

# The Flyball News

*The uphill downhill struggle has been resolved.*

*There are correct channels for CONSTRUCTIVE criticism, please use them.*

## “Turbulent” that's the word

### Seedings List

The Jets

17.42

Pods

17.70

Turbo Jets

17.74

Tornadoes

18.44

Jump Jets

18.56

Jumping Jacks

18.73

Barkshire Bandits

18.91

Rocketeers

19.32

Podlets

19.47

Bucanneers

19.52

Wacky Racers

19.60

The Knights

19.93

Four Runners

19.98

Bristol Ball-istics

20.09

The word that could be used to describe what has happened so far as the new committee gets down to what is left after the shock of the AGM, is turbulent. As we work towards the EGM many criticism's have been levied at the new committee and we would like to address some of these now.

**Too many jobs allocated outside of the new committee:** if people are willing to carry on and have proved their worth in these positions why take them away. Many committee members have spent most of their own free time on the phone (bills having quadrupled recently), organising events, replying to e-mails and generally trying to get the BFA back on course again. Most could not physically take on more work at present, we cannot work out how Doreen finds time to sleep with all her commitments, not least as the Secretary of the BFA.

### **The Committee do not listen to their members :**

We do, it is your views and opinions that we must uphold. To this end Nigel is to create a page on the internet for a members speak up forum, Kevin has sent an e-mail telling everyone that I will willingly receive post on any problems and / or views that you may want to voice, send to: royandmo@globalnet.co.uk. Or write to the Secretary of the BFA, all will be replied to, and if the sender agrees may be selected to appear in the Flyball News with a reply from the Committee. The composition of the committee reflects fairly well an across the board representation of Flyball in the U.K. There are correct channels for CONSTRUCTIVE criticism, please use them.

### **The committee are all talk and no action :**

The uphill downhill struggle has been re-

solved, it is now in the guidelines that where there is an obvious slope, we run uphill to the box. Through a show of hands at the AGM, a majority of the membership saw the rules of physics win the day. There are many more safety problems in-between the run back and the box, divets, debris, adverse conditions etc.....and we have set up a safety sub committee to look at these problems, excessive ambient temperatures is one such subject and the rules have been changed to allow the Head Judge to delay, postpone or shorten races in such conditions. We were glad to see these new rules and common sense being used at Knebworth.

If it is an individual's responsibility to make sure that their dog is ringed when they run, do they not have to shoulder some responsibility to handle and treat their dogs correctly in adverse conditions as well ?. The way forward in this is through education and training, and to this end we will be issuing guide lines and emergency procedures to help in this event. (See page 2 of this publication).

The Flyball Record is improving all the time, and was not paid for by the BFA initially as we could not at the time issue cheques, every effort was made to get it to you as soon as was possible. A big thank you to Steph for all of her efforts.

A Show Organiser's Guide is being re-written, and will be freely available to everyone. This will go along way to help new Organisers to put on a show at the same high level as we are accustomed to.

### K.C. Licensed events :

The committee looked to the future on this one, the future of Flyball, new members, new competition and new sponsorship. Being in the public eye will bring all of this, the past is very unfortunate, but it is the past. With no official objections coming from the K.C., an unofficial investigation took place, the way forward is not to rock their boat and they wont rock ours. Our members will not be liable under rule 42 whilst the situation is ongoing, and at present there is no need for further negotiations. Because of the past, Flyball could lose shows like the Middlesex Show, Daventry and probably many, many more. Where would this end up, hiding away from the public, no County or Country Shows. Where would sponsorship come from, no one would see their product. When a show is sanctioned a written pledge will be given by the organiser to distance the Flyball ring as far as is practical from other doggy events, so to avoid rocking anybody's boat. The Middlesex Show has run for years with no problems, Flyball being far removed from other doggy events, and long may this continue.

The E.G.M. will be on 19th September 1999, at Southmoore Village Hall, near Abingdon in Oxfordshire. It will start at 10.00 am, more details to follow.

