

Paws4Fun Agility Club
MINUTES
May 8, 2023
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Neddie's Haven
399 Townline Road, Kemptonville, ON

Attending: Board Members

Catherine Woolham, President; Rheal Nadeau, Vice President; Ian Cranstone, Facilities Director; Sandy Gummesson, Trials Director; Carolyn Heide, Treasurer, Webmaster and Trials Secretary; Erin Moore, Training Director

Coordinators: Vania Boulet, CARO coordinator; Jane Rocchio, CARO Class coordinator; Heather Esdon, IDAL Coordinator; Sandra Johnson, Training and VALOR Coordinator; Roxanne Harrington, Secretary.

Regrets: Kristy Nguyen, Communications Coordinator;

Absent: Esther Vrieze, Membership Coordinator; Rachel Denny, Volunteer Coordinator

Call to Order: Catherine called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

Additions to Agenda: PAWS4fun League proposal as emailed on May 7, 2023

MOTION to approve the agenda. Moved by Ian, Second Rheal. Unanimous. CARRIED.

Errors or omissions of minutes: Roxanne mentioned two items as emailed from Rheal on March 26:
1) misspelling and meaning of libel to liable in the President report, first paragraph and
2) visible difference in using cellphone and computer should have referenced the website, President report, second paragraph.

Roxanne stated that at the top of the minutes it says 'Agenda' and should say 'Minutes'. Roxanne has modified the Minutes and asked for errors/ omissions to please be mentioned at the meetings.

MOTION to accept minutes of March 20, 2023 'as modified'. Moved by Rheal, Second Ian. Unanimous. CARRIED

REPORTS:

President Report / UKI – Catherine Woolham

Catherine stated that UKI is still going on and there is currently a waiting list. Carolyn asked if there could be a status update for those on the waiting list, in case they want to book something else, as it looks very slim for them to get on. Discussion and it was agreed this would be a good idea.

Vice-President Report – Rheal Nadeau

Rheal stated that there are still documents for him to review and recent motions to insert.

Facilities Director Report – Ian Cranstone

Ian began with stating that the driveway (Taylor Rd) needs another inspection. Catherine said she would look tomorrow for perhaps a Wednesday move, or later in the week. Discussion with points mentioned about not changing the drainage at the site, and the upcoming Outback Trial on the weekend and how to get Ring 1 up and running. Result will depend on the driveway inspection.

Ian continued with an update on the contacts. Steve's are done so ours should be ready soon.

He mentioned the new recommendations for tires, that the side straps must be breakable, but this becomes a balancing act because if they break before the main tire, there could be issues. Ian said he is trying magnets to stick to the side posts, but one frame is aluminum. Discussion and questions concerning the use of tires, being dependent on judges, some tires open when the wind blows, equipment has become expensive and there are options. Vania mentioned the AAC Nationals offer equipment at discount and the list gets posted, perhaps an idea to get a Galican Tire.

Training Director Report – Erin Moore

Erin began by thanking Sandra and Carolyn for 3 weeks of registration and saying she couldn't do it without these two!

Training update

Indoor training at SilverDawn, winter 2022-23

- Indoor training has now ended for the season.
- The second set of introduction sessions for foundation students was held at SilverDawn on May 2nd. We had 7 additional new students participate in these 1-hour sessions. There are still a few more new students who need to participate in introduction sessions to be set up at the fields.
- There is some continued interest in indoor classes. We will look into the possibility of running some classes at SilverDawn next year but there are many factors to consider.

Classes at Taylor Road, spring / summer 2023

- Outdoor Classes are scheduled to begin the week of May 22nd we will be running 14 classes for this first session. Out of the 14 classes only 4 have not filled, this includes our 3 hoopers classes.
- The online portion of course planning for beginners has now been completed. The students are now participating 2 in-person classes to put their new skills into practice.
- Liz Doran is running 2 obedience 4 agility workshops for us in May. This workshop is specifically geared to newer students. We specifically scheduled these to take place before the first week of classes to get maximum benefit for the students.
- Registration for the June 4th handling workshop presented by Kim Dick has opened. There is only 1 working spot remaining.
- There has been member interest in a pet first aid course. I have reached out to a few organisations, but most are still teaching virtually. The Ottawa Humane Society is willing to run a pet first aid course with priority given to our members. This is a combination level 1 and 2 course which will be held from 9am to 2pm. Registration is through the Ottawa Humane Society. Participants receive a certificate and a pet first aid kit. The cost of this course is \$120 paid directly to the OHS. Question for the board: Do we have any concerns with advertising for a course run by another organisation?

Discussion with result to post on Facebook for details of First Aid Course. Members asked and were provided an answer. Erin to do this.

- Rachel and Lauren would like to host a hoopers fun match on July 2nd for P4F students. They would set up 2 courses for the participants to run. They would also like to invite other hoopers students that are non-members to participate for a small fee. Question for the board: Do you have concerns with non-members participating in a hoopers fun match if they fill out a registration form which includes the waiver and pay a small fee?

