

‘Heart of Midlothian’ wins SNRPC Newbury for Kenny Bald of Easthouses.

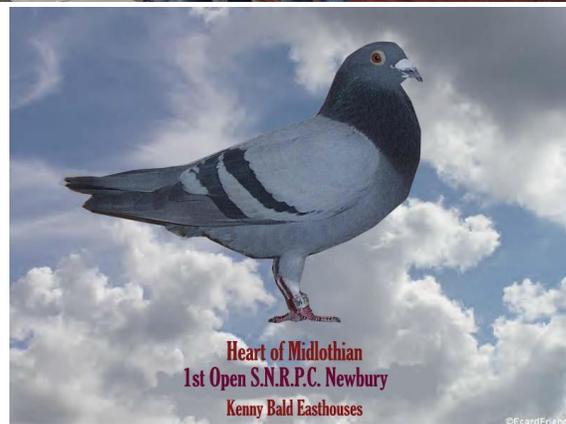
The Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club entered into its second year with uncertainty as to whether we would be able to race from France in 2006. The Goodwill and Harmony in the new club continued and the committee had made plans for an inland programme but as we all know the whole concept of the SNRPC is pigeon racing from the distance and we have some of the finest distance fanciers in the United Kingdom amongst our members. In the event DEFRA were to allow us to race from mainland Europe. However, the first race of the 2006 season was the Inland National from Newbury.

We were hoping for a good entry and 225 members sent 1,531 birds there were increases in all of our sections with the exception of section C, a possible reflection on the bird flu restrictions imposed on that area at the beginning of the racing season. The entries from the sections were as follows : Sect A – 13 members sent 99 birds, Section B – 57 members sent 511 birds, Section C – 39 members sent 282 birds, Section D – 25 members sent 173 birds, Sect E – 51 members sent 314 birds and Section F – 40 members sent 152 birds. The pigeons were race marked on the Thursday night and the race looked good for the Saturday morning of the 3rd of June 2006 and the Race Control Team of John Alston, Roy Seaton and Barney Kenny authorised a liberation at 05.40 into clear skies and a North West Wind and cleared well. John Frood was our convoyer for the first race of the season and we were off and racing for the 2006 season the SNRPC second year of competition.

Ian Brown had been on the phone to Roy Seaton down in Annan at 11.50 looking for information on early arrivals and Roy had said he was seriously watching for pigeons at that time and that he would phone when he got one, in fact he phoned 15 minutes later to say that he had timed at 12.03.27, he had timed a dark chequer cock that had flown 261 miles in 6 hours 13 minutes recording a velocity of 1200, Roy and Marion Seaton were to be 1st Sect A, 2nd Open. Fanciers further up the country were working out what they had to do to beat Roy’s pigeon although they were not arriving in great numbers the following fanciers timed early pigeons Walker & Wilson of St Abbs 13.17, Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath 13.43, Mr & Mrs Jimmy Graham of Ecclefaechn 12.22, R White of Springfield (Gretna) 12.13 all too late to beat Roy’s pigeon. Up in Fife there were early pigeons James Kinnes of Leslie had timed at 14.20 flying 341 miles. As the afternoon went on and we heard of more arrivals it looked as though Kenny Bald of Easthouses began to stand out as the possible winner he had timed a 2 year old blue cock at 13.18 flying 318 miles. There was also another early pigeon in Fife which was to beat the James Kinnes pigeon it was Brian Kinnear’s of Pitlessie who had timed at 14.15 flying 345 miles who would be 1st sect C, 3rd Open.

Many fanciers sat from 12 noon thru to 5.00 pm with no returns, many good fanciers got one bird and some a few. The result shows a steady race but lots of fanciers were missing birds that had already won at the distance and as the days passed fanciers were that their birds were working back home or were being reported from varied parts of the country.

However, the worthy winners were Kenny and Stevie Bald of Easthouses, Midlothian which lies just to the south of Dalkeith. They had timed their 2 year old blue cock now named 'Heart of Midlothian' at 13.18 flying 318 miles recording a velocity of 1221, this was a really good performance on what turned out to be a hard race. Kenny bald races under his own name in Easthouses club in the East of Scotland Federation, but points out that his brother Steve is his sleeping partner and plays a big part in the management of the loft. The winning pigeon is a widowhood cock, A Staff Van Reet he was bred from pigeons gifted to Kenny and Steve from their friends Roy Mulligan of Armthorpe and George and Betty Archibald of Bilston. He was given as a youngster, as a yearling raced every week out to Huntingdon being 2nd 3rd and 4th in the club. This year he was paired to a daughter of their No 1 Stock Cock (who is also his half brother) and was allowed to sit for 5 days then the eggs were floated under feeders. He was then given his hen from the previous year and reared two youngsters before being put on widowhood. He had 3 training tosses the week before the first race from Morpeth and took 1st Club, 1st West Sect 9th Fed. He then went to Morpeth, Scotch Corner and Morpeth the following week they had a went to Scotch Corner on a training toss with SNRPC secretary John Baillie's pigeon's. He then went to Leicester 240 miles and won 1st Club, 1st West Sect. On the Thursday, basketing for the Inland National he was shown his hen for the first time this year. The 2 eggs off him mentioned earlier that were floated under feeders, once reared were sent to a fancier in Billingham who had has loft burnt down. Perhaps Kenny and Stevie were rewarded with the National win for the kindness shown in this gesture to a fellow fancier. My thanks to Duncan Knox of Dunbar for the information on 'Heart of Midlothian'.



