



MINUTES

COUNCIL

25th October 2024

ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES of the meeting of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association Council held at the Leonardo Hotel, East Midlands Airport, Ashby Road, Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2SH, on Friday 25th October 2024, at 2:17pm.

Present: L Blacklock-CA (Chair), D Headon-DC, S Reed-DY, J Dodd-EM, S Collishaw-EM, C O’Hare-IR, S Briggs-IR, J Gladwin-LN, A Williams-LN, G Cockshott-NE, H Jackson-NE, P Murray-NW, R Harris-SO, W Lewis-WM, N Darby-WM, T Gardner-WS

Apologies: C Gordon-NE, R Shirley-SW, S Beardmore-WE

In attendance: C Sutton-CEO, S Woodman-Finance Manager, Nicola Mills-Office Manager (minutes), R Chambers-Head Officer, BHW, J Wheatcroft-Olympiad Team Manager

Observers: Mrs P Gladwin, Mrs B Lewis

1. **ROLL CALL** - as above
2. **APOLOGIES** - as above
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - none declared
4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 23.02.24**

Proposed by SO, seconded by WS, and all in favour, that:

C.7814 The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2024 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

A retirement gift was presented to David Higgins at his region in recognition of his 40 years’ service to the RPRA. The President received a letter from David Higgins thanking Council for their kind gesture.

Page 1, C.7756 – SO asked if Mr Taylor (Show Vet) had provided a report from his attendance at the International Veterinary Pigeons Association (VPA) in Maastricht, January 2024? The CEO confirmed that this was forthcoming.

Page 2 - Linnell Instrument Services have gone out of business and a small number of our members clocks have not been returned.

Page 4 – The President advised that there is now a new stock of medallions from a new supplier and presentation boxes.

Page 4, Item 12c. - A Long-Distance Confederation meeting was arranged for Blackpool 2024 with only one other union attending. A meeting has been proposed to take place at Blackpool 2025.

Life rings were discussed at the FCI who were concerned that some forgeries had been reported. The RPRA rings are ordered on a yearly basis and now the size of the letter matches the numbers.

Page 7, C.7798 – Congratulations were given to the Olympiad Team Manager who has been elected on to the FCI Olympiad Sporting Committee.

Page 8 - The paperwork required to make a funding claim from the lottery commission to digitise the RPRA archive has proven too problematic, a young man has been recruited to work in his spare time at £8.60 per hour digitising the documents and is working well. There is a physical archive of all BHW publications at Welshpool.

Page 9 - The Countryside Alliance is planning a meeting to establish a joint strategy towards PETA/Animal Aid.

Page 9 - The money raised from the sale of A Hill birds was used to fund the removal and erection of the RPRA One Loft.

Page 10 – SO asked if a replacement PR company is being sourced – the CEO advised that he has a company on standby if required.

Page 10 – SO enquired about the streamlining of the RPRA awards – it was confirmed that these are being compiled by Derren Brown.

Page 11 - A visit to Bletchley Park has been arranged to compile an up-to-date inventory.

Page 12 – Head Officer, BHW has relinquished his Development Officer role so is unable to assist with sourcing potential new liberation sites from rugby grounds/sports centres. This is still worth pursuing as new liberation sites are required, but it is better to come from the local members.

Page 14 - The President will attend the Animals in War memorial, London.

(3:00pm Mrs B Lewis exited the meeting)

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6a) Buildings Committee

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23.02.24

Accepted above

2. Matters Arising

The lottery application was discussed above.

3. Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate, Stonehouse, Stroud GL10 2BJ

a. 2023/2024 requirements

- i. After reviewing quotations from six companies APM have been appointed the Fire and Security Maintenance contract.

The water heaters have reached end of life. The downstairs heater serving the kitchen and toilet block has been replaced, the upstairs heater serving just one sink has been decommissioned.

The air conditioning unit in the server room had to be repaired.

The maintenance costs for the RPRA building are over budget by £1,000.

The Health and Safety policy, Staff Handbook and staff contracts have been updated and revised.

Proposed by EM, seconded by NE, and all in favour, that:

C.7815 The above actions regarding the building maintenance are endorsed

b. Future requirements

- i. Repair to guttering
- ii. Toilet leak
- iii. Replacement of first floor hot water heater
- iv. Cosmetic repairs following Airconditioning leak

6b) Performance Enhancing Drugs Committee

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23.02.24

Accepted above.

2. Matters Arising

The PED budget was reduced to £6000 and to date £5836 has been spent with a further 3 test to come in. Four free test kits have been sent out to NIPA.

Under FCI rules all companies must have a drug testing facility which the RPRA do, stipulate our process and declare which lab we are using.

3. PED update – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – List of drug tests taken in 2024 (circulated at the meeting)

The list was circulated at the meeting

4. PED Budget

**Proposed by NE, seconded by IR, and all in favour, that:
C.7816 The PED Budget for 2025 is set at £6000**

The Olympiad Team Manager to provide a demonstration of what to do and how to comply with drug testing. A video of the process to be made available to our trained testers.

Our testing process is very comprehensive.

5. Correspondence

a) Email from FCI Doping Committee dated 07.10.24 – Doping Controls 2024

The CEO has provided all information required.

6c) Emergency & Rules and Liberation Sites Committee

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23.02.24

Accepted above.

2. Matters Arising

Page 11 - The site at Littlehampton looks promising to be back in use for spring 2025.

Page 12 - The new site at Decoy Lakes - Peterborough is very good and has been used regularly.

DC enquired if Epsom racecourse could be reinstated. It is very expensive and although the WHU liberate in a layby there, it is right by the side of the road and considered too dangerous.

Page 12, C.7802 – Rule 132 change - It was confirmed that this must be passed at the AGM, February 2025.

ETS assignment sheets. Some ETS systems allow members to assign their own pigeons but after each reassignment, under current rules, a new list must be presented to the club secretary for their records. Under Rule 236a club official must sign off the new list on first printout of the allocation sheet.

Page 15 - The Hall Report is often referred to and a request to resurrect it was submitted. This was compiled and rejected a few years back and since then big improvements have been made.

Proposed by DY, seconded by IR, with 15 votes for: DC/DY/EM1/EM2/IR1/IR2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NE2/NW/SO/WM1/WM2/WS; 0 votes against and 1 abstention: CA, that:

C.7817 Set aside The Hall Report and remove from the RPRA website

3. Suggested propositions to Rule changes from Council

The Office Manager had reviewed the wordings in the rules and highlighted some improvements towards clarity for Rules 109, 110 and 187.

Proposed by IR, seconded by CA, and all in favour, that:

C.7818 Suggested changes to Rules 109 and 110 go forward to the AGM in February 2025

Emails and telephones are used over postal in best interests of getting birds repatriated as soon as possible.

Defra Magic Maps has already been added as an acceptable method for providing distances.

All distances must be provided by the RPRA to fly in an RPRA race, the RPRA should not provide distances to individuals who are not members of the RPRA.

Proposed by IR, seconded by CA, and all in favour, that:

C.7819 Suggested changes to Rule 187 to include the use of DEFRA Magic Maps go forward to the AGM in February 2025

4. Liberation Sites Report – prepared by Sean Leighton

The new liberation site at Lowgill (4253) has been used this year by the East Cumbria Federation, thanks to the approval for immediate use from the current Liberation sites committee Chairman.

The proposed new site at Waterlooville has been shelved for the time being due to no response from the site owner.

It had been advised that the site at Wakefield is to be developed on – it has not been used this year, organisations have liberated from an adjoining place.

Littlehampton – assuming construction proceeds as planned the site should be available in spring 2025 – will await progress.

Yeovil site owners are introducing new security measures.

Frome Showground – organisations have not been adhering to their instructions, printed in the liberation site report/booklet. The RPRA are at significant risk of losing the site if organisations do not follow instructions.

Newton Abbot racecourse – the site agent has resigned. Due to a security risk onsite a site agent is required, so a new agent must be found.

The site at Nevers has been withdrawn by the FCF due to construction work. Magny-Cours has been added as an official new continental site.

Carentan – advised of problems from the Central Southern Classic and the National Flying Club. The Midlands National Flying Club reported no problems, but those two organisations liberated from two different places.

The President thanked Sean Leighton for his efforts.

EM advised that the address shown on the website for the site at Retford, Nottingham is different from the actual location. A key had been provided to the site (a playground), it is a good site available for small vans etc.

