SMDF’s President’s 2014 Year End Message

5 December 2014

2014 A YEAR OF PROGRESS FOR SMDF

Although we have not yet quite reached the conclusion of the SMDF calendar year, we have reached an obvious point at which, we can reflect on the major changes that we have made as a Federation and indeed the improvements that they represent. As we are all aware, the future did not look too bright during seasons 2012 & 2013. However, following a positive AGM that yielded change and enthusiasm in several key positions of office, to their credit, the Management Committee went to work and certainly did not fail to deliver.

Without doubt, the biggest threat to the ongoing survival of SMDF was a financial ball and chain in the form of the Transport vehicles that it owned and the ongoing cost to run, maintain and insure them etc. The main vehicle, trailer, pick up vehicle and crates, cumulatively had an asset value of over £15,000 on the balance sheet and were in reality worth around half that. On top of that, they were costing over £4,000 per year to service, repair, tax, insure and park up for winter. Added to that we spent nearly £6,000 on convoyer + assistants + helpers and had a bill of just over £3,500 for the diesel used by the vehicles for our OB and YB inland racing. That meant that over the inland programme of 2013, the cost to SMDF was approaching £800 per week.

The sale of our ever costly vehicles realised £8,200 and made our bank account much healthier whilst the burden of the associated costs listed above disappeared. It was at this point, I believed that we had cracked our biggest problem and that we now had a great chance to recover from the recent times of concern. A sensible contract was agreed with Geoff Silvester Jnr. and the 2014 weekly inland races were consistent in terms of good racing and good returns.
The quality of our racing can be verified in the fact that over 60 different members won Federation Diplomas in the first 20 positions of the Open result. These fanciers were from clubs on all four points of the Federation compass. In addition to our weekly programme we have also enjoyed success with our Yearling Classic race, the Breeder Buyer, the YB Open race and last but not least our Jackpot races. We have paid out, a total of over £7,000 across the various key races.

A caring organisation!

All of the above of course deserves to be celebrated and the Federations prize winners need to be recognised. This has been addressed in 2014 in a new format, where all Federation Trophy and Average/Award winners will be presented with their winnings at a combined Prize Presentation and open show. This has been well advertised on the SMDF website and via our club secretaries and I hope that as many Federation members as possible will attend and enjoy the FREE buffet on the day. ALL SMDF race diplomas will be available for collection at the presentation. Not to forget by the way that we have a very selective auction of pigeons donated by six fanciers who are widely regarded as premiere league fanciers!
In the running of all our 2014 ventures, we have made integrity and fair competition our major goal. In support of this goal we initiated a series of drugs tests from crates of all three sections of the Federation and this was done at our Federation YB Poole and Breeder Buyer race. It was not a surprise to me when ALL samples were tested and confirmed clear of all banned substances. Good and fair racing will continue to be our Goal!

Looking a little further forward still, we shall shortly be selling Gold Rings for our 2015 Young Bird Spectacular race. This will no doubt be a success in the capable hands of Jeff Roberts and Andy Webb. As race Secretary in 2014 Andy has played a major role in the introduction of our new “SecPro” race software and as such we now have a state of the art results facility. To present our results to the membership and the pigeon world at large, we have a great website administrator in the form of Jill Smith who is also in control of our purse strings as Treasurer. Husband Brian has taken care of the much needed press coverage and I believe press release No. 40 hit the website at the end of November. That isn’t just doing the press officers job well, it is going above and beyond the call of duty as all his releases also go to the pigeon weeklies and also other pigeon portals. I may have not mentioned the names of other management committee members in detail but believe me they have all played their part in the team that has worked so hard for SMDF in 2014.

I hope that you will give the committee the recognition that they deserve by coming along to *Kidsgrove Working Mens Club on 13th Dec.* and whilst supporting your Fed. Enjoy yourself at what after all is YOUR day!

*Chris Knowles - President SMDF*