



**WESTERN**  
PIGEON FEDERATION

of Victoria Inc. A0008336A

## Board of Management (BOM) Meeting Minutes

[www.wpf.org.au](http://www.wpf.org.au)

Date: 12 December 2023, Tuesday

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Location: Yarraville

Meeting Chaired by: Ray Russell – President

Present: R. Russell, J. Farrugia, M. Tenaglia, S. Mifsud, J. Saggars, J. Pulis, C. Cachia

Apologies: S. Cutajar, D. Tenaglia.

Guests: Nil.

### 1. Review of previous BOM minutes.

Minutes from last month's BOM meeting 14 November 2023 were taken as read.

All business arising from the previous meeting minutes moved to General Business.

Moved: J. Saggars      Second: J. Pulis      Carried: all

### 2. Correspondence.

IC

1. 07/12/2023, Letter from Green Gully Club.
2. 08/12/2023, Letter from Werribee Club.
3. 07/12/2023, Letter form Altona City Club.
4. 10/11/2023. VRPU request for transport quote from the WPF.
5. 21/11/2023, Consumer Affairs, New incorporated association regulations.
6. 22/11/2023, Diamond Valley Squeaker Sale Sunday 14 January 2024. Flyer, listed under events on WPF page.
7. 07/12/2023, J. Saggars re: Hunter Stock Feed transport WPF in 2024.
8. 18/11/2023, Ivan Dumic cash donation of \$500 towards the WPF transporter Fund.

OC

1. 04/12/2023, Brimbank Council 2024 facility renewal application submitted.

All correspondence moved to General Business.

Moved: J. Farrugia      Seconded: S. Mifsud      Carried: All

President: [president@wpf.org.au](mailto:president@wpf.org.au) Secretary: [secretary@wpf.org.au](mailto:secretary@wpf.org.au) Treasurer: [treasurer@wpf.org.au](mailto:treasurer@wpf.org.au)

27B Carrington Drive ALBION VIC 3020

Western Pigeon Federation of Victoria Inc. ABN 57 229 687 844

## **2. Financial Report**

Financial reports for 30 November 2023 presented by treasurer C. Cachia.

- a. Westpac balance \$8,690.45 [most prize money has been paid].
- b. La Trobe Investments Balance \$177,894.69

Moving forward the WPF will no longer make cash or cheque payments. All payments need to be made via EFT to the members' bank account effective 14 November 2023.

2024 and beyond will see the registration of GST and the introduction of a new accounting system to make it easier to manage GST and BAS lodgment.

Moved all outstanding accounts to be paid.

Moved: J. Saggars      Seconded: J. Pulis      Carried: All

## **3. General Business**

### **4.1. Business arising from previous minutes dated 14 November 2023.**

1. Financial clearance accepted.
  - C. Camilleri
  - Simon Grech & Renni Vella
  - John Forti.
  - Alby Bell
2. Applications to joint WPF accepted.
  - Yarraville club, John Forti, Abel Sambat, Josh Evans, Frank DePasquale.
  - Sunshine club, J. Muscat
  - Deer Park club, John Judde & P. Barbara
  - Altona club, Edmund Strzelczyk
3. 5 person team to unload units.
  - No takers for the unloading of units from the truck. BOM to resolve a solution for 2024.
4. Melbourne Pigeon Society request to reconcile any outstanding costs.
  - Treasurer C. Cachia to liaise with MPS [M. Tung].
5. Breeders' plate rule review in progress.

### **4.2. Correspondence [details].**

IC

1. 07/12/2023, Letter from Green Gully club [response below].
  - a. Race schedule
    - i. Schedule liberation times to be adhered to with a 30-minute leeway.
    - ii. Proposed 230M races to remain Thursday, not Friday.
2. 08/12/2023 Letter from Werribee club [response below].
  - a. Race schedule.

- i. Retain Friday night basketball for 240M races.
  - ii. Race schedule 3 races from each of the first 2 race points.
- 3. 07/12/2023 Letter from Altona City [response below].
  - a. Race Schedule.
    - i. Retain Friday night basketball for 240M races.
    - ii. Losing shorter races.
      - 1. 400M, 500M & 600M races.
    - iii. Liberation times as close to schedule as possible.
- 4. VRPU contacted asking for extension of time as WPF have not yet resolved their transport for 2024.
- 5. Consumer Affairs regulation changes – noted.
- 6. Diamond Valley event loaded on to WPF website.
- 7. “MASSIVE” Thank you to Ivan Dumic for his generosity and support.

