

## TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOLWAY FEDERATION

### NEWSLETTER NO.4

I can now report to the membership a brief account of the affairs of the Federation for the year 2008 .The year started with the turmoil over the purchase of our transporter and I must take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the sub-committee who helped in this endeavour namely Ramsay Dalgleish our vice-president, Stanley Boyd, Dumfries Flying Club, Ewan Hind, Lockerbie, Raymond White, Springfield and as ever our invaluable secretary Maurice Lytollis. Meetings were heard nearly every week from the middle of December until the beginning of March until we were able to present our new DAF transporter fully racked out for 2,800 pigeons at the first race on 23<sup>rd</sup>. April. Comments have been made to me that our transporter is as good and fit for purpose as any in Scotland and I consider that the membership should be proud of our achievement and should realise that credit is due to each and every member.

The second major change is the establishment of the Solway Federation web site which has received favourable comments from all over Scotland and is accessible world wide. So far as I know we are the only federation in Scotland with our own web site and I am most grateful to Mrs. Sarah Richards based in Edinburgh who set it up for us. Mrs Richards is the daughter of our secretary.

The third change has been the establishment of these quarterly newsletters which I hope are appreciated by the members. Everything that the officials of the federation and the management committee do and every major decision made will continue to be reported back to the membership in an atmosphere of transparency and trust. The membership will not be kept in the dark as long as I continue in this post.

The old bird races seemed to go off all right although all our earlier fears about the reduced capacity of the transporter proved to be groundless as we struggled to get up to just under 2000 birds. The young bird season proved a different story as we endured the most horrendous weather and indeed the worst August in Scotland since the year 1929.At this point I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Raymond White who fulfilled the responsibilities of race controller under the most trying of circumstances.

The management committee have proposed three changes to the constitution for your consideration at the forthcoming AGM, firstly we propose a simple change to the effect that the management committee will be composed of the two officials namely The President and Vice-President and one member from each constituent club. Secondly we propose a new bye law that any pigeon fancier joining the Solway Federation for the first time will be compelled to make a once only payment of £150 to the federation funds. Thirdly we propose that the AGM should be changed from 6.p.m. on the third Saturday in November to 1.p.m. on the third Sunday in November each year

I hope that members attending the AGM will support these changes. In addition the management committee intend to propose that we should appoint a driver/convoyer for the 2009 season .The transporter is not suitable for two persons to sleep in

overnight and I have been advised by other federations who operate a similar set up to the Solway Federation that they employ one person in the dual role of driver and convoyer. Obviously we would be looking for a person who has an extensive knowledge of how to care for the members` pigeons and an ability to handle our transporter.

At the 2007 AGM a member present accepted the George Grant Challenge Trophy on behalf of Messrs. R. & M. Seaton of Annan Homing Club. Mr Seaton never received this trophy and it has now gone missing. Can the member who received the trophy please contact the secretary.

Finally on behalf of the Vice President and myself I express my sincere thanks to the membership for their support I consider it an honour and a privilege to be entrusted with the presidency of the Solway Federation.

Walter Swanston  
President  
Solway Federation  
October 2008