

VICTORIAN POULTRY FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION LTD

DIRECTORS AND AFFILIATED CLUB DELEGATES MEETING - March 17th 2018

MEETING HELD Deer Park Club, 780 Ballarat Rd Deer Park COMMENCING 1.04PM

Present: T Mann (Chair), J Bishop (Company Secretary).

Board Members: A Woods, A Beaty, B Daniels, M Holmes, N Penny, J Hunt, R Moloney,
Club Delegates:

P Swift – Essendon, A Veerman - Ballarat, R & H Lindsay – Rhode Island Club. L Wills, C Phillips & T Brown - Echuca and Border Tall & All Game, K Collins - Warragul and Australorp Club, K Bjorksten & S Brown - Warragul, D Macfarlane – Australorp Club, C Horspole, R Narik & L Rounds - Camperdown, R Rogers & C Jensen – Western Region, D Moloney – Indian Game Club, R Hargreaves, V Nicoletti & G Smith – Kyneton, S King – Dutch Bantam Club. Linda Perkins & R Carpenter – Colac, J Motherwell & L Kilpatrick – Footscray.

Plus: L Macdonald and B Veerman.

Apologies: Wimmera Poultry Club, Bendigo Poultry Club, John Betts (Dandenong), Central Victorian Wyandotte Club, Wyandotte Club of Victoria.

The Chairman, Tony Mann, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Proposed Animal Welfare Standards – VPFA Report

The VPFA has supported the ESPA Submission to this Proposal, except for their comments about dubbing as per letter written to ESPA by Company Secretary. Over 163,000 submissions are reported to have been received. Some delegates noted they could not access the ESPA submission to the Proposed Animal Welfare Standards on the internet.

2. Submissions for the Third Edition of Australian Poultry Standards – VPFA Report

Submissions have been requested from clubs and individuals. The APS committee will formulate a way forward with APS3 in November once all submissions have been received. Publication of APS3 is some years away. The APS Committee will work through state body representatives and formal meetings over time.

Breeders wishing to have new colours included should contact the APS Secretary (R Lindsay: vpfa@bigpond.com) for the necessary forms upon which to apply.

Same goes for any application for acceptance of a new breed. Apply to R Lindsay for the required application criteria.

Fanciers are urged to send in your submissions if you have any constructive suggestions to make.

All submissions are fairly dealt with according to the criteria of the APS and all decisions are finally made by an Interstate Panel of State Representatives.

Get active and get your submission in to APS before the closing date: October 31st

3. Use of the Standard Schedule – VPFA Report

Unfortunately, version 5 of the Standard Schedule will not be available for this year's show season due to delays in writing a new expanded programme that is fully compatible with the needs of those who use the standard schedule. Version 4 (i.e., the current standard schedule) should be used in 2018.

4. Implementation of the One Day Exhibitor's Permit – new Standard Entry Form – VPFA Report

Copies of a new standard entry form were distributed to delegates present. This entry form includes provision for a VPFA number, as has always been the case, PLUS provision for a \$10 payment by

those who choose to use the **One Day Exhibitors Permit** instead. Club Secretaries are asked to please remit the \$10 payments to the VPFA when they send in their exhibitor's list after each show that is staged.

Exhibitor's Lists should be mailed or emailed within two weeks of every exhibition. See Rule 49. Suggestion was made that the Board consider returning some of this \$10 fee to the affiliated clubs for their trouble in collecting and passing on the fee.

5. Consumer Affairs. Lodging statements, paying lodgement fees and the penalties for not doing this -VPFA item.

The Chairman introduced the incoming VPFA Company Secretary, Anne Beaty who made the following pertinent points about Incorporation.

1. Although Incorporation is not compulsory for affiliated clubs, it makes sense to be incorporated. An annual \$56.90 fee brings peace of mind that club officials cannot be individually sued. Nor can their personal assets be at risk.

2. Clubs that have fallen into arrears can find themselves facing considerable back payments, plus a fine, so go online to the consumer affairs website and check your club's status. It's easy to navigate.

3. Unless a club has submitted its own rules and constitution your club is bound by the 'Model rules' of an incorporated body.