OC.

- 1. Nil.

#### 4.3. New Business.

- 1. WPF Auction site ready to go live. Thank you to Norman Santoso for volunteering his time to assist in getting it ready.
- 2. Transport.
  - a. The WPF has been well look after in the past regarding the cost to transport the racing pigeons.
  - b. Costs for the 2024 season have ranged from \$96,000 to \$120,000.

Motion. “Call a Special General Meeting [SGM] of the members to discuss future transportation options and provide clarity in the increased costs”.

Date: Friday, 12 January 2023  
 Time: 7.00pm  
 Location: Western Pigeon Federation of Victoria Rooms  
 27B Carrington Drive, ALBION, VIC 3020

Meeting adjourned to be continued after SGM.

Moved: S. Mifsud      Seconded: J. Farrugia      Carried. All.

Reminder BOM meetings are normally held on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday of every month.

Meeting closed:	Time:	9.30pm
Next meeting:	Date:	16 January 2024 – Tuesday after SGM.
	Time:	7.30pm
	Location:	TBC

**Important Dates:**

check out the events calendar. <https://wpf.org.au/events>

**Sales.****2024 Breeders Plate Sale dates.**

~~Sunday 19 November 2023~~

~~Friday 8 December 2023~~

Sunday 7 January 2024

Friday 16 February 2024

**2024 Transport Squeaker Sale date.**

Saturday 3 February 2024 from 6.30pm until completed.

To be held in conjunction with the WPF Annual registration day [night].

**2024 Melton Classic Sale [Melton Rooms]**

Friday 26 January 2024.

9/12/2023

**Bank Reconciliation for the period 01/11/2023 to 30/11/2023**

	Acc No	\$
Opening Cash Account Balance	196053	51,774.82
	Total	<u>51,774.82</u>
Add: Receipts		<u>30,239.32</u>
Less: Payments		<u>73,323.69</u>
Closing Cash Balance	196053	<u>\$ 8,690.45</u>
Less: Bills to Paid - 2022 Prize Money - T Tran		112.20
Sunshine Race and Conyoyer credit for 23		2,607.70
Prize Money - 2023		1,900.25
		<u>\$ 4,620.15</u>
Latrobe - Mortgage Backed Securities - 12 month @ 6.95%		<u>\$ 177,894.69</u>

**Mark Tenaglia**

**Secretary Western Pigeon Federation**

**7-12.2023**

**18. Carrieton Drive**

**Sunshine, 3020**

**Dear Mark,**

**The members of the Green Gully Pigeon Club held a meeting on the 29.11.2023 and wish the**

**Following items to be put on the agenda for discussion at next year's annual general meeting.**

- 1. Scheduled liberation times to be adhered to with a 30 minute leeway either way**
- 2. Proposed basketing for the 230ml races (Thursday) to remain as per last season, Friday**

**Yours Sincerely**

**Felix Lia**

**Secretary – Green Gully Pigeon Club**

TO THE B.O.M

Date: 8.12.23.

Page:

This letter is written in good faith for a better outcome please consider it.

Werribee Club

To The Board - We had 2 concerns regarding the meeting minutes November 23 in regards to

POINT 1 Thursday night basketing moved from Fridays

- We don't think that this is good for the pigeons welfare being in the basket for an extra day in the first part of the season

- Also is there going to be any additional cost for the extra day in the units example conveyer or extra transport cost?

- If this matter is not resolved or amended we would like this matter to go to the AGM meeting to be resolved.

POINT 2. RACE SCHEDULE - We would still like to see 3 races from race point 1 and also 3 races from race point 2 so that the pigeons have a better start to the season otherwise the bird on week 3 may be jumping to far into the next race point. Please consider this and if we don't come up with a better solution should bring this matter to the AGM and vote on it.

Thanking you Werribee club - *Shunt-Mun*

# ALTONA CITY CLUB

7.12.23

WE OFF ALTONA CITY CLUB:  
DON'T WANT TO BASKET ON THURSDAY NIGHT  
FOR 240 MILES (MARRANDERA) RACES

- ① SAFTY & WELFARE OF BIRDS IS PARAMOUNT;  
BEEN OUT IN OPEN AIR & COLD FOR TWO NIGHTS  
IS NOT GOOD FOR ANYONE.
- ② COST WILL GO UP FOR MEMBERS.

