

North West Homing Union

Ian Evans – Terry Phifer 1st Feb 2019

Overview:

Acknowledge the notes taken by the NWHU at the Blackpool meeting and requested a share of the notes: Confirmed the next RPRA council meeting was 22nd February 2019.

Also confirmed to the Confederation secretary that the NWHU was interested in learning more about the organisation.

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.

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

For the Fancier by the Fancier

North West Homing Union

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 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.

For the Fancier by the Fancier

North West Homing Union

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

Terry Phifer to Julia Field RPRA 25th Feb 2019

Julia

Terry Phifer here from the North West Homing Union, I believe your the person to contact for information regarding the Confederation of unions / associations. I'm after any information you may have that well 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 in the past.

Does it have a constitution or set of rules? at a recent meeting with RPRA 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 my self 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

For the Fancier by the Fancier