



To all members of the Solway Federation

Newsletter No 3

As the members must be aware, the new transporter has now completed five races without any serious problem. Some concern was raised about ventilation, and hopefully this has been resolved by the removal of the four roof ventilators from the former transporter which will be installed in the new vehicle.

The final cost of transporter, including the water tank, the installation of a watering system, sign writing etc, is £31,702. All of these details will be made available to the membership prior to the A.G.M. We have accepted the sum of £500 for the old trailer.

It is the intention of the management committee to keep the transporter bank account going at the moment so as to raise money for the purchase of new baskets which will be either aluminium or plastic to adhere to the DEFRA regulations. The birdage has been kept at 42 pence per bird in the hope that any excess can be transferred from the main account to the transporter account at the end of the season. Once these responsibilities are discharged, we might consider offering increased monetary prizes for some races.

Keith Graham Lynn of Dumfries has been employed as our driver and so far has proved satisfactory. Raymond Bell of Gretna stepped in at short notice to act as our convoyer and has proved very helpful.

The business of ferrying rebates has proved contentious, and I feel it is my responsibility to inform the membership of the current situation. Prior to the start of the season Langholm Flying Club complained to the management committee that they felt that the transporter should travel to Langholm and uplift their pigeons.

A hearing was arranged, and the Langholm representatives appeared in front of the management committee. After discussion it was decided that that to send the transporter to Langholm would not be practical. The transporter has not gone to Langholm in the thirty years of their existence. The Langholm representatives were told of our decision and departed back home where they promptly appealed to the SHU. The secretary of the SHU contacted us and told us that the management committee of the Solway Federation could decide what they wanted to do about the ferrying rebate which has stood at 2P per bird since 1973. Another meeting was held, the Langholm representative was invited, and it was decided to offer Langholm the sum of £10 as a ferrying rebate for each race. This offer was accepted, and the appeal to the SHU was hastily dropped. As a consequence we felt that we had to offer Kircudbright the same sum of £10 per race.

We are now at the situation where Kirkcudbright with only a small number of birds are flying for practically nothing, Langholm are heavily subsidised and to top it all, Castle Douglas are now asking us for £4 per race to take their few birds to Dalbeattie and have already contacted the SHU in pursuit of this claim.

All this is taking place in a situation where some members of the Solway Federation quite happily undertake a round trip of some 60 miles each weekend to participate in pigeon racing and never ask for a penny. A meeting of the management committee will be held in late June to consider this situation. I ask that all members consider the ferrying rebate position and advise their club delegate on how to resolve it.

Walter Swanston
President Solway Federation of Racing Pigeon Societies