

VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of the VHA delegates meeting held at Notting Hill on the 5th of September 2022.

The President Andrew Spiliopoulos declared the meeting open at 7.07pm.

ROLL CALL

CLUB	PRESENT	MEMBERS	DELEGATES
Diamond Valley	Yes	13	3
Frankston	Yes	12	3
Greensborough	No	6	0
Heidelberg	Yes	11	2
Ivanhoe	Yes	10	2
Knox	Yes	13	3
Malvern	Yes	8	2
Mornington	No	4	0
Northcote	Yes	5	1
North East	Yes	4	1
Notting Hill	Yes	9	2
Oakleigh-Waverley	Yes	8	2
Pathfinder	Yes	12	3
Plenty	Yes	8	2
South East	Yes	6	1
United	Yes	6	1
TOTAL		136	28

A minute's silence was held in the memory of Nick Spiliopoulos.

Both Steve Brown and Paul Gardiner spoke a few words. Nick was remembered as a social flyer and a lot of fun, a true lover of his pigeons. A keen Richmond supporter whose was enjoyable company, Nick was a member of the Box Hill club for some 13 years and then a member of Notting Hill for 5 years. He was quite a character well thought of as very helpful and kind.

Apologies – None.

Matter arising from, the previous minutes – None.

REPORTS

VRPB – Colin Walker Colin advised the government web site was open for comments on the new animal welfare laws. The VRPB are looking at the proposals and will ensure that members are aware of their legal responsibility. VRPB will make comments as they deem required. Colin wanted to specifically highlight the controlled conduct. i.e. lay people doing anything to animals which should be done by a qualified person. He gave an example of a Western Australian flyer who had sewn up his own pigeon after taking it home from the Vet. The flyer had been charged and eventually the act had cost him \$5,000. Comments to the website are to be in by the 22nd of October.

Clock Chairman - Alan Marcon

There has been a number of concerns around scanning and identification of pigeons when entering races. At one centre an electronic ring which was not coupled to the pigeon being scanned was not removed from the pigeon before the bird was taken home. This ring subsequently scanned at the owner's loft giving a false clocking time. All rings scanned but not coupled must be removed and held by the centre until the race is over. The Derby race saw nine flyers send rings which were not permitted. Members must be aware that only birds rung with current VHA, VPU, WPF, GMPF and VPO rings are allowed in the Young Bird Derby. This has always been the case and is clearly written on the race schedule. Members are reminded that when scanning pigeons for entry to a race all the details on the ring must be read out for verification. Alan said other than these serious issues all else was going well.

Ring Secretary – Hank Merbis

Forty-six strays reported and owners notified. Narrandera 3 M. Furst clocked a pigeon not registered. Narrandera Derby Paul Gravenor clocked a pigeon with a ring not eligible. Moved Alan Marcon seconded Paul Gardiner no time be given. Carried. R. Klein clocked pigeon not registered in his name. Moved Hank Merbis no time be given. Seconded Alan Marcon. Carried.

Treasurers Report – Steve Brown on behalf of Gerry Sheean

Money balances. Cheque account – \$79,340.12, V2 plus account- \$20,323.76, ANZ Online saver - \$60,013.04, Rental bond - \$10,000. Gerry also provided a profit and loss statement and the breakdown of races to date showing losses as predicted. Two clubs are yet to settle up front fees.

Transport Officer – Andrew Spiliopoulos

All races going well. The transport is getting away in good time. Narrandera has proven a tricky race point with the current flood situation in NSW and its location in the snow fields. Andrew has suggested we look for a more suitable place in the future. The Tassie units which we have purchased from the Greater Melbourne federation will be picked up and taken to the Tassie basketing centres. Flyers note basketing for Tassie will be on Wednesday the 14th at two centres only. Diamond Valley and Notting Hill. Basketing for the Produce race will be on Thursday the 15th. Basketing centres will be at Ivanhoe and Diamond Valley with all southern clubs required to basket at Notting Hill. Members were advised that Toll had sold this part of their transport business to Global Express an overseas based company. Cost of shipping has subsequently risen to \$4,319.80. Andrew has been in negotiation with the company re the rise in cost.

CORRESPONDENCE

J. Tang new member of Heidelberg moving from Greater Melbourne (clearance supplied). Moved Neville Stone seconded Alan Marcon VHA membership be accepted. Carried.

Notification from Metro club of verification of Narrandera 1 and West Wyalong 1 federation winners.

Cranbourne verification of Moama winner.

Frankston verification of Derby winner and Narrandera 2 winner.

It was moved Alan Marcon seconded Hank Merbis all payments be made. Motion carried.

K. Fletcher inquiring re the availability of pigeons to be released at the shrine. This has been confirmed we will require about 100 pigeons.

Letter from Oakleigh Waverley requesting R. Klein be given his time. This letter was tabled earlier as part of the ring secretaries report.

David Crosby advising Bayswater centre has come to end of its lease with the council. It was moved Alan Marcon seconded Peter McDonough the rooms be returned to the council. Motion carried.

Pigeon Racing Victoria have offered to sponsor a five hundred mile race next year. PRV will require a minimum of three Melbourne federations to participate. The Secretary has been instructed to advise PRV of our interest subject to further detail.

ANRPB proposal for a Grand National. Members were advised that if the VHA is to participate pigeons will not be released in the same location as the other states.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Proceeds from Allan Wallgate sale were \$5,290. Many thanks to Allan for his generous donation.

Andrew advised of the meeting of the executive for the reworking of our race programme.

Reminder to members that the next meeting will include the line of flight and conditions for next season.

The VHA will be running an online stock bird sale after the current season.

No applicant has been received for the position of treasurer. Anyone interested please contact Steve Brown or Andrew Spiliopoulos.

Nominations for the VHA 110 race to be extended to 16/9/2022. Currently there is \$22,000 in the kitty. Entries are \$100 per bird up to 16th of September then \$150 per bird for late entry.

Andrew has met with our tenant and advised that he is carrying on his business. At present all payments are up to date except for \$4,449 of outgoings. In response to a question from Kevin Clark Andrew advised that the tenant has provided a personal guarantee supporting the lease.

The President is to contact Colin Walker re the racing of the pigeons "Walkers Grizzles" which is against VHA rules.

Meeting ended at 8.27pm.

