



WWW.FLYBALL.ORG.UK
ISSUE MARCH 2014

1994 – 2014

IMPORTANT AGM INFORMATION INSIDE



These handlers original dogs were some of the first to achieve their Flyball Dog Award

20 Years on, a few of our 'old stagers' are still enjoying Flyball.

Reminder Notice of Annual General Meeting

To be held at Wythall Community Hall, Wythall Park and House,

Silver Street, Wythall, Birmingham, B47 6LZ

On Sunday 6th April 2014, commencing at 10am.

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the **British Flyball Association** will be held on **Sunday 6th April 2014**, commencing at 10am. *All current members are cordially invited to attend and only current members will be entitled to vote.*

Nominations for membership of the Committee and all *proposals* for inclusion in the Agenda must be received by the Secretary on or before **7th March 2013**

Nominations for the Committee can be posted on the website via the secretary's page. All proposals for inclusion in the Agenda must either be *posted on the BFA website* or sent *in writing by post or e-mailed direct to* jocrosswellk9bfa@gmail.com

Dog exercise area will be available.

Directions to the Venue

Leave M42 at Junction 3.

Take the A435 towards Birmingham

At the next roundabout, take the 3rd exit, signposted Wythall and Hollywood.

Silver Street is 2nd turning on left (approx half a mile from roundabout) opposite Sun Pub and Darren Blower Estate Agents

Wythall Park is on the right. The drive is opposite Wilmore Lane.

For More Information phone Jo Crosswell (BFA Secretary) on 01253 776162

Catering Arrangements

Arrangements have been made for the provision of drinks and biscuits as usual but as last year, members will need to bring their own lunch with them.

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With many teams being involved with doggy Charities the Committee have decided to offer teams the opportunity to have a stall to sell cakes/bakes to fellow members. If your team is interested please contact: **Jo Crosswell (BFA Secretary) by phone on 01253 776162**

Greetings Flyballers

Time seems to fly past at an increasing rate and here we are almost at the AGM again. It is also our 20th Anniversary, the BFA having been formed in 1994. Some of our founder members are still enjoying the sport with as much enthusiasm as they did then.

With membership numbers now in the seven thousands and attendance below one hundred perhaps we should be looking at attempting to make the AGM more accessible to more members. The AGM is something that *has* to take place once a year so whatever happens it isn't going to disappear. There have been some interesting discussions in the social media, some worth considering if the comments made are anything to go by, others that don't seem to grab the imagination of the posters. The AGM is a place for healthy discussion of ways to take our organisation forwards, our sport is such a wonderful one, hopefully no-one would want it to stagnate.

Our organisation is widening its horizons with more and more teams going across the Channel for the European Championships. As these are being held in France this year the distance will be more manageable. A different format is used for the Europeans and is welcomed by those attending although using that format in the UK doesn't seem to be growing.

NAFA was of course the founder of Flyball but they are very welcoming to us and a small party made the trek to their CanAm Championships last October. They were given the opportunity to run with some of the teams (borrowed dogs of course) and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. An item will be in the next issue!

Talk of time flying, when I finished the November issue, I suddenly realised that I had been Editor for nine years Eeek! As I made that discovery I thought it would be an achievement to do ten years, so the next issue in July will be my last. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as Editor, I've learnt many new IT skills and of course got to know so many members through their items they've lovingly sent me. I'm sure there are many of you out there who will bring some fresh air to the FR and maybe it will take on a new format, who knows?

With (will it ever happen?) better weather on the way, enjoy your flyballing and keep the fun in our sport for the humans and dogs.

ED.

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Items for the next Issue of the Flyball Record

must be received by

1st June 2014

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Chairperson's Slot

Once again, flyballers, the weather has disrupted the winter training for many of us. Rain, rain and more rain has resulted in flooded fields, sports fields and parkland, wellies replacing trainers and umbrellas being held in place of a tuggy. Some have been fortunate to find indoor venues and continue to train, others have had to miss sessions. Looking on the media sites, statuses indicate how much flyball training is missed and the disappointment as the rain fell yet again.

I was explaining flyball to someone, only this week, who asked “what is so great about this sport then? Once I’d said words like, adrenaline, excitement, racing, inclusive, team spirit, socialising and dogs love it, I think she was ready to attend the next tournament...despite not owning a dog!! Those of us who are lucky to be competing in this fabulous sport know how great it is, but it’s often not until we stop and think about it, do we remind ourselves of this.

The year 2014 brings us the 20th anniversary of the BFA, and haven’t we come along way! The last four years have shown an accelerated growth in new teams, in comparison to the previous sixteen years. Teams are faster, training more technical, lots of tournaments, reduced full height to fourteen inches and the highest points award now at 100,000, just to name a few. We owe an awful lot to those flyballers who promoted, organised and competed in the BFA in the very early years of the association. Without their dedication, commitment and love of the sport, I doubt we would be where we are today. Many are still racing now, and on behalf of us all, I would like to thank each one of you...and no you don’t look any older!!!

As a committee, we want to improve the sport. The recent BFA members and BFA Judges Facebook pages have made for some very interesting discussions and debates. The subject of Championship format for the top seeded teams proved to be both enlightening and surprising, as was seven team divisions and AGM attendance. I am a firm believer in keeping an open mind and listening to all before making an informed decision. The response to change is very different with each individual, but should we be looking at whether any suggested change is better for the sport or individuals? There is the old saying about if something isn’t broken, why try to fix it? Maybe we should be saying, let’s not wait until it’s broke as then we won’t need to fix it!!

Our Judges seminar in February proved to be productive and encouraging. It was great to see experienced and new judges sharing ideas and discussing how to improve standards, consistency and empower those who are standing in the middle. It also gave the committee the opportunity to outline plans for changing the judging structure, in particular the process of achieving judges status whether it be qualified or head judges. We hope to introduce this in the next few months. All our judges are representing the BFA when they officiate at tournaments and as a committee, and with the support of our current judges, we want to ensure that each judge has received the support, mentoring and has full understanding of the rules, so on the day they blow their whistle, for the first time, as a qualified judge, they are confident and competent. Without our judges, there would be no racing, so please treat each one with respect and courtesy.

The beginning of the season is always exciting, we all have our hopes and dreams but will not know if these are realised until the end. For me, this applies to both my team and committee aspirations. For my team, I want to run well, knowing that we will win some and lose some (please don’t let it be my early pass that determines a loss!!) and yes I do like to win, but that does not mean that I don’t have fun at flyball as I know that you can be competitive and have fun too. I am quite a competitive person - now I know that’s shocked a few but it’s true - and I am the same with our association. I want our association to be up there at the same level as other flyball organisations, promoting flyball positively, embracing change when it’s introduced and making our dogs the centre of it all. As a committee, we all share the same vision, it’s a vision we share with you as I know together, we can make it happen.....

The AGM is the chance for members to share their views and make proposals. It would be great to see a bigger attendance than previous years as all contribution is welcomed, constructive of course! However, with the size of our ever growing membership and the distance many of our members would

need to travel, teams from Scotland, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland having some of the longest journeys, we may need to consider how we can accommodate all of our members and enable them to vote in the future.

As a committee, we are continually working on behalf of the association. Most of our efforts are very much behind the scenes but hopefully the results of our work is evident. For anyone thinking of standing for committee this year, it is hard work and it is a big commitment, but to be able to represent and lead our association is an honour and we also have fun along the way!

Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it's the courage to continue that counts!

See you on the circuit, wishing you good racing, fun and friendship

Sharon

BFA Committee

BFA Chairperson Tel. 07766 112059	Sharon Allcorn Email: sharonallcorn@gmail.com
Vice Chairperson Tel. 07957 861695	Tony Cain Email: antcain1@googlemail.com
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Committee Member Tel: 07725 904831	Ellen Schofield Email: bfa@tottlefields.co.uk
Committee Member Tel: 07812 155424	Dave Long Email: dlong@tiscali.co.uk

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“Please do not press this button again...”

The really good news is how popular the on-line membership renewals are. At the point of writing around 70% of this year's renewals have been submitted on line.

Of these renewals 99.8% of them are completely trouble-free.

And what of the other 0.2% I hear you ask? Well – those are where human nature and technology are not quite happening together... Let me explain:

If you process your renewal you get to a point where you have entered all the details, and then all your payment card details, and you have to press the famed “**Submit**” button.

And then you wait....

What happens in the background is that your payment card is authorized, money is requested and hopefully confirmed.

