

SOLWAY FEDERATION OF RACING PIGEON SOCIETIES

NEWSLETTER No1 2009

The racing season is fast approaching, and I am now in a position to provide the membership with an account of the activities of the management committee during the winter and our preparations for the new season.

The transporter has been garaged at Cochrane Boilers in Annan during the close season, under cover and thus protected from the severity of the weather. The federation is indebted to our secretary Mr. Lytollis, who arranged this for us. Within the next week it will be moved to Dumfries where improvements will be made to the rear suspension and new batteries installed. After the work is completed the transporter will be returned to Annan, and the racking system will require to be painted. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out on either a Saturday or Sunday fairly soon, brushes and black paint will be supplied by the federation, but it would be enormously helpful if any member willing to help in the painting of the racking could supply his name and telephone number to the federation secretary.

Concerns have been raised by one or two members with regard to the ventilation system on the transporter. In an attempt to address this issue I have arranged for one of our members who has experience in these matters to look at the vehicle and see if the ventilation can be improved. The welfare of the pigeons is of primary importance.

The purchase of new baskets has been explored during the close season, and the vice president, the secretary and I travelled to Stockline Plastics in Glasgow and discussed with them the possibility of plastic panniers for the transporter. As a result of this meeting I returned to Glasgow about two weeks later and picked up a sample crate which I have shown to the management committee. The committee inspected the crate and identified a few design faults but the main problem is the price which is an eye-watering £105 per crate and considering that we would need 224 crates this option becomes slightly expensive. However this search will continue and the possibility of aluminium or traditional baskets will be looked into.

It has been agreed that one person, a driver/convoyer, will operate the vehicle during the 2009 season, and the vice president, the transport convener, the secretary and I will interview applicants for the post at an early date.

The young bird sale will be held at Gretna Social Club on Sunday 19th April. Pigeons can be brought to the club from 12.00 midday. The sale will commence at 2 pm. It is hoped that ALL members will feel able to contribute one or perhaps two young birds to the sale as it is important to raise funds for The Solway Federation basket fund.

The South West of Scotland Federation based in Stranraer has asked us to convey their pigeons during the old bird season only, and we have agreed to do this. To this end we have agreed to provide six baskets to South West Federation.

The RPRA have advised us that we cannot liberate racing pigeons from Cheltenham on the 30th May but they have provided us with the alternative race point of Windrush which is some ten miles to the East of Cheltenham.

A copy of the amended constitution for the Solway Federation is enclosed with this newsletter. Members are reminded that all information regarding race results during the 2009 season will be uploaded on our website at www.solwayfederation.co.uk.

All information pertaining to the federation can be obtained from this website, and I remind the members that so far as I know we are the only federation in Scotland with this facility.

It would be extremely helpful if all members with an e-mail address could supply the secretary with that address if they have not already done so.

Finally, may I wish each member of The Solway Federation every success during the forthcoming racing pigeon season.

Walter Swanston

President

Solway Federation