

Newcastle & Coalfields Racing Pigeon Federation Inc.

www.newcastlepigeons.com

General Meeting

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

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

Mobile – 0467 734 091. Email – anthony.davis100@outlook.com

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

Location - Cessnock Club Rooms 7/03/17 start 7.00 pm

1. Welcoming of Members – Chair Reconvenes the AGM – 30 Members present

2. Apologies - Nil

3. Reading of AGM Part 2 Minutes held 2/7/17.

The Chair read the minutes of the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any business arising from the minutes. Nil.

The Chair requested that they be accepted as true and correct record. Moved by Brian Walters, Second – Julie Bates - All in favour

4. Correspondence In/Out

Email from a Secretary to the Treasurer regarding donation to the ANRPB vaccine fighting fund.

Email received from the Treasurer advising that the payment has been made to ANRPB vaccine fighting fund.

Email received from the ANRPB acknowledging receipt of the donation.

5. Treasurer's report

Account 135221 Main Fed Operating Account as at 28/02/2017

| <u>Opening Balance</u> | <u>30/11/2016</u> | <u>\$ 13,183.54</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Income Dec.</u> | | |
| Breeders Plate sales. | | 2,471.00 |
| Vaccine Sales | | 2,340.76 |
| Membership | | 750.00 |
| Raffle sales | | 138.00 |
| <u>Income Jan.</u> | | |
| Breeders Plate sales. | | 150.00 |
| Vaccine Sales | | 1,340.00 |
| <u>Income Feb.</u> | | |
| Breeders Plate sales. | | 452.00 |
| Membership | | 25.00 |
| Interest, Dec, Jan, Feb. | | <u>3.59</u> |
| <u>Balance C/Fwd.</u> | | <u>Total \$ 20,853.13</u> |

Expenditure

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Prize Money Pay outs | 275.00 |
| Purnell Trophies | 545.00 |
| Pox Vaccine | 1,680.00 |
| PMV Vaccine | 2,505.24 |
| ANPRB Donation | 1,425.00 |

Total Expenditure, Dec, Jan, Feb. **Total** **6,430.24**

Balance as per Westpac Statement 28/02/2017 **\$14,422.89**

Truck Fuel / Maintenance Account. Westpac Account 230894

Opening Balance 30/11/2016 **\$ 1,089.26**

Income, Dec, Jan, Feb.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Transfer from Main Account | \$ | 0.00 |
| Interest | | 0.24 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>0.00</u> |

Expenditure, Dec, Jan, Feb.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Fuel | \$ | 0.00 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>0.00</u> |

Balance as per Westpac Statement 28/02/2017 **\$ 1,089.34**

The Chair requested that the financial accounts as presented be accepted as true and correct record.

Moved Alan Wilmot, Seconded Chris Newton

6. General Business

A Rescission Motion was tabled by the President, as follows.

“Submitted at the March 2017 meeting to be voted at the subsequent Federation Meeting.

Moved Stan Rippon, Seconded by Paul Bettens

The decision at the AGM to “no longer conduct a Sprint Series as part of the NCF premierships” rescinded. And as a result of the rescission, the Fed. Conduct Sprint, Middle and Long distance as well as the overall point score”

The Secretary asked the president if he intended to call a Special General Meeting as the motion was passed at the AGM and would require all members to notified, the Chair advised that we will need to call a special meeting if we need to change the race schedule due to the virus.

10. – Pigeon Virus update and possible impacts on racing.

The Chair advised the member that as information becomes available it will be posted on the web site and member are encouraged to keep themselves informed of developments and to report any signs of the virus to the fed, without delay so all members can be informed and enact required bio security protocols as detailed on the website.

The Secretary tabled copies of the latest press releases, vet information and minutes from the CCF meeting of 20/2/17

A press release dated 2/3/17 from the ANRPB, was read to the meeting this press release detailed all the events that have unfolded since the virus was discovered and also indicated that the production of the vaccine is progressing and **may** be available in the 3rd Quarter of this year.

The following were extracts that was read verbatim to the meeting.

Press Release – 2 March 2017

To: The Management Committees of all Racing Pigeon Federations, Combine Entities, Country Clubs, One-Loft Races and Fancy Pigeon Associations.

Re: Update 5: Highly infectious Rotavirus outbreak in Australia.

Dear All,

This update is in two halves:

- Rotavirus vaccine development, availability and need for funding
- General update from CVO and DPI Rotavirus development and availability
- Work on developing a rotavirus vaccine commenced 4-weeks ago. On the 28th February Dr Colin Walker met with Dr Travis Beddoe and Dr Mark White at Agri-bio in Melbourne to further discuss progress on the development of a vaccine.
- The good news from this meeting is that it is highly probable a rotavirus vaccine will be available to the fancy in the latter half of 2017 – see Dr Walker's update www.melbournebirdvet.com/pigeon-virus-update.aspx.

