

# ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES of the 125th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association held at the Novotel Hotel, Bostocks Lane, Long Eaton, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 4EP on Friday 29th October 2021 at 9.00am.

Present: D H Bridges (Chair)-DY, L Blacklock-CA, S Briggs-IR, G Cockshott-NE, N Darby-WM, J Dodd-EM, T Gardner-WS, P Hammond-WM, R Harris-SO, D Headon-DC, D Higgins-NE, S Mellor-NW, C O'Hare-IR, J Waters-WE, S Finan (for J Gladwin)-LN, S Collishaw (for Alistair Ewart)-EM, A Williams-LN, N Blakemore-WE (for B Walsh), P Clements-WE

Apologies: A Ewart, J Gladwin, C Gordon, R Shirley, J Heague, B Walsh, S Richards (Editor BHW)

In Attendance: Ian Evans-CEO, Lyna Zhang-Finance Manager, Julia Field-Office Manager (minutes).

Observers: Keith Blount-DY, S Reed (Reserve D&SY), C Gardner

The meeting was opened by the President Mr D Bridges who thanked everyone for attending and welcomed Councillors, Reserve Delegates, the Chief Executive Officer, RPRAs staff and members of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

L Blacklock asked for confirmation that Rule 46 certificates had been received by RPRAs HQ for all delegates present. This was confirmed. Mr Blacklock observed that there were three delegates present from the Western Region when the Region was only permitted two delegates. Mr Waters was in attendance as the delegate for 2020 and could therefore remain in the meeting as a delegate until the completion of 2020 business at which point, he would need to step aside. In the meantime, the question was asked of the remaining two delegates (Mr Clements and Mr Blakemore) as to which one of them would 'step aside' until the completion of 2020 business. Both Mr Clements and Mr Blakemore refused to step aside while 2020 business was concluded. Therefore, all three delegates were asked to leave the room, which they did.

R Harris, S Finan and A Williams objected to this instruction.

## Point of Order – Rule 45

D Bridges stated that an objection by a member of the Western Region had been lodged with the Western Region secretary, to the legitimacy of their AGM and subsequent appointment of their delegates. Proposed by J Dodd, seconded by L Blacklock, with 10 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention,

That the status quo remains until the objection has been heard at the next Appeals committee meeting.

Western Region delegates returned to the meeting room at 9.16am

Mr Bridges said to Mr N Blakemore and Mr P Clements that while there was an objection waiting to go to the Appeals committee, they would not be able to vote at the AGM and were asked to sit back from the table. Mr Blakemore said they knew nothing of the objection. This was followed by a heated discussion in which Mr Blakemore called Mr Bridges a liar. Mr Bridges produced an email from Mr Blakemore stating that he was aware of the objection. Mr Blakemore said it was not sent by him.

Mr Bridges again asked Mr Blakemore and Mr Clements to leave the meeting which they did, at 9.30am.

Mr Finan asked had a rule 46 certificate been received in respect of Mr Waters. It was confirmed that it had been received for 2020 but not 2021. A discussion followed that ended with Mr Waters stating that in order to move progress and not jeopardise the legitimacy of the AGM he would abstain from the 2021 business

## MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Proposed by D Higgins, seconded by L Blacklock and unanimously agreed that:

The minutes of the 124th Annual General Meeting of 28th February 2020 with an amendment to page 1; Mr Gladwin is a member of the London Region and not the Southern Region as stated, the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

RPRAs AGM Annual report presented by the RPRAs CEO on behalf of the Executive Committee

## RACING

On 11th March 2020, the COVID-19 Virus was recorded as a Pandemic, leading to worldwide restrictions that impacted on everyone's daily life. In order to try and limit the spread of the virus the UK Government and all devolved Governments introduced certain restrictions regarding social gatherings and travel. This meant training and racing pigeons was not possible. The RPRAs was quick to react by announcing that training was strictly prohibited, and that Racing could not take place until further notice.

The RPRAs council then took the decision to

provide the President, Vice Presidents and myself with appropriate authority to do whatever was required to get racing underway as soon as was practically possible. This proved to be an essential decision, placing the RPRAs in the best possible position to react to threats and opportunities.

