

South Coast Pigeon Federation Inc

Over 100 years of Pigeon Racing

President: Jason Matthews

Secretary: Iris Elliott



SCF Annual General Meeting (AGM)

held on Sunday, 8 February 2026 at 1.00 pm

Venue: Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club

Attendance Sheet: As per the attendance sheet there were 31 members and 1 associate member
A number of Shoalhaven Pigeon Federation (SPF) representatives also attended

Apologies: Les Jackson, Robert Elliott

Vale: John Flangan, Colin Hurt

The meeting was opened by SCF President, Jason Matthews, who thanked everyone for coming to the AGM.

SCF President's Report: Jason Matthews

- Thanked the committee for all the work that they have done, it's not an easy job.
- Matt Nelson for his work as the Vice President, running the juniors, getting sponsorship, getting papers printed out and promoting the sport every week. Matthew has also secured another sponsor for the SCF Juniors.
- Luca and Alec for their ring secretary work.
- Paul for the Treasurer's good work with the book work everything has been completed he dotted all the I's and crossed all of the T's.
- Brent for the race secretary work he has done a good job this year.
- Iris for the secretary work, the secretary work is the backbone of the SCF, Iris did an amazing job.
- Thanked our sponsors:
 - Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club
 - Woonona Produce
 - RMB Lawyers
- Jason said that he hopes that we can have a peaceful meeting today.

Minutes of Previous AGM held on Saturday, 8 February 2025 was read to the meeting by Matt Nelson on behalf of Iris Elliott.

Moved: Warren Glover

Seconded: Mario Saliba

No Business Arising from Previous 2025 Minutes

Treasurer's Balance Sheet for 2025 – Paul Barnes presented the report to the meeting.

Paul said that there is extra money in the SCF Freight sale which is the following:

- Towards Freight – \$2,720
- Towards Prize money -\$1,360

Moved: Mario Saliba

Seconded: Adam Southwell

Blind Auction

There is money still outstanding for the blind auction. Unfortunately, this means that two birds will not be in the Blind Auction Race this year.

Honorariums – the SCF Membership AGM attendees were asked to ratify the honorariums for the 2025 SCF Committee of Management for their work over the last year. On a show of hands this was carried unanimously. The SCF Honorariums for the 2023 SCF Committee to consist of:

| Number | Position | Honorarium |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | President | \$500.00 |
| 2 | Vice President | \$250.00 |
| 3 | Treasurer | \$500.00 |
| 4 | Secretary | \$1,000.00 |
| 5 | Race Secretary | \$500.00 |
| 6 | Assistant Race Secretary | \$250.00 |
| 7 | Ring Secretary | \$500.00 |
| TOTAL HONORARIUMS | | \$3,500.00 |

Note: There was no Assistant Race Secretary during 2025, so the Honorariums' totalled \$3,250

Auditor's Report – Matthew Nelson presented the Auditor's Report to the Meeting.

Business arising from Auditor's Report

- Julie Hider asked if Point 4 referred to Point 3, ie did 'These records should be stored safely...' in Point 4 refer to the Office-bearers Liability Insurance in Point 3? Iris will check with Neil.
- Graeme Worthington asked if the minutes and Audit are given to NSW Fair Trading and Public Officer. We are not required to submit these documents under the Tier 2.

Payment for Auditor's report - the SCF Membership AGM attendees were asked to ratify the SCF Auditor's Report for 2025. On a show of hands this was carried unanimously. The SCF Auditor, Neil Cavill, to be paid \$300 for the audit.

