

North West Homing Union

News & Correspondence – keeping the members informed.

NWHU – RPRA: Email's / Communications

Terry Dawber - Dorothy Hadley 29th Oct 2018

Subject: Re: North West Homing Union Boundary

On 2018-10-29 14:24, Dorothy Hadley wrote:

NEHU Boundary - attachment refers.

Dorothy Hadley (Mrs)

Secretary to CEO

Hello Mrs Hadley,

I received your e mail, which refers to 'NEHU Boundary'. (?) This Letter will be put in to our next Union meeting in November.

I would require the full details of the proposition to effect this new condition and, of course, to see the appropriate changes to any RPRA rules which cover this - in print, for all to see.

T Dawber

Secretary NWHU

Ian Evans – Terry Dawber 30th Oct 2018

Good Morning Mr Dawber, Please find attached a revised letter. The previous letter contained an error. A hard copy has been placed in the post. Just to clarify the issues raised in your email to Mrs Hadley yesterday, I respond as follows:

The letter refers to the NWHU boundaries. The full details of the proposition is contained within the letter. The RPRA has a current list of approved Unions which includes the NWHU. The proposition is to remove the NWHU from this list if it fails to comply with the request.

Regards

Ian Evans

CEO

For the Fancier by the Fancier

North West Homing Union

THE ROYAL PIGEON RACING ASSOCIATION Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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30 October 2018

North West Homing Union
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Dear Sir

I write to advise on behalf of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association council that the RPRAs recognises the NWHU on the basis that their boundary was the 'Four Counties of North West England'. The North West Homing Union currently operates/functions outside this original area.

Therefore the RPRAs requires the NWHU to return to functioning/operating within the '4 Counties of North West England', as previously accepted.

Failure to do so, by the 1st February 2019, will result in the NWHU being de-recognised by the RPRAs.

Yours faithfully

Ian Evans
Chief Executive

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 18th Dec 2018

Ian

Firstly, thank you for your time earlier it's always good to talk.

At the recent North West Homing Union AGM, I was elected president after the sad loss of Mr Geoff Bennett earlier this year. One of the items discussed at the meeting was the situation that has evolved between the RPRAs and the NWHU. I took the action to try and start a dialogue with your good-selves.

As we discussed this situation if allowed to continue or deteriorate, could be damaging to both organisations and certainly isn't in the best interests of the membership and fancy as a whole.

If it can be arranged, I think we were both in agreement that a meeting between officials of both the RPRAs and NWHU to find some common ground on which to build and reach an agreement and hopefully resolve our differences would be a step in the right direction. As discussed, if there could be an opportunity during the Blackpool Show of The Year this may be the ideal time as the people required to make the most out of this opportunity could be there.

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Certainly believe dialogue between our respective organisations is the best way forward to find an accommodation that helps safeguard the wellbeing of our members and the sport.

Regards

Terry Phifer

President NWHU

Ian if you wish to use any of the above in the BHW please feel free as it could provide the fancy with a degree of assurance that both organisations are communicating and making progress.

I'll be hopefully submitting an introduction to the Racing Pigeon and the NWHU website that will include development's as we progress.

Ian Evans – Terry Phifer 2nd Jan 2019

Good Afternoon Terry and Happy New Year.

I have discussed the request with the RPRA President and we propose holding the meeting on Sunday morning at 11am. Both Friday and Saturday are very busy for myself and given the schedule we are unable to offer any other day.

One point that the President wished to stress is that there should be only three representatives from each Organisation.

The RPRA representatives will be Myself, David Bridges (President) and Gary Cockshott (Vice President)

The venue will be the Ballroom Balcony Bar.

Please confirm this is suitable.

Thanks

Ian

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 2nd Jan 2019

Thanks Ian and all the best to your good self for the new year.

Sunday morning would be great in-fact that's a lot better for me thankyou, it saves me having to rush on the Friday also the wife and daughter are accompanying me again this year so works better with them and my daughters school (not sure they'll see like that, they like shopping while I'm busy with the pigeon stuff).

Totally agree as discussed we don't need a cast of thousand's a few good men and all that, I'll follow up with a call to confirm.

Look forward to meeting you.

Regards

Terry Phifer

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Ian Evans – Terry Phifer 10th Jan 2019

Hi Terry, Just to confirm there has been a change to the venue. Its still 11am in the Winter Gardens but it will be in the Opera House Circle Bar. If you wish – give me a call on ?????????? and I will meet you outside the Opera House and show you to the meeting room.

Cheers

Ian

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 24th Jan 2019

Ian

Sorry for not getting back sooner but I've been non stop since getting back from Blackpool with home improvements / repairs (who needs heating this time of year?), work backlog and when possible pigeons.

