

VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of VHA delegates meeting held at Notting Hill on the 7th of December 2020.

The President Andrew Spiliopoulos declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

A minute's silence was held for Fred Sheean, Grenville Evans and Peter McMeikin.

ROLL CALL

CLUB	PRESENT	TOTAL	DELEGATES
Bayswater-Nunawading	Yes	4	1
Diamond Valley	Yes	12	3
Greensborough	No	5	0
Heidelberg	Yes	6	1
Ivanhoe	Yes	11	2
Knox	Yes	9	2
Malvern	Yes	4	1
Mountain District	Yes	7	1
Northcote	No	5	0
North East	Yes	5	1
Notting Hill	Yes	7	1
Oakleigh-Waverley	Yes	8	2
Pathfinder	Yes	12	3
Plenty	Yes	10	2
South East	Yes	6	1
United	Yes	5	1
TOTAL		116	24

Apologies – John Yates, David Crosby and Bob Stukel

Matters arising from the previous minutes – none.

Moved Neville Stone seconded Steve Kearsey the minutes be accepted - carried.

REPORTS

Ring Secretary – Hank Merbis

Hank reported that since March 229 birds had been reported with most owners being notified. Some issues were found with extremely old rings of which he has no record. Hank also requested that all ring secretaries supply him with their updated ring lists.

Clock Chairman – Steve Kearsey. Steve had nothing to report.

Treasurer - Tim Brudenell

Tim advised that the account balances were:- ANZ term deposit \$10,160.43 (this is the bond being held for the tenant at number 22) Cheque account \$50,820.32 V2 plus account \$16,016.78 (this is moneys being held for the 110 race) Fully drawn advance -\$71,050.62

Secretary – Gerry Sheean

The Secretary elaborated on the presentation of the treasurer's report. Gerry advised that with current outgoings and some income still to come in the VHA had a net balance figure of \$30,000.

Transport Officer – Andrew Spiliopoulos

Andrew advised that Sam Spiliopoulos had installed the LED lights on the semi-trailer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Gerry advised that there had been a lot of letters received around the Covid 19 issue which were now irrelevant going forward and it was agreed these did not need to be read out.

Correspondence received from Paul Bryant of the Frankston club advising they had 13 flyers interested in forming a centre and competing in the VHA next season. They requested costings for them to present to their members. This matter needs to be discussed at VHA club level and voted on by the delegates. Steve Kearsey has been requested by the executive committee to check whether all 13 flyers fall inside VHA boundaries.

The Western Pigeon Federation has written with regard to One Voice. This is an initiative to unite all flyers in the state under one representative committee. This has been deemed important after the attempts by various parties to contact government departments during the present pandemic.

Diamond Valley submitted a letter nominating committee members for next year.

Neil Macher on behalf of the Oakleigh- Waverley club submitted a letter to the VHA offering to pay off the existing VHA loan. The letter was read to the delegates and carried a proviso that if accepted all rent from the adjacent property be used to subsidise racing for all VHA flyers.

The letter was received with a round of applause from the delegates and the executive.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Gerry Charnley on behalf of Oakleigh Waverley gave a history of the purchase and the journey of the ownership of the Oakleigh club building and on being joined by other members of the Oakleigh Waverley club duly presented the cheque of \$71,050.62 to the VHA secretary Gerry Sheean. This was received with thanks and another round of applause from all present.

Line of flight for 2021 was discussed. It was moved Steve Kearsey seconded Allan Marcon the North line be flown in season 2021. Motion carried. A start date of the 3rd of July was moved by Steve Kearsey and seconded by Kevin Clarke. Motion carried.

Gerry Sheean spoke re affiliation fees for 2021. It was proposed that \$50 be the 2021 VHA affiliation fees for existing members. This was moved Steve Kearsey and seconded Neville Stone. Motion carried.

Added money for 2021. It was moved Steve Kearsy seconded Neville Stone that all proceeds from ring sales go to prize money in 2021, and added money for 2020, unused, to be allocated to prize money in 2021. Motion carried.

Upfront fee format to remain the same. Moved Steve Kearsy seconded Colin Walker. Motion carried.

Clubs are reminded that nominations for office bearers for 2021 are to be submitted by the annual general meeting. Kevin Clarke has advised that he won't be standing for vice president next year.

Steve Kearsy to be appointed auditor for 2021. Moved Steve Gazzola seconded Kevin Clarke. Motion carried.

Flyers are advised that anybody wishing to have their 2020 entry money returned for the "110 race" are able to do so. Otherwise the money can carry over for entry to the 2021 race.

It is advised that there is no requirement for a statutory declaration for PMV injection required going forward.

Colin Walker spoke at length about the "one voice" committee and of an initial meeting that had been held at the VHA headquarters with presidents and members of other organisations. Colin emphasised the importance of single representation on behalf of the pigeon racing fraternity moving forward. This had been particularly relevant during the recent pandemic when too many approaches from too many individuals were made to government ministers and agencies with varied non conclusive and contradictory replies.

There was a proposal to elect a VHA board member for the "one voice" committee. Moved Steve Kearsy seconded Steve Gazzola. Motion carried. Kevin Clarke volunteered and was accepted by the delegates.

Steve Gazzola requested to send his one loft race pigeons on the VHA transporter for 1 x 200 1 x 300 and 1 x350 stage. The 350 stage pigeons to be released the day after the VHA race birds. Steve requested a costing and it was decided that \$1.00 per pigeon be charged and \$750 hold over costs for the second day release. This motion was moved by Colin Walker and seconded by Mark Tung. Carried.

It was moved Ray Schreiber and seconded Allan Marcon that the existing members of the Oakleigh-Waverley club be exempt from VHA affiliation fees for a period of five years as a token of appreciation for their generous donation to the other VHA members. Motion carried.

A short distance programme has been suggested for March/April 2021. This would include all pigeons bred for 2020. This is now being put to clubs who will need to get back to a member of the executive as soon as possible with the number of members wishing to race. The series will be held if there are enough flyers interested.

The secretary spoke on the issue of multiple members/partnerships flying to the one loft and using one clock. It appears that several rules seem contradictory in this matter and need addressing. Rule 64 under heading clocks, states in part "If two or more members fly to the one loft, they may use one clock". However under EBS systems rule 12 it states members will be permitted to use one electronic clock for two individual flyers to the one loft. This does not state more than 2. Discussion then evolved around limit flying which is currently set at 50 per race per member and is a condition

of racing not a rule as such. Most “double” flyers do so to enable them to carry large numbers, and may in fact prefer to fly as one member only.

As it stands it would appear that more than two members/flyers can fly to the one loft, but it may in current circumstances be better if members were allowed to fly more than 50. This would require a change in race conditions OR a new rule to cover same.

Andrew Spiliopoulos suggested that in future delegates meetings start at 7.00pm. It was moved
Kevin Clarke seconded Gavin Whitehead. Motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 9.53pm.