

## SOLWAY FEDERATION OF RACING PIGEON SOCIETIES

### NEWSLETTER No.2/2009

As the old bird season draws to a close I can now take this opportunity to update our members on the affairs of the Solway federation.

The weather has been reasonably kind to us and so far this year we have had no holdovers. However on the Friday of the Coventry race, 22nd May a defect became apparent when the driver went to prepare it for the race. He immediately called the transport convener Mr. Boyd and it was decided that a mechanic was required to look at the problem. The mechanic and Mr. Boyd came to the decision that the vehicle could not be driven that night and the race was postponed for 24 hours.

The following day dawned with heavy rain which lasted throughout the day but Mr. Boyd and the mechanic worked on the transporter all day installing new wheel bearings, a stub axle, a disc and calliper and various other parts. The work was completed and the vehicle left Catherinefield to pick up the birds. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May the Coventry race took place in good weather conditions.

I think a debt of gratitude is owed to the persons who were prepared to work all day in dreadful weather conditions to ensure that the Solway Federation had a race on the Sunday.

A bill has been received for the work on the transporter and has now been paid by the Secretary. The total bill came to £3053.85 .I am assured that the bill is reasonable for the spares that were required. The money for the payment was available as a result of the high birdage during the early part of the season and the birdage being maintained at 42p per bird. In this connection I sought and obtained the acquiescence of the Management Committee at our recent meeting for the establishment of a contingency fund to defray the costs of any future emergency repairs. All members can rest assured that every step is being taken to ensure that our transporter is maintained and fit for purpose.

The question of strays during the young bird season has arisen and members are informed that the stray centre at Gretna will not be available this year. All members should ensure that their young birds are wing stamped in compliance with the Scottish Homing Union requirement. As far as any young birds found up in central Scotland are concerned a

member of the Management Committee has offered his services in that regard.

All members are reminded that at the 2008 A.G.M. it was decided that the young bird race from Appleby on 18<sup>th</sup>.July would be race marked on the Saturday morning of the race. A timetable for the transporters arrival at the clubs to pick up the pigeons is attached to this newsletter.

So far apart from the hitch with the transporter the season has gone fairly well and I hope this continues. I wish all members the best of good fortune during the young bird races.

The Secretary, the Vice-President and I will continue to direct our energies for the benefit of the Solway Federation and we are available to any member at any time.

Walter Swanston  
President  
Solway Federation