games when they feel like it.

I have to believe that she is waiting patiently for them, alongside Lucy, her big sister who died at a similar age, for company. I must cherish memories of her time with me, she brought me so very much. She competed in obedience for several years gaining places in Test B before we stumbled across Flyball. The stumbling quickly gathered speed and we were hooked. As starters, eased out of The Northern Bytes nest, we helped form the Flying Colours. Latterly we joined the Live Wires also with some success – we even took some legs off several teams of note (not literally you understand). Cracker is the third dog in eight months to ‘go’ from the Live Wires first team but in true flyball fashion others have filled their places. Yet nothing and no-one will ever be able to totally fill Cracker’s place within me. There will always be a very special place, kept just for her.

Thank you

P.S. The Live Wires and Flying Colours must both be realising they don't have to replace punctured tennis balls quite so often. Guilty as charged!

SUE BLYTH

The Live Wires Teams would like to express their deepest sympathies to Sue Blyth, who had to have 'Cracker' put to sleep, aged eight years old.

At this time, it reminds us of our two other losses this year of 'Lucy' and 'Trixie'. All three dogs were from the five dog squad of 'Live Wires'.

Trixie, Lucy and Cracker will be greatly missed by all for their speedy talent and individual characters.

LESLEY CURNOW

R.J.P. MOSS

MOSS was put to sleep after a few months of increasing discomfort with a tumour in his stomach. His eyes were going and his legs were wobbly, he really wasn't the Moss we loved dearly any more. He was miserable with life so we felt it was the last thank you to him for thirteen years of tireless service to flyball and agility. We miss him dearly but we CAN remember the most excellent years of working with him. **He may only have got to GOLD but he deserved every CARAT of it!**

SAM & ANDY BAWDEN (Mad Mutts)

ANGLESEY CHRISTMAS SHOW RESULTS - 6th December 2003

DIVISION ONE – Judge Maria Brennan

1 st	Molten Magnets	18.07
2 nd	Podsters	17.78
3 rd	Wakefield Tykes	18.63
4 th	Live Wires	20.07
5 th	Podlets	20.08
6 th	The Northern Bytes	20.27

DIVISION TWO – Judge Sam Bawden

1 st	Molten Meteors	19.91
2 nd	Wakefield Terrortykes	19.99
3 rd	The Killa Bytes	20.33
4 th	Wire Springs	20.42
5 th	Silver Rapidz	20.77
6 th	Tyke Tactics	21.50

DIVISION THREE – Judge Andy Bawden

1 st	Flying Colours	21.21
2 nd	The Mega Bytes	21.21
3 rd	Thor's Rovers	21.16
4 th	Wire Connection	21.94
5 th	Fylde Rollercoasters	21.27
6 th	Sherwood Outlaws	20.37

DIVISION FOUR – Judge Joanne Wilson

1 st	Doncaster Northern Stars	21.66
2 nd	Flying Reds	23.41
3 rd	Wires A-Live	23.72
4 th	Peas in a Pod	21.80
5 th	Wolverines	21.83

JUDGES REPORT

The day was cold but a lovely Christmas atmosphere warmed us all up.

We were told by Peter at the start of racing that the rule of fouling in the ring (man or beast), would be strictly adhered to and a leg would be forfeited by the offending team. Imagine my surprise when I turned around to the teams to see Mr Peter Pod himself picking up something with a poo bag! I shot over to 'catch him' but unfortunately it appeared to be mud / dirt he was clearing up from the run back that an unsuspecting shoe had walked in. Oh well – I'll get him next time!

A selection of various headgear appeared in the ring and some dogs were sporting festive trimmings, (they don't call them the Flying Colours for nothing)! There were quite a few new dogs and their handlers in this division and I did need to keep my wits about me throughout.

The Northern Stars didn't lose a race all day and romped home to gain First place. A three-team 'sudden death' decided the next three positions. Flying Reds lived up to their name and were just that – Quincy has really come on this year and she looked like she loved every minute. A very respectable Second went to them. Wires Alive really got their act together in the afternoon and just lost in the run-offs to the Flying Reds. Well Done!

