

# Special South Coast Pigeon Federation (SCF) Membership Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 1:00 pm

**Venue:** The Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow

**Attendance:** 27 members

**Apologies:** Dave Armstrong, Derek Louth, Brett Yeaman

**Meeting was called to discuss and decide on a contingency plan to be used if the Victorian border were closed when the SCF South Schedule for 2022 would have us flying from Victorian race points.**

Jeff Sheppard spoke that it seems that Covid-19 is largely under control and with the vaccination program rolling out, it seems likely we would be able to fly the full South program we have prepared for 2021 without interruption. However, in the event that the Victorian border were to be closed, he suggested we might swing to the Western route until such time as we can resume South. This was on the basis that changing from South to West was not as big a change of direction as occurred in 2020, when we switched from South to North, which did not turn out to be very successful.

It was asked that if we were to race West, what surveys would we use? It was pointed out that the SCF rules would require us to race direct surveys off the West.

Wayne Gallagher suggested we could race from Eden or move to a race point closer to the border, until such time as the border reopens. (Last year the border checkpoint was at Genoa, which is of similar distance to Mallacoota.)

John Hamilton suggested we might try following Central Cumberland, who are racing North this year.

A motion was moved by Wayne Gallagher and Micko Thompson:

**“If we cannot race into Victoria, we stay on the South route and race from a point as close as possible to the border until it reopens.”**

George Wiktor proposed an alternative motion that we try and race from Albury. Trevor Gasseling commented that there may be an issue with the birds tracking too close to the Snowy Mountains.

It was decided to proceed with the Gallagher/Thompson motion.

A show of hands resulted in 19 in favour of racing from a point as close to the border as possible - 6 voted against.

Jeff Sheppard suggested that if the border looked to be closed long term, then we may need to consider some longer races off the West. The comment from the members was that any proposal by the Committee to vary the contingency plan that had been decided on today would need to be put to all SCF members.

## General Business

Jeff Sheppard read out the results of the SCF notice of motion ballots that had been put up at the AGM.

Graeme Worthington asked for clarification on whether the number of prizes payable for the IGBF and \$10 Ring Race would be determined differently from other Combines, which are based on the number of flyers that send birds in the Combine. Jeff Sheppard confirmed that the rule change that was passed meant that for the ring races, the number of competitors that determine the number of prizes, will be based on the number of flyers that originally bought rings, rather than the number of flyers that send birds on race day.

Dave Miller gave a report on the truck registration and servicing. Dave reported that there was bad rust at the back of the cabin, which has been sand blasted and a new plate has been attached over the affected area. A wheel alignment was done and required that the front tires be moved to the back. The truck was then passed for rego.

Shoalhaven Federation has offered to lend us 30 baskets to put on the SCF tossing/long distance trailer. The trailer is available to be used by any club, on the condition that the baskets are cleaned after use. See Dave Armstrong if your club wants to use the trailer.

Ian Sunlay raised a question about the Tasmania race this year, which is scheduled to be from Leslie Vale, near Hobart. The Committee clarified that our race will be run by the East Coast Long Distance Racing Combine (ECLDRC), who will contribute to the cost of running the race. Birds from all Federations will be basketed on the Monday and driven to Tasmania by Wayne Weatherburn in the SCF long distance trailer for mass liberation. Birds are scheduled to be on the boat to cross Bass Strait at 2pm Tuesday and arrive at the race point 9am Wednesday. The plan is for birds to rest all day Thursday and liberate Friday, weather permiottinh. There is a contingency to have birds transferred into a holding loft if need be, to allow the driver to return home if the weather does not allow for liberation by Monday. Ian commented that he had concerns about the birds being exposed to CO2 when transported in the SCF trailer. It was pointed out that the SCF has had a successful race from Mildura using the trailer. Wayne Gallagher raised putting the birds up early if need be, with favorable weather conditions. Trevor Gasseling asked that given the birds would arrive in Hobart and be fed and watered at the race point on Wednesday, would the ECLDRC consider a Thursday liberation. Dave Miller answered that it could be considered if the Thursday looked to be the best day for a race.

Aidan Cavill asked if the SCF trailer could be hooked up to the back of the SCF truck to increase our race or tossing capacity. The Committee advised that was not possible with the present truck without substantial modification, at an approximate cost of \$8,000. It was suggested that the next SCF transporter would need to accommodate being able to tow the trailer.

Wayne Gallagher asked what feed the SCF would be using – it will be the JM 5% mix.

Ian Sunlay asked who has access to the SCF website and who can change information. Dave Armstrong, Derek Louth and Trevor Gasseling have access to maintain the site and Stephen Saywell has also been granted access to enable him to maintain the SCF History section only.

Greg McEwan asked about Shoalhaven Federation coming onto the SCF truck this year. They will be on the SCF truck from Moruya and have sold off their truck, so they will be looking to transport with the SCF long-term.

Greg also asked whether we should have water on the truck for Friday night races given the shared drinking water increases the propensity for diseases to spread. He pointed out that for many years in the past, the SCF was racing successfully without giving the birds water when they only have one night in the basket. The Committee advised it is a welfare issue that we provide the birds with an opportunity to drink. Giving birds water

in the early races will help ensure they know where to get a drink when they really need it for the long races. It was pointed out that all clubs should be putting water on the baskets when they are basketing their birds. Towradgi have observed a lot of birds taking a drink on basketing night and when counted, put the number at 60.

Greg McEwan also raised that inexperienced birds were being sent to Sale Races as some members are choosing not to send their birds for many months until the race to maximize the number of entries they have. This practice of sending 'green' birds to these longer races has the potential to cause havoc with the SCF liberation. It was suggested that with everyone using Electronic timing, race entries could be kept and we could police birds on basketing night. However, this would still be a time-consuming process to check all bird entries. All members should consider the welfare of their birds and give consideration to other members by ensuring their birds are well prepared and experienced enough to be entered into any race.

Alec Krkovski asked whether the SCF would hold more than the two scheduled tosses. The Committee will look at how many baskets are nominated for the tosses and will hold more tosses if member support warrants them.

The Committee advised members that the last chance to change their bird nominations for the season will be two weeks before the first race – Sunday 16 May. This will be after the first Fed toss. Members will need to provide their bird nominations numbers to their club secretary.

It was raised that when ring orders are being filled, that if a member wants 100 rings, they should get a whole 100 sequence, rather than say number 50-150. Ring Secretary Luca said he would accommodate this and will be putting out a ring order form to clubs shortly.

Meeting closed