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8th January 2021 - January Update

To all members of the Up North Combine

I would just like to start off by saying thank you for your support on our first week back following the Christmas break.

Vehicles and Trailers

Following the announcement of our new vehicles, which has been long overdue, I must say it has brought back a lot of faith I have in the membership that we will continue to push forward and ultimately get our birds to the race points. They are looking a little bare without the blue and red colours on, but come the start of the season Andy, Dixie and Peter will have given them a transformation far better than when we watched Stars in their Eyes!

We have already had a third of our fleet tested ready for the season, two semi-trailers cleaned, fully painted, welded and repaired. We have also had around half of the drinkers cleaned and sterilized ready for the season.

European Legislation

So, the transition out of the European Community has happened, and we are facing lots of new changes. We require much more documentation to travel onto the continent, more restrictions and loopholes to jump through. As some of you may be aware, Walkers Transport have ceased international services due to EU Regulation 139/2013 laying down animal health conditions for imports of certain birds into the Union and the quarantine conditions thereof. I have read this, and to my knowledge, Article 2 para. (f) gives us exemption from this as we are transporting our birds to liberate.

Grievances

As many of you know, there have been a small number of people who are causing problems in and around the Up North Combine. One of whom has been advised by Cleveland Police to stop – but continues in various guises on Facebook. There has been another email to all Federation Secretaries from this individual which is threatening myself with dismissal, and accusing me of theft, money laundering, fraud, falsifying records etc. Just to remind you, this is all coming from a member of the public, and not a member of the Up North Combine, nor the North of England Homing Society.

I am sorry to say that this continues even to this day, through my work email and social media. I will not tolerate that.

I would urge any of our members, should they have similar issues to contact myself as soon as possible and this can be put together on the log. Whilst I gave this person the benefit of the doubt with a verbal warning, this clearly hasn't been adhered to and I have no choice other than proceeding with legal matters.

All Other Business

The requisite list has been sent out to Federation secretaries. I don't have a list of club secretaries but I will need these. If there has been a change to telephone numbers, addresses and persons, could you please let me know.

I would also like to ensure I have the details of the Bird of the Year as it may have been sent on the old email, which I don't have access to now – so if you could please resend this so I don't miss anyone out.

I was made aware on Thursday that the landline number wasn't answering. I have had all calls diverted to the work mobile phone, we had a landline fault which BT has resolved but the service provider decided to remove the divert at the same time so calls haven't been coming through. Please accept my apologies should anyone have called.

To add to the other issues encountered in our first week back, our combi boiler failed but is now repaired, the broadband went down for half a day and the printer stopped working! I can only hope the second week of 2021 goes a little bit better!

Kind regards,

Rachel McDonald
Secretary