

THE PIGEON RACING FEDERATION of WA [Inc.]
BOARD OF CONTROL Minutes of MEETING
WEDNESDAY 7th February 2024
WHATLEY RPC.

Meeting Opened: 19:40

Present: B Brennan [President], B Scott, W Deverneuil [Secretary], Matt Heedes, Matt Creemers, K Damon, F Scerri and J Wintle [Treasurer].

Apologies: N Mouritz [Vice President]

Absent: B Hayes

Visitors: Nil

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was moved that the minutes of the previous meeting as read are true and correct after the removal of Special Resolution and Notices of Motion.

Moved: M Heeds

Seconded: J Wintle

Carried

Business Arising:

Squeaker Sale

- Top 20 PRF and other very creditable flyers donated some good quality birds to the Squeaker Sale on the 4/02/2024. Matt Creemers also secured some outstanding Eastern States birds for the sale. The Sale itself a great success.
- **Vaccination PPMV-1 and Rotavirus**
- Although there appears to have been a considerable uptake by those who previously declined to vaccinate, will the Board deem vaccination for PPMV-1 and Rotavirus mandatory or not, going forward. The decision by some respected flyers not to vaccinate caused them considerable grief last season. The Board is yet to vote on this. It was decided to carry this over with some thought as to how this would be managed / controlled and then to be voted on by the new board.

Record of Minutes

- K Damon raised the matter regarding a Special Resolution, although submitted by due date, but not actually being read at the previous meeting. His view was that Nominations, Special resolutions and Notices of Motion should have been added as an addendum to the minutes and should be tabled as Incoming correspondence.
- **Liberator**
- As previously raised for Thursday night basketing a liberator should be appointed for all feed and water races. **The appointment of a liberator was costed by John Wintle with an estimated min cost of \$12,627, note at a minimum.** Estimated impact on fees for this alone is thought to be an increase of at least \$150 per member. Estimate attached.
- **Presentation Luncheon**
- The presentation luncheon was well attended and well received.
- **Manual Clocks**
- Considering the continued reduction in the use of manual clocks since 2010 the revenue stream from this source has also declined dramatically as pointed out by J Wintle.
- **Cost of Truck Tosses**
- M Creemers again reminding us regarding his requesting costings estimate for truck tosses (Point 2 as per 6/12/2023 minutes), cost per Km, driver wages / time. Kilometers traveled to collect birds from the various clubs and time taken before departing for toss point.
- **Notice of Motion Withdrawn**
- Notice of Motion regarding qualifying criteria for races 800km and over by Bill da Silva has been withdrawn by Bill da Silva.

Treasurer's Report:

J Wintle [Treasurer], read the Financial Report for the period 1st December 2023 to 1st February 2024, for the information of and consideration by those present.

No questions raised.

Moved: K Damon that the Financial Report be accepted.

Seconded: F Scerri

Carried

Correspondence In:

Email received from Linda Miller, Manager Riverton RSL confirming our booking for 11 February 2024 she will advise us of the fee after consulting with newly appointed President. The previous President Bill College retired from the position late 2023.

Gary Gleeson attended an online meeting of the Avian Industries Consultative Group on 19th December as did Dick Milner President of the Fancy Pigeon Association.

Gary raised the matter of the proposed review of transport requirements contained in the Code of Practice. Gary pointed out that the transport of racing pigeons to a race point for the purpose of liberating the pigeons to race home over sometimes long distances is a very different proposition to poultry being trucked short distances for slaughter. Racing Pigeons must arrive at the race point in pristine condition. To achieve this the number of birds in baskets must be right, they must be watered enroute and on arrival must have ready access to clean feed and water and be fit and ready to race.

DPIRD seems to have a fixation that because our Code of Practice dates back to May 1994, it therefore automatically needs to be revised. Gary advised the meeting that our procedures are based on science and have been developed over centuries of hands on experience.

DPIRD labs have confirmed one case of PPMV in 2023. NO cases of Rota. The Board queried DPIRD's figures.