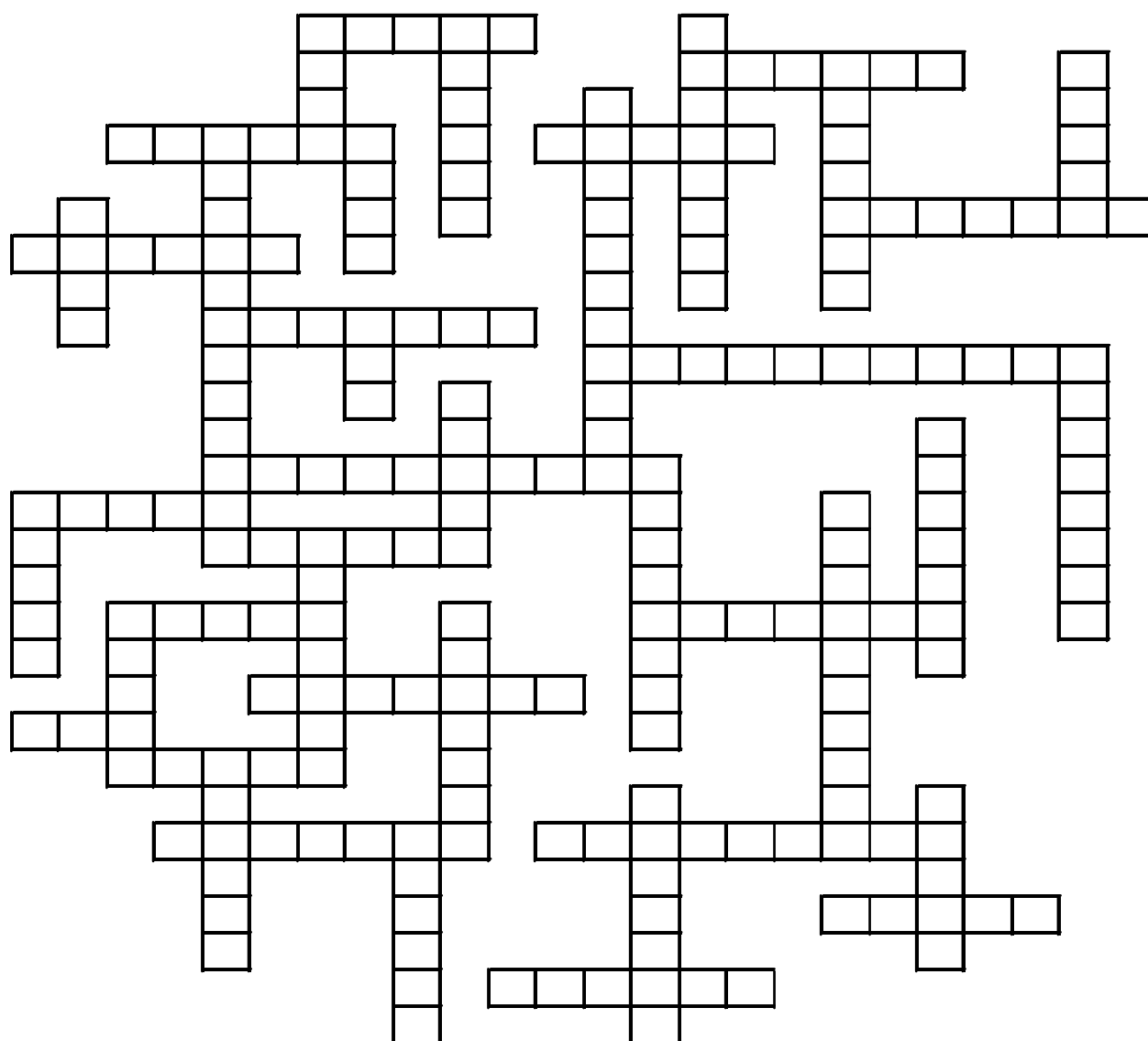
Peas in a Pod ended up in Fourth place after a bit of bad luck at the end. Wolverines had their work cut out with Sam in their team, (only joking Sam – mind you Bracken didn't want to come back to you)!! They ended up in Fifth position. Pods Mix were a selection of new dogs / handlers and were Not For Competition. However they did enjoy the racing and kept Delia on her toes.

I did have to gently remind quite a few of the newer competitors to keep all four of their dog's paws on the floor. Some of them were walking with them like shopping bags at their sides – perhaps the more experienced competitors could keep a watchful eye on their newer team mates and remind them of it.