- ③ WE ARE LOSSING 3 SHORT RACES  
BEEN- FINLEY RACE

C&J MORRIS 10 BIRDER

A/ PORTELLI 10 BIRDER (HENS)

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR DECISION WHEN THEY  
WERE BASKETING ON SAME NIGHT.

- ④ WHY COULD WE NOT HAVE A 400 MILE, ~~800~~ 500 MILE  
ON THE SAME RACE DAY. <sup>WILL</sup> COULD SAVE MONEY  
ON TRANSPORT AND KEEP MEMBER HAPPY.

- ⑤ WOULD LIKE TO FINISH RACE SEASON WITH  
600 MILE RACE NOT 400 MILE RACE,  
SINCE 600 MILE RACE IS ONE OFF THE BEST  
RACE ON CALENDAR.

- ⑥ RELEASE BIRDS AS CLOSE TO THE ADVERTISED  
TIME AS POSSIBLE

CHARLEY ~~ABELA~~  
ABELA

PRESIDENT.—  
ALTONA CITY H/CLUB

B Abela

SECRETARY  
ALTONA CITY H/CLUB

Joe Farrugia  
Joe Farrugia



## **Response to Club letters [attached] regarding the Race Schedule & Liberation times.**

Dear Club Present, Secretaries and Members.

The BOM of the WPF recognizes the following.

It has a responsibility to put of a safe, fair, and competitive competition.

It has an obligation to follow the [Constitutional rules](#) as setout.

It is responsible for the updating and keeping of all records.

It is responsible for enforcing the current rules.

1. [Code of Practice.](#)
2. [Fair Play Code of Conduct.](#)
3. [Racing By-laws.](#)
4. [Protocols & Procedure.](#)

It acknowledges that this many not have been the case at all times since the formation of the WPF in 1972 and that the current BOM is slowly working through correcting these issues.

It has a responsibility to ensure it does not come under scrutiny from regulatory bodies such as but no limited to.

1. Consumer Affairs.
2. Department of Agriculture [Victoria].
3. Vic Roads.
4. RSPCA.
5. Local Council.

Once the above have been met the BOM of the WPF must then ensure they communicate to their members to give them the ability to make informed decision.

As a member of the WPF you are responsible for ensuring that,

1. You meet all local council guidelines.
2. You meet all animal welfare guideline within the compounds of your property and when the birds are in your care including on the road training.
3. You meet all WPF Codes of Practice, By-laws, Protocols & Procedures.
4. You are responsible for breeding, raising, and training your racing pigeons to compete at the highest level of competition.
  - a. Including road training.
  - b. Including vaccination.

The BOM of the WPF recognizes that it is not responsible for.

1. The training of members racing pigeons.

2. Members training their racing pigeon to be able to perform at competition level.
3. Members appropriately vaccinate their racing pigeon to ensure the health, safety, and ability to compete in the competition.
4. Any other active that a member is involved in within the confines of their property or during road training.

#### Race schedule.

A 4-year proposal of a rotating schedule with start and end dates and proposed race points was outlined in the May 2023 BOM minutes after considerable feedback from the clubs and their members requesting the start and end date so they can plan breeding and training.

<https://wpf.org.au/board-of-management-bom-meeting-minutes-may-2023/>

It is only possible to hold a certain number of races over an approx. 20-week period.

In 2023 the member's complained racing was starting too early. The reason for starting so early was so we could have 3 of each distance on the schedule.

The Racing By-laws have been in place for a considerable amount of time.

Racing by-law 1.7. states that the Race Schedule will be done the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in November each year.

It is the clubs and their members responsibility to ensure they provide the appropriate requests in, within a timely manner.

The C&J Morris 10 birder and the Alison Portelli 10 birder have been removed. The bird limit remains the same. Unfortunately, it is very time consuming basketing two separate races on the same night. Not all members pull their weight, and it is left to too few to do all the work. Basketing on a Friday night for the Narrandera and the C&J Morris 10 birder will make it difficult to hold the race on the Saturday.

The 600M race in 2023 was the last race of the year with only 28 WPF flyers and 424 birds. At our peak in 2023 we have 72 flyers with almost 3000 birds. Whilst it can be agreed that the 600M is a prestigious race it is significantly influence by temperature. The Altona club [in reference to their letter] only had 3 members with 39 birds fly this race.