### Recent e-mails :

Heat stroke usually has reason, a history of an animal being confined in a over heated area or having undergone considerable exercise in hot or humid weather. The animal is usually distressed, panting, salivating, restless and unsteady on its feet. In severe cases the animal may be collapsed and may develop bluish / purple mucous membranes. The whole body will feel hot.

First the animal must undergo a body cooling treatment as soon as possible, and if possible the body temperature monitored. Cooling can be achieved by, wrapping in blankets soaked in cold water, or gently dousing water over the body. Be careful not to reduce too drastically, this may result in shock. Seek veterinary advise as soon as possible.

Also it is apparent that some dogs are becoming "Hyperthermic", this means that they cannot regulate their own body temperature. The only way to attempt to regulate this is by the amount of exercise given. It does not seem to be dependant of the weather or temperature but on the amount of exertion undertaken by the dog itself. It can happen a lot quicker in competition with another dog, i.e. running after a ball or Frisbee. So be warned, take care of your animals, watch them closely especially when competing, their safety is more important than a rosette or points or both. Any official complaints to the BFA will be taken very seriously indeed, so follow these guidelines:

Allow the drinking of water little but often (almost sipping to avoid bloating), keep in cool shaded area whenever possible, do not over exercise your dog (withdraw from competition if necessary, before you are asked to withdraw by the Head Judge), water down to reduce body temperature. Keep all four paws on the ground ( do not pull by the collar).

KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE

We are trying to implement an asset register, we as a committee do not know what assets the BFA have,nor do we know where they are. If you can offer any information about this matter please contact Robert Henshall the BFA Treasurer. robert.henshall@lineone.net.

No cash membership renewals will be accepted at shows in the future, and if you want a receipt then a self addressed envelope is required. Paying by cheque will give you a receipt on your statement.

There is a need to communicate with outside bodies such as NAFA, Flyball Association's from Belgium, Australia etc.....this should be through official channels. If you wish to contact such bodies officially this should be done through the Committee, and your first point of contact should be the Chairman Roy Hiscock. This does not mean that you cannot contact your friends in these organisations, but any quotes should be through official channels.

NAFA Dog measuring rule (g) (i), says that it is at a **team's discretion** to have a height dog measured prior to competition. Then that a Head Judge can measure a dog at **any time**. Then if a dog is not measurable it **will jump 16 "**. If it is not there to be measured, is it not measurable ?. How far away are we from NAFA rules on this. Open to interpretation !!!!!!!

Rugby Renagades  
20.21  
Wakefield Tykes  
20.24  
Katies Cruisers  
20.30  
Wolf Pack  
20.68  
Bassett Hotdogs  
20.70  
Northern Bytes  
20.71  
K9er's  
20.91  
Blade Runners  
21.12  
Genisis Jumpers  
21.15  
Winchats  
21.27  
Tornadoes Too  
21.31  
Barkshire Bullets  
21.31  
Melton Rovers  
21.35  
Springboks  
21.41  
Sleepless Knights  
21.44  
Rugby Rapids  
21.62  
Test Valley Raiders  
21.67  
Mega Bytes  
21.94  
Maple Leafs  
22.02

Red Dragons  
22.03  
Rugby Renababes  
22.07  
Border Patrol UK  
22.27  
Extra Pack  
23.48  
Katies Crashers  
23.91  
Ball Busters  
24.14  
Bristol Ball-istic Missiles  
25.04  
Packington Pods  
25.31  
Wakefield Terror Tykes  
27.38

## Tournament Results

### *Knebworth 2nd and 3rd May 1999*

#### **Judge : Andy Bawden Division: 1**

1st	Jets	Best time: 17.44
2nd	Tornadoes	Best time: 18.44
3rd	Pods	Best time: 18.30
4th	Barkshire Bandits	Best time: 19.41
5th	Jumping Jacks	Best time: 18.84