Over the next few months, the Executive committee met on a weekly basis to discuss any updates coming from Government. On the 1st June pigeon racing became the first competitive sport to get underway, beating multi billion pound industries such as Horse racing to the starting line. An achievement that should not be overlooked and was only possible due to the decision to allow the Executive committee to be flexible in their approach and not be tied by existing rules that would make racing impossible. This achievement is testament to the infrastructure in place at the RPRAs and the willingness of Council to place responsibility and authority in the hands of a small group. Following the provision of the relevant infrastructure to facilitate racing during restrictions, it was then over to the hard-working officials, convoyers and volunteers at clubs, Federations etc. who duly delivered racing for their members. At this point it is important to note that Government was NOT going to come to the RPRAs and give the go ahead for racing. It was up to the RPRAs to make racing possible while adhering to the restrictions and rules in place at any point in time.

I must say that it was a refreshing change to be part of a committee where everyone, without exception, was working towards the same common goal – racing! Although there were differences in opinion, these opinions were taken on board by all members of the group, then debated and a common approach agreed towards achieving our common objective. No ulterior motives or agendas, no underhanded actions, one agenda and total focus on the task ahead. Even so it was disappointing to experience what we believe to be negative comments and actions towards this goal, including what we believe to be from some Regional representatives and a member of Council. People who should surely be supportive of any aim to deliver racing. Some may even arrive at the position that there was an active attempt to undermine the actions of the committee and thereby jeopardise racing for our members. Perhaps these individuals or small group wanted the Executive committee to fail, even if that meant jeopardising racing.

It was also disappointing to be told that even during lockdown when travel was prohibited and following the RPRAs statement that training was prohibited that a small group of

## RESULTS OF VOTING AT 2021 AGM

<i>Proposition</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Proposition</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstentions</i>	<i>Result</i>
21/1	13	3	1	CARRIED	21/7	5	11	1	LOST
21/2	1	13	3	LOST	21/8	8	8		STATUS QUO
21/3	7	9	1	LOST	21/9	12	4	1	CARRIED
21/4	11	5	1	CARRIED	21/10	7	9	1	LOST
21/5	2	14	1	LOST	21/11	5	11	1	LOST
21/6	RULED OUT OF ORDER				21/12	8	8		STATUS QUO

individuals ignored this fact and carried out training. The actions of a minority had the possible impact of bringing the sport into disrepute and also jeopardise the aim of achieving racing ASAP. Evidence of such a case was brought to the attention of one RPRa Region. However, this Region refused to investigate this situation. This is disappointing to say the least and something that Council should consider carefully.

As we approached the 2021 Racing Season the country was again in lockdown. Given the guidance and infrastructure put in place for 2020 we were confident that we would be able to facilitate racing as soon as restrictions were relaxed. However, the Avian Influenza levels in the UK were at an unprecedented level. If it wasn't for the Covid pandemic the avian influenza level in the UK would have probably been the focus of the mainstream media. As part of the disease control measures implemented by DEFRA the general license for all bird gatherings was revoked meaning we had no legal basis to carry out racing. Over the past 5 years we have built on a good working relationship with DEFRA and APHA officials. This has included a concerted effort to ensure adherence to the General license conditions. The Avian Influenza code of practice developed by the RPRa and DEFRA and completed in 2018, would place the sport in the best possible position to commence racing as early as possible in the event of Avian Influenza. During the outbreak I attended regular stakeholder meetings at the invitation of DEFRA to receive regular updates and also have an input. During these stakeholder meetings the RPRa process to ensure compliance to the general license conditions and the agreed code was discussed and we were encouraged to share this with other stakeholders to assist in raising the awareness and improving the processes by way of compliance. I have no doubt that coupled with the fact that Pigeon Racing is seen as low risk in terms of the spread of the disease; that the improved compliance to the license conditions that in turn has an impact in reducing perceived/calculated risk was essential in achieving the green light for pigeon racing as early as we did and before the license was reinstated for other species.

### BREXIT AND NEW ANIMAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

Following the UK's decision to leave the European Union the possible impact this could have on Channel racing was high on the agenda of the RPRa. Initially the feedback we received was there was no likely impact due to the fact that the historic, and at the time, existing EU regulation (2013/139) provided exemptions from any

Animal Health requirements for Racing pigeons when moved from Third Countries (Countries outside of the EU) into the Union with the intention that they are released to fly back to that third country. However, the new animal health regulation 2016/429 and the delegated regulation 2020/692 did not include exemptions for pigeon racing. Lobbying to change the content of the regulation and delegated acts commenced immediately. An agreed interim period was implemented for member states to move pigeons between their borders for a period of 6 months from 21st April 2021. However, this initial transitional period did not include pigeons moved from Third Countries and therefore lobbying continued. In May we

received the news from DEFRA that regulations 2020/692 would also be subject to a transitional period and that we could therefore move pigeons onto the continent under the old/existing requirements. However, it soon became apparent that during the transitional period member states could apply their own national rules. The French decided to implement national rules that were as onerous as the new EU animal Health regulations that had made racing from the continent impossible. At this point it is important to note that only two ports to mainland Europe from the UK have been approved for the movement of racing pigeons, namely Caen and Cherbourg. This meant that the only avenue to any

#### Voting for RPRa officials:

##### President

Nominated: Les Blacklock – Proposed by D. Higgins, seconded by J. Dodd – 12 for 3 abstentions. = 15 votes.

