



## WESTERN CAPE RACING PIGEON CONFEDERATION: COMMUNICATION NOTE 3

Dear Racing Pigeon fancier and/ or supporter

This Communication note is intended to keep pigeon fanciers and other interested members of the public informed of the intentions and activities of the *Western Cape Racing Pigeons Confederation (WCRPC)* and to invite comment and discussion of the important issues below.

The WCRPC has been established in March 2014 by the majority of the large unions and federations in the Province and the Provincial Interim Committee (PIC) was appointed to serve as the representative body at the Provincial level of all unions, federations and clubs of the Province in order to facilitate the strategic planning and management of the sport. The WCRPC has been established to promote the wellbeing of racing pigeons in the Western Cape as well as to serve as an Interim Committee with the view to become a member of the Western Cape Sport Confederation. We have published Communication notes on the establishment and the activities of the WCRPC in the SA Pigeon News and will be increasing our efforts to disseminate this Note to all fanciers.

The *Western Cape Racing Pigeon Confederation* is happy to report that regular meetings are taking place and that good progress is being made on the agenda items below, despite our members being involved in races themselves in the heat of the racing pigeon racing calendar. The PIC has established smaller Task Teams that are working on the various priorities. At the most recent meeting on 7 October 2014, a number of priorities were reconfirmed and members reported back on progress. The next meeting will take place on 4 November 2014 and fanciers or other interested parties should feel free to provide comments to any of the Committee members. The meeting emphasized the importance of good communication and feedback on the Committee's activities to all fanciers in the Province as well as ensuring that all unions that were not able to attend the Meeting are invited to join the Confederation. Fanciers are encouraged to communicate with us directly and are called upon to assist us in meeting the quest that no misinformation about our activities and intentions takes place. The WCRPC will continue to pursue open dialogue with all involved as we have no hidden agendas.

The PIC is focusing on the following priorities at present:

1. The Chair and vice-Chair (Andy Kruger and Erwin Wallendorf) is at present contacting all unions and federations that have not been able to send a representative to the PIC Meetings to strengthen the representivity of all our members and the PIC.
2. Communication has been identified as a continued priority and it is in this spirit that regular Communication Notes will be distributed and published (Christo de Coning and Erwin Wallendorf).
3. The PIC continues to regard the registration process of the WCRPC with the *Western Cape Sports Confederation* as a high priority and a Task Team (Christo de Coning, Erwin Wallendorf and Andy Kruger) is assessing all requirements at present. During the next period a draft Constitution will be developed and discussed.
4. After much planning the PIC is happy to announce that a new annual combine race, namely **the Western Cape Classic** Race will be first flown in 2015. The arrangements and organisation for this Classic race is far advanced and all fanciers that are members of the three large transport associations (the WCRPC, the Board and North Boland Truck Associations) will be participating in a joint race. The decision on the date and distance of this race are presently being considered by the above



Associations. The PIC Task Team that has done an excellent job in facilitating this race is lead by Mr Cobus Myburg and supported by Randy Engelbrecht, Allie Kotze and Erwin Wallendorf.

5. The PIC is also giving attention to:

- The coordination of releases in the Western Cape by promoting increased communication between the transport associations, unions and federations for the 2015 Racing Season (Task Team: Mr Cobus Myburg, Randy Engelbrecht, Allie Kotze and Erwin Wallendorf).
- The continued monitoring of the WCRPC Strategic Agenda that will be updated annually (see below).
- Planning and design of youth projects (School video and toolkit, Education project, Virtual racing for the youth and Mentorship Programme)
- Funding mobilisation for the PIC and the strengthening of the organisation and capacity of the PIC.

Randy Engelbrecht will assist with the development of a database of the some 1860 registered racing pigeon fanciers in the Province. The Meeting decided to appoint a Management Committee to oversee the day-to-day activities of the WCRPC. The Management Committee includes Andrew Kruger, Randy Engelbrecht, Christo de Coning and Erwin Wallendorf. The date of the next Committee Management Meeting is 4 November 2014.

