**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Pigeon Association of Great Britain on Sunday February 12th, 2017 at the Premier Inn, Colorado Way, Castleford, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.**

**Present:** D Barraclough, D Jordan, E S Murray - Chairman, W Telford, Miss H Seed, R Partington, P H Kitchingman, G R Bates, Mrs & Mrs J & B Elsdon, M Simpson, C Ronald, J McEwan, R Jarvie, C Muir, P Littlewood, R Henderson, J Mullan, W Wilson, M Wilson, K Goodman, Mrs S Goodman, M Rudd – President, and J S Harrison – Secretary.

The President opened the meeting at 10:05 by welcoming the members present.

**Apologies for Absence**: Mr & Mrs J Surridge, G Giddings, Mrs A Ison, K Pratt, R Pratt, Mrs G Graham, Mr & Mrs A Hopson, D Richardson, A Stables, R Hetherington, J Gregg, C Jeckell, Mr & Mrs A Roscoe, M Knaggs, C Jones.

**Obituaries:**

The President read obituaries of the following fanciers who had died during 2016:

**Mrs Jessie Dolier** wife of Jim Dolier and well known in the Horseman fraternity,

**Joe Mulholland** respected member of HOT and Horseman breeder,

**Chris Gibbs** breeder of Archangels and valued member of Midland Columbarian Society,

**Mal Watts** a pioneer of the Indian Fantail and developing the structure and colours in the breed,

**Kenny Nichol** well known exhibitor of the Flying breeds,

**Joe Fletcher** well known and popular exhibitor from Nottingham,

**Philip Canham** well known exhibitor of Holle Croppers,

**Ralph Sargeant** well known in the Fancy and always in demand as a judge,

**Denis Ison** a leading fancier for well over 50 years who had held positions in the NPA and many clubs, a successful exhibitor and popular all-round judge.

The President asked the meeting to stand in silence in their memory.

**Minutes of last AGM:**

Copies of the minutes of the AGM held on January 14th, 2016 were provided for those attending the meeting. R Henderson proposed that they be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by J Elsdon and carried unanimously.

**Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Correspondence relative to AGM:**

There was no such correspondence.

**President’s Report:**

Mark Rudd welcomed members to the meeting which was being held in West Yorkshire following a decision of the National Committee to move the AGM around the country to allow members who can’t travel long distances to attend. He said that as President he had presented awards to various fanciers at shows and would give details of these later in the meeting, however he felt a special mention must go to Jimmy McGarrigle who was presented with a Master Breeders Award at the Jacobin Show. Mark Rudd went on to discuss the problems of illness and virus infections amongst birds and urged fanciers to be vigilant, follow bio-security measures, vaccinate birds, and seek veterinary advice if birds are ill. He reminded members that the NPA Constitution and Rules was not the Committee’s rules, but those of the Fancy as a whole. He went on to discuss the declining membership of the NPA. He concluded by saying that he hoped the introduction of an Open Forum immediately after the AGM would be beneficial and allowed members to ask questions, raise concerns and air any views.

**Chairman’s Report:**

Evan Murray said that he had been honoured to serve as Chairman for the past year. He said that the National Committee had within its members many years’ experience of breeding, judging, exhibiting and running shows, and said that he believed comments regarding elitism were simply not true. The Chairman said that the future of the Fancy is important to all of us and said that it was up to all of us to halt or slow down the decline in interest and involvement in the Fancy; to this end he added that infighting would harm the Fancy and we all need to work together.

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report:**

The Secretary started his report with Membership. He said that during the past year the total Associate Membership was 529, a fall of 56 from the previous year, this represented a fall of 9.5%. He said that total Ring Sales for 2016 had been 26,560 which shows a fall of 9.25% on 2015. The Secretary/Treasurer then presented the accounts for the period to 31st August 2016 pointing out that this was not a full year but reflected the change to the Year End from December 31st to August 31st. He said that wherever possible savings had been made. The Income & Expenditure Account showed a surplus of £4,908, and the Balance Sheet showed Net Assets at £35,258. C Muir proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by R Henderson and carried.