##### Vice-Presidents

Nominated: Stuart Mellor – Proposed by S. Briggs, seconded by J. Dodd. Unanimous.

Nominated: David Bridges – Proposed by David Higgins, seconded by T. Gardner. Unanimous.

Nominated: Paul Hammond – proposed by G. Cockshott, seconded by D. Headon. Unanimous.

#### Voting on the RPRa propositions as follows:

21/1: Proposed West Midlands Region, seconded Cumbria Region, Carried, 13 for, 3 against, 1 abstention.

21/2: Proposed West Midlands Region, vote against the proposition, seconded East Mildand Region, Lost, 1 for, 13 against, 3 abstention (Therefore the proposition failed),

21/3: Proposed West Midlands Region, seconded Cumbria Region, Defeated, 7 for, 9 against, 1 abstention.

21/4: Proposed West Midlands

Region, seconded Cumbria Region, Carried, 11 for, 5 against, 1 abstention.

21/5: Proposed Cumbria Region, seconded Welsh Region, Defeated, 2 for, 14 against, 1 abstention.

21/6: Proposition was deemed out of order.

21/7: Proposed Cumbria Region, seconded North East Region, Defeated, 5 for, 11 against, 1 abstention.

21/8: Proposed Cumbria Region, seconded West Midlands Region, 8 for, 8 against, Status Quo remains.

21/9: Proposed West Midlands Region, seconded Cumbria Region, Carried, 12 for, 4 against, 1 abstention.

21/10: Proposed North East Region, seconded West Midlands Region, Defeated, 7 for, 9 against, 1 abstention.

21/11: Proposed Derbyshire & S. Yorkshire Region, seconded Cumbria Region, Defeated, 5 for, 11 against, 1 abstention.

21/12: Proposed West Midlands Region, seconded Welsh Region, 8 for, 8 against, 1 abstention; Status Quo remains.

European country was through French ports and subject to French rules. Moving forward this could prove an issue for organisations and therefore we need to continue lobbying to increase the number of ports able to authorise pigeons.

The lack of Channel racing has the potential to be catastrophic to the sport in the UK and therefore it was essential that a solution was achieved as soon as possible. To achieve this position the help of our continental friends and organisations including the FCI, FCF and French Senator Decool were essential. I want to give particular mention to Andre Hoche (long term friend of the RPRA and regular attendee of the BHW SOY) whose willingness, knowledge and enthusiasm had no barrier.

Within the UK we were lucky to have a voice within parliament in the form of the APPG and a very supportive Chair, Craig Williams MP for Montgomeryshire. The support from DEFRA/APHA and various politicians notably John Hedley MP and Shadow Secretary of state were also welcomed. Mark Gilbert was also very supportive and vital in obtaining/ securing political support on the continent through his extensive contacts.

With the help of all these organisations and individuals we are now at a position whereby the EU has agreed exemptions for pigeons moved from third countries to the European Union. The amendments to the delegated act means that the requirements for Health certificates and quarantine prior to races and at the country of destination have been removed. This is a major step. What remains is for DEFRA to confirm with the commission whether there are changes required to the vaccination process and how we will register each loft with the competent authority (DEFRA).

### **THE REDDINGS**

After many years of trying, the sale of the Redding's was finally completed and saw a change to the historic home of the RPRA. Following failure to purchase a number of properties since the sale I am now confident we have found a new permanent home. With a fair wind we should complete the purchase by the end of the year.

### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PROJECT**

Richard Chambers continues to be a great asset to the RPRA and the sport. His enthusiasm and passion for our sport knows no boundaries. Despite the pandemic the schools project continues to grow and flourish. Richard has prepared a report to Council for later today and therefore I will not go into any further detail in terms of his work and achievements; I will leave this for Richard later today.

### **RPRA ONE LOFT**

The RPRA one loft saw the resurrection of the Yearling race. This proved a testing series of races to say the least. However, Jeremy and his team ensured a successful yearling and young bird race programme. We are very lucky to have Jeremy as our loft manager. The rate of returns when compared to other UK one lofts races and the general demand for the race demonstrates that it continues to be a great success.

