



VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of the VHA June delegates meeting held at Notting Hill on the 2nd June 2025

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

Vale – W. Whiteside (Plenty club) A minutes silence was held for Mr Whiteside.

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	-	-
Malvern	Yes	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	Yes	6	1
Pathfinder	Yes	8	2
Plenty	Yes	12	3
South East	Yes	8	2
United	Yes	9	2
Total		125	28

1. Apologies – Bob Brickley

2. Previous minutes of the May 2025 delegates meeting. Nil business arising. Moved Neil Oke Seconded Neville Stone

Carried

3. Reports

Clock Chairman – Nil Report

Kevin Clark reminded flyers to upgrade their software on their Benzing Clocks Benzing M1 needs to have version 4.4 & M3 requires version 1.1.7 AU 40 prior to the first club race. If you have problems updating this software contact Kevin who can help you.

Ring Secretary- Hank Merbis

Advised that pigeons 47 were reported & owners notified.

Victorian Racing Pigeon Body (VRPB) – Andrew Demidowski

Andrew advised that a meeting was scheduled for the 17th June 2025 and a report will then be provided for the next delegates meeting.

Treasurers Report – Paul Bryant

Paul advised the VHA had the following bank balance - Cheque Account \$57,212 Online Saver \$70,000

Godfrey Stevens still had a credit of \$5,000 which was donated for prize money in the long races.

Aston Commercial ½ land tax advised that the VHA tenant has already paid \$2,095.50 for 2025

Charles Hider has requested a copy of the Land Tax Bill to assist the VHA in seeking exemption from land tax.

Insurance \$1077 paid

Tenant wishes to stay and pay his bill upfront which is currently \$38,600.

Moved - Mark Tung Seconded - Jeff Weaver Carried

Transport Officer – Andrew Spiliopoulos

Trailer needs curtains fixed in the next week to be ready for season.

3 tyres need changing these have been donated free of charge by Sam Spiliopoulos. Fitting will be the only cost.

The seed mix for racing will be 20% peas 20% wheat 20% safflower 20% milo 20% maize. Hunters donate it free of charge for the entire racing season.

A 'snail certificate' has been supplied for straw used in the transporter. This is required to cross the border into SA.

4. New Members (all United club) M & C. Valentine, E. Bagsic & N. De Leon Cabrera Moved – J. Weaver Seconded – H. Merbis Carried

5. Correspondence

Inwards

Ivanhoe Club – Two new members L Trajano and J Rebanal. To be approved at the next Delegates meeting in June 2025.

South East -requesting \$2.00 per bird in Up Front Fee and a cost saving initiative for local transport.

Outwards

All Members - Delegates minutes for May 2025 meeting (also placed on the VHA website)

6. General Business

The following report was supplied by Treasurer Paul Bryant.

Figures provided for outgoings and fixed costs for 2025 to determine the cost per bird for nominations in 2025

VHA Outgoings 2025

Transport (As per quote)

Fed races (15) \$44,655

Convoyer plus Assistant \$11,760

Local Transport (North) \$ 6,000

Local Transport (South) \$14,625

Plus, North returns

Tasmania (1) \$ 3,500

Tasmania (2) \$3,500

National at (Based on ratio of birds sent)

cost approx. \$1,650

Plus, Local cost \$1,350

500 mile combine at 1/3 cost \$2,100

Plus, local cost \$1,350

600 mile combine at 1/3 cost \$2,290

Plus, local cost \$1,350

Total- \$94,130

Rental received \$38,600 (Net)

Requiring- \$55,530

Upfront at 26,000 nom @ \$2 = \$52,000

Possible shortfall of \$3,500

Add in part proceeds from squeaker sale to cover possible shortfall (\$7K) available.

Notes-: Local transport to be reduced for the 500 and 600 with the Southern clubs going to Notting Hill

direct.

The second 500 would cost us another \$7,000 approx.

Any races cancelled will assist the bottom line.

