

The National Pigeon Association of Great Britain



Minutes of the meeting of the National Pigeon Association on 30th April 2023
Held at Holiday Inn, Hinckley Road, Walsgrave, Coventry CV2 2HP

Meeting Commenced at 10am

Present; David Iddon (Vice President), Nick Dawyd, Ken Goodman, Colin Jeckell (President), Colin Ronald, Mark Rudd (Chairman), Helen Seed (Secretary)

Working Party; Keith Brain

- 1) **Chairman's Welcome.** Mark welcomed all to the meeting and thanked those present for giving up their time to attend these meetings. Mark reminded all that we are here to serve the membership as a whole and should keep this in our minds when making any decisions.
- 2) **Apologies from Absence.** Graham Bates & Graham Giddings.
- 3) **Minutes of meeting held 19th February 2023.** The were proposed by Ken and seconded by Nick as a true reflection. All in favour.
- 4) **Matters Arising.** Ken mentioned that following on from the discussion on a Master Breeders award, he now had the relevant paperwork and would circulate under AOB. All other items are on the agenda for discussion.
- 5) **Committee decisions made between meetings.** The committee had agreed to contact all lapsed members from the last 2 years, Helen had contacted the majority via email and the reminder had received the same letter, posted by Graham G. There were some renewals from this exercise. It was also agreed that we must ensure that all members renewing in after the first issue of the current year's magazine has been posted that they must receive any 'back issues' owed.
- 6) **Membership/Ring Secretary's Report.** Graham G had circulated to the committee his monthly reports ahead of this meeting and his holidays. The current membership stands at 423 with 27 FPW subscribers only. 2022 saw membership numbers at 516, we all need to do all we can to maintain membership numbers. Ring sales are currently at 18,790 for YTD with 21,320 sold in 2022.
- 7) **Treasurers Report.** The association is still currently in a healthy financial situation with monies in the bank, however with the membership declining the committee are very aware that these funds must be used wisely. The committee will continue to monitor these funds.
- 8) **NPA Management.**
 - a) **Results of Conversation between CJ & GG.** Colin related the conversation between himself and Graham G regarding the concerns that were raised at February's meeting. Since this the committee has received a letter from Graham G outlining his plans to step down from the role but offered to support the committee fully with the transition to the successful candidate(s) to the role(s), which the committee are grateful for. Clarification was sort to answer the question raised by a member regarding the discrepancy in the honorarium taken by the Treasurer of £800.00 over the past 4/5 years. After a lengthy discussion and considering the correspondence

received it was agreed by those present that if, the transition to a new person(s) to the role of Membership Secretary/Treasurer must be in place for the start of the new financial year and that no further honorariums are paid for 2023/24 then this would be a closure to the matter.

- b) **New Membership Secretary role and recruitment, time scales and planning.** Given the agreement above the committee now must act to find a successful candidate(s) to ensure a smooth running of the association. All on present agreed that an advert must be produced and placed in FPW and online as soon as possible, with the aim for this to be all in place for 31st August. The committee had volunteers to caretake any part of the roles should this not be achieved to maintain the agreement made in 8a. There are a variety of options discussed around finding the most efficient at best way for those people in the roles to ensure that it works well for not only the association but the people carrying out the work on behalf of the membership. The committee felt that there would be candidates come forward for the position of Membership Secretary but less so if this role included the treasurer's position also. The committee discussed the how this currently works and the general feeling this is where the association could streamline a lot of the work by combining the role of General Secretary and Treasurer. Especially considering recent committee correspondence where work is having to be redone or corrected. Helen was asked her thoughts on this and whether that would be something to consider especially as a lot of the work regarding the associations finances both purchasing and invoice is carried out by her. Helen agreed to give this some thought. Helen to update a full list of the roles and responsibilities, this will be compiled from previous information and circulated to all for consideration. Helen to confirm with Jamie his thoughts on the role and the tasks he is carrying out and workload involved. All committee to be involved in the discussion. A letter outlining the plans of the committee and a thank you to be sent from the committee to Graham G and a courtesy phone call made by Colin J.
- c) **One Drive and filing of old info. How it works.** Helen advised the committee that the NPA files are continuing to be saved to a One Drive account, with the option to share with committee members either as a read only file or with permissions to edit. Currently even with only the file Helen has this has a cost implication of £5.99 a month, which the committee are happy with. This may increase once all the files are uploaded. Helen would need to upload all the files and grant access from one account. The committee feel this again will streamline the workings of the committee and ensure safer storage of the committees' workings.
- d) **Section Changes, letter to Championship Show Secretaries.** Helen to write to all championship show secretaries advising them of the new club and the changes to the sectioning of their shows. There will now be no blowers in the RVPC, and judges will be moved over as required on the judging list and added information from the club has been requested. Jamie also to be advised so he is aware to check for this in the schedules as they come in for approval.
- e) **Club Returns and judges list, Rep Reports.** Colin Jeckell to seek the information required to complete the exercise as required for a study of the shows. Jamie is producing an updated rep report to assist him with the checking of ring numbers, and this will be available ahead of the show season.
- f) **Outstanding Information and Payments, and record keeping.** This information is currently circulated monthly; however, it was felt for better record collection this could be done digitally