### **STAFF**

It would not be right to end this report without acknowledging the hard-working staff at both the RPRA and BHW. The staff delivered a great service to the members under difficult circumstances and their contribution should not be underestimated. We wish to put on record our thanks for all their hard work and dedication.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media has many positive aspects in relation to sharing information and promoting the sport. Unfortunately, some people use the platform for negative reasons. The abuse experienced by RPRA officials, staff, club and Federation officials is totally unacceptable. People need to realise that they are responsible for the actions and more importantly we need an avenue to take speedy and appropriate action against such individuals. The negative impact this abuse had on people's mental health and wellbeing should not be underestimated.

### **INFORMATION**

There are agreed routes and processes for sharing information. Unfortunately, the 'leaking' of information that is then presented in a misleading way continues to be a problem. This information must be coming from one of two sources, staff or council with the latter being the most probable source. With this in mind I have carried out an investigation among staff. This has revealed that at least one member of council has been requesting information from at least one member of staff. Council should now consider how we proceed as this in our mind is a clear misuse or abuse of their position and should be dealt with accordingly.

### **BLACKPOOL**

Due to the pandemic the 2021 Blackpool show could not go ahead. However, the SOY committee driven by the Chairman David Trippett were passionate about delivering the show in another format. Therefore, the possibility of an online version was explored. A new website was developed to facilitate the online show. This was a great success that was due in no small part to the passion and enthusiasm of the RPRA Development Officer who worked hard to get the website up and running and make it as user friendly as possible.

### **Communication**

Over the past couple of years, the way of communicating from HQ to its members has improved dramatically. We have the historic way of communicating through the BHW but in the modern day this communication is sometimes not quick enough and therefore other avenues such as 'pigeon post' (an email-based platform that individuals can sign up to), emails to club secretaries and social media have been pursued and improved.

### **THE ASSOCIATION FINANCES**

It is no secret that the RPRA has been losing money for a number of years. The cracks have been covered by the profit generated by the BHW. However, over a number of years the profit margins at the BHW have been reducing. The accounts published for the year ending 31st October

2020 demonstrated a significant consolidated loss. This should come as no surprise to council as the forecasts presented by the Finance Manager at previous meetings predicted this position. With the poor financial forecast and the potential impact of the pandemic the Executive Committee commenced a review of the organisation finances that resulted a series of recommendations being presented to Council. Council then put forward a number of propositions to this AGM in an attempt to mitigate the massive financial risk to this Association.

These recommendations included reducing the staffing overheads and a change to the Governance structure to make the association as financially efficient as possible before any consideration is given to raising the subscription rate. The Financial reports presented later today will demonstrate that the BHW staffing costs are down year to date by £30,000. RPRA staffing levels have been reduced by £45,000. This reduction in staffing costs has been achieved by empowering a small group of people with the right motivation to make changes required. In order to provide clarity in respect of the proposals I wrote to each Region offering to attend their next meeting to provide the detailed background to these proposals. The committee were disappointed that only Welsh, London, West Midland and Western Regions took up this offer. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the London Region meeting. I would like to personally thank the West Midland and Welsh Regions for their positive reception and the way in which they demonstrated a real openness to understanding and evaluating the content of the report.

There are reported suggestions by some including a member of this Council that the large loss experienced by the RPRA in 2020 was down to the Executive committee. This just shows the lack of willingness to recognise weaknesses in the current Governance structure and possibly their own contribution over a number of years to manage the association finances in a way that this situation could be avoided. This was not the Executive committee's fault; it was a major issue that we inherited and if it wasn't for urgent actions taken by the Executive in relation to staffing costs the picture would have been a lot worse.

### **SUMMARY**

We should all be proud of what the RPRA has achieved during the pandemic. Again, it was the RPRA leading the way when it came to racing under covid restrictions, Avian Influenza and the new Animal Health Regulations. It provides the infrastructure to facilitate racing in the UK and is at the forefront of representing the sport. We are all proud to have been a part of this Executive Group and its achievements. However, unless 'we' (council and Regions) get a grip of the finances in the very near future then the RPRA is at great risk. The level of reserves will only sustain the RPRA for a relatively short period. Early indications are that the proposals put forward to rationalise the Governance expenditure of the association and to allow the association to raise its income accordingly will fail. Therefore, despite the actions taken to substantially reduce

staffing costs the association will still make a significant loss this year and next year. The CEO added his thanks to D Bridges for his support.

Proposed by D Higgins, seconded by T Gardner, with 15 votes for and 2 abstentions, that:

The report be accepted with a vote of thanks to the Chief Executive Officer. The report to be published in its totality in the British Homing World.

