

VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC

Minutes of the May Delegates Meeting held at Notting Hill on Monday, 8th May 2017.

The President, David Wetering declared the Meeting open at 8.15pm.

Roll Call

	Present	Total	Delegates
Bayswater-Nunawading	Yes	4	1
Diamond Valley	Yes	16	4
Heidelberg	Yes	4	1
Ivanhoe	Yes	11	2
Knox	Yes	4	1
Malvern	Yes	6	1
Mountain Districts	Yes	8	2
Northcote	No	5	-
North East	Yes	5	1
Notting Hill	Yes	4	1
Oakleigh-Waverley	Yes	8	2
Pathfinder	Yes	8	2
Plenty	Yes	9	2
South East	Yes	7	1
United	Yes	4	1
		103	22

The Minutes of the April Delegates Meeting were received on the motion of S.Zandona
2nd R.Stukel **Carried**

Matters Arising

Notices of Motion re Clock Presentation Rules: Received from Diamond Valley re Rules 58, 72 and 74. From Ivanhoe re Rules 58 and 74.

Notice of Motion re Rule 74 as per the Diamond Valley and Ivanhoe Notice of Motion Moved T.Brudenall 2nd G.Stevens **Carried**

To view the new Rule 74 visit the VHA Web-site under the 'INFORMATION' heading on the home page where the Rules and Regulations are available for viewing/printing.

Notice of Motion re Rule 72 as per the Diamond Valley Notice of Motion. Moved T.Brudenall 2nd G.Stevens **Defeated**

This Rule remains unchanged in the Rules and Regulations.

Notice of Motion re Rule 58 as per the Diamond Valley and Ivanhoe Notices of Motion. After some discussion, Ivanhoe and Diamond Valley Delegates withdrew the Notices of Motion and a new Notice of Motion covering but simplifying the amendments to Rule 58 will be presented at the June Delegates Meeting.

The Minutes were adopted on the motion of K. Clark 2nd H. Merbis **Carried**

Correspondence

1. RSPCA NSW: Press release Re the Rota Virus. Referred to General Business
2. Letter from the Knox Club: Recommending Life Membership for Dr. Colin Walker
3. Rota Virus Fighting Fund: From the ANRPB \$57,185.00 has been donated to this point.
4. Office Bearers: Received from Diamond Valley, Bayswater-Nunawading, Plenty, Heidelberg and Malvern.

Matters Arising from Correspondence

1. Life Membership Dr. Colin Walker

Moved A. Spiliopoulos 2nd H. Merbis that Dr. Colin Walker be granted Life Membership of the Victorian Homing Association in recognition of his thirty-five years of service as VHA Honorary Veterinarian and also all his work re the PMV virus and his on-going efforts in relation to the Rota virus. **Carried**

Reports

Ring Registry

28 birds reported and owners notified.

Treasurer

Report as per the Annual Meeting Report. Also dealing with miscellaneous regulatory matters.

General Business

1. Rota Virus Update: Dr. Colin Walker attended the meeting and gave the Delegates an update on the trial testing and how the process was going. He was hopeful of a vaccine by perhaps August and then a truncated racing season but this is a 'best case scenario' so we remain hopeful.

2. RSPCA New South Wales: The Secretary referred to a press release from the RSPCA NSW. The release commences with, "RSPCA NSW is issuing a stern warning that those pigeon federations who are considering racing in the 2017 season would be acting irresponsibly."

It goes on to say, inter alia, "The RSPCA implores those federations who have not yet cancelled pigeon racing for the 2017 season to act responsible in the interest of pigeon welfare and postpone racing pending the development of a vaccine."

It also points out that the activities of spreading the disease may constitute animal cruelty offences.

As a pigeon fraternity, we have gone to great pains over the last few years to try and ensure we do not incur the wrath of bodies like the RSPCA and animal activist. We have paid much greater attention to transport, weather, liberation conditions including wind and heat. We have developed a Code of Conduct to illustrate that pigeon welfare is our priority. Yet after the RSPCA NSW has made its position clear, certain bodies are still planning to conduct racing and most of those races will be from NSW. To sub our noses at the NSW RSPCA by conducting racing this year without a

vaccine is sheer madness and may well haunt us in the years to come and may place pigeon racing under a more severe spotlight given what RSPCA NSW would see as a demonstrated flagrant disregard for pigeon welfare. We are Victorians but over 90% of races on the north and north-east track are conducted from New South Wales. To ignore the RSPCA NSW is to say the least, not smart.

I encourage all members of the fraternity who have decided to race this year to re-consider your position in the interest of pigeon welfare and the sport as a whole now and in the future.

THE COMPLETE DOCUMENT FROM THE RSPCA NSW IS ATTACHED AS AN ATTACHMENT WITH THIS MINUTES DISTRIBUTION

Meeting closed 9.35pm

David Crosbie
Secretary,
Victorian Homing Association Incorporated