

THE OFFICIAL RULES



2026

**Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2BJ.**

**Telephone: 01452 713529
Website: www.rpra.org**

ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2026

President: Mr C. O' Hare (2nd Year)

Vice Presidents: Mr J. Dodd (5th Year), Mr P. Murray (4th Year), Mr L. Blacklock (2nd Year)

Trustees: Mr J. Dodd, Mr T. Gardner, Mr S. Beardmore

PRESIDENT EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF ALL COMMITTEES

THE CHARTER FOR RACING & SHOW/RACER PIGEONS

1. Empathy

Recognise that Racing/Show pigeons are intelligent birds. We will always prioritise their physical health and overall well-being.

2. Care

Throughout their entire lifetime, during competition or at rest, we will provide a secure and suitable environment to address their nutritional and physical needs.

3. Respect

We respect the interaction between the fancier and their pigeons.

4. Consideration

In all scenarios the fancier considers the health and well-being of the pigeon. Furthermore, organisations agree the welfare of the pigeon in competition is paramount.

5. Ethics

During its lifetime, the pigeon will receive the necessary vaccinations and health requirements.

6. Learning

The fancier agrees the pigeon will receive the necessary training and support prior to competition, which will be conducted at the appropriate time in the safest weather conditions.

BRITISH HOMING WORLD

C O' Hare - IR (Chair)
L Blacklock - CA
D Headon - DC
S Reed - DY
J Dodd - EM
A Williams - LN
G Cockshott - NE
P Murray - NW
R Harris - SO
R Shirley - SW
S Beardmore - WE
P Whale - WM
T Gardner - WS
C Sutton CEO
R Chambers - Head officer, BHW

CONFEDERATION OF LONG DISTANCE RACING PIGEON UNIONS OF GB & IRELAND

C O' Hare - IR
P Murray - NW
S Reed - DY

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

L Blacklock - CA
J Dodd - EM

AUDITORS

Griffiths Marshall

APPEALS

C O' Hare - IR (Chair)
L Blacklock - CA
D Headon - DC
S Reed - DY
J Dodd - EM
A Williams - LN
G Cockshott - NE
P Murray - NW
R Harris - SO
R Shirley - SW
S Beardmore - WE
P Whale - WM
T Gardner - WS

SOLICITORS

Issue specific solicitor

FEDERATION COLOMBOPHILE INTERNATIONALE

J Wheatcroft
Reserve: C O' Hare - IR

ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOC.

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Tel: 01452 713529 Website: www.rpra.org

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THE OFFICIAL RULES OF THE ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION

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PART A: NAME

1. The name of the Association shall be 'The Royal Pigeon Racing Association' with Headquarters at Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2BJ.

PART B: DEFINITIONS

2. In these rules the following words and expressions shall have the following respective meanings unless the context requires otherwise:

'the Association' means The Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

'Club' means any club or society all the members of which are individuals or partnerships of individuals and which is affiliated to the Association in accordance with Rule 17. See Appendix H.

'Group' means any federation, amalgamation, combine or organisation all the members of which are Clubs or combinations of Clubs and which is affiliated to the Association in accordance with the provisions of Rule 17. 'Council' means the Council of the Association established under these Rules and 'Councillor' means a member of the Council. 'Chief Executive' means the Chief Executive of the Association.

'Individual Member' means a member of the Association who has been admitted to membership by a Local Region Committee pursuant to Rule 15 and who is not a member of a Club.

'Local Region' means a division of the Association consisting of all members of the Association whose registered membership addresses lie within the boundaries of a

geographical region specified by the Council pursuant to Rule 9 (a list of the boundaries of the current Local Regions is attached hereto as Appendix B). 'Local Region Committee' means the governing body of a Local Region. 'National or Specialist Club' means any club which does not organise a full race programme annually. 'Occasional member' is a member who takes part in a competition under an Open Race licence. 'Organisation' means any Club or Group. 'Organisation' means any Club or Group.

3. In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears

(a) words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and words importing the feminine gender include the masculine;

(b) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular;

(c) 'United Kingdom' includes RPRAs members in the Republic of Ireland and the British Dependency of Gibraltar;

(d) references to a member's Local Region or Local Region Committee are references to the Local Region within the geographical boundaries of which that member has his registered address or its Committee and references to an Organisation's Local Region or Local Region Committee are references to the Local Region within the geographical boundaries of which that Organisation has its headquarters or its Committee;

(e) headings to Rules are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of these Rules; and

(f) any reference to a statute or statutory provision shall be construed as a reference to that provision as it may have been, or may from time to time be, amended, modified or re-enacted.

PART C: OBJECTS AND POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Objects

4. The objects for which the Association is established are:

(a) the provision of an organisation for the benefit of Clubs, Groups and Individual Members established within the United Kingdom;

(b) the regulation of the sport of racing and showing homing pigeons and the control and supply of rings, seals, apparatus and appliances connected with the said sport;

(c) the protection and advancement of the interests of its members in all matters connected with the said sport;

(d) the establishment of a uniform system of measurement for all flying routes and the securing of approved systems of timing.

Powers

5. (a) The Association may promote, manage and hold races, exhibitions or shows of homing pigeons and appliances connected with the sport and may offer and award prizes for competition at such races, exhibitions or shows, and may admit competitors thereto who are members of the Association or other unions recognised by the Association on such terms as it may think proper. The Association may make contributions from the funds of the Association to races, exhibitions or

shows, whether managed or held under the direction of members of the Association or of other.

5. (b) All races held by the Association for which accounts are prepared must include any administration costs including labour incurred by the Association in the balance sheet.

6. The Association shall have the power to purchase and to sell any food, grit, rings, badges, timing clocks or other goods or apparatus commonly used in connection with the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons. The Association shall also have the power to print, publish, edit and sell any newspaper, journal, magazine, periodical, book or publication dealing with the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons and matters connected therewith.

7. The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the objects of the Association and no portion thereof shall be paid directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of the Association, provided that nothing shall prevent the payment in good faith in remuneration to any officials or servants of the members of the Association in return for services actually rendered, or prevent the borrowing of money by the Association at a rate of interest not greater than that currently available at the Bank of England from any member of the Association.

(a) That at the RPRAs Annual General Meeting, Council shall appoint 3 Trustees. The function of the trustees, along with the Chief Executive Officer, is to carry out the instructions of Council with regard to the sale or purchase of Real Property (Buildings and/or Land). Trustees can be re-elected. In the event of a trustee resigning or being unable to carry out his/her duties, Council can co-opt a replacement who will carry out the functions of Trustee until the next AGM.

'See Appendix K'

(b) In the event of a complaint by an employee of the Association, who has suffered abuse of a violent, verbal, or sexual nature, or any discrimination during the course of their normal duties as an employee of the Association, then the officers of the Association should instigate an immediate investigation. If the complaint is upheld by the officers, then the said officers have the power to invoke all necessary legal procedures to protect the individuals so effected by the abuse and invoke statutory agencies as required. If the complaint is against a member of the Association that member can be suspended with immediate effect while an investigation is conducted. Furthermore, if the abuser is a member of the RPRAs then the officers can suspend the privileges of the Association from that member until any legal procedure has been completed or if their investigations conclude suspension or expulsion is an appropriate course of action.

PART D: MEMBERSHIP

Individuals

8. Membership of the Association shall be open to individuals either upon being admitted as a member of a Club or upon being admitted by a Local Region Committee pursuant to Rule 15.

Local Regions

9. Within boundaries prescribed by the Council, the Association shall constitute Local Regions. Every Organisation having its headquarters within such boundaries shall be deemed to be affiliated to that Local Region and every member of the Association having his registered membership address within such boundaries shall be deemed to be a member of that Local Region. The constitution and organisation of any Local Region shall be determined by that Local Region provided that such constitution and organisation is consistent with these Rules, adopts all the provisions of these Rules which are applicable to Local Regions and obliges all members to observe the provisions of these Rules.

10. All local administration of the Association within a geographical area prescribed by the Council pursuant to this Rule shall be vested in the Local Region for that area, subject only to appeal to the Appeals Committee in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.

11. Each Local Region shall hold its annual general meeting at least 14 days prior to the last Friday in February in each year.

Local Region Committees

12. Any member appointed to serve on a Local Region Committee must

(a) Be a member of and be duly appointed by a Club or group having its headquarters within such geographical area.

(b) Be a fully paid up member of such a Club, or a Club which is a member of such a group, and

(c) Unless he/she is a member of a National or Specialist Club, have his/her registered membership address within the geographical area of such Local Region, irrespective of whether his/her loft is within the boundaries of another Local Region.

13. Officers or officials of any of Local Region Committees shall be deemed to be agents of the Association in all matters authorised by these Rules or the Rules of such Local Region but shall not have power to pledge the credit of the Association.

Application for Individual Membership

14. Any individual may apply to become a member of the Association by applying to the Local Region Committee for the area in which he resides. Any such application shall be upon a form to be obtained from the Local Region Committee which form shall require the applicant to state whether he has ever been a member of a Club or Organisation concerned with the racing of pigeons and if so to give details of such Club or Organisation. Such application form shall be signed by the applicant and by two members of the Association to whom the applicant is personally known.

15. A Local Region Committee shall have the right to refuse to grant membership of the Association to an applicant where it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association. Unless a Local Region Committee is so satisfied, it shall admit an applicant who has complied with the provisions of Rule 14 to membership of the Association.

Schools. Colleges. Universities etc

16. Any school, college, university or other educational establishment or institution or communal or community project, shall be entitled to be recognised as a member of the Association by virtue of the membership of an

individual who is a member of the Association and agrees to act as nominee for the school college university or other educational establishment or institution or communal or community project.

Application for Affiliation

17. Any pigeon racing or showing organisation may apply for affiliation to the Association by writing to the Secretary of the Region within which its headquarters are situated. The written application must be made by February 1st and include: The name of the organisation, which may only include the word National if its membership is open to all members of the Association. The full names and addresses of at least eight competing lofts for a club, or three competing members for a group. A copy of the domestic rules of the organisation which must include the route the organisation wishes to fly and all rules in the Association Standard Rules for Affiliated organisations. A written statement to justify the reasons for affiliation. A deposit of £50 which may be returned less advertising costs. The fully compliant application shall be advertised by the Region Secretary in the UK national press devoted to pigeon racing and showing, allowing 21 days from the date of publication during which any member, organisation or Region may submit a written and signed objection to such affiliation. The Region Secretary shall copy any written objection to the applicant organisation which then may submit a written response. At the expiry of the 21 days objection period the Region Secretary shall as soon as practicable, refer the application with any objections and responses to a meeting of the Region Committee at which neither the applicant nor the objector may make verbal representation unless requested to do so. The decision of the Region Committee is final and shall be communicated in writing to all parties concerned. Affiliation shall take immediate effect if granted. An organisation refused affiliation cannot reapply to any Region for a period of 12 months.

18. (Spare)

19. (Spare)

20. (Spare)

21. (Spare)

22. (Spare)

Club officials

23. No officer or official of any Club or Group shall be deemed to be an agent of the Association and the Association shall not be bound by or liable in respect of any act, default or omission of any such officer or official of any Club or Group or by any act, default or omission of any Club or Group.

PART E: SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES

Club Fees

24. Each Club shall pay an annual fee to the Local Region in which its headquarters is situated. The Annual fee must be paid before the last day of February. Any Club which fails to pay its annual fee by March 1st, shall in addition to such annual fee, pay a penalty. The annual fee and penalty to be fixed by Council at its October meeting each year.

'See Appendix N'

Group Fees

25. Every Group shall pay an annual fee to the Association and shall send such fee to the Chief Executive not later than 1st April in each

year. Together with payment of such fee, every Group shall send to the Chief Executive a list of the Clubs or combinations of Clubs which are members of the Group, the address of its headquarters and the name and address of the Group's President, Secretary and Convoyers (where applicable). Any Group which fails to pay its annual fee by 1st April in any year shall pay a penalty for late payment. The Association shall procure that payment of the said registration fee in any year entitles each Group to insurance cover against public liability at liberation sites in England, Scotland and Wales officially approved by the Association to a limit of £5,000,000 per insured event. The annual fee and penalty to be fixed by Council at its October meeting each year.

'See Appendix N'

26. (Spare)

Members' Subscriptions

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 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 Club's Local Region 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 except any Junior member that has paid their subscription to the Association through another Club and an annual subscription to the Club's Local Region except any junior member that has paid their subscription to the Local Region through another Club. The annual fee and penalty to be fixed by Council at its October meeting each year.

'See Appendix N'

28. For the purpose of the computation of annual subscriptions, each partner in any partnership of members of the Association admitted to membership of a Club shall be reckoned to be a separate member.

(a) all members must pay an RPRA annual fee. Where a member is a partner in two or more different partnerships located at the same or different addresses an RPRA fee must be paid for each loft number where he/she is a partner. Both fees shall be paid to the Local Region.

(b) any partnership containing a deceased member can apply to their Local Region Committee for a payment exemption of RPRA subscriptions for the deceased member. Once agreed by the Local Region Committee such exemption shall commence from the following year's subscriptions.

29. Each Club shall pay the said annual subscriptions to the Association and the Club's Local Region prior to 1st March in each year and together with such payment shall send to the Secretary of the Club's Local Region Committee a list showing the names and addresses of all the members of the Club. If an individual becomes a member of Club after 1st March in any year, that Club shall provide to the Secretary of the Club's Local Region Committee the name and address of such individual and shall pay the annual Association subscription and the annual Local Region subscription in respect of such individual unless he has already paid his Local Region subscription through another Club.

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 RPRA subscription to . . . Club.' All members of National or Specialist Clubs must pay their RPRA 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.

31. If any Club shall fail to pay the due annual Association subscription and the due annual Local Region subscription for any member by 1st March in any year, that Club shall pay to the Secretary of its Local Region Committee a surcharge per member in respect of whom either the annual Association subscription or the annual Local Region subscription has not been paid when such subscription is paid. Such surcharges shall become the property of the Club's Local Region. The penalty to be fixed by Council at its October meeting each year. **'See Appendix N'**

32. An individual Member shall pay
(a) An annual subscription to the Association and
(b) An annual subscription to the Local Region.
(c) An individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to the Association an annual subscription.
(d) An individual Junior member under the age of 18 will pay to their Local Region an annual subscription.
The annual fee to be fixed by Council at its October meeting each year.
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. **'See Appendix N'**

33. Payment of an annual subscription to the Association by any member shall entitle him to the privileges and benefits of membership of the Association in accordance with these Rules from 1st March in the year in which the subscription is paid until the last day of the ensuing February. After 1st March in each year, any member of the Association who shall have failed to pay his annual subscription to the Association for that year shall cease to be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of membership of the Association until he has paid his annual subscription to the Association for that year.

Membership Records

34. Each Secretary of a Local Region Committee shall issue an Association membership card to each member of the Association in respect of whom the annual Association subscription and the annual Local Region subscription is paid and shall send such card to the Club which made payment of the subscription for the member.

35. Prior to 30th April in each year, the Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall send to the Chief Executive all annual Association subscriptions received by him, together with a list of the Clubs which have paid their annual affiliation fee to the relevant Local Region, giving the names and addresses of the Secretaries of all such Clubs. Within four weeks after 30th April the Chief Executive shall notify any Local Region Committee Secretary who has failed to send all annual Association subscriptions to the Chief Executive by 30th April.

36. Each Local Region shall apply all Local

Region subscriptions received by it in accordance with the objects of the Association. If any Local Region secedes from the Association the Local Region shall pay to the Chief Executive all monies of which the Local Region Committee then stands possessed and shall deliver to the Chief Executive all documents and things in the ownership, possession or control of the Local Region for the furtherance of the objects of the Association.

Alterations to Subscriptions

37. Any alteration in the amount of annual subscription to the Association or a local region passed by the October meeting of the Council shall take effect on 1st November in the same year.

PART F: MANAGEMENT

The Council

38. The ultimate control of the affairs of the Association shall be exercised by the Council in general meetings provided that the Council may in its absolute discretion seek a vote from all members of the Association on any matter or resolution. If the Council determines to put a matter or resolution to the vote of all members of the Association, the Council shall specify the matter or resolution to be put to members and shall provide voting forms to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee but the Local Region Committee shall administer the taking of such vote and shall bear any costs and postage associated therewith. The Council shall determine the date by which any such vote shall be taken and shall specify such date to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee. In the event that a straight majority of members of the Association vote for or against any matter or resolution put to the vote in this manner, the Council shall be obliged to take the necessary actions to give effect to that vote. In all other cases, the Council shall not be obliged to comply with the view expressed by the majority of votes cast on any such matter or resolution but shall take such votes into account in the Council's deliberations.

Council Officers

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 five successive years. The conduct of the nominations for and election of officers shall be regulated by the Council.

Chief Executive and Local Region Committee Secretaries

40. The Chief Executive shall be appointed upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the Council shall consider appropriate. A Councillor shall not be eligible for the office of Chief Executive while holding office as a Councillor. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to attend Committee and Council meetings of the Association and to ensure a record of the minutes are taken. All money paid to the Chief Executive, either as remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in respect of the business of the Association, shall be included in the accounts of the Association.

41. The Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Local Region. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Local Region

Committee to attend all meetings of the Local Region Committee and to record and keep the minutes thereof. The Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall be paid such salary as the relevant Local Region Committee shall determine. All payments made by a Local Region Committee to its Secretary, whether as remuneration or as reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Secretary in respect of the business of the Local Region, shall be shown in the accounts for the Local Region.

Councillors

42. Each Local Region with a membership not exceeding 1,500 shall be entitled to appoint one Councillor. Each Local Region with a membership numbering not less than 1,501 and not more than 2,500 shall be entitled to appoint two Councillors and each Local Region with a membership numbering more than 2,500 shall be entitled to appoint three Councillors. Appointments of Councillors shall be made at the Annual General Meeting of each Local Region. Councillors will hold office from the date of the Annual General Meeting at which they are appointed until the conclusion of the next following Annual General Meeting of the Local Region and shall be eligible for re-election.

43. No member shall be eligible to be appointed a Councillor unless he has attended meetings of a Club which is affiliated to the Local Region purporting to appoint him as a Councillor within the year prior to the annual general meeting of the Local Region at which he is appointed.

44. At all Council meetings where a Councillor cannot be present, his/her place may be taken by a reserve delegate at all Committee meetings and each reserve delegate be given full powers.

45. No person who is currently, or has been previously, fully employed by the Association shall be eligible for appointment as a Councillor. This shall also apply to persons financially interested in or representing any trade concern or business involved with appliances, apparatus, foodstuffs, periodicals, newspapers or any other item relating to the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons. Secretaries of Local Region Committees & Secretaries of clubs are eligible for appointment as Councillors notwithstanding that they are or may be paid to perform their respective offices. In the event of any doubt being raised as to the eligibility of any member for appointment as a Councillor the Council will determine whether or not the member is eligible.

