

VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of the VHA delegates meeting held at Notting Hill on the 2nd of October 2023.

The President Andrew Spiliopoulos declared the meeting open at 7.06pm.

ROLL CALL

CLUB	PRESENT	MEMBERS	DELEGATES
Diamond Valley	Yes	12	3
Frankston	Yes	9	2
Greensborough	N/A	3	0
Heidelberg	Yes	11	2
Ivanhoe	Yes	11	2
Knox	Yes	5	1
Malvern	Yes	9	2
Metropolitan	Yes	7	1
Mornington	Yes	5	1
Northcote	Yes	6	1
North East	Yes	4	1
Notting Hill	Yes	5	1
Oakleigh-Waverley	Yes	8	2
Pathfinder	Yes	8	2
Plenty	Yes	10	2
South East	Yes	8	2
United	Yes	8	2
TOTAL		128	27

A minute's silence was held for the passing of Joe Phillips.

Steve Brown spoke of Joe being a long time flyer in the VHA starting in the Victoria club in the early days and eventually being a member of Malvern. Joe will be remembered as a happy go lucky person who was very generous and supportive.

Apologies – Gerry Sheean.

Matters arising from the previous minutes. None. Moved Alan Marcon seconded Kevin Clark minutes be accepted. Carried.

LINE OF FLIGHT

A vote on Diamond Valleys proposed line of flight was taken resulting in 18 votes for and 9 against. Diamond Valley's line of flight carried.

Discussion was had re Diamond Valley's proposal to change Narrandera race point to Griffith. After discussion it was moved Peter McDonough seconded Alan Marcon the race point be changed.

Motion carried.

Recommendation to adopt VRPB code of practice. Moved Don Lowe seconded Dave Alan. Carried.

REPORTS

Clock Chairman – Alan Marcon. All going well with centres being co-operative. Alan requested a decision be made on clock presentation for the upcoming Mildura race scheduled for Friday and the Tassie race. It was moved Alan Marcon seconded Kevin Clark presentation to be 7.00pm for Mildura and 7.00pm. for Tassie. Carried.

Ring Secretary – Hank Merbis. Thirty-four pigeons reported and owners notified. In the '10" bird race Manfred Furst clocked a pigeon not identified as registered. Moved Kevin Clark seconded Neville Stone no time be given. Carried.

Treasurers Report – Steve Brown for Gerry Sheean. Current bank balances - Cheque Account \$17,137.40 V2 plus Account \$55.07 ANZ Online Saver \$151,500.00.

We currently owe \$26,188 in prize money but are owed some entry fees from clubs. Still owe Honorariums etc. but we have plenty of money in online saver account which I will need to transfer some funds out of this week. Interest received \$162 and merchant fees taken \$62.64. All is going Ok but a lot of clubs (not all) do not know of the nomination system for flyers and I am continually advising that they have run out and then chasing excess payments. Upfront fees administration is very time consuming. As advised one club did not even know how upfront fees work, so obviously that club would have no records. We continue to pay out more prize money than contributed by flyers in each race thanks to added money and of course the sponsors. An example was that we returned \$2.50 in prizes against \$2 entry fee for Mildura 4 (last week's race) Mention should be made to Steve Gazzola \$1K, Clock chairman Alan Marcon \$380 for donating their honorariums and Ivanhoe Homing Club's \$3K contribution to the Tassie race. Also please mention in the minutes that we once again had free transport from the shipping company (Straight Link through Tolls) for the Tassie race.

Transport Officer – Andrew Spiliopoulos. The units we purchased for Tassie worked well with 20 birds a tier. We also carried Shepparton, Traralgon and the VRPU to Tassie with us. Andrew conducted working bees at Diamond Valley and Notting Hill to carry out maintenance on the units before the race. All races have been going well with the truck getting to the race point in good time. Special thanks to Steve Gazzola for his invaluable assistance to Andrew on basketing night.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notification of verification of federation winners Clark and Gazzola, Andrew Spiliopoulos and Gazzola and Clark.

Request from Mornington club for name change Of Bryant and Demidowski to P. Bryant. Moved Kevin Clark seconded Hank Merbis name change be accepted. Carried.

Notice of Motion from Pathfinder to change rules 55 & 56 re number of birds to take federation positions.

Traralgon request to join the VHA as affiliated country club. Moved Hank Merbis seconded Neville Stone. Carried.

Letter from PRV regarding the cancelling of the PRV Vic. Cup race due to lack of transport. VPO requesting transporting of their pigeons with the VHA to Carrieton and Bookaloo. The executive officers advising that they had rejected this request due to the VPO birds being taken off line and the effect it might have on our liberation.

VRPB action plan. Steve Brown nominated Andrew Spiliopoulos as the VHA compliance officer. Moved Alan Marcon seconded Peter McDonough. Carried

ANRPB – Nomination forms received for Ace bird of the year award.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Thanks was given to Andrew Spiliopoulos for attending with and representing Cheney Chen at a Manningham Council permit meeting. Cheney had neighbours objecting to his application to keep pigeons and Andrew attended the meeting on short notice to represent Cheney and the VHA. This was on a Thursday night starting at 6.00pm. and finishing at 7.45pm. Andrew had to then go back to Notting Hill to undertake his transport officer's duties. Thanks to Andrew the meeting which had several councillors in attendance went well with a positive outcome expected.

Andrew was also thanked for organising and taking a leading role in the working bee's which brought the Tassie units up to scratch for use in the Yolla race.

Steve Gazzola gave an update on the upcoming pigeon convention. The Victorian National Pigeon Convention will be held at The Meadows-Greyhound track 80 Northcorp Blvd. Broadmeadows on the 24th, 25th and 26th of November. (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Speakers will include Greg Hamilton, Bill Lawry, Fred DiMella, Len Vanderlinde, Wayne Williams and Syd Guard. Refer to website for more details. <https://wpf.org.au/victorian-national-pigeon-convention-2023/>

Steve spoke about a proposed auction during the event which will have a dozen birds auctioned to race in a VHA race. Steve to put the proposal in writing for the consideration of members.

Discussion was had about the remaining race schedule and the problems we may confront with forecast hot days. Members were advised that we would have to be flexible around future races to enable our season to be completed successfully.

Andrew advised that power saving lamps had been installed at our Notting Hill premises at no cost to us. This was done under the government scheme.

It is proposed that we have a presentation day after seasons end and suggestions are welcome from members as to where it could be held. Jeff Weaver has suggested at this stage the Manningham Club in Bullen could be a suitable venue.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm.