

2016



SANPO Clock Committee Report - 2015



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1. INTRODUCTION

Mister President, the year 2015 saw increased activity by the SANPO Clock Committee in an attempt to try and contribute to burning issues facing the Fancy under this heading.

In brief, the following topics were interrogated and in some instances clarified or reviewed:-

- a) ETS (Electronic Timing Systems) – System Software were tested – refer below in the report;
- b) E-Ring issues were discussed;
- c) Rural Fancier Security was placed on the Agenda;
- d) ETS Industry in General was interrogated and SANPO's role as Custodians of the Sport involvement thereof was reviewed;.
- e) Conflict of Interest of SANPO Clock Committee members needed to be addressed; and
- f) How to make the Sport Cheaper for the Fancier under this heading was also addressed.

2. ETS WORKSHOP

The process of interrogation and verification of SANPO's position started in May 2015 when SANPO arranged an ETS workshop which was held in Johannesburg.

All SANPO approved ETS Agents were invited to attend as well as some prospective ETS Manufacturers who have also been working on ETS systems that



were still in development stage. One or two other interested observers were also present.

The gist of the meeting was to highlight SANPO's planned policy change very early on in 2015, in what basically would amount to all clocks being opened to read all SANPO Approved E-Rings, thus allowing for honest open free and fair competition amongst E-Ring manufacturers. This discussion, as the minutes can reflect, was well received and various issues of concern was raised and addressed. As stated this was a meeting stating intent and providing challenges to the ETS manufacturers in a South African context.

In addition, and as expected, ETS systems were also presented to SANPO and all the bells and whistles were advised, with the promise of issuing free systems to fanciers and rings being between R12 and R15 per ring.

This created much excitement as well as rumour, however the Clock Committee of SANPO hereby categorically advise that unless the ETS system is FCI approved SANPO will not even look at, or test it, as we will simply be wasting our time.

Also when hearing rumours, and especially when one think of a business concern that needs to generate revenue to substantiate its business position, one needs to think that – if something sounds too good to be true – please note, it usually is.

In these scenarios within an emotionally charged environment, one forgets the hidden cost that get incurred which need to be born by the Fanciers.

These costs are not necessarily always declared or explained properly and sometimes the Fanciers are simply told what they would like to hear, or hear



only what they want to hear. To this end the Clock Committee would like to caution all fanciers to acquire the full facts, preferably in writing, prior to making claims or final decisions.

3. SOFTWARE OBSTACLE'S

The SANPO Clock Committee's first obstacle encountered on Software previously approved, was when some of the software had an expiry date not allowing for the coupling of 2015 pigeons and also reducing the capability of the coupling on the clock from 200 pigeons to a 100 or less per the specific Brand and Model of clock.

This, SANPO found unacceptable and addressed this matter with the relevant manufacturer who, to their credit, has corrected the situation re software and have put the same capabilities on the new Software as to place the Fanciers in the position it was before.

The Brand concerned here was Tauris Ruter and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ruter Electronics for accommodating the South African Fanciers requirements.

4. CONTINUOUS TESTING

This issue, gave rise to the Clock Committee taking the decision to test all previous SANPO approved software. A tedious process that nevertheless had to be conducted to ensure there was no more surprises in store.



It was during one of these testing sessions, following up on a submitted concern, that the Unikon Software was found wanting and non-compliant with the SANPO requirements.

It was found that the software did not lock the Race Entry detail once the entry list was printed and allowed for the Race Date to be interrogated by allowing entered birds to be deleted and added after the clock was supposedly in Race mode, for the same race. No alteration on the race credentials could be ascertained, although new birds could be added to the original race, after the fact.

Without going into further detail suffice to say, that this was a breach of a SANPO Compliance protocol, resulting in SANPO rescinding its approval for the relevant software concerned.

Unikon/Deister have been advised of this and what SANPO's requirement is and what needs to be corrected and has received this advice in a positive light, advising that they will correct this matter prior to commencement of the Racing season in June 2016. Up until this requirement is met, these clocking systems do not have official SANPO approval to be used.

We extend our sincere thanks to Unikon/Deister for the positive response and manner in which they have reacted to this challenge thus far.

Two new ETS Software versions were tested and approved during this year i.e. the "Benzing Live" as well as the updated new Mega Star software.