46. At the annual general meeting of the Council to be held following an annual general meeting of a Local Region each Councillor appointed by the Local Region must be prepared to produce to the President of the Association confirmation signed by the Secretary or President of the Local Region Committee that he was duly elected as a Councillor at the annual general meeting of the Local Region together with confirmation signed by the Secretary or President of a Club which nominated him as a representative to the Local Region Committee that he was so nominated and that he has attended meetings of the Club in the year prior to the annual general meeting of the Local Region.

Council Meetings

47. (a) Subject as set out in these Rules, the Council shall determine the dates upon which general meetings of the Council shall be held and shall regulate its own proceedings.

47. (b) Each year by July 31st the Chief Executive Officer shall in conjunction with

elected officials, produce a draft budget for the following financial year. This draft budget will be circulated to region secretaries for onward circulation to affiliated clubs for consideration. Clubs wishing to submit constructive comments may do so in writing to their Region Secretary by August 30th. The draft budget and comments received will be considered by a general meeting of the Region to be held during September. The views of the meeting will be submitted to the CEO in time for inclusion in the agenda of the October meeting of Council. At this meeting Council will fix membership fees and other variable charges for the ensuing year.

48. Any Local Region Committee acting through its Secretary or a Councillor appointed by that Local Region may request the President to include any matter in the general business specified in any such notice but no such matter shall be so specified unless the Chief Executive has received such a request more than 21 days before the date upon which the meeting is due to be held in the case of any general meeting other than the annual general meeting and 42 days before the date on which the meeting is due to be held in the case of the annual general meeting (excluding in each case the date of the meeting and the date on which the request is received by the Chief Executive).

49. An annual general meeting of the Council shall be held on the last Friday in February each year and other general meetings shall be held as often as may be required.

50. Not less than twenty eight days notice in the case of each Annual General Meeting and not less than 10 days notice in the case of any other general meeting (excluding the date of the meeting and the date on which the notice is posted) specifying the place, date and time at which the meeting is to be held and the business proposed to be dealt with at the meeting shall be sent by post to all Councillors and Reserve Delegates to Council and shall be made available to all newspapers published in the United Kingdom specialising in the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons, provided that in the case of general meetings other than the Annual General Meeting the notice made available to newspapers shall not specify the business proposed to be dealt with at the meeting.

Special Meetings

51. The President of the Association may at any time call a Special Meeting of the Council and the President shall hold a Special Meeting within 21 days after receiving a written request for a special meeting signed by no fewer than a majority of Councillors. A special meeting shall be called with such period of notice and by such means as the President of the Association shall determine. No advertising of a special meeting shall be required. Only business of a non-routine or urgent nature shall be dealt with at a Special Meeting of Council.

Committees of the Council

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 Head Officer for the time being of the British Homing World and the Chief Executive.

Proceedings at Meetings

53. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting or special meeting of the Council unless a quorum consisting of a majority of all Councillors and including Councillors appointed by not less than five Local Regions is present.

54. Each Councillor shall have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless any Councillor demands a secret ballot either before or on the declaration of the result of a show of hands. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The declaration by the Chairman of a general meeting or special meeting that a resolution has or has not been passed, whether on a show of hands or on the result of a secret ballot, shall be final.

55. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside as Chairman of any general meeting or special meeting of the Council or of any committee meeting. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Councillors present shall elect one of their number to act as Chairman.

56. No resolution shall be passed at any general meeting of the Council unless the general nature of the business has been mentioned in the notice convening the meeting. The Chairman of any general meeting of the Council shall have authority to permit any matter to be raised and discussed at the meeting notwithstanding that it may not have been mentioned in the notice convening the meeting and the Chairman's determination as to whether any proposed resolution or matter falls within the ambit of business mentioned in the notice convening a meeting shall be final.

Minutes of the Council

57. The Council and all Committees shall cause minutes of all resolutions and proceedings of the Council to be entered in books maintained for the purpose and in particular shall cause to be entered in such minutes:

- (a) the names of the Councillors present at any meeting of the Council.
- (b) the wording of all resolutions or decisions of any meeting.
- (c) details of all appointments of officers of the Association
- (d) a list of which councillors voted for, against and abstained on all resolutions or decisions of any meeting. This will include all propositions put forward at an AGM. This information will also appear in any publication relating to such meetings.

58. The minutes of any Council meeting shall be considered by the next ensuing general meeting or special meeting and if agreed by that meeting to be a true record shall be signed by the Chairman of that meeting and the Chief Executive.

Councillors' Expenses

59. The Association shall pay or reimburse Councillors for the cost of second class return railway fares or if travelling by car an allowance of 45p per mile, hotel costs will be paid for by the Association. In attending meetings of Council or any Committee of the Council the following sums by way of expenses will be paid;

- (a) when necessary for a Councillor to arrive for a Thursday evening meeting - £20.
- (b) when necessary for a Councillor to arrive Thursday night - £10.
- (c) in respect of any Saturday - £20 irrespective of what time the meeting finished.
- (d) in respect of any other day - £40.

60. (a) The President of the Association shall be paid an allowance for personal expenses of £2,000 per annum.

60. (b) Members of Council or salaried staff nominated to represent the Association at any function or meeting shall be paid his/her travelling and accommodation - such costs to be kept to a minimum. Any person accompanying a nominated representative does so at his/her expense.

61. The Association shall procure that such insurance cover as the Council considers appropriate from time to time against the risks of loss of life, personal injury and loss or damage to personal property shall be taken out and maintained by the Association in favour of Councillors in respect of their attendances at meetings of the Council or any Committee of the Council.

PART G: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Income of the Association

62. The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the objects of the Association and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of the Association, provided that nothing shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officials or employees of the Association or to any members of the Association in consideration for services rendered by such members.

Bank Accounts

63. The banking accounts of the Association shall be kept at such banks or building societies as the Council shall appoint in the name of the Association and all money belonging to the Association shall be paid into such an account. Cheques on any such account shall be signed by such persons as the Council may prescribe.

Accounts

64. The Council shall cause true accounts to be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Association.

65. The accounts shall be kept at the office of the Association or such other place as the Council may determine. The Council shall determine to what extent the accounts of the Association or any of them shall be open to inspection by members and the members shall have only such rights of inspection as are given to them by the Council.

Auditors

66. (a) Every year the accounts of the association shall be examined by qualified auditors, such auditors shall be appointed at the Association A.G.M.

66. (b) Local Regions shall appoint auditors at each AGM.

Annual Audited Accounts

67. Not less than 28 days before the date upon which the Council's annual general meeting is due to be held the Council shall publish an

audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the Association. The balance sheet shall be taken as at such date as the Council shall determine. The income and expenditure account shall be in respect of the period commencing with the date upon which the most recent audited published income and expenditure account of the Association ended and ending with the date upon which the balance sheet is taken. A copy of such audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be sent to each Councillor and to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee.

68. The Council shall procure that prior to publication the income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the Association shall have been audited by the Association's auditors and that attached to the said accounts upon publication shall be a certificate from the Association's auditors stating whether in their opinion the accounts exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association. For the purpose of enabling the Association's auditors to conduct their audit the Council shall procure that the auditors shall have access to the books of the Association and that the officers or employees of the Association give to the Association's auditors such information or explanations as they may seek in the performance of their duties.

69. The Secretary of every Local Region Committee shall forward a copy of the audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet of that Local Region to the Chief Executive and such accounts may be published by the Council.

All Region Balance Sheets shall be issued to all affiliated Organisations & Region Committee Members at least seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

PART H: DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES

Disciplinary Proceedings

70. (a) If any member of the Association shall be guilty of any dishonourable conduct or of conduct which renders him unfit to be a member of any Organisation or the Association or wilfully breaks the Rules of any Organisation or these Rules or refuses to comply with any decision of an Organisation or the Association upon any matters affecting the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons, he may be excluded from membership of that Organisation or expelled or suspended from the Association by the Organisation, any such suspension to be of such duration as the Organisation shall determine. The procedure to be adopted by any Organisation in any matter which may lead to the exclusion, expulsion or suspension of a member shall be that specified in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations under the heading 'Grievances and Disciplinary Matters'.

70. (b) It shall be the right of any affiliated Organisation to exclude, suspend or expel any person who is a member of a Club which is a member of the affiliated Organisation, under the provision of this Rule.

71. Disputes, complaints and grievances between members or between members belonging to different organisations on matters connected with the sport or between members and an Organisation to which they may belong including appeals against any decision of such Organisation, shall be heard and determined as laid down by these rules by the Local Region within whose limits the person or Organisation

involved in the dispute resides or is established. Any Local Region may expel or suspend a member from the Association in any of the circumstances specified in the immediately preceding Rule whether or not any Organisation of which the member in question is a member takes any action against him. The procedure to be adopted by a local Region in any matter which may lead to the expulsion or suspension of a member shall be the same as that which an Organisation is obliged to adopt.

72. If an Organisation shall be guilty of conduct which renders it unfit to be affiliated to the Association the Local Region to which it is affiliated may expel or suspend that Organisation for such period as the Local Region Committee may determine.

73. An Organisation shall notify its Local Region Committee of the exclusion, expulsion or suspension of a member as soon as possible after a decision to that effect has been taken and such exclusion, expulsion or suspension shall take effect immediately, unless an appeal is lodged with the Local Region Committee in accordance with Rule 82, in which event such exclusion, expulsion or suspension shall be stayed pending the outcome of the appeal. In the event that no such appeal is lodged, the Local Region Committee shall confirm the decision of the Organisation unless the Local Region Committee considers that the decision of the Organisation was not made in accordance with these Rules or the rules of the Organisation. The award of any prizes, pools, nominations, specials, etc won after the date of the decision by an Organisation to exclude, expel or suspend a member shall follow the ultimate result of any appeal by the member against exclusion, expulsion or suspension. The Secretary of each Local Region Committee shall notify the Chief Executive of the name and address of each member suspended or expelled by the Local Region or whose suspension or expulsion is confirmed by the Local Region Committee.

74. Notice of the expulsion or suspension of any Organisation by a Local Region shall be communicated to the Chief Executive by the Secretary of the Local Region Committee as soon as possible after the decision to that effect. The Chief Executive shall notify such expulsion or suspension to the Secretaries of all other Local Region Committees and Secretaries of all Organisations to which members of such expelled or suspended Organisations paid subscriptions.

Effect of Expulsion or Suspension from the Association

75. During the period of expulsion or suspension any member expelled or suspended shall cease to be a member of the Association and shall not be permitted to attend any meeting held under the Rules of the Association except that they may be invited to attend a Local Region or Council meeting when applying to have a suspension lifted but for that item on the agenda only. No address, loft or ring belonging to or registered in the name of an expelled or suspended member shall be recognised by the Association during the period of expulsion or suspension. It shall, however, be within the right of any member other than an expelled or suspended member at any time to apply for the 'freeing' of any such ineligible address, loft or ring and the Local Region Committee may grant such a request.

76. Upon the expulsion or suspension of any organisation all its members shall cease to be

members of the Association. A member of any suspended Organisation may apply to a Local Region Committee to continue to be a member of the Association by membership of another Organisation or by becoming an Individual Member. Such application shall be by letter addressed to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee. The decision of the Local Region Committee on any such application may be given without holding any formal enquiry or hearing any evidence.

77. Expulsion from the Association is Time-Limited. Such expulsion can be appealed under the provisions of rules 82/83 or lifted under the provisions Rules 80/81. Past RPRAs members previously expelled for life may apply to the appeals committee of Council for reinstatement provided that they have served a minimum ten year period. All appeals for reinstatement must be supported by character witnesses who are already members of the RPRAs. Before the hearing the applicant must agree to accept the appeals committee of Council decision as final and binding before their case for reacceptance into the RPRAs will be heard. The organisation or Region that made or confirmed the original expulsion (if known) must be informed and given the opportunity to supply written comment on the application if they so wish.

78. The Chief Executive shall keep a register of all suspended and expelled members whose names and addresses are notified to him by the Secretaries of the Local Region Committees.

79. The termination of any suspension of a member from the association shall free all rings which in consequence of such suspension have not been recognised by the Association but shall not entitle the suspended member to be reinstated as a member of any organisation unless such Organisation shall otherwise decide upon application being made in accordance with the Rule in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated organisations under the heading 'Membership'.

80. Any member wishing to apply for the lifting of suspension imposed upon him or confirmed by a Local Region may apply to that Local Region. Any application shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a fee of £5. The decision of the Local Region upon any such application shall be final.

81. Any members wishing to apply for the lifting of their suspension imposed by Council must make an application in writing to Council.

Disputes and Appeals to Local Regions

82. Any member

(a) excluded from membership of an Organisation or expelled or suspended from membership of the Association by an Organisation, or

(b) aggrieved by a decision of an Organisation made at a meeting held in accordance with the procedure set out in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations under the heading 'Grievances and Disciplinary Matters' or

(c) having a dispute with an Organisation shall have the right to appeal to the Local Region to which that Organisation is affiliated. The following provisions shall apply to any such appeal

(1) Any such appeal shall be made by notice in writing delivered to the Secretary of the Local Region committee within 21 days of the date of the decision of the Organisation to exclude, expel or suspend such member or within 21 days of the date of the meeting of the Organisation at which the decision was made to

which the grievance relates or within 21 days of the member's dispute with the Organisation arising shall state the member's grounds of appeal. The notice shall be accompanied by a payment of a fee of £20 which shall be returned to the appellant if his appeal is successful.

(2) Upon receipt of any notice of appeal the Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall inform the relevant Organisation of the appeal and the grounds of appeal and request any written evidence which it may wish to submit. If the appeal is against or concerning a decision made at a meeting of the Organisation the Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall request a copy of the notice concerning that meeting sent to the appellant. The Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall give not less than 10 days notice of the date and place appointed for the hearing of the appeal to the appellant, the relevant Organisation and all members of the Local Region Committee. Any such notice shall be sent to the parties concerned by recorded delivery post and shall be accompanied by particulars of the appeal.

(3) At the hearing of the appeal by the Local Region Committee, the appellant and the relevant Organisation shall be entitled to attend, be represented, give evidence and receive and consider written statements or explanations furnished by the other party.

(4) Witnesses will not be allowed into the hearing until they are called individually to give their evidence and answer questions. They will not be allowed to leave the room until all the witnesses have been examined.

(5) The appellant and the relevant organisation may call witnesses on his or its behalf and/or make a verbal statement to the Local Region Committee.

(6) Subject as laid down in these Rules the Chairman of the Local Region committee shall have discretion as to the conduct of any hearing and the procedure to be followed at it.

(7) No member of a Local Region Committee shall attend any hearing by the Local Region Committee of any appeal affecting an Organisation of which he is a member unless he represents such Organisation at the appeal.

(8) The decision of the Local Region Committee shall be made as soon as practicable following the hearing, shall take effect from the date on which it is made and shall be communicated to the parties to the appeal and to the Chief Executive forthwith.

(9) The Local Region Committee may rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of an Organisation except that the Local Region Committee may not vary a suspension to an expulsion. The Local Region Committee may order that any meeting of the Organisation be re-held if not satisfied that the rules of the Organisation have been fully and properly complied with.

Appeals to the Council

83. (a) The Council of the Association shall appoint annually an appeals committee consisting of one member from each Region, five to form a quorum. The current President to be the chairman, in his absence, the committee will elect a Chairman from the floor. Appeal meetings to be held at the discretion of the current President.

83. (b) Any organisation a decision of which has been rescinded, modified or varied by a Local Region Committee and any member of the Association on whom or in whose interests a decision of the Local Region Committee has a direct, material and adverse effect may, unless the decision of the Local Region Committee is expressed by these Rules to be final, appeal to

Council for a re-hearing of the matter in question. The Appeal will be heard by an elected Appeals committee, consisting of one member from each region, minimum of 5 Councillors to form a quorum. For each Appeal process the RPRA President will select the committee required, taking in to account interested parties and other associated issues. No Councillor from a Region which the appellant is a member shall be eligible.

The following provisions shall apply to any such appeal.

(1) The appellant shall give notice in writing to the Chief Executive within 21 days after the relevant decision of the Local Region Committee stating the grounds of appeal. The notice shall be accompanied by payment of a fee of £30 (together with value added tax at the applicable rate) which shall be returned to the appellant in the event that the appeal is successful.

(2) Upon receipt of any such notice the Chief Executive shall forward a copy to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee in question who shall, within 21 days after receipt of such copy notice forward to the Chief Executive copies of the written evidence considered by the Local Region Committee together with the grounds upon which the Committee's decision was made.

(3) The Chief Executive may, after consultation with the President and Vice- Presidents and with their advice set out in detail, refer any appeal back to its source if (a) it is found to have been incorrectly submitted, (b) it is out of time, or (c) the terms of interpretation set out in the Rules of the Association have not been observed.

(4) The Chief Executive shall give not less than 10 days notice of the date and place appointed for the hearing of the appeal to every party to the appeal and to each eligible member of the Appeals Committee. With such notice the Chief Executive shall send a copy of the written evidence and grounds upon which the decision of the Local Region Committee was made which he has received from the Secretary of the Local Region Committee.

(5) At the hearing of the appeal by the Appeals Committee, all parties to the appeal may attend or be represented and may give evidence provided that no evidence shall be given which was not given at the relevant hearing before the Local Region Committee unless the Appeals Committee consents to such evidence being given and notice of intention to tender such fresh evidence, accompanied by full particulars, shall have been served upon the Chief Executive and the other party or parties to the appeal at least 7 days prior to the hearing.

(6) At the hearing to the appeal by the Appeals Committee it will be permissible for a representative from the Local Region Committee to be available for corroboration of the evidence heard before the Local Region Committee.

(7) No Councillor shall be present at the hearing of an appeal from the decision of a Local Region Committee of a Local Region of which he is a delegate unless he represents the appellant or another party to the appeal or is present only for the purpose of corroborating evidence heard before the Local Region Committee.

(8) The Appeals Committee may rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of the Local Region Committee and the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final.

'See Appendix I'

PART I: LEGAL MATTERS

Legal Advice

84. No individual, organisation, Region, or the Council shall be held liable for expenses incurred by any party or parties to an objection or an appeal held under RPRA rules.

85. The Association shall have power so far as the law allows to provide or assist in providing legal advice and assistance to its members in respect of all questions arising out of or connected with the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons or any matter which in the judgement of the Council directly or indirectly affects the interests of the Association. Any application by a member or an Organisation for legal advice or assistance shall be made in writing to the Local Region to which such member belongs or such Organisation is affiliated accompanied by a written statement of the facts of the case and any relevant evidence. Upon receipt of such application the Local Region Committee may take such steps as it deems expedient. No Local Region Committee shall incur any greater expenses than £100 in any one case without the authority of the Council. Legal charges and rewards to informants not exceeding £100 in any one case shall be paid out of Local Region funds.

