

Newcastle & Coalfields Racing Pigeon Federation Inc.

www.newcastlepigeons.com

President - Stan Rippon - Ph. 0413 708 203 - stanrip@gmail.com

Secretary - Tony Davis – 55 Appletree Rd, Holmesville. Ph. 02 49 533 260

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Treasurer – Paul Bettens – Ph. 0403 693 896 - paulbettens@hotmail.com

Annual General Meeting 6/12/2015

Held at Raymond Terrace club rooms

Meeting commenced at 10:00 am with 38 Members present. Apologies – nil

1. Welcoming of Members – The Chair open the meeting and welcomed all present

2. Reading of the previous minutes.

- a. Minutes of Annual General Meeting part 1 - held at Raymond Terrace Clubrooms on 02/02/2015 - The Chair read the minutes.
- b. Moved as a true record by, Allan Wilmot - seconded by – Brian Walters. - All in favour.

3. Business arising from the minutes – Nil

4. Correspondence in

- a. Ring Transfers – G Walters to Pat Kiem, Warren March to K&C Harris.
- b. Applications to join the Fed from Garry Lott, Mark Wilson, Brian Crowe - To be dealt with in general Business

5. Correspondence out – Nil

6. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented a statement of the clubs accounts for November.

As at the 30/11/15 Main Fed Operating Account

Opening Balance 1/11/15 **\$ 8,287.65**

Receipts/ Income

Lake Macquarie Surplus Fees	\$ 210.00
M. Jones Direct deposit	\$ 444.00
Blue & Gold band sales	\$ 60.00
Breeders Plate Sales 30/10/15	\$ 1,378.00
Memberships – A. Walker	\$ 50.00
Breeders Plate rings and sale birds	\$ 1,065.00
Breeders Plate Sales 21/11/15	\$ 1,688.00
Interest	\$ 0.79
	<u>\$ 4,895.79</u>

Total Receipts including opening balance **\$ 13,183.44**

Expenditure -

Prize Money Payments	\$ 1,115.53
Purnell Trophies	\$ 496.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 1,612.53</u>

<u>Closing balance @ 30/11/15 -</u>		\$ 11,570.53
<u>Truck Fuel & Maintenance Account</u>		
<u>Opening Balance 1/11/15</u>		\$ 393.98
<u>Receipts/ Income</u>	Nil	\$ 0.00
<u>Total Receipts including opening balance</u>		\$ 393.98
<u>Expenditure</u>	Nil	
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$ 0.00
<u>Closing balance @ 30/11/15</u>		\$ 393.98

The Treasure advised the meeting that the Truck requires some minor repairs and will be taken to Cessnock for repairs. He also requested that the clubs advise him of the amount of PMV vaccine they require, as he will be placing an order in the next couple of weeks.

The Chair asked that the statement as presented be moved as a true and correct record Moved. – B Walters, Second – Chris Newton - All in favour

6. Election of Officers

All positions were declared vacant.

President – Nominations Received – Stan Rippon – Elected.

Secretary– Nominations Received – Tony Davis – Elected.

Treasurer– Nominations Received- Paul Bettens – Elected.

Vice President– Nominations Received- Alan Wilmont – Elected.

Ring Secretary– Nominations Received – Tim Fairfax – Elected.

Race Secretary– Nominations Received- Mick Watt – Elected.

7. Liberation Committee – 5 Nominations Received - Tony Davis, Mick Watt, Stan Rippon, Peter Edmunds, Bill Collins – to be decided by ballot.

Results of ballot

Tony Davis -21 votes, Mick Watt -18 votes, Bill Collins -18 votes, Stan Rippon 17 – votes, Peter Edmunds – 16 votes

Tony Davis, Mick Watt, Bill Collins - elected

8. Setting of Race and Federation Membership Fees for 2016 season – Currently \$25.00 and \$375.00.

I was moved by Alan Wilmont that the race fees be increased to \$400.00, Application fee to join the Federation to be \$50.00 and the annual membership fee to \$25.00.

Seconded by Bill Collins – the Chair call for a vote- All in Favour. Passed

9. Vote on Proposed Race Schedule

The proposed race schedule as proposed by the members who attend the schedule planning meeting at Cessnock and as posted on the Fed's web site was distributed to the members and read to the members by the Secretary.

The sprint schedule was discussed and excepted as proposed with only a date change required for the basket loading from Friday to Sunday for Port Macquarie on the 13/6/16.

The mid distance and the long distance schedule was discussed and there were concerns raised by a number of members regarding the 2nd Breeds Plate and the Gold band race being on separate dates.

It was pointed out, that members who had purchased Breeders Plate ring, and had doubled them up as gold banders were expecting that the races will be held on the same day, as has been the case over the last couple of years.

Mick Watt spoke supporting the separate races and advised the meeting that the last time the Fed flew the North route, that the Breeders Plate and the Gold band were held on different weekends.

After a period of debate Chris Newton proposed a motion “that the proposed schedule as tabled be accepted as presented”. This was seconded by Alan Wilmont. The Chair call for a vote by show of hands.

Result of the vote - 27 for - 3 against – the motion was passed.

10. Honorariums for Officer Bearers – Motion to pay Honorariums and to set fees for 2016

It was moved by Brian Walter, Seconded by Pat Kiem that the fee remains the same and that the elected office be paid. - The Chair call for a vote, All in Favour - Passed

11. Notice of Motions

a. Issues with the liberation Committee. Proposed by Terry Condran, Seconded by Brian Walters

Terry address the meeting and raised a number of questions regarding a number of decision made by the liberation to change the date and liberation locations.