#### **Judge: Neil Meakin Division:2**

1st	Rocketeers	Best time: 19.32
2nd	Podlets	Best time: 19.67
3rd	Wacky Racers	Best time: 20.15
4th	Bucaneers	Best time: 20.00
5th	Bristol Ball-istics	Best time: 20.09

#### **Judge:Lorraine Fulford Division:3**

1st	Northern Bytes	Best time: 20.77
2nd	Katies Cruisers	Best time: 20.76
3rd	Four Runners	Best time: 19.98
4th	Wakefield Tykes	Best time: 20.24
5th	Red Dragons	Best time: 22.03

#### **Judge: G. Theobald Division: 4**

1st	Wolf Pack	Best time: 20.68
2nd	Tornadoes Too	Best time: 21.46
3rd	Springbok's	Best time: 21.98
4th	Maple Leafs	Best time: 22.02
5th	K9er's	Best time: 20.91

#### **Judge: Andy Bawden Division:5**

1st	Genesis Jumpers	Best time: 21.15
2nd	Mega Bytes	Best time: 22.46
3rd	Blade Runners	Best time: 22.76
4th	Barkshire Bullets	Best time: 23.59
5th	Ball-istic Missiles	Best time: 29.75

### *Ryton-on-Dunsmore 24th April 1999*

#### **Judge: Nigel Bouckley Division: 1**

1st	Pods	Best time: 17.84
2nd	Turbo Jets	Best time: 17.74
3rd	Jumping Jacks	Best time: 18.73
4th	Tornadoes	Best time: 19.24
5th	Buccaneers	Best time: 19.52
6th	Podlets	Best time: 19.67

#### **Judge: Nigel Bouckley Division: 2**

1st	Barkshire Bandits	Best time: 19.53
2nd	The Knights	Best time: 19.93
3rd	Rugby Renagades	Best time: 20.80
4th	Katies Cruisers	Best time: 20.30
5th	Four Runners	Best time: 20.71
6th	Bristol Ball-istics	Best time: 21.10

#### **Judge: Gary Metherell Division: 3**

1st	Wakefield Tykes	Best time: 20.33
2nd	Melton Rovers	Best time: 21.59
3rd	Bassett Hotdogs	Best time: 20.70
4th	Northern Bytes	Best time: 20.71
5th	Winchats	Best time: 21.57
6th	Tornadoes Too	Best time: 21.36

#### **Judge: Nigel Bouckley Division: 4**

1st	Barkshire Bullets	Best time: 21.31
2nd	Wolf Pack	Best time: 21.40
3rd	Border Patrol UK	Best time: 22.27
4th	Rugby Rapids	Best time: 22.38
5th	Bassett Allsorts	Best time: 23.27
6th	The Mega Bytes	Best time: 24.28

#### **Judge: Kevin McNicholas Division: 5**

1st	Blade Runners	Best time: 21.12
2nd	Rugby Renagades	Best time: 22.07
3rd	Genesis Jumpers	Best time: 22.75
4th	Ball-istic Missiles	Best time: 25.04
5th	Extra Pack	Best time: 23.48
6th	Terror Tykes	Best time: 27.38

## On The Up

With 30 Teams competing at the Pods show in Ryton, and a successful and large Hills Winter League now complete ( many thanks to The Tornadoes for some very good events) Flyball is in the ascendancy. But with some of the summer shows being limited, due to logistics, it is essential that Team Captains return entries ASAP.

Don't forget the BFA Summer Championship At Longleat on Saturday 10th July 1999, a great venue. This will take the format of a double elimination competition, open to 20 teams. Preference will be given to primary teams, then the faster secondary teams, then third teams.