Election of New Committee

| Election of New SCF Officers 2026 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Position | Nomination | Moved | Seconded | Elected Officer |
| President | Jason Matthews | Adam Southwell | Matt Beretov | Jason Matthews |
| Vice President | Matt Nelson | Victor Vlasisavljevic | Les Jackson | Matt Nelson |
| Secretary | Julie and Bill Hider | Graeme Worthington | Frank Raschilla | Julie and Bill Hider |
| Treasurer | Frank Raschilla | Graeme Worthington | Bill Hider | Frank Raschilla |
| Race Secretary | Luca Krkovski | Graeme Worthington | Bill Hider | Luca Krkovski |
| Assistant Race Secretary | Adam Southwell | Matt Beretov | Jason Matthews | Adam Southwell |
| Ring Secretary | Alec Krkovski | Graeme Worthington | Bill Hider | Alec Krkovski |
| Auditor for 2025 | Neil Cavill | Jason Matthews | Matt Beretov | Neil Cavill |

Notices of Motions - Matt Nelson read the motions received:

Motion 1

Later Liberation Time – Starting in 2026 – ‘Towradgi Homing Pigeon Society Incorporated would like to move the Notice of Motion at the SCF 2026 AGM to change the liberation time, to a time that will allow our pigeons to arrive at the flyer’s loft at around 2 pm. We would like this new liberation time to start in the 2026 race season.

Members believe that this is a better time for the pigeons as they will be more inclined to look for home, morning fog will have been lifted, less chance of early morning falcons, also this allows for the birds that get lost, not to fly too long and far allowing them to come home the next day. This way we get better returns for the weekend allowing uneducated birds a better chance.’

There was discussion around this motion:

- What would happen with the Nowra pigeons, freight costs will increase if they don’t fly. There are around 10 Nowra flyers.
- It was suggested that a 1 pm arrival time would be better and would suit Nowra flyers.
- Liberation times focus on arrival time in the centre of Wollongong.
- It was suggested the SCF Committee review where the actual centre of Wollongong is located and potentially include Nowra when centre is discussed.
- The Liberation Committee need to check Central Cumberland Federation (CCF) who will be racing northwest to see if liberation times clash and Central Coast and Newcastle too. We should aim for 2 pm for the centre of Wollongong.
- It was thought if we started at the same time as other federations we would get a head start.
- Often there is 20 minutes difference between the first and last flyer in the SCF.
- It would be helpful if the liberation time was later to assist parents and grandparents with children who played sport on weekends.

A ballot will be sent out to the clubs to vote on this Motion.

Motion 2

Cocks and Hens baskets on separate sides of the truck – Motion put forward by Richard Whitehead and Jeff Henderson – ‘...to put Cocks and Hens baskets on separate sides of the truck where practical for numbers.

This is how the federation used to position the baskets in the past.

This will give federation more DATA to see if there are benefits from putting Cocks and Hens on opposite sides of the truck with results and returns.’

A ballot will be sent out to the clubs to vote on this Motion

Motion 3

Live Clocking System - Motion put forward by Richard Whitehead and Jeff Henderson ‘...to allow the Live Clocking System to be used in all competitions starting from the start of the 2026 race season onwards.

Note: This doesn't change how the results of each race are recorded as everyone's first bird is still used for all results in Club races, combine races, Point scores, etc. Nothing changes at all.

This is the next step in electronic timing where flyers can see how their birds compete against all the birds in the federation, not just their First bird home each week and get recognition for all their birds at year end.

Example: How your 30 birds compete overall against 1500 birds in the race.

The system is now used in Australia in other feds and all over the world with great success.

This system also gives the flyer the ability to spend more time with their family as they have the option of sending their results through to the Fed and Club race secretary, other federations since starting the Live system have seen older flyers staying in the sport and younger flyers getting more time with their families on weekends keeping everyone happy and still competing.

Dick Whitehead got approval to use this system in club competition in 2025 due to his ill health with great success and keeping him in the sport without worry about getting his clock to and from the venue.’

There was discussion around this motion:

- The Benzing Live clocking system will not affect results. It is used overseas with great results.
- Dick Whithead used this last year, and it was a no stress year.
- It gives flyers flexibility.
- Melbourne federations have adopted the Live System.
- There was concern it will affect the social side of pigeon racing and people won't turn up at combines.
- In the case of combines it will only be for recognition of the pigeon; sheets still have to be read at 8.00 pm.

A ballot will be sent out to the clubs to vote on this Motion

Motion 4

Allow Clubs to provide the feed they wish to use - Motion put forward by Richard Whitehead and Jeff Henderson ‘...to allow Clubs to provide the feed they wish to use on the truck if they do not want to feed what the rest of the fed is feeding.

