

**Canadian Racing Pigeon Union  
Annual General Meeting  
Saturday November 16, 2013  
Hosted by the South Western Ontario Association  
Polish Hall – London Ontario**

**Executive Members Present:**

President Terry Humberstone, Vice President Ken King, Treasurer Nick Oud, Secretary Steve Walsh, Director Dan Archibald, Director Tom de Munnik, Director Jacques Nadeau

**Members Present:**

Roger Walters, Jack Bennett, George Scott, Brad Wogan, Tim Taylor, David Taylor, Robbie Taylor, Durval Medeiros, Clarence Oosterveld, Jack Eerenberg, Rodney Morris, Julian Mitoraj, Mike Taylor, Jim Arquette, Steve English, Walt Nead, John Favorito, Lloyd Flood, Allan Gauvin, Paul Gauvin, Andy Bukli, Brennan Cunningham, Pete Priester, Irma Priester, Eric Platteeuw, Zeb Talach, Pete Voskamp, Mike Allen, Chris Abbott, Joe Wensel, Adrian Timmermans and Flor Creve

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

President Terry called the meeting to order at 10:05 and turned the meeting over to Treasurer Nick.

**6.1 Financial Report for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2013**

Treasurer Nick introduced Mr. Bill Luyks a partner with the accounting firm GRAHAM SCOTT and ENNS LLP.

Mr. Luyks walked us through the financial report his firm had prepared for us. All members in attendance had a copy of this report.

He advised the membership he has worked with the BOD for the last year and a half.

The internal fraud hurt the organization significantly. Some \$40,000 in unpaid accounts was hid from the BOD.

The past is behind us. We must move forward. This is a substantial financial organization. We need good controls in place. We cannot put too much trust in one individual.

Mr. Luyks recommended to the members that the CRPU have its books reviewed annually and not audited annually. There would be a significant financial saving to the organization if this change were implemented, leaving inventory control up to the BOD/ Members and Staff to audit.

Mr. Luyks opened the floor to questions.

Zeb Talach – What is the savings per year if we have a review opposed to an audit? Should we audit the books every three years?

Mr. Luyks – The savings would be \$2,500 - \$3,000 per year. If you opt for an audit every three years there would be no real savings.

Ken King – Explained his new budget report for the fiscal year 2013/2014. This is essentially a one page financial report that will explain where we are at throughout the year.

Durval Medeiros – Is there a need to have a quarterly comment from your firm?

Mr. Luyks – No. We would comment at the end of the year. Internal controls, budget, don't give one person complete control of the finances, do not give them signing authority, do not sign blank cheques and regular reporting to the BOD on the finances of the organization is what is needed.

General conversation from the membership; all bands must be pre-paid. Pre-paid bands should be \$0.60. After that band sales should be \$0.75 - \$1.00 apiece.

Treasurer Nick thanked Mr. Luyks for coming out to join us this morning.

Mr. Luyks left the meeting at 10:52 as all members were applauding his presentation.

**Motion: Accept our Financial Report for our fiscal year ending August 31, 2013.**

**Moved By:** Jack Eerenberg

**Seconded By:** Zeb Talach

CARRIED (unanimously)

**Motion: that the CRPU membership accept the accounting firm GRAHAM SCOTT and ENNS LLP recommendation that going forward the CRPU have its books reviewed annually instead of audited annually.**

**Moved By:** Clarence Oosterveld  
**Seconded By:** Steve English CARRIED (18/1)

### **1. Welcome and Call to Order Continued.....**

President Terry called the meeting back to order at 11:00

He introduced the BOD to the membership.

The membership was asked to stand and state their name.

Our staff, Ms. Linda Walsh and Ms Denise Luscher introduced themselves to the membership.

### **2. Moment of Silence**

- For those who have died fighting to protect our freedom in this great Country.
- For our friends who have passed away since our last AGM.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda as Amended**

**Moved By:** George Scott  
**Seconded By:** Durval Medeiros CARRIED

### **4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

- None declared.

### **5. Reading of the Last Minutes – AGM Saturday February 16, 2013**

President Terry read the draft minutes from our last AGM.

**Motion:** To accept the minutes as written and reported to the membership this date.

**Moved By:** Rodney Morris  
**Seconded By:** Jack Eerenberg CARRIED

## **6. Action Items List**

### **6.2 2013 Yearbook Discussion – Director To de Munnik**

Director Tom presented his report to the membership on the 2013 yearbook.

#### **AGM 2013 Year Book presentation by Tom de Munnik (BOD Director)**

##### **STATUS OF THE CRPU**

When I decided to join this board for a short term I thought it is only a \$200,000.00 operation, how difficult can that be. Well my first impression is that it has become complicated and it is no longer a simple process.

The end of our 2012/2013 fiscal year we show a deficit of over \$ 22,500.00. The previous year we had a deficit of 35,900.00. How did that happen you might ask?

There are a lot of factors that go into this current situation. The fraud that occurred really accelerated the downward trend to where we are today. Even so we were heading in that direction one year at the time.

Our total income of \$ 131,000 is made up of three main revenue streams, membership, bands and the CRPU store.

**A)** Our membership has declined of late not only from an aging population but also clubs and members who have abandoned us.