Just want to say thankyou to yourself, David and Gary for taking the time to meet us on Sunday I know the Blackpool weekend is a very busy event for you all, so please pass on my thanks to them. I think it was a very positive and constructive meeting conducted in a professional and gentlemanly manner which was very much appreciated.

Could I please ask if you have any more information with regards the confederation or if you could direct me to where I could find out more about it, I've picked up snippets in the past but could do with understanding more about it any help would be gratefully received.

Regards
Terry Phifer

Ian Evans to Terry Phifer 25th Jan 2019

Hi Terry, I agree that it was a very professional respectful meeting.

What information are you looking for in respect of the confederation ?

Thanks

Ian

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 25th Jan 2019

Thanks Ian

Any information would be welcomed regarding the Confederation do they have any terms of reference / constitution or minutes that are available on-line? one question are all the other home unions members? I do think it could be a good forum for the unions to work together in a constructive way to help the sport.

These things usually have a person or some people that are driving forces behind them so if there's anyone you can think of that it may be beneficial for me to contact I'd be happy to learn more off them.

regards
Terry

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Terry Phifer to Ian Evans 31st Jan 2019

Ian

Just a quick note to let you know what's happening since the meeting at Blackpool, I've pulled together a few notes from the lads that accompanied me to the meeting checked against my own and I've compiled a brief and sent to them to check and I'm waiting their replies.

The NWHU is holding a meeting on the 9th Feb to allow us to provide feedback and to get a steer on the way forward from the committee. I understand that your next opportunity to take things back to your council will be the AGM at the end of the month.

Once I've got the notes back I'll share them with you if you wouldn't mind reviewing them with David and Gary and feeding back any comments it would be appreciated.

Regards

Terry Phifer

Ian Evans – Terry Phifer 1st Feb 2019

Hi Terry, Yes please share the notes when available. Our meeting of council is the 22nd February 2019.

I have copied Julia Field who is secretary of the Confederation. Please direct any queries in this respect to Julia.

Julia, Terry is the President of the North West Homing Union.

Cheers

Ian

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 3rd Feb 2019

Ian

Please find attached notes from our meeting at Blackpool, could you please share with David and Gary any feedback would be welcomed.

Once more please thank David and Gary not forgetting your self for meeting us at Blackpool I hope you all found it to be as positive and constructive as we did.

Regards

Terry

The notes as follows

Meeting between representatives the RPRA and the NWHU took place at the winter gardens 20th Jan 2019 at 11.00 am.

In attendance Mr D Bridges President of the RPRA, Mr I Evans C.E.O. and Mr G Cockshott Vice President of the RPRA, Mr T Phifer President of the NWHU, Mr M McAlinden & Mr J Pawson vice presidents of the NWHU. The meeting had been instigated by the NWHU following a letter from the RPRA saying that if by the 1st February 2019 the NWHU had not reverted to its original boundaries then it would be de-recognised.

After brief introductions the main purpose of the meeting was discussed and established.

The purpose was to establish communication between the two organisations to find a way of dealing with discord that has developed over time for the benefit of the members and the sport.

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Boundaries, the issue of boundaries were discussed with both parties expressing their views with regards the changes to the NWHU since its establishment 1969 and from the time of recognition 1996. The boundaries as published in the NWHU rules had been decided by its membership over the last 50 years and to go back to the boundaries that existed 50 years ago would not be possible nor practicable. The old counties had been dissolved or changed and replaced, Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire and Cheshire had been changed to Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Manchester, and Cheshire during the changes part of West Riding had been absorbed as well as other changes to the boundaries. The Addition of Flintshire and Denbighshire had been done at the request of its membership many years ago. The RPRA were still concerned about the boundaries however accepted that the existing declared boundaries couldn't really be altered but concerns remained that the NWHU were accepting affiliated members and organisations from outside these declared boundaries.

Membership: the issue of membership was discussed, and it was established that the NWHU could not and would not force any of its existing membership organisations or individuals to leave irrespective of their current location. The NWHU stated that since the Oct report there had been a number of organisations and individuals from outside its boundaries that had resigned. The RPRA delegates accepted that the NWHU couldn't expel members and didn't expect it to.

The NWHU understood the concerns of the RPRA and would look at the second part of its boundaries rules which deals with the use of management discretion over accepting organisations / individual members outside its boundaries. There were a number of options discussed surrounding this rule from suspension of the rule, rewording it. The NWHU representatives would have to take this back to their management committee.

It was recognised that a large proportion of the membership within the NWHU were actually dual members of both organisations and the current actions if continued could not be of benefit to the members nor the sport, hence the need for dialogue between the two organisations.

Stray birds issue was discussed with the NWHU taking this issue very seriously, they were alarmed to read in the RPRA October Meeting report that there could be an issue. It was noted that the NWHU's telephone line did have a problem at one time during the 2018 season which didn't help. There is an online facility on the NWHU web site for reporting strays. The NWHU requested more information from the RPRA ie, the numbers reported areas reported and what the follow up with the NWHU was? This information would be helpful in aiding to mitigate / improve this situation in the future as with all unions the NWHU takes this subject very seriously.

