

## **SAHPA – AGM Lines of flight for one season 2024**

Two clubs have requested that the members vote on a change from the line of flight for 2024.

Under our constitution a Lines of Flight Special meeting is held in June of the last year of the line of flight that was voted on at the previous special meeting, we are due in June 2024 for the special meeting.

Once a line of flight and time for it to be flown is agreed we do not normally allow for the line to be changed. However at an Annual General Meeting, members do have the right to override the lines of flight if the majority want to make the change. The SAHPA Management Committee have accepted the motions from the two clubs, but have ruled that the line of flight that is voted on at the AGM will only be in place for the 2024 season and in June 2024 we will have the traditional Lines of flight special meeting which will decide for the future years, normally for 3 years (2025,2026 and 2027).

The March AGM voting slips will provide 4 options :

- 1) North East Line
- 2) East Line
- 3) Traditional South East Line
- 4) Lower South East Line





Members will be asked to number the options 1 to 4, 1 being their first preference. We will use Preferential voting, so when the votes are counted the option with the least number of votes, will then have their 2<sup>nd</sup> preference allocated, leaving 3 options, the option with the least number of votes, will then be distributed to the next option, there will only be 2 options left, the option with the most votes after the 3<sup>rd</sup> option is distributed will be the line chosen for 2024.

On social media there has been discussion, which we would like to explain :

- 1) Why do we have to wait until March to vote on what line we are flying in 2024 ?  
Under the constitution we should be racing NE line for 2024, however the only opportunity to override that line is by voting at the Annual General Meeting which is held in March. If a club wanted to call a special meeting to change the line, the SAHPA COM may have decided that under our rules, it is not correct to change lines of flight during the agreed period and the club would have needed to get a 75%+ majority to get it passed. At the AGM it is a simple majority.
- 2) Why was the initial draft a traditional South East line and not the Lower South East line closer to the coast.
  - a. The SAHPA COM did consider the lower south east line but decided that it was not the best option as we have had feed back over the years from convoyers and release panel members that the release points near the coast, often have early fog and mist and stronger winds being close to the coast and it is hard to get the birds released early.
  - b. The lower south east line longest race points are difficult to choose, as we wanted to avoid flying over Melbourne, so what has happened the last few years of racing SE we do a “dog leg” and the longer races such as Benalla and Springhurst are quite North of Melbourne and we try to avoid the Grampians.

3) Therefore the SAHPA COM proposed Traditional South East Line which has race points on a direct line to Benalla and Springhurst. However members will be able to vote for the lower south east, if that is what the majority want. Hopefully they vote for what is best for the racing pigeons and getting good returns rather than maximizing their overfly.



-  Lower South East Line
-  Traditional South East Line
-  East Line
-  North East Line