At this point, you should get a confirmation that you have paid, both on the screen and in an email. If it didn't work then you should get a message on your screen to let you know it didn't work.

But – how long should you wait? And what if nothing seems to happen? Human nature will make you want to press that “Submit” button again.

BUT... Please don't press the button again!

You will risk the transaction being processed twice, and money being taken out of your bank twice.

This means that we have to refund it – which will take time, is a bit of a faff – and each time we have to do it, it costs the BFA about £1.50.

So please remember, only press “**Submit**” ONCE. If nothing happens and there is no email confirmation – first check your Junk mail in case it went there. If there is nothing at all then please send an email to me (ray@effects.co.uk) and I will check the transaction list and let you know if it really did fail.

And finally, from that fabulous creation by Douglas Adams, “The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy”:

ARTHUR DENT: What happens if I press this button?

FORD PREFECT: I wouldn't-

ARTHUR DENT: Oh.

FORD PREFECT: What happened?

ARTHUR DENT: A sign lit up, saying “Please do not press this button again.”

Douglas Adams, 1978

Ray Lewis (Committee, acting webmaster & Delta Force)

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New Judges

Congratulations to **Louise McDermott** (Tayside Roadrunners) on passing her **Head Judge** exam.

also

Jon Bisset (Eastcoast); **Katrina Hands** (Supersonic Saltires); and **Rachel Kuttner** (Crossfire) on passing their **Qualified Judges** exam.

CANINE MASSAGE FOR THE FLYBALL DOG

Movement is created through the combined function of muscles, bone & joints all working together. Dogs have around 650 muscles in their body, accounting for approximately 45% of their bodyweight. These muscles are attached to the 320 bones (depending on tail length) in the skeleton. As the muscle contracts, it pulls on the bones like levers to produce movement, such as walking, running and jumping. Muscle contractions are also responsible for smaller movements like facial expressions.

These muscles are in constant use, as most dogs will run, play and jump on a daily basis. Just like humans, dogs can accumulate muscular tension and suffer injuries caused by daily activities, but they are more resilient to pain and tend to hide their injuries.

Flyball dogs have to perform at a more intense level, placing increased stress on the body and increasing the risk of injury. In a single run of flyball, the dog has to – sprint, jump, trigger the box, retrieve the ball and turn. Then do it all again whilst holding the ball and complete a changeover. All of this whilst maintaining speed, control and focus over the course. It is a high impact sport. Not only is flyball repetitive in nature, but it also exerts a significant force on the carpal (wrist) joints when hitting the box. To continue enjoying this addictive sport, but keep your dog healthy, it is important to recognise them as an athlete and treat them accordingly.

Canine Massage Therapy is one of the ways to help keep your dog in good condition. This powerful and versatile therapy provides numerous benefits for all dogs. It can help flyball dogs in 3 main areas:

1. Pre-Event Warm-Ups

- Prepares the body for exercise
- Increases blood flow to the muscles
- Reduces the risk of injury

2. Post-Event Cool Downs

- Eliminates toxins from the body
- Reduces muscle stiffness
- Promotes faster recovery time

3. Maintenance Treatments

- Ensures they are in tip-top condition at the start of the season
- Ideal health check at the end of season
- Identifies and resolves any muscular injuries
- Maintains flexibility and mobility
- Focuses on areas of over-use and muscular imbalance

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As a dog owner, I understand how precious dogs are to their owners. I also partake in flyball, so understand the demands placed on a dog and the potential for injuries. I hope that this reassures you that your dog is in safe hands when they see me.

In the next issue of Flyball Record, I will discuss some of the signs that an owner can look out for in their own dog that indicates a dog may be suffering with a potential muscular injury.

Jenny Youdan(Crossroads) With thanks to Jenny for sharing this important information with us [Ed].

Jenny is a professional, qualified Canine Massage Therapist. She provides remedial massage to resolve muscular injuries, support dogs suffering with orthopaedic conditions and maintain sporting performance. Her aim is to help your dog remain mobile and improve their quality of life.



BFA Diary 2014

Key – **CLD** = Closing date for entry **O** = Open **LO** = Limited Open **M** = Multibreed **LM** = Limited Multibreed

Apr 18/19/20 th 21 st	Fairview Farm, Stockbridge, Hamps Jets Contact: <i>Wayne O'Rourke. Phone 02380 394370</i>	LO (87 teams) LM (24 teams) CLD 19 th Mar
Apr 19/20 th 21 st	Driffield Showground, East-Yorks Dog Star Contact: <i>Keith Huggins Phone 01757 638191</i>	LO (60 teams) LM (24 teams) CLD 21 st Mar
Apr 19/20 th 21 st	Badgers Hill, Sherrifs Lench, Evesham, Worcs Water Orton Wonderdogs One division of Starters each day One division of Starters Contact: <i>Donna Culley Phone 07825 268318</i>	LO (84 teams) LM (18 teams) CLD 19 th Mar
Apr 19/20 th 21 st	Caravan Field, Clitheroe, Lancs Reiver Rebels Hosted with Demon Dogz Starters Fri 18th Contact: <i>Hazell Brown Phone 07971 410223</i>	LO (96 teams) LM (30 teams) CLD 19 th Mar
Apr 26/27 th	Littleport Leisure Centre, Ely, Cambs Cambridgeshire Canines Contact: <i>Ellen Schofield Phone 07725 904831</i>	LO (72 teams) CLD 26 th Mar
Apr 26 th	Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, Scotland Lomond Raiders Contact: <i>Sarah Wallace Phone 07808 912599</i>	LO (30 teams) CLD 28 th Mar
Apr 26/27 th	Apps Court Farm, Walton on Thames, Surrey Ace's High Contact: <i>Jeanette Shelley Phone 07845 535194</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 26 th Mar
Apr 27 th	Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, Scotland Killie Contact: <i>Alison Hunter Phone 07591 854095</i>	LO (24 teams) CLD 29 th Mar
May 3/4 th 5 th	Siddows Farm, Clitheroe, Lancs Reiver Rebels Contact: <i>Hazell Brown Phone 07971 410223</i>	LO (60 teams) LM (24 teams) CLD 3 rd Apr
May 3/4 th 5 th	Drax Sports & Social Club, Nth-Yorks Rotherham Rockets Contact: <i>Andrew James Phone 07933 840755</i>	LO (108 teams) LM (54 teams) CLD 3 rd Apr
May 3/4 th 5 th	Badgers Hill, Sherrifs Lench, Evesham, Worcs Water Orton Wonderdogs One division of Starters each day One division of Starters Contact: <i>Donna Culley Phone 07825 268318</i>	LO (84 teams) LM (18 teams) CLD 3 rd Apr
May 3/4 th 5 th	Hedsor Golf Course, Wooburn Common, Bucks Lightning Strikes Starters (12 teams) Contact: <i>Kim Sermon Phone 07771 812862</i>	LO (54 teams) CLD 3 rd Apr
May 10/11 th	Parklands Sps & Soc Club, Doncaster, Sth-Yorks Extreme Racers Contact: <i>Ryan Mills Phone 0114 221821</i>	LO (96 teams) CLD 11 th Apr
May 10/11 th	Brentwood Centre, Essex Ramsden Rockers Contact: <i>Jillian Head Phone 01702 231653</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 12 th Apr
May 10/11 th	Acremead Kennels, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon Mad Mutts Contact: <i>Sam Bawden Phone 07779640465</i>	LO (54 teams) CLD 11 th Apr
May 10/11 th	Larden Green Farm, Baddiley, Nantwich, Cheshire Chilli Peppers Contact: <i>Vanda McParlan Phone 01513 275187</i>	LO (60 teams) CLD 11 th Apr
May 17/18 th	Sutton Fields, Nr Runcorn, Cheshire Live Wires Starters and Fun Classes Contact: <i>Anne Alcock Phone 01925 267274</i>	LO (60 teams) CLD 18 th Apr
May 17/18 th	Drax Sports & Social Club, Nth-Yorks Paws 8 Hosted with Formula One Contact: <i>Sue North Phone 07840 806308</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 17 th Apr
May 17/18 th	War Memorial Park, Basingstoke, Hamps Dream Team Please note change of venue Contact: <i>Roland White Phone 01420 22334</i>	O CLD 18 th Apr
May 24/25 th	Padworth Village Hall, Nr Reading, Berks Kennet Zingers Contact: <i>Gary Black Phone 07789 692326</i>	LO (54 teams) CLD 24 th Apr

