

## Constitution and Management

- 16) The Council of the Union shall be the supreme controlling body of affairs of the union.
  - a) Union meetings will be held during daytime wherever possible.
- 17) Each Club will be allowed to send no more than TWO delegates to Council meetings. But only ONE delegate will be allowed to vote. All delegates must be members of the Union.
- 18) For every **20** members Clubs will have ONE vote or part thereof.
- 19) An affiliated member belonging to more than ONE club shall only be entitled to vote in the club through which their subscription is paid to the Union.
- 20) Individual members will not have the right to vote, nor can they be proposed to hold office within the Union.
- 21) No business shall be carried out at any General Meeting unless a quorum of delegates is present at the time the meeting proceeds to business. Five delegates shall constitute a quorum.
- 22) The Chairperson shall have a casting vote only.
- 23) The President, or in his absence, a Vice-President, shall preside at council meetings. In the absence of any Vice-Presidents then the delegates shall elect one of their own numbers to act as Chairperson.
- 24) The declaration of the Chairperson that a resolution has, or has not, been carried, shall, unless a poll is demanded, be conclusive.
- 25) Only the items placed on the agenda of a General Council meeting can be discussed. Proposals for General Council must be in the union office by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October of each year. Any relevant amendment may be proposed by any delegate to such an item properly laid before the meeting. The decision of the chairperson as to the relevancy of any amendment shall be final.
- 26) Any incorrect proposition submitted by a Club, for General Council, should be returned by the Union office with an explanation given of why the proposition is incorrect. The Club should be offered advice on how their proposition could be worded so as to be re-submitted.
- 27) Any Proposition to change or alter any existing Rule must be clearly headed.
- 28) The Society to keep an up-to-date Minute Book to record all meetings of the Society including all proposals set before the Society showing the proposer and Secunder of each proposal and the final vote both for and against such proposal.

29) The majority of votes cast will decide the question at issue. The voting shall, in the first instance, be by a show of hands, but any delegate may demand a poll of the delegates actually present. No vote shall be given by proxy.

30) Other than at the Annual General Meeting the NEHU rules can only be altered, added to or deleted at a special meeting called by 5 clubs or the Management Committee. There must be 21 days' notice given before such a meeting can be convened and no alteration to the rules can be made without a 2 to 1 majority of those present at the meeting.

31) The Officers of the Union shall be a President and four Vice – Presidents who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and hold office for one year. Nominations for all candidates, including existing Officers, must be received into the Union office not later than 31<sup>st</sup> October. All Officers shall be eligible for re –election.

a) In the event that there are no nominations or no suitable nomination for auditors, then the Management Committee shall appoint a Professional Auditor on an annual basis.

32) A management Committee composed of the Officials of the Union and one representative from each Federation will be convened at least twice a year or when deemed necessary by the President of the Union. The Presidents and Secretaries of the Up North Combine, West Durham Amalgamation, Durham Combine and New North Amalgamation sitting ex – officio. (With full voting rights)

(A special management committee may be convened at the request of 5 Federations, with at least 21 days' notice given before such a meeting can be convened. Only the item placed upon the agenda will be discussed.)

33) The elected Officers, secretary and a representative from each of the 4 racing organisations shall form a General Purpose and Finance Committee and will meet as required to consider urgent matters. When appropriate they will report back to the Management Committee and /or General Council. Agreed minutes of all General Purpose and Finance Committee meetings shall be circulated to the Management Committee.

34) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the third week in January each year on a date to be agreed by the Management Committee. All Clubs to receive an Agenda of the business to be conducted at such a meeting. Clubs will also receive a statement of accounts, a balance sheet with a report from the auditors, for the past year.

a) The meeting will also elect officers for the ensuing year, and any proposals submitted by the management committee.

b) Clubs will be given 14 days' notice and shall arrange a meeting of their members to consider the agenda. All delegates should be mandated by their clubs on how to vote on agenda items.

35) A Special General meeting shall be called by the Secretary in the following cases: -

a) Upon the direction of the General Council or Management Committee.

b) Or at the written request of 5 clubs who should give 21 days' notice.

Such Special General Meetings will only deal with the item on the agenda and will not be subject to any amendments.

36) The Secretary and Clerical Staff shall be considered as permanent positions and Contracts of Employment issued.

a) Their salaries will be paid from the funds raised and will be reviewed by the Management Committee each year.

b) Any vacancy for a permanent position shall be appointed by the Management Committee subject to confirmation by the next Annual Meeting.

c) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to manage the office and to ensure business is attended to. The secretary will attend all meetings of the Council and to keep the minutes thereof.

d) All monies received by the secretary of the union, either as payment for services rendered or in respect of the business of the union, shall be shown in the accounts.

37) In every year the Accounts of the Union shall be examined by an auditor or auditors.

38) The bus fares of the Management Committee in attending the meetings of the Council or Committee shall be defrayed out of the funds of the Union.

### Suspension

39) All suspensions must be verified by General Council.

40) A suspended member will cease to be a member of the Union or any affiliated Club to which he belongs to at the date his suspension began. A suspended member will not be eligible to join another Club or Race Organisation.

41) No address or loft belonging to a suspended member shall be recognised by the Union.

42) No suspended member will be allowed to compete in races, showing or exhibitions in which Union members are permitted to compete.

43) No suspended member can hold any position of office.

44) No suspended member can purchase Union rings, nor will they be able to transfer any rings. (General Council can agree to the freeing of a suspended member's rings)

45) All members of a Club which has been suspended cease to be members of the Union. Members who are also members of other Clubs cannot continue as members unless they obtain permission from the

Union. (Permission shall be 'by letter addressed to the Union secretary for the attention of the 'committee'. Which may give consent without holding a formal enquiry or hearing any evidence requested. This decision shall be subject to appeal).

### Discipline

46) The Union retains sole discretion in determining what conduct is deemed unacceptable, undesirable or potentially damaging to the reputation of the Union and the Sport of Homing Pigeons Racing, Showing or Exhibition.

47) There is an expectation that members of the Union conduct all their affairs, connected with the racing, showing or exhibiting of racing pigeons in a way which reflects positively on themselves and the Union.

48) Should any member of the Union be guilty of any behaviour or conduct which is deemed to be abusive, derogatory, or violent. The Union may suspend such person for a length of time that the Council may determine.

49) A member that wilfully breaks the Rule of his Club or that of the Union may be suspended by the Union for a period that the Council may determine.

50) Should any Club conduct its affairs in a manner unbecoming an affiliated Society of the Union, by breaking or refusing to conform to the Rules of the Union. The Council may suspend such a Club during such periods as the Council may determine.

51) With regards to publications and/or websites beyond the control of the Union which may be classed as derogatory or offensive to any Union Member or member of the public or agent of the union. The Union retains the right to suspend the author should they be a Union member.