5. SANPO POLICY CHANGES

In support of our opening argument, Mister President and to give credence to our intention to actively support the South African fancier within the context of South Africa, the Clock Committee of SANPO have also advised all SANPO Approved ETS OEM's as well as some prospective OEM's of SANPO's intended change of policy.

These policy changes were to ensure cheaper solutions for clubs having multiple systems whereby they can use one CAN which can read multiple ETS Systems E-rings when basketing and secondly an intervention designed so that all ETS systems and club units will have to be opened to accommodate all SANPO/FCI approved E-Rings.

On the first item, it was clarified that various CAN's has this ability with an adapter, or a change in software. This will make the club CAN units inter usable, and should diminish operating cost for all.

On the second principle, Mister President, SANPO does not restrain the ETS Manufacturers of continuing to make available to their loyal customers the closed system, however, as per communicated intent, SANPO insist that all closed systems in future will only be allowed subject to the ETS OEM also offering the Fancier the choice of opting for the "Open System" with the ability to read any of the SANPO/ETS approved E-Rings.

As communicated to the ETS manufacturers, SANPO's call for comments expired on the 27 February 2016 and I am pleased to advise that from the commentary feedback received from the OEM's, it was indeed positive.



SANPO, although wanting this to be implemented for Racing season 2016, conceded to the OEMs request/suggestion to make it available come Racing season 2017 as the time required to make the relevant adjustments were simply too short a period.

As stated, most OEMs have been positive towards this initiative, and it should also be noted that those that choose not to be would unfortunately have to comply with the change in Policy as non-compliance would mean that the software or system will not be SANPO approved to be used in SANPO sanctioned Races.

Mister President, SANPO has tried as far as positive to be inclusive with all OEM's and their opinions and now it is up to them to comply by 1 January 2017. This will allow the SANPO Clock Committee, enough time to test these principles and ensure compliance for feedback on the 2017 AGM.

We extend our sincere thanks to those OEM's that have responded positively, for their "open- minded" approach and can state that the Clock Committee received positive responses from four OEMs with only one negative. Fortunately, it would seem that the main role-players are positive towards this whilst those not, will be forced to" tow the line".

6. NEW ETS SOLUTIONS

The Clock Committee is excited to note that three additional ETS clocks other than the mainline brands have, according to reports, been FCI approved.

SANPO's Clock Committee await to test these solutions, and possibly approve them for use in South Africa.



As far as our knowledge reaches – one of these is a locally manufactured and designed clock, one a Taiwanese Clock (Top Pigeon) and the third an European design.

From reports the E-Rings associated with two of the three abovementioned options will be sub R20 each, but they will also have to comply with the previous policy requirements of SANPO.

7. E-RINGS ON OFFER

On the subject of E-Rings it was recently noted at the prestigious Million Dollar Pigeon Race, that Unapproved SANPO E-rings were on offer.

It should be noted that SANPO does not condone this practice and warns all Fanciers that the use of such rings are against SANPO policy and will result in all acknowledgement of performance of pigeons using these rings being withdrawn from Club, Federation, Provincial and National level should it come to SANPO's attention that an individual uses such rings.

SANPO also reserves the right to discipline such an individual, and if such a user loose prestige or income due to this practise, they will have no recourse from SANPO.

8. CONCLUSION

In conclusion and to put various rumours to rest, Mister President, SANPO has not officially embarked on the manufacturing of an ETS system nor is it its intention to sell E-Rings to the Fancier, but rather to acknowledge the need for



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outh African National Pigeon Organisation**



Good Business practices of suppliers of such items to the Fancy whereby the role of the resident Agents is viewed as an important role.

There is therefore no current policy, or proposal, to exclude these role players from the industry by competing with them.

Presently, SANPO does not have the infrastructure to get involved in such activities and would therefore work closely with all relevant stakeholders to monitoring the Industry.

SANPO will therefore ensure that the Fanciers are not exploited, while encouraging Free and Fair Competition without taking away the autonomy of the Manufacturer, as long as the manufacturers comply with SANPO's policies.

To this end, Mister President, SANPO has also ensured that no Council members with vested business interests serve on the existing Clock Committee, and the current Clock committee has no business interests associated with any manufacturer or distributor.

Yours in Sport

Shane Gerber

SANPO Clock Committee Chairman

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