Recommendation for \$2.00 bird nomination

VHA Fixed costs- 2025

Some of these are worked off the profit & loss from 2024:

Honorarium's - \$12,500

Bank charges-\$110.00

Computer expenses- \$1,175.00

ANZ Merchant fee- \$434.62

Hollards Business Insurance-\$5,181.82

SRO- Land Tax- \$3,810

Software charges- \$2,261.59

Total- \$25,471

Other fixed costs:

Body Corporate- \$1,706.25

Momentum Electricity- \$143.46

Council- and Water rates- \$335.65

(These costs are already taken off by Aston as they are billed for payment)

Trailer expense- \$2,449.44

Trailer Registration- \$2,004.00 - 3 cents per bird taken off to cover reg. (12 months registration)

(This cost is accounted for with 3 cents per bird raced taken to cover the trailer)

Medallions and diplomas- An amount of \$300 per race is deducted and put towards the overall cost for the season.

Affiliations- 128 @ \$200- \$25,600

After discussion regarding Paul's report there was a motion from the floor for the up front fee to be \$2-00 per bird for 2025.

Moved - Ari Barshehet Seconded – Jeff Weaver Carried

Entry fees for federation races to remain the same as 2024. Moved - Ari Barsheshet Seconded - Neil Oke Carried

- John Van Beers asked whether the National Race and Tassie was included in the original quote for bird transportation. The answer was that it was not included.
- South East provided a letter recommending that only the Notting Hill Centre be used for basketing the birds for a number of races to reduce the cost of local transport. They recommended that the following races should be included – Yolla (x2), National, Carrieton (x2) & Blinman. They advised that this would save \$8,400 for 2025 however after discussion the actual saving would be \$4,900 (\$700 per week). Peter McDonough raised for consideration, the possibility of selecting a few of these races rather than all six of them. Steve Brown stated that we have ample time to make a determination regarding the initiative.
- Andrew advised for all flyers to transfer the birds into their own name before the deadline. The VHA will not approve AUS Rings with personal phone numbers.
- Hank Merbis advised that he has acquired a new computer. The invoice will be provided to Paul Bryant for payment.
- Fire checks re compliance. Ari Barsheshet will attend the VHA Centre to arrange inspection & compliance.
- Ari has volunteered to help the VHA with social media marketing which includes ticktock, Instagram and Facebook. He advised that he has up to 1.2 million views on ticktock and around 1,000 views for Instagram and Facebook. Ari spoke about his social media profile under his own name.
- Steve Brown advised that the VRPU intend to request the National Committee to basket the birds for the National on a Wednesday rather than Thursday and he need direction from the delegates regarding the VHA's position. The delegates advised that they wanted both Andrew Spiliopoulos and Steve to advocate for Thursday night basketing as they

thought there was no need to have the birds in the unit for an extra day for a 400 mile race.

- John Van Beers queried the membership income 119 members now we have 128 members. Life members are not required to pay fees. Paul to chase it up. He also asked about transport being \$1.76 per litre for diesel and whether this was accurate. John that he calculated the VHA expenditure as being \$155,000 while income \$145,000. This includes income of \$7000 from the squeaker sale. In his opinion, the Greater Melbourne is cheaper to race and for this reason, we need to change our expenditure.
- Kevin Clarke advised that we receive \$38,600 from rent to offset the costs.
- John Van Beers suggested we double the price of rings.
- Ari Barsheshet advised that suggested fundraising and sponsorship, Bunnings sausage sizzle makes about \$1,500.
- Stevan Gazzola advised that is difficult to compare the cost of flying when comparing ourselves with the GMPF as we have a different racing schedule, pay honorariums, need to use local transport and pay out greater prize money.
- Jeff Weaver advised that the prize money from Godfrey Stevens was historically always for long distance races which are the 500 mile and 600-mile race.
- Mark Tung advised that the \$20K was raised by on line sale can be used for the end of year presentation and social activities. This was agreed to by the delegates last year.

Meeting closed at 8.29 pm