



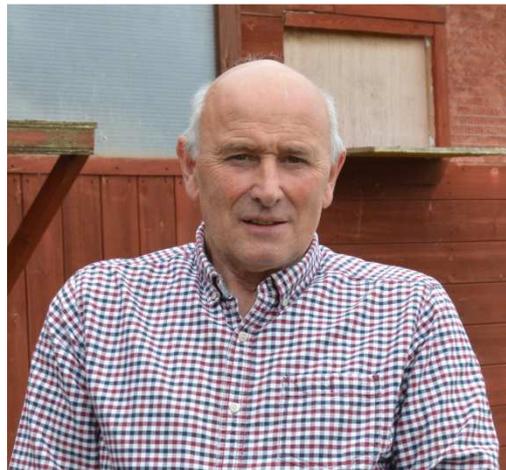
## *Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club*

### *Peterborough Young Bird National*

Following a one day holdover the 555 birds were released by convoyer Mathew Boyle at 8.00am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September the wind at the race point was a light West South West and was to remain that as far as Yorkshire where it was to turn North Westerly also some rain was forecast for this area which made it difficult to calculate just how long they should take.

Overall we had an excellent race with good bird's timed into most sections, East of Scotland, Central and West all came into the equation well up in the open result.

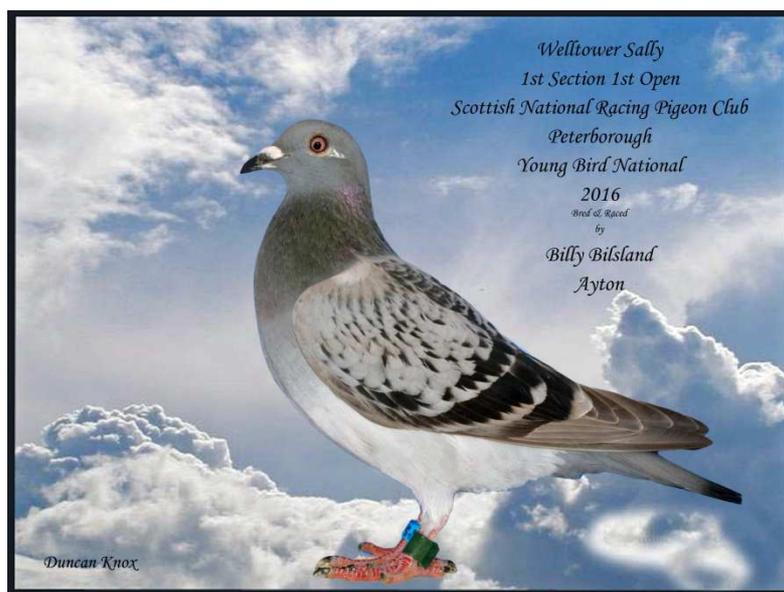
First arrival was reported to the Ayton lofts of Billy Bilsland timed at 14.11 covering the 240 miles in 6 hours and eleven minutes.



*Billy Bilsland 1<sup>st</sup> Open winner*

Billy is a retired professional cyclist who hails from the West of Scotland and is now living in the small Berwickshire village of Ayton. In his heyday as an amateur he competed in the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games before turning pro with Peugeot and Raleigh so Billy being a professional athlete knows a thing or

two about conditioning and I'm sure this knowledge goes a long way in enable him to condition his pigeons and I know he puts a tremendous amount of time and effort into his birds training etc and therefore thoroughly deserves the success he has achieved. Billy is a multi-national winner having won Leicester YB 2012, Leicester YB 2013, Buckingham 2014, Maidstone 2014, Portsmouth 2015 Ypres 2016 all with the SNFC and now SNRPC Peterborough Young Bird National. The winner is a fairly small chec hen but handles very well and was in great condition when I verified her you certainly wouldn't have thought she had just returned from a 245 mile race. She was bred by Billy from a cock he purchased at Gareth Rankin's sale on a recommendation from his good friend Jim Cullen he is a grandson of "Gladiator" 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad Porto, "Gladiator" is the most important breeder in the Greerinckx family. The winners dam is bred down from D Reeds Vandenabeele's and is Billy's 1<sup>st</sup> open national winner from SNFC Maidstone. Welltower Sally as she is now known was raced up to Oakham around 220 miles with the UNC on the Monday the week of basketing for Peterborough she was a darkness youngster.



*Welltower Sally 1<sup>st</sup> Open SNRPC Peterborough*



*Billy Bilsland's loft*

### **2nd Section B 8<sup>th</sup> Open Gordon Turnbull Chirnside**

Gordons blue pied hen is home bred from his well-tried and trusted Up North Combine Busschaert family through his friend Gerald Thurston of Tynemouth

Gordon has raced these UNC pigeons in Scotland with great success having won The SNRPC Inland National 1n 2014 with a similar bred pigeon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> section winner was raced natural to the perch on her 4<sup>th</sup> flight she had 4 races Wetherby 130 miles twice, Worksop 190 miles and the last being Oakham 220 miles on the Monday prior to Peterborough.