See the attachments for interesting material on HPAI or "highly pathogenic bird influenza" in wildlife species overseas. There doesn't appear to be an existing or present threat Nationally however members are asked to be vigilant and report any sightings of sick native birds to DPIRD.

Email received from Paul Gibbs – Secretary ANRPB

Subject: National Ace Bird Awards

As the closing date for nominations has passed the following is an overview of the results. We only had 11 nominations for the "Short to Middle Distance" and only 1 for the "Middle to Long".

Anthony Agius CCF member won

1st position with a co-efficient of 0.1690536 with a bird to win 4th,
6th

and 16th Fed

2nd was Jeff Sheppard SCF in NSW with a co-efficient of 0.3462224

3rd was Dreyer Loubser PRF in WA with a co-efficient of 0.3940419

4th S&D Gordon CCF with a co-efficient of 0.6083589

5th was Raf Lay VHA with a co-efficient of 0.833614

6th was Clint Sparrow PRF in WA with a co-efficient of 0.8970778

7th was Rob Sheehy PRF in WA with a co-efficient of 0.9569771

8th was Steve Shears CCF with a co-efficient of 1.0446151

9th was Joe Farrugia CCF with a co-efficient of 1.148305

10th was S&D Gordon CCF with a co-efficient of 1.2120766

We only had one nomination for the "Middle to Long Distance" and that came from Brian Donovan from the SAHPA with a co-efficient of 0.5691664.

A review with regards the "Middle to Long Distance" may need discussing at our next meeting. It was good to see a "scattering" of nominations being from the various Federations and States. Hopefully we will be able to advertise and promote these result to the wider pigeon fraternity this year.

Regards,
Paul.

Correspondence Out:

Letter to DPIRD relative to number of pigeons in crates.

Nominations to ANRPB for ACE BIRD of the YEAR

Nominations to ANRPB for National Ace Pigeon Award

Correspondence in and out accepted as true and correct.

Moved: B Scott

Seconded: M Creemers

Carried

General Business:

Squeaker Sale – Truck Fund

Sincere thanks to the Breeders/doners of squeakers for the first of our Squeaker Sales for without their generosity in giving of their best this event could not have achieved the result that it did.

Sincere thanks to the Whatley Team for their generosity in making their venue available and hospitality, by way of the sausage sizzle and drinks, thereby making it a very pleasant day.

Thanks also to Matt Creemers for sourcing birds for auction from reputable eastern states flyers which all goes to increase interest in the auction.

Our Auctioneer, Neil Bailey, had to work at it at times but displayed composure and professionalism to produce a great result.

Total raised \$9,730.00

Fees for Season 2024

Consensus is that fees will need to go up. By how much has been carried over for a decision by the new board.

Life Rings

Clubs are requested to canvass members and advise the Federation Secretary of the number of Life Rings required by their members as soon as possible. Please treat as a matter of importance as we want a repeat of 2022.

Truck Maintenance

The following is a list of maintenance that needs to be carried out on the truck before the commencement of season 2024.

Bushes in rear spring hangers cracked and need to be replaced.

Rear shock absorbers leaking and need to be replaced.

Rear tyres, worn and cracked need to be replaced.

Hydraulic hose, that lifts truck cabin, leaks and needs to be replaced. **The abovementioned work will be carried out prior to commencement of the 2024 season.**

Australian National Pigeon Racing Board [ANPRB]

Minutes of the last meeting of the ANRPB are available on the PRF website.

Downloading Video Recording of Liberations and Apparatus for Recording Temp, Co2 and Humidity

Matt Heedes to pursue this matter in the new year.

PRF - Champion Bird of the Year

PRF "Champion Bird" for season 2023 was won by Dreyer Loubser with 32 points ahead of Paul D'Amico on 17 points.

ARPJ – Ace Bird Award

We expect to receive a result in March

PRF Registered Trade Mark

The PRF Board have registered the Trade Mark and Logo of The Pigeon Racing Federation of Western Australia [Inc]

ANRPB “National Race” 2024

The ANRPB seeks approval of the PRF to conduct their National Race in season 2024. Galena 27 July, 2024, has tentatively been penciled in on the 2024 Race Program with a view to not only attracting Bunbury and Busselton Clubs participation but to give them some realistic chance of placing in the event. Galena 27 July 2024, or another race point on another date, requires ratification by the new Board before we can progress this event.