**Report on ‘Fancy Pigeon World’:**

G R Bates presented the report on “Fancy Pigeon World”, he said that there was no question that the magazine was a very viable publication and he was pleased with the way it was developing. The Editor, Claire Whitby had resigned due to the fact that her husband John has changed his job and also the imminent arrival of their first child. He said that Denise McKeating who runs a design orientated business would be taking over as Editor with effect from the June issue, he anticipated that the appointment of Denise would result in a much shorter period between closing date for items and the publication date. He said that there were still some critics of the magazine and wryly noted ‘but there always will be’.

The President asked G R Bates to convey our thanks to Claire & John for their work on our behalf and also very best wishes for the future.

**Declaration of Ballot Result**:

The Scrutineer reported that 75 papers had been returned, representing 14% of the papers sent out, compared to 19.7% the previous year. There were no Spoiled or Void Papers. The Scrutineer reported that papers which had arrived after the closing date had not been opened.

The President thanked Mr & Mrs J Elsdon for once again acting as Scrutineer.

**Election of Committee Members**:

The Ballot result was:

 Graham Bates 68 votes Elected to serve for 3 years

 Richard Henderson 64 votes Elected to serve for 3 years

 Helen Seed 61 votes Elected to serve for 3 years

 Jim Mullan 31 votes Elected to serve for 1 year

**Proposed amendments to the Show Rules**:

The proposal to re-order the Show Rules was approved by 70 votes in favour with 1 vote against, 4 papers did not show a vote.

**Presentation of Awards:**

Mark Rudd presented awards to those who were present at the Meeting

**Junior Fancier of the Year** - **Maxwell Wilson**

Junior Points Winner– shared between 2 Junior Exhibitors who both won Best Junior at 2 shows:

 **Lewis Fryer** –East of England & BPSS/NPA National

 **Cody Waldron** – Egremont & Lancashire

The following Junior Exhibitors won Best Junior at 1 show and will receive a Certificate:

 Caragh Ferguson, Charlie Bewick, Sophie Down, and Robert Bagshall-Pratt

**Lifetime Awards**:

The National Committee awarded 4 Lifetime Awards:

 **Mr Ken Goodman MBE**

 **Mrs Gladys Graham**

 **Mr Ray Hetherington**

 **Mr Charlie Muir**

**Life Members:**

The National Committee granted Life Membership to:

 **Mrs Anne Ison
 Mr John Elsdon**

**NPA Specials:**

The National Committee had offered £50 Special Awards for Best Young Bird at two Championship shows, these were won by:

 East of England – **Alf Caws** with an Oriental Frill

 SUFEX – **Savage & Tyson** with an American Show Racer

**Master Breeder Award**:

Following serious consideration of the 5 nominations for this prestigious award the National Committee had agreed that the award be given to:

 **Mrs Sheila Goodman** for her achievements with Show Kings

 **Mr Jim McGarrigle** for his achievements with Jacobins

**Report on Breed Standards**:

The President reported that he was pleased that, though slow, there was progress on the standards for British Breeds, he said meetings and communications with Jean-Louis Frindell had been fruitful and they now had an understanding of each other. There are currently 28 breeds with SDA as GB, with several more due to be confirmed. He said that we now have 28 completed written standards, 31 with approved drawings, 10 re-draws confirmed, and all the project information submitted. He confirmed that the re-draws are Barb, Competition Roller, Competition Tippler, Magpie, Modena, Exhibition Fantail, Garden Fantail, Genuine Homer, Show Homer, and Show Roller. Jim Mullan questioned the inclusion of the Competition Roller which he said shouldn’t have a standard.

**Report on Website & Facebook:**

Miss H Seed presented the report. She said that the website which was launched in October 2015 has had 95,891 unique visitors; since the last AGM there have been an average of 216 unique visitors per day. The top most visited pages are Championship Show Calendar, How to Join, Breeders Cards, Results from 2016-2017 Show Season, and Fancy Pigeon World.

R Partington commented that the interest in the ‘How to join page’ did not equate to membership, he said people may look but they are not joining the NPA. M Magnusson said that people were going to the right places, but felt that there should be more information and an incentive to join.

**Any Other Business**:

P Littlewood said that it was extremely disappointing to see that only 14% of members had returned a ballot paper and was saddened that there was so much apathy. J Elsdon said that it should be a vote of confidence in what the Committee are doing. Miss Seed asked how many papers had not been counted because they arrived late? Mr Elsdon, as Scrutineer, replied that there were 3 late papers.

There being no other business the President declared the meeting closed at 11am.