

National Flyball sub-committee



K U S A
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Convenors Report 2016

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Interest in Flyball is growing and both Western Cape (between 3 and 4 regular teams) and Gauteng (between 3 and 6 regular teams) meet the minimum number of teams entering competitions whether at open- or championship shows. Unfortunately KZN has a very small active Flyball group but not sustainable to run any competitions. Sadly Flyball is no longer prominent in the Eastern Cape or Free State.

The Western Cape regularly hosts demo's to attract new handlers and dogs and have appealed to clubs to expose ball-driven dogs to the sport. Gauteng Flyball teams were invited to run at WODAC and were able to run up to 5 teams over the 3 days showcasing this "noisy" sport to the general public.

Events & Shows

We are fortunate that there are many clubs who are supportive of our sport and thank them for hosting Flyball at their shows.

We further wish to thank all our judges and stewards because without them, the sport cannot continue.

National Championships

The 2016 Nationals were held in Gauteng in conjunction with the NAPC Bumper Weekend in May and was well supported by teams from within the province. Unfortunately no out-of-province teams entered thus making it a "Gauteng-only" affair. We would like to thank the organisers and committee for hosting such a prestigious event and for their hard work making it a success. We anticipate and trust that the 2017 Nationals hosted by KZN will attract teams from the host province as well as other provinces to live up to being a true "national" event.

Congratulations to Team FBI Under Cover for winning the Nationals for a third consecutive year.

General

The Flyball Facebook group "Flyball South Africa" proves to be very successful to post information and has attracted a number of local and overseas handlers (mainly from the UK) who are able to share questions, responses and experiences.

Unfortunately the "singles and pairs" races have not been run once again this year at any of the Gauteng shows. This was specifically intended to attract new handlers but due to time constraints and space, has not taken place nor had the desired effect. However, it is still run in the Western Cape on a regular and on-going basis.

Titles and achievements

Congratulations to all our Flyball handlers who reached specific milestones this year (FD, FDX, Champion, Th One & Only and the prestigious Grand Champion awards). These achievements only come about because of dedication, perseverance, commitment and not forgetting team work.

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I wish to state that a dog in Gauteng has recently achieved the 5000 point milestone, and although there is no formal KUSA award or title it is worthwhile mentioning. Congratulations Luqa-Zee and owner Margie Liebenberg. May you collect many more points in future and enjoy the sport until you retire which is hopefully not soon!

General

I was fortunate to attend the European Flyball Championship and British Flyball Association championship in August this year. There were over 150 teams competing at the EFC and around 300 teams at the BFA. Tournaments are run over 3 days and in 3 to 5 rings to accommodate all the teams competing. I was fortunate to engage with very experienced Flyball trainers and handlers and have brought back a lot new ideas to implement in South Africa. Our Flyball teams compare on par with the teams from Europe and the UK on speed. We could however improve the Flyball boxes used in SA to be lighter and with faster release mechanisms. We also do not use the Electronic Judging System (lights) which could eliminate erred flags for perceived early crosses.

We will review the current Flyball Regulation (5M) next year to align to European, UK and USA rules which are currently structured very similar. The FCI has also published the Flyball regulations for international competitions and our current regulations are not aligned to these either. Work has commenced on this already, but will not be completed before end-of-year in time for the FEDCO meeting.

Committee Matters

No formal National sub-committee AGM was held in 2016 as there was nothing that required urgent discussion or attention, although several informal discussions took place throughout the year via e-mail between the various Provincial sub-committees.

I was invited to visit to the Western Cape where a very successful full day workshop was held. The enthusiasm and energy of the handlers were inspiring! Hopefully the same results will be achieved when visiting KZN early in 2017.

We anticipate holding a "Flyball indaba" in Gauteng next year to train more judges and upskill stewards and welcome open discussions with the handlers to see how to improve the sport.

I would like to thank the respective Flyball sub-committees for their support and commitment during the past year and to every dedicated handler who ensures the sport is still thriving.

Liesl Twyman
NFSC Convenor