I'd like to thank the Rapidz team and Sue and Jayne from the Northern Bytes for being the ring party. In sub-zero temperatures they really did well.

JOANNE WILSON (Northern Bytes)

Flyball Word Fit



3 Letters

BFA
Tie

4 Letters

Dogs
Four
Gold

5 Letters

Boxes
First
Judge
Jumps
Points
Ready
Rerun
Start
Teams
Races
Times
Pearl
Venue

6 Letters

Awards
Finish
Height
Lights
Record
Safety
Scribe
Silver

7 Letters

Captain
Crosses
Fastest
Flyball
Handler
Harness
Loaders
Red Lane
Whistle

8 Letters

Blue Lane
Starters
Team Work

9 Letters

Head Judge

10 Letters

Multi-breed
Tournament

11 Letters

Competition
Tennis Balls

12 Letters

Certificates

By Kate Brazukas (Crazy Cannons)

- **Take your owner for a walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief!** 



Join the Macmillan Miles Dog Challenge - it's the perfect event for all dog lovers out there, giving you the chance to have fun with your dog whilst raising money for Macmillan Cancer relief!

From the 23rd to 30th May, dog owners and dog clubs up and down the country will be taking part in this fantastic challenge and raising money for people living with cancer. Taking part couldn't be easier – simply decide on a mile of any activity that you would enjoy doing with your dog and get sponsored for having a dogtastic time!

You can be as adventurous as you like, the choice is yours, so why not

- Try a mile long Flyball relay race – competitive dogs will love this!
- Have a mile of happily wagging tails at the end of a tournament
- Your dog could take you for a mile long walk – Whole Flyball teams could participate and it's a great excuse for a gathering!

Macmillan's continuing challenge is to ensure that we provide the support that each person with cancer deserves. With over a million people living with cancer in the UK right now, the task is enormous, and since all of our services are free, we rely on your generosity to improve our services and provide the emotional and financial support that is so critical to people with cancer and their families.

You and your dog could have a ball with this challenge, so please get involved this year and help to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Contact Catherine Fleuret on 020 7840 4649 to receive a fundraising pack bursting with information and guidelines to help with your Miles of fundraising.



Registered Charity Number 261017

We worked it out roughly that you could have a sponsored training session in your own field one evening. 52 runs at 102' (up & down a flyball lane) is approximately a mile. It would take only 10 dogs doing 5 or 6 runs. Or to make it more fun for the box loaders (well they do get taken for granted just a little bit), try and get as many dogs as possible, 26 being the ideal number, and race them against each other. It would make it easier on our hard working box loaders if dogs turning left ran one side and right paw dogs on the other. I've already asked for a fundraising pack. **Ed.**

WANTED

The BFA desperately need more Regional Representatives to cover the growing number of enquiries about Flyball.

If you feel you can spare some time to further the growth of Flyball then contact:

Alison Booth
Regional Representatives Co-ordinator
Tel. 01977 795156
e.mail – alitykes@aol.com

MARKET HARBOROUGH RESULTS - 24th January 2004

DIVISION ONE – Judge Peter Roberts

1 st	Barkshire Bandits	17.53
2 nd	Bad Dog Racers	17.38
3 rd	Mad 4 Mutts	18.77
4 th	Nuneaton Flyers	18.90
5 th	Greetland Grasshoppers	19.42
6 th	Dodgers	18.78

DIVISION TWO – Judge Dave Long

1 st	Molten Meteors	19.05
2 nd	Basset Hot Dogs	19.08
3 rd	Barkshire Bullets	19.67
4 th	Greedy Grasshoppers	19.65
5 th	Bad Dogs on the Run	19.19
6 th	Trying 4 Mutts	20.22

DIVISION THREE – Judge Roy Hiscock

1 st	Molten Metals	20.28
2 nd	Rapidz	20.24
3 rd	Basset Allsorts	20.25
4 th	Sherwood Outlaws	20.72
5 th	The Knights	20.22
6 th	Barkshire Bandidos	21.17

DIVISION FOUR – Judge Penny Charlton

1 st	Nuneaton Dodgers	19.60
2 nd	Molten Muzzles	20.83
3 rd	Bad Dog Meeco's	20.69
4 th	Wolf Pack	21.47
5 th	Fun 4 Mutts	22.19
6 th	Yorkshire Racers	21.39

