

National Flyball sub-committee



K U S A
KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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Convener's Report 2020

13 October 2020

What's happening around the country?

The year started well in Gauteng and Western Cape with 5 shows in Gauteng and 4 in the Western Cape before the Covid-19 national lockdown was enforced. Since returning to level 1, there have been 2 open shows in Western Cape and hopefully there will be a few in the pipeline in Gauteng soon.

One new judge qualified in KZN. Unfortunately, due to Covid and national lockdown, there were no shows held yet to judge in this province.

National Championships

This was due to take place in April at the NAPC bumper weekend and was postponed to later in the year due to the lockdown. The lockdown lasted longer than anticipated and the 2020 Nationals were subsequently cancelled.

Titles and achievements

Congratulations to everyone who worked hard and competed regularly to achieve their titles:

Grand champion (2000 flyball points effective 1 April 2020)

- Lacey – Claire-Patterson-Abrolat

Th' One & Only title (1500 flyball points)

- Jill – Claire Patterson-Abrolat

Champion (300 flyball points gained prior to 1 April 2020)

- Dexter – Ray Pepper
- Quasar and Celeritas – Margot Venter
- Gemma – Jess Smith
- Kimi – Liz Budd
- Jhessie – Taylor Foster

FCI Commission for Flyball (virtual meeting)

The FCI Flyball Commission meeting took place via Zoom in July. Having a virtual meeting, South Africa was able to attend for the first time and found the discussions and proposed rule changes very insightful.

Flyball AGM and rule changes

Another first was the KUSA Flyball sub-committee's AGM which was attended by several flyball handlers from Gauteng, Western Province and KZN. Rule changes to the Regulation for Flyball were submitted to KUSA recently for approval of which majority were as a result of FCI Flyball rule changes.

A topic which was extensively debated was the selection of the team/s representing KUSA at the Flyball Open World Cup post 2021. There has been no outcome or decision even after a follow-up

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meeting. Some handlers are of the opinion that it should be team/s currently competing (i.e. the team composition remains at the discretion on the team) and others believed trials should be run, and the fastest dogs make up a team to attend the FOWC. Another round of debating will take place once the information from the August discussion is documented to conclude this topic.

Flyball Open World Cup 2020

The 2020 FOWC to be held in Belgium was postponed to May 2021 due to the worldwide Covid pandemic. The same team of 6 dogs that were to compete this year will attend the 2021 FOWC as it would still be deemed the 2020 World Cup. It is unfortunate that this event had to be postponed to next year. Fund raising efforts are still ongoing.

Flyball workshop

Many flyball handlers attended a workshop hosted by Marion Bowyer from the UK in February this year which was arranged by a new team “Furrytails” based in Pretoria. Considering our isolated position in Africa, our training standard compares well with what was presented and it was a useful learning experience for newer handlers and dogs.

Thank you

Thank you to the entire Flyball community and the respective provincial sub-committees for their support, input, involvement and commitment during the past year. Sadly, there were no volunteers to stand on the D.O.G.S. PC flyball sub-committee going forward into 2021. Hopefully the situation will normalise in future.

A word of thanks to clubs who host Flyball and the judges and stewards who unselfishly give up their time to give teams the opportunity to compete.

And lastly, thank you to all the box loaders – a team cannot compete or run a race without the “non-playing” member who needs to know their left from their right and which dogs’ balls go left or right!

Liesl Twyman
NFSC Convener