



Established 1895
Incorporated 1929

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOMING PIGEON ASSOCIATION COM Minutes Wednesday 7.00pm 27th April 2022

1. Meeting – opened at 7.05PM by Chairman.
Present: Mr G Hamilton (Chairman), Mr R Somerville (Vice Chairman)
Mr T Tirrell (Treasurer), Mr G Mitchell (Secretary), Mr D Walker via Skype, Mr R Williams, Mr G Hodgins, Mr W March via Skype.
2. **Apologies** - Nil
3. **Previous Minutes 28/03/2022 – Accepted – M, S, Carried**
4. **Treasurer's report**
 - a. Tom Tirrell advised the SAHPA currently has 172 members
 - b. It was thought that the fans in the Gerald unit were not working, however an auto electrician has advised there is nothing wrong with them therefore operator error must have been the issue. It is suggested that a manual switch be installed with a thermometer in the cab, and 2 new thermostats. Costs will be advised at the next meeting. Ongoing.
 - c. Funds from the term deposit are currently sitting in the Online Saver account.
5. **Business arising from minutes**
 - a. **Clock and Race rules amendments**
 - i. Graham Mitchell advised that Rolf Goodacre has suggested further changes, all of which have been actioned by David Walker. David is currently seeking confirmation from Rolf that all comments have been addressed to allow for update to the website. Our sincerest thanks go out to both David and Rolf for the hours of work that have been put into this project. Ongoing.
 - ii. David Walker advised he will now focus on required amendments to the constitution. Rolf Goodacre has also advised he has been making notes regarding the upgrade of the constitution. Ongoing.
 - b. **Basket Allocation**
 - i. After some discussion it was resolved to accept the basket allocation proposed by David Walker, subject to pre-nom numbers yet to be advised. Graham Mitchell to email a copy to all secretaries who will be given 5 days to respond via email.
 - ii. Tom Tirrell advised that the Elizabeth club only have three active members. Graham Mitchell will write to the club secretary and advise they will need to basket in conjunction with another club as the minimum requirement for a basketing centre is 4 members. Ongoing.
 - c. **Russell Somerville to write SOP for the electrical brake controllers of towing units**
 - i. Russell presented this document. Both tossing unit drivers need an understanding of this document, soft copies to be provided with a hard

copy stored in each unit. The brake controllers can be operated from a phone app.

d. Update on participation in the Animal Expo

- i. David Walker and Michael Donnellan to discuss. Ongoing.

e. March trailer mods

- i. Warren March advised that Nenad Stojakovic has completed all works and has gone above and beyond what was anticipated. Additional doors have been added, and all cross members were replaced due to rusting. Thank you, Nenad, for your hard work over many hours.
- ii. Warren March to be reimbursed for his out-of-pocket expenses upon the presentation of his receipts to the Treasurer. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**

f. Update on Gerald truck & trailer

- i. Tom Tirrell advised the truck requires front air shockers and a service is booked, air bags will be checked at the same time. A quote will be obtained for both the air shockers and the air bags if required. Ongoing.
- ii. Alex Stojakovic has requested some recompense for his time and fuel. It was suggested he be allowed to use the SAHPA fuel card for an occasional tank of fuel for his own vehicle. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
- iii. It was suggested to appoint Alex as the Fleet Manager for the SAHPA vehicles. Graham Mitchell to call Alex. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**

g. Plastic grate flooring from Gerald update

- i. The grates have now arrived and have been unpacked and grouped ready for collection. Graham Mitchell will contact all stakeholders and advise when they can be collected. Payment is to be made prior to collection via EFT transfer to the SAHPA.

h. Gerald toss programme update

- i. Final draft accepted to be uploaded to website.
- ii. Graham Mitchell to contact club secretaries and confirm whether they are happy to support this program based on the conditions contained in regard to basketing and payment.

i. Contractor toss update

- i. Collection points and costs per bird confirmed, program to be loaded to the website. Graham Mitchell to SMS all flyers and advise that tossing commences 1 May.
- ii. Tom Tirrell to provide drivers with a cost sheet.
- iii. Bob Hill has advised he would like to test drive the ute and trailer.
- iv. Greg Hodgins advised he is happy to keep both units clean and requested payment of \$140 per week. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**

j. SAHPA purchase of bulk PCR tests for PMV and Rota

- i. Russell Somerville tabled information and costs pertaining to the PMV Rat Tests as provided by Colin Walker. It should be noted that as far as pigeons are concerned this is still in the testing phase – Please refer to the final page of these minutes.
- ii. It was resolved that the decision as to whether to purchase and make use of these RAT Tests be done at club level.

k. Roller door flashing repairs

- i. Graham Mitchell contacted Mark Hutchison and was advised these will be completed in the next week. Graham to follow up with the contractor. Ongoing.