DIVISION FIVE – Judge Andy Bawden

1 st	Wolverines	22.54
2 nd	Nuneaton Cyclones	22.73
3 rd	Brat Pack	22.97
4 th	Jammi Dodgers	22.92
5 th	Wolf Cubs	23.51
6 th	Break-Necks	NFC



MARKET HARBOROUGH RESULTS - 25th January 2004

DIVISION ONE – Judge Doreen Smith

1 st	Molten Magnets	18.23
2 nd	Melton Rovers	18.48
3 rd	Nuneaton Bees	18.91
4 th	Tykes	19.00
5 th	Podsters	18.56

DIVISION TWO – Judge Joanne Wilson

1 st	Molten Marvels	18.84
2 nd	Red Wellies	19.55
3 rd	Terror Tykes	19.65
4 th	Melton Foxes	20.95
5 th	Bristol Ball-istic Missiles	21.06
6 th	Buccaneers	21.71

DIVISION THREE – Judge Sam Bawden

1 st	Sheffield Sprinters	19.32
2 nd	Snatch 'n' Grab	19.77
3 rd	Killa Bytes	20.86
4 th	Daventry Bumbles	20.63
5 th	Northern Bytes	19.97
6 th	Nottingham Flyers	20.21

DIVISION FOUR – Judge Pam Harrison

1 st	Extra Buccs	21.84
2 nd	Mega Bytes	21.67
3 rd	Red Arrows	21.73
4 th	Melton B's	22.22
5 th	Giga Bytes	21.53
6 th	Peas in a Pod	26.52

The MOLTEN MAGNETS & PODS would like to thank everyone for their help and support in running this tournament. We tried to accommodate as many teams as possible by putting in an extra Division on the Saturday meaning a long day for everyone, hope you all thought it was worth it. We also had several teams cancel during the week leading up to the event, with one of our own team members, due to run on the Sunday, having a car accident on the Saturday evening which meant we had to withdraw a team at the last minute. This made life very difficult for Judy sorting out the paperwork but we got there in the end.

Our Raffle in aid of 'Second Chance Rescue', was well supported, thank you again. We raised the grand sum of £110.00

JUDGES REPORT
MARKET HARBOROUGH 25th January 2004

DIVISION 2

Molten Marvels – a good team
They push it hard, (some lights were seen!),
But to their credit they won most
And made it first past the winning post.

Next, Wellingborough Red Wellies
A pleasant lot and second place was their slot
With little Gertie bringing up the rear
The other teams they did not fear!

Terror Tykes – they finished third
Throughout the division their banter is heard
Some teams they lost, some teams they beat
But always graceful in defeat!

Now Melton Foxes took it to the wire
Their sheer effort you must admire
To many a team they had a close race
But in the end came in fourth place.

Ballistic Missiles from Bristol, gave it their best
Each leg of each race, their dogs they did test
But in the end it wasn't to be
5th Place – good effort – they went home happy!

The Buccaneers, they had a bad day
In this division – went home half way!
Empty lanes were left – it's such a shame
So in 6th place their team came.

So just to thank my ring par-ty,
S. Speeders, Notts Flyers and Bytes did see
That all went well and racing was good
Div 2 ran smoothly – as well it should!

JOANNE WILSON (Northern Bytes)

SECOND CHANCE



RESCUE

I have received today (26th January)
the sum of £110.00 for 'Second
Chance Rescue'.

The last six months have BEEN
horrendous, resulting in very large Vet
bills and this money is very much
appreciated and will help
tremendously.

A very big Thank You to the members
of the Molten Magnets and Pods
Flyball Teams, your generosity
overwhelms me.

TERESA BEASLEY

THE WINTER is a good time to talk about
the PETS Passport Scheme! If you are
planning to take your dog abroad in the
Summer, now is the time to act since you
must **start** the process at least **seven months**
before you intend to **return** to the United
Kingdom!

There are several steps you need to take.
These include having your pet **Microchipped**
and **vaccinated against rabies**.

SITUATION VACANT

After four years of hard work our Editor, Jean, has decided to hang
up the Editor's hat. The BFA Committee are seeking a suitable
candidate to take over this very important position.

Anyone interested please supply a bit of a C.V. indicating their
ability to use a computer and who has access to a printer and of
course plenty of time.

**Please apply in writing or e.mail the
BFA Secretary, Penny Charlton.**



LIVE WIRES TOURNAMENT FORMAT

I am writing to give some feedback on the new format that was tried at our tournament in September.