Sick Pigeons

Vaccination of your pigeons for PPMV-1, preseason in strict compliance with veterinary advice should give your flock 100% immunity from PPMV-1 for 12 months. Vaccination against Rotavirus in strict compliance with veterinary advice will protect your flock from a severe outbreak of Rotavirus. Some lofts when exposed to unvaccinated pigeons, for example, on the truck, may suffer a mild case of Rotavirus. Normally a pigeon will recover from a mild case of Rotavirus within a week and be ready for tossing and racing within a couple of weeks. Clearly those who do not vaccinate their flock for either of the abovementioned viruses perpetuate the cycle of outbreaks of the viruses, which has a real potential to contribute to unnecessary losses. The question is, should we leave the choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate, with the members or should we be guided by past experiences and mandate compulsory vaccination against PPMV-1 and Rotavirus. At the moment we are experiencing the revolving door effect, which no doubt has contributed to losses.

Now is an ideal time to vaccinate. According to veterinary advice it can take up to six weeks for a pigeon to develop full immunity.

Volunteer Health and Safety Policy and current Public Liability Insurance

Please find attached the Volunteer Health and Safety Policy for attached, this is to be signed and returned by way of email to the PRF Secretary.
w.dev@hotmail.com

Register of Members

To be updated by Federation Secretary.

The Fed Secretary has asked that club Secretaries / Presidents forward an updated club membership list to the Federation Secretary; this should contain: Racing Name / Flyers names / Mobile No / Home No / Email Address / Physical Address.

This is a requirement under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Note failure to provide an updated Register of Members, confirmation of Current Public Liability Insurance and the Volunteer Health and Safety confirmation form will preclude the club from receiving a pick up for tosses / races, until such time these items are held. Please attend to these at your earliest convenience prior to the start of season. **This is a matter of priority**

Moved: M Creemers

Seconded: J Wintle

Carried

Events Calendar

For ease of reference by members and to avoid "Special Events" clashing, Clubs are again requested to advise the Board of any special events due in the coming season, for example, Sires, Legacy auctions or other special events.

Should the board not be timeously advised about events and these events therefore do not appear on the Events Calendar and clash with already advertised calendar events. The PRF will not advertise or email members regarding these events, this will fall solely to that club.

- Wanneroo RPC approval provided for a Special Event to be recorded on the Events Calendar. **24/11/2024 – Wanneroo Breeder Plate.**
- **PRF Squeaker Sale 12/01/2025** also to be placed on the calendar.

Annual General Meeting

Time: 10.00 hrs.

Date: Sunday 11th of February 2024

Venue: Riverton RSL, 153 High Road Riverton

Member Transfers - Change of Club

Fred Scerri: Whatley to Wanneroo

Steve Conroy: Coastal to Wanneroo

New Members

Please ensure that if your club has any prospective new members, then to advance their applications ASAP. First, they must be a member of your club, then they can apply for membership of the PRF.

Appeals

In the event that a member elects to appeal a decision made against him/her, or relative to another member, they must first put their intention to appeal in writing including the grounds for appeal. The Board will not accept or act on an application to appeal without the appellant particularising their grounds for appeal.

Complaints

All complaints of any nature relative to pigeon racing must be in writing and submitted to the Board for consideration of action, if required.

Damaged Crates and Inserts

Please ensure all damaged crates are labelled with an appropriate tag addressed to Amalgamated Club, particularizing the fault with the crate. The faulty crate is then to be loaded onto Amalgamated's bay for forwarding to Amalgamated club for repair. Do not store damaged crates at your club.

Complaints – Local Authority

In the event of a complaint, if a member is compliant with local By-laws he/she should survive the complaints process, if not compliant it is very difficult to assist them.

Meeting Closed: 21H:25

Next Meeting: Whatley RPC 1930 hrs. Tuesday 27/02/2024.