May 24/25 th 26 th	Fmer Copleys, Ravensknowle Fm, Pontefract, West-Yorks Demon Dogz Hosted with Reiver Rebels Contact: <i>Natalie Holtappel Phone 07957 593047</i>	LO (60 teams) LM (30 teams) CLD 24 th Apr
May 24/25/26 th	Manor House Fm, Betchton Heath, Sandbach, Cheshire Storm Chasers Starters and Fun Classes Contact: <i>Vicki Dawe Phone 07738 972522</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 25 th Apr
May 24/25 th 26 th	Cowgate Farm, Hawkinge, Kent Shooting Stars Contact: <i>Janice Aird Phone 07815 841045</i>	O OM CLD 24 th Apr
May 31 st / Jun 1 st	Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire Nuneaton Flyers Contact: <i>Stuart Harrison Phone 01827 707293</i>	LO (54 teams) CLD 1 st May
May 31 st / Jun 1 st	Hamilton House Farm, Preston, Lancashire Ready2Fly Starters Contact: <i>Pete Crosswell Phone 01253 776162</i>	O CLD 2 nd May
Jun 7/8 th	Parklands Sp & Soc Club, Doncaster, Sth-Yorks Extreme Racers Contact: <i>Ryan Mills Phone 0114 221821</i>	LO (96 teams) CLD 8 th May
Jun 7/8 th	West Woodlands Showground, Frome, Somerset Somerset Scrumpys Contact: <i>Trudy Barnard Phone 07702 252954</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 9 th May
Jun 14 th	Meadowmill Sports Centre, Tranent, Scotland Supersonic Saltires Contact: <i>Adelle Richie Phone 07947 358834</i>	LO (24 teams) CLD 16 th May
Jun 14/15 th	Sledmere House, Driffield, East-Yorks Eastcoast Starters Contact: <i>Terry Wilkinson Phone 07511 502130</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 16 th May
Jun 14/15 th	Ryecroft Farm, Ashley, Cheshire Cheshire Set Contact: <i>Vera Edge Phone 01565 873390</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 14 th May
Jun 14/15 th	Apps Court Farm, Walton on Thames, Surrey Ace's High Contact: <i>Andrew Worrall Phone 07906 552127</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 14 th May
Jun 14/15 th	Highcross Steam Fair, Ashby Magna, Leics Hinckley Hooligans Contact: <i>Margaret Cousins Phone 07759 142528</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 14 th May
Jun 15 th	Meadowmill Sports Centre, Tranent, Scotland The Flying Scots Contact: <i>Lynn Bradley Phone 01506 492348</i>	LO (24 teams) CLD 16 th May
Jun 21/22 nd	Leverhulme Playing Fields, Eastham, Merseyside Deva Dogmatix Contact: <i>Bridget Leek Phone 01513 368923</i>	LO (72 teams) CLD 23 rd May
Jun 21/22 nd	Imber Court, East Molesey, Surrey FourPaws Racing Starters Contact: <i>Terry Condra Phone 01895 254427</i>	LO (72 teams) CLD 21 st May
Jun 21/22 nd	Sherbrooke Scout Camp, Calverton, Notts Mansfield Marnicks Contact: <i>Naomi Pearce Phone 07747 479748</i>	O CLD 21 st May
Jun 28 th 29 th	Bakewell Showground, Derbys Sheffield Speeders Held with Dogs Unleashed. Teams/Dogs may enter either Sat or Sun Contact: <i>Paula Merryman Phone 01246 414816</i>	LO(30 teams) CLD 28 th May
Jun 28/29 th	Caravan Field, Clitheroe, Lancs Reiver Rebels Starters Contact: <i>Hazell Brown Phone 07971 410223</i>	LO (60 teams) CLD 28 th May
Jul 5/6 th	Penny Farm, Blackpool, Lancs Red Rose Rockets Contact: <i>Len Titterington Phone 01253 762116</i>	LO (42 teams) CLD 5 th June
Jul 5/6 th	Darley Moor Motor Cycle Club, Wyaston, Ashbourne, Derbys Alpha Dogz Contact: <i>Rachel Child Phone 07767 266916</i>	LO (72 teams) CLD 6 th June
Jul 5/6 th	Barbury Castle, Rockley, Marlborough, Wilts Bassett Allsorts Held with Barbury Horse Trials Contact: <i>Anne Alderman Phone 01793 849972</i>	LO (48 teams) CLD 5 th June
Jul 5/6 th	East of Eng. Showground, Peterborough, Cambs Cambridgeshire Canines Held at Just Dogs Live Contact: <i>Ellen Schofield Phone 07725 904831</i>	LO (72 teams) CLD 6 th June
Jul 12/13 th	Epworth Showground, Sth-Yorks Notts Supadogs Contact: <i>Jo Bonner Phone 01909 808904</i>	LO (96 teams) CLD 12 th June

BFA Officials Slot

Regional Representatives Co-ordinator: The RR's are establishing their identity and gathering momentum; successes include regions holding discussions ahead of the AGM and well attended Ring Party training events. The co-ordinator provides the link back to the Committee to allow consideration of any new initiatives to ensure these are approved both in scope and where funding is required.

Lights Co-ordinator: The BFA lights are increasingly in demand with the growth of the sport and Tournament Organisers are encouraged to contact Dave Long by email or text to receive confirmation of the availability of the BFA lights. The owners of private sets will be contacted to see if they are able to support shows where there is a shortfall.

Awards Co-ordinator: Awards continue to be issued with the co-ordinator establishing a network of recipients for shows where he is not in attendance. As an additional service; Team Captains will receive an email letting them know which awards to expect to allow any additional team gifts to be co-ordinated.

Total number of awards gained from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013

Award Name	Points	Awards Gained
Flyball Dog	200	525
Flyball Dog Intermediate	1,000	441
Flyball Dog Graduate	3,000	335
Flyball Dog Advanced	5,000	255
Flyball Dog Silver	10,000	196
Flyball Dog Gold	15,000	136
Flyball Dog Ice Blue Moon	20,000	93
Flyball Dog Platinum	25,000	67
Flyball Dog Pearl	30,000	45
Flyball Dog Jade	35,000	35
Flyball Dog Chica Chicana	40,000	24
Flyball Dog Sapphire	50,000	4
Flyball Dog Diamond	60,000	3
Flyball Dog Opal	70,000	1
Flyball Dog Topaz	80,000	2
Flyball Dog Belle Star	90,000	0
Flyball Dog Emerald	100,000	1

Total Number of Awards **2163**

Membership Secretary: Thus far in 2014, 2221 members have renewed and 158 new members have joined. Registered Teams now number 345, though not all are active. New teams find some difficulties in registering an original name, this has led to the committee considering removing team names that are no longer or have never been active in the sport.

Height Card Administrator: A request to add the Height Card Master sheet for Tournament Organisers to be added to the Administrative forms on the website was approved.

Show Secretary: Judy's report asked the committee to remind members to avoid using any emails ending flyball.org as these are no longer received. Please use the appropriate contact details from the Officials page on the website.

Webmaster: An issue with the Website payment portal has arisen with members pressing 'SUBMIT' multiple times, this has resulted in refunds being required and increased costs to the BFA for using the secure payment process. Members are reminded to be patient when the payment is being processed to avoid this issue both for themselves and the association. The potential to allow payment for tournament fees and for new membership applications are still being investigated for the future benefit of the Association. Ray is removing any reference to email addresses ending flyball.org from the current website.

SHAW CROSS RACES FLYBALL TEAMS

Would like to Congratulate the following on Achieving their AWARDS In 2013

FLYBALL DOG

Lynda S.and **MINKA** Jess and **OREO** Hayley and **PICKLE**
Kelly H.and **WILF** Phil and **PETRA**

FLYBALL DOG INTERMEDIATE

Linda S.and **MINKA** Jess and **OREO** Hayley and **PICKLE** Kelly H.and **WILF**
Yvonne and **MURPHY** Phil and **PETRA**

GRADUATE

Linda S.and **MINKA** Jess and **OREO** Hayley and **PICKLE** Kelly H.and **WILF**
Christine and **HOLLY** Yvonne and **MURPHY** Phil and **PETRA**

ADVANCED

Christine and **HOLLY** Jess and **OREO** Yvonne and **MURPHY** Phil and **PETRA**

SILVER

Linda O.and **DALE** Linda S.and **BARNEY** Phil and **PETRA**

GOLD

Linda S.and **BARNEY** Kelly G.and **HOLLY**

PLATINUM

Michael and **BAILEY**

PEARL

Michael and **BAILEY**

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COMMITTEE NEWS

Catton Hall 2014 ~ A Celebration of 20 years of Flyballing

Obviously from the postings on our BFA members facebook page, members are looking forward to the Championships or is it a Festival or possibly even a combination of the two? on 15/16/17th August.

