**Minutes of the meeting of the National Committee of the National Pigeon Association of Great Britain held on Sunday April 23 2017 at Premier Inn Rugby North**

Meeting commenced at 10:15

Present:

Evan Murray (EM) Chairman; John Surridge (JS) Vice President; Graham Bates (GRB); Graham Giddings (GG); Richard Henderson (RH); Paul Littlewood (PL); Jim Mullan (JM); Colin Ronald (CR) and Helen Seed (HS).

In attendance: John S Harrison, Secretary.

1 Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing his concern regarding recent emails and said that attitudes must change, he said the Committee must work together in the best interest of the membership and to promote the breeding and keeping of Fancy Pigeons. He said that the issues needed to be resolved today, and that this must be done before continuing with the meeting. A lengthy and heated discussion followed.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Rudd and Gary Eaton

3 Minutes

HS questioned the wording of the minutes regarding the inclusion of Gary Eaton on the circulation list. EM said that this was as he recalled. RH proposed that the minutes be accepted as correct, seconded by GRB and carried.

4 Matters Arising

HS (9b) said that the summary of “foreign rings” circulated by the Secretary by email should be included in the minutes as it dispelled the idea that there was an issue. The Secretary agreed to add this:

Collated from 2016/17 Show Returns

1275 NPA Certificates have been awarded

“Foreign” Rings

35 Exhibitors have shown birds with Foreign Rings (inc 4 non-members of NPA)

69 Individual birds with Foreign Rings have been awarded NPA Certs.

20 Exhibitors have won NPA’s with 1 Foreign ringed bird

9 Exhibitors have won NPA’s with 2 Foreign ringed birds

1 Exhibitor has won NPA’s with 3 Foreign ringed birds

3 Exhibitors have won NPA’s with 4 Foreign ringed birds

1 Exhibitor has won NPA’s with 5 Foreign ringed birds

1 Exhibitor has won NPA’s with 10 Foreign ringed birds

“UK Flying Club Rings

15 non-members won NPA Certificates - the majority buy FPW

52 NPA certificates were won by non-members

106 NPA Certificates were won by NPA Members

120+ different birds won 158 NPA Certificates between them

In Summary

4.7% of all NPA Certificates have been won by non-members, the majority subscribe to FPW.

7% of NPA Certificate winners are ‘Foreign’ ringed

9% of NPA Certificates are ringed with UK Flying Club rings – the three largest (NRC/NCTT/BSW) are affiliated to the NPA.

The Secretary advised that the number of BoS stated at the September minutes was incorrect. The minutes stated “GRB had 98 (7 boxes) copies left, the Secretary had 5 or 6". The Secretary said that since September 42 copies had been sold, 27 copies were donated to the shows, and there are 16 copies remaining giving a total of 85 copies. The committee agreed.

5 Decisions made between meetings

Other than to decide meeting venues/dates no decisions had been made.

6 Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

The Secretary advised that membership for the year was 463 which was a reduction of 29 at the same time in 2016. The total Ring sales to date was 20,610 which was 11.9% lower than in April 2016. The Committee agreed that this was disturbing.

The Secretary presented income & expenditure for the year to date pointing out that there were various items of expenditure which had not been processed. He said that the bank balance stood at £36,366.

The Secretary presented a report on outstanding payments for adverts in FPW. He advised that a further invoice had been sent out to those where payments were outstanding which included 7 show adverts, 8 Club Register and 11 Breeders Cards the total outstanding was £435. There was full discussion on the outstanding invoices. It was queried why Lancashire had a ½ page advert for £20, the Secretary was asked to amend the figure to £45. HS said that she thought she had paid for the 1/8 page March 16 advert. It was agreed that the £20 for the Royal Bath & West advert be written-off as the advert had been only 1/16 of a page. It was noted that 6 payments had been made to Committee members and not been forwarded to the Secretary.

(HS later in the day paid for the 2017 Lancashire 2017 advert & Club Register, the BODCS 2017 Club Register, and her personal Breeders Card).

RH said that it was imperative that payment had to be made before the advert goes to press – simply ‘No payment, No advert’.

It was agreed that the Secretary send out a third invoice for outstanding Breeders Card and Club Register inclusions, and show adverts.

RH proposed that a final reminder be sent for all unpaid adverts including B/C and C/R, seconded by JM. GRB proposed that this be amended to include ‘further action may be taken’. It was agreed, by majority decision, that the Secretary send out Final Reminders by the end of May advising that unless payment was received further action may be taken. It was agreed that unless paid the cards would be removed from the September and December issues, the committee conceded that if the payment was not received by year end it would have to be written off as a bad debt.

