

BCSA PRESIDENTS REPORT 2009

The BCSA Management Committee consists of Graham Bell, Dennis Lomman and Peter Glassenbury (NEBS), Malcolm Loveridge & Ray Slade (Pt Pirie), Algi Lapinskas and Chris Murphy (BSSA), Doreece Brunton, David Botha and Nigel Tonkin (Mt Gambier).

To the above group I thank you for giving of your valued time to manage the fancy at a state level.

To John Mulley thanks for auditing the books and allowing your bird room to be used for the holding of birds pre and post the national.

Thanks once again to the delegates and bird carers that represented the BCSA at the nationals and to all those who made their birds available to represent their state and to those that did get them selected, congratulations.

To Dennis Lomman, I thank you for taking on the role of keeping the website active.

To Doug and Ruth Lange along with Peter Glassenbury congratulations on winning a class at the Nationals in Burnie, a top effort – it was also great to see the team move up the ladder somewhat.

The ongoing system of two sets of two judges plus another judge assessing the birds prior to being judged again proved favorable at the State Selection Show, as did the extra two sets of judging stands, these allowed the birds to settle for a good period before being assessed.

There were something like 80 odd visitors to the Selection Show this year including Jack Cahill of Port Adelaide fame. A great turn out.

The 2009 / 2010 positions on the Committee are as follows:

Nigel Tonkin – President

Peter Glassenbury – Treasurer

Doreece Brunton – Ring Officer

We will need to appoint a Vice- President and Secretary from the within Committee as sadly there were no nominations for these positions.

Doreece continues to excel in the role as Ring Officer as does Peter as Treasurer and Judges Co-ordinator.

A big thank you to you both for being so professional in these roles and to Graham Bell who continues to excel in his role as Show Technical Co-ordinator.

Now I'd like to make a comment or two on some things that seriously concern me.

A management committee is made up of people who are elected onto the committee by their respective clubs. Just like councils or governments or boards of management who are elected by the people or are put in place by others who trust them in those positions.

Our elected committee members role should be and has been to make decisions in the best interest of the Fancy in this state as a whole. They are members of the council and they have to make hard decisions. The fact that they come from individual clubs is the means by which they get onto the Council. They are not just there to protect the interests of their own club. They have to make state decisions.

It's a fine line and it means committee members should listen to a full debate on a subject at meetings, consider what is in the best interest for the state as a whole and vote on things that their own club committee or membership may not agree with. They have to be able to do this or there is no point in smaller clubs having elected members on council because they could continually be outvoted by bigger clubs memberships.

On occasions in this past year, committee members have said in meetings that they can only vote as directed by their clubs. Sometimes there is a reluctance to make a decision unless it goes back to the club, and on returning for a vote, some have stated they don't agree with their clubs position but their hands are tied. This saddens me. I find this regressive and challenging, in fact the Mount Gambier membership find it a little insulting that we would even bother to come back to them as they believe we are mature in our thinking and have been put in place to make those decisions on the states behalf.

We overcame this mentality some many years back, but this year this has again become a challenge. In the past council members understood they were representing the state and had the knowledge and experience in the fancy to do so.

I will give an example of how the committee might work – in recent times a vote was taken on a matter – in fact the trophies for the State Show, the three Mt Gambier representatives voted. One FOR, one AGAINST and one ABSTAINED on a particular trophy as presented. This is how the process should work, the individual votes on a matter they way THEY FEEL is correct for the STATE. The state is bigger than just one or two clubs, the state is not Mount Gambier nor Pt Pirie nor the BSSA etc, thus the decisions made by those on the committee should be THEIR decision for the state.

During discussions I might for example hear something that might sway me to vote a particular way – a way that I had potentially not intended. That is why it is so important for the committee to be free of the restrictions that appear to be strangling some of our decision making processes.

We know the fancy is in decline, we need to accept this but at the same time all try and work to progress it. Wholesale changes or panic reactions are not the way to approach it, sensible rational decision making from individuals, clubs and the council might?

Negativity is also a problem.

Praise the positives that occur – don't be upset and voice sadness that for example that there was no raffle at the State Selection show this year – praise the fact that we had numbers coming through the door, that the quality and quantity of birds benched increased, that the show ran smoothly, that the kitchen served wonderful food etc etc.

Be critical for the right reasons. Note that there are a core group that give of themselves often and this criticism might be the final straw for some of those dedicated servants. The final straw to encourage them to leave the fancy or to encourage them to stop assisting in the running of it.

The Pakistan fancy is growing as they are prepared to try new technology because they find it difficult to have some judges visit due to recent events. In fact the recent video link judging appointment that I partook gave their newspapers something positive to report on. They could sit at home and say it is too hard, but no they try to be progressive using what technology is out there. All praise to them.

I apologise for being so up front, but I think this needed to be said.

Yours in the fancy

Nigel Tonkin
President and Acting Secretary
19th July 2009