6. Use of the VPFA website and PSBEV Facebook page – VPFA Report

The VPFA website and the PSBEV Facebook page are there for appropriate use by members and especially our affiliated clubs. Your show dates, schedules, auctions, special events are all well worth publicising in this way. Affiliated Clubs can submit their news etc. to the secretary who will forward it to our webmaster. Please submit your items in an electronic form that is ready to be put straight on to the web.

Users of the VPFA website and Facebook page are urged to familiarise themselves with the VPFA Social Media Policy Document (can be read on the website). Facebook Administrators who are responsible to the Board and to the Social Media Policy Document are: M Holmes, B Daniels and L Montgomerie.

7. Communication to the membership via social media – Warragul Poultry Club

Out of date information and pictures on the webpages need attention.

Who were the raffle prize winners? They are mentioned by name in the AGM minutes as published in the January Journal and posted to 2017 members and which is also available online.

Director's names out of date. This matter is to be corrected.

Does the VPFA Need an admin person to better manage the webpage? The VPFA Board is very grateful indeed to our webmaster, Liz Montgomerie, who does a mighty job. Often the problem has been ineffective communication to the webmaster. Liz has indicated she will continue in the position until the end of 2018 so the Board is looking at a new appointment for 2019 and may need to consider making this role a paid position in future.

8. If VPFA club benefit raffle is to continue, it needs to be organised earlier – Warragul Poultry Club

A decision as to whether a Club Benefit Raffle will be held in 2018 is to be made by the Board at its April Meeting. The Board sought the feeling of its affiliated clubs on this matter. Opinions varied in comments made. Some find they have little opportunity to sell tickets. Other clubs were able to sell tickets at agricultural shows, street stalls etc. and found the Club Benefit Raffle a good way to earn money. Harder to seel raffle tickets later in the show season. Raffle tickets certainly need to be ready to be used by the beginning of May to allow maximum opportunity for Clubs to sell them.

Does the raffle require a permit number? This matter to be investigated.

9. Show Dates. Why were they so late in being finalised? -- Warragul Poultry Club.

2018 show date calendar was in draft format in Oct 2017 and on the website seeking comment from Affiliated Clubs. There were changes to this draft due to club requests after Jan 1st for dates, along with Australian OEG Fowl club coming on as a new member club for 2018 and Mountain Districts moving to accommodate this one off addition, along with Western Districts forming and requesting two dates. The date of the Royal Melbourne Poultry Show was not finalised until December so member clubs allied to that date could not finalise their dates until the RASV decided whether to hold a Royal Show. Essendon and the six soft feather clubs would not have this pavilion if the Royal had not gone ahead and allowed these member clubs to utilise the cages without hire costs, paying only security guard and rubbish removal expenses. As well, there are always clubs that are slow renewing their affiliation and only confirming their dates as we speak.

2019 draft show date calendar has commenced.

Suggestion made that clubs could be required to make their renewal by 31st December at the latest even though they are covered by insurance until March 31st.

10. Will the vacancy on the Board caused by the resignation of L Montgomerie be filled and how? Warragul Poultry Club.

The Constitution does not allow this. See Clause 35.3 "*Neither the Directors individually or the Board may appoint a temporary Director to fill a vacancy on the Board.*"

11. Are there to be any new members appointed to the APS committee and will the text be professionally proof read? – Warragul Poultry Club.

Three members of the current APS Committee are new: Michael Holmes, Kevin Smith and Megg Miller have replaced James Bishop, Barry Bilton and Hamish Russell who were members of APS 2. The full committee is A Woods, N Penny, M Holmes, K Smith, M Miller. Secretary to the APS Committee is R Lindsay. Terms of appointment are for 3 years.

Kevin Smith and Megg Miller are both professionally experienced at proof reading.

12. If clubs that have disaffiliated seek to re affiliate will they be accepted and will there be any penalty imposed? – Warragul Poultry Club.

This is not under consideration by the Board and not envisaged. Applications to re-affiliate would be welcomed and treated as every application. Affiliated clubs are expected to abide by the constitution, rules and regulations of the VPFA Ltd and they would have to apply for a show date(s) in the usual way.

