

Chairman's Report – 2017 Season

The 2017 season was a challenging year for the SAHPA Committee of Management, mainly due to the outbreak of Rotavirus. I must commend the SAHPA Committee of Management (Tony Perkins our General Secretary, Paul Springett Vice Chair, Tim Fawcett, Phil Squire, David Thalbourne and Peter Burke, plus the outgoing members who were on the committee January through to March, (John Cock, Graeme Goodrich) on steering our Association through the year. I believe at all times we were very professional, we did not over react to each phase of the disease, we always stated we planned to race but would reassess that decision each month. At various times it looked like we would not race but we kept our plans in place and then we went to our members for the final decision.

The season had a later start than normal as we worked our way through the disease outbreak. We started in July and flew through to mid October. In my opinion it was a successful season and we did receive a positive email about an older member near retiring from the sport having the opportunity to enjoy one last season.

The Treasurer's report shows that we also controlled our expenses to reduce the loss to only \$2,627 even though our income was much less than previous seasons.

I would like to thank all the members that still paid up their membership subscriptions last year which helped us meet our financial commitments for running the SAHPA. Many of these members did not race during the year because they wanted to await a vaccine before resuming but they were loyal members and paid up their membership.

I would also like to thank our SAHPA members who have taken on important roles with the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board ANRPB, Greg Kakoschke now Chairman, David Walker Secretary and David Thalbourne State Representative on the Board. We thank Greg for the time he has devoted working for the Board and in particular the difficult negotiations to get the vaccine from University trials to commercial production.

Jim Marafiotte had a great season once again winning the SAHPA Aggregate points. The team of Williams, Verrall and Barlow had a great season finishing 2nd and Cook and Edwards had another great season in 3rd place.

As Chairperson, I have a philosophy that impacts every decision I make, "We should always do our best to leave the organisation in a better position than when we joined it". This means that we need to at least break even every year and where possible make small surpluses, so we can maintain the Hall and our Transporters. Our new transporter is helping us to keep the costs down even through the number of participants is declining, we need to work on refining our training units and program to minimise the subsidy.

I also wish to thank all the people that do various jobs in our clubs and the Chairpersons and Secretaries that do a great job to keep our great sport going. I would like to wish members all the best for the new season and call on your continued support.

Yours in Sport, Gavin Harris. SAHPA - Chairperson