I do not consider myself 'brave' in attempting to change peoples way of thinking towards the future of flyball in the UK. I have not been competing in this 'sport' as long as others but I have had sufficient life experiences as well as successfully participating and organising many other sporting activities to realise that any club activity, society or whatever should always be looking towards improvement. As is always the case people are noticeably reluctant to change as they feel comfortable with the status quo. But it is not healthy for any activity to 'live in the past'. As the years go by and younger generations begin to participate they have a totally different lifestyle and outlook on life from previous generations. Their goals are not necessarily different but their more varied interests and commitments, with young families or older parents to look after mean that time spent on any activity has to be rationed.

On the other hand I don't believe that change for changes sake is a good idea either. People may ask why do we need to change what is tested, tried and working OK. But then what worked once for one generation of flyballers may not work for the next. In the UK flyball is THE fastest growing dog sport and therefore with increased media coverage we should expect over the next 5 – 10 years that many new clubs will be formed and BFA membership will greatly increase as a result. Are we actually ready to take this on board? New ideas need to be tried to keep future generations interested enough to move the sport ahead. In other words we cannot stand still and need to be prepared to look for ways to streamline and modernise tournament procedure.

My question is – who decided on the particular format in the first place? Alternatively did it just evolve because each team organising tournaments just copied everyone else for fear of upsetting the 'apple cart'? 10 years ago when flyball clubs started competing in the UK there were fewer competing teams. Each tournament would have a lower entry than today. There would be fewer divisions with the result that waiting times between divisions were much less and the day would most likely be over much quicker. Today's flyball tournaments take up more time so it makes sense that if you are not racing until mid-morning, for example, who wouldn't jump at the chance to arrive a little later? Conversely those who start at the crack of dawn cannot be blamed for wanting to get away early, even if it means non-attendance at the presentations. Teams should not be stigmatised for this and tournament programmes should be adaptable enough to allow for it. At Sutton Fields what I was trying to achieve was a much more flexible system where people have more choice. As a matter of interest **more teams were in favour than those who were not.**

I spent sometime thinking about the system and how I was going to achieve it. I decided that to ensure that I was able to find ring parties, clubs with more than one open team should have at least one of their teams competing morning AND another in the afternoon. Also starter teams were to be in the opposite half to their open counterparts. Because I didn't receive the seed times until the day I was to photocopy and send out the programme my plans went slightly wrong. My rough allocation to divisions was not quite right and I had to switch one or two teams around. Unfortunately in the rush to get everything out on time I overlooked that fact that one or two clubs had now got all their races either morning or afternoon. If I had recognised this and been able to make the necessary changes maybe it would have proved universally acceptable – but as Howard says "no matter what you do you can never please everybody all of the time". **I still believe that organised properly it is a viable alternative for a 4 division day.**

To conclude, we all know that tournaments are quite relaxed occasions and there is nothing wrong with that. BUT here are some thoughts on how tournaments could be more 'user friendly':- Flexible registration/dog measuring times, to start ON TIME, more (and shorter) presentations in the day. Separate ring provided (as the norm) for fun events.

I hope this has given people some food for thought. Maybe as a result we shall see more innovative ideas coming forward which can only be good for flyball in the long run.

ANNE ALCOCK (Live Wires Team Manager)

TOURNAMENT FORMATS

I know I must sound biased as a team captain and club secretary for Anne Alcock's Live Wire Teams but a new format for a tournament, I feel is long overdue at some venues.

Like many other competitors, we have family commitments which can't be ignored, even for the duration of a tournament. Since my son Owen was born I've been involved in every competition we have entered for as a club, however it has been incredibly hard work due to childcare issues.

It's hard to leave a baby/toddler with your partner from 6am 'till 8pm, when you know that you'll be welcomed home by a person who is about to pull his hair out with lack of sleep and constant baby monitoring! (He finishes work at 10.30pm and has to get up at 5.00am due to Owen being an early bird)!

However, with many attempts, we have tried to use flyball as a family day out. But, as you can guess, due to the long hours and typical U.K. weather, how do you keep a young child entertained in the confinement of a small car, all day?? Without mentioning a toddler's attraction to tripping over cow pats, picking up doggy doo disguised as a stick and trying to get a buggy across to the ring with two eager dogs, who do the best impression of sled dogs! By the time the presentation arrives. You've already done at least 20 laps of the show-ground (with and without the buggy), six nappy changes, four feeds and repeated readings of 'Thomas The Tank Engine'! Hence your highest priority has to be considered first, which makes me feel awful in letting the other team members down by not being able to collect our rosettes together.

