

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION

HELD AT NOTTING HILL ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2022

President Andrew Spiliopoulos opened the meeting at 7.04pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Matters arising from the previous minutes** – none.

Moved Bob Stukel seconded Hank Merbis the previous minutes be accepted.

Motion carried.

## **Annual report and balance sheet**

The treasurer Gerry Sheean presented the balance sheet and gave a summary. Gerry advised that the VHA was in a good financial position.

**Auditor** – Steve Kearsey

Steve advised the meeting that he had audited the books which had been excellently kept and presented by the treasurer.

Steve made a number of recommendations:-

The executive should list our race costs going forward.

When we run a national race the VHA secretary should control the race and record keeping be adequate.

Steve also asked if the CCTV system was being checked regularly to ensure it was working as our insurance policy is dependent on its continuous operation.

Steve also asked that the records for the year be put on our website as soon as possible this includes the Presidents report and the secretaries report.

This was move Bob Stukel seconded Steve Gazzola. Motion carried.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Gerry Sheean spoke with regard to costs and fees associated with racing as part of his financial presentation. He raised several issues for consideration by the delegates:-

1. CLUB RACES CONTRIBUTED \$7171 TO BANK. IT WOULD APPEAR UNFAIR THAT WE CONTINUE TO MAKE MONEY FROM THESE RACES WHEN SO MANY FLYERS DO NOT PARTICIPATE AND YET REAP THE BENEFIT. I WOULD SUGGEST A REDUCTION TO 50 CENTS PER FLYER

2. THE SPRINT SERIES IN MARCH/APRIL MADE A LOSS OF \$5035. TO CONTEMPLATE RUNNING THESE RACES AGAIN WE NEED TO DOUBLE ENTRY FEE OR ELSE BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS LOSS. IN 2021 WE HAD SPONSORSHIP TO COVER THESE LOSSES AND ONLY PRIZES WERE DONATED. IT SEEMS STRANGE THAT PEOPLE MAY THINK THAT \$4 PER BIRD IS TOO HIGH TO RACE, YET LARGE SUMS ARE SPENT ON BIRDS AT SALES AND SPECIAL ONE LOFT RACES ARE OVER \$300 PER BIRD.

3. MEMBERSHIP FEES THIS YEAR ALREADY COVER HONORARIUMS. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SET OUR AFFILIATION FEES AT A LEVEL THAT COVERS THESE ADMINISTRATION COSTS

4. ADDED MONEY CONTINUES TO RISE. CURRENTLY SITTING AT \$16,922 (AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR), BUT WE HAVE RING SALES TO ADD (ALREADY COLLECTED \$4300 WITH \$14,000 NOT YET SORTED – BILLED BUT NOT COLLECTED). I WOULD EXPECT THAT WE SHOULD HAVE \$27,000 IN ADDED MONEY FOR

2022. I SUGGEST ALLOCATING \$1200 PER RACE IN 2022. THIS WILL ALLOW SOME FLOW ON INTO 2023 WITH ANTICIPATED LOWER RING SALES IN 2022.

5. WE OWE PERSONSHIP PREPAID \$3500. THIS IS TO BE \$1,000 FOR 10 BIRD RACE AND \$2500 TOWARD FIRST 500 MILE RACE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT WE WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$5,000 FOR PRIZE MONEY FOR SECOND 500 AND 600 MILE RACES.

6. WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE TRANSPORT TO 200 MILE RACES. PERHAPS WE BASKET AND LEAVE THE BIRDS IN THE ROOMS AND TRANSPORT THE NEXT DAY. THIS WOULD AVOID CONVOYERS SPENDING TWO NIGHTS AWAY (SAVING FOR US) PLUS THE TRAVEL IS IN DAYLIGHT TIME ONLY. SO FOR INSTANCE IF THE BIRDS LEFT THE ROOMS AT 7.00AM (WATER WOULD NEED TO BE REMOVED) WE WOULD HAVE THE BIRDS AT THE RACE POINT SAY MIDDAY, ENOUGH TIME TO PUT WATERS ON AND FEED.

7. DUE TO NO RACING LAST YEAR AGAIN WE SHOW A PROFIT OF \$37,000. THIS CAN BE ALLOCATED TO TRANSPORT FOR ALL RACES AND AS SUCH UP-FRONT FEE CAN COMFORTABLY BE SET AT \$1 FOR 2022.

8. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE NEED TO COLLECT UP FRONT FEES AND WE SHOULD SIMPLY CHARGE \$1 OUT OF ENTRY FEES TO TRANSPORT ALL RACES. AS SUCH WE WILL MAKE A PROFIT EARLY ON BUT LOSE LATER ON. IT WON'T MATTER IF WE FALL SHORT AS WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COVER ANY SHORTFALL. I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST ANYTHING LESS THAN A DOLLAR AS WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ALL OUR GAINS IN ONE YEAR. LAST TIME WE SET UP FRONT WE CHARGED \$1.45 SO THIS EQUATES TO 30% REDUCTION, AND 50% REDUCTION (\$2) IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. RACING PIGEONS IN THE VHA IS GETTING CHEAPER NOT DEARER.

9. WE HAVE NOT CHARGED NOTTING HILL USERS ANY FEES FOR UPKEEP OF ROOMS IN THE PAST 2 YEARS. THE RENT HAS COVERED ALL EXPENSES I.E. RATES ETC. HOWEVER OTHER CENTRES HAVE TO UPKEEP THEIR ROOMS AND IT WOULD APPEAR ONLY FAIR THAT A SURCHARGE BE RE-INSTITUTED TO USER OF THE NOTTING HILL ROOMS. I WOULD SUGGEST A TOKEN FEE OF \$50 PER MEMBER. DUAL FLYERS TO BE CHARGED ACCORDINGLY.

10. I MAKE NOTE THAT THE RACE SECRETARY, HAS DONATED HIS ALLOWANCE BACK TOWARD PRIZE MONEY FOR THE 10 BIRD. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE MINUTE SECRETARY,

11. JEFF WEAVER, HAS NOT ACCEPTED ANY PAYMENT FOR HIS WORK.

#### **SECRETARY-Steve Brown**

Steve Brown acknowledged the life members present at the meeting and thanked Gerry Sheean for his support when taking over the secretary's job. Steve also congratulated Andrew on the Presidents job and thanked him for his support and also thanked the executive for their efforts during the Covid 19 period. He made special mention of the liberation of pigeons at the shrine on Remembrance Day and noted it as a very special event highlighting the pigeon war service. Many thanks to Eddie and Gerry Sheean and Andrew Spiliopoulos for their efforts on the day.

#### **Federation Winners Medallion Presentation**

Federation winners present were awarded their winners medallions. Winners this year were Ergun Avci (2 wins), Brad McPherson, Wayne Williams, Nick Lakiotis (2 wins), J & K Mallia, G.T & A. Balcke, Pino De Luca, Peter McDonough, I & J Van Beers.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Steve Kearsey advised the executive that he would no longer be doing the auditing of the VHA books. The VHA is now looking for an auditor for this year the secretary will look into the legal requirements for an auditor moving forward.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.