The Provincial Interim Committee (PIC) of the Western Cape Racing Pigeon Confederation (WCRPC) is happy to report that the 1st Meeting of the Committee took place at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sport Science and Development (ICESSD) at the University of the Western Cape on 12 April 2014. The results of the meeting met all our expectations and some of the key issues discussed are summarised below.

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. Andy Kruger, the PIC Chairman, will be contacting all unions in this regard.

The PIC decided to focus on the following key priorities in the short-term:
1. Management and administration of the PIC.
2. Establishment of the permanent committee of The Western Cape Racing Pigeon Confederation.
3. Development of a strategic agenda (see below).
4. Application for membership to the Western Cape Sports Confederation
5. Organization of a combined race amongst the Unions
6. Planning and design of youth projects (School video and toolkit, Education project, Virtual racing for the youth and Mentorship Programme)
7. Strategic Coordination of Operational issues:
   7.1 Liberations of various Unions must be co-ordinated to prevent clashes.
   7.2 Communicate with other provinces and obtain race programs and dates.
   7.3 Combine the resources of the Confederation where appropriate to minimize excessive costs.
   7.4 Quiz the pigeon fanciers if they agree with actual start date of race programme.
   7.5 Quiz the pigeon fanciers if they agree with actual end date of race programme.
   7.6 Strategic discussions with SPCA and interested parties on the wellbeing and transport of pigeons during race season.
8. Funding mobilisation for the PIC.

Ricky Engelbrecht will assist with the development of a database of the some 1800 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 Committee Management Meeting will be 8 May 2014 at 19h00 in NRHU Hall in De Grendel Street, Parow. The Provincial Interim Committee will meet at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Sport Science and Development (ICESSD) at the University of the Western Cape at 10h00 on 31 May 2014.

PIC, WCRPC Members present, 18 April 2014

Randy Engelbrecht | Federated Board of Homing Union
Dexter Fischer | Federated Board of Homing Union
Allie Kotze | North Boland Pigeon Union (North Boland Posduif Unie)
Andrew Kruger (Chairman) | Federated Board of Homing Union
J (Cobus) Myburgh | North Road Homing Union
Bennie Wiggins | 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 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