Terry alleged that the committee had deliberately moved the liberation location and date of the National and the Phillip Island races.

Terry advise that he is of the belief that the liberation committee had no right or authority to change the date and location of a race.

This allegations were strongly opposed and rejected by the liberation committee as incorrect. Stan Rippon stated that all decisions made by the committee, were compliant with the liberation policy, were made to ensure that the birds were given the best chance, and that all the decisions were made after due consideration, detailed checking of the forecast weather condition, constant consultation the liberator, including people in the area of the liberation location, and along the line of flight.

This also includes all committee members communicating with the combine clubs executive and members to keep them posted on issues and proposals changes.

He further suggested that the actions of the liberation committee in no way disadvantaged any flyer, as whatever the change were, or the impact of such was the same to all flyers.

Terry rejected this view and further alleged that he was advised, the he was told by reliable sources that the decision not to go to Phillip Island, was made before the Truck had left on the Tuesday.

This allegation was denied by then committee. Tony Davis, Mick Watt and Stan Rippon took exception to this allegation as being a blatant misrepresentation of the truth.

As this was not going to be resolved at this stage, the Chair advised the meeting that there will be no further discussion on the matter at this meeting.

- b. Race results to be record to the 3rd decimal point to avoided dead heats and ties in races. – Proposed by Tim Fairfax, Seconded by Tony Davis.**

The Chair call for a vote 4 for, 19 against, motion defeated.

- c. The Federation offer ½ baskets \$187.50, full \$375.00 or 1 ½ \$562.50.
Proposed by Tim Fairfax, Seconded by Tony Davis.**

The Chair call for a vote 6 for, 16 against, motion defeated.

- d. To rescind the breeders plate rule for eligibility of bird for sale. Proposed by Tim Fairfax. Seconded by Tony Davis.**

Tim advised the meeting that the original motion was having a negative effect at sales and that some members had been refused entry to the sale due to birds not meeting the requirement to be feathered under the wing.

Tim proposed that the relevant club race secretary's inspect the bird and determine eligibility on the day. Buyer beware.

The Chair call for a vote, All in Favour – Passed

- e. Change the unloading of race baskets from race day to the following basketing day.
Proposed Bob Hawkins – This was moved by Terry Condran and second by Pat Kiem.**

The Secretary read a letter from Bob Hawkins to the meeting. Bob advised that he believed that the removing of the baskets on race day has done nothing to increase bird returns and stated that there is no evidence that there has been any benefit to the health of the pigeons.

The Secretary advised the meeting that he felt that this was a backwards step and that the members should reject this proposal as they are definite benefits in removing and cleaning the baskets.

He furthered advised the meeting that the benefits of keeping the truck clean and removing are well documented and that member previously complained about transporter disease and that member were forced to stop flying due to bird illness.

He also advise members that they should consider what is best for the birds, not what is easier for the flyers.

The Chair call for a vote 14 for, 8 against, motion passed.

- f. Proposal to increase the opening bid at breeders plate sales to \$15.00 and buy backs to \$25.00 – Proposed and Moved by Tim Fairfax, Seconded by Allan March.**

Tim spoke in support of the motion giving examples were other Federation have increase the minimum sale priced which has increased the value of the prize pool.

The Chair call for a vote 9 for, 16 against, motion defeated.

- g. Proposal to consider holding a 700 mile race in 2017 (not included in the point score) – Proposed by Tony Davis, Seconded by Pat Kiem.**

Tony advised the meeting that he was seeking endorsement from the members to support investigating the possibility of staging a 700 mile race, ideally in late August early September.

Tony advised that he held has had discussions with a number of members and the Central Coast Fed, and that there has been some interest. He further advised that he intended to prepare a proposal to be presented to members at the next years AGM.

The Chair call for a vote, All in Favour – Passed

h. Proposal to investigate the restructuring of the Federation Boundaries from 2017.

Tony advised the meeting that the current boundaries are outdated and is proposing to look at dividing the Fed into 3 divisions, coastal, centre and west. This proposal will be presented to the 2017 AGM for consideration by the members.

The Chair call for a vote, All in Favour – Passed

i. Proposal to change the basketing and Clock setting rules to state that there must be 4 flying members present during the basketing and clock setting and reading. Proposed by Alan Wilmont. Seconded by Bill Collins.

Alan advised the meeting that the current rule does not stipulate flying member and that it could allow for a situation where you could have 1 flying member and 3 non flying members, which could set a questionable precedent, which may result in creating a situation of perceived manipulation of the rules.

The Chair call for a vote, 22 in favour 2 against – Passed

12. General Business

New Member Application – The following applications to join the Fed from Garry Lott, Mark Wilson, and Brian Crowe were considered for acceptance.

The Chair call for a vote that the applications be accepted, Seconded by Tony Davis. All in Favour – Welcome Gary, Brian and Mark.

Note 1 - Members were reminded that the PVM declaration is required to be provide to the fed secretary confirming that the birds have been vaccinated, prior to being eligible to fly.

Note 2 – Club Secretaries are to provide a list of all fed race baskets held at each club. This will be required annually.

13. Items to be added to the Agenda of the AGM part 2.

All surplus bird to be liberated with the race birds – Proposed Graham Walters

Next Meeting – To be held at Maitland club rooms on Tuesday 2/02/16

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Certified as a true copy.

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S. Rippon President

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Tony Davis Secretary