It was agreed that in future the Secretary would send out invoices to members for Breeders Cards, and to Club secretaries for Club Register and show adverts (for payment in advance) at the same time as invoices for affiliation fees. It was agreed that the Secretary would advise club secretaries of the fees for show adverts and clubs would be able to amend the invoice according to the size advert they required and advise the month they required the advert.

HS said that she would send the Secretary details of the June and September adverts for invoicing.

7 a/ Ring Secretary

The Chairman advised that there were two applicants for the post of Ring Secretary, Colin Jeckell and James Mullan. It was agreed that the interviews be held on the afternoon of Sunday May 14th and that the interview panel would be EM, CR and either PL or HS, the Secretary to be in attendance. The Secretary to find a meeting room.

7 b/ Annual Club Returns

The Secretary presented a break-down of all affiliated clubs giving details of affiliation fees and club returns.

Bradford Pigeon Fanciers Society and Nottingham Pigeon Fanciers Club had not paid affiliation fees for two years, it was agreed that these clubs be removed from the list of affiliated clubs and be regarded as Lapsed.

Affiliation fees have not been received from Limerick Tumbler Club UK, Swallow Saxon & Thuringer Colour Pigeon Club, and the Northern Ireland Variety Pigeon Club despite reminders. RH said he would raise the matter with the Swallow Saxon & Thuringer Colour Pigeon Club.

GRB said that he had taken over as the Secretary of the UK Norwich Cropper Club and was in the process of resurrecting the Club. It was agreed that the UK Norwich Cropper Club be re-instated as an affiliated member.

7 c/ ‘Fancy Pigeon World’

GRB said that the changeover from Claire to Denise as editor had gone well. He said that some adverts required updating and that Claire had not received the advert for the Royal Bath & West sent to HS. The June issue would be 32 pages rather than the standard 28 pages which cost an additional £70, however he was concerned that this raised the expectations of members and they would expect 32 pages.

HS said that ‘a check list is sent to all committee members and the editor prior to each issue and the missing Royal Bath & West advert had not been picked up, this is all our responsibility’

RH said that it was important that articles from members were always included and should take precedence to items from the committee members.

HS asked that the editor send out acknowledgements for items received.

7 d/ EE & Standards

Discussion on standards was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee

GG reported that he would be attending the EE meeting in Hungary on May 25/28. He also advised that the next EE show would be held in Hennig, Denmark on 9-11 November 2018. He said that he would get the entry forms and hotel details. He suggested that the EE show should be advertised in FPW

JM noted that the EE Show clashed with SUFEX, and asked when a championship show ceases to have championship status, noting that there had only been 350 entries at the recent show. The consensus was that SUFEX remain a championship show.

7 e/ Review of NPA prices and costs

RH said that any changes to membership and affiliation fees have to go to a ballot of members but that all other charges were set by the Committee. Accordingly, any proposal for any changes to membership and affiliation must be made before August 31st if they were to go on the next ballot.

RH said that he felt an increase in fees was necessary. There was general discussion. HS suggested that if FPW failed there would be a problem if the affiliation fee and FPW club register were merged to one payment.

RH said that whilst the NPA currently had money in the bank he believed that increases to fees were necessary. CR said that this was a very emotive issue with members and felt that ring prices should not be increased. The matter of free rings was discussed, GG said that a third of members only ordered 10 rings a year and did not consider that membership should include 10 free rings. There was agreement on this matter. It was agreed that a list of all current prices should be on the website and additionally included in FPW. HS asked RH to forward the list to the editor as it was his request for the prices to appear in FPW

GRB said that it was important to make a decision on affiliation and membership fees first. EM said it was important that a decision was made at the June meeting so that a proposal could be placed on the ballot. It was agreed

7 f/ Review value of assets

The Secretary referred to the year-end accounts and said that the Tangible Fixed assets showed £2,161 of equipment was not correct. The Committee agreed that no such equipment existed. The Secretary said that he had discussed the valuation of the trophies with RH and suggested that the value of equipment be removed and a similar value be added to trophies thereby avoiding a potential deficit. The committee discussed the matter and agreed that the value of the trophies be increased to £4,600 and the value of equipment be deleted.