86. When in the opinion of the Association's Solicitor a case warrants pursuing by the Association, the President may authorise a Local Region Committee to proceed notwithstanding the fact that the limit of £100 may be exceeded and such action shall be put to the next general meeting of the Council for confirmation. The Council and each Local Region Committee shall have the power to initiate legal proceedings or to take such steps as it considers expedient to procure or assist in procuring the punishment of offences which in the opinion of the Council or the Local Region Committee affect the interests of the Association or its members and may offer and pay rewards for information concerning such matters.

Shooting etc

87. The reward offered for information leading to conviction for shooting, trapping or stealing any pigeon or pigeons the property of any member or members of the Association shall be £50. If any member of the Association knowingly withholds evidence or otherwise fails to support action taken in connection with the commission of any offence concerning the shooting, trapping or unlawful dealing in racing pigeons, he shall be guilty of dishonourable conduct.

PART J: RESTRICTIONS

88. No member of the Association shall be a member of a Homing Union not recognised by the Association. A list of recognised Unions and associations within the United Kingdom is set out in Appendix A to these Rules. The Association will recognise rings as issued by these other Unions providing their manufacture is of a standard approved by the RPRA and includes a metal insert, on the production of proof of ownership from the issuing Unions.

89. No member of the Association shall be permitted to participate in any race organised by a person who is neither a member of the Association nor of a union or association recognised by the Association.

90. Failure to comply with either of the two preceding Rules will result in disciplinary proceedings being brought against the member.

91. No person shall be permitted to compete in any open race or at any show or exhibition held under the Rules of the Association unless he is a member of the Association or other union or association recognised by the Association.

92. No member of a union or Organisation

which is not recognised by the Association shall be permitted to compete or take any part in any race, show or exhibition held under the Rules of the Association. Failure to comply with this Rule may result in the said races, shows or exhibitions, or individual placings therein, being declared void, or in individuals being disqualified.

PART K: OWNERSHIP OF PIGEONS

Rings

93. In all races it shall be deemed to be the ring and not the bird which is entered.

94. (a) All birds entered in races must be the property of the person in whose name they are entered, and the ring(s) they carry must be registered as such in the records of the appropriate recognised Association/ Union. In the case of partners, the ring(s) shall be registered in their joint names.

94. (b) No unrun bird shall be flown in any race or exhibited in any show held by or under the Rules of the Association. An unrun bird is one which does not carry a complete and unaltered ring issued by the Association or another union recognised by the Association.

95. Members wishing to race or show pigeons bearing foreign rings must have them registered at the Headquarters of the Association. Proof of ownership must be sent to Headquarters with the application for registration, together with a stamped addressed envelope and a fee as advertised in the price list.

96. All birds must carry at least one intact unaltered Association life ring or a life ring issued by a Union recognised by the Association or a foreign life ring when the owner can produce proof of ownership. Should a bird carry more than one life ring, both life rings must be from the same year and be registered to one loft number and must be from the country of origin, and must comply with the designation of Council in regard to the size, shape, composition, type and quality of the ring.

Ring Sales

97. The Council has the authority to designate the size, shape, composition, type and quality of ring which shall be issued by the Association. Such rings shall be available for purchase by members and Organisations from the Association. Rings issued with the serial letters 'SR' are only eligible for showing.

98. (Spare)

99. All Secretaries of Organisations must, on or before the first day of April in each year, forward to the Chief Executive a complete list of all rings sold, together with the names and addresses of the purchasers and where known the telephone number and email addresses. On the first day of each succeeding month thereafter each Secretary of an Organisation must forward to the Chief Executive a list of all rings sold during the preceding month, giving the names and addresses of all purchasers. The ring list sent to the Association shall be date stamped by the Association and returned to the Secretary of the Organisation. The Chief Executive shall notify any Secretary of an Organisation who has not sent lists of rings sold by 1st May in any year that such lists are overdue and should be sent immediately.

100. (Spare)

101. At the end of the year in which rings

become ten years old, the Chief Executive shall be empowered to destroy the original ring ownership records. Before 30th June of the year in which a pigeon in his possession becomes ten years old, the owner of such a bird may re-register the ring with the Chief Executive on a card provided by the Association for the purpose. Rings not so re-registered are not eligible for competition.

Transfer of Rings

102. On change of ownership of any bird carrying a ring issued by the association, the former owner shall either forthwith sign & deliver a transfer form to the new owner or agree to transfer the bird by electronic means. In either event the original owner shall have 7 days to object to the proposed transfer. The cost of this process will be found in the current price list.

103. No competitor in any race, show or exhibition shall be entitled to win a prize unless the ring carried by the bird was issued to the owner, or had been transferred to and registered in the name of the owner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding rule for a period of 14 days prior to the date of the race, show or exhibition. Proof of ownership of winning birds must be given to the organisers or promoters before prize money is handed over.

104. When a member changes his postal address he shall re-register with the Association all rings registered in his name.

Partnerships

105. Rings on pigeons which become the subject of a partnership between members of the Association at an address at which one of the partners is already registered shall be registered in the name of the partnership upon payment of a fee of £5.00 per partner (inclusive of value added tax), provided that the registered owner of the rings is a partner in such partnership.

106. (a) In the event of dissolution or termination of a partnership, alterations of the registered owner's name will be made upon payment of a fee of £5.00 per partner (inclusive of value added tax), provided that the succeeding owner is resident at the registered address of the former partnership. Proof of dissolution or termination of a partnership shall be furnished to the Chief Executive and all of the partners in the ex partnership must sign the Association's standard form. Should it not be possible to obtain the signatures of all the former partners for any reason, a covering letter explaining the circumstances must be forwarded to the Secretary of the relevant Local Region Committee who, after investigation, may give permission for the partnership to be dissolved. All rings on pigeons removed from or to an address other than that at which the owner of such rings is registered must be transferred by means of submission of the standard ring transfer form.

106. (b) Upon dissolution or termination of a partnership whereby the loft reverts to a single member loft, the loft name shall be changed from the partnership loft name to the full name of the remaining member.

106. (c) Upon dissolution or termination of a partnership whereby the loft has one paid member and one or more deceased and exempt members remaining on the partnership, the loft name may remain as the partnership name.

107. Unless otherwise stated on the Association's partnership form, a partnership will be considered as a partnership of equal shares

and upon its dissolution, or upon the death of one of the partners, the birds and the associated effects shall be divided between the remaining partner or partners and the personal representatives of the deceased partner in accordance with the initial agreement.

Verifications

108. The Secretary of any RPRA Organisation may obtain verification of the ownership of any RPRA association ring on a bird using the free online verification tool on the RPRA website. Any RPRA Organisation or non-RPRA Organisation may request verification of ownership by paying to the Chief Executive a fee of £1 per ring (inclusive of value added tax)

Stray Birds

109. If the Chief Executive receives notification of a found or stray pigeon he/she may communicate to the finder the telephone number(s) of the owner and to the owner the telephone number(s) of the finder.

110. On receipt of notification of a stray bird from a non-fancier, and having established that the bird is a stray, the Chief Executive will notify the owner by second class post or email and pass the telephone number(s) to the non-fancier. The owner will be advised that if he/she has not made contact with the finder and arranged collection of the pigeon within 48 hours (2 working days) the finder will be asked to contact the Chief Executive. In this instance, disciplinary action may be taken against the owner. The owner will have 14 days in which to arrange collection of the bird. If a pigeon has to be collected from a non-fancier by a local fancier, then the conditions of Rule 110 still apply in that the owner has 48 hours to collect his pigeon from the new finder.

111. If the finder is a member of the Association or of a homing union recognised by the Association, it shall be compulsory for the owner to communicate with the finder within 14 days of being notified by the Chief Executive, with instructions either to return the pigeon or for the pigeon to be transferred to the finder. If the pigeon is returned, the owner shall pay to the finder such amount as may be agreed between them or, failing agreement, the sum prescribed by the Council for this purpose from time to time if the bird is delivered by independent carrier by road or such higher expenses as are incurred by the finder in delivering the bird to the owner. In the event of the finder not wishing to have the bird transferred to him, he shall state so at the time of reporting the finding of the bird to the Chief Executive.

112. If the Chief Executive is informed that the owner has failed to claim a pigeon or had failed to communicate with a fancier finder within 14 days of being notified by the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive shall notify the secretary of the owner's Local Region Committee with a copy being posted to the member. If the member has not informed the Local Region Committee that the matter has been resolved within 7 days after such notification by the Chief Executive, the President and Secretary of the Local Region Committee may suspend such member from membership of the Association. Such suspension shall be effective until the next meeting of the Local Region Committee and shall be subject to confirmation at that meeting.

113. Any notice given to the Chief Executive in connection with stray birds shall be sufficiently given if sent by pre-paid first class post or email in the case of non-fanciers or second class post or email in the case of fancier.

114. Where a stray pigeon is reported direct to an owner by the finder, the provisions of the above Rules shall apply as if the finder had notified the Chief Executive.

115. If, after investigation by the Local Region, it is not possible to trace the present whereabouts of the owner of a stray pigeon, the ring on that pigeon shall be transferred to the finder.

116. If a finder is employed as, or carries out the business of, a pest controller, the owner shall have the right to request the finder to dispose of the bird or birds in the same manner as he deals with feral pigeons which come into his possession.

Offences

117. A member may be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled from membership of the Association if after investigation by the Committee of the Local Region of which he is a member is found to have in his possession without just cause any bird which is not his property.

118. A member may be suspended from membership of the Association if he shows, trains or races a bird of which he is not the registered owner either in the records of the Association or those of a homing union recognised by the Association.

119. If a member is suspended for failing to communicate with a finder of a stray pigeon, the ring on the stray pigeon shall be transferred to the finder notwithstanding any other action of a disciplinary nature which may be taken against the owner.

PART L: ADMINISTRATION OF RACING

Records

120. Each Club shall keep a record for a minimum of two years showing the full ring number, colour, sex and owner's name of every pigeon sent in races organised by the Club, whether competing or not.

Wing stamping/personal ring

121. During the racing season, each member must ensure that every pigeon raced or trained by him is either wing stamped on at least three flights or carrying a ring, in either case clearly showing the name and address of the owner or the telephone number of a person or Organisation to whom the pigeon should be reported if it becomes a stray. Any pigeon not so rung or wing stamped will not be accepted for racing under any circumstances whatsoever and Marking Committees must ensure that this is strictly adhered to. Any case of non-compliance may, after investigation by the Local Region Committee, entail the suspension of the relevant member.

Flown Distances

122. The word 'flown' when used in the context of a bird having flown a stated distance, shall be taken to mean that such bird has flown the distance stated as a competing bird in a race promoted by an Organisation or by another recognised union. Duplication Clubs may not issue flown certificates.

Award Cards

123. Should award cards be given for positions in either racing or showing, the full ring numbers of the winning birds shall be distinctly written or printed in indelible ink and the cards

shall be signed by an officer of the Organisation issuing the cards.

Officials. Convoyers. Liberators

124. Officials of any Organisation, including convoyers, assistant convoyers, official liberators, clock setters, the Chief Executive and Secretaries of Local Region Committees must be Members of the Association. All convoyers, assistant convoyers and official liberators must be licensed by the Association, such licence to be obtained from the Secretary of the Committee of the Local Region of which the applicant is a member. Licences shall apply from the 1st January to 31st December inclusive and the fee for a licence shall be £10.00 of which £4.00 will be retained by the Local Region and £6.00 (inclusive of VAT) shall be forwarded to the Chief Executive. A Local Region Committee shall be entitled to refuse to grant any such licence where it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association and its members. The decision of the Local Region Committee shall be final.

125. (a) In all races, before the pigeons are loaded onto the transporter, all baskets must be sealed by an RPRA approved seal. Once the pigeons are loaded onto the transporter they must be accompanied by a licensed convoyer, assistant convoyer or licensed liberator at all times until they are liberated. ALL matters relating to timing must be dealt with by a member or members of the Association.

125. (b) When transporting competing racing pigeons from Clubs to Organisations transport all baskets must be sealed by an RPRA approved seal, the birds must be accompanied by at least two members of the association who may not be subjects of the same partnership.

126. A code of conduct for licensed convoyers and official liberators is set out in Appendix C hereto and must be fully complied with. The Council may make such alterations or additions to the code of conduct as it thinks fit from time to time. Failure to comply with the code of conduct will result in the withdrawal of a licence from the relevant official.

127. (a) Any member or Organisation arranging for the conveying of racing pigeons shall, where the number of birds carried exceeds 500, ensure that the vehicle used is adequately fitted with equipment for the controlling of fires.

127. (b) The number of pigeons placed in the basket or container must be restricted relevant to the distance and time spent in them. The following figures must be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so may entail suspension of the individuals or organisation responsible. The nights in the basket to be from the day of marking to the projected day of liberation.

Time	Minimum floor area per pigeon
0 or 1 night	44 sq. ins.
2 nights	52 sq. ins.
over 2 nights	60 sq. ins.

See Appendix F

127. (c) In any age races or designated young bird races no old birds shall be allowed in the same baskets or containers as the young birds. Old birds may be transported on the same transporter but in separate baskets or containers.

Flying Routes

128. (a) Any Organisations carrying out pigeon racing must apply to the Committee

of the Local Region to which it is affiliated nominating the route which it wishes to fly. Should any existing Organisation wish to change its specified route, such alteration can only be made with the consent of the Committee of the Local Region to which that Organisation is affiliated. The decision of the Local Region Committee shall be final.

128. (b) Any Organisation wishing to change its name must have the approval of the respective Region Committee.

Race Programmes

129. (a) All Federations, Combines, Amalgamations and National Specialist Clubs and any club racing independently, shall prior to 1st March in each year deliver to the Chief Executive their race programmes for the year, including race dates, approximate liberation times and the telephone number of the controller of each race. Failure to do so shall result in a surcharge of £20. The Chief Executive shall draw up a list of all such race programmes and shall before 1st April in each year make the list available for publication in two newspapers devoted to the racing or showing of homing pigeons circulating nationally in the United Kingdom and have such list available for distribution to any of the said conveying organisations on request.

129. (b) Organisers of One Loft Races must submit a race programme prior to 1st April if they wish to use RPRA liberation sites and are responsible for all liberation site fees.

'See Appendix N'

130. Organisations shall not impose any minimum or maximum on the number of races in which their flying members may compete.

Open Races

131. An open race is one which is open to members of more than one club and individual members. No open race shall be held unless it has been licensed by the Committee of the Local Region to which the Organisation arranging the race is affiliated. Application forms must be obtained from RPRA Headquarters or from the Local Region Secretary.

132. Any Organisation wishing to hold an Open Race must apply for a licence to the Secretary of that Organisation's Local Region Committee or the Organiser's Local Region Committee, as applicable, on an application form approved by the Council and sent to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee so as to be received by him not less than 21 days before the date of the proposed race. With such application the Organisation shall send a copy of the rules to be adopted for the proposed race and a fee of £10 which shall be retained by the Local Region. The Local Region Committee shall be entitled to refuse to grant a licence for an open race if it is satisfied that this would be in the best interests of the Association and its members. The Local Region Committee shall refuse to grant a licence for an open race unless the Organisation arranging the race undertakes to ensure that the rules of the race are implemented.

'See Appendix N'

133.

(1) The rules relating to racing set out in the Association's Standard Rules for adoption by all affiliated Organisations shall apply.

(2) The licence number for the open race issued by the Secretary of the Local Region Committee shall appear on all notices in any journal or newspaper advertising the race, on all result sheets and on any other form of advertising at the premises of the Organisation arranging the race.

(3) In any advertising of an open race the Organisation arranging the race must state the code number for the liberation site for the race and if there are provisions for the use of ETS.

(4) In all open races where special prizes and/or pools are offered for competition, the full conditions governing the race must be published at any time when the offer of such special prizes and/or pools is made.

(5) A certificate of the time of setting and checking the competitor's clock together with the readings of the clock shall be given to him on demand free of cost, except for postage where incurred.

(6) A copy of the income and expenditure account in connection with the race must be sent to the secretary of the local region committee which granted a licence for the race within 60 days of publication of the provisional result of the race.

(7) The Organisation arranging the race must publish on the result sheet the flying distance of all competitors who win a prize.

(8) The provisional result of the race must be published within one month from the date on which the race was flown and the prize money, special prizes and pools must be paid to the winners within three months from the date on which the race was flown except that in the event of an appeal to the Local Region or the Council on any dispute concerning the race, the Local Region or the Council shall have the power to extend such period to enable the appeal to be dealt with.

(9) No prize shall be paid until the winner has furnished to the Organisation arranging the race a certificate that he is a member of the Association or other union recognised by the Association.

(10) Failure by the Organisation arranging the race to comply with any of the rules relating to an open race will result in the Local Region Committee cancelling the licence for the race.

(11) Any person competing in an event which requires an Open Race licence shall be termed to be an occasional member of that particular Organisation. Should there be any dispute relating to this event, by either the Organisation or a participating member, then procedures as laid down in, Rules 70/71 and 168/169 be followed.

Judges

134. Exhibitors may not be able to judge and show at a show which they are exhibiting.

PART M: SALES

Auction Sales

135. At all pigeon auction sales, on completion of a sale, signed transfer forms in the Association's standard form shall be furnished to the purchaser in respect of every bird purchased by him. Such forms shall be signed by the registered owner, or in the event of the registered owner being deceased, by his executors, or in the case of a partnership by all partners or their representatives. The name and address of the vendor shall be shown in all auction advertisements. Any bird sold subject to a minimum reserve price shall have that reserve price printed in its respective lot number details in any advertisement of the auction. The organiser of any pigeon auction sale for the benefit of a charity or charities must publish an income and expenditure account certified by the organiser to be accurate and complete in two newspapers devoted to the sport of racing or showing homing pigeons and circulating nationally in the United Kingdom.

136. No member, having sold birds and received payment as a result, shall deny the buyer the

right to name the source of his purchase.

137. (Spare)

138. (Spare)

PART N: ALTERATION OF RULES

139. (a) All new Rules or changes to existing Rules shall be accompanied by a short explanation, as to why this rule needs to be added or changed.

139. (b) These Rules may be altered by the Council at any annual general meeting provided that not less than 28 days notice of the proposed alteration has been given to the Secretary of each Local Region Committee and advertised in the British Homing World.

140. The Council shall be empowered to make alterations to these Rules as regards punctuation and grammar only and provided that the meaning of any Rule is not thereby changed.

141. Should any member of the RPRA wish to make a proposal to alter or insert a new rule, they must submit the proposition in writing to their Organisation secretary. The secretary will then circulate the proposals to all members of the Organisation giving 7 days' notice of the meeting. Should the proposition be carried, the Organisation secretary will forward them to their local Region secretary who will in turn circulate them to all Organisations affiliated to the Region. Any proposition that is carried by the Region will be sent to the Chief Executive, to be included at the AGM of Council. Council may submit propositions to the Chief Executive, not less than 42 days prior to the date of an annual general meeting of the Council. Any such proposal must submit the full text of any rule proposed to be revised as it would if the proposal was accepted.

