

"East Coast long Distance Racing Combine Inc."

Delegates Meeting

Blacktown Pigeon Club – 22/11/20.

Management Committee

President/Chairman - Dave Miller - Ph. 02 42 841 069 - Email - irenemiller@y7mail.com

Vice President - Pat Arcella - Ph. 0418 471 114

Secretary - Tony Davis – Ph. 0438 244 061 - Email - anthony.davis100@outlook.com

Treasure - Rudy Diener – Ph. 0414 246 864 - Email - metal_fencing@hotmail.com

Publicity Officer – Paul Vassallo - Ph. 0411 969 806

Race Secretary – Derek Louth – Ph.

1. Welcoming of Members

The Chair welcomed all members.

Attendees - Gary Pound, Dave Miller, Anthony Agius, Rudy Diener, Tony Davis, Pat Arcella, Terry Condran, Dereck Louth, Peter Clark, Wayne Weatherburn, Kevin Gamble, John Borg, Pece Mikhailov, Alex Carwana, Mark Jeffery

2. Apologies

Vince Pedavoli, Stan Rippon, Dylan Borg

3. Presidents Report

The Chair advised the meeting the Club has had a tough year, with covid having an impact, we also held 2 races which attracted a good entry, but the returns were far from expected.

He advised the members that there were several issues that impacted on the races and as such we will be doing a lessons learnt today to identify what went well and what we need to change or improve.

He commented that the first race was the toughest with only 1 bird home in race time, the second race was better, but still far from ideal.

He advised members that it was never going to be easy and we need to be open to suggest to improve, move on and hopefully have success in 2021 and beyond.

The Chair acknowledged and thanked both Pat Arcella and Vince Pedavoli have provided to the club, as well as all the supporters who have donated birds, and those who bid on birds at the recent online auction. As a result, the club is in a strong financial position to continue to subsidize racing costs.

He further acknowledged the support from our sponsors, this all helps us to raise the profile of long-distance racing.

- Ian Price - <https://berry.org.au/services/berry-printers/>
- Rudy Diener - <https://www.metalfencingspecialists.com.au/>
- Tony Mercia - <https://www.jm-produce.com.au/index.php>
- Kevin Clark - <http://www.benzingaaustralia.com.au/>
- Mark White - <http://www.treidlia.com.au/>
- Tim Fawcett - <http://www.pigeonsales.com.au/>
- Stan & Mick Rippon - <http://www.pigeonrace.net/>

4. Lessons Learnt

The Secretary advised the delegates and members present that we need to identify what we believe we done well, what went wrong, and most importantly what we need to do to improved and or changed.

He advised that all present will get the opportunity to offer opinions and suggestions.

At this stage we are just gathering information and the committee/executive will work on preparing proposed changes will be presented to members at the AGM for endorsement.
The following is a list of all the issues that were identified by members.

What when well

- Basket Centres worked well.
- Entry form and entries fees were recorded and transferred to the club's bank account.
- Compiling of race sheet and sending them to Race Secretary.
- Catering at the race centres was well received.
- Offering and transporting of birds from clubs out of the Federation boundaries.
- Fund Raising auction a great success.
- There was a lot of interest in the races with good numbers of birds being sent.
- Transportation, Communications, and care of the birds to the second race went well.

What went wrong or what needs to change etc.

- Transporting of the birds to the first race was not ideal.
- Transport times were underestimated, the truck was driving into head winds which slowed them down.
- More time required to transport birds if using Vince's truck.
- Didn't have 2 drivers and as such didn't drive through the night on the Tuesday on the first race.
- Transportation and Liberation protocols were inadequate for long distance racing and assumptions and decisions were made without knowledge of the Liberation committee.
- Lack of accountability.
- She'll be right attitude.
- A perception that the birds must be liberated on Friday regardless.
- Liberation of birds in unfavourable winds.
- Liberating all the bird's mass as opposed to separate liberation for birds outside the ECLDRC boundaries.
- Too many people on the liberation committee.
- Members of the liberation committee being called by random flyers offering advice and suggestion as to when to liberate.
- Members of the committee advised that they didn't get to speak to the liberator on the first race.
- Loss of phone communications with the driver/liberator during the first race.
- Too many people on the liberation committee.
- Birds did not receive adequate rest, feed water during transport and prior to liberation of the first race.
- BOM Weather forecast for proposed liberation date not accurate at time the decision to basket is decided.
- Birds should only be liberated in assist winds.
- We try to arrange for the birds to be placed in a loft, that way the birds could be liberated in assist/favourable wind.

Actions Required to improve.

It was decided that a committee be formed to compile a liberation and transport policy. Its objective is to prepare a document to be presented at the next AGM.

The Chair asked for nominations – The following nominations were received Tony Davis, Dave Miller, Pat Arcella and Pece Mikhailov.

1. Write a liberation and transport policy specific for long distance racing.
2. Reduce the liberation committee from 6 to 3.
3. Investigate the possibility of securing access to lofts at or close to proposed liberation locations.
4. Ensure that there are 2 drivers.
5. Ensure that all members of the liberation committee, driver/liberator and executive are briefed on the required communications procedures/policies and accountabilities are accepted and understood.

The Chair thanked the Blacktown Club for hosting the meeting.

Meeting Closed 10:45