Racing the 600M race earlier may minimise the efforts of people to load up for the sake of it.

Running two races at different race points on the same weekend poses many challenges. The BOM would like to work on securing a new transporting company and convoyer before additional complicated scheduling is considered.

#### 240M race basketing.

In times gone by the WPF basketed on a Thursday for this event. As racing progressed this was moved to Friday nights.

Trucking regulations continue to evolve.

Getting a new transporter is challenging as it is getting more difficult to find a company willing to transport animals let alone racing pigeons at a cost competitive price. We ask for a lot from these companies.

How it works.

1. The birds need to be at the race point for 4 hours prior to release. Whilst this was successfully completed in 2023 with the use of two drivers it was not the case in previous years, contrary to what everyone may have been told or believes. Nor will it be the case in 2024.
2. If the race release is schedule to 9.30am then they need to arrive at the race point no later than 5.30am. Later than this may cause a later liberation or worse a holdover.
3. Basketing the birds for a 240M [384km] race, the flying distance. Actual road distance will vary depending on the racetrack. The Northeast track in 2024 is approx. 430km from the WPF rooms to Narrandera with a driving allowance required for the driver from their home to the rooms of approx. 50km totaling approx. 480km. Basketing for this race has shown to take considerable time including a 50-bird limit, loading the units onto the truck, securing the load, and enduring everything is safe and secure for the road trip.
4. Contrary to people's beliefs, the truck does not travel at 100km per hour from start to finish. It will travel an average of approx. 80km/hr., sometime even slowed depending on the type of road. Excluding major freeways most highways are still single lane roads.
5. As an example, 480km /80km/hr. equals to 6 hours.
6. So far, we are at 10hrs between a 9.30 liberation time, 4 hours rest time and minimum of 6 hrs. drive time.
7. When does the driver and convoyer stop to rest and how many hours do they need. Let's say it is 2 hours.
8. The rest time is required under regulatory law for the truck drive to ensure he/she is not in breach of their logbook requirements.
9. We are now at 12 hrs. meaning the truck would need to leave at 9.30pm Friday night on the dot. Not a second later to arrive safely at the race point allowing for the driver rests to liberate by 9.30am.
10. All this assuming the stars align, and nothing goes wrong.
11. Since changing to the Friday basketing some of the above requirements have not been met.
12. To deliver a Friday basketing for a Saturday race for the 240M [384km] by air, we would need to have the truck securely load for departure by 6.30pm. Not likely.
13. Contrary to the current rumors. The birds will leave the rooms on the Thursday night and the transport company along with the convoyer will make their way until a require stop. They will rest and then move onto the race point arrive early Friday morning. The birds will be watered and feed in preparation for the flight home.
14. The members voted on the 15 July 2023 that cost is not their primary concern. <https://wpf.org.au/special-general-meeting-15-july-2023-minutes-future-long-distance-combine-sponsorship/> They want a fair, reasonable and competitive race providing every opportunity for the birds to return home safely.

15. Safety and welfare.

- I. Human safety is of paramount importance. Driver and convoyer rests are critical to a safe journey.
- II. Animal welfare is important but not before human life.
- III. It can be argued that by sending the birds Thursday they gain an additional 3 weeks of experience in eating and drinking in the units. Whilst it is not the BOM responsibility to train your birds to do this it provides a shorter distance approx. 100kms for the birds to have to fly home from their first Thursday night race giving more birds a safe and fair opportunity to return home especially if they find themselves in trouble.

16. We already celebrate the death of past flyer P'O Sullivan Memorial. We do not want to add another name to this. We live in a very litigious society and need to do our best as a BOM we cover all bases.

Liberation.

1. Scheduled release time.

The Liberation committee will make every effort to release the birds within a reasonable time of the set time.

Consideration will always need to be given to but no limited to.

Weather conditions at the race point.

Weather conditions on route home.

Rest time at the release point from time of arrival.

Other organisations liberating within the same vicinity.

2. Racing By-laws 6.4 provides a variance of 2 hours either side of the scheduled release time for the Liberation committee if any of the above or any other obstacle occurs preventing the release at the scheduled time.
3. Any future Liberation committee will be given the rules and be allowed to assess the circumstances at the time, to decide as deemed appropriate for the day.

The BOM thanks the Altona City Club, Green Gully Club, and the Werribee Club for their feedback.

Regards.

WPF Secretary.