142. The Council shall have power to make and alter Rules and regulations to cover any emergency. Such Rules or regulations may be made or altered at a general meeting or a special meeting and shall operate until rescinded by the Council or until the next annual general meeting at which the requisite publication of the proposed alteration of the Rules can be given, whichever is sooner.

143. At intervals not exceeding ten years, the Council shall carry out an assessment of the rules. Any amendments which it may deem desirable to be made in the interests of the proper conduct of the sport of racing or showing pigeons shall be proposed as alterations and given the requisite publicity before an annual general meeting of the Council.

144. A complete and up-to-date set of the Association's Rules shall be published as an editorial pull-out supplement in the British Homing World in each year not later than the first Saturday in May.

Construction of these Rules

145. The Council's determination on the interpretation, construction and operation of these Rules shall be final.

PART O:

STANDARD RULES FOR USE AND COMPULSORY ADOPTION BY ALL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE ASSOCIATION

146. The following Standard Rules are compulsory for all Organisations affiliated to the

Association. Each Organisation shall be free to choose its own rules provided that they include these rules and nothing which is inconsistent with these rules and oblige the Organisation and its members to observe the provisions of all Rules of the Association.

147. Whenever a change is made to these Standard Rules or to any other Rule of the Association adopted by or incorporated into the rules of an Organisation, that change will be deemed to have been made to the rules of that Organisation.

148. In these Standard Rules 'member' shall mean

(a) in respect of a club, an individual or partnership;

(b) in respect of a federation or combine of clubs, a club;

(c) in respect of an amalgamation of federations or combines of federations, a federation;

(d) in respect of an amalgamation of combines, a combine.

149. The rules of an Organisation must state the name of the Organisation, the location of its headquarters and the boundaries within which the lofts of all affiliated club members must be situated in order to qualify for membership of the Organisation.

Geographical Area

150. If an organisation alters the prescribed boundaries within which the lofts of all affiliated club members must be situated in order to qualify for membership of the Organisation, a flying member of the Organisation shall not cease to qualify for membership of the Organisation until and unless he moves his loft and his new loft is outside the prescribed boundaries.

151. If a federation, combine or amalgamation alters its boundaries, the lofts of all members of Organisations affiliated to such federation, combine or amalgamation shall be unaffected provided that the boundaries prescribed by the affiliated Organisations do not change.

Officers

152. (a) 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.

152. (b) With the exception of the Secretary, all officials and Committee members of groups as defined in Rule No. 2, must be elected delegates of members organisations.

Meetings

153. (a) Item 1 on any meeting agenda of the Association or any affiliated organisation shall be "Declaration of Interest". Any member, group or individual member who may gain from a decision made at a meeting must declare their interest in any items on the items for discussion. The President or chair will have the right to decide if there is a clear conflict of interest, and will have the right to ask the interested party or parties to refrain from taking an active part in the agenda item.

153. (b) Once in each calendar year each Organisation shall hold an annual general

meeting. The secretary of each Organisation shall give not less than 6 weeks notice in writing to each member of the Organisation of the date, time and place at which the annual general meeting of the Organisation will be held. In the case of federations, combines and amalgamations of federations or combines, such notice shall be sent to the secretary of each Organisation which is a member. The business to be conducted at the annual general meeting of the Organisation shall be the adoption of the accounts of the Organisation, the election or re-election of the officers of the Organisation, the consideration of any alterations to the rules of the Organisation proposed by any member.

Proceedings at General Meetings

154. At each general meeting of an Organisation each member and each partnership treated as a single member shall have one vote. On business relating to the Association, each partner shall have one vote. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The rules of the Organisation shall specify whether decisions are to be made by simple majority vote of those attending and voting at general meetings or by any specific majority and whether the chairman of the meeting is to have a casting vote. Decisions on the admission of new members must be by simple majority of those attending and voting at the meeting at which the admission of a new member is considered.

Alteration of Rules

155. (a) Any member of an organisation wishing to alter or add to the rules of the organisation may propose such alteration or addition to the rules of the organisation by giving not less than 28 days notice in writing to the secretary of the organisation prior to the organisation's annual general meeting. Such notice shall specify the alteration or addition which the member wishes to propose. The secretary of the organisation must notify each member of the organisation of the proposal to alter or add to the rules not less than 7 days before the date of the meeting.

155. (b) Should an organisation by virtue of Rule 182, undertake a postal vote of its members then the number of days notice may be extended from 28 to 42 days. Organisations shall declare the final date for receipt of proposals.

156. No alteration or addition to the rules of the Organisation which would conflict with any of the Rules of the Association shall be permitted to be proposed. Any resolution or decision of any meeting of an Organisation other than the annual general meeting which would have the effect of making additions or alterations to the rules of the Organisation shall be invalid.

157. No alteration to the wording of any proposal to alter or add to the rules of the Organisation shall be permitted to be made at or prior to the annual general meeting at which the alteration or addition is to be proposed except for the correction of punctuation or grammatical errors.

National or Specialist Clubs

158. All members of National or Specialist Clubs shall be required to notify the secretary of the Club of the identity of the Local Region of which the member is a member.

Membership

159. 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 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 or the Committee as prescribed by the Rules of the Organisation.

The application shall not be dealt with at an Annual General Meeting of an Organisation.

The decision of the members or the Committee is final.

Any person refused membership cannot reapply for a period of twelve months.

160. Any flying member of an Organisation may become a non-flying member upon giving notice to that effect to the secretary of the Organisation and he shall be deemed to have become a non-flying member upon the date on which the secretary receives such notice. Non-flying members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Organisation but may only vote on matters appertaining to the Association. Non-flying members who wish to become flying members must resign their membership of the Organisation and apply for flying membership as a new member. The rules of the Organisation may provide that non-flying members pay reduced subscriptions. Non-flying members will not be entitled to a share of the proceeds in the event of the dissolution of the Organisation.

Payment of Subscriptions

161. (a) No birds shall be accepted for competition in any races arranged by an Organisation unless all fees and subscriptions are fully paid up by that member wishing to enter those birds. Any member of the Organisation who is also a member of another Organisation must have fully paid all due subscriptions to all such Organisations before he is permitted to compete in any race. A member will produce his membership card on demand each year, to any organisation which arranges races in which he intends to compete, to establish that he has paid his Association subscription. If a member does not comply with this rule, he shall be disqualified from racing in any race.

161. (b) Any organisation operating on a flying fee basis must also state a separate membership fee.

Resignations

162. A member wishing to resign from an Organisation must do so in writing before the annual general meeting of the Organisation or he will be liable to pay his subscription for the following year. Resignations come into effect from the time they are received by the Organisation official providing the member has paid all his debts to the Organisation and are clear of any dispute.

Dissolution

163. An Organisation may only be dissolved by the vote of two thirds or more of the members of the Organisation present and voting at a special meeting convened to consider a resolution to dissolve the Organisation and of which not less than 14 days notice in writing has been given to all members of the Organisation. If such a resolution is passed, a further meeting shall

be held to confirm the resolution and such further meeting shall also be called by not less than 14 days notice in writing given to all members of the Organisation. The Organisation shall not be dissolved unless the dissolution is confirmed by a majority vote of the members attending and voting at the further meeting. Only one resolution to dissolve an organisation may be held in each calendar year.

164. In the event of the dissolution of an Organisation, the assets of the Organisation shall be realised and the proceeds divided equally amongst the fully paid up members on the basis of one loft, one share. Non-flying members shall have no claim to participate. In the event of assets being subject to a lottery or charitable grant, those assets must be returned to the said lottery or charitable organisation or as they determine.

165. Upon the dissolution of an Organisation, notice of dissolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the committee of the Local Region to which the Organisation is affiliated, together with the minute book, final balance sheet and names and addresses of members of the Organisation at the time of dissolution. If such notice is not sent to the Committee of the Local Region to which the Organisation is affiliated before the annual general meeting of the Local Region, the Organisation will be liable for payment to the Local Region of the Association fees for its members for the following year.

166. (a) Should the membership of a club fall below four full subscribing members, the Region committee shall have the power to dissolve the club and ensure that the assets are shared between the remaining members. In the event of assets being subject to a lottery or charitable grant, those assets must be returned to the said lottery or charitable organisation or as they determine.

166. (b) Where, after investigation by the Local Region, it is found that an organisation has ceased to function and has not done so for at least three years, the Region Committee may withdraw the affiliation of that organisation.

Banking Account

167. An organisation shall have a banking or building society or Post Office savings account or an equivalent such account and where possible all payments shall be made by cheque signed by the secretary and another official of the Organisation or by Credit/Debit Card. Bank statements or the building society or Post Office passbook or its equivalent shall be available to inspection by members at each general meeting of the Organisation or of its committee.

Grievances and Disciplinary Matters

168. If any member of an organisation has a grievance, dispute or complaint concerning the Organisation he may within 28 days of the grievance, dispute or complaint arising give notice in writing of his grievance, dispute or complaint to the secretary of the Organisation, requiring the secretary to convene a general meeting or if the rules of the Organisation so prescribe, a meeting of the Committee of the Organisation to consider the grievance, dispute or complaint. Any such meeting shall be convened by the secretary by not less than 7 days notice in writing to all members entitled to attend such meeting and to all parties to grievance, dispute or complaint.

(a) In the event of the grievance being against the secretary of the organisation then the organisation chair shall take control of the procedure.

169. If any organisation wishes to examine the conduct of a member with a view to taking disciplinary action against him/her under the provisions of Rule 70, a meeting must be convened within 28 days of the dispute arising, the secretary of the Organisation shall convene a general meeting of the Organisation or, if the Rules of the Organisation so prescribe, the committee of the Organisation for that purpose and shall give not less than 7 days notice in writing to the member and to all members of the Organisation or the committee, as appropriate, stating the date, place and time at which the meeting is to be held. The notice shall also state the charges made against the member or the circumstances which the meeting proposes to investigate and the secretary shall inform him/her, at the same time as giving him/her the notice of the meeting, that he/she will be entitled to put his/her case to the meeting and to be represented at the meeting.

170. If the Organisation fails to hold a meeting to consider a grievance within 28 days' of receipt by the secretary of notice from a member requiring a meeting to be called, the Organisation may be the subject of disciplinary action by the Local Region to which it is affiliated.

171. If a member of an Organisation is aggrieved by the decision of the Organisation or the committee, as appropriate, he has a right of appeal to the Local Region to which the Organisation is affiliated under the provisions of the Rules of the Association within 21 days of the decision being given.

172. The chairman of the Organisation shall decide whether any member of the Organisation is an interested party in any grievance or disciplinary matter and all interested parties shall leave the room where the meeting is being held when a decision on the matter is made and a vote taken.

Special Meetings

173. The secretary of an Organisation shall hold a special meeting of the Organisation with not less than 10 days' notice in writing to all members of the Organisation if he/she receives a requisition for such a special meeting signed by at least one third of the members of the Organisation or, if the Organisation has 75 members or more, signed by at least 25 members of the Organisation. Any such requisition shall state the business for which the meeting is to be called and the notice calling the meeting shall similarly state such business. No business shall be transacted at the special meeting other than that referred to in the notice calling the meeting. The meeting must be held within 21 days' of the requisition.

Arrears

174. Should any member of an Organisation at 1st April in any year be in arrears for any sum owed to the Organisation the secretary of the Organisation shall send him a recorded delivery letter notifying him of the balance of his account in detail. The member shall be debited with the postal charges incurred and shall be notified that unless a remittance is received or the debt disputed within 21 days he will be suspended by the Organisation and reported to the Local Region. The suspension shall be noted in the Organisation's minute book prior to the notification being sent to the Local Region.

Accounts

175. Every Organisation shall keep accurate and full records of all income and expenditure and shall cause an audited and signed annual

income and expenditure account and balance sheet to be prepared once each year and sent to each member of the Organisation at least 7 days before the annual general meeting of the Organisation. With the exception of National and Specialist Clubs who will be given special dispensation to publish their accounts and balance sheet on their website to download. Any member wishing to receive paper copies should contact the organisation secretary direct. In the event that the audited and signed annual income and expenditure account and balance sheet shows a deficit, the Organisation or its committee, as appropriate, shall be empowered to make a levy on each member. The total sum of any such levy shall only be sufficient to discharge the amount which would otherwise remain outstanding after all the funds of the Organisation are completely exhausted. If the Organisation or its committee, as appropriate, considers it necessary, any such levy may be made on any member who has resigned from the Organisation since the date of the preceding annual general meeting.

176. If the rules of an Organisation provide for accounts to be approved and adopted at a meeting other than the annual general meeting of the Organisation, a copy of the accounts shall be sent to each member of the Organisation not less than 7 days before the date of the relevant meeting.

Documents

177. No Organisation or official of an Organisation shall destroy or permit to be destroyed any books, maps, race results, dials, ring lists, distance sheet or other important documents without the prior permission of the members of the Organisation at an annual general meeting. On the appointment of a new Secretary to an Organisation, the Organisation must ensure that all such documents are transferred to his/her custody.

178. In no circumstances may the details of the full ring number, colour, sex and owners' name of every pigeon sent in a race arranged by an Organisation be destroyed less than two years after the date of the race.

Meeting Procedure

179. All meetings of the Organisations other than those held as annual general meetings, meetings to consider the dissolution of the Organisation, meetings to consider a grievance of a member or possible disciplinary action against a member and special meetings requisitioned by the members, must be held with not less than 7 days notice, in writing, given or posted to all members of the Organisation accompanied by an agenda for the meeting.

180. No member of a union or association not recognised by the Association shall be permitted to attend or be represented at any meeting called under the Rules of the Association. Neither shall any member of a union or association not recognised by the Association be permitted to make or submit resolutions for voting upon at meetings called under the Rules of the Association.

181. The Organisation shall have a minute book in which the Secretary of the Organisation shall record the date, time and place of all meetings, the chair person's name, the names of the members present, the text of resolutions with the names of proposers and seconders and whether carried or defeated and the numbers for or against the proposition. The chair person and Secretary shall sign all the minutes after

confirmation as a true record at next meeting of the Organisation except the minutes of an annual general meeting which, if agreed as a true record, shall be confirmed and signed at the next annual general meeting.

Voting Papers

182. If an Organisation has members residing outside the area of a circle of 50 mile radius centred on the headquarters of the Organisation, all resolutions to be submitted to general meetings of the Organisation shall be permitted to be dealt with by votes submitted in writing by members and the secretary of the Organisation shall send appropriate voting papers to members for this purpose, provided that adoption of the secretary's annual report and the annual accounts and balance sheet of the Organisation and the annual election of officers of the Organisation shall not be permitted to be dealt with by postal vote.

Revision of Rules

183. At least once every three years an Organisation shall publish up-to-date copies of its Rules and issue these to each of its members unless no changes have been made to its Rules during that period. New members must be furnished with an up-to-date copy of the Rules of an Organisation upon joining the Organisation.

184. (Spare).

185. Average Prizes

The Organisation shall declare its races for the purpose of averages before the commencement of racing each year. A member must enter birds for competition in all these races. He/she must time-in in each of these races to qualify for average prizes, unless a race is declared void or there are no birds home in race time, when the average shall be reckoned on the remainder of these races by a Standard Formula, viz: Total times and distance flown in all races of birds concerned divided to give yards per minute.

186. Trophies and Specials

All conditions in respect of the Trophies or Specials, together with the wishes of the donors, must be entered in the Minute Book before the races for which they are awarded commence.

187. Flying Distances

All NEW flying distances must be obtained through the Association and calculated on the Ellipsoidal System by Computer(s). The Cumbria Region and Devon and Cornwall Region may grant permission for Clubs administered by these Regions to race to a "Breaking Point" for Club racing only. Individual members applying for distances must have loft location and latitude/ longitude countersigned by a Club Chairman or Secretary. All loft locations are to be calculated from Ordnance Survey, Google Earth or Defra Magic Maps. Google Earth data must be submitted to RPRA headquarters for conversion to OS before use. The Defra Magic Map print must be submitted to RPRA headquarters in the required format.

'See Appendix J'

Race Ringing

188. NO MEMBER SHALL BE ALLOWED TO MARK OR RACE RING HIS/HER OWN BIRDS OR TAKE ANY ACTIVE PART IN THE PROCEDURE.

Individuals may use race entry sheets, which

may be produced by computer software programs and printed on sheets of plain paper or onto sheets which are pre-printed, provided by either an Organisation or by an individual fancier. The race entry form must have the following requirements: Printed in ink, have space for full ring numbers, inside and outside rubber race numbers/letters, name(s) of fancier(s), name of Club, date of race, race point, sex of bird, signature of fancier(s). Details entered on the race entry sheet may be printed using computer software programs or hand written by the fancier. The counterfoil of the rubber race ring(s) placed on the pigeon should be passed to the sheet marking official who should write the outside number(s) alongside the pigeon ring number. In cases where birds are double race rubbered the rubbers MUST have different serial numbers. All rubber race counterfoils must be carefully sealed in envelopes immediately after marking and, like the clock sheets or envelopes and entry forms, kept under seal in a secure place at headquarters or by the appointed officials in the case of Specialist Clubs. Members of the Association enter their birds in races organised by bodies affiliated to the Association at their own risk against loss or damage. The purchase and use of duplicate numbered race rubbers showing the same serial numbers is prohibited.

Race Results

189. Indelible results stating race point and code number shall be posted in a prominent position at the Headquarters of the Organisation where they can be easily available to all members, or copies shall be given, delivered or posted, to each member. Full ring particulars of birds winning prizes, pools or trophies must be shown in the result of each race together with the actual flying times and velocities. Actual flying distances to be stated in results published for Open Races and by Specialist Clubs.

190. Where duplication of race entries between organisations is permitted, the only acceptable details of velocities, clock times etc, will be those furnished by the SECRETARY of the organisation at which the members clock is set and checked. Under no circumstances will any such details provided by the member concerned, be accepted.

Race Closure

191. Organisations shall stipulate a definite closure for all races, either in terms of a minimum velocity or by a specified hour of the clock on a nominated day.

192. STANDARD METHOD OF CALCULATING VELOCITIES

'See Appendix E'

(a) In the calculation of velocities for pigeon races, no rounding up or down be permitted anywhere within the calculation and (b) Velocities be expressed in yards per minute to a minimum of two decimal places.

193 – 198. (Spare).

PART P: PERFORMANCE ENHANCING

199. The Council of the RPRA shall make rules and regulations prohibiting the use of performance enhancing drugs/ substances. Contravention of these rules and regulations shall entail suspension. 'See Appendix G'

Adjudication

200. Anything arising not provided for in these

Rules shall be decided by the Committee or all members whose decision shall be final and binding, subject to appeal to the Local Region within 21 days from the date of such decision.

PART Q: CLOCK RULES

The following Clock Rules apply in all races except One-Loft Races using approved Electronic Timing Systems.