Discussion with result that CARO does fun matches already, so this fun match would not be difficult to set up.

Instructors

- I held a pre-season instructor meeting on April 15th. It was attended by 8 of our 10 instructors and Catherine also attended.
- I have put together an instructor manual to keep all the training team procedures and other reference documents in one place.
- The instructors have noticed inconsistency between the foundations curriculum and the higher level curriculums. An action items for the training team for this coming year include working on the curriculum for beginner 1 and above.

Expense

- I would like to order matching red shirts for the instructors with the Paws4Fun logo and the word “instructor” or “training” on the back. Once purchased I would request that the instructors, Sandra and I wear these shirts when teaching or working at a training event. This would make us look more professional and make the “staff” more recognizable at a distance. Does anyone have any concerns with this expense?

Discussion involving many options, but result is to go for it to identify instructors in the ring. It’s a reasonable expense so Erin will get quotes.

Trials Director Report – Sandy Gummesson

Sandy began by stating that Diana R had emailed today, and she is busy all three trial weekends. This was to provide massage / physio at the vendors area. Gail D. can do 1 day of the June trial and is excited to come. Sandy has talked to Prescott about being an emergency vet and three Veterinary offices work together to provide on call service (Prescott, Brockville and Brockville). Merrickville, Smith’s Falls and Athens also share.

Trials Secretary – Carolyn Heide

- June AAC Trial current runs per day: Sat = 211; Sun = 164
- July AAC Trial opens to members this Friday.

Treasurer Report – Carolyn Heide

- Position Statement May-8-2023

Paws4Fun Agility Position Statement May-8-2023		
Account	Balance	Target Min Balance
Chequing	\$19,658.10	\$1,000.00
PayPal	\$1,383.35	\$500.00
Cash Box	\$122.50	\$100.00
Outstanding Income**	\$0.00	\$0.00
Outstanding Debt***	(\$1,200.00)	\$0.00
Savings	\$7,272.12	\$7,200.00
Planned/Anticipated Debts	(\$2,800.00)	
* Accessible funds: \$15,636.07		
* Funds available while maintaining the Target Min Balances		
** Monies received not deposited yet		
*** Outgoing cheques outstanding		

Outstanding Cheques/Debts				
	-\$1,200.00			
	Amount	To	Issued	Comment
992	\$600.00	Charlene Harradine	May-1-2023	Mayland lease
993	\$600.00	Charlene Harradine	Jun-1-2023	Junland lease
Cheques/Cash in-hand Not Yet Deposited				
	Total:	\$0.00		
	From	Amount		Comment
Planned/Anticipated Debts				
	-\$2,800.00			
	Amount	To	Issued	Comment
	\$2,800.00	Steve Dumm		Contact Equipment ordered

Discussion about money to donate to Nationals and gravel for the driveway being a necessity.

MOTION to donate \$400.00 to the Nationals. Moved by Catherine, Second Carolyn. Unanimous. CARRIED.

Webmaster Report – Carolyn Heide

- All new members have been sent invitations to join the booking system.
- When the equipment is out, it will be a very quick change to enable booking and update the web page, so we're ready whenever it happens.
- The Events Calendar has been removed. It is not possible to maintain with classes on it, as I do not know the start and end date of classes, or when classes are canceled/moved. Without classes on it, it is just a duplicate of what is shown now on the trials/Event page.

Carolyn also mentioned that Neil has been given superpowers for the calendar and scheduling mowing. Rheel asked if the volunteer calendar was up and Carolyn said likely tonight or tomorrow.

Communications Coordinator Report – Kristy Nguyen (as sent to and read by Catherine)

Two things that I would like to report and request:

- 1) Emails capacity or issue/glitch from the provider

Around the year end March 2023 and while waiting for members to renew, I have a period of transition from end of March where I keep using the distribution list for all Paw4Fun members 2022 plus new members who just joined the club. By the second week of April, that distribution list has a total of 76 email addresses and I could no longer send any email out.

I spoke to the Webmaster (Carolyn) about the issue and started to send emails out using my new distribution list for members of 2023, which has 60 email addresses at that time. The emails went out successfully.

So far, I have no further news from Carolyn. But my distribution list of 2023 now has 65 email addresses, and we can expect more with renewal members and new members in the next little while.

One idea that comes to mind is, splitting the distribution list in 2 to keep the number of addresses down and hope that could resolve the issue temporarily. but it would be nice to know if there is a way to resolve the issue and not having to send the same email out twice with two distribution lists every time.

Any recommendations to resolve this issue are welcome as I am not a tech savvy. Thank you

Discussion around the table to lower the number of emails, mentioning contact preferences, Facebook use and Facebook notifications. Result is that Carolyn will call tech support. Heather also mentioned that she had the same issue. As Kristy is our Communications Coordinator, emails should be sent to her to send out to the members.

2) Notification for sending emails

With the upcoming outdoor season, I would need your help by letting me know ahead of time if you have an email to send out and when you like it to be sent out.

If I am around and have access to my computer, the turnaround time to send the email out could be from 4-8 hours for any same day request. It could be longer if I am on travel for the weekend, so any heads up for email to be sent is greatly appreciated.

If you have posted something on the Facebook group for members and would like it to be sent out by email as well, please let me know by pm or by email.

Thank you for your help

CARO Coordinator Report – Vania Boulet

Vania stated that the June trial is full with a small wait list. She mentioned that some people see Rally outside as its own ‘trial’ and she figures it’s good that we fill as we are outside. She said there will be 55 runs. The Fun Match opened today for the public and feedback she received was that there is nothing like this in Toronto.

IDAL coordinator Report – Heather Esdon

Heather stated that there is nothing to report. She said she is waiting for the fields to open or perhaps have one more inside. One new person has joined.

K9Kup Coordinator Report – Catherine Woolham

Catherine stated there are 4 dates and it’s happening.

Membership Coordinator Report – Esther Vrieze (absent)

Heather as Volunteer Tracker brought up a question about volunteer hours as she has had submissions already. Hours were completed in March, but the people had not registered yet. Carolyn clarified by stating the year end is the last day of March. Hours completed until then will be logged into 2022. As soon as you register, your hours count to 2023, because when you renew, you pay for missed hours of 2022.

Training / VALOR Coordinator – Sandra Johnson

Sandra stated she had nothing for training but mentioned that VALOR is no longer running. Links are shut down and there has been no return contact.

Volunteer Coordinator – Rachel Denny (absent)

Carolyn mentioned that she had taken off ‘ring crew’ from the Sign-Up Place, as a push for members to do important jobs such as scribe, gatekeeper and leash runners. This would leave the ring crew for competitors to complete. Discussion including points such as being able to put these positions back if necessary, easy jobs being taken away, counting on competitors, causing issues to scheduling and explaining to members. Carolyn to

explain to members with careful wording that this is a pilot for the June trial as well as asking for feedback.

Secretary Report – Roxanne Harrington

No report – mentioned Errors / Omissions

New Business:

1) A written policy for what to do with people who owe us money for not completing their required volunteer time and continue to reap member benefits. Discussion led to clarification and this wording was not quite accurate. This policy would be for members / former members who owe money for missed volunteer hours but want to sign up for trials. Discussion concerning who will manage this, standardized response, fluid document and some people who are restricted. Rheal says he owns this and will get information and get it done

2) Does free membership from volunteering on the Board apply to family membership and therefore volunteer hours are not expected? Ian clarified that it covers both members it is just not documented. This was in reference to Neil cutting the grass and not being a member therefore not signing a waiver or having insurance. Roxanne will fill out a new membership under 'family' to cover Neil with a waiver. Roxanne will also ask Neil to research wording for a sign to perhaps be posted for those guests to the field that have not completed waivers.

3) DRAFT PAWS4Fun League – Board Discussion – Heather Esdon

VALOR does not seem to be active any longer. The members, at present there are six teams, who participated in VALOR and would like to continue with something similar. We are proposing a PAWS League.

Our proposal is that we use the Sundays already marked for VALOR and run the PAWS League. Teams would have to be Paws4Fun members. Dogs would need to be at least a year old. The courses run would be similar to what were provided by VALOR. These are variations to the AAC courses.

The League would cost \$35 per dog for the four Sundays planned. There would be two rings setup with a different course in each. Each team would get a warmup (one minute) and at least two official runs. Runs would be recorded and reviewed by a judge (probably the coordinator).

As we want this to continue to be fun and to allow people to progress, we are suggesting the following point system for the different levels.

Standard Courses

Teams would receive a Q for clean runs and points as follows:

Q	clean run
20 points	5 faults
15 points	10 faults
10 points	20 faults
5 points	over 20 faults
2 points	participating

Beginner Title - three clean runs OR 80 points

Intermediate Title - five clean runs OR 180 points

Expert Title - five clean runs OR 280 points

Games Courses

Same points system as above.

Beginner Title - clean run in each game OR 80 points

Intermediate Title - two clean runs in each game OR 200 points

Expert Title - two clean runs in each game OR 300 points

NOTE: Points are accumulative.

Ribbons would be rewarded for each title.

(We will hold off on ribbons for this season as we see how it goes. If we decide to continue, then we will ask the club to support ribbon purchase.)

Discussion, explanation and clarification followed. Heather explained that this was sent to VALOR participants and they are providing her with feedback. Comparison between VALOR and IDAL was explained, it would be a lot of work for a small group but fun for the dogs and people as it is not a trial. The board was in agreement that if Heather was willing, to go for it. Heather stated that she would be looking for commitment from participants and will get back to the board.

One last question from Ian was looking for a date for RAD, suggesting September 23 or 30. Conflicts?

Next meeting: June 25th at 4:00 pm at the fields on Taylor Road, following K9Kup.

Adjournment @ 8:15 pm.