

SOLWAY FEDERATION OF RACING PIGEON SOCIETIES

NEWSLETTER No 2

1st October 2010

I take this opportunity to update all members of the federation as to the state and affairs of the federation as of this date at the end of the 2010 racing season.

At the spring meeting of the management committee the ongoing problem of the poor condition of the transporter baskets was extensively discussed. It was decided that we should make an application to Awards for All (Scotland) for a lottery grant to enable us to equip the transporter with aluminium baskets from a firm in Ireland. I was doubtful of our prospects of success in such an application but along with the secretary of Dumfries Flying Club two simultaneous applications were made for a sum of money, which, when combined with what we had in the transporter bank account, would have sufficed for the purchase of these crates.

I am sure that members are aware of the enormous amount of time and effort which went into such an application which unfortunately proved unsuccessful. Under the present financial climate this failure did not come as much of a surprise to me, but however we gave it a try.

It was now about June 2010, and I learned that our Race Controller had sourced a craftsman in Darlington who was prepared to repair and refurbish our baskets at a cost of £25 a time. We thought this was well worth a try and we sent down a basket from Hoddam Flying Club so that we could get a look at his work. The basket when returned really looked the part fully repaired and spray varnished, and the basket was taken to the management committee for inspection. After discussion we decided to go with this idea and contracted with the craftsman in Darlington to repair and refurbish two sets of baskets for the transporter at a cost of £25 each.

Only a limited number of baskets can be completed at a time and this work might take two years to complete but we hope to have a complete set of baskets ready for the start of the 2011 racing season. The money for this project obviously comes from the transporter fund.

The question of race points for the 2011 season has been much on the minds of the management committee and has been extensively discussed. After the result of a vote it has been decided that it should be proposed to the AGM that the race programme should not be decided at the meeting on November 21st. but should be decided at a further meeting to be held in late January or early February 2011 after the Scottish National Flying Club have set their race programme

It will be up to the AGM to vote on this proposal, and I know that while some fanciers are in favour of such a proposal, others are completely against it but I will ensure that it is decided in a completely democratic manner.

In addition the idea has been mooted that members should be asked at the AGM to state their preference for the East or West routes. I know that the term "East" is not accurate when it is roughly the route down the A1 that is being described but I use it for the sake of convenience.

It has also been proposed that it might be a good idea to decide on East or West and stick to it for 5 years. Members might not be sure of the merits of such a proposal.

Finally on the question of the race programme may I make it absolutely clear to the Solway fanciers that so far the only definite commitment to the AGM is the question of holding a second meeting in early 2011. All the other points or ideas I have mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are at this stage merely under discussion

At this time members should be aware that a person has made a planning application for a falcon breeding centre at Westwater near Langholm. Part of this application is to be the facility to hack out up to 300 young peregrine falcons. On behalf of the Solway Federation and indeed on behalf of all fanciers in South/Central Scotland and Cumbria I have submitted a strong objection to the area planning committee against this application.

May I finish this newsletter by thanking the membership of the Solway Federation for allowing me to be their president over the last three years and may I say that I hope to see you all at the AGM which will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday 21st. November 2010 in the Village Hall, Locharbriggs.

Walter Swanston
President Solway Federation