Timing in

201. Members must time-in their birds by means of a timing clock of a type approved by the Association Council. All members must submit to the Organisation the clocks they intend using in the season's races for such period as may be determined by the Organisation prior to the first race in which they are to be used. The said clocks shall remain in the possession of the Clock Committee during the whole of the season, provided that a member shall be allowed to transfer his/her clock from one Organisation to another if he/she so desires so long as it is put under seal during transit. (For the purpose of this Rule, Organisation shall be taken to mean any of the Organisations within the 'Confederation' whose testing tolerance is not greater than the RPRA tolerance). For the purpose of such transit, the sealing shall be that appropriate to the sealing of the clock for a race, provided that in the case of a clock with dials, one dial only shall be necessary. This dial must be signed and dated by a member of the Clock Committee.

202. Members who transfer their clocks from one Club to another to have sealed inside the clock a certificate signed by a member of the Clock Committee which tested the clock, stating that the clock has been tested according to this Rule. On this certificate must be recorded the seal number, if applicable, that will be used to seal the clock, the date and the name of the person sealing the clock. This to be checked by the receiving Clock Committee.

Note: This is to cover clocks referred to in Rule 218 which have to be sealed with Association seals, and does not refer to carrying boxes.

Stopped Clocks

203. Should any competitor's clock stop or be rendered useless, he/she may have the same re-set by the member of the clock committee in possession of the MASTER TIMER or he/she may time into the nearest competitor's clock. No time allowance for reaching such a clock shall be made.

204. Should a clock have varied more than at the rate of 5 seconds per hour, a fast clock shall be regarded as correct: a slow clock shall have double the lost time added. A stopped clock shall be deemed to be a slow clock and shall have double the lost time added but the maximum penalty in the case of a stopped clock shall be the award of the time recorded by the Master Timer when the clock is checked. Should a member's clock be found faulty or stop through not being properly set or wound up the competitor shall have his entry fees and pool monies returned in full if a velocity is not acceptable to the member.

205. In the races where entries are double race rung, the above will apply only in cases where one rubber ring is clocked. When a competitor in such races times the second race ring into another clock (his/her own or otherwise) and the clock into which the first rubber ring was clocked stops or is rendered useless, then a velocity will be awarded on the times derived from the clock containing

the second rubber ring. All clocks must be returned intact to Headquarters for checking. Competitors to state on verification form the full details of all clockings. Should a clock have a varied rate of more than 8 seconds per hour, fast or slow, before timing in a pigeon, the clock shall be eligible for a re-set.

Clock Setting and Checking

206. (a) All clocks MUST be set by the Official Clock Setter(s) or whomsoever they may appoint, at least one of whom MUST sign his/her name on the dials and rolls before being used on the clocks they set, together with the name of the race point, date, clock number (unless printed when struck), the name of the competitor and the name of the Organisation. The clock record sheet or envelope MUST bear the clock number, time of setting, the receptacle showing on the clock, race date and the competitor's name and be secured as laid down by RPRA Rule 188. At the checking of clocks the officials appointed MUST fill in MASTER TIME, clock times and variations of the clock record sheets or envelopes.

206. (b) All clocks set for competition must be set to receive a container in the first receptacle available for that particular type of clock.

206. (c) Where a clock has to be reset under the provisions of Rule 203, a single signature will suffice.

Labelling Second Clock

207. Where a member has more than one clock set he/she must clearly label them Number One ((1) Clock, etc., before they will be accepted for setting. Birds may be timed in to more than one clock but the times of the Number Two or subsequent clocks will not be acceptable unless the Number One Clock stops or goes wrong, except in respect of birds timed in subsequent to the Number One Clock having been sent for checking.

208. If the reason for a Number Two (2) or subsequent clock(s) being used is because of a fault in Number One (1) or subsequent clock(s), the faulty clock(s) must be brought in together with the clock used before this clock will be accepted for checking.

209. The Clock Setters shall plainly mark clock cards, Number One (1) Clock, etc.

Master Timers

210. All clocks used in connection with any race must be set and checked from Master Timers which shall display and leave a permanent printed record in days, hours, minutes and seconds, and ALL Master Timers shall be SET and CHECKED by Master Time which shall be GREENWICH TIME taken from the last 'PIP' of the BBC Time Signal or from 'TIM'.

211. The Organisation may also use a Grand Master Timer.

Clock Checking

212. The number of the receptacle showing on a competitor's clock when set to receive the first 'container or rubber race ring' and also the number of the receptacle showing when competitor's clock has been returned for checking, must both be entered on the Club Clock Sheet and checked at clock opening.

213. Containers must be used in every type of clock in races flown under RPRA rules, except for those clocks approved by Council for use

without containers, see Appendix D. Where 'Open Ended' containers are used these must be inserted open end down and failure to comply with this condition will entail disqualification. Only containers of the cylindrical type (two separate parts) shall be allowed to be used with the Toulet Puncturing Clock.

214. Except in cases where an open-ended container is used all containers must be seen to be intact, with the rubber inside, when removed from the clock.

215. NO MEMBER SHALL ASSIST IN ANY WAY IN THE SETTING AND CHECKING OF HIS/HER OWN CLOCK.

Return of Clocks

216. Clocks set for a race and any clocks issued for transit between one Organisation and another must be returned intact to the Club, Federation or Combine or Amalgamation as appropriate under its seal, as defined in Rules 201 and 202, together with notification of the returned seal number (if applicable) and any documents issued with it, except where clocks set for competition by another Society and subsequently NOT USED, may be returned to the parent club intact, as set. A clock not so returned must be re-tested under the provisions outlined in Rule 200 and shall not be made available for a race within such period as may be determined by the Organisation.

Clock Recordings

217. All dials and rolls used in races must leave a complete unbroken and permanent record of punctures and imprints. However, should a clock roll be torn by a member of the Clock Committee at the time of checking, which actually takes place in front of Club members, a velocity will be allowed.

Sealing of Clocks

218. All timing clocks used by members which have to be sealed shall be so sealed with soft string and with lettered and numbered roll-tag seals available only from the Association. Serial letter and numbers of seals to be entered on the Organisation's Clock Sheet at setting and checked before opening, before being accepted as being in order.

Approved Clocks

219. A list of ALL clocks, i.e. Make, Type and Mark approved by the Association appears as Appendix D – 'Approved Clocks of the Association' – to these Clock Rules.

Certificates of Worthiness

220. Any timing clock of a type or make approved by the Association shall be given a certificate of worthiness if in perfect condition, after being examined by experts, whether purchased from an appointed dealer or otherwise.

MECHANICAL CLOCKS

Testing

221. Clocks in this category submitted for use in races shall be tested for a period of not less than 22 hours by Clubs in each of the three positions, indicated as per the Clocksetters Guide and a record shall be kept of the running of the clock which shall be signed by at least two persons conducting such test. To be acceptable for use clocks must, when tested, have satisfied all of the following requirements:
(a) The maximum permitted rate of gain shall

not exceed 5 seconds per hour.

(b) The maximum permitted rate of loss shall not exceed 5 seconds per hour.

(c) The difference between the variations in any two positions shall not exceed 5 seconds per hour. (For example a clock when tested had say, a maximum variation of a loss at a rate of 3 seconds per hour would not be acceptable if it had gained at a rate of more than 2 seconds per hour in either of the other two positions).

(d) All puncture clocks must, when striking the clock quickly, produce for each and every strike a clean and visible hole through each dial. Any clock that does not satisfy this, will not be accepted for use.

222. ALL TOULET PUNCTURE TWO DIAL CLOCKS shall have their dials numbered either mechanically or by hand and shall be signed through the number. Numbers must be recorded in the clock book/sheet/ envelope.

223. (a) Skymaster and Rotherham Clocks must be fitted with a dolometer. The maximum reading of 3 to be allowed if the dolometer has moved from zero.

223. (b) The maximum reading of 10 to be allowed if the dolometer on the STB clock has moved from zero.

223. (c) Any infringement of this Rule shall entail disqualification.

Clock Penalties - Double Striking

224. Both 'Belgica' and 'La Ledoise' puncturing clocks must be struck twice within five seconds of the 'timing-in' of each bird and the container must be in the first of two receptacles relating to each timing-in.

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL, ELECTRONIC CLOCKS AND PRINT-OUTS

Testing

225. Clocks in this category submitted for use in races shall be tested by clubs, for a period of not less than 22 hours during which any gain or loss must not exceed 25 seconds in the normal operating position and a record shall be kept of the running of the clock which shall be signed by at least two persons conducting such a test.

Checking

226. On checking a data print-out must be obtained and sufficient clear white paper allowed to provide room for:—

(a) Name of Organisation

(b) Race point

(c) Competitor(s) name

(d) Two signatures of the official clock setters or whomsoever they may appoint.

The printed information MUST be cross checked against the digital display information in the clock itself. THIS MUST BE DONE PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE CLOCK. Should it be found that a members Data print does not comply with sections a,b,c or d of this rule, providing it was checked and opened in front of officials of the Organisation, a reading should be allowed.

227. In the event of a power cut or breakdown of the print-out, the information contained on the digital display will be manually recorded on a sheet of paper, together with the information and signature(s) called for in Rule 226.

228. Only after a copy of the information has been extracted, cross-checked and found correct

will the seal be removed and the clock opened, after which one container only shall be taken at a time from the clock and checked.

229. (Spare)

ELECTRONIC TIMING SYSTEMS

230. All Association members are allowed to time their birds electronically at all levels of competition with an RPRA approved electronic timing system (ETS) providing the club/organisation has the required equipment and the officials are competent to use it.

231. No Association member can be compelled to use an electronic timing system. Any ETS equipment showing visible signs of damage to the casing or seal (even if caused accidentally) cannot be used to produce race entry details or strike off sheets. Officials have the power to detain any ETS they consider doubtful.

232. It is the responsibility of the member to check that each organisation he intends to compete with has both the equipment needed, and willing, competent officials necessary for him to use his ETS.

233. (Spare)

234. (Spare).

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.

235. (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.

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

236. After each allocation a list must be printed in duplicate, each of which must be signed by an authorised person of the organization and countersigned by the member. One signed list is to be filed along with race entry documentation and the other handed to the member. The allocation data must be stored on a backup disk in case amendments become necessary during the season. Any organization to which the member is affiliated may demand to see the allocation list.

237. All electronic timers set with the ETS radio clock shall deemed to be correct with TIM.

238. All ETS master systems must be synchronised with either a GPS Signal or Radio Time signal with printed evidence produced which states the method of synchronisation and the time of synchronisation. This must be completed by all masters before race marking and before race checking. Manual setting will not be allowed on all ETS master timers at marking or clock checking.

239. As part of the entry process officials must check that the full details of the life ring on the pigeons leg is the same as that shown by the ETS system when the electronic chip ring is scanned. All ETS race entry sheets and arrival

reports must be printed directly from the ETS printer or secure PDF, and not via a PC printer. These must contain the competitors name, RPRA loft number, race, date, life ring number and ETS electronic chip ring number. One copy must be retained by the organisation and one copy given to the competitor or his/her nominated person. Both copies must be signed by an official of the organisation and the competitor or his/her nominated person. The signed print and copies of the race entry sheets constitute the electronically produced part of the race register. Pools may be recorded on these sheets either manually or electronically. No member is permitted to take part in the race marking/entry or arrival report of his own pigeons.

240. Should the data record of an ETS be deleted or become unusable between the pigeons entry to the loft and print out after the pigeons return for any reason, the entered pigeons must be eliminated from the result. Where there is a difference between the code number written into the ring during the marking and the code number stated at the return then the pigeon is to be eliminated from the result.

241. The positioning of the ETS sensors/ antennae will not be allowed on any landing boards or other external surfaces in such a way that when the loft is closed an electronic ring chip ring may be recorded by the Electronic Timing System installed. Club Officials may make random checks at any time. Contravention of this rule will result in disciplinary action under Rule 70(a).

242. All ETS must comply with UNIVES 1.7 protocol only.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF RECOGNISED UNIONS/ ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

IRISH HOMING UNION

Mr Brendan McLoughlin,
15 St Joseph's Cottages, Newry,
Co Down BT34 4PF.
Tel: 07912 261575 / 00353 858 565581
Email: irishhomingunion@hotmail.com

NORTH OF ENGLAND HOMING UNION

Mr K.D. Sample,
58 Ennerdale Road,
Walker Dene, Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE6 4DG.
Tel: 0191 262 5440.
Email: NEHU@nehu.co.uk

NATIONAL PIGEON ASSOCIATION

General Secretary: Helen Seed
23 Trent Street, Longridge, Preston PR3 2AH
Tel: 07983 485614
Email: secretary@nationalpigeonassociation.org
Membership/Ring Secretary: Mr Colin Jeckell
Tel: 07341 904617
Email: rings@nationalpigeonassociation.org

SCOTTISH HOMING UNION

A. Frame,
40 Belhaven Road, Wishaw, Lanarkshire,
ML2 7NX
Tel: 01698 768939.
Email: shuenquiries@shuonline.co.uk

WELSH HOMING PIGEON UNION

Old Timothy's Yard, Llanfoist St, Ton, Pentre,
CF41 7EE. Tel: 01443 441010.
Email: gail@whpu.co.uk

NORTH WEST HOMING UNION

Mr Ken Owen
4 Friends Lane, Great Sankey, Warrington,
Cheshire WA5 3JU
Tel: 07933 068638.
Email: nwhuhelp@gmail.com

CONTINENTAL UNIONS

BELGIUM

Royale Fédération Colombophile Belge, RFCB
– KBDB, Gaasbeeksesteenweg 52-54, 1500
Halle, Belgique. Tel: 0032 2537 6211.
Email: nationale@rfcb.be

FRANCE

Fédération Colombophile Française
489 rue Sèche, Festubert, 62149, France.
Tel: 0033 32006 8287.
contact@colombophilief.fr

GERMANY

Verband Deutscher Brieftaubenzüchter e.V.,
Katernberger Strasse 115, 45327 Essen,
Germany. Tel: 0049 201 872240.
Email: praesidium@brieftaube.de

HOLLAND

Nederlandse Postduivenhouders Organisatie
Postbus 60102, 6800 JC Arnhem, The
Netherlands
Tel: 0031 8527 38210
Email: info@duivensportbond.nl

APPENDIX B

REGION BOUNDARIES (SEE RULE 9)

LONDON: Hertfordshire, Essex, Greater London, Kent, also Sutton and Cheam, Kingston, Croydon, Carshalton, Thornton Heath.

SOUTHERN: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, Isle of Wight.

WEST MIDLANDS: Staffordshire, West Midlands, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire .

WESTERN: Merseyside, Cheshire, Clwyd, Gwynedd, Shropshire.

DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE: South Yorkshire, Derbyshire.

NORTH-WEST: Lancashire, Greater Manchester.

EAST MIDLAND: Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk.

WELSH: Powys, Dyfed, West Glam, Mid Glam, S. Glam, Gwent.

NORTH-EAST: Northumberland, Durham, Tyne & Wear, Cleveland, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire.

SOUTH-WEST: Gloucestershire, Bristol, Somerset, Wiltshire, Dorset, Channel Isles.

CUMBRIA: Cumbria, Scotland, Isle of Man.

DEVON & CORNWALL: Devon, Cornwall and Gibraltar.

IRISH: Northern Ireland.

APPENDIX C

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LICENSED CONVOYERS/ LIBERATORS (SEE RULE 126)

- Every conveying organisation shall ensure staff on transporters are in possession of a Convooyer/Liberator's licence for the current year.
- Before commencing his/her conveying duty for each race, he/she shall obtain from his/her Race Organiser:
 - The exact racepoint at which his/her charges are to be liberated, that is to say, the name and address of the racepoint.
 - The name, address and telephone number

of any liaison official appointed by the RPRA

(c) Any special conditions which have to be observed at the racepoint including notifying local airfields is to be carried out by the convooyer or nominated official of the organisation

(d) An animal transport certificate for all journeys over 50km.

3. He/she will ensure that the stowage of the pigeons conforms to the requirements of the Law. That is to say that all containers will be properly secured within the racking of the transporter and that the bulk stacking of crates/baskets containing pigeons is not resorted to because it is against the Law. He/she will ensure that they are conversant with the welfare of animals (transport) order 2006

4. He/she will inspect their charges at each stop, but not less than once every eight hours.

5. He/she will ensure that adequate food and water is available for the race, or alternatively have instructions as to how and where they are to be obtained. He/she will be solely responsible for the welfare of the pigeons in their charge and will ensure that they are adequately fed and watered as deemed appropriate for their well-being.

6. He/she will position the vehicle in order to ensure a perfect liberation, bearing in mind the wind conditions. The convooyer/liberator must be fully responsible for checking that all crates remaining on a transporter at the racepoint and on return to its depot are individually inspected in order to ensure that no live birds have been left therein.

7. He/she will obtain weather forecasts and, in conjunction with the other Convooyers/ Liberators at the site and his/her own race adviser, will agree liberation times generally on the basis of the longest to fly first up, and a minimum period of 15 minutes observed between each separate liberation where practical.

8. The Convooyer/Liberator will be entirely responsible for liberation, whether he/she has a race adviser or not.

9. In the event of any pigeon(s) escaping, he/she must seek his/her Organisation official regarding emergency action to be taken.

10. The correct time of liberation should be made known to the secretary/race adviser and a full report of the race handed to the secretary on return, together with the Convooyer/Liberator/ Organising official's signature stating that he/she personally inspected all crates after liberation. This rule to apply to all feeder vehicles also.

11. The racepoint to be left clean and tidy, including gathering up all loose material and seals after the liberation, and suitably disposing of it, if necessary bringing it back with him/her for disposal.

12. He/she will so conduct himself/herself at all times as to completely avoid any complaint.

13. Only with the full permission of the Race Organisation will pigeons be liberated at any point other than that at which they are scheduled to be liberated.

14. He/she will report to his/her Organisation whilst at the racepoint or subsequently in his/her report, any item which places at risk, either the safety of the vehicle, the welfare of the pigeons or the fairness of the release, including the failure of a Convooyer/Liberator to co-operate at the racepoint.

15. He/she will comply with the liberation site conditions or regulations.

16. Where overseas racing is concerned he/she will ensure that they are in possession of full documentation as laid down each year by Association Headquarters. These documents to be provided to him/her by the secretary of the Organisations concerned.

17. On premature termination of the Convooyer/Liberator's appointment he/she will

immediately return the Convoyer/ Liberator's Licence to his/her Racing Organisation.

18. Juniors under the age of 18 will not be permitted to hold a Convoyers licence, or to travel on transporters or to accompany the convoyer/liberator and/or driver to the race point by any other means unless they are accompanied by their guardian and are covered by the vehicle insurance and have their own public liability insurance to cover all activities whilst on the liberation site, subject to site specifications.

19. All feeder vehicles, before leaving the transfer area, are to be checked to ensure no birds remain on the vehicles.

20. Any member or Organisation involved in the conveying of racing pigeons shall, where the number of birds carried exceeds 500, ensure that the vehicle used is adequately fitted with equipment for the controlling of fires.

