

Minutes of the meeting of the National Committee of the National Pigeon Association held on

Sunday 23rd September held at the Premier Inn, Rugby.

Meeting commenced 10.15am

Present: John Surrige (President), Ken Goodman (Vice President), Mark Rudd (Chairman), Graham Giddings (Ring Secretary) Graham Bates, Richard Henderson, Paul Littlewood, Helen Seed, Jamie Vaughan.

In attendance: John Harrison.

1. Chairman's Welcome; MR welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for giving up their time on behalf of the fancy. MR reminded the committee that they are here to serve the will/wishes of the membership and to make decisions in the best interest of the fancy.
2. Apologies for Absence; Colin Ronald & Jodie Rixon. The committee send their best wishes to Colin for a speedy recovery.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 10.06.18: Proposed by GG and Seconded by KG All in favour.
4. Matters arising:

The Chairman informed the committee of the withdrawal of the applicant for the post of Secretary and the reasons for the decision. The committee find themselves in a position where we have no applicants for the vacant post.

5. Committee decisions between meetings:

- The committee decided to renew the website package for a further 5 years.
- Public Liability cover was confirmed and insurance renewed.
- Advert exchange was agreed between publications with Thomas Hellman for an NPA advert in another project.

6. General Secretary & Treasurer's Report:

Given by JH. Initial reports show a loss on the year but with some invoices now coming in after 1st Sept the figures to the 31st Aug will show a profit of around £2000.00 The accounts are ready to be submitted to the accountant and should be back with the committee in 5-6 weeks.

There have been no ballot proposals received. There are only CR & GG standing for re-election, which will mean there will be one vacant place on the committee for 2019.

JH commented that there are still items that need sorting to complete the handover to 'whoever' takes on the role of Secretary, namely Franking Machine, Bank Account details to transfer, PO Box and Champion Bird certs.

7. Ring Secretary Report:

Ring sales for 2018 where 23'300 which is down on previous year by 3100.

Membership from 1st Sept currently stands at 89, which includes 9 new 3 returning and 2 Junior.

Membership figures are falling in line with the predicted figures which are worrying signs.

This matter was discussed later in the meeting.

8. NPA Management.

8a. General Secretary & Treasurers functions;

MR started the discussion around how the committee has now got to find a solution, as we don't have a candidate for the position, to ensure that we make the correct decisions so the membership receives the service they require. MR thanked GG for his offer and potentially getting the committee out of a hole. GB for picking up matters relating to the posting of FPW. JV for volunteering to be Championship Show Co-ordinator – a lot of good feedback has been received. HS for changing the website to facilitate the changing circumstances.

There was a lengthy discussion on the ways in which the committee envisaged a solution working, some wanted to change the role back to a single person, despite decision made at Septembers' meeting to divide the role. RH believes that too many people involved may create further issues and PL stated that a divided role doesn't encourage matters to be dealt with in a correct manner.

The committee discussed dividing the 'jobs' left to be done amongst the committee members but GB thought this would dilute the role too far. RH & GB lead the debate around recruiting a person to take on the role, but many avenues discussed were found not to be practicable for our situation. It was decided that RH & GB would investigate and come up with a 5 year business plan as to how the association can afford to recruit and maintain a single person as Secretary of the NPA, this to be completed and submitted to the committee early 2019.

The question then was asked what happens between now and when a plan is approved or otherwise and what happens if the plan proves to the contrary for a single role?

After much discussion it was agreed that HS would take on the role till September 2019 but the committee need to be mindful of HS personal situation at home. GG, JV, HS and MR will support the roles and work together to ensure that the membership receives the service and that the association functions until a solution is found. The contact to be place on the website to assist the membership in knowing who to contact but GG will always be available to act as the main contact.

It was agreed that RH to hold a stock of rings to cover GG holidays and emergencies.

The committee also ran through the outstanding items that required change now that JH is no longer in the post of General Secretary.

8b. NPA AGM.

It was agreed to keep the AGM in the 'north' for 2018 AGM and return to the south in alternate years. HS to check availability and book Holiday Inn Escape M62, Sunday 17th February 2019
Awards to be given out, same Agenda and Open forum.

8c. Fancy Pigeon World.

GB presented figures and a forecast for the magazine and the magazine remains in a healthy position, 300 members is still the minimum to keep this financially viable.
Adding extra content per 4 pages is £87.00 but is a useful tool for committee business.
New franking machine has been sourced and a saving for the association on rental and ink costs has been made.

8d. Ring Issuing Association.