NE highlighted that there are time restrictions at the site at Rugby. Overnight parking is not permitted (due to their insurance), and the birds must be liberated within 30 minutes of entering. Can we negotiate or find somewhere equivalent? DY offered to look for an alternative new site. The CEO will check with S Leighton regarding the correspondence received from Rugby site owners. EM suggested there is an old racecourse nearby on the A5 which could be approached.

LN highlighted that organisations had been unable to gain access to a south road liberation site for 3 weeks running – to advise RPRA HQ which site.

Head Officer, BHW advised that Weymouth has also been problematic getting keys from the safe due to the caravanners not returning the keys.

It was confirmed that any proposed new liberation sites could be approved by the current Liberation sites committee Chairman if all costings and risk assessments are done, which would then be reviewed at the next council meeting.

(4:04pm - 4:06pm - A Williams left the meeting)

5. Correspondence

- a) Emails from Western Region dated 10.03.24 and 11.03.24 – Rules

Individual members cannot vote unless they are a member of an associated organisation. Rule 160 makes provision as a non-flying member of a club to vote on association business, so the individual could seek to become a non-flying member of a club.

Enquiry regarding Rule to accept PDF version for ETS as a secure method – the CEO has replied and this was deemed adequate. The letter was noted.

Proposed by DY, seconded by WS, and all in favour, that:

C.7820 Letters from Western Region dated 10.03.24 and 11.03.24 – Rules was noted by Council

6d) Finance & General Purposes and Clocks, Rings & Weather Committee

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23.02.24

Accepted above.

2. Matters Arising

Previously discussed.

3. Accounts – circulated at the meeting

The Finance Manager outlined areas of note in the accounts for the period ending September 2024, beginning with the income stream generated from services (rings, race rubbers, transfers, seals, etc) providing £338,098. The subscriptions generated £123,738 and the levy a further £217,073, totalling £340,000. The total income generated by the RPRA was £678,098, the associated Costs equalled £161,749, providing a total gross profit of £516,349.

The Finance Manager then proceeded to provide a breakdown of the RPRA overheads of £371,000 for the period ending September 2024, consisting of Staff costs – £260,000, Office/equipment – £46,000 and travel, professional and accountancy fees, council meetings and bank charges.

The total gross profit minus the overheads rendered a £145,000 positive outcome for the period ending September 2024, attributed directly to the levy. The positive outcome will keep the RPRA afloat until April 2025 when the next influx of membership subscriptions are due from the regions.

Without the timely introduction of the levy, the RPRA would have suffered another significant loss to its finances. It was crucial and the amount levied was correct.

(4:32pm-4:34pm - J Gladwin left the meeting)

(4:34pm-4:36pm - W Lewis left the meeting)

The President expressed the need to discuss how the remaining levies would be collected. The “next” column on the RPRA database had been utilized to record those who had paid, and this data can now be extracted before clearing the column for the payment of 2025 subscriptions. This data will be circulated to each region secretary for the collection of unpaid levies.

The cost of stray reporting is over £5,000, the CEO will investigate the process to make any possible improvements.

Mill Bridge North Road Club (NA130) (NWHU) owe £933 in liberation site fees which they say was arranged with the site owner to pay direct, but that is not correct. The Finance Manager has been chasing debtors by email and letter periodically which is then escalated to the Regions.

Proposed by SO, seconded by DY, and all in favour, that:

C.7821 The RPRA Accounts are approved, and a vote of thanks was given to the Finance Manager for his work

4. Key Measures of Activity report – to be circulated at the meeting

The Membership Support Supervisor and Office Manager had done a lot of work to put together a full and comprehensive report which will be published in the BHW to highlight the valuable work the RPRA office staff do on their behalf. The President thanked all the staff involved in compiling the report.

5. Linell Instruments – list of clocks sent for repair

The CEO had made enquiries with the insurers to see if a retrospective claim could be made under the members’ insurance and is awaiting a reply. Other than that, members could take to the small claims court. The RPRA approved the use of Linell Instruments for clock repairs only and cannot underwrite the company.

Proposed by DY, seconded by NE, and all in favour, that:

C.7822 Await a response from the insurers and if nothing can be claimed the RPRA can only advise owners of the equipment that they should take legal action themselves

6. Next Council meeting 27th February – 1st March 2025 – venue

The 2025 quote for the Leonardo Hotel, East Midlands Airport was reviewed, and it was agreed that attendance in person was essential for the AGM and council meetings.