One thing is certain, those of you that attended the Championships last year voted it the best so far. As this year is our 20th anniversary, we would like to make sure that this year will be equally enjoyable, if no more so. To organise this event takes a lot of hard work and inevitably money.

There were new facilities added last year, based on the feedback from the previous year's championships, that everyone appreciated. Due to ever increasing costs and long term plans for the association, and 20th anniversary celebration, there is the possibility that there will be an increase in championship fees.

Your Committee have been taking note of your suggestions for this year and will be discussing them in details before coming to any decisions.

For your Edification – Some Jan 2014 Rule Changes

As last year most of the rule changes were for clarification following queries from members or judges and hopefully they have done 'what it says on the tin!' One or two were obviously written in invisible ink in a previous version of the rules and this has been rectified. However, do please contact the Committee if you find any others that have incorrectly done a disappearing act via the fb BFA members only or BFA judges pages or by email, snail mail.

The aim of this item is an endeavour to ensure members and judges are consistent in their interpretation of the rules.

- ❖ **4.1 Sanctioned Competition – Requirements** A BFA Registered team *wishing to host a Sanctioned Tournament* (the host team) must submit an application (BFA Form C3)...

Tournament venues must be within a 50 mile (as the crow flies) radius from the Host Teams' Team Captain's home address.

This is to ensure that all Sanctioned Flyball Tournaments are only hosted by BFA registered teams and in addition Host Teams comply with our **Code of Ethics** showing consideration to other host teams who may wish to host a tournament but have not yet applied to the Show Secretary. However in fairness to Host Teams a tournament inside the 50 mile limit will be considered and may be allowed if it is in the best interests of the membership.

- ❖ **4.1 (f & h)**

These are from the invisible ink brigade and refer to the use of electronic entries. They were previously in the rules and have been re-inserted.

- ❖ **4.1 (j) Running orders and tournament information** should be emailed to teams and also posted on the discussion board on the BFA website so they are available to all team members. Seed times used must be shown *with faster* and slower declared times clearly marked.

This ensures fairness to all competitors.

- ❖ **4.3 Layout** In cases of racing lanes being placed on hard surfaces or carpet (such as indoor/outdoor carpet where rug burns are possible), the whole length of each racing lane shall be matted to the end of the run back, including underlay with a minimum thickness of 6mm (*no underlay is required if 'Tuff Spun' matting is used*)

The Tuff Spun matting is the only type of matting that needs to be laid **without** an underlay. The use of underlay is detrimental to this make of matting. Also **5.13 (b)**

- ❖ **4.4 Seeding Note:** Only BFA Registered Teams *and non-uk teams competing under the European Flyball Charter* will be officially seeded.

More European teams are crossing the channel and may compete officially with us providing the team/s has/have signed the European Flyball Charter.

- ❖ 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...

This allows BFA members to put officially together a team that is not BFA registered and run NFC.

- ❖ **5.2 (e) Teams** A BFA registered team must comprise all BFA registered dogs and all handlers (*and registered owners: Removed*) of these dogs must be current members of the BFA.

As Flyball has grown there are many more dogs being run by BFA members that do not belong to the handler. The BFA member is running the dog on behalf of the owner and it was not felt necessary that the owner should be 'forced' to become a member of the association.

- ❖ **5.6 (c) Judging procedures** Only one handler per dog shall *normally* be allowed in the measuring area unless the Head Judges/measuring official chose to allow otherwise for specific dogs. A dog will be measured from the ground to *between* its withers.

With the introduction of the laser measuring equipment which allows for a much calmer environment for the dog, for the vast majority of dogs there should be no need for there to be more than one handler. For the 'odd' dog with a problem the 2 measurers may feel that for the benefit of the dog an extra handler could be allowed. The measure is now taken to between the withers not the top.

- ❖ **5.6 (h) Line Judges** i) (*Keep track of practice runs: Removed*) ii) Using *both the* BFA Time Sheet (Form C2) *and the single sided master sheet that shows teams and divisional break out times*, record for each heat which dogs participate, the team's time and whether they won, lost or tied.

With the increased pressure on time, the 2 minute rule has become the norm so it is no longer necessary for the line judge to check the number of practice runs. Logically, the line judge needs both team and division break out times in order to check if a team has broken out.

- ❖ **5.6 (i) Box Judges** *Observe dogs for faults, including dropped balls, missed jumps and not triggering the box, observe the box and box loader for infringements including incorrect placement of the box and non-verbal encouragement; observe dogs, box loader and spectators for interference. If the box-loader claims that the box has malfunctioned, the box judge shall indicate this to the line judge and division judge by standing up, raising both arms above the head, crossed at the wrists. Following this the box judge shall then observe the box and ensure that it is not interfered with until it has been inspected by the Division Judge. See also 5.17 (e) Box Malfunction.* (g) **Conduct of Box Loader** Except during the warm up ... the box loader must remain in the upright position behind the box *with hands behind his/her back.*

Following queries by members this rule has been amended to reflect our concern for dog and handler safety and to clarify the rule.

- ❖ **5.7 Teams and Time Sheets** *At a tournament each team shall consist of a minimum of 4 dogs (and 4 handlers, with a maximum of 6 dogs and 6 handlers plus a box loader, all of whom must be current BFA members: Removed) and a maximum of 6 dogs, a BFA member responsible for each dog and a BFA member as box loader. The dogs must be eligible to run with that team. The dogs and responsible members shall be declared on the C2 time sheet prior to the start of racing of the division. When a team reports for racing only those dogs declared shall enter the ring, each accompanied by a BFA member to hand or to hold the dog. In addition to the handlers/holders and the box loader a team may at their discretion be accompanied by one or two runners who are BFA members to pick up loose ball... (Next sentence Removed)*

Following queries by members this has been amended in order to clarify the original rule.

- ❖ **5.14 Reporting for races** (b) teams that win by forfeit must *run but not necessarily* complete (*see 5.15 (i)*) **Note: this should be 5.17(i) The Finish.** the minimum required heats...

This (with 5.17(i)) strengthens our concern for dog welfare so that dogs are not re-run multiple times in order to complete and works with the judges' discretion to end a race and declare a winner or possibly a tie.

