

Newsletter 3

As you will all be aware the RPRA had suspended all racing until 23rd May. This ban was lifted to allow group training under strict bio-security conditions and later guidelines were issued to allow racing. Where we at one time thought we would not manage any old bird racing we managed to organise a programme to around 350 miles. Sod's Law, and weather then became an issue. To date we have managed to train from Eurocentre / Livingston, Livingston / Cockenzie and Dunbar. Our first race was from Alnwick and turned out a bad one. This was followed with Catterick and then we stalled due to weather. We had put on training from Dunbar on Tuesday / Wednesday, but weather had a detrimental effect on them.

After the Catterick race we were intending to race with joint conveying from Worksop, Melton Mowbray, Kettering, and Billericay. The adverse weather put paid to that and the conveying organisation moved everything back a week. We scheduled another Catterick for the blank week to allow for reports of some Members not having started and to give them a chance. Weather has put paid to that as well. At the other end, the move caused a clash with the final races, Kettering and Billericay being on the same weekend. The Delegates' Committee decided to drop the Billericay race.

The conveying organisation had another set back with break down on their transporters, so they set their programme back yet another week. We now intend to race from Ripon on 4.07.20, Worksop, Melton Mowbray, and Kettering. Young Birds should start on 25th July / 1st August.

Having considered our Membership base, most of our Members are in the high-risk category regarding the current Covid19 situation. Clydebank Club had been chosen as a central marking station for the joint conveying races, but they refused to allow a Federation team to mark these races. The Delegates' Committee have decided to provide three marking stations for the joint conveyed races. These are Barrhead, manned by **L Byrne**, A Gibson and hopefully P Zurawski or P Doherty; Dumbarton, manned by **B Donnachie**, A Jones and G White who will be covered by B Morris when he has to work. We had hoped to use Gartcosh, but due to their marking station being at the house of a shielding Member, we have used Campsie, manned by **D Hay** and two other Members. We had hoped I Ross could assist, but he is required at Gartcosh who are all shielding. Please use your nearest station to support the Scottish Government guidelines. Notify the station lead, **highlighted in bold**, of your expected send to allow proper distribution of crates and to allow socially distanced marking. Marking should start at 15.00 and end at Barrhead, 16.45; Dumbarton 18.00 and Campsie 19.00. We have teams to transfer the crates at Uddingston, but if you can assist, let me know.

Remember, you are your own safety officer, although the marking teams shall follow the bio-security guidelines, make sure you clean your own equipment before using it.

Keep safe – Covid19 has not gone away.

We intend to provide training for the Young Birds because so many of our Members are shielding and are unable to train privately. The details have not been organised but should be starting around 14th to 21st July. The transporter will be in heavy use around this time and the Delegates' Committee regretfully had to withdraw their offer of its use to the SNRPC. It was felt that the Federation had to use its assets to the benefit of its Members to provide them with the opportunity of this Young Bird training.

Please forward your email addresses to the Federation Secretary, andrewkyle2@gmail.com, as this will greatly assist in cutting costs and will also ensure speedy distribution of information.

Sponsorship has been secured for Worksop, Melton Mowbray, and Kettering races.

1 st Federation	£75 + Framed photo of winning pigeon by J Hannah
2 nd Federation	£50
3 rd Federation	£25

The Federation would like to thank Knightswood Plumbers, MacLean Marine Services and CMC Home Improvements for this sponsorship.