



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**CALLED UNDER THE PROVISION OF RULE 51**

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

## ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION

Special Meeting  
**Minutes**  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

MINUTES of the Special Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at the Leonardo Hotel, East Midlands Airport, Ashby Road, Castle Donnington, Derby DE74 2SH at 9:00am.

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

Observers: G Smith-WM1360, Mrs P Gladwin, Mrs B Lewis

- 1. ROLL CALL** – as above
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - as above
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared

The President advised that the Minutes of the two previous special finance meetings held via Zoom would be reviewed at this Special Meeting.

He formally opened the meeting by calling for a one-minute silence in honour of the late Mr John Robilliard, a tremendous servant to the RPRA, a brilliant Show man and organiser and previous President of the RPRA. All stood and paid their respects.

The President announced the inclusion of a further item on the Agenda. Correspondence had been received from the Western Region on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and although submitted later than 21 days prior to the meeting one part of the correspondence called for a vote of no confidence in the President and the Vice-Presidents. The President decided that under Rule 56 these votes would be allowed to go ahead (the other two parts would be dealt with at the next Council meeting).

*9:03am - The President and Observers exited the meeting*

The Vice-President took the Chair. The CEO asked for a vote. There was no proposal for a vote of no confidence in the President.

**Proposed by NE, seconded by WS, with 9 votes for: DC/DY/EM1/IR1/IR2/NE1/NE2/NW/WS/; 0 votes against and 6 abstentions: EM2/LN1/LN2/SO/WM1/WM2, that:**

**SP24/01      Vote of Confidence in the President**

LN advised the reason for their abstention was that they did not think the vote was required.

DY proposed a vote of thanks to the President for all his hard work and the support he has given to the CEO and the RPRA staff in the face of a very challenging few years. The President had given a lot more of his time than normal and it is a very stressful job.

**Proposed by DY, seconded by EM, and all in favour, that:**

**SP24/02      Vote of Thanks to the President for all the hard work over the previous few years**

*9:12am – The President and Observers re-entered the meeting*

The CEO explained to the President that a vote of confidence was passed and a vote of thanks was passed. The President thanked everyone.

*9:13am - The Vice-Presidents and Observers exited the meeting*

The confidence in the Vice-Presidents was discussed. DY said that it had been a lot of hard work over the last few years, and we can only thank and put our confidence in everyone who assists the CEO in his role and the RPRA.

**Proposed by DY, seconded by IR, with 8 votes for: CA/DC/DY/EM1/IR1/NE1/NE2/WS; 0 votes against and 5 abstentions: LN1/LN2/SO/WM1/WM2, that:**

**SP24/03      Vote of confidence in the Vice-Presidents**

LN advised the reason for their abstention was that they did not think the vote was required.

**Proposed by DY, seconded by EM, and all in favour, that:**

**SP24/04      Vote of thanks to the Vice-Presidents**

*9:17am – The Vice-Presidents and Observers re-entered the meeting*

The CEO advised the Vice-Presidents that a vote of confidence was passed and a vote of thanks was passed.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS –11.04.24 (via Zoom) and 17.07.24 (via Zoom)**

**Matters Arising – Minutes of the Meeting held on 11.04.24 (via Zoom)**

Page 2 - SO asked if S Beardmore had provided a written statement on the plan of action for the BHW? The CEO confirmed that this was done but not circulated.

Page 2 - The CEO advised that the NWHU registration fee was not minuted but was discussed and agreed while reviewing the back page price list. This fee will be added on to the amended Minutes.

**Proposed by IR, seconded by WS, with 15 votes for:**

**CA/DC/DY/EM1/EM2/IR1/IR2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NE2/NW/WM1/WM2/WS; 1 vote against: SO and 0 abstentions, that:**

**SP24/05      The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (via Zoom) are accepted as a true and accurate record.**

### **Matters Arising - Minutes of the Meeting held on 17.07.24 (via Zoom)**

Page 1 – The Finance Manager confirmed that the current auditors had now completed their work on the RPR/A/BHW and the Show of the Year accounts have been signed off. Hazlewoods will now be handing over the accounts to the new accountants Griffiths Marshall. This will save approximately £22,000 on the year end fees (based on the quote provided by Griffiths Marshall), with full confidence in the outcomes and quality remaining the same.

*(9:30am - J Wheatcroft-Olympiad Team Manager entered the meeting)*

**Proposed by NE, seconded by NW, and all in favour, that:**

**SP24/06      A vote of thanks and endorsement to proceed with the new accountants Griffiths Marshall**

Page 4 – The CEO advised that there were previous building society accounts which were locked but had now managed to access. 2 savings accounts are on a 30-day notice term with £80,000 in each, and a third savings account containing £80,000 will be opened shortly.

The Finance Manager advised that in addition to these savings accounts the RPR/A and the BHW have their own Lloyds current accounts to manage the day-to-day entities, with approximately £260,000 in the RPR/A account and approximately £175,000 in the BHW account.

There is a further savings account with approximately £13,000 which is used to receive the annual interest earned from the building society accounts.

