

SOLWAY FEDERATION of RACING PIGEON SOCIETIES

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

Welcome to my newsletter for all Solway fanciers where I hope to give an account of the season just past and an explanation of where we stand in the run up to the AGM in November.

An extraordinary general meeting was held in February where the race points for the 2011 season were set after the SNFC programme were known. This experiment has had a mixed response from fanciers, some in agreement with the idea and others preferring to continue with setting the race programme in November as is traditional. I must point out at this time that the race programme was no sooner set than the Vice-President and I were called to a meeting with the race controller who pointed out to us that two of the race points were not suitable because of obstructions at the release point. The race programme then had to be hurriedly altered as we thought it would be foolish to go against the race controller's advice.

The management committee will meet in October and one of the items on the agenda will be how to set the race programme for 2012 and whether it should be set in November or February. I must point out to fanciers that setting the programme in February does not allow the Federation Secretary a lot of time to complete his administrative duties and have the race cards ready for racing in April.

I must inform any fancier who is anxious to submit a race programme for the 2012 season that I have asked the Secretary to run these proposals past the controller who can immediately identify an unsuitable race point which will then be referred back to the proposer via the Secretary.

I can inform the members that 781 members sent 11823 pigeons to the old bird races compared with 735 members sending 10351 pigeons in the 2010 season. 498 members sent 10959 young birds compared with 551 members sending 10331 young birds in the 2010 season.

Earlier in the year we had no driver/convoyer for our transporter and we were forced to advertise the position. We have been fortunate in securing the services of Ms Moira Telfer who has done an excellent job for us and I hope will continue in season 2012.

A difficulty has arisen over members who wish to have their pigeon arrival times recorded in Federation races. This matter will be brought before the Management Committee meeting in October so that it can be resolved; the recommendation is likely to be that members must have their bird arrival times recorded at the Federation checking station

I shall also be asking the Management Committee to consider whether we should propose to the AGM that the race programme should stand for a period of time perhaps three years.

The repairs and refurbishments to the transporter baskets are still ongoing and some 60 baskets were dropped off at Darlington after the last race. Hopefully a large number of baskets will be attended to before next season. The repairs now cost £32 per basket; this money comes from the transporter fund.

If I may end on a personal note may I say that it has been a privilege and an honour to act as President of the Solway Federation during the past four years and if I am asked to do so I will stand again at the AGM, but I will stand down anytime if I can be replaced by a younger and more knowledgeable fancier. In any event if I am re-elected I will certainly stand down in November 2012 when I will have completed 5 years in the post. Our Vice-President Mr. Ramsay Dalgleish shares my thoughts on this matter and will stand down when I do.

Walter Swanston
President