**B)** We have maxed out our band pricing to generate needed income, to the point some clubs and members are purchasing bands elsewhere.

**C)** The store function of the CU was implemented many years ago and it too was to create needed income at that time. The idea of adding feed to the store program was to support freight costs on imported goods along with adding a small margin to overall sales. If this was a good fit is debatable but given the current situation it all helped.

The fact remains our current income cannot support the services we offer. The only reason we have managed this long is from volunteer support which we know is unsustainable, as is proven time and again.

##### **YEAR BOOK**

The year book has been subsidized for some time. Now with reserves strained and cash flow a real issue that affects paying our bills on time, it is time to take a new approach how we deal with this.

In the past we had free race result lines plus paid for lines. This option alone just killed us in order to manage it. Some wanted only free lines, others complained we published too many lines and refused to pay. We are still trying to collect for

last year's book. The cost of doing it this way really affects any of the contribution it is meant to make.

We have proceeded with getting a best price current quote for \$ 18.00 + tax per book, all in, based on an order of 1000 copies. We don't really know if the year book is even wanted by our membership but if it is, it needs to be a stand alone issue with a direct price of \$ 18.00 + tax all in (shipping and race result lines are included in this price) paid for directly by members or clubs, before we can have the year book published. We can make this happen by getting at least 90% of the membership subscription on order by Dec 31/2013 to get a shipping date of no later than March 1/2014. If we are unable to get the numbers then the year book is "done" and your money will be refunded in the form of a credit for membership or purchased goods.

The fact, that Dave Tichbourne is no longer able to offer his much appreciated volunteered time and service to our computer program is troubling. It will either collapse or we go out and hire professional help to serve our computer needs into the future. The yearbook could be the vehicle to do this, by taking all advertisement and roster revenue from it and hold it in reserve for program funding .This in no way will affect your year book cost. Programming is a big ticket item and can be costly but a necessary commodity for today's times.

The choice is yours do you want a year book for \$ 18.00 + tax. If so we need a confirmed 90% member subscription by Dec 31 2013. There are no other options available to us.

When sending in club rosters and ads where possible could you please send them in via email? This greatly helps us organizing the year book pages.

Please support us in this new approach to keep us moving forward to better days.

A lively discussion followed

**Motion:** To accept Director Tom's.

**Moved By:** Jack Eerenberg

**Seconded By:** Mike Taylor

CARRIED (10/8)

### 6.3 Presentation of the 2013 / 2014 Budget – V/President Ken King

- Ken presented his budget for this next fiscal year to the membership.
- This is the first time the CU has undertaken a budget.
- We will have less legal fees and audit fees for this next fiscal year.
- We have cut staff hours very lean.
- Staff salaries are substantially lower than they have been in the past so we have savings there too.
- If we can stay on track this upcoming year we will be in the black at year end.

**Motion:** To accept V/P Kens proposed budget for this upcoming fiscal year.

**Moved By:** Dural Medeiros  
**Seconded By:** Paul Gauvin CARRIED

**6.4 By Law Update – Secretary Steve Walsh**

- Secretary Steve provided a brief overview of all the by law challenges this BOD is currently managing.

**City of Vaughan**

- Everything is still status quo in Vaughan.

**City of Hamilton**

- City staff there has been directed by Council to prepare a favourable bylaw without a grandfathering clause to allow our sport to continue.
- I checked with Bill Young. That report is not yet ready.
- I have sent an email to the clubs to ascertain where we stand with respect to legal Counsel going forward.
- Trevor Smolenaars will check with the clubs and advice.

**Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury**

- The bylaw department has ignored our request for information.
- A letter needs to be sent to the Municipality.

**Town of Erin**

- Not sure what is happening there.
- A call to the Mayor has not been responded to.
- The Mayor is suing Council so there are bigger problems there.
- Since the BOD feels the 7.5 meter set back is okay we'll let this one die?

**City of Brampton**

- OMB Hearing Date Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in Brampton.

**City of Cornwall**

- We received a copy of their new draft bylaw on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lillian Taillon from Cornwall called Mike. The new by-law passed. It allows for 80 pigeons and the members love it.
- There were two opposing councillors, all others voted in favour.

- The one dissenting councillor stated that he believed that all the pigeons should be gassed. That got him in hot water with his constituents and the Mayor. He was later forced to apologize.
- The other dissenting councillor offered no reason for his negative vote other than that he personally hates pigeons.
- Score a big win for the CU. We owe a lot of thanks to Mike van der Jagt for taking this one on for us.

**Motion:** That the bylaw report as presented be accepted.

**Moved By:** George Scott  
**Seconded By:** Steve English CARRIED

**7 New Business**

- No one from the floor had a new business question / discussion.

**8 Presidents Award 2013**

- President Terry announced his picks for the Presidents Award for 2013.
- It was a tough choice.
- In the end I made the decision to announce two winners
- Please help me in congratulating Ron Hastie and Ronson Sandham.
- Both these individuals have done outstanding CU work over the years on our behalf.
- Unfortunately neither member was able to attend today but please, let's have a round of applause to acknowledge their contribution.

**9 Motion to Adjourn**

- George Scott
- Steve Walsh CARRIED