

FOUNDED 1898

# THE "NATIONAL FLYING CLUB"

*Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN*

*President: R SCRIVEN ESQ*



## **Annual General Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 Press Report.**

A general meeting was held prior to the AGM beginning at 9:30am at Alveley. Our President Mr M McGrevey chaired the meeting and began by reading out the minutes of the previous general meeting held on the 18th Oct 2017, which were passed as a true record.

Matters arising in the first instance were that the Uttoxeter show stand was managed by Drew Callum, Geoff & Barbra Kirkland, Eddie and Julie Froggatt along with Paul Naum. Drew would like to thank Julie for providing a really nice homemade picnic lunch. The club was also at Epsom and Blackpool shows although sadly Barbra Kirkland took a nasty fall on a step and had to go to hospital to check for broken bones. All the committee wish her a speedy recovery.

Kevin Heeley will become the new IC at Sheffield marking station and also joined the committee representing section K. An IC is still required to run the Frome marking station and an advert has been put into the weekly press to try to fill this important position. If nothing arises from this the marking station will be moved to the Bridgewater area which would save the transporter considerable time in picking up the birds which would mean a greater resting period at the ferry port before embarking. At the Southampton marking station, Bill Edwards from Gosport has stepped up to take over from Steve Vaisey as IC, could members give Bill as much assistance as possible please. Bob McKie, & Jim Sexton from the North East were at the meeting and informed us that Section N marking station will be moved to the Sportsman Inn at 261 Toft Hill, Bishop Auckland DL14 OJE. Marking taking place on the evening before and the birds ferried into Sheffield.

The new website was discussed at length which is now live but with some work on going. This will all be complete before racing begins and is a huge improvement on the previous one. A complete rewriting has taken place, which will require the members to re set, their passwords in order to log in. This is self-explanatory and the process activates a confirmation email to be sent in order for the password reset to be applied. So in order to prevent any delays in race entries we would advise that this should be done as soon as possible and not be left until just before racing begins.

A camera will be taken to the race point and where 4g is available the liberations will be live streamed directly to the website. If it is not possible a clip will appear as soon as possible. The Convoyer is very busy during the liberation so it will require a tripod set up but it should give all members a full view of the birds clearing the race point. A great idea and improvement to information flow.

The Young Bird sale will begin in March and some fantastic youngbirds will be offered for sale to raise funds for the club. It has been very successful in previous years and no doubt will be equally as successful this year.

It had been hoped that a joint race, along with the Midlands National Flying Club would take place to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the end of world war one. But after discussions had taken place between the two clubs and an agreement in principle for us to join up at Bordeaux, the fact that the MNFC did not want an overall result meant it was a pointless exercise. So the NFC committee have decided celebrate the armistice by making the Ancennis race on the 16<sup>th</sup> June an open race! All NFC members will be automatically entered but any non member may also enter. The finer details will follow with an entrance form being made available to download on the NFC website, the possibility of everyone being able to join us to commemorate the occasion by competing in a middle distance race is a fantastic prospect.

The presentation evening will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December at Torquay and it has been decided to invite a representative from Van Roabeys pigeon Food Company to be guest speaker. It is a really nice venue and highly recommended.

The Champion of Champions league will not be continued for the 2018 season and full congratulations must go to Mark Sparey on winning the loft put up for 2017 by ZipPol pigeon supplies. Sponsorships are important to the club and all the committee are actively working towards building more prizes for our members.

We had 65 resignations which is regrettable but on a brighter note, 226 new members joined the NFC for the 2018 season making a total of 2446 members. The propositions submitted for the AGM were discussed in the previous meeting and of the 4 that were worded correctly, all 4 passed. The most important issue is that only 10% of the members voted which could be improved upon by email voting and for next season, you will be able to vote via the website.

Any member may be called upon to go and verify the winning pigeon on the day so a formal "verification process" will be published on the website to enable us all to follow the same procedure. Of course I can personally verify the winning pigeon when I visit the winner the next day if no one else is available to help the secretary but its always better if other members are involved. If you do receive a call it will be because you are the next nearest member, please help out and make sure to follow the guidance provided.

There was a long discussion on the problem of failed ETS rings being presented at the marking stations. All our IC's will try to help out in emergencies but they are not there to assign rings that have never been assigned prior to the race, these have to be done before bringing them to NFC marking. But where a genuine failure of a ring occurs, and where practical, help will be given to reassign if possible. I refer here to RPRA rule 235a which gives authority for an electronic ring to be allocated at marking should a previously allocated ring prove to be defective. This of course would require either the marking official or the member to have a spare ring available and the knowledge required with the system involved. I would advise you to keep a spare ring with your clock just in case your main pool pigeon or any other requires it.

After all committee members had seen a prototype, it was decided to purchase 50 new crates to enable the club to deal with repairs on some of the existing as

well as enable us to allocate crates more easily. They are obviously the same size but have some improvements in the handling ability as well as the sliding top door being better.

The AGM began as advertised at 12:00 and Mr McGrevy asked all present to observe a minutes silence for members who have sadly passed away during the last year and the minutes of the previous AGM were passed as a true record

As our Chairman Phil Curtis was one of those who sadly passed away, and Mick McGrevy stood down as President to a vote of thanks, both offices now have new officials in place. Ray Scriven was nominated as our new President, which was passed, so congratulations were given to Ray. Paul Naum was nominated for Chairman which was also passed which meant that the Honorary Treasurers position was vacant for Steve Beardmore to take charge of the accounts. Paul has been a hard working committee member and for the last twelve years held the position of Honorary Treasurer, a vote of thanks was given and he assured us he will do his very best for the club in his new position. Steve Beardmore will be a huge asset for the NFC in the position of Treasurer with us able to profit from his vast experience in Accountancy.

The section representatives came up next and unfortunately, once again no members came forward for sections A, B, G, H, M, O and Q. All the other sections have one or two representatives but the club would really benefit by having all sections covered. New committee members are Barry Burton for section C, Duncan Cook for section J, Kevin Heeley for section K, Bill Bresnahan for section L, John Gladwin for Section P with Malcom Perry-Jones and Stuart Treharne for section W.

A vote of thanks was given to M Wiffen for his services to the club over previous years and Hauley & Co were appointed as new accountants. The Press Officer is still myself, Chris Sutton and Paul Hill took on the role of Race Adviser.

In my position of Press Officer I shall be giving details in the handbook on how you can get your information to me for publication. I had been receiving messages over all the various social media platforms during the last season and it is a horrendous task for me to collate them all together in one place with out making any mistakes. So I have set up an email address specifically for this purpose [nfcpressofficer@gmail.com](mailto:nfcpressofficer@gmail.com) and if all prize winners use it, it will greatly improve the race reporting process. So please keep your eye out for the instructions in the handbook and make sure your top-level performances do not go unnoticed. I am aware that some section positions have been missed in my reports and that is purely down to the sheer volume of sections in the club. Seventeen times the first five positions equals 85 members to contact in a week and its just too difficult without any help. I am fortunate that a few members have volunteered to assist in their sections and I am very grateful to them, but if you race in a section without any such helper, please feel free to use the email facility detailed in the handbook and I will gladly include your results in my race report.