This will give federation for DATA to see if there is benefits from feeding other grains with results and returns.

A ballot will be sent out to the clubs to vote on this Motion

2027 Direction of Flight

North – 13

South – 10

West - 3

Meeting closed at 3.55 pm, there was short break before the General Meeting

SCF General Meeting

Jason Matthews opened the SCF General Meeting of members at 3.15 pm and the following items were discussed:

Loss of Pigeons – Warren Glover spoke, as a federation we need to forget about point scores, we seriously need to address losing our pigeons, there must be some way of lessening our pigeon losses. Set up ways to eradicate this happening.

Investment – Daniel Cavill suggested that the SCF invest the Blind Auction and IGBF money for 6 months and maybe around \$400 could be made on approximately \$25,000. If no one wins the Blind Auction the money could be re-invested for another 6 months. Jason said the committee has been looking into investment.

SCF Truck Repairs and SCF Trailer – Peter Clark asked if the truck is going to be fixed before racing starts. Also, the trailer has never had a cover over it and needs to have a cover to prevent the rust.

Daniel Cavill suggested the trailer be sold off. Not many flyers use it for the fed toss and we could make some cash. If we fly from the south maybe have a bird limit.

Jeff Sheppard suggested we should take a count, people have bred more pigeons this year, so they have enough pigeons for racing from the north. Put feelers out to see if someone would like to buy the trailer.

Peter Clark suggested the trailer be covered and stored at Shellie's and Lake Pigeon Club, Albion Park Rail.

SCF Freight Race - Stuart Hancox suggested the SCF Freight Race prizes be paid 1 in 5 like all fed races, it is good money. Last year only two people received prize money. There might be more interest by SCF flyers if there was enough monetary incentive to go in the race with more prizes. Currently flyers who don't enter a pigeon have the average price of a Freight Race pigeon added to their freight bill (times two).

Race Schedule Proposals - Stuart asked if the SCF Committee was still accepting race schedule proposals? The SCF Committee welcomes all Race Schedule proposals.

SCF Members need to join Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club - Jason Matthews thought it would be a good idea for all SCF members to become a member of the Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club. This club has done more for us than the Fraternity has ever done.

East Coast Classic and Long-Distance Races - Jeff Sheppard suggested we could use the East Coast Long Distance race as a way to send our birds away the longest distance of the year and perhaps this could also include our Soldiers' Plate Race birds in the same race. This would make our freight cheaper. East Coast Classic and the East Coast Long Distance races will be flown from a North Westerly direction. Last year the East Coast Long Distance Committee raised \$10,340 for Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia. This would be good to consider as it is a worthy cause.

SCF Juniors' and Presentation Night – Matt Nelson will organise the Juniors again this year. Matt suggested the Juniors' Presentation was successful last year but perhaps something like a Santa Claus thing could be good. Put the SCF Juniors' information on Louie's website. Biggest thing is growing the sport. Older flyers could bring their grandchildren.

Jeff Sheppard asked the criteria for racing for the SCF Juniors. Junior flyers need to nominate 20 pigeons and race 5 pigeons weekly. They must be school age children.

SCF Publicity Officer – Julie Hider asked about the previous position of Publicity Officer. Could this be re-instated for Matt Nelson? Matt spoke about his promotion of Pigeon Racing using the Facebook platform to publish the weekly winners has given the SCF far-reaching exposure not only in Australia but in countries such as: China, Philippines and Brazil. Matt thanked people for allowing him to come to their homes to take photos or sending him photos. Matt saw publicity for the SCF and pigeon racing in general as a positive thing.

SCF Christmas Party - Matt Nelson asked everyone what they thought would make the presentation better for everyone? It was suggested it would be good if the SCF has a Christmas Party a bit closer to Christmas and maybe the kids could get a present from Santa. Get the wives involved and perhaps run a Ladies Pigeon Race. There are quite a few things can be done to promote pigeon racing for the whole family.

Meeting closed 3.55 pm