#### ACCOUNTS 2020

The RPRA accounts were circulated and reviewed at the meeting.

Proposed by S Briggs, seconded by T Gardner, with 12 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions

That the accounts for 2020 be accepted.

Mr D Bridges stepped down as President. On behalf of the Cumbria Region Mr L Blacklock gave thanks to Mr Bridges for his 3 ½ years' service. This was endorsed by the North East, Welsh, North West and West Midlands Regions.

Mr Ian Evans gave his personal thanks to Mr J Waters, Mr G Cockshott and Mr Hammond for their support.

#### THE BUSINESS FOR 2020 IS CONCLUDED

#### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Proposed by D Higgins, seconded by J Dodd, with 12 votes for and 4 abstentions, that:

Mr L Blacklock be elected as President  
Mr Blacklock took the chair and said that anger is normal, difference of opinion is healthy. With membership declining here and all over Europe, let's work together and move on. Thank you.

#### ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

Proposed by S Briggs, seconded by J Dodd and unanimously resolved that:  
Mr S Mellor be elected Vice-President

Proposed by D Higgins, seconded by T Gardner and unanimously resolved that:  
Mr D Bridges be elected Vice-President

Proposed by G Cockshott, seconded by D Headon and unanimously resolved that:  
Mr P Hammond be elected Vice-President

#### ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Proposed by D Higgins, seconded by S Briggs, with 15 for and 2 abstentions resolved that:

We retain Hazelwoods LLP, Chartered Accountants as auditors

#### ELECTION OF SOLICITORS

Proposed by J Dodd, seconded by G Cockshott, with 12 for and 5 abstentions resolved that:

We retain Rickerbys LLP as solicitors

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Proposed by S Briggs, seconded by D Higgins, with 14 for and 3 abstentions resolved that:  
L Blacklock, D Higgins & R Shirley remain as trustees

#### FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES and CLOCK, RING & WEATHER FORECAST COMMITTEE

Proposed by J Dodd, seconded by S Briggs and unanimously resolved that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), D Bridges, S Briggs, A Ewart, N Darby, C Gordon, A Williams, D Headon, T Gardner, R arris, S Mellor & R Shirley. Western Region – vacant.

#### EMERGENCY & RULES and LIBERATION SITES

Proposed by S Briggs, seconded by N Darby, with 16 for and 1 abstention that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock, D Bridges, C O'Hare, D Higgins, J Dodd, R Harris, D Headon, T Gardner, P Hammond (Chair), S Mellor, J Gladwin, R Shirley, Western Region – vacant.

#### BRITISH HOMING WORLD MANAGEMENT

Proposed by S Collishaw, seconded by O'Hare, with 16 for and 1 abstention that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), D Bridges, S Briggs, J Dodd, P Hammond, A Williams, D Higgins, R Harris, D Headon, T Gardner, S Mellor, R Shirley, Western Region – vacant, I Evans (CEO), S Richards (Editor)

#### APPEALS

Proposed by N Darby, seconded by A Williams, with 16 votes and 1 Abstention, that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), D Bridges, C O'Hare, J Dodd, P Hammond, J Gladwin, D Higgins, R Harris, D Headon, T Gardner, S Mellor, R Shirley, Western Region – vacant

#### REDDINGS HOUSE

Proposed by D Higgins, seconded by D Headon, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

The Reddings House committee be renamed the Buildings Committee

#### BUILDINGS (formerly Reddings House)

Proposed by N Darby, seconded by D Bridges, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), N Darby, D Headon, C Gordon, R Harris, D Higgins, R Shirley.

#### FUTURE OF THE SPORT

Proposed by J Dodd, seconded by S Briggs, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), D Bridges, C Gordon, D Higgins, J Dodd, P Hammond, R Harris, D Headon, A Williams, T Gardner, C O'Hare.

#### OLYMPIAD

Proposed by P Hammond, seconded by J Dodd, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), D Bridges, C Gordon, R Harris, D Headon, R Shirley, N Darby

#### PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS

Proposed by T Gardner, seconded by S Briggs, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:  
The committee consists of L Blacklock (Chair), D Bridges, J Dodd, C Gordon, P Hammond, R Harris.

#### FEDERATION COLOMBOPHILE INTERNATIONALE

Proposed by J Dodd, seconded by D

Headon, with 14 votes and 3 abstentions, that:

L Blacklock and D Higgins (reserve) remain as delegates

#### STANDING CONFERENCE ON COUNTRYSIDE SPORTS

Proposed by L Blacklock, seconded by P Hammond, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

J Gladwin and RPRA CEO Ian Evans remain as delegates.

