

Newsletter 2

As you will all be aware the RPR has suspended all racing until 23rd May. I am sure you will also be aware that this is subject to change and will almost undoubtedly end up as a ban on, at the least, old bird racing.

Let us consider our Membership base. I reckon that I am a relatively young Member and I am 67 years old. This obviously means that most of our Members are in the high-risk category regarding the current Covid19 situation.

During 2019 the Federation consisted of eighty-six Lofts, this year we are down to sixty-nine Lofts. A drop of seventeen Lofts. We must attempt to protect our Membership. If you are fit and able and live close to an older Member, do your utmost to assist in any way that you can. Work hard to help keep that Member in the sport. If there is a need for vital supplies or to help with the pigeons, whatever it may be, do your very best to support them. This, of course, should be standard guidelines for all your friends and neighbours, even those with whom you may be at variance.

This is a time of need.

Use this time to consider your outlook on the sport. Traditionally we race old birds from April until July and young birds from July until September.

Be aware – the world is changing.

Global warming is affecting the weather patterns. Disease and viruses are increasing and mutating. The methods used to race our pigeons have changed with subsequent changes to the health within our Lofts.

Let us come out from the other side of this viral attack on humankind with different outlooks and values.

It has been mooted that we need to alter our race calendar to allow for the changes in weather, perhaps racing the old birds during May to July, then taking a break and schooling our young birds during October and November. This later schooling of the young birds will avoid the peregrines whilst they are training their youngsters to kill. It is being done and has been done for several years now by established top National fliers. It is tried and tested.

Nature will adapt to our changes and we need to adapt to nature.

I have heard it mentioned during some meetings that such and such a proposal will cause a split within the Federation. **Let us be honest.** There are already splits within the Federation. I have been aware of these since joining the Federation in 2010.

The history behind these splits is immaterial.

History is the past and we must concentrate on the future. I do not intend to look at any of the history, merits or otherwise. I only want to look to the future.

In order to ensure that Glasgow & District Federation of Racing Pigeon Clubs has a future we should use this time of close-down to speak to those with whom we are at variance and attempt to resolve that situation. Remember, we cannot alter the past. What has happened in the past should be left there, in the past. We must learn to trust each other and to work together for the betterment of the Federation.

We must look for methods and ways to strengthen the Federation and to lead it into a bright new future.

I openly apologise if anyone has been offended or upset by my earlier edition of this newsletter. I have personally apologised to an individual. It was certainly not my intention to upset anyone. My intention was to have us all think about the future of the Federation once we are through this current situation. To forget the past differences we may have had and use our current experience to realise what is really important in our lives, so that once this is over, we may start afresh and drive the Federation forward in a positive manner.