- l. Ring Secretary's laptop**
 - i. Alan Agar has advised this laptop has been upgraded to Windows 10. No need to replace at this stage.
- m. Purchase additional honour board.**
 - i. Graham Mitchell to advise who supplies them, and current costs. Centrals Club would like to sell theirs. Ongoing.
- n. Invite Greg Kakoschke to future COM meeting to discuss ANRPB race.** Ongoing.
- o. November Convention advertising in ARPJ**
 - i. Jeff Howell, the editor of the ARPJ, has offered one full page ad at no charge if we pay for one ad. Greg Hamilton to contact Jeff and see if we can do two for two, in the August, September, October and November issues of the magazine. Cost \$300. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
 - ii. Greg Hamilton to speak to Greg Kakoschke as to whether there is a national database of clubs and federations that could be used to advise nationally of the convention.
- p. Other business.** No.
- 6. Correspondence In**
 - a. Disease Management Fund email from Greg Kakoschke –** Deferred to next meeting.
 - b. Email from Rolf Goodacre to utilise Geraldty tossing for early APC races**
 - i. Pending club acceptance of the Geraldty tossing conditions the COM cannot commit at this point, however in principle there is no issue.
 - c. Email from Gawler Club re 5 Bird Series**
 - i. The previous decision to release these birds as part of the main race was reaffirmed.
 - d. Email from Michael Donnellan re race trophies being retained by winners**
 - i. Winners of the perpetual trophies to ne permitted to take the home, however they must be returned to the SAHPA no later than 30 September of the next year in the same condition in which they were received. Any damages or the cost of cleaning to be funded by that flyer. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
 - e. Email from Southern Fleurieu Club requesting a grace period of 2-4 weeks for pre-nom**
 - i. The previous decision that all club pre-noms be provided on or by the first basketing night was reaffirmed. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
 - f. Email from Lower Murray Club re Paruna basketing**
 - i. Pigeons from the Lower Murray Club can be loaded in Murray Bridge as previously. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
- 7. Correspondence Out – Nil.**
- 8. General Business**
 - a. Issues pertaining to the start of the 2022 race programme**
 - i. Finalise Trophy/Donor race card**
 - 1.** The Race Program will no longer be printed and distributed. Anyone requiring a hard copy can print it from the website. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
 - 2.** All reference to the SAHPA in regard to trophies for individual races is to be removed as we are still seeking further donors.

3. Alan Agar to update the website accordingly as advised by the General Secretary.
- ii. **Payments for trophies**
 1. All donors to pay for their trophies ASAP, or by the first race at the latest. Please include your surname and the word “trophy” as your reference.
- iii. **SDC Benzing vouchers**
 1. The SAHPA to design an A4 size certificate. At the end of the SDC Series a list of winners will be provided to Kevin Clark, David Walker will be responsible for this.
- iv. **Weekly maintenance of Points Tables and Series Certificates**
 1. Alan Agar to maintain all points tables and create certificates.
 2. Graham Mitchell to provide list of certificates to Alan Agar.
 1. SDC - 8 weeks Top 30 end of series/performance
 2. MDC - 9 weeks Top 30 end of series/performance
 3. LDC – 6 weeks Top 30 end of series/performance
 4. O'All - Top 10 end of season/performance
 5. 5BS - 23 weeks Top 10 end of season/performance
 6. 100 Club - 23 weeks Top 10 end of season/performance
- v. **Update Dropbox Owner/Bird file**
 1. Graham Mitchell to update on a weekly basis
- vi. **Update front page of website with all weekly results**
 1. Alan Agar to maintain on a weekly basis.
- vii. **Basketing night procedure**
 1. Graham Mitchell to provide all clubs with the new basketing night procedure as provided by John Harper.
 2. Greg Hamilton to speak to Aaron Horrocks to see if he will lock up the hall. Aaron has declined this, Greg Hamilton and Graham Mitchell to split duties pending an alternative.
- viii. **Loading Steward/Loading Plan**
 1. Loading plan to be the same as last year, i.e., clubs basketing at the SAHPA to load on south side, all other clubs on the north side, or as advised by the Loading Dock Manager Aaron Horrocks.
- ix. **Release Panel**
 1. Bronte Andrewartha, Lee Abbott, and David Walker will make up the Release Panel, with Bronte and Lee as co-chairs. David Walker is an additional member. For the longer races a representative of the LDC will also be involved. **Accepted – M, S, Carried**
- x. **2023 Race program to be advised to members in June 2022**
- b. **Canteen Management 2022**
 - i. Graham Mitchell unable to contact Robert Dixon.
 - ii. Greg Hodgins advised that the North Suburban Club are not interested in taking this on.
 - iii. Greg Hodgins suggested the Para Hills Club may take this on, he will approach the club.
- c. **Harvey Norman offer to members** – All members have been advised