• Scenarios are:

a. **Best case: there may be delayed racing and showing later this year (Q3) with the fancy having inoculated their birds with the new vaccine;**

b. Likely worst case: the vaccine may be ready (Q4) to ensure we can all show and race next year.

• Dr Walker, who is not making any charges for his considerable input, has advised that:

- a. He will be making an application for an Australian Research Council linkage grant which he confidently expects to be approved;
- b. If the grant is successful, the government will match every dollar required to be made by the pigeon community with two dollars;
- c. It is very difficult to estimate the cost to the pigeon fraternity, but it may need to raise \$60,000 to meet its share of costs associated with producing and testing a rotavirus vaccine. Fanciers can keep up to date with progress via Dr Walker's website – see above link

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the all Australian pigeon fanciers, the work being undertaken by Dr Walker, Dr White and all the scientists involved in the development of a rotavirus vaccine.

General update from CVO, DPI

Further to ANRPB Press Releases of January and February 2017 the following update applies;

- The Australian Chief Veterinary Office (CVO) issued a Rotavirus update on 14 February. The CVO stated that **“the pigeon industry is advised to implement biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the disease. This includes reconsidering gatherings and movements (including racing) of pigeons, and practicing good personal biosecurity.”** The AVO also advised of “challenge trials” with poultry to ascertain whether or not the rotavirus may impact on the chicken industry. Fanciers are encouraged to read the full AVO Rotavirus update.
- The NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI) issued a Biosecurity Bulletin on 14 February advising that **“protecting pigeon welfare should be a priority consideration in all decisions regarding the management of the rota virus pigeon disease issue.”** The NSW DPI also advised that fanciers should **“Avoid mixing pigeons (e.g. racing, shows, and sales) from unaffected and affected lofts until there is a suitable rotavirus vaccine available in Australia.”** Fanciers are encouraged to read the full NSW DPI Biosecurity Bulletin.

• *Continued spread of Rotavirus - The rotavirus has now been confirmed in Queensland, in the Wide Bay area at Gympie One-Loft, 150kms north of Brisbane. Additional confirmed reports in Victoria at Dandenong and Cranbourne southeast of Melbourne. In South Australia a metro Adelaide loft has reported suspected rotavirus deaths of 54 birds*

The Secretary also read the following information that was provide by a Solicitor working for the CCF. The following is and extract of CCF General Meeting held on 20/02/17

The Secretary John Jeffery explained to the meeting the purpose of his and the President John Hubble's visit to the Federation solicitor.

The following is an extract take from the Solicitors email dated 20thFebruary2016.

The reason for the meeting was to obtain an opinion as to the risk to Federation, its executive and members, should the Federation proceed to race this season beginning in May 2017.

"There is considerable and persuasive advice against racing this season. In the event that it could be established "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the virus was to previously unaffected areas and/or previously unaffected lofts and that financial losses could be demonstrated then the Executive of the Federation both as a Committee and also as individuals would be exposed to the risk of class action should they continue to race.

The costs to defend such an action would be considerable and if the complainant was successful and awarded costs and damages then both the Federation and also the assets of individual Committee Members could be exposed.

*There is furthermore the reasonable expectation that participants who pay a fee to transport their pigeons will be provided clean, safe transportation which is free from the risk of disease.]
This raises an additional risk to the Federation and Committee members should pigeons or lofts not previously infected by the disease become infected as a result of being transported in the truck.*

The Committee cannot abrogate their responsibilities and obligations in respect of their duty of care by publishing warnings or risk minimisation statements or contracts"

There was a number of comments and responses from the members present, and **it was seen as a positive, that the vaccine may be available earlier, giving rise to the possibility that racing may still be possible in 2017.**

The Chair advised that if we get the vaccine we may be able to fly an amended schedule. The Secretary **advised the 3rd quarter is July, August, September, there is a possibility that it may be available earlier, as the forecast has change from last month's prediction, all we can do is hope that it is released earlier.**

It was also discussed that **if the virus slows down, dies out or has not been detected in the Greater Hunter/ Central Coast/ North Coast/ North West area's we may be able to gain approval to race from the DPI and the Board to race due to the possible change as described.** The Secretary advised that he would speak to the board to determine if this was a possibility.

The Chair advised that he will look at the option for an amended schedule and will send out some possible options if all goes in our favour.

It was agreed that we will continue to monitor the situation and comply with the recommendation of the DPI and the ANRPB as passed at the AGM.

Members were reminded to remain vigilant and to report any sickness without delay to the Fed, so all members can be quickly informed to lockdown and active strict bio security measures as detailed on the web site.

Meeting Closed at 2000 hrs.

Next Meeting – to be held at Maitland club rooms 4/4/17 commencing

Certified as a true copy.

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S. Rippon President

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Tony Davis Secretary