



Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club

Autumn Forum

Our new venture The Autumn Forum took place on Saturday 17th October in the Cairn Hotel Bathgate. Our panel of distinguished guests were Roger Sutton of Congleton, George Hilson Bury and Gerry Clements of Manchester all top fanciers in their own right and prominent members of the Lancashire Social Circle, we considered ourselves very fortunate to have managed to secure the services of these very busy men to attend our first function of this type (the first of many I'm sure) as I am in no doubt they will be inundated with requests to attend the various functions all over the country at this time of the year. President John McFall got proceedings underway by welcoming everyone; it was very pleasing to see such a good crowd attending, after introducing the panel he read out the first of the many excellent questions for the panel to answer, and answer they did in their own particular style, all very good and sound advice from three very experienced pigeon fanciers even the top fanciers in the crowd were very impressed and I'm sure everyone learned a good deal from the night. The order in the hall was fantastic and very respectful to our guests when they were talking. Around 9pm John called a break in the proceedings for the buffet which was first class with a very good variety of food to suit all tastes, well done to the Cairn Hotel who kept up their usual very high standards.



President John McFall introduces the panel left to right Roger Sutton, George Hilson and Gerry Clements.

Following the break John explained to the audience how we had arranged a special tribute to a legend of the Scottish pigeon sport John Ellis of Wellbank Dundee in the form of a “This is Your Life” book, our older readers will no doubt remember the TV show made famous by the Irish presenter Eamon Andrews. This booklet was produced secretly by John McFall who put a great deal of time and work into it, John Ellis who was supposed to be attending the function was unaware that this was happening and through the help of his family and close friend Stuart Young of Bonnyrigg, “Stuart sadly passed away a few weeks ago” John managed to gain all the information necessary and the book was kindly printed up featuring the legendary red cover! by Ken Buchanan of Hamilton who made an excellent job of it. Unfortunately John’s health had deteriorated in the last few weeks and he was admitted to hospital for treatment and therefore could not attend the function but we felt that it was only correct that the book should be read out as a fitting tribute to him, the audience listened intently while John picked out the highlights of John Ellis’s long and illustrious career in the sport and on completion was received by loud applause. John’s good friend of many years Grant Caird also from Dundee took the book to pass on to John.



John McFall reads out the "This is Your Life" tribute to John Ellis

The Reims Ace Pigeon awards were next to be presented, we had 7 nominations for these awards which was absolutely fantastic considering the size of the club. To qualify for this award a pigeon must have scored in the Reims national for three consecutive years, these nominations were then sent to the panel a few weeks prior to the event to be judged, the panel did not know who owned the pigeons they only knew the positions and race conditions and were judged purely on merit only.

Rogers Sutton went on to say although there had to be a winner all pigeons entered put up outstanding performances and the owners should be very proud of that they achieved.

1st Ace Pigeon was a 4 year old Chec Pied hen owned by Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath her positions were:

2013, 6th section 11th open Vel 1032.

2014, 12th section 45th open Vel 688.

2015, 18th section 34th open Vel 843.



1st Ace Pigeon Peter Virtue

2nd Ace Pigeon was jointly won by Les McKay of Carnoustie and Peter Virtue.

Les McKay's pigeon was a 4 year old blue cock:

2013, 15th section 34th open Vel 831.

2014, 8th section 16th open Vel 808.

2015, 17th section 58th open Vel 760.



Joint 2nd Ace Pigeon Les McKay

Peter Virtue's a 6 year old Chec Pied hen:

2013, 16th section 60th open Vel 730.

2014, 7th section 18th open Vel 781.

2015, 15th section 16th open Vel 1042.

4th Ace Pigeon Peter Virtue Cockburnspath

With a 5 year old Blue chec hen:

2013, 5th section 7th open Vel 1096.

2014, 16th section 54th open Vel 662.

2015, 30th section 63rd open Vel 729.

5th Ace Pigeon Peter Virtue Cockburnspath

4 year old Blue chec hen:

2013, 19th section 69th open Vel 647.

2014, 2nd section 2nd open Vel 1031.

2015, 31st section 66th open Vel 724.

6th Ace Pigeon John Bell Tranent

With a 5 year old Blue cock:

2013, 15th section 54th open Vel 761.

2014, 8th section 25th open Vel 741.

2015, 36th section 83rd open Vel 692.



John Bell & Gerry Clements

7th Ace Pigeon Gordon Campbell Montrose.

A 6 year old Blue hen:

2013, 6th section 16th open Vel 950.

2014, 28th section 82nd open Vel 486.

2015, 31st section 93rd open Vel 661.



Gordon Campbell Montrose



The panel with the award winners

Congratulations to everyone concerned on your outstanding performances and great pigeons.

Following the presentation the president continued with the questions taken from the floor and I have to say the quality of the questions were very good and very interesting indeed and the excellent order was maintained throughout the evening right to the end where a hearty vote of thanks were given to the panel. The rest of the night was enjoyed by everyone having the opportunity to meet friends old and new and the pigeon talk continued into the small hours. It was very heartening to see so many non-members attending and every effort was made to make them feel welcome and we hope they enjoyed their night out with the SNRPC.



A trio of happy winners Lloyd Togneri 1st Reims 2015, Ken Buchanan 1st Troyes 2015 and Peter Virtue 1st Reims 2011 & 2014

On behalf of all our committee and members we wish to thank our very hard working secretary/president John McFall who put so much effort into organising this event, we are so glad that it was such a big success and we look forward to many more in the future

Duncan Knox, Press Officer