Proposed by WS, seconded by NE, and all in favour, that:

C.7823 Vote to return to the Leonardo Hotel, East Midlands Airport for the next Council meeting 27th February – 1st March 2025

7. Correspondence

- a) Email from Luvimindiamindia dated 29.09.24

The CEO included this email for information only as Luvimindiamindia are writing to the FCI to request a rule change.

- b) Letter from EM Region dated 30.09.24 – Rule 239

It was noted that parallel port printers are difficult to obtain but not impossible. The rule states the ETS data must not be via a PC printer as it could be corrupted. Adaptors are available.

Proposed by SO, seconded by CA, and all in favour, that:

C.7824 If the EM Region wish to change Rule 239 they are required to submit a proposition to the AGM, February 2025

EM raised that some Benzing issues have arisen which corrupted the race data on printout. The CEO to write to the FCI to request an investigation on behalf of the members concerned.

Proposed by EM, seconded by WM, and all in favour, that:

C.7825 CEO to formulate a letter from the Council to the FCI to request an investigation of the Benzing issues on behalf of the members concerned.

The RPRA staff present were asked to leave the room. Upon re-entering the room the President informed the CEO to advise staff that the Committee have awarded a 2% rise in salaries from the 1st of December 2024.

(5:30pm – 6:00pm refreshment break)

A discussion was held as to the collection of the unpaid levies and a combined approach for all regions to follow.

Proposed by WS, seconded by LN, with 15 votes for: DC/DY/EM1/EM2/IR1/IR2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NE2/NW/SO/WM1/WM2/WS; 0 votes against and 1 abstention: CA, that:

C.7826 All members who have not paid the levy by 1st November 2024 shall be considered a debtor. The member shall be informed and debited with the postal charges incurred and shall be notified that unless remittance is received or the debt disputed within 21 days he/she will be suspended by the local region.

- 6e) Olympiad Committee

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23.02.24

Accepted above.

2. Matters Arising

Page 7 – The Olympiad Team Manager was duly elected to the FCI Olympiad Sporting committee and attended a meeting in Brussels last week, report to follow.

Page 8 – DY enquired after the costs and planning of the Olympiad in 2028 requiring a team of commercially minded people. The BHW SOY Committee have ringfenced £5,000 towards the funds and we will be actively working to get a team together at the Blackpool Show. Although the 2024 Olympiad at Maastricht cost approx. £150,000 much of our infrastructure will be in place for the normal Blackpool Show, it will just need to be expanded. Our Gala evening is sufficient for what is required for the foreign guests. It is hoped that by hosting the Olympiad in 2028 regulations can be altered on the movement of pigeons in and out of the EU. The FCI must find a resolution and are already making every effort to do so.

A discussion was held regarding options to raise funds, including sponsorship, holding special races and holding auctions specifically to provide funds for the Olympiad 2028.

3. Update on Olympiad

a. Maastricht 2024 – Olympiad Team Manager report

An excellent report with photos – will be published in the 2025 BHW Stud Book.

b. China 2026

c. Call for organizing the Olympiad 2028

Discussed above

d. Minutes of the FCI Directors Committee Meeting held on 01.06.24 (via Zoom)

e. FCI Directors Committee Meeting - Mira – 20.09.24

The President highlighted that there was concern about fake FCI rings – all FCI rings have a Checksum Validation Code system.

EM noted that GB will be asked to organise the 2027 World Championship race, as part of hosting the Olympiad 2028.

The FCI Vets Committee are actively trying to differentiate racing pigeons from other bird species regarding avian influenza.

The Olympiad Team Manager presented a report on the meeting that took place in Brussels the previous week. The following items were discussed:

- Inspectors for One Loft races are being trained up, one inspector will travel with the lorry as well as one to remain at the loft for the final race point.
- European Championship rules have been updated to add a category onto the Olympiad for One Loft pigeons
- World's Best Pigeon Competition (open) – limit on the coefficient has been set to match the Olympiad (5000 birds max)
- New agreement for Grand Prix One Loft races – supervision of marking at the final race point
- Changes to the way one loft races are evaluated
- Racing rules were reviewed - no multiple timings on ETS allowed
- Animal rights are a problem in every country except Albania
- Smitz technique – ETS systems
- High temperatures in transporters - blocks under baskets make a difference (GB already do this)
- Racing in extreme hot weather – spread pigeons out in transporter
- Criteria for the sport classes 2026 Olympiad– no changes except inclusion of one loft pigeons
- Entry deadline for World's best pigeon is 10th January 2025. Head Officer, BHW proposed to bring RPRA awards in line with this date for next year.