13. Disruptive behaviour and unrest at recent AGMs and GMs is stopping the day from being of any real value. Is this matter going to be addressed? – Warragul Poultry Club

The Board has a document before it for consideration which will make the process of elections, procedure and conduct at General Meetings much clearer and all in line with the legal requirements of the Corporations Act, the VPFA Ltd Constitution and the VPFA Ltd Rules, Regulations and Policy Documents.

14. Costs of production of the VPFA Journal - Rhode Island Club.

This question asked whether the members who purchase a Hardcopy Membership (\$90) were actually subsidising the Journal for those members who paid the \$50 membership fee and access the Journal online.

The cost of printing, packaging and posting the hardcopy journals is approx. \$6.40 per issue.

The cost of editing each journal adds approx. another \$2.00 per member and this cost is budgeted for in the \$50 membership and in the remaining \$50 of membership paid by someone who receives a hardcopy. Every VPFA member is contributing equally towards the cost of editing the Journal and those who buy a hard copy are paying the extra for printing and postage costs alone.

15. Victorian Exhibitors Club funds – assistance to Affiliated Clubs – Rhode Island Club.

Suggested that instead of a Club Benefit Raffle the VPFA Board reimburse its affiliated clubs for up to \$50 for club advertising in local papers etc. so that clubs have more opportunity to publicise their activities to the general public in their area. Cost to the VPFA Ltd Board approx. \$1950. To be considered in more detail by the Board at the April Directors meeting when a decision about a Club Benefit Raffle for 2018 must be finalised one way or the other.

16. Availability of Board Minutes - Benalla Club.

Presently they go to club secretaries. Many clubs meet only occasionally. Some meet only once or twice a year. Could they go to all members as part of the Journal as was once the case?

Perhaps they could be posted on the webpage in the member's area as a matter of course. Club Secretaries are always asked to forward the minutes on to any person in their particular club who may be interested.

Note from the Board regarding Disbursement of Exhibitors Account Interest.

There is some confusion about this matter with some members having the idea that the interest earned on this account is to be dispersed to affiliated clubs.

The constitution of the VPFA Ltd has two important clauses which clearly regulate this matter.

Firstly Clause 44.3 *Any Interest earned on the accounts must be paid back into those accounts, except in the case of the Exhibitors Account where 55 percent of the interest earned in any period is to be transferred to the General Working Account.*

Note that 55% of the interest earned by the Exhibitors Account is paid into the VPFA Working Account. This is the account from which the VPFA Ltd pays its running expenses.

In the objects of the company the following clause is found:

Clause 6.3.16 *to appoint a Committee called the Exhibitors Fund Committee. The role of this Committee is to recommend distribution by the Board to affiliated Clubs, the residue (if any) of the 55% interest earned by the Exhibitors Account and paid into the General Working Account each financial year. This Committee is to be three persons, two Directors and one Class A Member of the Company. Membership of this Committee shall be for three year terms commencing February 2011. This Committee must report to the Board at least annually or as directed by the Board.*

Please note that the Exhibitors Fund Committee: "Recommends the distribution of the residue (if any) of the 55% interest earned by the Exhibitors Account...etc." This phrase makes it quite clear that the Board may use the 55% interest it receives as the Board sees best in the interests of the Company and anything that is left over (the residue) is to be dispersed to affiliated clubs as Clause 6.3.16 requires.

When interest rates were higher there was almost always a residue, sometimes a substantial residue, which was dispersed by the 3 members of the Exhibitors Fund Committee who assessed applications for funding received from affiliated clubs. For the last 2 years there was no residue available to be applied for.

This year, 55 % of the interest that the Exhibitors Fund will earn will be \$4,233.72. The Board has made no increase in membership or affiliation fees for 2018. Already the Board has increased secretarial costs and slightly increased Insurance costs to meet. As well, there will be slightly increased Accounting costs, Audit costs and costs associated with the existence of the company – things like Domain name, ASIC costs. The APS Committee is paying its full fair share of our costs of existence. However, the fact remains the very small return on interest is a big limiting factor facing the company.