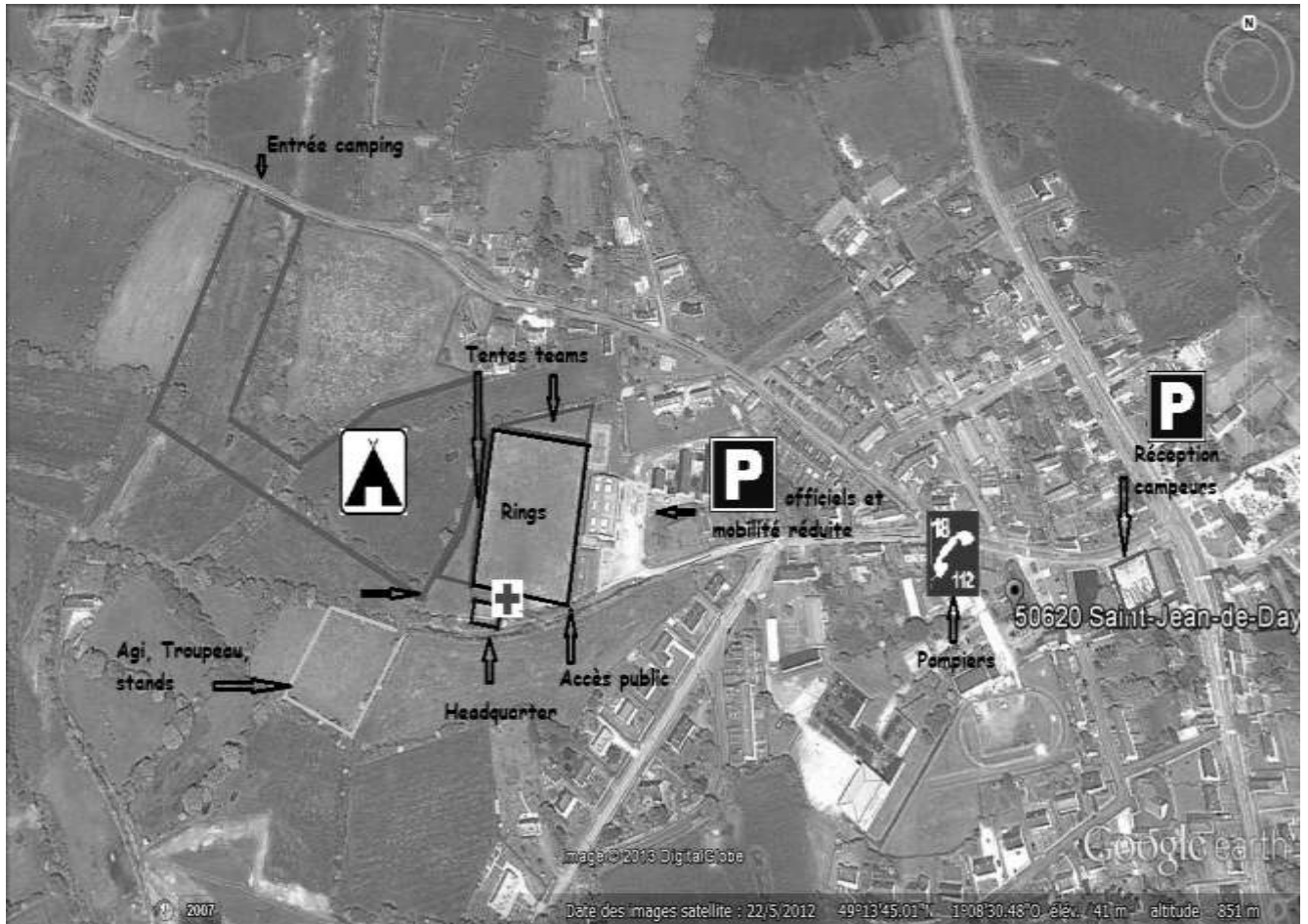
- ❖ **5.17(j) Distractions** team members shall not distract the opposing team by bouncing a ball... or by any other means nor **THROW** any object for their dogs (i.e *motivators such* balls, toys ...

Motivators are an essential tool in the sport of Flyball but should always be controlled by the handler as throwing any motivator in the run back area is a potential distraction and could cause a dangerous incident so would be a safety issue.



Euros 2014 News

The 2014 European Championships will be held on the 18th 19th and 20th July at Saint Jean de Daye, Lower Normandy, France, 60 Km from Caen or Cherbourg.



Individual teams will run all their races on the same day (either Friday, Saturday or Sunday) with the finals being held late in the afternoon each day. The fastest divisions will race on Sunday.

The number of teams that have been able to pre-register is 120 and this has been reached, indeed there is a reserve list.

9 European countries will be taking part, below are the numbers of individual teams for each country.

Germany	9 teams	Netherlands	1 team	Austria	3 teams
France	10 teams	Czechoslovakia	9 teams	Belgium	31 teams
Poland	4 teams	United Kingdom	49 teams	Hungary	4 teams

In true Flyball spirit our teams have been helping each other with preparations, travel arrangements and doggie passport requirements.

We wish all our teams an enjoyable competition great social interaction with our European fellow Flyballers.

Regional Representative News

Lancashire/Manchester/Merseyside and Cheshire/Stafford/Shropshire/Herefordshire/Worcestershire

Saturday 8th February saw a training day at Sutton Fields for the regional reps **Katie Burns** and **Lucy Hughes** combined areas. The event, which was to be a full day, had been well received when advertised and had been heavily oversubscribed. Finally 60 BFA members were offered a place on the day but the weather took its toll on the available outside space and it was decided that rather than cancel, we would split the day into two half day sessions instead. This allowed us to still have the 60 delegates but meant we could not offer practical work with their dogs. All the sessions were undertaken inside, one session in the clubhouse and two in the barn where two full lanes of jumps, two boxes and a set of lights were set out, together with the dog measuring device.

Both morning and afternoon sessions started with tea/coffee and a summary of what the day would entail and introductions. Delegates were then split into three groups as follows:-

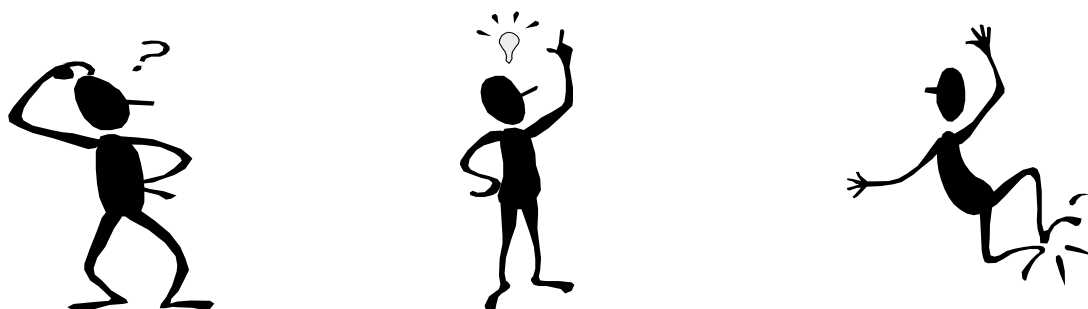
1. **Standing in the middle** – taken by **Val Currie** – covering what it is like to be the 'person in the middle', and the importance of ring parties understanding the rules, especially sections 4 and 5.
2. **Box/Scribing** – taken by **Tony Hodge** – covering box judging faults and completing the various scribing paperwork correctly.
3. **Line/Lights/Dog Measuring** – taken by **Dianne Halstead** and **Nikki Manley** – delegates were given the opportunity to operate the lights and given various scenarios and common dog/handler faults. This session also gave an opportunity for delegates to try their hands at dog measuring. Our two stooge dogs, **Paislee** and **Milo** were very well behaved and enjoyed the attention. The association is in desperate need of more measuring officials and it is hoped that following this session that some of the delegates will put their name forward and start their log books.

The sessions culminated with everyone meeting back up in the clubhouse and where they were awarded with a certificate of attendance and their copy of the delegates booklet for future reference at tournaments and to use with their fellow team members.

It is hoped to hold a practical session later in the year and possibly hold another full day training event at the end of the summer season, should there be sufficient interest.

Our thanks go to our Head Judges **Val Currie**, **Tony Hodge** and **Dianne Halstead** for their instruction and advice on the day. Thank you to Val for redrafting the delegate's booklet and getting it to and from the printers. To **Nikki Manley** for assisting **Dianne** and **Jeff Hughes** for printing all the certificates. Thank you to **Anne Alcock** and **Live Wires** for the use of their equipment, lights and dog measuring device and a special big thank you to **Debbie Woods** and all her team at **Sutton Fields** for the hire of the venue, food and facilities.

Katie Burns and Lucy Hughes – (Regional Reps & Carry On's/Muskerhounds).



BFA Diary 2014 Continued

Key – **CLD** = Closing date for entry **O** = Open **LO** = Limited Open **M** = Multibreed **LM** = Limited_Multibreed