Proposed by LN, seconded by DC, and all in favour, that:

C.7827 A Vote of thanks was given to the Olympiad Team Manager for an excellent report

4. Correspondence

- a. Minutes of the FCI Director Committee Meeting held on 23.03.24

(7:00pm - The Finance Manager exited the meeting)

(7:00pm – 8:00pm break for dinner)

6f) Future of the Sport Committee

(S Briggs not in attendance at the meeting)

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23.02.24

Accepted above.

2. Matters Arising

Page 9 – It was confirmed that the remaining equipment was collected from the old one loft location.

Page 10 - The need to replace the role of Development Officer was discussed. The historical growth in members was due to the baby boomer generation and young people now have so much more to occupy their free time. It is difficult to compete with today's society. We accept participants are declining but should keep it going as best we can. All sports are suffering.

The former Development Officer is confident that young people will continue to come into the sport, but the older generation have a duty to pass on a sport in the way that they found it and provide a legacy for the next generation. In his opinion although society has changed it is still worthwhile continuing the project on a smaller scale.

(8:25pm – S Briggs entered the meeting)

3. One Loft report – Jonathan Swift (One Loft Manager)

The RPRA One Loft Manager was not in attendance and did not submit a report although the CEO gave a review for the first year. The RPRA One Loft Manager sent an apology via email saying he had the wrong date in mind.

4. FOS Accounts – distributed at meeting

RPRA One Loft race 2024 - there were 541 entries generating an income of £67,625. The pooling, pooling commission and auction sales provided an income of £74,982.

Expenditure (including ETS rings, ground rent, loft items and maintenance, loft relocation, pigeon recovery, postage, stationary, toilet hire, trophies and engraving, website maintenance, depreciation, prizes of £29,493) totalled £83810.

Given the income minus the expenditure the RPRA One Loft Race generated an overall loss of £8,000. If the relocation costs of £25,653 were reallocated from the A Hill auction sale the RPRA One Loft Race would then generate a profit of £16,825.

The committee decided to continue the RPRA One Loft Race for 2025 so advertising could begin as soon as possible. The 2024 rules and prize money would apply for 2025, dependent on the number of entries. NE requested to see the RPRA One Loft Manager's contract – the CEO agreed to supply this.

Proposed by SO, seconded by WS, and all in favour, that:

C.7828 Continue RPRA One Loft for 2025

5. Schools' project

Discussed above.

6. Bletchley Park

Discussed above.

7. Correspondence

- a. Email from J Swift dated 15.09.24 – OLR 2025
- b. Email from L Blacklock dated 16.09.2024 – Schools Competition, One Loft

All schools who entered the 2024 RPRA One Loft Race received an equal share of the £2,800 prize money due to none being timed in from the final.

Proposed by WM, seconded by IR, and all in favour, that:

C.7829 The President's action regarding the equal share of the Schools' RPRA One Loft Race prize money was endorsed

7.COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE AND VERBAL REPORTS

- a. Letter from Mr T W Phifer, President NWHU dated 20.02.2024

The letter outlined the NWHU procedures for repatriation of stray pigeons.

The letter from the RPRA solicitors, Harrison Clark Rickerbys to Mark Jenkinson, MP dated 23rd January 2024 was also included.

Due to the matter being linked with a pending appeal the President and the CEO asked that this matter be left in abeyance at this moment in time, which was agreed.

- b. Letter from London Region dated 18.03.2024 - Financial Situation

With the Finance Manager's assistance, the CEO is now able to provide the requested breakdown of all RPRA costs relating to the Blackpool Show. The balance sheet shows a total of £14,477 costs to the RPRA for the Blackpool Show in 2024.

P Bennett's (Show photographer) costs will be split in the future - Show of the Year to pay 50%, RPRA to pay 25% and BHW to pay 25%.

It is important to appreciate the publicity the Show brings to the RPRA highlighting pigeon racing. It is also important to consider the Showmen/women who pay their RPRA subscriptions and levy to take part in the show.