and less on paper. Also recording information on a spreadsheet that covered multiple years on one document would be a better way to record rather than a new document year by year to ensure payments are accurately recorded. Yearly information ideally to be collated onto one document. This to be considered when new membership secretary is in place. Yearly accounts document to remain the same this works well.

- g) **GG Proposal for increasing cost of rings and limiting ring quantities.** The committee discussed the suggestions from Graham G to a) increase ring charges to £5.00 for 10 and b) limit number of rings a member can buy of each size. The committee felt that neither of these proposals were the right decision for the association at this time. Colin J asked about alternative suppliers away from the EE as a ring supplier, the pitfalls of this were discussed and the ring supplier to remain as is. Colin R to include membership increase and no ring cost increase in Junes opening piece.
- h) **Master Breeders Certificates and other certs to be printed.** It assists in the streamlining of NPA stationery and the ease of producing awards it was agreed to use the contemporary design across all NPA awards with slight differences in each. Artwork to be created then sent to be checked by the committee with the plan to print. Textured Card. New biscuit stamp and red seals to be ordered asap.

Master Breeders 25no, Junior (Mascot) 10no, Hall of Fame (no image) 10no,

Lifetime Award (feather) 50no

9) Positive Management and Promotion.

- a) **Fancy Pigeon World - reminder of Junes inclusions.** The committee was reminded of the tasks required for inclusion in the next issue as minutes of Feb 2023. The committee discussed which address should go on the membership form in June's issue as the committee must ensure the best workings and transferral on information, ideally all digitally. Ken kindly offered to be on hand for assisting with any post, there was also the possibility of setting up a PO Box which then can be diverted as required.
- b) **Poultry Magazine - any updates, Advert in BHW.** The committee agreed to continue to look at ways to advertise but to be mindful of costs and use articles wherever possible. It was agreed to print the show calendar in BHW with the date to be ahead of the first show. Colin J to write an article which includes show date and contact information that can be submitted to various publications
- c) **Ring Nomination Scheme.** The committee were happy with the contents of the email received from Graham B regarding the potential changes to the sectioning of the ring nomination scheme for 2024. There followed a discussion around how to make this competition improved and whether a greater rethink might be required to attract more members to participate. This discussion can continue via email.