Jul 12/13 th	Mapledurham House, Reading, Berks Contact: <i>Penny Charlton Phone 01628 829623</i>	Barkshire Bandits	LO (96 teams) CLD 12 th June
Jul 19/20 th	Sledmere House, Drifffield, East-Yorks Contact: <i>Terry Wilkinson Phone 07511 502130</i>	Eastcoast Starters	LO (48 teams) CLD 20 th June
Jul 19/20 th	Ryecroft Farm, Ashley, Cheshire Contact: <i>Vera Edge Phone 01565 873390</i>	Cheshire Set	LO (48 teams) CLD 19 th June
Jul 26/27 th	Tai Lawr, Bryngwran, Anglesey Contact: <i>Delia Roberts Phone 01407 810610</i>	Pods	LO (72 teams) CLD 26 th June
Aug 2/3 rd	Fairview Farm, Stockbridge, Hampshire Contact: <i>Wayne O'Rourke Phone 02380 394370</i>	Jets	LO (48 teams) CLD 4 th July
Aug 2 nd	Camperdown Park, Dundee, Scotland Contact: <i>Alan Wood Phone 01382 580443</i>	Tayside Roadrunners	LO (24 teams) CLD 4 th July
Aug 2/3 rd	Block Fen RSPCA, Wimblington, Cambs Contact: <i>David Flood Phone 07775 563773</i>	Fenland Firestorm	O CLD 4 th July
Aug 3 rd	Camperdown Park, Dundee, Scotland Contact: <i>Shian Corley Phone 01592 741529</i>	Dundee Dynamutz	LO (30 teams) CLD 4 th July
Aug 9/10 th	Fairview Farm, Stockbridge, Hampshire Contact: <i>Wayne O'Rourke Phone 02380 394370</i>	Jets	LO (48 teams) CLD 11 th July
Aug 15/16/17 th	BFA Championships. Catton Hall, Walton upon Trent, Derbys Contact: <i>jocrosswellk9bfa@gmail.com</i>	BFA Committee	LO TBC CLD 15 th July
Aug 23/24 th 25 th	Drax Sports & Social Club, Nth-Yorks Contact: <i>Andrew James Phone 07933 840755</i>	Rotherham Rockets	LO (108 teams) LM (54 teams) CLD 23 rd July
Aug 23/24 th 25 th	Cowgate Farm, Hawkinge, Kent Contact: <i>Janice Aird Phone 07815 841045</i>	Shooting Stars	O M CLD 23 rd July
Aug 23/24 th 25 th	Acremead Kennels, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon Contact: <i>Sam Bawden Phone 07779640465</i>	Mad Mutts	LO (54 teams) LM (30 teams) CLD 25 th July
Sept 6/7 th	Padworth Village Hall, Nr Reading, Berks Contact: <i>Gary Black Phone 07789 692326</i>	Kennet Zingers	LO (54 teams)
Sept 6/7 th	Sutton Fields, Nr Runcorn, Cheshire Contact: <i>Anne Alcock Phone 01925 267274</i>	Live Wires Starters and Fun classes	LO (60 teams)
Sept 6/7 th	Sherbrooke Scout Camp, Calverton, Notts Contact: <i>Naomi Pearce Phone 07747 479748</i>	Mansfield Marnicks	O
Sept 13/14 th	Ravensknowle Farm, Pontefract, West-Yorks Contact: <i>Hazell Brown Phone 07971 410223</i>	Reiver Rebels Starters	LO (60 teams)
Sept 20/21 st	Sledmere House, Drifffield, East-Yorks Contact: <i>Terry Wilkinson Phone 07511 502130</i>	Eastcoast Starters	LO (48 teams)
Sept 20/21 st	Paws in the Park, Detling Showground, Kent Contact: <i>Joe Mitchell Phone 07528 820620</i>	Tails We Win	LO (48 teams)
Sept 20/21 st	Larden Green Farm, Nantwich, Cheshire Contact: <i>Bridget Leek Phone 01513 368923</i>	Deva Dogmatix	LO (72 teams)
Sept 27/28 th	Eggborough Power Station, Nth-Yorks Contact: <i>Michelle Bell Phone 07917 131519</i>	Furry Tails	LO (54 teams)
Sept 27/28 th	Acremead Kennels, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon Contact: <i>Sam Bawden Phone 07779640465</i>	Mad Mutts	LO (54 teams)
Sept 27/28 th	Block Fen RSPCA, Wimblington, Cambs Contact: <i>David Flood Phone 07775 563773</i>	Fenland Firestorm	O
Oct 4 th	Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester, Cambs Contact: <i>Kristian Allcorn Phone 01438 236201</i>	High Flyers	LO (48 teams)

Oct 11/12 th	Apps Court Farm, Walton on Thames, Surrey Contact: <i>Jeannette Shelley Phone 07845 535194</i>	Ace's High	LO (48 teams)
Oct 11/12 th	Cheshire Polo Club, Little Budworth, Tarporley, Cheshire Held in marquee, Teams & Dogs may enter either Sat or Sun Contact: <i>Anne Alcock Phone 01925 267274</i>	Live Wires	LO (42 Teams)
Oct 19 th	Maidstone, Kent Contact: <i>Debbie Collins Phone 01689 607556</i>	Ball Busters	LO (35 teams)
Oct 25 th 26 th	Drax Sports & Social Club, Nth-Yorks Held in 160' x 40' marquee. Teams & Dogs may enter either Sat or Sun Contact: <i>Andrew James Phone 07933 840755</i>	Rotherham Rockets	LO (30 teams)
Nov 1 st	Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester, Cambs Contact: <i>Kristian Allcorn Phone 01438 236201</i>	High Flyers	LO (48 teams)
Nov 8 th	HJ and QJ Meeting, Wythall Community Assn, West-Mids	BFA Committee	
Nov 15 th 16 th	Newark Showground, Notts Teams & Dogs may enter either Sat or Sun Contact: <i>Stuart Harrison Phone 01827 707293</i>	Nuneaton Flyers	LO (30 teams) LO (24 teams)
Nov 23 rd	Maidstone, Kent Part of Ball Busters Indoor Winter League Contact: <i>Debbie Collins Phone 01689 607556</i>	Ball Busters	LO (35 teams)

Question Time - Why?

- Why are teams sometimes grumpy when entering and leaving the ring?

What should really happen: In an ideal world everyone would be considerate when entering and leaving the ring.

Think: The team coming into the ring is on a 2 minute time limit – should they enter the ring first? Their precious time is ticking away = grumpiness.

Hang on though: If the team that has finished their race is standing around dissecting the race or simply chatting, their dogs not back under the control of the handler surely this is could be a dangerous situation? The team leaving the ring should be out first.

Hey steady there: The team coming in is still standing there waiting = grumpiness, both boxes have been removed from the lane and the judge is wanting to get the race going = possible grumpiness.

Solution: The team leaving the ring gathers up their dogs on leads, stand out of the way of the incoming dogs also on leads and handlers so that there is no danger of an altercation between dogs. Once the incoming team has entered the ring the outgoing team leaves the ring, finds a space away from the entrance/exit, allow their dogs to have a drink and **then** dissect the race.

Another solution to this problem is that teams **not** waiting to enter the ring keep their distance from the entrance/exits. This allows for calm movement of handlers and dogs = sweetness and light!



Him? No, he doesn't want a cookie. He says I can have two.



Yes it's Back - The Holding Back Rule Strikes Again!

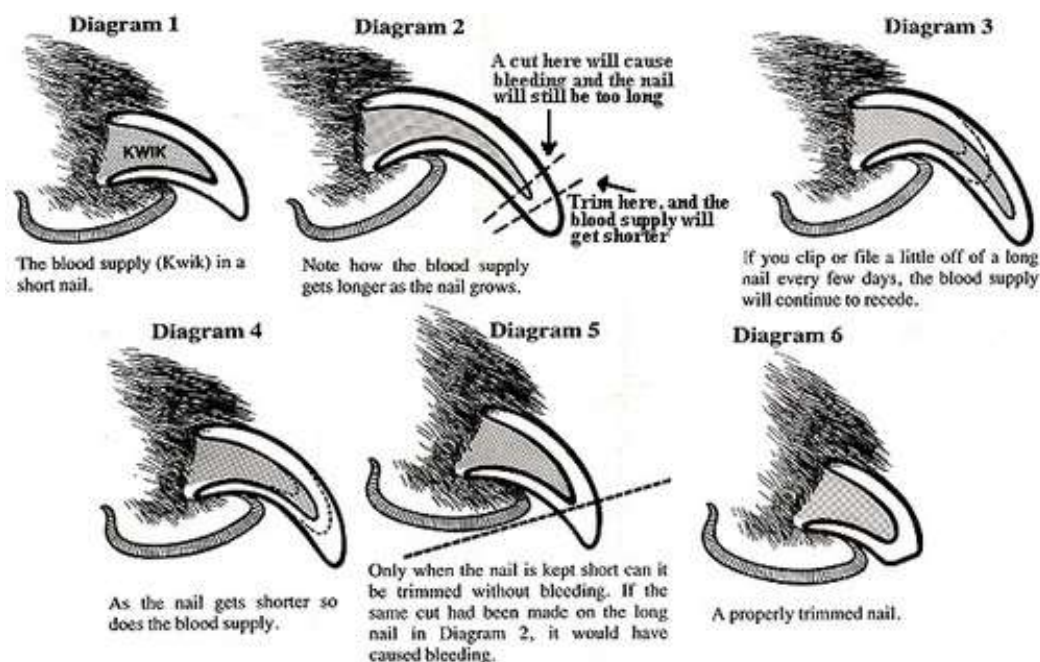
However dear reader, this time it is to be hoped that by re-writing the rule instead of it being 'as clear as mud' all will become crystal clear.