#### CONFEDERATION OF LONG-DISTANCE RACING PIGEONS OF GB & N.

#### IRELAND

Proposed by J Dodd, seconded by D Headon, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

D Bridges, S Mellor, and N Darby be delegates

PIGEON RACING UK & EIRE (RAPTOR ALLIANCE)

Proposed by S Briggs, seconded by G Cockshott, with 16 votes and 1 abstention, that:

D Higgins, T Gardner and CEO Ian Evans remain as delegates.

#### PROPOSITIONS

21/1 Proposed by West Midlands, seconded by Cumbria

#### Delete rule 26

*Each club (including any National or Specialist club) shall before 1st March each year pay to the secretary of its Local Region an annual payment to the Association of £2.00 (inclusive of VAT) for each member of the club except any member who has paid the annual payment through another club.*

#### Replace with

Each club (including any National or Specialist club) shall before 1st March each year pay to the secretary of its Local Region an annual payment to the Association of £2.00 (inclusive of VAT) for each member of the club except any member who has paid the annual payment through another club. **Any member of a national or specialist club who pays their RPRA fees direct to their Region shall also pay the £2 insurance fee.**

CARRIED – 13 For, 3 Against, 1 Abstention

21/2 Proposal by West Midlands, seconded by East Midlands against the proposition

#### Delete rule 27

*Each Club (including any National or Specialist Club) shall pay to the Secretary of its Local Region. (a) an annual subscription to the Association £7 (inclusive of VAT) for each member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription through another Club. (b) and an annual subscription to the Clubs Local Region of £3 for every member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription to the Local Region through another Club. (c) all Junior members under the age of 18 who are members of a Club will pay an annual subscription to the Association of £3*

*(inclusive of VAT) except any Junior member that has paid their subscription to the Association through another Club. and an annual Page 5 subscription of £2 (inclusive of VAT) to the Clubs Local Region except any junior member that has paid their subscription to the Local Region through another Club*

**Replace with**

Each Club (including any National or Specialist Club) shall pay to the Secretary of its Local Region. (a) an annual subscription to the Association £9 (inclusive of VAT) for each member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription through another Club. (b) and an annual subscription to the Clubs Local Region of £1 for every member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription to the Local Region through another Club. (c) all Junior members under the age of 18 who are members of a Club will pay an annual subscription to the Association of £3 (inclusive of VAT) except any Junior member that has paid their subscription to the Association through another Club. and an annual Page 5 subscription of £2 (inclusive of VAT) to the Clubs Local Region except any junior member that has paid their subscription to the Local Region through another Club

LOST – 13 for, 1 Against, 3 Abstentions

21/ 3 Proposed by West Midlands, seconded by Cumbria

**Delete rules 27 & 32**

**Rule 27**

*Each Club (including any National or Specialist Club) shall pay to the Secretary of its Local Region.*

*(a) an annual subscription to the Association £7 (inclusive of VAT) for each member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription through another Club.*

*(b) and an annual subscription to the Clubs Local Region of £3 for every member of the Club except any member who has paid their annual subscription to the Local Region through another Club.*

*(c) all Junior members under the age of 18 who are members of a Club will pay an annual subscription to the Association of £3 (inclusive of VAT) except any Junior member that has paid their subscription to the Association through another Club and an annual subscription of £2 (inclusive of VAT) to the Clubs Local Region except any junior member that has paid their subscription to the Local Region through another Club.*

**Rule 32**

*An individual Member shall pay*

*(a) An annual subscription of £5 to the Association and*

*(b) An annual subscription of £5 to his Local Region.*

*(c) An individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to the Association an annual subscription of £3.*

*(d) an individual Junior member under*

*the age of 18 will pay to their Local Region an annual subscription of £2. All individual subscriptions shall be paid to the Secretary of the Local Region not later than 1st March each year and are inclusive of VAT. Individual members will only be entitled to the privileges and benefits of the Association when the fees for that year have been paid. Individual members may apply from 1st November for the following years membership.*

**Replace with**

**The annual membership subscription shall be set annually by the Council.**

Such subscriptions shall be paid by each Club (excluding any National or Specialist Club) for each member of the club except for any member who has paid their annual subscription through another Club.

