

SCF Committee Special Meeting 2.1.17

Last Night 7pm 2.1.17 at the Frat, the SCF Committee, apologies from A Zahra, met with representatives from the Shellies PC, Paul Breeze, as Club President and SCF Fed Committee person, Peter Clarke as Club Member, President of the SCF LDC, Derek Louth Club Treasurer and Club Member.

President Jeff Sheppard opened the meeting, thanked all for their attendance and commenced a rundown of the possibility that PMV had been contracted by a number of Shellies Members and an up to date statement of current events.

After various recounting of the events leading up to the yet to be confirmed health issues with some Shellies Members, the following timelines were established as of 2.1.17.

- Robert Hodgson had a race team delivered by a Transport Company and after a period of about one week had birds in his lofts die. RH spoke to a number of Officials of the Shellies PC and the SCF and he stated that he had rang Wollongong Vets Cannon and Ball and had a late afternoon phone consultation. RH was going to present sick/dead birds to Mike Cannon the following day. RH had many more birds die, 30-40 he said, so he made a decision to cull his team in the race box. RH stated that mostly YB's were dying plus a couple of old birds, but the majority of his Stock birds were intact.
- Birds from other Fanciers (Milton locally) on the same Transporter have died with Vet Marshall confirming PMV in the Milton case.
- RH was free lofting his birds leading up and during the sickness period.
- John Cassidy had a number of race birds at RH's Lofts and these birds had mixed with RH race birds. JC picked up his birds from RH and placed them in a new race cage.
- After much communication by the SCF and Shellies PC, many SCF Members immediately vaccinated for PMV.
- There was a concern with another Shellies Member having birds die, but this issue was dealt with by Vets and was not PMV related.
- JC presented 3 birds 28.12.16 to MC for assessment. MC diagnosed possible PMV and that further detailed examinations should take place. MC is a Mandatory Reporter of Animal Diseases to the NSW DPI and reported the matter to them.
- JC was unable to go ahead with the full testing, President JS stepped in and confirmed that the full testing should go ahead at the SCF expense.
- JS assumed the lead in the JC issue, speaking with JC, Vet MC and Shellies PC Officials. JC will provide specimens on the 3.1.17 to Cannon and Ball for Disease Verification and testing.
- From the information provided by RH in a phone call at 6.55pm, 2.1.17, RH said that a swab of the birds taken to the Vet Clinic were inconclusive. Evidence was provided at the meeting that RH's birds were also not fully tested and no birds were physically checked by Vet MC.

This is a limited and approximate timeline only.

The Meeting discussed PMV at great length and a number of points came out of these discussions,

- The group at the meeting had varied opinions and information regarding PMV as an issue, mostly correct, some not so.
- Confirmed and offered at the meeting copies of reports on the VHA and Vet Walkers' Websites regarding PMV with full details of timelines, evidence, trials, studies, protocols, etc.
- Confirmed that this Report had financial backing of the SCF to the tune of \$1500 (later refunded) approx. 4 years ago.
- Confirmed that the Report listed a Protocol for vaccination for maximum protection against PMV. Basically it is vaccinating young birds at 3/4 weeks and then again at 7/8 weeks with .5ml of a viable and approved PMV vaccine. Old birds (included are race birds and stock birds) should be vaccinated after breeding, or approx. Jan/Feb one jab of above vaccine, same dose.
- Confirmed that if the Protocol is followed according to the VHA/Walker recommendations then every SCF bird would have the best defense against PMV and flyers not following these recommendations run a very high risk of their birds becoming infected.
- Confirmed SCF would race the season 2017 under these PMV Protocols.
- Confirmed the SCF needs to upgrade its Race Rules and regulations surrounding reporting, Stat Decs, managing Disease Issues.
- Discussion about CLUBS being more proactive with regards Members Loft Management and Race Basketing Protocols with all health issues not just PMV.
- Discussion about Local Council Requirement regarding the keeping of pigeons in the Illawarra. Noted that Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils are in the process of amalgamation.
- Suggested that any loft found to have contracted PMV have a Vet Clearance to race again.
- Derek Louth and Neil Cavill to check other Feds Return to Racing policies and make recommendations to the SCF Committee.
- Suggested that the SCF provide a folder that Information on a number of matters, but at this time PMV in particular, should be allocated to Clubs for the SCF members benefit and information sharing.

Neil Cavill suggested that the discussion move from PMV to a new VIRAL ISSUE that has devastated a number of lofts in VIC, SA and WA. Discussion points included:

- There have been conflicting Veterinary Advice from both Vets Walker and Marshall. The SCF Secretary has sent information to the SCF by way of all media open to him. Be it Email, SCF Website, social media, Radio Show info, Forums, the Official SCF Facebook Page, etc. Any pertinent info has been forwarded on to Club Secretaries to share with their Club Members.
- As of last night, 2.1.17 there were no confirmed cases of this new virus in NSW and certainly not on the South Coast. As of today, 3.1.17, although there are no confirmed

cases in NSW, it has come to our attention that a number of lofts in the Sydney area may be confirmed, as early as today, as having the new virus.

- Currently, Vet Walker has detailed strategies that are in place to confirm the virus as a REOVIRUS and his Vet Clinic confirms Vet Walkers' past, current and future markers regarding REOVIRUS. The links have been provided to you by way of email. He suggests a vaccine may be found but not in the short term.
- Currently, Vet Marshall has detailed his strategies around his diagnosis of the new virus and his methods of managing the new virus. Links have also been provided. He suggests a management plan that allows the new virus to pass through the lofts with minimal impact.
- All members should have a serious check of their management systems and BIO SECURITY measures.
- This new virus is routinely spread by new birds coming into the lofts and infecting other birds.
- **THE SCF COMMITTEE HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT NO BIRDS BE BROUGHT INTO THE SOUTH COAST FROM OUTSIDE AREAS ESPECIALLY FROM THE CURRENT HOT SPOT VICTORIA.**
- **THE SCF COMMITTEE HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT IF YOU SUSPECT THAT YOU HAVE THE NEW VIRUS, ATTEND AN AVIAN VET IMMEDIATELY.**
- **THE SCF COMMITTEE HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT YOU DO NOT BRING OTHER BIRDS INTO YOUR LOFTS, HOLD BREEDERS PLATES, SALES, SHOWS, EVENTS, MEETINGS, LOFT VISITS, ETC UNTIL NOTICE.**
- The new virus is fast moving lasting around seven days with the highest mortality days being early in the sequence with rates up to 40%. It is suggested that if you don't have the new virus, you should plan a WHAT IF I GET IT STRATEGY and be prepared.

President JS closed the meeting at 9.15pm with a comment that he would be talking with Vet MC and John Cassidy regarding the current PMV issue and will report back to the SCF Members ASAP.