21. Liberations can only take place from RPRA approved Liberation Sites. Failure to do so will result in the removal of Convoyers/Liberators Licences and disciplinary action taken under Rules.

22. If a pigeon is suspected of having an infectious disease the bird is to be immediately removed and isolated. Any pigeons which die during transit are to be recorded and placed in a sealed plastic bag, which is then to be placed into a second sealed plastic bag and be disposed of according to APHA recommendations.

APPENDIX D

APPROVED CLOCKS OF THE RPRA (SEE RULE 201)

PRINTING CLOCKS

1. ROBERT PLASSCHAERT, 12 & 14 Bird.
2. (a) ALFRED PLASSCHAERT
12 Bird
13 Bird (This clock is identical to the Jundes)
19 Bird
(b) JUNDES (Not to be confused with the Jundes Thexor)

NOTES:

- (i) With the exception of the 19 bird clocks, all of the above require to be fitted with a CAM modification.
- (ii) With the exception of the 19 bird clocks, all of the above should be fitted with a special escapement which locks when the clock(s) are fraudulently shaken.
- (iii) ALL of the above clocks should possess a device which pierces the paper strip (clock roll) when the clock is opened or closed.
- (iv) The 19 bird clocks should possess a Dolometer fitted in the lid of the clock and indicated in the corner of the rectangular glass of the lid. These 19 bird clocks should also possess a stop pin which is fitted in the thimble drum after the 19th or 20th aperture.

3. TOULET

- (a) Standard (Wooden Case)
- (b) W Super (Metal Case)

4. JUNDES THEXOR - 13 Bird. This requires to be modified by the fitting of two 'ratchet type' cams to the underside of the clock lid.

5. BENZING

- (a) Model One (Dolometer on dial).
9, 12 and 14 Bird.
Also the 14 Bird, double roll modified.
- (b) Model Two (Auto Escapement)
12 and 14 Bird modified.
- (c) Model Three, 24 Bird (2 x 12). Auto Escapement.

Also the Benzing 261, 26 Bird in Terluran case. BENZING QUARTZ MODEL 301.

- (d) Old Type Benzing Printing Clocks

updated with the latest escapement as fitted in the present-day Benzing Model 261 can be used.

Proof of this modification must be provided by the Clock Agent.

- (e) BENZING 261 (NPO MODEL)*
- (f) BENZING 301 (NPO MODEL)*
- (g) RED MECHANICAL BENZING 126.

(h) BENZING COMPUTER CLOCK*

*NOTE:- Agents/Repairers for these clocks are:

6. BENZING COMATIC - 12 and 25 Bird Numerical Printer.

NOTE: All types of Benzing Clocks require to be fitted with a cam modification to the thimble drum operating hub. Model two clocks after number 182757 and the Benzing 261 should have been done by the manufacturer.

7. EASY WAY

- (a) STANDARD 14 Bird. Auto Escapement.
14 Bird. Seconds on dial. Auto Escapement.
- (b) De Luxe 14 Bird. Roller printer Auto Escapement.

NOTE: All Easy Way clocks require to be fitted with a cam modification to the thimble drum operating hub. Clocks after number 106124 should have been done by the manufacturer. The Easy-Way Standard also requires modification by the fitting of a baffle plate, obtainable from RPRA HQ. The De-Luxe Model does not require modification; it can be recognised by the size of its box which is 8" x 6³/₄" x 5¹/₂"

8. JUNIOR

JUNIOR (ORIGINAL) Metal Case.

JUNIOR, 12 Bird Metal Case.

JUNIOR, 12 Bird Makrolon Case.

JUNIOR, 12 Bird Makrolon Case with seconds on dial.

JUNIOR PRINTER

The early model of the Junior Printer does not provide an opening or locking puncture and must be modified in order to do so. The modification consists of fitting a new back plate to the clock. This modification may only be carried out by an RPRA approved clock repairer. Only Junior Clocks providing an opening/locking puncture will be accepted for competition under RPRA Rules.

Junior clocks with the serial letter prefix A, B or C cannot be modified and are not approved clocks.

9. LA LEDOISE

- (a) STANDARD 12 Bird.
- (b) 12 Bird, with seconds on dials.
11 S.T.B. (fitted with dolometer)
- (a) Model 1101 - 32 Bird

Clocks below 015.000 require a cam modification and also a completely new thimble drum. Care must be taken when removing the thimble drum that no spillage of thimbles takes place and that the thimbles are removed in accordance with Association Rules - one thimble at a time in the prescribed manner.

- (b) Model 1201 - 14 Bird.
- (c) Model 1662 - 32 Bird with seconds on dial.
- (d) Model 1021.728 - 14 Bird with 36.000 escapement.

Clocks from number 129689 do not require a dolometer fitted.

- (e) S.T.B. 14 Bird Quartz Model
- (f) S.T.B. 21 Bird Quartz -
Manufacturers' Thimbles may only be used.
- (g) Electronic Model 14E-1870.

NOTE: THE GLASSES ON THE OLD STYLE S.T.B. ARE NOT INTER-CHANGEABLE WITH THOSE ON THE NEW STYLE CLOCKS. NO CLOCK SHOULD BE ACCEPTED FOR COMPETITION WITHOUT THE CORRECT

GLASSES.

All S.T.B. Quartz Clocks must be modified by the fitting of a 'Shield' which will prohibit the influence of magnetic fields to the coil and motor of such Clocks. The modification is available to Club Secretaries from S.T.B. Microtechniques.

10. SKYMASTER - 10 Bird. Must be fitted with a dolometer and small window in case to observe same. All Skymaster clocks also require the recessing of the cheese head screw which is located on the back of the base plate. When this screw has been recessed, it should be covered by a plastic seal fitted by an RPRA approved clock repairer.

11. KOVO - 32 Bird. This clock must be modified by the insertion of a proud screw in the side of the thimble drum. Care must be taken when removing the thimble drum that no spillage of thimbles takes place and that the thimbles are removed in accordance with Association Rules - one thimble at a time in the prescribed manner.

12. RACEMASTER (Metal Case) - 10 Bird. Numerical Printer, Auto Escapement. Agent for Racemaster Clocks, Stockton Watch & Clock Co., (now ceased production).

13. RACEMASTER in Plastic Case.

14. (a) T1 JUNIOR Quartz Computer
(12 bird - Makrolon case)

(b) T2 JUNIOR Quartz Computer
(12 bird - Makrolon case)

(c) T3 JUNIOR Quartz Computer
(12 bird - Makrolon case)

Can only be used in conjunction with the approved data-printer.

15. UNIKON OLS Electronic Timing System (this system can only be used in conjunction with Rule 133 part 11).

NOTE (1): ALL PRINTING CLOCKS MUST BE SET IN THE 'STOP' POSITION.

NOTE (2): Mechanical Printing Clocks MAY be modified by the fitting of the approved Quartz Module with a Low Battery Indicator as supplied and fitted by Messrs. B. Leefe and Sons, 42/44 Market Place, Malton, Yorks. Tel: 01653 692921.

16. All Printing Clocks MAY be modified by the fitting of a Quartz Component (serial number ETC 781) carried out by Messrs. B. Leefe & Son, 42/44 Market Place, Malton, Yorks. 01653 692921.

PUNCTURE CLOCKS

1. BELGICA 12 Bird. 3 Dials. Requires to be struck twice, see Rule 224. All Belgica clocks must be fitted with:

- (a) A stepped striking ratchet, in place of the old 'single' tooth type.
- (b) A locking stud to the wooden case to enable the fitting of a numbered seal after each setting.
- (c) An indicating Dolometer.
- (d) An anti-magnetic escapement.

Clock numbers between 17,000 and 26,000 are generally fitted with ALL of the above, necessary modifications. Numbers outside this bracket require to be modified. Clock setters are requested to refuse any Belgica clock not fitted with all of the above modifications.

2. HABICHT - 7, 9 and 10 Bird. Metal or Wood Case. Must puncture dials on opening and closing.

3. LE CONTINENTAL - 8 Bird.

(It is necessary to check correct functioning of locking mechanism before the issue of a 3-way test certificate). All Le Continental Clocks must be fitted with two sealing studs at the opening end— one to the lid and one to the base to enable the clock to be used under seal.

4. LA LEDOISE - Requires to be struck twice. See Rule 224.

5. ROTHERHAM - 6 Bird. Must be fitted with

a Dolometer, brass locking bar and aperture cover.

6. TOULET

(a) Three Dial Clocks - 12 Bird. This does not require the square spindle modification.

(b) Two Dial Clocks 18 Bird, 12 Bird, 10 Bird. All of these require to be converted to square spindle. Round spindle clocks cannot be used.

All Toulet Puncture 2 dial clocks to have their dials numbered either mechanically or by hand and signed through the number.

Numbers must be recorded in the Clock Book/Sheet/Envelope.

GENERAL. All Toulet Puncturing Clocks must provide an opening and locking puncture.

NOTE (1): The term 'CASE' refers to the case of the actual clock itself and is not to be confused with the carrying box into which the clock is placed.

NOTE (2): The Toulet clock fitted with two lugs does not require to be modified to three lugs. This is left to the discretion of the owner.

NOTE (3): It is recommended that all puncturing clocks should not be locked and opened on the same minute.

NOTE (4): Toulet 10/12 Bird MAY be modified by the fitting of an electronic quartz escapement, carried out by Mr A. Jinks of 87a, 87b, 88 High Street, Rowley Regis, Warley, Worcs. Tel: 0121 559 4898.

OPEN-ENDED THIMBLES may be used in the following clocks:

SKYMASTER, STB 32 BIRD, EASY WAY, EARLY MODEL BENZING, JUNDES THEXOR, KOVO.

THIMBLELESS CLOCKS:

The following clocks may be used without thimbles:

T2/T3 12 Bird Clock fitted with flaps
T2/T3 21 Bird Clock fitted with flaps
Junior 12 Micro Lite Front
STB (minimum 5 digits)
La Ledoise Standard 12 Bird

THIMBLELESS/FLAP LESS CLOCKS:

The following clocks may be used without thimbles or flaps:

Benzing Paloma
Benzing Computer
Benzing Quartz
Benzing Wind Up
6-figure STB Quartz and Manual

CLOCK INSERT:

The Gerwin Basch Click 'n Clock T3 Clock inserts may be used in conjunction with thimbles in unmodified T3 Clock slots.

ELECTRONIC TIMING SYSTEMS

BENZING LIVE
BENZING M1
BENZING M2
BENZING M3
BRICON PAS
BRICON SPEEDY
BRICON SPEEDYLITE
BRICON SPEEDY X-TREME
LITTLE BRICON
MEGA STAR
MEGA 3000
MEGA BLACK
TAURIS COMPACT XL
TAURIS COMPACT +
TIPES MC2100
TOPPIGEON iPIGEON
UNIKON CHAMP 200
UNIKON CHAMP PC500

UNIKON CHAMP PC500 TEXT

UNIKON PROF

UNIKON.race

Some enhanced features are not permitted, see rule 239 for further clarification.

MASTER TIMERS:

BENZING COMPUTER CLOCK MASTER TIMER

T3 JUNIOR QUARTZ COMPUTER MASTER TIMER

MEMBERS ARE ADVISED WHEN SENDING A CLOCK FOR REPAIR/SERVICE THEY SHOULD:

a) send the Clock by the carrier recommended by the Clock Company concerned.

b) obtain a written estimate before any repairs are carried out.

ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION APPROVED CLOCK REPAIRERS

Mr. D.S. Bansel, 2 Wellhouse Road off Rounday Road, Roundhay, Leeds L8 4BS.

Tel: 0113 2406586

Messrs. Boddy & Ridewood, 9-15 Sussex Street, Scarborough, N. Yorkshire YO11 1BJ.

Tel: 01723 500 685 / 01723 585858

E-mail: info@pigeons.co.uk

Messrs. B.Leefe & Sons Ltd, The Old Substation, Showfield Lane, Malton YO17 6BT.

Tel: 01653 691411 Fax: 01653 696517

E-mail: info@bleefe.co.uk

Mr P J Mills, 3 Oak Close, Church Eaton, Stafford ST20 0AQ. Tel: 07776 386336

Mr. J. A. Noble, 58 Lightenfield Lane, Netherton, Huddersfield, HD4 7DT. Tel: 01484 663089.

Mr. F. Richardson, 18 de Ferrers Croft Stretton Burton on Trent DE13 0FH. Tel: 01283 531806

Pigeon Electronic Ltd, Lynwood, Nut Lane, Old Leake, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE22 9JF.

Tel: 07739 571166

E-Mail: unikon@pigeonelectronic.co.uk

Any approved Union clock repairers.

APPENDIX E

METHOD OF CALCULATING VELOCITIES (SEE RULE 192)

The following method will be the only one for arriving at a velocity:

Member's Clock

Long run: From setting competitor's clock to striking off of competitor's clock after race

Short run: From setting competitor's clock to timing in of pigeon

Variation: Net gain or net loss of competitor's clock divided by the long run, multiplied by Short Run, i.e.

$$\frac{\text{Net gain or net loss} \times \text{Short Run}}{\text{Long Run}}$$

Long Run

Correct Flying Time:

Bird timed in on competitor's clock.

Plus or deduct difference of setting time from Master timer.

Plus or deduct variation gives corrected time of arrival.

Deduct liberation time gives correct flying time.

For working out: Miles and Yards convert to 60th (sixtieths)

velocity: Flying time, hours, minutes and seconds – reduced to seconds.

To give true velocity to a minimum of two decimal places.

There will be no rounding up or rounding down anywhere in the calculation.

Note: In arriving at the variation any fraction of a second will be used in the calculation. When a Master Clock has been running for some time, prior to setting or checking members' clocks, the loss or gain must be obtained at the time of setting or checking members' clocks to it.

APPENDIX F (SEE RULE 127) HEADROOM

As from 2008 any new vehicles are to have a minimum internal headroom of 10 inches for baskets/crates. The current standard recommended is a minimum of 9".

APPENDIX G (See Rule 199)

Performance enhancing drugs/substances

1. These rules are drawn up by the Council of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association under the powers granted by virtue of Rule 199.

2. The use in pigeons of the following are strictly forbidden:

ANABOLIC STEROIDS, BETA AGONISTS, CORTICOSTEROIDS, ANTI-INFLAMMATORY NON-STERIODS, OPIATES, ANALGESICS, PERFORMANCE ENHANCING STIMULANTS, SYNTHETIC HORMONES, ANY DRUG FOUND TO BE PERFORMANCE ENHANCING PLUS ANY SUBSTANCE WHICH MAY BE USED IN AN ATTEMPT TO MASK THE ABOVE.

When products of which the composition is not specified are administered, we advise fanciers to ask for an attestation from their pharmacist or vet stating that the product does not contain forbidden substances.

3 (a). In order to detect the above banned substances, the RPRA is authorised to take immediate steps, namely for taking of samples before, during or after the race, from the lofts or pigeons of its members.

3 (b). A sample may also be taken from the containers used to transport the pigeons from the member's loft to the marking station. It is in the interest of every member to ensure that the container and its contents is free from any trace of the substances listed in paragraph 2 of Appendix G.

4. Only a suitably trained person, authorised by the RPRA in the presence of a witness is to collect samples. At no time shall the owner or representative take part in the collection of faeces. The collection of samples will be carried out by persons authorised by the RPRA on behalf of the organisation requiring the test or upon instruction of the RPRA Council, or Region concerned.

5. A sample may be taken from a member's loft or pigeons as laid down in paragraph 3b. Two samples, A & B will be taken for testing. The containers will be sealed and labelled in the presence of the affiliated member or his nominee. The containers will be sent to the Laboratory P.O. box contained on the sample packaging and the documentation labelled F1 will be returned to the RPRA by the official referred to in paragraph 4 together with the appropriate fee. Only the laboratory authorised by the RPRA can

carry out testing of sample A. In the event of a positive test Sample B will be retained by the RPRA authorised Laboratory until notified in writing by the RPRA Chief Executive that the sample may be destroyed.

6. Any tests that are referred back to the RPRA as being incorrectly taken may be subject to charge (please ensure all written instructions within the testing kit provided are fully completed).

7. Upon receipt of the result the Chief Executive shall forward the details in confidence to the affiliated member or his nominee, the race organiser and the Region concerned. Whilst waiting for a test result, the owner of the suspected pigeon(s) shall not have any claim to any prize or title which any of his pigeons may have achieved. If the resulting test is negative this restriction will be lifted immediately.

8. If the result is positive, notification would be by Recorded Delivery. The information will also be conveyed in confidence to the Chief Executive.

9. In the case of a clearly positive result of a test, including those of the first analysis, all costs shall be borne by the offender.

10. Medical treatment may not be used as justification should the result prove positive. Pigeons undergoing medical treatment with substances containing those listed in paragraph 2 cannot take part in races and must not be in a part of the loft dedicated to racing. In the seven days following the closure of a race in which they have taken part, the pigeons may not be treated with any substance listed in paragraph 2.

11. A member of the RPRA who is guilty of breaking these rules will, in the case of a positive analysis, be suspended with immediate effect, subject to appeal direct to the RPRA Council. Such appeal must be lodged with the Chief Executive within 5 days of a positive result. A non-refundable appeal fee of £325 must be paid within the same time frame. This fee will include the full sample analysis report provided by the testing laboratory. The appellant will have the opportunity for the second sample (sample B) to be tested by a laboratory of their choice. The appellant shall give notice in writing the Chief Executive within 21 days of notification of a positive test result stating the grounds for appeal. Where the test of sample B has been requested the appellant has to disclose the result to the RPRA prior to the Appeal Hearing.

Whilst under appeal the member may continue to compete but any winnings must be withheld and will follow the final result of the appeal. Council may delegate the hearing of the appeal to a performance enhancing drugs appeal committee and its decision will be final. If found guilty under RPRA Rule 199, the penalties are as laid down; a minimum period of three years suspension or expulsion from the RPRA. Any prize(s) won in the 7 day period prior to the test will be forfeited.

12. If the owner or his nominee refuses or impedes the collection of samples, they will lay themselves open to the penalties as laid down in RPRA Rule 199, as though they had been found guilty of using a substance as laid down in paragraph 2.

13. The owner or his nominee may demand proof of identity and sight of the authorization of persons (minimum of two) who take the samples.

14. Details of how to collect samples are included with the kit supplied by the Chief Executive. All charges involved will be given on application to RPRA HQ.

15. Any member of the RPRA who is found to have aided and abetted any other person, either actively or passively, in the administration of performance enhancing drugs, or attempts to disguise their administration shall be deemed guilty and will be dealt with under article 10.

APPENDIX H

SUPERVISION OF JUNIOR MEMBERS

It is recommended that all junior members under the age of 16 are accompanied by a parent/guardian or another adult who has family authority to act as loco parentis when attending club/organisation premises and functions.

APPENDIX J

LOFT LOCATION (SEE RULE 187)

There are three acceptable methods by which loft locations can be submitted:

- Ordnance Survey map
- Google Earth print, in the required format.
- DEFRA Magic Map print, in the required format.

IMPORTANT:

- Google Earth locations are not permitted for use until they are converted to Ordnance Survey (OS) by RPRA Headquarters
- A downloadable copy of the Google Earth and DEFRA Magic Map procedures are available on the RPRA website.
- Prints from any other websites other than Google Earth and DEFRA Magic Map are not acceptable.

APPENDIX K

TRUSTEES' DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The extent of a Trustee's duties and responsibilities depends on the type of trust established. Before appointing or accepting the role of a Trustee, careful consideration should be given to what the position involves. No-one should become a Trustee without fully understanding the role.

Duties

The main duties are:

- To act in accordance with the trust document and the general law:
 - To read and understand the document
 - To comply with the terms of the trust
- Duty of care to the beneficiaries:
 - To act fairly between the beneficiaries
 - To consider the interests and needs of all of the beneficiaries
 - To ensure that they do not put themselves in a position where their interests conflict with those of the beneficiaries. For example, a trustee should not buy any trust property if it was for sale
 - To provide information and accounts to the beneficiaries upon request
- To take reasonable care in making investments:
 - To exercise such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances
 - To consider the suitability of any investment

and the need to diversify

- To obtain proper advice is advisable
- Not to profit from the trust:
 - The general rule is that a trustee is only entitled to claim out of pocket expenses unless they are a professional trustee, then they may charge for their time
 - Not to supply goods or services to the trust through the trustees' own business
- To protect trust assets:
 - To identify all trust assets
 - To invest carefully and take appropriate investment advice.
 - To insure where necessary
 - To keep accounts
 - To act unanimously
 - Unless trust documents state otherwise

Responsibilities

One of the main responsibilities on the trustees' shoulders is to declare and account for any tax arising on trust assets

• If there is more than one trustee, the trustees need to decide which one of them will deal with HM Revenue & Customs ("HMRC"). This trustee is known as the "principal acting trustee"

• All of the trustees are jointly liable for any tax due

• The actions of the principal acting trustee are treated as the actions of all trustees

• Trustees are responsible for declaring all income and capital gains tax and for its payment.

• Must notify HMRC if a new trust is established which generates income or capital gains, or if an old trust which previously did not receive income or make capital gains starts to do so

• Keep records of the trust's income and expenses

• Complete and return any tax return issued

• Supply trust income form to beneficiaries if applicable

• Responsible for letting HMRC know if an inheritance tax charge becomes payable

• Ensuring compliance with Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) including FATCA (Foreign Tax Compliance Act) and CRS (Common Reporting Standard)

Trustees can be held personally liable for breaches of duty or responsibility.

APPENDIX L

DATA PROTECTION

The following statement is based on the grounds of legitimate interest. The RPRA may disclose members information to other RPRA members but will not disclose personal data to third parties except in relation to strays reports. Members can request their information is not shared by:

1. Emailing the RPRA at: membership.support@rprra.org
2. Writing to RPRA HQ at RPRA, Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2BJ.

APPENDIX M

Independent transport companies / hauliers shall prior to 1st March each year, deliver to the Chief Executive their race programme for the year, including race dates, approximate liberation times, number of vehicles / liberations and the names of the convoyed organisations. Independent transport companies / hauliers are responsible for the payment of the liberation site fees direct to the RPRA. See Rule 129.

APPENDIX N

QUICK REFERENCE TO FEES AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any alteration in the amount of fees and annual subscriptions to the Association or a local region passed by the October meeting of the Council shall take effect on 1st November in the same year and be published on the RPRA website and in the BHW.

Rule 17 Application for affiliation £50 (payable to the local region)

Rule 24 Annual club fee £15 - late Penalty £10 (payable to the local region)

Rule 25 Annual group fee £10 + vat - late Penalty £14 + vat (payable to the Association)

Rule 27 (a) £33 inc vat **(b)** Region fee £5 **(c)** Junior fee £10 inc vat (payable to the local region)

Rule 31 Surcharge £0.50 per member (payable to the local region)

Rule 32 (a) £33 inc vat **(b)** Region fee £5 **(c)** Junior fee £10 inc vat **(d)** No fee set (payable to the local region)

Rule 80 Lifting of suspension application fee £5 (payable to the local region) (see Appendix I)

Rule 82 (1) Appeal to Region fee £20 (payable to the local region) (see Appendix I)

Rule 83 (b) (1) Appeal to Council fee £30 + vat (payable to the Association)

Rule 105 Partnership formation £5 per partner inc vat (payable to the Association)

Rule 106 Partnership dissolution £5 per partner inc vat (payable to the Association)

Rule 108 Ring verification fee £1 per ring inc vat (payable to the Association)

Rule 124 Convoyers Licence £10 (payable to the local region)

Rule 129 (a) Surcharge £20 for race programme submitted after 1st March (payable to the Association)

Rule 132 Open Race Licence £10 (payable to the local region)

VACCINATION CODE OF PRACTICE

- (1) Racing pigeons entered in races or shows must be vaccinated annually against paramyxovirus with an authorised vaccine.

<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/>

- (2) A vaccination certificate containing the details of the vaccination must be used.
- (3) Vaccination of pigeons must be witnessed by two independent association/union members, or a veterinary surgeon who will be required to sign the vaccination certificate on the front and likewise after the last pigeon listed on the reverse of the form.
- (4) The vaccination certificate should have recorded on it the make of vaccine used and the batch number of the vaccine.
- (5) The original copy of the certificate should be retained by the club and a certified true copy lodged with any other club (if a member is in more than one club).
These certificates should be retained for two years.
- (6) Members entering racing pigeons in races or shows will be required to certify on their race/show entry form that the pigeons have been vaccinated against paramyxovirus with an approved vaccine.
- (7) Club secretaries will require to certify to their conveying organisations that all pigeons entered have been vaccinated against paramyxovirus with an authorised vaccine.
- (8) The driver of the transporter should be furnished with a certificate certifying that all pigeons carried have been vaccinated against paramyxovirus with an authorised vaccine.
-

APPENDIX I

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR REGION SECRETARIES

DEALING WITH DISPUTES AND APPEALS

Rule 168/169 disputes or disputes with an organisation under Rule 82.

- On receipt of an appeal to a local Region Committee check that the appeal has been forwarded within 21 days of the decision being given or within 21 days of the dispute with the Organisation.
- Check that the request has included grounds for appeal and a payment of £20.
- Inform the relevant Organisation of the appeal and the grounds and request any written evidence.
- If the appeal is against or concerning a decision made by an Organisation also request a copy of the letter sent to the Appellant.
- Give not less than 10 days notice of the date, time and place of the meeting to the Appellant, relevant Organisation and all members of the local Region Committee including particulars of the case. Such notice to the parties of the appeal shall be by recorded delivery.
- Advise the Appellant and Organisation that they are entitled to attend the hearing, give evidence, be represented if they prefer, and to receive and consider written statements or explanations given by the other party. Draw their attention to rule 82 and in particular sub paragraphs 4 - 9.
- When the decision of the local Region Committee is made advise all parties concerned in the appeal as soon as possible after the hearing, in writing. Bear in mind that an aggrieved party has 21 days in which to appeal to Council. The Chief Executive Officer is also to be advised.
- Should an aggrieved party appeal to Council then the Chief Executive Officer will forward a copy of that request to you requesting copies of the written evidence considered by the local Region Committee to be forwarded to him within 21 days.

SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER OR ORGANISATION

- If an organisation suspends a member, the organisation must advise its local Region committee as soon as possible. The period of suspension must be stated. (R73)
- The Local Region must confirm the suspension and inform the Chief Executive Officer. (R73)
- If the Local Region suspends an organisation the Region Secretary is to inform the Chief Executive Officer, who in turn, will advise all other Region Secretaries. (R74)
- During the period of suspension the suspended member ceases to be a member of the RPRA, no address, loft number or ring number is recognised. (R75).

FREEING OF SUSPENSION

- Any member / organisation can apply at any time for the freeing of an ineligible address, loft number or ring number, by applying to the Local Region. (R75)
 - The termination of a suspension frees all rings, but does not entitle the suspended member / organisation to be reinstated to any organisation. He/she must reapply. (R79)
 - For a suspension imposed or confirmed by the Local Region the suspended member may apply to that Region in writing, with the appropriate £5 fee. (R80)
 - For a suspension imposed by Council, see (R81).
-

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Grievance by a Member in a Club/Organisation Rule 168

Grievance in writing to club/organisation secretary within 28 days of occurrence.

Secretary to convene general meeting or meeting of committee. Must give not less than 7 days written notice to all.

In the event of a meeting not being held the member should appeal to the Region Secretary in writing.

Interested parties must leave the room when a decision and vote is taken. (Rule 172)

If a member is aggrieved by a decision, he/she has right of appeal to the Local Region within 21 days of the decision being given. (Rule 171). Now see Rule 82 (with the appropriate fee.)

Grievance by Club/Organisation Rule 169

To examine conduct of a member, secretary must convene meeting within 28 days of dispute. Must give 7 days written notice to member(s) and/or all Committee.

Notice must include date, place and time of meeting, plus charges. Must also advise that they can put own case or be represented.

Interested parties must leave the room when a decision and vote is taken. (Rule 172)

Penalties Available.

- a. Exclusion from Club only.
- b. Suspension from RPRA and Organisation for fixed period.
- c. Expulsion from the RPRA and Organisation – duration as determined by the Organisation – as per Rules 70/77.
- d. Reprimand

If a member is aggrieved by a decision, he/she has right of appeal to the Local Region within 21 days of the decision being given. (Rule 171). Now see Rule 82 (with the appropriate fee.)

DISPUTES AND APPEALS TO LOCAL REGIONS

Any Member

Excluded, expelled or suspended by an Organisation

Aggrieved by a decision of an Organisation

Having a dispute with an Organisation

May appeal in writing to his/her Region Secretary within 21 days of the decision and state the grounds for appeal. (Rule 82.1) (Accompanied by the appropriate fee).

Region Secretary is to inform Organisation of appeal and grounds, and request written evidence.

Region Secretary to give not less than 10 days notice of date, place and time of hearing, in writing, by recorded delivery. (Rule 82.2). All Region Committee to have copies of the evidence.

The Appellant can:

- Attend
- Be represented
- Give Evidence
- Receive and consider written statements given by the Organisation.

3. Call witnesses to give evidence. (Rule 82.3)

The Organisation can:

- Attend
- Be represented
- Give Evidence
- Receive and consider written statements given by the Appellant
- Call witnesses to give evidence. (Rule 82.3)

Chairman of Region Committee conducts hearing, but neither he/she or any other Region Committee Member involved in the case can take part unless representing Organisation at Appeal. (Rules 82.6 & 7)

Decision is made as soon as is practicable and takes effect from that date. All parties, plus Chief Executive Officer must be advised of the decision. (Rule 82.8)

Penalties available:
The Region Committee may:

- rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of any organisation except suspension to expulsion.
- Order a re-hearing of any organisation meeting if RPRA rules have not been followed. (Rule 82.9)

Individuals/Organisations can accept the decision of the Region Committee or Appeal to Council (Rule 83)

APPEALS TO COUNCIL

Any Organisation whose decision has been varied, modified or rescinded by a Local Region Committee.

Any member unhappy with the decision of a Local Region that directly affects him (but see Rule 83).

May appeal to Council for a re-hearing of the case.
The following procedure is then adopted.

The Appellant gives notice to the Chief Executive Officer within 21 days of The Region decision stating their grounds for appeal and enclosing the appropriate fee.
Rule 83.1.

Upon receipt of such notice, the Chief Executive Officer shall forward a copy to the Secretary of the Local Region Committee in question who shall, within 21 days after receipt of such copy notice, forward to the Chief Executive Officer copies of the written evidence considered by the Local Region Committee together with the grounds upon which the Committee's decision was made.

The Chief Executive Officer will:
a. Give 10 days notice of Appeal date/location to every party in appeal and council
b. Send a copy of all evidence and grounds for Region's decision to all in appeal and Council. (Rule 83.4)

All parties to the appeal may attend or be represented and may give evidence. No fresh evidence can be given unless presented to the Chief Executive Officer and the other parties at least 7 days before the appeal date. (Rule 83.5)

At the hearing of the appeal by Council a representative of the Region Committee is permitted to corroborate evidence heard before that region. (Rule 83.6)

A Councillor cannot deliberate on the appeal if he/she sat on the Region Committee to hear the appeal under Rule 82, unless he/she represents the appellant or another part to the appeal or for the purpose of corroboration of evidence heard before the Region Committee.

Penalties available.
The Council may: rescind, vary, modify or confirm the decision of any Region Committee.
(Rule 83.8) **The decision of Council is final.**

PAST PRESIDENTS - NATIONAL HOMING UNION AND ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION

1897 J. W. Logan	1923 H. N. Linaker	1949 A. Rutherford	1975 R. W. Trippett	2001 R. H. Moffatt
1898 J. W. Logan	1924 H. N. Linaker	1950 H. Smith	1976 G. C. Barrett	2002 B. Tattersall
1899 J. W. Logan	1925 A. W. Skinner	1951 H. Smith	1977 G. C. Barrett	2003 B. Tattersall
1900 J. W. Logan	1926 R. Fletcher	1952 H. Smith	1978 G. C. Barrett	2004 B. Tattersall
1901 R. Slack	1927 R. Fletcher	1953 R. Walker	1979 L. P. Butler	2005 P. J. Mitchell
1902 R. Slack	1928 A. A. Whitehead	1954 F. Pendlebury	1980 L. P. Butler	2006 P. J. Mitchell
1903 W. Smethurst	1929 A. A. Whitehead	1955 F. Pendlebury	1981 L. P. Butler	2007 P. J. Mitchell
1904 W. Smethurst	1930 A. A. Whitehead	1956 C. Howell	1982 H. R. Ryals	2008 L. Blacklock
1905 F. G. Skinner	1931 T. H. Wood	1957 C. Howell	1983 H. R. Ryals	2009 L. Blacklock
1906 F. G. Skinner	1932 T. H. Wood	1958 C. Howell	1984 H. R. Ryals	2010 L. Blacklock
1907 J. T. Hinks	1933 T. H. Wood	1959 R. Berrey	1985 L. P. Butler	2011 D. K. Higgins
1908 J. T. Hinks	1934 T. Brown	1960 R. Berrey	1986 L. P. Butler	2012 D. K. Higgins
1909 E. H. Crow	1935 T. Brown	1961 R. Berrey	1987 H. R. Ryals	2013 D. K. Higgins
1910 A. Whitehead	1936 T. Brown	1962 J. M. Young	1988 H. R. Ryals	2014 B. Walsh
1911 T. H. Burton	1937 G. Barrett	1963 J. M. Young	1989 H. R. Ryals	2015 L. Blacklock
1912 T. H. Burton	1938 G. Barrett	1964 J. M. Young	1990 J. James	2016 L. Blacklock
1913 A. W. Skinner	1939 G. Barrett	1965 A. H. Passmore	1991 J. James	2017 L. Blacklock
1914 T. E. Cooper	1940 E. Finch	1966 A. H. Passmore	1992 J. James	2018 D. Bridges
1915 T. E. Cooper	1941 E. Finch	1967 T. Cornwell	1993 R. Carlton	2019 D. Bridges
1916 W. Youde	1942 E. Finch	1968 T. Cornwell	1994 R. Carlton	2020 D. Bridges
1917 P. Wolstenholme	1943 E. Young	1969 T. Cornwell	1995 R. Carlton	2021 L. Blacklock
1918 G. Pallett	1944 E. Young	1970 M. Midgley	1996 J. C. Robilliard	2022 L. Blacklock
1919 A. Burnett	1945 E. Young	1971 M. Midgley	1997 J. C. Robilliard	2023 L. Blacklock
1920 A. W. Skinner	1946 R. Fletcher	1972 M. Midgley	1998 J. C. Robilliard	2024 L. Blacklock
1921 A. W. Skinner	1947 A. Rutherford	1973 R. W. Trippett	1999 R. H. Moffatt	2025 C. O' Hare
1922 H. N. Linaker	1948 A. Rutherford	1974 R. W. Trippett	2000 R. H. Moffatt	2026 C. O' Hare

CONTINENTAL LIBERATION SITES 2026

Information on all sites listed below is available from
RPRRA Headquarters, Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2BJ.
Telephone: 01452 713529

BELGIUM

Tienen 5149

FRANCE

Agen 5130
Alencon 5001
Auxerre 5153
Bergerac 5113
Boves 5079
Canappeville 5093
Clermont 5013
Dax (St Pandelon) 5162
Falaise 5017
Fontenay-sur-Eure 5122
Fougeres (Ferns) 5064
Gien 5134
Grevillers (Arras) 5150
Hazebrouck 5132
Isigny-sur-Mer 5168
La Sauve (Bordeaux) 5169

Lamballe 5022
Limoges 5095
Magny-Cours 5158
Marmande 5026
Marseille 5148
Messac 5029
Mont de Marsan 5124
Narbonne 5108
Nort sur Erdre 5103
Pau 5165
Perpignan 5167
Plougastel-Daoulas 5133
Reims 5041
Rieux-Minervois 5140
Rouen-Bihorel 5142
Roullet St Esteph 5141
Roye 5115
Sable-sur-Sarthe 5145
Saint Pol 5170
Saintes 5042

Sancoins 5152
Saran 5043
St Just 5143
St Maixent L'Ecole 5127
St Philbert-du-Peuple 5137
St Vincent 5156
Tarbes 5146
Troyes 5104
Vannes (St Allouestre) 5107
Vire 5087
Vitry-en-Artois 5164

SPAIN

Barcelona 5099
Barcelona 5147
Palamos 5047
San Sebastian 5048
Zaragoza 5123

OFFICIAL BRITISH LIBERATION SITES 2026

Booking details for any of the sites listed below are available from
 RPRA Headquarters, Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate,
 Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2BJ.
 Telephone: 01452 713529

