

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Pigeon Association of Great Britain held on Sunday 11th February 2018 at the Holiday Inn Rugby Hotel.

Meeting commenced at 10am.

Present:

23 Members were present

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Mr J Surridge, Mr W Telford, Mr E Murray, Mr J Gregg, Mr R Hetherington, Mr D Richardson, Mrs G Graham, Mr K Sparkes, Mr W & Mrs C Wilson, Mr B Joyce, Mr E & Mrs J Chadwick, Mr A & Mrs M Roscoe, Mr M Knaggs, Mr D Knaggs, and Mr R Pratt.

Obituaries:

Mr J Mullan recorded the passing of Alasdair Robertson, Roy Platt, Nigel Solly, David Reid, David Cook, and Mrs Norah Parr during the year. The meeting stood in silence in their memory.

Minutes of the AGM held on 12th February 2017:

The minutes were provided before the commencement of the meeting. Ken Goodman proposed that they were an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Jim Mullan and agreed.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence relative to the AGM:

There was no such correspondence.

President's Report:

The President, Mark Rudd, said that it was difficult to believe that two years had passed since he was elected President, he said it had been an enjoyable and interesting period. He noted that it had been a pleasure to present some of the NPA Awards during the year including the Master Breeder Award for Muffed Tumblers to Sean Morrow and a Lifetime Award to Peter McCartney. The President noted that health issues were still present and urged members to vaccinate their birds and consult veterinary advice when illness occurs. He commented on the success of "Fancy Pigeon World" and thanked those who supported shows during the year.

The President commented on the Committee meetings during the year and expressed his satisfaction that so many members had stood in the election. He thanked the Committee for pulling together in times of need". The President thanked Evan Murray, the retiring Chairman, for his work for the NPA and for 'doing his best to steer the Committee in the right direction'.

The President said that he had had numerous discussions with the Secretary regarding the projected membership of the NPA for the coming years, he said that the Secretary's predictions were very worrying and would need to remain high on the Committee agenda in the coming years.

Chairman's Report:

In the absence of the Chairman, Evan Murray, his report was read by Graham Giddings. Mr Murray apologised that he was unable to be present at what would have been his last meeting as Chairman of the NPA. He thanked the members of the National Committee who he said were "ordinary fanciers just like every other member, give up their time and put a lot of effort into running the affairs of the Association on behalf of us all for which I for one am truly thankful."

The Chairman noted the steady decline in membership and show entries over the past few years and commented on a slight increase in entries at recent shows, the new BPSS venue at Barnsley where "we can be proud to hold our National Show", the increasing quality of "Fancy Pigeon World", and the improvement of NPA finances; the Chairman said that this augurs well for the future but added "we must all pull together in order to not only sustain but improve and move the Fancy forward to guarantee its survival".

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

The Secretary, John S Harrison, reported that the Membership for the year was 502 comprising of 7 Life Members, 479 Associate Members, and 16 Junior Members - this was a fall of 27 on the previous year. He reported that a total of 26,400 rings had been sold during the year which was at the same level as the

previous year. He said that all members must be aware that the Fancy, along with other similar interests, was in decline he said that preliminary predictions suggested that the decline since 2000 would continue at an alarming rate and it was imperative that the Committee should make plans for managing the decline as a matter of great urgency.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2017. He said he was pleased to report that the accounts showed a surplus of Income to Expenditure of £4,341 which was similar to the previous year and that the Bank balance stood at £31,891. He said that disappointing that whilst the Association was now in a strong financial position the membership was by contrast in sharp decline.

Richard Henderson thanked the Treasurer for his report and proposed that the Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2017 be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Jim Mullan and carried.

Report on “Fancy Pigeon World”:

Graham Bates said that though there had been numerous negative comments regarding “Fancy Pigeon World” in the past, the majority of comments were now supportive of the magazine. He said that it was pleasing to know that in addition to the UK the magazine was now being sent to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Israel, Iceland, Romania, and Eire.