- d) **Section Champion Awards.** Club returns are now being shared between Helen and Jamie with the aim for this award to be auto awarded. However, this can be claimed currently and 3 have been received from 2 exhibitors, Helen to instructor Graeme Boyd to engrave as agreed to be presented in the upcoming show season.
- e) **Pigeons Of Today - Need for separate meeting to collate data and distribute workload.** It was agreed that there was a need to hold a meeting dedicated to this publication to get this to print asap. It was agreed that in Junes meeting the essentials will be covered and that the remainder in the meeting would be spent of Pigeons of Today. All files to be placed on Dropbox or similar for the committee to see, then going forward work on.
- f) **New Breed Club - Figurita** Due to ill health this new club is on hold with plans to continue with this in the future.
- g) **New Breed Standard - Galatz** Nick has been liaising with the Club regarding the standard and we now have an English version of the standard which all involved are happy with. This breed can now be shown in the UK. Helen to contact the club and advise them of this and if they wish to affiliate then they would have to do so as a Breed Club not an association of fanciers
- h) **Coloured Racing Pigeons.** All shows can put on classes for racers to be judged on colour alone but there is no standard recognised by the NPA.
- i) **CJ Judging aboard.** Colin J is going judging in Malta and has requested to take rosettes with him, CJ to liaise with Jamie to obtain these. Rosettes are due from the manufacturers in June.
- j) **BPSS National Show - Outlook of the NPA National & Improvements**
 Letter from Richard Henderson
 Comments via email from GB.
 A letter was received and read out from Richard Henderson thanking the committee for their sponsorship of £1200.00 for the 2022 show and the hope that the BPSS and the NPA could continue to work together. Richard asked if the committee could consider using FPW to print the BPSS schedule in so that all NPA members received the schedule.
 Graham B had produced costs to the association on this matter.

'With some reduction in content of the National Show schedule it would fit onto 8 pages of A4, which would increase the cost of print at today's prices from £641 to £785 a difference of £144.) The postage of the magazine will not increase as it would still be within the weight bracket for 2nd class large letter which is 100g to 250g.'

David Iddon advised the committee that he is a member and currently President of the BPSS and would engage in the discussion but given he is an active part of the BPSS he would not vote on this matter, which is the correct thing to do.

The Chairman raised the concerns that some committee members are involved with the BPSS committee as well, so this does raise a potential conflict of interest. Also, the chairman raised the possibility of the members of the association deciding the location of their National Show in future years

The committee discussed how they felt the show went in general and some things they would like to see improved/changed. Mainly why one of the Best in Show judges did not remove a bird from the pen when judging and why invited foreign judges did not use the correct standard. Nick also raised the question of a blower breed going forward for best blower when the class judge had disqualified this award, due to lice.

Nick would like to see the prize cards produced by the committee rather than the BPSS.

The committee did discuss the long-term viability of the show in its current format as without substantial sponsorship this event loses money, other things to consider is the future costs at the venue.

The committee returned to the discussion of the schedule printing, the general feel that the idea that the schedule goes to all members was a good idea.

Helen did remind the committee that the BPSS had received address labels for all members and had extra funds from the NPA which could have been used to facilitate this in 2022 but this hadn't been done by the BPSS.

A copy of the 2022 schedule had very roughly been mocked up in magazine format and the committee had reservations especially about the appearance and the number of pages it would take up in the magazine. The committee felt it was important not to affect the content of September's issue given the percentage of show members. To increase the magazine to 44 pages is the maximum to not increase the postage costs, this would increase the magazine print cost by £216.00

The NPA committee had access to the BPSS balance sheet and could see that they have a print cost for schedules of £259.20, after a quick check online it could be found that for around this figure 500 schedules could be printed. All work and setup of the schedule to remain the responsibility of the BPSS so not to incur any set up costs. This needed more thought and the committee have time to do this, as any agreement wouldn't have been able to be made at this meeting.

10) Correspondence.

Question from Colin Jones, Colin would like to purchase new patches for awards already received the committee have advised this can be done and a cost of £5.00 each

Paul Allen asked for the DEFRA survey regarding registering of 'flocks' to be changed to include all birds of any quantity. The committee are aware, and many have completed the survey, some committee members are already registered with DEFRA, the committee encourage individuals to complete the survey, but the NPA has no mandate to correspond with DEFRA on the membership behalf

11) Any Other Business.

Master Breeder nomination received from The Lahore Club; this was agreed by the committee to award this.

David Iddon recalled his conversation with a newer fancier and the feasible options to introduce a mentoring scheme, the committee felt this is something that could be explored further.