**Individual members (those who are not a member of a club, excluding national or specialist clubs) shall pay their fee direct to their Region. All individual subscriptions shall be paid to the Secretary of the Local Region not later than 1st March each year.**

**Individual members will only be entitled to the privileges and benefits of the Association when the fees for that year have been paid. Individual members may apply from 1st November for the following years membership.**

LOST – 7 For, 9 Against, 1 Abstention

21/4 Proposed by West Midlands, seconded by Cumbria

**Delete rule 30**

*All National and Specialist Clubs shall have on their annual subscription form a statement to the effect 'I certify that I have paid my RPRAs subscription to . . . Club.' All members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay their RPRAs subscriptions and Region subscriptions through their local club or Region. Members who are only members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay these fees directly to their Local Region Secretary.*

**Replace with**

All National and Specialist Clubs shall have on their annual subscription form a statement to the effect 'I certify that I have paid my RPRAs subscription and insurance premium to . . . Club.' All members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay their RPRAs subscriptions and Region subscriptions through their local club or Region. Members who are only members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay these fees directly to their Local Region Secretary.

CARRIED – 11 For, 5 Against, 1 Abstention

21/ 5 Proposed by Cumbria, seconded by Welsh Region

**Delete rule 32**

*An individual Member shall pay (a) An annual subscription of £5 to the Association and (b) An annual subscription of £5 to his Local Region.*

*(c) An individual Junior member under*

*the age of 18 will pay to the Association an annual subscription of £3. (d) an individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to their Local Region an annual subscription of £2. All individual subscriptions shall be paid to the Secretary of the Local Region not later than 1st March each year and are inclusive of VAT. Individual members will only be entitled to the privileges and benefits of the Association when the fees for that year have been paid. Individual members may apply from 1st November for the following years membership.*

**Replace with**

An individual Member shall pay (a) An annual subscription of £9 to the Association and (b) An annual subscription of £1 to his Local Region. (c) An individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to the Association an annual subscription of £3. (d) an individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to their Local Region an annual subscription of £2. All individual subscriptions shall be paid to the Secretary of the Local Region not later than 1st March each year and are inclusive of VAT. Individual members will only be entitled to the privileges and benefits of the Association when the fees for that year have been paid. Individual members may apply from 1st November for the following year's membership.

LOST – 2 For, 14 Against, 1 Abstention

Proposed by Cumbria, Seconded by North-East Region

**Delete rule 39**

*The officers of the Association shall be a President and three Vice Presidents who shall be elected from delegates representing four different Local Regions at the annual general meeting of the Association and shall hold office for one year. Any officer shall be eligible for re-election provided that no officer shall hold the same office for more than three successive years. The conduct of the nominations for and election of officers shall be regulated by the Council*

**Replace with**

The officers of the Association are the President and three Vice Presidents. These officers shall along with the CEO operate as an Executive Committee of the RPRAs. Such officers to be elected annually.

WITHDRAWN - RULED OUT OF ORDER

21/7 Proposed by Cumbria, Seconded by North-East Region

**Delete rule 39**

*The officers of the Association shall be a President and three Vice Presidents who shall be elected from delegates representing four different Local Regions at the annual general meeting of the Association and shall hold office for one year. Any officer shall be eligible for re-election provided that no officer shall hold the same office for more than three successive years. The conduct of the*

***nominations for and election of officers shall be regulated by the Council.***

***Replace with***

***The Executive Committee of the Association shall be elected annually at the AGM and consist of a President, Senior Vice president, Junior Vice president and two members of Council and shall hold office for one year.***

***Once elected the Executive Committee shall be eligible for re-election to the same office for a term of 3 successive years. The President, Senior Vice president and Junior Vice president shall be elected from the delegates of three different Regions.***

LOST – 5 For, 11 Against, 1 Abstention

21/ 8 Proposed by Cumbria, Seconded by Welsh Region

***Delete Rule 52***

***The Council may form such Committees of Councillors as the Council may from time to time determine. The Council shall be empowered to delegate its authority to any such Committee either wholly or partly and whether or not subject to any conditions. The composition of any such Committee shall be a matter for the Council save that the Management Committee of the British Homing World shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Council and shall consist of the President, three Vice-Presidents, plus one councillor from each of the remaining Local Regions not already represented, plus the Editor for the time being of the British Homing World and the Chief Executive.***

***Replace with***

***The council may form such committees of Councillors as the Council may from time to time determine. The council shall be empowered to delegate its authority to any such committees either wholly or partly and whether or not subject to any conditions. The composition of any such committee shall be a matter for the council.***

LOST – 8 For, 8 Against, 1 Abstention  
(Status quo remains)