- d. Discuss backup driver for Gerald**
 - i. Graham Mitchell to contact Justin Horrocks and Fred DiMella and see if they are interested. Tom Tirrell to contact Harvey Normand and see if their drivers may be interested.
- e. Coloured bird race – Greg Hodgins advised this is no longer a matter for discussion.
- f. Ricky Williams has requested an update on the CO2 monitor**
 - i. Graham Mitchell has since found the monitor in the SAHPA office. Further discussion will occur at our next meeting.
- g. Other Business**
 - i. David Walker is currently collating information for update to the website regarding the November convention. Greg Hamilton advised there is currently some information already on the website. Alan Agar is to monitor all information for consistency.
 - ii. David Walker advised that Alan Agar needs Graham Mitchell to provide an electronic copy of his signature.
 - iii. Warren March suggested the Release Panel should attend the COM. Greg Hamilton will discuss this with Bronte Andrewartha, in addition to discussing wording regarding release dates and ETAs, aiming for 1-1.30pm arrivals where possible.
 - iv. Greg Hodgins wanted to confirm the number of birds to be clocked for the SDC series. It was confirmed that 3 birds be entered to the SRRS, however there are no limits for the open results. The first bird only is eligible for race points.
 - v. Rick Williams queried bird eligibility for the 5 Bird Series. Unless nominated by the flyer the first 5 birds on the basketing list only are eligible.
 - vi. Rick Williams advised the Port Adelaide Club do not currently comply with CR50. Russell Somerville is to follow-up on this matter with the club chairman.
 - vii. Tom Tirrell advised that the font gates are dropping. A quote is to be obtained to straighten the gates and bolt them to the ground. Graham Mitchell to arrange.
 - viii. Tom Tirrell advised that the Yarraville Homing Club had generously donated \$10,000 to the SAHPA Junior's program. Our sincerest thanks go out to Matthew Ciancio, Robert Saggars, and Ross Hocking for facilitating this. There is to be an acknowledgment of this on the website, along with a letter of thanks.
 - ix. Russell Somerville provided an update on a legal case in WA where a pigeon flyer is being taken to court for operating on his own pigeon as birds are a vertebrate and as such can only be operated on by a vet. For further information please check out the Colin Walker video on the website, from our March Information Night.
 - x. Russell Somerville advised that the Release Panel needs to provide details of all releases promptly via the Forum.
 - xi. Russell Somerville advised that work on confirming Northings and Eastings is progressing.
 - xii. Greg Hamilton advised he is designing a Certificate of Appreciation, to be given to those nominated as having made a significant contribution to the SAHPA. Warren March will be presented with a certificate at the next COM meeting.

9. Meeting Closed at 10.30pm.

10. Next Meeting – Sunday 15th May 2022 at 2.00pm - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

PMV Rat Tests for Racing Pigeons

The key points about PMV Rats are: -

- 1/ Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) utilize lateral flow technology. They detect the presence of proteins associated with particular disease-causing agents.
- 2/ RATs have been developed to test for a number of disease-causing agents in birds, animals and humans.
- 3/ A RAT has been developed to test for PMV in chickens. As the viruses that cause PMV in chickens and in pigeons are very similar (as shown in particular by the ability of one vaccine to protect both chickens and pigeons) it is very likely, indeed almost certain, that the chicken PMV RAT will also detect PMV in pigeons
- 4/ We have imported some chicken PMV RATs but are keen to validate them in pigeons on cases confirmed to be PMV (by PCR or histopathology) before distributing them for use. Hopefully this opportunity will present itself in the coming weeks/months
- 5/ Once confirmed as diagnostic in pigeons we will make them available.
- 6/ In the PMV RAT a swab is rolled around inside the bird's vent or passed through fresh droppings. The tip of the swab is then placed into a vial filled with extraction fluid. After approx. 3 minutes the swab is removed, and several drops of the fluid dripped onto a test paper. A single line appears if the test has been done correctly. A second line appears if PMV is present in the sample
- 7/ The tests cost about \$9.50 each. The test can be done in 3 minutes at the loft by the fancier.