Randy Engelbrecht		Federated Board of Homing Union
Dexter Fischer		Federated Board of Homing Union
Allie Kotze		North Boland Pigeon Union (Noord Boland Posduif Unie)
Andrew Kruger (Chairman)		Federated Board of Homing Union
J (Cobus) Myburgh		North Road Homing Union
Edward Juuls		Boland Wedvlugduiwe
Christo de Coning		Additional member
Erwin Wallendorf (Vice Chairman)		North Road Homing Union



## STRATEGIC AGENDA: WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL RACING PIGEON CONFEDERATION

**Note: The Strategic Agenda represents a product of the WCRPC and is regarded as work in progress. The Strategic Agenda represents a set of strategic issues to be addressed by the racing pigeon community and other responsible stakeholders. The Strategic Agenda below has been identified and recorded by the Provincial Interim Committee. The PIC is active in only some of these prioritized areas. The PIC will regularly review the strategic agenda and monitor key strategic areas.**

**Strategic priorities** (in no particular order):

1. **Governance and management** of the racing pigeon sport in the Western Cape
  - Strategic management of the Sport
  - Development of the Provincial body
  - Membership to the Western Cape Sports Confederation
  - Coordination and support of and to all Unions and federations
  - Institutional capacity building and support
2. Development of a **Code of Conduct** for all racing pigeon fanciers
3. Importance of developing our own **norms and standards document** with a Technical Committee including flying vets.
4. **Governance of the Racing Pigeon Sport at national level** in South Africa (including relationship with SANPO)
5. The **promotion of Animal rights** (including relationship with the SPCA)
6. **Youth development** as a top priority
  - Promotional video for schools and toolkit
  - Educational project
  - Virtual online racing
  - Mentorship
  - Special Youth Clubs
7. **Marketing of the Sport** amongst the public but also to stimulate new membership, also of those re-entering the Sport.
8. **International relations** (e.g. with RP sporting bodies from other countries)
9. The **well-being of the family**. Focus on woman and children
10. **Training and induction (beginner)** courses. Need for **conferences and workshops**
11. **Research and publication** on the racing pigeon sport
12. **Strategic coordination of Operational issues.**



Strategic issues on **the international agenda**:

- The **increasing role of politics** in the racing pigeon sport, e.g. the 'Green Movement' in Europe.
- The **socio-economic and environmental impact on/ of the racing pigeon sport**
- The realities and implications of **global warming**.
- **'Globalisation'** and the availability and validation of information.
- The increasing **professionalization** of the sport.
- The racing pigeon sport is too isolated and **the use of outside experts** is promoted.
- New approaches to increase income sources and a focus on **financial practices**.
- **Scientific research regarding genetics, health and medical treatment of pigeons**.
- **Leadership challenges and ethics**. The need for strong leadership and management is evident.
- Increasing emphasis on the **ethical nature of the racing pigeon sport**.

Additional Strategic issues identified by fanciers:

- The importance of **improved communication at all levels**.
- The **saving of costs** such as through the improved cost efficiency of transport arrangements.
- Interests regarding **pigeon races**. The pricing of all rings, planning and requirements.
- The use of modern **Information Communication Technology (ICT)**.
- The **role and responsibilities of SANPO** has been identified as a priority.
- Recognition of the **socio-political context and history** of the racing pigeon sport.
- Participants asked that the **relationship with the animal cruelty organisations** be better managed.
- The racing pigeon sport as a **special sport for elderly people** and support for 'vulnerable' groups.
- **Public image of the sport** needs to be addressed. Code of conduct for fanciers.
- **Value systems and respect** needs to be promoted
- **Recognition and Provincial Colours**. The **Legends Programme**.
- Effective **management and administration** of racing pigeon organisations

End of list