- ❖ **5.17(l)** Flyball is a sport of racing where good sportsmanship is paramount, it is unsporting for a team to deliberately hold back (either on starts or crosses) in order to gain points of division placing. Where a team is seen by the judge or his/her ring party to be holding back on the start or crosses, the judge may consider whether the team would have broken out if they had not held back, if so the team will, at first, be warned by the divisional judge and the tournament Head Judge shall be informed. Teams should endeavour to run all 4 dogs. However if the other team have completed and has clearly won and there is for example an older dog or one returning from injury that has a light, the divisional judge may accept a non-completion provided he/she has been informed of the possibility before their first race. Any team that has a legitimate reason (i.e. nervous dogs, novice dogs, inexperienced handler) for 'slack' starts or changeovers or for any other reason shall inform the divisional judge when entering the ring for their first race.

Should the practice persist; at the discretion of the division judge and Head Judge, the team may be disqualified. (Should the tournament Head Judge be involved in the race an alternative Head Judge, if available, or, if not a Qualified Judge will act as adjudicator.) The team may continue to race but will lose all points and placing for the day although their fastest time will be used, if appropriate, for a new seed time. If the electronic system fails, this rule will not apply. NOTE: This rule applies to all teams entered. Break out times are to be recorded on the time sheets.

Hopefully this will be the last item on holding back that will be needed. It put the onus on teams to race in a sporting manner and the decisions regarding whether the rule has been breached clearly into the 'hands' of Judges. Additionally, it also places responsibility on team captains to be polite and let the division judge know of any problems when they enter the ring for their first race. *Do it to prevent conflict and upset.*

There is one not so little point that has caused concern. (Those 'dinosaurs' amongst us are well aware of the meaning of **losing all points** however newer members may not be) When the racing/scribe sheets go to Stats, our wonderful stats officers have to input the data. The fastest time of each team goes towards their possible new seed time so BO times need to be entered on the sheet. The times raced in each leg of each race is connected to the BFA points gained by the dogs, so dear reader you do not lose your BFA points, the point you lose are the ones on display in Admin showing a win = 1 point and a loss = 0 points.



Your Membership



Needs You!!

- Questioner:** How about becoming a Measuring Official?
- Answer:** What on earth would I want to do that for? I don't want to get up early in the morning if I don't have to! In any case, if I'm running in the first division, I've got my own dogs to see to, no way am I going to go and measure other people's dogs.
- Questioner:** But at a number of tournaments there's not enough Measuring Officials to do anything but just measure for that day. Loads of members are taking ages to get a height card because of this.
- Answer:** There's the Head Judge, it only needs 1 other measurer. Not my bag thanks.
- Questioner:** But, but, but, the Head Judge has other duties first thing in the morning, like checking the lanes, the lights, the ground conditions, and they should also check the boxes conform to the regulations – how often do they get to do all those nowadays?
- The Head Judge is also there to support the Tournament Organiser, what if there's a problem that needs assistance.
- Answer:** Huh! That's their tough luck, they wanted to be Head Judges!!
- Questioner:** Well without them we wouldn't *be* playing Flyball, now would we?
- Answer:** 'Spose not but I still don't want to do it, there's plenty of others who could, why should it be me?
- Questioner:** Well, if everyone feels like you, we'll never get enough Measuring Officials and just think, if a lot of members decide to qualify as a Measuring Official you wouldn't have to actually do many early mornings. I hear some Head Judges/Measuring Officials are having to Measure on days that their teams are not actually racing but have camped.
- Answer:** It's all very well for you to keep going on about it. In some areas it'd take ages to become an MO, I'd want to get it over and done with.
- Questioner:** Excuses, excuses if something's worth doing, it's worth doing it well, this is no quick fix, you're learning a Flyball Trade as do our Judges and Tournament Organisers and Team Captains/Trainers too. They all want the best for Flyball, it's called giving something back to our wonderful sport(and at the same time gaining extra) and if you are capable why not do it?
- Answer:** (my dream! Ed) Weeeell! I'm good with the dogs and patient too. I know I'd be a good Measurer, Ok, I'll contact the BFA Secretary and get my log book.

Welcome to our New Members

Alexander Norris Reiver Rebels
Victoria Lennon Minster Monsters
Lisa & Tilly Newton-Stringer Whiterose Wagtails
Sophie Willerton Linnotts
Donna Meldrum Killie
Ali Lambert Active8 Animals
Hazel Daly Gleniffer
Jin Langstone & David Lowne Active8 Animals
Susan Heyer Covert Catapults
Jane Hopkinson Paws 8
Allan Emmett TBC
Samantha, Nick & Alfie Hubbard
& Harriett Ede-Collis Nene Valley
Michelle Atkinson & David Nurse Carnegie Canines
Carys Ann Davies Pods
Bev Dyer Pods
Jemma Smith Ramsden Rockers
Amy Musk Racing Herts
Sandra James Essex Echoes
John Simmons Wuff N Ready Racers
Marjorie Moore Commandos
Ruby Bostock Commandos
Mari Nash Kennet Zingers
Alex Buchanan Alnwick Arrows
Pauline Dearlove Time Flyz
Jeff & Lisa Gamble Dukes Barking Balls
Geoffrey Gray Buccaneers
Keris Reynolds-Dobson Warwickshire Woofs
Emory Taylor Buccaneers
Jack Runnacles Flea Jumperz
Ann Magenis Aces High
Graham Blenman Buccaneers
Charlotte Reynolds Hinckley Hooligans
Craig Chatt Relentless
Chris Terry Doncaster Belle Stars
Jonathon Lampitt Kiddy Monsters
Alice Kirk Carnegie Canines
Aleen Morris Carnegie Canines
Nicky Orchard & Jason Turner Buccaneers
Suzi Barber Flea Jumperz
Paul Gaskell Flea Jumperz
Michelle Arnold Buccaneers
Alyson Lewis Waggytails Flyball
Richard Porter & John Broadhead Time Flyz
Sienna Cowle Jets
Chris & Sarah Smith Knebworth Twisters
Vikki Henderson & Chris Chapman Banchory Bravehearts
Janice Hope Carry On's
Kim Ewens Aces High
Abigail Curry Buccaneers
Kayleigh & Erin Gallagher Lomond Raiders
Lesley Warne Flying Foxes
Kennedy Matthews Hatfield Hit & Run

Neil & Kerlise Harding Wuff N Ready Racers
Eve & George Roberts Reiver Rebels
Lynn Manley The Sussex Screammers
Olivia-Rose Smith Relentless
Richard Asquith TBC
Martin White Bone Idol
Zoe & Jamie Hunter Killie
Colin Crookston Supersonic Saltires
Leia Culley Water Orton Wonderdogs
Deborah Tatum Manx Missiles
Scott, Matthew & Megan Vosper Aces High
Rebecca Hanley Crazy Cannons
Andy Turner Greetland Grasshoppers
Amanda & Robert Thompson Paws 8
Karen Crook Carry On's
Alison Cookson Cheshire Set
Christopher & Claire Scragg Geordie Racers
Steve Marsh Comhlan Canines
David Attwell Sheffield Speeders
Maxine Henk Bryce & Andy Bryce Cotswold Cyclones
Michelle Ayling The Sussex Screammers
Theo Lambert Minster Monsters
Lauren Barbour Killie
Chris Nash Comhlan Canines
Nic & Olivia Ash Comhlan Canines
Gary Oxley Whiterose Wagtails
Helen & Adrian Miller FourPaws Racing
Karen & Tim Partridge The Northern Bytes
Natasha Morrison Killie
Elsbeth Jamieson Gleniffer
Judy Burns Furbeeze
Allison & Craig Douglas Balloch Bombers
Loranda Guinea & Janice Bernacchi Balloch Bombers
George Grant Funky Fidos Flyballers
Andy & Hannah Murray Notts Supa Dogs
Nicola Carter & Victoria Jones Carnegie Canines
Ryan, Adam & Callum James Hobbs Warwickshire Woofs
Paul Davies Antive8 Animals
Daniel Jones Bassett Allsorts
Sophie Biddulph Bassett Allsorts
David Fisher Shawcross Racers
Tracy, Chris & Holly Jones TBC
Mae Hardwick Up and Running
Tylor, Morgan & Logan Buckseall Northants Falcons
Debbie Anderson Essex Echoes
Codi Waters Paws 8
Callum Davis Reiver Rebels
Kathleen Anderson Gleniffer
Sue Blundell Live Wires
Jacqueline Struthers The Flying Scots
Margaret Alexander & Paul McMahon Gleniffer
Suzanne Nicholl Crossroads
Fiona Turnbull The Flying Scots