MR asked about how the association functioned when 'we' were purely a ring issuing association and was there anything to be gained by looking into this given the decline in the fancy and create a plan for the future. (Hopefully not required.) The committee thought at this moment it wasn't required.

The key to the survival of the NPA is maintaining a membership.

8e & 8f. Promotion of the Fancy & Positive Management of the Decline.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the various ways in which to promote the hobby and manage the decline. Although the decline is in general the same across most livestock, the committee are still keeping this important

topic on the agenda for discussion. GB said we will have to accept the decline and that we will hopefully always maintain the 'hard-core fanciers' Discussions also took place on the following;

- Increase magazine sales to hobbyists
- Keep trying to attract racing men
- Is advertising worth the money; do we see any gain.
- Hobby isn't fashionable
- Keep letting people know as often as possible who we are and what we do
- Other outlets for purchasing ring

8g. Coloured Racers.

It had been put to the committee by a member as to whether the NPA could issue rings for coloured racing pigeons to enable fanciers who keep racers for other reasons other than racing.

It was the general feeling that we couldn't issue rings but further clarification required.

8h. Pigeons of Today.

An update was given and advert space is selling well, planning for next stage will happen after the Christmas period and a further update at February's meeting.

8i. NPA Awards.

The decision was made to award the following awards for 2018;

Master Breeder; Paul Allen, Frillbacks; Carla Wilson, American Show Racers.
Lifetime Awards; M Auger and F Bradbourn
Junior Fancier; Robert Bagshall-Pratt

Awards to be presented at AGM or alternative show.

8j. Exhibitor/Loft Awards:

There was a discussion around adding another tier to our current certificate scheme. The idea that was decided needed further work was Section Awards, based around the idea of a bird winning best in section on 3 occasions. This would be shows would have to following the NPA guidelines on sectioning a show and certain other criteria would need to be met. PL to circulate to the committee a full working proposal and a decision on implementing this for the upcoming season to be made at February's meeting.

8k. Breed Standards.

MR updated the committee that there has been some communication regarding alterations to the Damascene drawing, these changes were small but nothing had been agreed, the committee felt that if changes were insignificant to allow them.

There was a long and heated debate on the topic of outstanding standards after a letter was read out from an affiliated club, Scottish Flying Club, some breeds involved make this is a very emotive topic i.e. The British Show Racer. The chairman said he has no axe to grind with the breed, but gave a description of his connection with the breed, and his allegiance to fancy pigeons.

The Chairman reminded the committee of what was agreed at April's meeting and to make a decision based on what is best for the NPA, its members, its judges and its shows. In the chairman opinion poor judging was killing the hobby and with no points of reference for certain breeds this would continue to be detrimental to showing fancy pigeons and lower the quality of winning birds at every level.

The decision to accept the description of the Show Racer as written in the NPA Book of Standards was agreed to aid NPA judges and members and this was for NPA use only and at NPA Shows only. 7 votes to 2; PL & RH disagreed with the decision.

9. Shows.

9a. Championship Show Matters:

JV - All schedules and checking procedure went well. Some gaps for judges in certain breeds in certain areas still prove difficult but on the whole things are going well.

JV and GG to work through the club returns and ring checking.

9b. Show Reps:

Newark – Jamie Vaughan
Egremont – Paul Littlewood
Lancashire – Jamie Vaughan
Newcastle – Helen Seed
BPSS – Ken Goodman
Swansea – Graham Giddings
Reading – Graham Bates
Airdrie – David Richardson TBC
Sufex – Ken Goodman
Aberdeen – Scott Sharp TBC

10. Correspondence:

Richie Rudd's letter regarding PMV and compulsory vaccination was read out and discussed, on the whole the committee agreed with vaccination being the best advice. MR to thank Richie for his thoughts.

11. Meeting Date & Venue

After AGM on 17th February 2019

12. Any Other Business:

PL put forward the idea to purchase another Salver in memory of Alan Roscoe, the committee asked PL to come back with costs.

Meeting closed at 15.29

Actions

Accounts to be prepared	John H
PO Box, Bank Account	John H & Graham G
Champion Bird Certs	Jamie
Liaise with each other re division of role & updates required.	Graham G, Jamie, Helen & Mark
Rings to RH for holiday cover	Mark to deliver ring to RH from Graham G
Business Plan for employment of secretary	Richard & Graham B
Book AGM and notification	Helen
Pigeons of Today	Colin, Mark & Helen
Awards	Helen & Mark
Reply to R Rudd	Mark