21/9 Proposed by West Midlands, Seconded by Cumbria

***Delete rule 152a***

***The officers of an Organisation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents, chairman, treasurer, auditors, committee and secretary and such other officers and officials as the Organisation may deem necessary. All officers shall be elected annually. Such powers shall be delegated by the Organisation to its officers as the Organisation considers appropriate.***

***Replace with***

***The officers of an Organisation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents, chairman, treasurer, auditors, committee and secretary and such other officers and officials as the Organisation may deem necessary. All officers shall be elected annually unless they are employed by the***

***organisation. Such powers shall be delegated by the Organisation to its officers as the Organisation considers appropriate.***

CARRIED – 12 For, 4 Against, 1 Abstention

21/10 Proposed by North-East, Seconded by West Midlands

***Delete rule 159(b)***

***Any RPRA member who is refused membership of a club in accordance with Rule 159 shall be notified in writing. Such notification shall include a reason for the refusal. The applicant then has 14 days to object the decision to his/her local Region. The Region shall determine whether the reason is justifiable. If the Region find that the refusal for membership was not justifiable then the RPRA member will be granted membership of the club.***

***Replace with***

***Any RPRA member who is refused membership of a club in accordance with Rule 159a shall be notified in writing. Such notification shall include a reason for the refusal. If the applicant has not been a member of a club, excluding national clubs, for at least 12 months he/she then has 14 days to appeal the decision to his/her local Region. The Region shall determine whether the reason is justifiable. If the Region find that the refusal for membership was not justifiable then the person will be granted membership of the club. The Region decision is final.***

LOST – 7 For, 9 Against, 1 Abstention

21/11 Proposed by Derbyshire & South Yorkshire, Seconded by Cumbria

***Delete rule 159 & 159 (b)***

***159. Any person wishing to become a member of an Organisation must apply to the secretary of the Organisation in writing. The application must be accompanied by any entrance fees required by the rules of the Organisation to be paid to the Organisation. Each such application shall be notified to the members of the Organisation or to the Committee of the Organisation, as specified in the rules of the Organisation. The application shall be determined by a simple majority of those attending and voting at the next meeting of members or the committee, as prescribed by the rules of the Organisation. The application shall not be dealt with at an annual general meeting of the Organisation.***

***159 (b). Any RPRA member who is refused membership of a club in accordance with Rule 159 shall be notified in writing. Such notification shall include a reason for the refusal. The applicant then has 14 days to object the decision to his/her local Region. The Region shall determine whether the reason is justifiable. If the Region finds that the refusal for membership was not justifiable then the RPRA member will be granted membership of the club.***

***Replace with***

***Any person wishing to become a member of an Organisation must apply to the Secretary of the Organisation in writing accompanied by any entrance fees required by the Rules of the Organisation to be paid to the Organisation.***

***Each such application should be notified to the members of the Organisation or to the Committee of the Organisation as specified in the Rules of the Organisation. The application shall be determined by a simple majority of those attending and voting at the next meeting of members or the Committee as prescribed by the Rules of the Organisation. The application shall not be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting of the Organisation.***

***The decision of the members or the Committee is final. Any person refused membership cannot reapply for a period of 12 months.***

LOST – 5 For, 11 Against, 1 Abstention

21/12 West Midlands Propose, Seconded by Welsh Region

***Delete Rule 235.***

***(a) Electronic rings must be allocated to the ring numbers of the member's pigeons a minimum of 7 days prior to the use of the ETS.***

***Allocation on marking nights will only be permitted due to a defect or loss of an electronic ring.***

***(b) Should a member present a bird for allocation of rings prior to the start of or during old bird or young bird racing and the electronic ring indicates another member's loft number/details, then proof of ownership of the ring must be supplied before assigning the ring to the member's bird.***

***If proof of ownership cannot be furnished by the member, then action may be taken under rules 169/70.***

***(c) Additional ETS Zeroes – the leading zeroes that are automatically added by ETS systems are acceptable.***

***Replace with***

***(a) Electronic rings must be allocated to the ring numbers of the member's pigeons a minimum of 1 day prior to the use of the ETS.***

***Allocation on marking nights will only be permitted due to a defect or loss of an electronic ring.***

***(b) Should a member present a bird for allocation of rings prior to the start of or during old bird or young bird racing and the electronic ring indicates another member's loft number/details, then proof of ownership of the ring must be supplied before assigning the ring to the member's bird.***

***If proof of ownership cannot be furnished by the member, then action may be taken under rules 169/70.***

***(c) Additional ETS Zeroes – the leading zeroes that are automatically added by ETS systems are acceptable.***

LOST – 8 For, 8 Against, 1 Abstention  
(Status quo remains)

The meeting closed at 10:52am, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman