



**MINUTES**  
**BRITISH HOMING WORLD**  
**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION**  
**BRITISH HOMING WORLD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

MINUTES of the The British Homing World Management Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at the Leonardo Hotel, East Midlands Airport, Ashby Road, Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2SH at 11:04am.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – C O’Hare-IR, L Blacklock-CA, D Headon-DC, S Reed-DY, J Dodd-EM, S Finan-LN, G Cockshott-NE, P Murray-NW, R Harris-SO, S Beardmore-WE, P Whale-WM, T Gardner-WS, C Sutton-CEO, R Chambers-Head Officer, BHW

In attendance: Mr S Woodman-Finance Manager, Ms Nicola Mills-Office Manager (minutes), Ms Emma Seare-Assistant Office Manager (minutes)

Observers: J Wheatcroft-Olympiad Team Manager, S Collishaw-EM, C Sterland-WM, Mrs Carol Gardner

The President asked the CEO to chair the meeting due to personal circumstances.

- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – A Williams-LN, R Shirley -SW
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - none declared
- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31.10.25**

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

With one correction on page 2 item 7. CEO Update: the word ‘rent’ needs to be amended to read ‘overheads’.

**BHW26/1        The minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record**

- 5. MATTERS ARISING**

It was asked whether the FCI Judges training had a full complement attendance at the 2026 Blackpool Show of the Year. The CEO advised there was a good turnout of 24 trainees with two selected to move forward to the second stage training and examinations. It was also advised that for the Olympiads there are only two judges from each country selected so this is not a reflection of the other trainees.

The Olympiad Team Manager commented that the FCI advised him that it was refreshing to see so many interested and committed people in the training, especially the young ladies who took part. They were very impressed.

The ladies charity stand at the 2026 Blackpool Show of the Year went well and took £242.98 on the day. A round of applause was given in the room to Mrs Carol Gardner and Mrs Beryl Lewis for their assistance with the stand. The money was donated to the Diabetes Research Association.

It was confirmed that a Perpetual Trophy was purchased on behalf of Mr M Mahr and was awarded to Josh Weng-Hogan from the West Midlands region.

It was also noted that a framed certificated of appreciation of his many years of support and friendship was posted off to Mr M Mahr and a letter of thanks received.

## **6. HEAD OFFICER, BHW REPORT**

The Head Officer, BHW presented his report through a presentation starting with recapping on what the focuses were for 2025. The key focus being to make a profit and improving the quality of the content over the quantity which will help increase the uptake of the magazine. The net profit made at the end of 2025 was £49,000.

The Head Officer, BHW reported the key focuses for 2026 with emphasis on continuing to monitor costs and pagination. The current model for reviewing this is working well and we have several review points throughout the year to monitor whether a change is required. The price of postage has played a vital role due to the increase of postage last year from 67p to 71p per paper which was mitigated in the October meeting.

The Head Officer, BHW advised that adverts such as T3 clocks for individual fancier adverts have been lost due to Royal Mail's delayed delivery and time constraints it is easier and quicker for them to share on the internet. However, the corporate advertising has remained.

As part of the key focuses an editorial policy was introduced to re-evaluate workload across the BHW staff after two redundancies were carried out. The new positions to cover office management which was taken on by the Head Officer and the remaining editorial duties were split amongst the remaining staff. This policy is continually being reviewed and followed by management.

The Head Officer, BHW emphasised the opportunities to move forward with lots of areas of potential improvement such as the development of an online shop and branching out to a wider world audience to increase our subscription base. At the recent Olympiad in Dortmund the BHW Banner was placed on the FCI stand to promote a wider engagement to fanciers across Europe. Further involvement with the FCI, including their logo printed on the paper and published on the website as support which will in turn open us up to a wider audience.

There is a steady decline in postal and digital subscriptions with a total of 3831 copies per week, which we believe is due to the decline in the base audience and representation of the decline of the sport. In addition to rising costs, the current model of publication is shifting, as content can now be posted online far more quickly than it can be produced in print.

The Head Officer, BHW moved onto discussing paid race result publication. For the 2024 race season the gross income for race results received was £10,260. In 2025 this had reduced to £1380 due to clubs and organisations moving online. It was proposed that if we do not charge for any race results provided that a camera ready article is also submitted which should cover 2-3 pages. A template can be issued to ensure minimal additional costs in labour. The Head Officer, BHW has trialled this across various clubs and they were happy using this model. The CEO commented that he proposed this is open to all clubs in Britain so we can gain content from all unions. This would mean more articles submitted with race results which in turn could increase the number of subscriptions.

WE noted that the life expectancy of the BHW is estimated at 10-12 months and their opinion is that the proposed ideas will not increase the subscriptions, they do not agree with the continuation of the BHW in its current format. They propose the BHW is sold for £1 to reduce the liability costs of the BHW.

The Finance Manager commented that similar observations were raised in the F & GP meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 and asked that as the BHW is the same legal entity as the RPRA whether we are allowed to choose parts of a business to sell.

The Finance Manager confirmed we would not be in a position of bankruptcy; we are already making a profit as of January 2026.

The consensus is that the BHW has earned the right to continue to make further changes considering the profit they have made in the last year in the hope that it will help stabilise the business further. It was also agreed that the demographic is clear: the average person involved in the sport prefers a paper-based format rather than an internet-based setup.

The CEO raised that change is required to move forward and there is a potential that the level of change could well be contributing to the decline. We need to encourage support of the BHW for the good of the British fancier and fight for a key part of our history.

WM asked how we increase the subscription and investment by the British fancier. The Head Officer, BHW confirmed that historically the same percentage of members across the RPRA subscribe to the BHW.

Proposed by SO, seconded by CA, and with 11 votes for:  
CA/DC/DY/EM/IR/LN/NE/NW/SO/WM/WS; 1 vote against WE; and 0 abstentions that:  
**BHW26/2          The British Homing World print race results for free on the basis that is accompanied with a camera ready article.**

The Head Officer, BHW presented a new online video created for use at the 2026 Olympiad in Dortmund and for social media. He proposed further updates combined with the RPRA website and social media followers to promote the BHW and reach wider audiences.

Royal Mail has been our biggest problem with the delivery of the paper. To combat this major issue the BHW adapted their processing so that the paper is sent to the printers on

Thursday and delivered on Friday with latest deliveries by Monday, which has considerably improved the process and reduced the calls complaining about late deliveries.

It was also noted that the BHW has been in talks about renting the building to Powys Council, which would reduce overhead costs. Powys Council are very interested in renting out the building and propose they would take on the whole building and convert grass areas to increase parking at their own expense. The minimum rental agreement would be three years at £18,008 per annum and the additional parking will improve the overall value to the building.

WS expressed gratitude to the Head Officer, BHW, the Finance Manager and the office staff for all the hard work on behalf of himself and the region.

## **7. ACCOUNTS, FINANCE & DEBTORS (CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING)**

The Finance Manager presented the Accounts, showing the gross profit has reduced from £424,593 to £379,692 since 2024, which represents a reduction in gross profit of £44,901.

The overheads for 2024 were £440,937 and comparing with 2025 overheads of £336,277 represents savings of £104,660.

Although the gross profit was down by £44,901 compared to the previous year, it was due to significant overheads savings that the BHW turned a net profit of £49,606 compared to a £9,488 loss.

Subscriptions are steadily reducing year on year with an average weekly decline of 1.07% since February 2025. If this trend continues over the next twelve months, the total papers sold per week will be 1,940. It is estimated that by May 2028 the total paper sales will drop below 1,000 due to lack of support for the BHW.

	<b>27 Feb 2026</b>	<b>31 Oct 2025</b>	<b>31 Oct 24</b>
Newsstand	2,081	2,215	3,096
Postal Subs	1,350	1,600	2,367
Total Papers	3,431	3,815	5,463

## **8. BHW SHOW OF THE YEAR 2026**

CA commented that show was a great success and thanked everyone including the staff for all their hard work. It was noted that the awards presentation was disappointing, not due to the organisation of the event, but due to the nonattendance of some award winners to receive their awards. Our Polish guest who is the Chairman of the FCI sports committee expressed his enjoyment of the show and was very impressed by the Winter Gardens as a venue. These sentiments were endorsed with thanks to the CEO and staff for all their hard work and effort in ensuring the show ran smoothly.

With the potential improvement to the current website, we are looking for the ability to transfer tickets from a physical ticket to an e-ticket.

a) Hotel venue 2027

To prepare for the 2028 Olympiad, other hotels have been explored in the Blackpool area to find one that would accommodate our requirements. The CEO, Office Manager and Show Chairman reviewed the facilities of our agreed hotel and found the Holiday Inn comparable. Upon comparing prices for the Village £9675 and the Holiday Inn £9875, there is a difference of roughly £200 between the two with the Holiday Inn being closer to the Winter Gardens and would increase ease of walking access to the Winter Gardens venue. We have requested a further 5% reduction from the Holiday Inn to which we are still awaiting a response from.

Proposed by CA, seconded by NE, with 11 votes for:  
CA/DC/DY/EM/IR/NE/NW/SO/WE/WM/WS, 0 votes against and 1 abstentions: LN, that:

**BHW26/3            Move to the Holiday Inn for the 2027 Blackpool Show  
accommodation.**

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Letter from Shine dated 20.01.26

Noted by the Councilors with a mention from the CA region that they were proud of 50 years supporting spinobifida and the funds received from the fancy via the Blackpool show.

b) Letter from David Trippett to RPRA staff dated 23.01.26

c) Letter from David Trippett dated 25.01.26

d) Letter from Michael Mahr dated 26.01.26

All 3 letters were noted by the Councilors.

## **10. AOB**

DY commented on the future of the show long term. The CEO advised that he raised similar concerns to the Show Chairman as the accounts show £200 profit on the SOY due to the requirement to put £5,000 aside for the 2028 Olympiad. A meeting with the Winter Gardens took place in February to discuss options to reduce the costs of the building rental.

An agreement was made to reduce the rent from £37,000 to £30,000 in 2027 with the use of the Fifth Floor Tower for the Gala evening, reducing the additional cost of renting Viva separately at a cost of £2,000. The Winter Gardens expressed a requirement for them to retain the conference center as an option to rent it out to other exhibitions. A contract has been signed for 2027 based on this agreement.

NE raised the cost of the trade stands. The CEO confirmed the price per metre was not increased in 2026. It was also noted by the CEO that Dortmund was open Friday evening but quiet, Saturday was extremely busy with the same amount of trade stands as Blackpool and Sunday was quiet, which is a similar experience everywhere including Blackpool.

*Meeting closed: 12:55pm.*