Confederation: NWHU membership of the confederation was discussed, it had been a member at one time. The NWHU would consider membership so long as it was more than just a talking shop; Mr Bridges informed the meeting that he had been impressed after attending a meeting recently. Mr Phifer noted he had only picked up snippets of information about the Confederation and wanted to know more. His, own point of view was that a forum / corporative organisation that all the home unions could use to help drive improvements for the sport could be an asset.

Concern was raised that even after the use of even more discretion / suspension of the NWHU rule allowing membership outside its boundaries that new members could join via existing clubs / federations. It was discussed that neither the RPRA nor the NWHU as an association / union could determine or control who clubs / federations allow to join them nor make changes to their radius. These types of organisations are self-determining with regards to their radius and membership. It was noted that at fed level no-one from outside a fed could join another, which is the way it is at

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that level of management, however the association / union could not within their constitutions dictate that level of control over member organisations.

The meeting concluded that there had been a positive and constructive discussion with reasonable views of each party's opinions aired. It was further realised that each would have to feed back to their respective councils / committees.

Post Meeting Note: the meeting was conducted in a professional and gentlemanly manner which was much appreciated.

Terry Phifer to Ian Evans 18th Feb 2019

Ian

Hope your well

The NWHU held a management committee meeting Saturday 9th February which allowed me and the other two representatives Mike and Jim to feedback what was discussed with your good selves at the Blackpool meeting.

We used the notes that I shared with you following that meeting as the basis for the discussions. All the main items / areas were discussed and debated with all delegates approaching it with open minds and common sense. The delegates agreed that the meeting was a move in the right direction and its hoped that further collaboration between our two organisations will lead to an improved relationship for the benefit of our shared members and the sport.

The subject of the confederation was discussed, and the general feeling was the delegates needed to understand more about its future direction.

Real concern was shown with regards the issue of strays, its hoped that all unions can work together to improve the sports image in this area.

The committee understands that you also must provide feedback to your own council and respond according to their deliberations.

I know that this is a very busy time for your organisation with regional meetings and your own AGM on the horizon, however look forward to further dialog with you once these events are out of the way.

Regards

Terry Phifer

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Terry Phifer to Julia Field RPRAs 25th Feb 2019

Julia

Terry Phifer here from the North West Homing Union, I believe you're the person to contact for information regarding the Confederation of unions / associations. I'm after any information you may have that will let me see what it is? who's in it, how much it costs etc. I've only ever picked up snippets about it in the past.

Does it have a constitution or set of rules? at a recent meeting with RPRAs representative's including the president David Bridges he told me he was impressed with the areas and topics covered would it be possible to see any minutes or notes from a past meeting.

Possible NWHU membership was discussed at a recent internal meeting but the attendees like myself wanted to know more about it. There is another meeting coming up towards the end of March that I'd like to feedback to if possible.

Any help would be much appreciated.

regards

Terry Phifer

President of the NWHU

Ian Evans – Terry Phifer 26th Feb 2019

Good Morning Terry, The RPRAs Council met last week to discuss the above. A summary of the meeting held at Blackpool was provided and a long discussion took place.

The RPRAs council decided that :

1. The de-recognition has been suspended until 01.01.2020
2. All NWHU rings have to be registered with the RPRAs by 1st April 2019 to be eligible for racing and showing under RPRAs rules.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Ian

Ian Evans

CEO

The Royal Pigeon Racing Association

Ian Evans to Terry Phifer 26th Feb 2019

Hi Terry, Just to clarify. The registration of NWHU rings will attract a levy of 30p per ring.

Regards

Ian

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 26th Feb 2019

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Thankyou Ian for the update, I'll give you a bell later to discuss, could be later this afternoon I'm tied up in meeting.

Regards
Terry

Terry Phifer – Ian Evans 27th Feb 2019

Ian

Sorry for not getting back yesterday it was late last night by the time I got settled. Again thankyou for your feedback, do I take it it's just NWHU rings that have to be registered and attract a levy or does this also apply to other non RPRA issued rings? Is there any guidance available on how this is to be achieved in the timescale or will you be publishing guidance? It would be helpful in case any of the members come back to the NWHU for more information. Just to clarify from a NWHU position the RPRA's demands for the ring registration requirements and levy while disappointing for the sake of the ordinary fancier and the sport is at the end of the day down to the RPRA's own internal judgement and management.

There will be another NWHU meeting towards the end of March it's spring meeting, I've emailed Julia for any information she can furnish me with regards the current configuration and constitution of the Confederation. I'll give you a bell in the next couple of days to discuss negotiations between our respective organisations that I believe should continue for the well being of our dual members and the sport.

Regards
Terry

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