Welcome to our New Members

Helen Young High Flyers
Jacqui Smith Durham Bombers
Michelle Wilson Carry On's
Lesley & Grace MacEwan Supersonic Saltires
Linda Gillan Gleniffer
Moiria Chapman Dundee Dynamutz
Stephanie Day Durham Bombers
David & Jane Partland Lomond Raiders
Chelsea Harris Bristol Ball-istics
Ailsah McArthur Balloch Bombers
Karen Gunston All4One
Ellie Rivington The Northern Bytes
Jennifer & Michael Thacker Dogs Funzone
Siobhan Scollick & Jake Lawrence Bone Idol
Jake Lawrence Bone Idol
Liz Stott Flying Foxes
Carol Brown Hotshots

Jane Bass Hotshots
Jill & Peter Chilcott Fantastic 4
Lilly Dakin FurbeeZ
Lynn Stevenson Durham Bombers
Veda Grubb Banchory Bravehearts
Sandra Brown Doncaster Belle Stars
John Baxter Tafs Turbos
Clare Grimshaw & Peter Fleming The Northern Bytes
Leigh, Ken&Chloe Heaps&Sophie Davis Hotshots
Caroline Maddox GC Hammers
Nicola Whitehill Carnegie Canines
Catherine Lively Four In The Fast Lane
Rachel Crook Minster Monsters
Emma Langley High Flyers
Sarah Hodgson & Graeme Storey TBC
Lesley & Els Otten Carnoustie Cruisers
Oly Bassil & Emma Gibson Hotshots

New Teams

Carnegie Canines
Devon Dropouts!
Wicked

Comhlan Canines
Jumping 4 Joy
Little Angels
Atomic
Rockin'

Carnegie Chargers; Carnegie Kingdoms
Devon Flying Flabradors; Devon Flyball Fixation; Devon Balls4Brains
Wicked Rebels; Wicked Wizzkidz; Wickedy BU; Wicked Collective; On the
Wicked side; Wicked Mix; Wicked Infuse; Wicked Blend; Wicked Punch
Comhlan Cougars; Comhlan Chasers; Comhlan Cubs
Jumping Dogs; Jumping Barons
Charlie's Angels; Silva's Angels; Skylar's Angels
Atomic Force; Atomic Jones
Rockin' Melancollies; Rockin' Eva Jeebies



CONGRATULATIONS to the **MOLTEN MAGNETS**

For the following B.F.A. AWARDS gained from May to December 2013

The **TOPAZ AWARD** (80,000 points)

Judy Parker & **MILLY**



The **OPAL AWARD** (70,000 points)

Jean Meeking & **TYLER**



The **SAPPHIRE AWARD** (50,000 points) -

Lynda King & **DUSTI**

The **JADE AWARD** (35,000 points)

Neil Meeking & **BARNEY**

Andrea Hack & **ROXANNE**

Judy Parker & **SAFFY**

The **PEARL AWARD** (30,000 points) -

Jean Meeking & **DIXI**

The **PLATINUM AWARD** (25,000 points)

Lynda King & **YOGI BEAR**

Steve James & **BENTLEY**

The **ICE BLUE MOON AWARD** (20,000 points)

Holly Harte & **ISHA**

Olivia Harris & **DILLON**

The **GOLD AWARD** (15,000 points)

Julie Thornton & **MEG**

Roger Batten & **SKYE**

The **SILVER AWARD** (10,000 points)

Gwen James & **ECHO**

Jean Meeking & **LETTICE**

Pat Harte & **SKARA**



The **ADVANCED AWARD** (5,000 points)

Tina Eason & **MAWGAN**



The **GRADUATE AWARD** (3,000 points)

Bhavnes Patel & **ROXY**

Pat Harte & **ORLA**

Bhavnes Patel & **SUNNY**

The **INTERMEDIATE AWARD** (1,000 points)

Pat Revitt & **MOLLY**

Bhavnes Patel & **ZIMBA**

The **FLYBALL DOG AWARD** (200 points)

Sue Shears & **SADIE**

Andrea Hack & **TUX**

Bhavnes Patel & **EVA**

Phil Smith & **INDIE**

Lisa Matthews & **DIESEL**

WELL DONE EVERYONE



HAPPY RETIREMENT CHARLIE

"ALPHA DOGZ ORIGINAL"

"Have you heard of Flyball?" Those words were the start of a wonderful journey for Charlie and his Mum and Dad Rachel and Mark.

Walking round a car boot sale Rachie and Mark met Bev and John Proctor who asked about Charlie and then asked "have you heard of Flyball" to which they replied "no, what's that". The rest they say is History.

Rachie and Mark took Charlie along to his first training session with the Breakaways; this was going to be the start of a long journey. Charlie was not the easiest dog to train and Rachie and Mark attended many tournaments with the Breakaways with only box loading and ball collecting duties to keep them entertained until Charlie was ready for open racing. He was a stubborn boy then and still is now. He continued to run out and still needed training.

Charlie's Open debut came at Eggborough on 24th May 2003. He only gained 5 points all day (back in the day when you could gain 1 point per leg :)). He still needed some work but Valerie and the team were determined to crack this case. He continued gaining very few points at each tournament until at Hoar Park on 19th June 2004 (Rachie and Mark's Fifth Wedding anniversary) Charlie gained his Flyball Dog Award (200 points).

After a few more tournaments of Charlie doing things his way, the penny finally dropped and Charlie became a full time member of the Break-Aways (UK). He was a member of the team who first went sub 22 seconds, quite an achievement for us at the time.

Charlie was the start of Rachie and Mark's Flyball journey. Mark ran Charlie and Rachie box loaded, but Rachie wanted to run a dog and along came an adorable Black and White Girl called Gemma. This little Princess GB (Gemma Bear) was the opposite to her big brother and was a complete natural and when Gemma turned 18 months she did her first open and gained her Flyball Dog award on her debut. So they both had a dog to run now and had completely been bitten by the flyball bug.

Charlie continued to be a reliable speedy boy for Break-aways until we left and joined the Mansfield Marnicks. Charlie ran with the Marnicks from 27th August 2006 until we decided to form our own team "Alpha Dogz" in October 2007. Charlie's first race in our Black and Blues was November 27th at Newark.

During their time with the Marnicks and Alpha Dogz forming the Child household had grown and along came Teddy who was also running for his Dad along with Charlie and Milo. Rachie wanted another dog to run as there was quite an imbalance. Rachie had always wanted a Jack Russell and after the tragic death of Ozzy at 9 weeks she found Ben. Ben was Charlie's present! A nice little height dog which would mean that Charlie could run over 7 inches for some races. Ben is truly a wonderful character and I do believe he has helped his big (not so grateful) brother have the long and happy racing career he has.

Boris came along in 2009 to complete Charlie's Family.

Charlie is a wonderful ambassador for our sport. He is dedicated, stubborn and always gave 100%. He has been a wonderful "stooge dog"; we gave him to new handlers who needed experience and has been run by many over the years. Thanks to Gromit, John and many others who have run him. I sure they all have scars to prove they have, I know I have after running him for a season. (His enthusiasm often resulted in love bites for his handler. :)

Charlie has competed in 10 British Championships, and at his last one in 2013 he gained his last ever BFA points. He retired after achieving his Chica Chicana award and a fantastic 47118 points at 11 years old. He has attended 5 European Championships, 2 in UK, 2 in Belgium and 1 in Germany. His last ever race was in Belgium at EFC13. He also achieved the amazing feat of 10 years racing in May 2013.



Happy Retirement Charlie Cont.

Thank you to all the people who we have had the pleasure of racing with, Break-Aways (UK) and Mansfield Marnicks and of course Alpha Dogz, these achievements would not have been possible without you all.

We have a lot to thank Charlie for, he introduced his Mum and Dad to Flyball, which in turn introduced Andy and Me (If Rachie does something, I have to do it. It's in the twin Bible). He helped us all meet some of the best friends we have and in turn along with these friends we formed Alpha Dogz Flyball Team of which we are immensely proud.

So when do you retire a dog who still loves his Flyball? Well Rachie always said that Charlie would show us when it was time, and he **did**.

Charlie boy you are an inspiration and a Dog in a million, thank you for what you have given us all and for being the ALPHA DOG ORIGINAL

Enjoy your retirement Charlie!

Rebecca Solomon and Alpha Dogz

All articles featured are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor of the BFA committee.

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