*Gordon Turnbull 2<sup>nd</sup> sect B*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Section B 10<sup>th</sup> Open Colin Crees Ladykirk.**

Colin timed his blue hen at 14.24 to take 3<sup>rd</sup> section 10<sup>th</sup> open she was bred by Colin Wilson of Craster down through his 600 mile line. She raced the full fed

programme prior to the national and was raced paired. Her nest mate was also in the national result.



*Colin Cree's Ladykirk 3<sup>rd</sup> Section B*

### **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Section C 26<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Open Dean Bridges Milton of Balgonie**

Dean's loft has been in great form this last two or three years he has been very close to the top of the national list on several occasions, his first timer was a check cock he was a darkness youngster and flown celibate he previously won 7<sup>th</sup> Alnwick, 5<sup>th</sup> Ripon and 5<sup>th</sup> Kingdom Association Wakefield open race the previous week. His third section winner was raced the same and had also won in the Kingdom association 4<sup>th</sup> Alnwick and 14 Wakefield open. Both are home bred from Deans own stock.



*Dean Bridges 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> section C*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Section C 27<sup>th</sup> Open Jim Benvie Kirkcaldy**

There is no doubt that Jim is one of the top fanciers in Scotland, a past winner of 3 nationals he is never far away from the top of the leader board. His 2<sup>nd</sup> section winner a chec hen was narrowly beaten by Dean's pigeon she is bred down through his Kingdom Boy lines with some Jan Aarden also, she has a string of national prize winning pigeons in her pedigree including 1<sup>st</sup> section 3<sup>rd</sup> open Arras , 17<sup>th</sup> Open Reims and 12<sup>th</sup> open Burbure. As Jim only paired up mid-march his youngsters this year only had 4 weeks on darkness and were raced to the perch.



*Jim Benvie 2<sup>nd</sup> sect C*

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Section D 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, Open Gordon McKenzie Broxburn**

What a fantastic performance by Gordon 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> open with a total of 12 birds on the result, they don't come much better than this but in saying that Gordons loft has been in cracking form this last few seasons therefore it was no real

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surprise when he put up this tremendous performance. His section winner was a chequer hen raced on darkness she raced the Central fed programme before going to the national her sire was bred by Mr & Mrs Forrest of Ratho from the best of D & M Evans bloodlines her dam is a full to Gordon's 2<sup>nd</sup> open SNFC 2011 Young Bird National and is dam of 3x1st club, 2x 1<sup>st</sup> Fed and 5<sup>th</sup> Central Combine Wakefield. Gordon's second section winner was a blue hen also raced on darkness she is direct from D & M Evans and like the section winner she raced the full programme prior to Peterborough. 3<sup>rd</sup> section a blue cock was another darkness youngster and again raced the fed programme he is a Cooreman and his sire is a full brother of Jim Benvie's Y B National winner bred by John Smith (Duzwork)



*Gordon McKenzie Broxburn 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> open*

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Section E 16<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> Open Dan Mitchell & Son Airdrie**

The sire of Dan's section winner was bred by his friend Sam Regan of Ballywater Northern Ireland from a son of the £1000 cock which is Cattryse/Lambrecht. The dam is from a blue hen Cattryse/Lambrecht/Achiel Leus the Lambrechts are from another of Dan's friends D&L Jones of North Wales. The youngsters were only trained up to 9 miles but were exercising well round the loft. The Blue White Flight cock was on his 3<sup>rd</sup> flight and sitting 4 days at basketing.



*Dan Mitchell Airdrie 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Section D*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section E 36<sup>th</sup> Open John Short Airdrie**

John's blue pied hen was bred by Micky Betts of Doncaster through his Maris/Freddy Vandenheede lines, she was another darkness youngster and raced to the perch, she like most of the birds featured previously flew the full programme leading up to Peterborough.



*John Short Airdrie 2<sup>nd</sup> section E*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Section F Martin Hughes Glasgow.**



*Martin Hughes 1<sup>st</sup> section F*

Martin's section winner Hurricane Parker is a double grandson of their foundation cock Hurricane Fly who is a son of Ron Williamson's Millennium Superstar; bred early March he has been in the first drop every club race and won from Dunbar, he had every club race before going to the national and was sent looking at an old hen. Martin really appreciates all the help he has received over the years from the following fanciers: Dougie Spittal, Mick McCormick and I Magee & son.

Duncan Knox

SNRPC Press Officer.