Graham said that the costs of the magazine for a year were £6,899 (printing, postage, and editors fee) and the income was £2,761 (adverts, cards, sales and subscriptions) plus £5,020 from a capitation fee of £10 per member (ie 502 members). He said that the surplus of £882 helped fund the NPA, adding that the magazine was still a viable venture.

Kevin Pratt said that the magazine was continuing to improve and asked whether there would be any further improvements now that Denise McKeating had taken over as editor. Graham Bates said that one major improvement would be that the closing date for copy and the publication date would be much closer. The President, Mark Rudd, asked that the thanks of the Committee and the members be passed on to Denise McKeating.

Election of President

Kevin Pratt proposed John SurrIDGE as President, this was seconded by Graham Giddings and carried unanimously. John SurrIDGE was therefore elected to serve as President for 2 years until 2020.

Election of Vice President

Graham Bates proposed Ken Goodman MBE as Vice-President, seconded by Graham Giddings. Jodie Rixon proposed Nick Dawyd, this was seconded by Helen Seed.

A paper ballot was taken. Ken Goodman 16 votes, Nick Dawyd 5 votes. Ken Goodman was therefore elected as Vice President for two years until 2020.

Declaration of Ballot result

The Scrutineer John Elsdon reported that of the 502 ballot paper sent out 120 were returned representing a return of 23.08% (compared with 14% in 2016). There were no spoiled papers and none declared void. Mr Elsdon commented that 60% of the respondents utilised the ‘Ballot’ envelopes provided by the NPA and suggested that this should be used in future years.

Election of Management Committee Members.

N Dawyd	59 votes
P Littlewood	84 votes
J Mullan	35 votes
J Rixon	60 votes
M Rudd	83 votes
J Vaughan	71 votes

Accordingly, Messrs Paul Littlewood, Mark Rudd, and Jamie Vaughan were elected for 3 years, and Jodie Rixon was elected for 1 year.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Rules

The scrutineer reported that of the 120 papers returned 8 had not cast a vote. The result of the ballot was:

For	108 votes
Against	4 votes

The amendments were therefore carried.

Mark Rudd thanked Mr & Mrs Elsdon for once again acting as Scrutineer.

Richard Henderson proposed that Ken Goodman the newly elected Vice President chair the remainder of the meeting in the absence of the new President. Agreed.

Presentation of Awards

The **Junior Fancier of the Year** was **Lewis Fryer**.

The most points gained by a Junior Member at all breed Championship Shows during the 2017/18 show season was **Maxwell Wilson**.

These will be presented at a show during the year.

The Committee had awarded **Lifetime Awards** to **John Graves** and **Peter McCartney**. Peter McCartney had been presented with his award at a show. John Graves was present at the meeting and the Vice President, Ken Goodman MBE, presented him with his award.

The Committee had granted **Life Membership** to Evan Murray.

The Management Committee selected, from the nominations for a **Master Breeder Award**, **Sean Morrow** (for the Muffed Tumbler) and **Alex McLaren** (for the Archangel). Both had been presented with the Certificate at recent shows.

Report on Breed Standards

Mark Rudd reported that he and Helen Seed had successfully met with Jean-Louis Frindel with whom he believed they had a good rapport. He said that they were awaiting drawings for several breeds, but in general he said that he was happy with the progress being made.

Report on Facebook & the Website

Website

Helen Seed reported that there had been 264,577 page views during the year which was an increase on the previous year. Graham Giddings said that there had always been a lot of requests for information on Garden Fantails and dovecotes.

Facebook

Helen Seed reported that there had been 652 page 'Likes' than in the previous year. She added that the 'followers' were in the same age groups as in previous years and showed a high interest amongst younger people:

Age 18 – 24	18%
Age 25 – 34	28%
Age 35 – 44	20%
Age 45 – 54	11%

Helen said that she tried to post the results from shows she attended on the day and asked that members send her the results of shows she didn't attend.

Kevin Pratt thanked Helen for getting posts on so quickly.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Kevin Pratt proposed a vote of thanks to John S Harrison for his work as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer.

The Vice President, Ken Goodman, closed the meeting by thanking members for attending.

Meeting closed 10:55.