The President added that Councillors' costs will be reduced in 2025.

The remainder of the letter was covered.

It was commented that the Meeting had been a pleasure to attend because everyone is now working as a team. A good team of RPRA staff has been built up around the CEO and this reflects in how well things are running. Answers to questions are more forthcoming and the efficiency of the RPRA is ten times better.

- c. Letter from Devon & Cornwall Region dated 06.04.2024 – Skype meetings

Zoom meetings have been held during the summer months to hold special meetings to deal with the financial situation, but not full council meetings. We should keep the flexibility to do so but monthly is more than required. Zoom meetings were very beneficial during covid times and work well as long as a short agenda.

- d. Letter from Southern Region dated 18.08.2024 – Correspondence dated 04.04.2024

The Region had not received a reply but the President produced a written response dated 18/10/23 which was sent to the Region Secretary and answered all questions in succession to the best of his knowledge.

LN asked how the settlement with the previous CEO was shown on the accounts and was informed this was shown in the legal fees; the agreement at the time was that this amount was not to be disclosed.

- e. Email from Derbyshire and South Yorkshire Region dated 04.09.2024 – Regional Secretary Concerns

The Secretary reported that he had received a lot of phone calls re CPH registration requirements. All secretaries had a hard time with the levy and with receiving a lot of stray calls. It was noted and appreciated that the whole situation was stressful for the region secretaries and RPRA staff. All are happy to move on.

- f. Email from WM Region dated 19.09.2024 –BHW

The Editor's job was not advertised as the role no longer exists. R Chambers was seconded to assist in the development of the BHW and two proposed new roles (Head Officer and Assistant Head Officer/Art Worker) with revised job descriptions were created. As an HR exercise all the three members of staff concerned were asked to apply for one, both or choose redundancy. Two chose redundancy and R Chambers chose to move from his position of Development Officer to Head Officer for the BHW. The Assistant Head/Art Worker is being trained from within the current staff.

- g. Email from Derbyshire and South Yorkshire Region dated 24.09.2024 – RPRA Levy 2024

The CEO appreciates the important role the region secretaries play and the difficult times they have had. The regions are of the utmost importance to the CEO and he would not wish to see the valued work they do being redistributed. The regions are important to the democratic process of our constitution and the shared workload they carry out would be very difficult and costly to complete in time, centralised at Head Office.

- h. Letter from North West Region dated 26.09.2024 – Loft names

Whiteside Lofts only pays one fee and he is to be advised that he has to be a single flyer or state who the members or partners are in the loft. 3 members requires 3 fees, anyone can race under whatever name they choose, as long as they list and pay for the members within it. It is only the named person that counts and can take part in RPRA association business.

- i. Letter from North East Region dated 01.10.24 – NE Region letter dated 23.01.24 – Requesting de-recognition of the NWHU

The President tabled this item to the next meeting.

8. INVITATIONS RECEIVED

- a. Invitation to the German Racing Pigeon Exhibition 2024 (Verband Deutscher Brieftaubenzüchter) - 30.11 - 1.12.2024 in Kassel

The Olympiad Team Manager is attending.

9. AOB

In the appeal to be held on the 26th October, President L Blacklock cannot chair the meeting, so Vice-President C O'Hare was elected temporary chairman.

**Proposed LN, seconded DY, and all in favour, that:
C.7830 Vice-President C O'Hare was elected temporary Chairman of the
Appeals Committee for 26th October 2024**

C Sutton is also named in the Appeal and therefore cannot take part, Office Manager N Mills is required to assist and take the Minutes.

LN raised an issue regarding a partnership which had dissolved after 25 years, the pigeons were sold but one partner kept all money from the sale of the pigeons. LN region heard the appeal and suspended the member under RPRAs rules. It was taken to civil court and an alternative decision was made. LN enquired how this might impact our rules? It was pointed out that a civil court applies civil law, whereas the RPRAs apply the RPRAs rules to which the partnership was registered. Although the partnership was formed 25 years ago the CEO will check any historic files for the original partnership form.

DY requested a round of applause for all, we have been working much better together. We have moved a big step forward in the last two years, in a more open, honest, business-like and structured way.

The President thanked those RPRAs staff who have assisted at council meetings and all our staff who have helped to bring in the improvements at the RPRAs office and at the British Homing World.

9:44pm - Meeting closed