



VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of the VHA delegates meeting held at Notting Hill on the 5th May 2025

The President Andrew Spiliopoulos declared the meeting open at 7:05PM

Vale - Noel Podesta – President & Life member. A minute silence was held for Noel. Kevin Clark advised Noel was a life time South Melbourne supporter and coached netball. He loved his pigeons and was a stern President of the VHA. Over his racing career he won 3 x 500 mile races, the Produce and the National. His dispersal sale was very well supported. Steve Brown advised that Noel was a terrific friend who was always ready to lend a hand. He gifted many good pigeons to other flyers. He will be missed.

1. Roll Call

CLUB	PRESENT	MEMBERS	DELEGATES
Diamond Valley	Yes	12	3
Frankston	Yes	12	3
Heidelberg	Yes	11	2
Ivanhoe	Yes	9	2
Knox (in recess)	No	0	0
Malvern	No	9	2
Metropolitan	Yes	11	2
Mornington	Yes	4	1
Northcote	No	5	1
North East	Yes	5	1
Notting Hill	Yes	4	1
Oakleigh-Waverley	Yes	6	1
Pathfinder	Yes	8	2
Plenty	Yes	12	3
South East	Yes	8	2
United	Yes	6	2
TOTAL		119	28

2. Apologies – Mark Tung, David Wetering, Don Lowe & Steve Piralis.

3. Previous minutes of the April delegates meeting

Moved Neville Stone

Seconded Sam Spiliopoulos

4. Reports

Clock Chairman – Nil Report

Ring Secretary- Hank Merbis advised that 20 pigeons were reported & owners notified.

VRPB – Andrew Demidowski (Secretary) & Jeff Weaver (Vice President) Nil Report.

Treasurers Report – Paul Bryant

- Paul Bryant is now a signatory on the bank accounts. Gerry Sheean will stay on as a signatory for all accounts.
- Paul Bryant raised the costs of eftpos in the N Hill rooms as \$41.75 a month. Cheque Acc \$56,055.12 V2 Plus Acc \$55-00 On Line Saver Acc \$70,049.96

A bill of \$122.84 electricity to be paid = quarterly

Moved Kevin Clark Seconded Bob Brickley that payment be made. Carried

Transport

\$400 per week for North local transport

Local transport \$17,550 for South two more races about \$800

Total \$57,13.71 National not included - 500 & 600 mile included

Diesel \$ 1.75/litre keeps receipts and takes a picture of the bouser. Kevin Clark asked if we could get a more realistic figure for the diesel cost.

Moved Neville Stone Seconded Jeff Weaver

Race & Finance Meeting

Upfront fees & Race Entry costs discussed

It was recommended that the prices and liberation times for all federation races remain the same as for 2024.

It was recommended that cost of the club race increase from \$0.80 per bird in 2024 to \$1.00 per bird in 2025. An increase of 20 cents per bird.

It was recommended that Carrieton 2 - 500-mile race be a stand-alone race.

It was advised that the North birds will be released 1st for 1st club race

Upfront fee was recommended at \$2.50 per bird to achieve the \$105,000 required to run the VHA in 2025

Expecting 26,000 birds in 2025. Last year 29,000 nominations. John Van Beers advised that in 2025 the VHA will have 12 less members 15% reduction in flyers

Membership \$24,000 @ \$200 per member paid for honorariums \$12,000

In 2025 14,300 rings were predicted - sold 13,000 a drop of around 10 %

Standalone race for 500-mile race Carrieton = normal race and it will be paid for by the people who race it.

The President advised that the race & finance committee can only make recommendations to the delegates who have the final say. Minutes from that meeting will be distributed to all members.

John Van Beers - Spoke in favour of the 2nd 500-mile race. He spoke about the purpose of the VHA and that never in the history of the VHA have they had a standalone race. He advised that every race has always been supported financially by all VHA members. He commented that the recommendation of the race and Finance Committee appears vindictive. He advised that in 2024 there were six long distance races where 47 participated representing 50% of members and that money should be spread over the whole program. Jeff Weaver also spoke in favour of the 2nd five-hundred-mile race. He advised that after the initial DV line of flight (race schedule including 2 x 500's) was agreed to, then it was resubmitted and had changed.

Both Kevin Clark and Stevan Gazzola advised that at the previous Race & Finance Meeting the decision to recommend that the 2nd five hundred race from Carrieton was simply a monetary one. It was to save the VHA around \$5,000.

Andrew Spiliopoulos advised by basketing at the Notting Hill Centre by all participating flyers in the 500 and 600 mile races will save \$1000s of dollars for the VHA in local transport costs.

To become exempt from Land Tax the VHA need to change its constitution. Charles Hider to advise in due course.

David Wetering advised that he expects the same sponsors as in 2024 will be sponsoring VHA races again. Ten (10) races will be sponsored with prize money of \$ 600 for 1st 300 for 2nd and \$100 for 3rd

5. Correspondence

Inwards

United - New members M & C Valentine, E Bagsic, N De Leon Cabera

To be approved at the next Delegates meeting in June 2025.

Outwards

All Members - Delegates minutes for April meeting and placed on the VHA website

6. General Business

Hank Merbis advised that he needs a new computer. Estimated cost of \$500 plus software

Moved Steve Brown Seconded Paul Bryant Carried

John Van Beers asked about the cartage costs from Western Federation for 500- and 600-mile race. 500 miles \$6295- and 600-mile \$6867 National \$4950

Meeting Closed at 8.39 pm