8 a/ Championship Show Dates

The Secretary said that he had received confirmation that the Dragoon Club and Antwerp Smerle Club shows would be held on 29th October. The only show dates which had not been confirmed were Barb Carrier & Scandaroon Club; Bideford & South West Tippler & Tumbler Society; British Jacobin Society; and the British Mookee Club. All other dates were approved.

HS advised that during the meeting she had just received an email confirming the date of the Jacobin Show.

The Secretary advised that he had received a message from the Secretary of HOT Pouter Show Society expressing concern that the newly formed Aberdeen & District Show Pigeon Society also intended to hold a show on November 11th. After full discussion the Secretary was asked to write to Aberdeen and ask them to consider changing their date.

8 b/ Show Representative Report Forms

The Secretary advised that all Show Representative Report forms had been received.

8 c/ Judges Register

The Secretary provided details of the revised format of the Judges List, this was approved by the Committee. The Committee considered the nominations and deletions put forward by the Breed Clubs, these were approved with the exception of one deletion which RH said he would discuss with the breed club secretary. It was agreed that the distinction between NPA Members and non-members should be removed from the Register. RH said that the Judges Register on the website was out of date and asked that this could be corrected as Show secretaries needed the information. HS explained that the new judges register was not updated online as the committee had not agreed the new layout nor had we received all the club returns, it was agreed for this to be carried out after Aprils meeting as certain committee members did not want to see the judges list updated many times throughout the year. The Secretary said that he would send copies of the Judges Register to Show Secretaries.

8 d/ Other Show Matters

RH said that plans for the BPSS/NPA National Show were well advanced. He said that there had been considerable changes to the Metrodome since the Feathered World Show was held there, it was now an exhibition hall rather than a sports hall. He said that there was now a dedicated exhibitors entrance, and that the hall was all on one level. RH asked for sponsorship for prize cards, this was proposed by GG, seconded by CR and carried.

The Secretary advised that there were insufficient rosettes for the coming season and suggested that larger rosettes be ordered for the championship shows. The secretary was authorised to purchase suitable rosettes retaining the red, white & blue colour scheme.

9 Correspondence

The Secretary had received an email, previously circulated to the Committee, from D Savage, Secretary of the Southern Counties Show Racer & Flying Breeds Club asking for clarification why British Show Racers are exempt from Best in Show awards. There was lengthy discussion on this matter. HS said the rule could not be deleted, she felt that clause “s” had been omitted and had not been deleted and asked why it could not be added to the revised rules, we did not ballot to delete any rules.

HS said that we don't need to justify the rule as it was a rule that was voted on and passed by the membership, that's why it’s the rule book. HS referred to previous AGM minutes of 2012 & 2013 where it was decided the rule must stand after being voted on 145 for and 72 against, deferred for one year, coming into the rule book in after the AGM 2013.

HS asked the committee were they making the decision based on what the correct and right decision or are they making the decision regarding the rule based on personally not liking the rule?

RH said that the revised rules must stand.

PL said that if breeds without standards were awarded NPA Certificates then they should be able to go forward for Best in Show, and if they were ineligible why did the NPA award certificates for them? There was lengthy debate on the matter.

CR said that the ballot had not included clause “s” and as such it must stand. There was lengthy discussion and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Club advising that the Committee ‘had made a mistake’ and the rule relating to BiS had in effect been removed.

PL said that if a proposal to re-instate the rule was put forward to the committee it should be rejected because the NPA awarded certificates to the breeds, and as such they should not be excluded from BiS.

10 Meeting dates & venues

The Secretary advised that he had still to find a room in Rugby for the June Committee meeting. It was agreed that the AGM be held at the Holiday Inn at Crick as in February 2016.

11 Any Other Business

GRB advised that 2017 would be the last year a Pigeon Show would be staged at the East of England Autumn Show; the cost of hiring the hall for a pigeon show was far too expensive and an alternative venue was being sought. GRB said he would keep the Committee appraised.

JM suggested that the NPA should have a presence at the Stafford show. It was agreed that this be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

HS said that Newcastle Columbarian Society was creating a new website and had copied from the NPA website including data on NPA members. She said that M Magnusson was developing the website and said that he was trying to attract new members to the fancy. RH suggested that NCS be written to expressing disappointment that NPA pages had been copied. JM suggested it would be better to ‘watch and see’ before doing anything – he asked if the new website was being created at the request of NCS?

HS said that JM would monitor the Facebook page and respond to messages.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:35