Flyball Dog of the Year	Placings
Twistie	1838
Jake	1688
Ted	1668
William	1626
Blue	1557
Tweed	1471
Toby	1433
Bob	1363
Blitz	1251
Frog	1181
Mistral	1151
Bryn	1108
Mac	1108
Georgie - Boy	1066
Mork	1038
Barney	988
Spot	938
Sonny	937
Jack	910
Storme	910
Flyball Bitch of The Year	
Dizzy	1838
Gillie	1763
Alice springs	1714
Amy	1614
Jet	1592
Sheena	1557
Skye	1460
Tup	1362
Jess	1320
Roxy	1300
Misty	1266
Belle	1240
Fly	1178
Blade	1178
Startlite	1173
Chica	1143

May we point out that our B.F.A. rule 3.2 states that "Misconduct shall include but not be limited to .....wilful intent to gain unfair advantage or *any behaviour that would leave a spectator, competitor, host or sponsor with an unfavourable opinion of 'Flyball'.*".

Some if not many of the recent e-mails via this media could well be found in violation of this rule. Under rule 3.1 any member may place a £25.00 complaint against originators of such e-mails. So please refrain from this method of discussion and use the appropriate method i.e. the committee feed back page on the BFA web site or write to the Secretary.

#### **Knebworth rumblings:**

An investigation into alleged events at Knebworth, found that allegations against the Organiser and Committee to be unfounded. This appears to be largely blown up out of proportion, and no official complaints were made at the event to either the Committee members present, nor the Show Organisers.

We will continue to take every step possible to improve dog and handler safety, within reason. The Safety Sub Committee is constantly monitoring this situation. There will be an Accident/Incident form at every sanctioned Tournament, to enable us to record our safety record.

**Dog measuring :** Forgive the pun but this is also a heated situation, no height dog will be made run over 16 inches, Head Judges measure to stop interference during racing, so if requested and not measured it will run at the next height dogs height, that was measured, or the handler and / or team may elect to run not for competition. An investigation into this situation showed that the official BFA height form C9 has not been recorded and returned as desired. This will be addressed. As from Sunday 3rd October 1999, a recording system will be in place to allow a dog handler to apply for a height card, having been measured on three separate occasions, and agreed by at least two Head Judges on each occasion. This is optional, so if you want to gamble on your border line height dog, you may do so. The problem is that we want all Head Judges measuring with the same equipment, following the same procedures. To this end a Judges Seminar is to be held at Petersfield on 3rd October 1999 to ensure this happens, there will be more if you can not make it, and it is open to prospective Judges as well. So that in the future dog's can be measured

in a uniform way. Judges not attending this seminar will not be able to measure height dog's, but will be able to Judge a Sanctioned Tournament. All Head Judges must attend one of these seminars every three years to requalify. Only BFA approved measuring instruments and processes of measuring will be used from this date. This is intended to facilitate improved Judging, and a more accurate method of measuring, not victimise anyone.

In the happenings of recent, there is one shining light, many thanks to Nigel Bouckley who has been helpful, co-operative and a pleasure to work with, coming up with some innovative ideas.

But to conclude on a positive note, looking to the future, the possibility of pet Passports increases. With it the chance of competing in Europe in a true European Championship, members of the present and past Committees were there at the first, and competition is strong. Who knows maybe one day there will be a Flyball World Championship. We need to be ready when it does happen.

I am sure that you will join with me in hoping Carol Plumbley well in her convalescence on the road to good health, she has resigned from her post as Membership Secretary and in the best interests of her health the Committee has sadly accepted. Lorraine Fulford will be filling her position. The current BFA membership form is under review, to put all information on one side, thus easier and cheaper to produce.

#### **A few observations:**

Keep all four paws on the ground, do not haul your dog about by its collar, this may result in a complaint against your handling, and you will be asked to leave the ring by the Head Judge.

The only people allowed in the ring as a team at the time of racing, are the handlers, plus two runners, and a box loader. Any more may result in a complaint.

The throwing of objects in the run back area is not allowed in our rules.

Most important though, enjoy your Flyball and have a good time. That is what it is all about, isn't it.

