

North Road Combine Incorporated

Committee Report for 2017

I am very proud as I reflect and am also pleased to deliver the new Committee's inaugural Annual Report to members for the 2017 flying season.

Congratulations and thankyou also to all our members and affiliates who believed in us for what can only be described as trying, irrational and disruptive times, and to those winners and place getters of all Combine, Club and Novelty races.

On behalf of the North Road Club and Combine, it's Management Committee and members I would like to congratulate our Flyer of the Year Shane & Terrie Smith who posted some outstanding results during the season flying the Western route and winning 8 Club and 3 Combine races.

I would like to make special mention of members who gave freely of their time as Office Bearers, those that served on a Committee or to those who helped out with the necessary tasks, big or small that kept the Club and Combine running. To the crate cleaning, liberation and Breeder's plate committees; race, ring, clock, health, truck, feed and canteen secretaries, to all of you I would like to extend our sincere thanks. Those that donated meals, thank you. Our Liberator/s Fred (& Mick) also deserve the thanks from all flyers for transporting and looking after the health, welfare and security of our beloved birds.

Now that the initial transition triage response and as the race season has concluded can I encourage a further and fairer re-distribution of workload in the coming year? There is an anticipation that as members and affiliates see the club running really well, they will start to volunteer at a continually increasing rate. Ask yourself "What little thing can I do to enable others (who have taken on a disproportion of tasks) to also enjoy flying their pigeons like I do; as well as allowing for the best use of people's skill sets and precious time?"

Please also take a moment to consider the potential associated time consumed by an ill thought through word or comment and what impact that may have on time and resources better spent.

A big thankyou once again to Wayne Kelso for sponsorship of the Kelso Classic and his longstanding association with the NRC.

Additionally thankyou to Ian Green who sponsored food and drink for the National.

An expression of thanks once again is given to Joe Reeves who because the accounts had not been handed over in a timely manner kindly paid a large number of bills to keep the club financial during the transition period.

This year saw a number of noteworthy highlights in the administration and governance of the NRC since the membership chose to head in a different direction in early June through a strong commitment to openness, transparency and accountability:

- Culture within the club has changed with members' conduct & interaction now within appropriate bounds
- Facilitating North Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast & Marsden (nee Logan's) return

Following are a few statistics to give food for thought and confirmation that we are heading 'at pace' in the right direction; these figures are as per nrcpigeons.com page

First Race	2011	66 Flyers
First Race	2012	62 Flyers
First Race	2013	64 Flyers
First Race	2014	57 Flyers
First Race	2015	59 Flyers
First Race	2016	51 Flyers

*Interestingly 2016 was the lowest number of flyers of the six years listed ???

We are just waiting to hear back from the NCPC but we could be as little as 10 flyers below the peak of the First Race 2011 of 66 Flyers; this despite significant headwinds, interference and addressing of a number of taboo subjects (for the betterment of the sport)

- Introduction of non-office bearers to the committee (as per the Constitution)
- Legal and constitutional compliance (Inc. Workcover for the Driver) (as per Office of Fair Trading, Workcover Queensland and the Constitution)
- Guiding principle; committee is responsible to members, evidenced by decisions have now been returned to the membership (and the introduction of a protocol whereby the Committee now only makes recommendations) with support amendments made to the Constitution
- Significant re-write and unanimous adoption of additional classifications, privileges and limitations within the Constitution
- Substantial re-write and open availability of the Flying Rules
- Spend limit introduced with all expenses above \$200 referred to the membership
- Removal of filtering of membership & affiliate ideas / proposals
- Introduction of subsidies for genuine 'New' and 'Junior' Members
- Direction of flight known & documented years in advance; South and North routes permanently in place and the third year West voted on one year in advance of its rotation within the cycle
- One stop information shop of pertinent information added to the web page on a weekly basis with a follow-up SMS (to distribution lists)
- Within 15 mins of race release; information is posted and txt'd (to distribution lists)

- Fairer refund policy implemented for the Breeder's Plate
- Health protocol introduced; of individual baskets plus fogging on return
- 18 races conducted (including two longer races) *Only four (4) short of a full season with less than a fortnights lead time or access to accounts for six (6) weeks
- Separate transportation for those without symptoms
- Weekly club tossing for those getting through symptoms
- Auditor's Report plus Financial Statement available (and published) at the AGM
- For the first time a full audit of the books will be complete (1st June 2017 until 31st January 2018) Documentation supplied, post transition, for the period prior to these dates does not comply (with Office of Fair Trading financial responsibilities). The North Road Combine and its' members welcomes the person's responsible and the appropriate documentation being made available to J O'Connor Pty Ltd for a full compliance Audit.
- All money receipted (as per the Office of Fair Trading; whenever you receive money from another party), passed through the Bank Accounts and no longer held in cash and initiated compliance with the keeping of financial records for at least 7 years (as per the Office of Fair Trading)
- Introduction of copies available online of:
 1. Detailed and transparent Meeting Minutes
 2. All meeting (AGM, Committee, General and Delegate) minutes since 2011
 3. Club's Constitution including the amended
 4. Flying Rules including rules for Invitation / Novelty races
 5. Office bearer contact details
 6. Forms
 7. Transparent documentation of membership, cartage and novelty race fees
 8. End of every month up-to-date finances
 9. Race schedules (past and present) including multiple unfiltered draft submissions for 2018 from a number of sources
 10. Code of Conduct
 11. Transportation and Liberation Guidelines.

Unfortunately, Ian Green has indicated that he will not continue as a committee member due travel plans and Peter Dykstra is no longer eligible, we thank both of them for their time, contribution and diversity of points of view.

Since our last AGM we have lost a current and several past members. They were good members, good competitors and good friends and will be sadly missed.

To members and / or affiliates that choose to either sit out the year or to fly with another Federation we wish you all the best and hope the latter once again do the NRC proud and provide stiff competition. A special mention to Peter Woodward, an eminent and upstanding club man. All the Best.

The priorities for the coming year/s are;

- (1) At least break even (\$) wise for the second year running (Last year; disregarding refunds and breeders plate prize money)
- (2) Quarantining of (\$) amount equivalent to the cost to replace the transporter
- (3) No longer dwell on the past but use it as a free lesson (of what not to do) as we are heading 'at pace' in a very positive direction – the next two to four years could be some of the best years for flying in S/E QLD and for the North Road Combine (NRC)
- (4) Introduce GPS tracking, validation & re-calibration of the southern Breaking Point
- (5) Introduce Benzing 'Live'
- (6) Introduce significant prize money for the (2019 Season) National, YBD, Breeder's Plate and at least two additional Races
- (7) *Long Term goal is to re-engage Affiliates by opening up selected Voting privileges
- (8) Increase the Membership past the highest documented (above) by retaining the current membership plus encouraging an additional ten (10) members *Note if everyone here is able to encourage just one (1) additional member or one (1) additional club (for the 2019 Flying Season) we have achieved this goal in as little as one (1) full flying season

On that note, please take time to let others know of what has been achieved in such a short period of time and the success we are building toward, while acknowledging it will take time to rebuild trust.

Please every time you cast a vote, consider what is best for the sport and then what is best for the Combine.

I hope that what we have collectively been able to achieve in such a short period of time has also made you proud.

Think of what we can achieve if we all move in the same direction, contribute our little bit, are given clear air to focus on the important things and work collectively as one.

There are good times ahead if you want to be part of it.

Thankyou.

From the NRC Committee 2017.