**VICTORIAN PIGEON ORGANISATION**

 **Board Minutes**

**Sunday 20th March 2016 at Mt Cottrell Clubrooms**

**Present :** Chris Cassar , Eddie Szatkowski , Merv Abbey , Trevor Watkins , AdamTurner , Peter Polidano , Tony Barbara

**Apology :** Frank De Pasquale

 Meeting was opened at 5.15 pm

Members of the Mt Cottrell Pigeon Club have undertaken considerable renovations to their clubrooms which will also double as VPO headquarters. Modifications ( widening ) to the entry door need to be made . Eddie Szatkowski is to write to the Bowls Club requesting their permission to do so.

It was also suggested that a roofed pergola be built between the clubrooms and outside toilets. Mt Cottrell Pigeon Racing Club to obtain quote for a pergola and we can then ask the Bowls Club for permission to erect it.

Pigeon transporting to races – Vic Bezzina has agreed to transport birds again in 2016 and Tony Barbara will again act as convoyer. They are to submit their quotes to the VPO Secretary before the next board meeting. The convoyer fee will be $5 up to and including Mildura and $10 thereafter.

Bird limits will be 40 per flier up to race 8 ( Ouyen) and then to be reviewed .

The 500 mile ( 800km) and 600 mile ( 900km) races will be transported by either WPF , GMPF . Quotes to be obtained.

The VPO transporter will be used to toss birds leading up to the first race and thereafter dependant on flier support. Start date to be advised.

Tossing will be on a Sunday morning departing 9 am sharp ( probably from Masters carpark – Deer Park ) and will incur flat fee of $15 with no limit on bird numbers.

A driver roster is to be prepared from names provided by each club.

The trailer transporter can also be used as it does not require a special license to tow it. A driver roster will also be needed for this.

Additional baskets will be needed for new fliers at the Mt Cottrell , Sunbury/Macedon Ranges , Springside and Werribee Clubs.

Werribee Club have requested 4 extra baskets . The other clubs are to let Chris Cassar know by the 1st April how many they will want so that they can be made at the same time as the ones for the GMPF transporter. Chris Cassar is to confirm the price .

If fliers or sponsors are willing to pay for them half size baskets can be made up as there are 11 spots for them in the VPO transporter. Chris Cassar is to confirm the price .

Werribee and Mt Cottrell Clubs will need to have empty baskets returned to their clubrooms by basketing night . A procedure will be worked out once it is known how many baskets will be available .

Eddie Szatkowski is to order another box of basket seals and distribute them equally between the clubs.

Trevor Watkins is to make up some Vero and Registration books for the few remaining manual clock fliers.

Werribee Club has plenty of clock rolls and silk pads which other clubs can draw from.

Each club is to advise either Eddie Szatkowski or Frank De Pasquale of any new members / fliers ( names and addresses ) so their co-ordinates can be entered into the website.

Each club is requested to ask their members for the payment of the VPO membership fee ( $95 ) per flier ASAP and send the fees to Merv Abbey. The $200 transporter fee must be paid prior to the first race ( 11th June )

**10 Bird Process** - payment is to be given to Tony Barbara ( convoyer ) on basketing night in a sealed envelope together with a receipt and bird details . The receipt must be signed by Tony Barbara and he will then give it to Merv Abbey at Mt Cottrell on the same night. Merv Abbey will calculate the winnings every two weeks , put them in a sealed envelope and get Tony Barbara to hand them to the club Treasurer or Secretary to hand over to the winning fliers.

**Produce Race** – The race from Coombah on the 10th September will be the Produce race. Only 2015 rung birds can enter. A trophy will be given to the winning flier. Frank De Pasquale to update website.

Mt Cottrell Pigeon Racing Club submitted a proposal to have an “ Iron Bird “ event.

One bird per flier can be nominated for an entry fee of $50. The bird must fly in consecutive races with the last and remaining bird winning the prize pool. Club Secretaries are to obtain the flier names and bird ring number and $50 fee prior to the first race.

**Pigeon Racing Victoria** – This $100,000 race will be held in September 2017 and is expected to have 2000 birds enter ( including interstate ones ) . Rings are expected to be available from May 2016 and will cost $100 each.

A meeting of all the Melbourne based Federations will be held at the Werribee clubrooms on Friday , 25th March to finalise the process and participation.

The VPO board asked that the prize monies be apportioned by distance sections - short , middle , long. Eddie Szatkowski and Frank De Pasquale will attend this meeting on behalf of the VPO.

**Flying Boundaries** – A review of the flying boundaries was undertaken and was largely unchanged from the initial boundaries . The boundaries will be set up and displayed on the VPO website by Eddie Szatkowski and Frank De Pasquale.

**Code of Conduct** – a code of conduct was submitted and approved by the board. This will be sent to each club for them to display on their notice board. It will also be placed on the VPO website under “ Information “

Meeting concluded – 8.30 pm

Next meeting will be around early May – Secretary to advise Board members and delegates once confirmed.

**Eddie Szatkowski - Secretary**