A		G	
ACKWORTH, Water Tower Fields	4257	GARSTANG, Disused Roadway	4189
ALNWICK, Rugby Club car park	4204	GRANTHAM, Arena UK Ltd	4246
APPLETON, Lymm Services car park	4002	GREAT DRIFFIELD, Agri Society Showground	4183
ARBROATH, Victoria Park	4003	GUERNSEY, The Beach House, Pembroke Beach	4245
ASHBOURNE, Darley Moor Airfield	4219		
AYCLIFFE, Coatham Mundeville Services	4177	H	
		HEREFORD, Racecourse car park	4046
B		HEXHAM, Racecourse car park	4047
BATH, Walcot Rugby Club	4224	HOLMSLEY, Old Airfield	4237
BERWICK, Berwick Rangers Football Ground	4008	HONITON, Smeatharpe disused airfield	4186
BILLERICAY, Barleylands	4179	HUNTINGDON, Jubilee Park	4210
BLANDFORD, Army Camp	4161	HUNTINGDON, Racecourse car park	4049
BLAYDON, Swalwell Cricket & Social Club	4236		
BODMIN, Priory car park at football ground	4013	I	
BOVINGDON, 27 Yew Tree Drive	4015	ILKESTON, Land adjacent to Head House Farm	4232
BRIGHTON, Whitehawk FC	4230	INGLETON, White Scar Cave car park	4163
BUBWITH, Disused Airfield	4017		
		K	
C		KELSO, Racecourse	4166
CARNFORTH, Truckhaven Ltd	4207	KETTERING, Wicksteed Park	4053
CAYTHORPE, Elms Farm Equestrian Centre	4255	KINGSDOWN, Kingsdown Farm	4147
CHALE, The Showground, Military Road	4150		
CHARNOCK RICHARD, Parkhall Complex car park	4231	L	
CHELMSFORD, Boyton Hall Farm	4182	LACEBY, Moorhouse Farm	4216
CHELTENHAM, Racecourse lorry park	4021	LANGHOLM, Caravan & lorry park	4221
COCKENZIE, Boat Yard car park	4201	LEICESTER, Racecourse	4056
COVENTRY, Mobbs Wood Farm	4154	LERWICK, Victoria Pier car park	4057
CRIEFF, Crieff & Strathearn Rugby Club	4234	LITTLEHAMPTON, Banjo Road coach park	4059
		LOWGILL, Layby B6257, Kendal	4253
D		LUDLOW, Racecourse	4063
DARLINGTON, Farmers Auction Mart	4242	LYNDHURST, Minstead Manor	4065
DUNBAR, Winterfield Park	4153		
		M	
E		MAIDSTONE, Monk Lakes	4181
EAST PRAWLE, Silo Field at West Prawle	4030	MALTON, Wentworth Street car park	4067
EASTBOURNE, Beachy Head car park	4031	MANGOTSFIELD, Rodway Common	4068
ELGIN, Lossie Green, Boroughbriggs	4032	MARLBOROUGH, Common, East of Frees Avenue	4070
EXETER, Haldon Racecourse car park	4033	MELTON MOWBRAY, Cattle Market car park	4071
		MONMOUTH, Showground	4185
F			
FRASERBURGH, the Links End of car park	4036	N	
FROME, West Woodlands Showground	4208	NANTWICH, Brookfield Park, Shrewbridge	4074
		NEWARK, New Livestock Market car park	4075
		NEWBURY, Showground	4220
		NEWBURY, RFC	4228

O		STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Rugby Club	4243
OKEHAMPTON, Lower Halstock Farm	4227	STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, Racecourse car park	4112
ORKNEY ISLANDS, Estabon Farm	4248		
OTTERBURN, The Beacons	4167	T	
P		TEBAY, Truckstop, J38 of M6	4172
PENKRIDGE, Monkton Recreation Centre	4157	THORNTON, Memorial Park	4188
PENZANCE, Rosudgeon Sports & Social Club	4251	THURSO, Riverside Road car park	4115
PETERBOROUGH, Decoy Lakes	4252	TRURO, Stithians Showground car park	4118
PONTEFRACT, Park Approach	4086	U	
PURBECK, Whiteways View Point car park	4211	UPPER HEYFORD, Disused Airfield	4206
R		W	
RAMSGATE, Joss Bay car park	4090	WADEBRIDGE, Royal Cornwall Showground	4120
READING, Padworth Village Hall Playing Fields	4240	WARWICK, Racecourse	4200
REED, Hatchpen Farm	4092	WEST BAY, Melplash Agri Society Showground	4127
RETFORD, Football Ground, East Retford	4093	WETHERBY, Racecourse car park	4128
RIPON, Boroughbridge Road	4256	WEYMOUTH, Weymouth & Portland Rugby Club	4244
RUGBY, Draycote Water car park	4238	WHITBY, Abbey Headland car park	4129
S		WHITCHURCH, Airport Perimeter Track	4168
SALISBURY, Hudsons Field, Castle Road	4096	WHITLEY BAY, Briardene car park	4131
SANTA POD, Raceway	4250	WINCANTON, Racecourse car park	4132
SEAHAM HARBOUR, Seaham Hall car park	4203	WOKING, Ockham Cricket Club	4192
SENNEN COVE, car park at top of hill	4100	WOLLASTON, Recreation Ground car park	4134
SHAP, Common ground, East of village	4101	WORCESTER, Cob House	4214
SLEAFORD, David Williams Pavilion	4151	WORKSOP, Kilton Forest Showground	4195
SOUTHPORT, Poultry House Farm	4229	Y	
St ALBANS, William Bird Playing Fields	4202	YELVERTON, Old Airfield	4137
St BOSWELLS, Village Green	4107	YEOVIL, Showground	4176
STONEY CROSS, Old Airfield	4239		

LIBERATION POINTS AND AIRFIELDS 2026

The liberation of pigeons within an 8 mile radius of the following aerodromes is forbidden:-

Aberdeen	Cork	Gatwick	Liverpool	Southampton
Belfast (International and City)	Doncaster Sheffield (Robin Hood)	Glasgow	(John Lennon)	Southend
Birmingham	Dublin	Heathrow	Luton	Stansted
Bournemouth (Hurn)	Durham Tees Valley	Humberside (Hull)	Manchester (Barton)	Sumburgh
Bristol (Lulsgate)	East Midlands	Inverness	Newcastle	
Cardiff	Edinburgh	Kirkwall	Norwich	
		Leeds (Bradford)	Prestwick	

IRISH LIBERATION SITES 2026

Information on all sites listed below is available from RPRAs headquarters, Unit 35-41 Upper Mills Trading Estate, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 2BJ. Tel: 01452 713529.

Site	Code	Site	Code	Site	Code
BANTRY	6042	FERMOY	6014	NENAGH	6013
BALBRIGGAN	6027	GOWRAN PARK	6031	OWENAHINCHA	6024
BARLEYCOVE	6006	GRENAGH	6039	PILMORE BEACH	6019
BENAMORE	6041	HOOK HEAD	6025	PORTLAOISE	6030
BUDE (CORNWALL)	6028	KILBEGGAN (RACECOURSE)	6034	ROSCREA	6023
CASTLETOWN	6033	KINDALE	6040	ROSSCARBERY	6004
CLONMEL	6022	LADIES ISLAND	6026	SKIBBEREEN NORTH	6017
CLOUGHMARTIN	6038	LIMERICK	6037	TALBENNY (S. WALES)	6016
CORRIN	6029	MALLOW	6012	THURLES	6018
DALE (S.W. WALES)	6035	MULLINGAR	6007	TULLAMORE	6009
DUNMANWAY	6032	NAVAN	6020		

2026 C.A.A. LIST OF AIRFIELDS TO BE NOTIFIED

Release of Racing Pigeons. In agreement with the Royal Pigeon Racing Association, it has been agreed that a proposed liberation of racing pigeons within 13km of a licensed aerodrome should be notified to the aerodrome authority or air traffic control provider at least fourteen days prior to the date of release. In addition, the ATC unit should be notified by telephone at least 30 minutes before release time, in order to confirm, where practicable, the number of birds due to be liberated and the intended destination and direction of flight. If necessary, the ATC manager or senior controller may request a delay in the liberation by up to 30 minutes (or longer in exceptional circumstances) for traffic purposes.

RACE POINT	AERODROME	TELEPHONE NUMBER	RACE POINT	AERODROME	TELEPHONE NUMBER
A			L		
Appleton (Lymm)	Manchester (Barton)	0161 7891362 Option 7	Laceby	Wickenby	01673 885000 Option 2
Arbroath	Leuchars	01334 857282		Humberside	01652 682022
Ashbourne	Airways Gliding Club Ltd		Leicester	Leicester	0116 2592360
	Darley Moor Airfield	01335 344308 / 07869 291644	M		
Aycliffe	Teeside International	01325 331020	Mangotsfield	Bristol	01275 473712
B			P		
Bath	Colerne		Penzance	Culdrose	01326 552415 / 552125 (Guard Room)
	RAF Brize Norton		Penzance	Penzance Heliport	01736 780950
	Gliding Club	07958 570587	Pontefract	Sherburn in Elmet	01977 682674 Option 1
Billericay	Southend	01702 538420	R		
Blandford	Compton Abbas	01747 811767 Option 1	Retford	Retford (Gamston)	01777 838521 Option 1
Bodmin	Bodmin	01208 821419	Rugby	Coventry	02476 308600 Option 5
Brighton	Shoreham	01273 467377	S		
Bubwith	Sherburn in Elmet	01977 682674 Option 1	Salisbury	Old Sarum	Apply by email: info@goskydive.com
	Leeds East	01937 534197 / 534353 tower@leedseastairport.co.uk		Boscombe Down	01722 696364 (Customer Services)
C				Land's End (St Just)	01980 663246
Caythorpe	Cranwell & Barkston Heath	01400 267281 (Switch Board)	Sennen Cove	Land's End (St Just)	01736 788944
	Email: crn-ops-ops@mod.gov.uk with the number of birds and/altitude/ height likely to fly		Southport	Warton	01772 633333
Cheltenham	Gloucestershire	01452 857700 Ext 223		Blackpool	01253 472527
Coventry	Coventry	02476 308600 Option 5	St Albans	Elstree	020 8953 7480 Option 1
D			Stratford-on-Avon	Wellesbourne Mountford	01789 842000
Darlington	Teesside Int.	01325 331020	T		
E			Thornton	Fife (Glenrothes)	0800 090 3787 Fife Airport
Elgin	Lossiemouth	01343 817426	Truro	Truro	01872 560488
	Kinloss	01343 817426	W		
Exeter	Exeter	01392 354916	Wadebridge	Cornwall Airport	01637 861301
G				Bodmin Airfield	01208 821419
Grantham	Cranwell & Barkston Heath	01400 267281 (Switch Board)	Warwick	Coventry	02476 308600 Option 5
	Email: crn-ops-ops@mod.gov.uk with the number of birds and/altitude/ height likely to fly		Whitchurch	RAF Shawbury	01939 250351 Ext 7232
Guernsey	Guernsey	01481 234903	Wincanton	RNAS Yeovilton	01935 455262
H			Wollaston	Wolverhampton (Halfpenny Green)	01384 221378
Hereford	Shobdon	01568 708369 Option 1	Worksop	Netherthorpe	01909 475233 Option 1
Hexham	Newcastle	0191 2143250		Retford (Gamston)	01777 838521 Option 1
Honiton	Exeter	01392 354916	Y		
	Dunkeswell	01404 891643 Option 2	Yeovil	Yeovil (Westland)	01935 475222 ask for ATC
K				RNAS Yeovilton	01935 455001
Kettering	Northampton (Sywell)	01604 801630 (direct ATC number) 01604 801 620 Head office			

AVIAN INFLUENZA – CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RACING PIGEONS – Updated 11th April 2025

This Code of Practice has been agreed between the RPRA, Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, DAERA and the Animal and Plant Health Agency and is for guidance of pigeon keepers as to appropriate biosecurity measures

Background:

Avian Influenza virus can spread from wild birds to your own birds by:

- Direct contact between infected wild birds and your own birds
- Indirect contact through contaminated faeces or body fluids of infected wild birds coming into contact with your own birds. Pigeons can catch avian influenza as any bird can, but they play less of a role in the transmission of disease to other types of poultry, such as chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, game birds and guinea fowl.

Avian Influenza clinical signs in pigeons are similar to those in other poultry and include: swollen head; discolouration of neck and throat; loss of appetite; respiratory distress such as gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling; diarrhoea; neurological signs such as shivering; fewer eggs laid; increased deaths.

Part 1 General Biosecurity

1) How can you as keepers reduce the risk to your pigeons?

To reduce the risk of your birds becoming infected with Avian Influenza, you should take steps to avoid your birds coming in to contact with wild birds, or their faeces/body fluids

- a. You should focus on ensuring a high level of cleanliness (biosecurity) in your lofts, particularly if you also keep poultry – chickens, hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, game birds and guinea fowl – and should follow the advice in biosecurity guidance documents available on government websites.
- b. Summaries of best practice actions are available on each administration's websites which, whilst aimed at backyard flock keepers, is also relevant for pigeons and other captive birds. Copies of leaflets should be provided to members and pinned up at club/federation race marking centres and sale venues.
- c. You should undertake vermin (rats and mice) control to reduce their contact with feed and water for pigeons.
- d. Your birds should, where practicable, receive mains or treated water that is not accessible to wild birds or poultry to reduce the risk of contamination.
- e. You should ensure your baskets are as clean as practicable when you are using them to transport birds to other locations (other lofts, shows, sales, race marking). They should be disinfected regularly during the season.
- f. You should consider cleaning the feet of your birds before transporting them to other locations, particularly for shows, races and sales.
- g. If you also keep other poultry, including a few chickens and ducks ensure that your pigeons neither mix with such poultry nor have access to their food and water, in order to reduce the risk of spreading disease.
- h. Any vehicles / trailers used to transport pigeons must be cleansed and disinfected using Government approved disinfectant, between transports.

2) In Outbreak areas: where an Infected Premises has been confirmed and your loft is within the Protection or Surveillance Zones surrounding this:

- You must follow any restrictions imposed. You may need to apply for licences to undertake certain actions – information on the restrictions and the licences will be made available on the government websites.
- In a 10km Surveillance Zone you would only be able to exercise your birds for up to up to one hour per day as a single loft. You must not have an open loft to freely allow your birds to come and go which would increase the chance of wild birds entering your loft and contaminating it.
- If your birds are located in the 3km Protection Zone or 3km Captive Bird (monitoring) Control Zone you will be able to exercise your birds (not with an open loft) for up to up to one hour per day as a single loft.
- If your birds are located in any disease control zone, you cannot train or race your birds or participate in any other bird gatherings (sales, shows, exhibitions, racing etc) until the larger Surveillance Zone has been lifted.

Generally it takes around 30-40 days after the outbreak has been confirmed to lift these zones but may be significantly longer if further outbreaks occur in the area.

Disease control zones include:

- Temporary Control Zones,
- Captive Bird (monitoring) Control Zone,
- Protection Zone
- Surveillance Zone and
- Restricted Zone

Bird gatherings including race marking centres (club or federation), race liberation points and shows are not permitted within disease control zones surrounding infected premises. Alternative locations should be identified if this is the case. Any alternative locations should still be notified to APHA as normal, in line with the requirements of the relevant General Licence.

In a surveillance zone, protection zone or restricted zone if you are planning on bringing birds to your loft or taking birds from your loft (for example, young birds bought/sold at squeaker sales), you would require a licence to move those birds into/out of the zones. These licences can take up to 5 days to be processed. Licences can be applied for using the Avian Influenza Licencing Service:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bird-flu-avian-influenza-movement-licences>

3) Avian Influenza Prevention Zones (AIPZs), where declared by the relevant Government Department, will have specific requirements which are likely to vary depending on the circumstances. You should consult the government websites for further details on requirements and restrictions.

In an AIPZ (with or without mandatory housing measures), birds will only be allowed out for exercise for up to one hour once each day, as a single loft. If the loft is not within a disease control zone, you may train birds as a single loft but must not mix birds from other lofts unless you have met the requirements of the general license (this would constitute a gathering and must be notified to the APHA 7 days in advance and comply will all the requirements of the relevant bird gatherings General Licence). You must not have an open loft that allows the birds to freely come and go, which would increase the chance of wild birds entering your loft and contaminating it.

Disease Control Zone	Exercising up to one hr per day	Single loft training	Multi-loft training/racing	Move birds to other Bird gatherings (sales, shows, exhibitions, etc)	Bird gathering (sales, shows, exhibition etc) in zones
Protection zone	yes	no	no	no	no
Surveillance zone	yes	no	no	no	no
Temporary control zone A (3km)	yes	no	no	no	no
Temporary control zone B (10km)	yes	no	no	no	no
Captive bird (monitoring) controlled zone	yes	no	no	no	no
Restricted zone	yes	no	no	no	no

ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION

2026 PRICE LIST

Plus P&P (See current postal charges at www.rpra.org or contact Head Office)
(RING OFFICE FOR PRICES FOR LARGER QUANTITIES OR MULTIPLE ITEM PURCHASES)

PRODUCTS

RINGS (TO ORGANISATIONS)	Minimum order 20 20 = £6.00; 40 = £12.00; 60 = £18.00; 80 = £24.00; 100 = £30.00; 200 = £60.00. Current membership receipt to accompany order please.
BASKET SEALS	Minimum order 1,000 1,000 = £55.00; 2,000 = £99.00; 3,000 = £149.00; 4,000 = £198.00; 5,000 = £248.00.
CLOCK SEALS	Minimum order 500 500 = £25.00; 1,000 = £44.00; 2,000 = £80.00; 3,000 = £114.00; 4,000 = £147.00; 5,000 = £180.00
RACE RUBBERS	Minimum order 1,000 1,000 = £65.00
FORCEPS (SEALING PLIERS)	Price on request.
LAPEL BADGES	£2.00 each plus postage.
RPRA TIES	£10.00 each plus postage.
RPRA LOGO BASEBALL CAPS	£15.00 each (Navy only) plus postage.
RPRA LOGO BEANIES	£10.00 each (Navy only) plus postage.
RPRA LOGO POLO SHIRTS	£20.00 each plus postage. Please quote size: S-M-L-XL-XXL and colour (Navy, Black, Burgundy)
RPRA LOGO HOODIES	1 = £24.00; 2 = £45.00 plus postage. Please quote size: S-M-L-XL-XXL

SERVICES

CHANGE OF ADDRESS	FREE OF CHARGE – must be submitted in writing.
DISTANCES	FREE to RPRA-affiliated organisations plus postage. Individual applications £3.00 per distance plus postage.
DRUG TEST KITS	Please see the regular notices regarding the provision of testing kits and subsequent tests. Conditions and pricing are stated within these notices.
FOREIGN RING REGISTRATION	£2.00 per ring card plus postage.
LIBERATION SITE MAPS (X)	FREE to download from RPRA website.
PARTNERSHIP/DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP (X)	£5.00 per partner.
PERSONAL LOFT REPORTS	List of rings registered 2002 and thereafter. £7.50 plus postage.
SECRETARY'S GUIDE (X)	Free to download from RPRA website or £2.50 plus postage for a printed copy.
TRANSFERS (X)	£5.00 + VAT per form for up to 10 rings. ONLINE submission – FREE OF CHARGE (to fully paid members only).
VACCINATION CERTIFICATES (X)	Free to download from RPRA website.
VERIFICATIONS	£1.00 per ring plus postage or FREE OF CHARGE on RPRA website.

(X) = Forms downloadable from the RPRA website – www.rpra.org/download-forms/

All prices subject to change. An up-to-date price list can be found on the website: www.rpra.org
ORDERS CAN ALSO BE PLACED VIA THE ONLINE RPRA SHOP, BY PHONE, BY POST OR IN PERSON.

All prices are inclusive of VAT unless otherwise stated. Card payments are accepted.
Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to: Royal Pigeon Racing Association