Everything isn't so 'doom and gloom' as we have come up with a solution like Humphrey (O.E. Sheepdog). His owners bring their twins Adam & Joshua who are the same age as Owen. We then create an indoor play area i.e. caravan/tent for a one night stop over! Our families think that we are totally mad, all this just for one event, but we are just as eager to compete as the next.

I do hope that other tournament hosts are more 'open minded' to new possible formats, for the sake of the sport as well, with the vast influx of new blood ever growing each year with people having other commitments to bear in mind too.

LESLEY CURNOW (Live Wires)

IN ANSWER TO

I must give some support to Sue, who wrote the 'Ramblings' in the November Issue of the Flyball Record. This business of my team allowing their dogs to cavort around, before and after, entering the ring, has been a sore point with me for some time now. Not only is it ill-disciplined, but if you want dogs at their fittest and keenest, then it stands to reason its counter productive to let them chase all over the place. A dog should be in peak condition to race, with warm ups and cool downs, before and after and with a desire to have fun when he's competing, NOT at other times, when he can chase balls around the car and generally charge around with his team mates.

So, hopefully, when they read Sue's article they may realise I have a valid point. I am not simply on my own 'banging on' about this issue. Thank you Sue.

Finally, regarding the 'Live Wires' new format for their tournament at Sutton Fields. We all felt this worked very well, they deserve congratulating on their efforts, it was well done.

Best wishes for a great 2004 for all Flyballers.....

ROMA WILLIAMS (Thor's Rovers)

THE B.F.A. DIARY 2004

Key - C.I.D = Closing date for entry O = Open LO = Limited Open M = Multibreed LM = Limited Multibreed

March 20th	Market Harborough	PODS & Molten Magnets	LO (24 Teams per day)
March 21st	Market Harborough	Teams may enter either Sat. or Sun.	
	Contact – <i>Judy Parker</i>	<i>Tel. 02476 404266</i>	C.I.D 20th February
March 28th	BFA Annual General Meeting at Beoley 10.00am		
April 9/10/11th	Carlton Towers	Yorkshire Bouncers	LO (72 Teams)
April 12th	Carlton Towers		Open Multibreed
	Contact – <i>Betty Potts</i>	<i>Tel. 01757 703233</i>	C.I.D 17th March
April 11/12th	Thame Country Show	Barkshire Bandits	LO (36 Teams)
	Contact – <i>Penny Charlton</i>	<i>Tel. 01753 620110</i>	C.I.D 12th March
April 17/18th	Sutton Fields	Live Wires	LO (36 Teams)
April 24/25th	Anglesey	PODS	Open
	Contact – <i>Peter Roberts</i>	<i>Tel. 01407 810610</i>	C.I.D 3rd April
May 1/2nd	Birtles Farm, Cheshire	The Northern Bytes	LO (36 Teams)
May 3rd	Birtles Farm, Cheshire		Open Multibreed
	Contact – <i>Doreen Smith</i>	<i>Tel. 01614 940787</i>	C.I.D 2nd April
May 2/3rd	Knebworth	Barkshire Bandits	LO (36 Teams)
	Contact – <i>Penny Charlton</i>	<i>Tel. 01753 620110</i>	C.I.D 3rd April
May 8/9th	Brentwood	Mad Mutts	LO (24 Teams)
	Contact – <i>Roy Hiscock</i>	<i>Tel. 01708 557812</i>	C.I.D 8th April
May 8th/9th	Middlesbrough, Cleveland	Crazy Cannons	LO (36 Teams)
	Contact – <i>Kate Brazukas</i>	<i>Tel. 01642 652270</i>	C.I.D 9th April
May 29/30th	Eggborough	Yorkshire Bouncers	LO (48 Teams)
May 31st	Eggborough		Open Multibreed
	Contact – <i>Betty Potts</i>	<i>Tel. 01757 703233</i>	C.I.D 8th May
May 30th/31st	Broadlands	Barkshire Bandits	LO (36 Teams)
	Contact – <i>Penny Charlton</i>	<i>Tel. 01753 620110</i>	C.I.D 30th April
June 5/6th	Birtles Farm	The Northern Bytes	LO (36 Teams)
June 12/13th	Daventry	Molten Magnets	Open
June 19/20th	Nuneaton	Nuneaton Flyers	Open
June 26/27th	Sandringham	Barkshire Bandits	LO (48 Teams)
July 3/4th	Askham Bryan, Yorkshire	Wakefield Tykes	LO (36 Teams)
July 3/4th	Portway	Wolf Pack	Open
July 10/11th	Saul	Bristol Ball-istics	Open
July 17/18th	Birtles Farm	The Northern Bytes	LO (36 Teams)
July 24/25th	Anglesey, Tai Lawr	Pods	Open
July 28/29th	Anglesey, Tai Lawr	Pods	Open
July 31/Aug 1st	Anglesey, Tai Lawr	Pods	Open
July 31/Aug 1st	Lotherton Hall Nr. Leeds	Wakefield Tykes	Open
August 7th/8th	Nuneaton	Nuneaton Flyers	Open
August 14th	Dundee	Clatto Clangers	Open
August 29th	Stoneleigh	Molten Magnets	LO (24 Teams)
August 28/29th	Birtles Farm	The Northern Bytes	LO (36 Teams)
August 30th	Birtles Farm	The Northern Bytes	Open Multibreed
September 4/5th	Sutton Fields	Live Wires	LO (36 Teams)
September 11/12th	Paddock Wood, Kent	Barkshire Bandits	LO (36 Teams)
September 25/26th	Eggborough	Yorkshire Bouncers	LO (48 Teams)
September 25/26th	Middlesex Country Show	Barkshire Bandits	LO (36 Teams)

