



Minutes for the Victorian Homing Association Race & Finance Committee

Meeting held at the VHA Headquarters Notting Hill on 28th April 2025

Meeting opened by President Andrew Spiliopoulos at 7.00 pm

Present: Andrew Spiliopoulos (President), Sam Spiliopoulos (Transport Officer), Kevin Clark (Vice President), Mark Tung (Vice President), Paul Bryant (Treasurer), Steve Brown (Secretary) David Wetering (Clock Chairman & Notting Hill Centre), Stevan Gazzola (Race Secretary), Stephen Kearsey (Diamond Valley Centre) Bob Brickley (Frankston Centre) Ed Sheean (Ivanhoe Centre) Mark Schubert (Cranbourne Centre) & Andrew Demidowski (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: None

General Business

1. Fees & Liberation

It was decided that the entry fee & liberation times will remain the same as 2024 for all federation races (except for the 2nd 500 mile race). Club race entry to be raised from 80 cents per bird to \$1-00 per bird.

Moved - Stephen Kearsey Seconded Mark Tung Carried

Carrieton 2 will be user pays Moved - Stevan Gazzola Seconded - David Wetering. Carried (Estimated cost approx \$5,000) This is a recommendation only.

Club Race Liberations (North/South)

The North birds will be liberated first for the Kurting Club Race. This was decided with a toss of the coin. 2nd race Wycheproof will be South Section. 3rd race Wycheproof North Section

2. Up Front fee

After much discussion the upfront fee of \$2.50 per bird was recommended and by the Committee.

This fee was raised from \$1.50 per bird in 2024 but is in line with what the former VHA Treasurer Gerry Sheean recommended in 2024 to cover all expenses. Andrew Spiliopoulos advised that the VHA need to raise \$105,000 for 2025 to pay for all expenses and this is the reason \$2.50 needs to be charged to make the racing program “cost neutral” for 2025.

It was queried why the fee was raised by \$1.00 and it was mentioned that the reason why the VHA ‘broke even’ in 2024 was that money was saved due to several races (3 races were cancelled – Yolla, Coonamble & Collarenebri) not being held due to adverse weather conditions.

It was first discussed whether \$2.00 per bird should be charged for nominations. Andrew Spiliopoulos advised that 28,000 birds (\$42,000) were nominated last year and that he predicted 26,000 in 2025.

The following income sources were mentioned:

119 paid up members predicted for 2025 (\$200 per affiliation excluding life members)

14300 rings predicted

Rent \$38,600 for VHA Headquarters

It was advised that the affiliations (currently \$200 per member) pay for outgoings (fixed costs) for running the VHA.

Transport cost \$57,493

Expenditure for Honorariums \$12,000 paid by membership

3. Transportation

The transportation costs will be less in 2025 mainly due to the VHA not transporting the birds at the 500 mile and 600-mile stages which will be undertaken by the WPF as a combine.

David Wetering asked why the VHA are paying \$3,000 ‘dry hire’ for Tasmanian races. This was clarified by Sam to be \$1,500 for hiring the truck. (4 days @ \$375 per day) He advised that if we were to rent a tray it would cost \$580 per day.

The committee asked Sam Spiliopoulos whether the quote of \$1.75/litre for transportation costs is realistic? As Stevan Gazzola raised that diesel could cost as much as \$1.88/litre. Sam advised that he always tried to get the cheapest diesel he could when refilling the truck and that the all expenditure is provided to the Treasurer via a receipt or photograph at the bowser

Local transport for the Southern area (being Cranbourne & Frankston) provided by Sam Spiliopoulos was less than 2024 (\$17,500 due to one less race).

Due to Godfrey Stevens passing the North do not currently have a local transporter to deliver their birds to the VHA headquarters. Andrew Spiliopoulos advised that he received a quote of \$1,160. Mark Tung advised that he will make enquiries with Swain Transport to see if he can get a cheaper quote.

The committee raised concern that as we only have a couple of months from starting the racing and it appears to be a matter of urgency to get the local transportation for the Northern flyers sorted. (Please note – since the meeting a truck has been sourced at last year's prices.)

A number of cost saving ideas were raised by the executive. The first was whether the Northern flyers could basket at the Notting Hill Centre for the 500- & 600-mile races to offset the cost of local transport. Mark Tung advised that this idea will not be well received and will cause more problems than its worth by further separating the North & South flyers.

Kevin Clark was of the opinion that we could stop the club races as we lost money with them in 2024. It was advised that the club races for 2025 had already been approved for the season so could not be changed. However, this idea could be raised by for consideration at a later stage for 2026 racing season.

It was asked by Kevin Clark if the VHA pays GST? Answer: Yes VHA is registered for GST and we pay GST.

4. Land Tax

Andrew Spiliopoulos advised that Land Tax \$3800 is currently being paid by the VHA for the Notting Hill Centre. He advised that the VHA can be classified as a Non-Profit Recreational out door Sport and therefore can apply for an exemption for land tax in the future as long as the constitution is changed. Andrew has been in touch with Charles Hider (Solicitor) who will advise on how this can be done. Stephen Kearsey advised that we probably need to have a ballot with the delegates to do this under our constitution.

5. Sponsorship

David Wetering advised that sponsorship will continue for all our races in 2025. The sponsors will donate \$1000 per race and the breakup of the winners is \$600 for winner \$300 for Second and \$100 third. David to advise once sponsors are identified.

Meeting closed 8.34 pm