SO asked if this money showed up on the last accounts from Hazlewoods? – the Finance Manager confirmed it did under the name of the British Homing World.

LN enquired about the £3,864 in the Raptor Alliance account and whether it is currently dormant? The Finance Manager advised that this account is sat within the RPR/A Lloyds account, with no transactions taking place in the last 5 years. The President confirmed that the money remains in the account with the option to use this for the Countryside Alliance.

**Proposed by WS, seconded by LN, with 12 votes for: CA/DC/EM1/IR1/IR2/LN1/LN2/NW/SO/WM1/WM2/WS; 0 votes against and 4 abstentions: DY/EM2/NE1/NE2, that:**  
**SP24/07            The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (via Zoom) are accepted as a true and accurate record.**

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Email from C Sutton dated 17.07.2024 – North East Region proposed Membership fee restructure

The President advised that there were 5 letters of correspondence. Item e. - the Email from Derbyshire and South Yorkshire Region dated 24.09.2024 – response and amendments to North East Region proposed Membership fee restructure was very similar to Item a. with some amendments.

He underlined that if the Council did proceed with any proposal it must be under Rule 142.

DY asked for clarification regarding whether the proposed forecast and figure set at subsequent October Council meetings would need to be ratified at the next Annual General meetings? It was confirmed that if the vote was passed at this Council meeting to proceed with the proposed membership fee restructure under Rule 142, and then subsequently ratified at the Annual General Meeting in February 2025, then the forecast and proposed figure set at the October Council meetings for the next year would not need to be ratified at the following Annual General Meetings.

A discussion was held regarding whether the fee level should be published in the RPRA Rules Book and whether this monetary value would then need to be ratified at each Annual General Meeting. The CEO confirmed this would not be required. DY said that once the monetary value had been set, alongside the supporting evidence, it should not need to be ratified at the AGM if the rules regarding how the subscriptions had been set. Members would have had opportunity to comment on the fee set and from 1<sup>st</sup> November the Regions can collect the correct fee and Rule 142 need not continue to be invoked.

The NE proposal to be subject to an amendment to the wording of Rule 47b.

**Proposed by NE, seconded by IR, with 14 votes for: CA/DC/EM1/EM2/IR1/IR2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NE2/NW/WM1/WM2/WS; 0 votes against and 2 abstentions: DY/SO, that:**  
**SP24/08            Each year by 31 July the CEO and the Finance Manager of the Association shall produce a draft budget for the following financial year and recommend a subscriptions fee.**

The proposal from DY had no seconder.

Regarding the monetary value of the subscription fee, the Finance Manager advised that over the last 5 years the average depreciation of member numbers per year was 6.8 %.

Using this figure, together with the number of paid members (including the levy) predicted by the end of 2024 financial year of 14,000, the predicted number of members for 2025 would be approximately 13,020.

The RPRA costs approximately £420,000 to run (including its overheads) and generates £90,000 profit (through ring sales etc), which leaves a shortfall of £330,000 required through the membership. Based on the predicted membership number of 13,020 the subscription fee level required per member would be £34.41. Subtracting £4 to the Region, and VAT this would equate to a total of £25.31 required per member to the RPRA to break even and cover costs.

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

**SP24/09      Adult members subscription fee to be set at £35, with £4 paid to the Region**

IR Region asked for a vote of thanks to the Finance Manager for his report produced in layman's terms.

**Proposed by IR, seconded by NE, all in favour, that:**

**SP24/10      Vote of thanks to the Finance Manager**

The Finance Manager received this with thanks.

A discussion was then held regarding Rule 24 – the value of Club fees, currently £10, paid to the Region.

DY proposed a Club fee of £15. An amendment was proposed by IR for the Club fee to remain at £10.

**An amendment was proposed by IR, seconded by NW, with 6 votes for: CA/DC/IR1/IR2/ NW/WS; 10 votes against: DY/EM1/EM2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NE2/SO/WM1/WM2 and 0 abstentions, that:**

**SP24/11      Club fee to remain at £10**

**Proposed by DY, seconded by NE, with 10 votes for: DY/EM1/EM2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NE2/SO/WM1/WM2; 6 votes against: CA/DC/IR1/IR2/NW/WS and 0 abstentions, that:**

**SP24/12      Club fee to be set at £15**

A discussion was then held regarding the value of the Group fee – Rule 25, currently £5 + VAT.

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

**SP24/13      Group fee to be increased to £10 + VAT**

Rules 27c, 32C and 32D were subsequently discussed.

*(10:48am - H Jackson exited the meeting)*

**Proposed by NE, seconded by IR, with 14 votes for: CA/DC/DY/EM1/EM2/IR1/IR2/LN1/LN2/NE1/NW/WM1/WM2/WS; 1 vote against: SO and 0 abstentions, that:**

**SP24/14 All Junior members aged 16 or under to pay a fee of £10 to the Association with 20 free rings for the first year.**

**Proposed by NE, seconded by IR, and all in favour, that:**

**SP24/15 All Junior members aged 16 and under as of 1<sup>st</sup> November shall pay the fees as set by the Council in October. This applies to individual and affiliated members.**

*11:00am - Meeting closed*