Would all Tournament Organisers please make sure they have approval from the Show Secretary before issuing Schedules.

CONGRATULATIONS

to

ALL TEAM MEMBERS of BORDER PATROL U.K. on gaining Awards

Especially **WELL DONE** to Super Sub **TIA** on finally gaining **FLYBALL DOG**. Tia may not be the fastest thing on four legs but she gives 110%. No dog could try harder. She is an absolute star. Also, **happy retirement to Nell**. At the age of nine Nell has had to retire due to spinal problems. She has been a valuable member of the team for many years.

WELL DONE everyone and **THANK YOU** for your support.

ANDREA WYLES & MARK ROBERTS

CHAIRMAN'S FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

I would like members to consider how we can overcome problems with the break out rule and submitted times.

It should be remembered that the rule is intended to prevent a team deliberately re positioning themselves in a lower division so that they can win it. It may be worth reminding everybody that when a submitted time is given to the tournament organiser it should be in writing and a reason given.

The rule (5.18m) is that if a submitted time is used by a team they will "break out" and loose the heat if they run more than one second faster than the fastest SEEDED time in the division.

SO WHAT IF;

Team A submits a time of19.80

Team B submits a time of 20.20

Team C submits a time of 20.50

Team D are Seeded at20.80

Team E are seeded at 20.85

Therefore the Breakout time for the Division is ONE second faster than team Ds seed time. i.e. 19.80

Now if team A run at 19.79 they will break out and loose the heat, hardly fair as they submitted a time of 19.80 More than 3 breakouts and the team lose everything.

One of the reasons that a team may have to submit a time is the fact that after 4 months the seed time is removed from the list because it is Null & Void (rule 4.5)

As tournament organisers we sometimes refer to the Team Stats and use the last recorded time, usually having asked the team. This enables us to position the team within the divisions. This time then is strictly speaking declared, but as organisers we do not enter a break out on that teams racing sheet. We need this to be regularised.

If you think that the above sonario doesn't happen I could refer you to a race at the end of last summer. One of the Northern Bytes teams was competing against one of the PODS teams - both broke out, so the race became a matter of trying to go a tiny bit faster than the other team, but not break out – A farce!

In the judging Procedures 5.7 section vii of the rules, it refers to seed/submitted time, thus suggesting that a submitted time for the fastest team in the division can be used.

The reason that the problems highlighted here have not caused much trouble is because as tournament organisers we have used discretion in applying the break out. A proposal to sort out the situation will be put before the AGM, but please think about this and consider a few what ifs.

We hope to see lots of you at the AGM

PETER ROBERTS (BFA Chairman)

Current Seed Times (Open) - as at 29th January 2004

SEED	TEAM	TRN	TIME
1	Barkshire Bandits	017	17.37
2	Bad Dog Racers	053	17.38
3	Pods	015	17.58
4	Podsters	015f	17.78
5	Molten Magnets	107	18.07
6	Melton Rovers	035	18.48
7	Wakefield Tykes	046	18.63
8	Mad 4 Mutts	054d	18.77
9	Dodgers	078	18.78
10	Podantics	015g	18.79
11	Molten Marvels	107c	18.84
12	Nuneaton Flyers	051	18.90
13	Barkshire Bullets	017c	18.90
14	Nuneaton Bees	051a	18.91
15	Molten Meteors	107b	19.05
16	Bassett Hotdogs	011b	19.08
17	Bad Dogs on the Run	053f	19.19
18	Sheffield Sprinters	058a	19.32
19	Greetland Grasshoppers	055	19.42
20	Wellingboro' Red Wellies	067	19.55
21	Nuneaton Dodgers	051c	19.60
22	Wakefield Terrortykes	046a	19.65
23	Greedy Grasshoppers	055a	19.65
24	Snatch 'n' Grab	083	19.77
25	Barkshire Bandidos	017d	19.79
26	Podlets	015a	19.90
27	Doncaster Belle Stars	096	19.93
28	The Northern Bytes	027	19.97
29	Live Wires	069	20.07
30	Podextras	015h	20.13
31	Nottingham Flyers	106	20.21
32	Trying 4 Mutts	054g	20.22
33	The Knights	036	20.22
34	Rapidz	082	20.24
35	Bassett Allsorts	011	20.25
36	Hillam Hot Dogs	086	20.25
37	Molten Metals	107e	20.28
38	The Killa Bytes	027b	20.33
39	Sherwood Outlaws	102	20.37
40	Crazy Cannons	081	20.37
41	Wire Springs	069e	20.42
42	Yorkshire Racer	052b	20.52

SEED	TEAM	TRN	TIME
43	Daventry Bumbles	099	20.63
44	Border Crossing	023a	20.66
45	Peas in a Pod	151	20.67
46	Bad Dog Meecos	053a	20.69
47	Four Runners	040	20.70
48	Podlings	015d	20.73
49	Silver Rapidz	082a	20.77
50	Molten Muzzles	107d	20.83
51	Grey Wolves	050f	20.84
52	Tyke Tactics	046e	20.88
53	Blackpool Super Nova	063	20.92
54	Melton Foxes	035b	20.95
55	Bristol Ball-istic Missiles	018b	21.06
56	Thor's Rovers	070	21.16
57	Flying Colours	064	21.21
58	The Mega Bytes	027a	21.21
59	Fylde Rollercoasters	038a	21.27
60	Crazy Crossbows	081c	21.29
61	The Giga Bytes	027e	21.41
62	Wolf Pack	050	21.47
63	Doncaster Northern Stars	096a	21.66
64	Nuneaton Cyclones	051b	21.67
65	Buccaneers	025	21.71
66	W'boro' Red Wellies	067a	21.73
67	Nova Next Generation	063c	21.75
68	Wolverines	050d	21.83
69	Extrabuccs	025a	21.84
70	Border Patrol (UK)	023	21.85
71	Fylde Coasters	038	21.91
72	Wire Connection	069c	21.94
73	Greeny Grasshoppers	055b	22.07
74	Fun 4 Mutts	054b	22.19
75	Melton B's	035a	22.22
76	Break-Aways	090	22.30
77	Doncaster Swift Stars	096b	22.35
78	Jammi Dodgers	078b	22.92
79	Brat Pack	050a	22.97
80	Flying Reds	064a	23.41
81	Wolf Cubs	050e	23.51
82	Wires A-Live	069f	23.72
83	Fylde Surfers	038b	25.25
84	Forest Arrows	104	27.12



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Last amended January 2004

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Take note	Take note	Take note	Take note
			
<p>THE FINAL TOURNAMENTS of the BUTCHERS WINTER LEAGUE Sponsored by BUTCHERS</p>			
<p>Market Harborough, Leics. - 21st & 22nd March 2004</p>			
<p>&</p>			
<p>Remember to put this important date in your diary THE BRITISH FLYBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 28th March 2004</p>			
Take note	Take note	Take note	Take note

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