Kenny and Stevie Bald of Easthouses & 'Heart of Midlothian'

2nd Sect B, 7th Open went to the St Abb's partnership of Walker & Wilson Robert and Jim are no strangers to the Top Table of the SNRPC, they timed a 3 year old blue cock at 13.37 flying 313 miles recording a velocity of 1153. These lads were the Newbury Inland National winners in 2005.



Robert & Jim

3rd SectB, 8th Open was Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath there was very little between 2nd and 3rd Sect B less than a yard with Peter losing out this time he timed 1 blue pied yearling cock at 13.43 flying 316 miles recording a velocity of 1153. Peter had been 2nd Open last year to Walker & Wilson and continues to do well in SNRPC racing.

1st Sect A, 2nd Open were Roy and Marion Seaton of Annan, they timed a dark chequer widowhood cock at 12.03 flying 261 miles recording a velocity of 1200. The pigeon was bred by Mrs Margaret Graham from a son of a Gold Award winner when paired to a hen that was 6th Open SNFC Reims. His preparation for Newbury was Appleton, twice to Stafford then Cheltenham all flown with the Annan & District Premier Club. He had flown SNFC Alencon in 2005 returning with his secondaries missing from one wing but still winning 218th Open.



Roy Seaton of Annan 1st Sect A, 2nd Open SNRPC Newbury 2006

2nd Sect A, 4th Open were Mr & Mrs Jimmy Graham of Ecclefechan, they timed a 4 year old blue cock at 12.22 flying 266 miles recording a velocity of 1165. The pigeon is a Decroix and was flown on the Roundabout System he has been a reliable performer winning numerous club prizes and 3 national awards. Prior to Newbury he had flown the Solway Federation Programme and had 4 private tosses before the inland national.



Mr & Mrs Jimmy Graham of Ecclefechan's 2nd Sect A, 4th Open SNRPC Newbury 2006

3rd Sect A, 5th Open was R White of Springfield, Gretna, he timed a 3 year old blue cock at 12.13 flying 259 miles recording a velocity of 1162. He is an Alf Rothwell Busschaert, a great grandson of CB, he was raced naturally and was sent sitting 14 days on eggs his 1st flight was half up when basketed. As a yearling he had won bird of the year in the strong Springfield Club, before Newbury he flew every race in the Solway Federation Race programme. My thanks to Chris Little of Eastriggs for the information on the Section A winners.



R White of Springfield's 3rd Sect A, 5th Open SNRPC Newbury 2006

1st Sect C, 3rd Open was Brian Kinnear of Pitlessie, Fife, he timed a 3 year old blue cock at 14.15 flying 345 miles and recording a velocity of 1178, the cock had a full wing and was flying on the roundabout system. As a young bird he won good positions in the federation and was flown to 150 miles. As a yearling he went as far as Maidstone but homed 4 weeks later injured. At the two year old stage in 2005 he was 40th Sect C, 141st Open SNRPC Newbury. This year his preparation was 150 miles and 200 miles winning in the club. The sire is a Jan Aarden Massarella bred in the purple, his dam was bought from Jim Gibbon of Sunderland and was bred out of his golden pair, this pair were responsible for some good distance winners. Brian has been a shift worker at the local paper mill for the last 46 years and has kept pigeons since 1960 he has a 34 foot loft and keeps 10 pair of natural birds and 12 pair on roundabout.



Brian Kinnear of Pitlessie, Fife, & 3 year old blue cock

2nd Sect C, 6th Open was Jim Kinnes of Leslie, Fife, he timed a 5 year old blue pied cock at 14.20 flying 341 miles and recording a velocity of 1162. The pigeon was flying on the roundabout system he is a consistent pigeon and has won over the years. He won as a 3 year old from 290 miles and as a 4 year old arrived in the morning from the SNRPC Falaise race. This year he was raced from 150 and 200 miles and was left with his hen for the week prior to Newbury. He comes from a family of birds that are winning for Jim bred from Pearson & Dansfield Busschaerts. Originally buying four young birds and being impressed with them Jim bought three more and received an unringed young bird, this pigeon is the sire of Jim's 6th Open SNRPC Newbury. Jim has kept pigeons since 1954 and has seen many changes over the years in pigeon racing, not all for the better. Jim's wife Ellen takes a keen interest in the pigeons although, sadly Jim thinks he may retire at the end of the season due to his respiratory problems. One wonders where the replacements for Jim and people like him are going to come from the hobby of pigeon racing will become extinct in a few years I fear.



5 year old blue pied cock

3rd Sect C, 10th Open was Jocky King of Kirkcaldy, Jocky timed a 2 year old chequer cock at 14.15 flying 336 miles recording a velocity of 1148 keeping his long tradition of winning from the distance. This pigeon was 34th Open SNRPC Falaise in 2005 as a yearling flying 520 miles. Sent sitting 18 day eggs he had 150 miles then 200 miles and four tosses from Dunbar prior to Newbury. The sire is a grandson of Matt McLaughlin's good mealy hen that won 4 times in the 1st 70 birds from Rennes with the SNFC and the dam was the Parker hen bred by David Campbell of Ballymena. Jocky had 11 birds home on the day out of 12 sent he is now looking forward to the racing from France. My thanks to Stuart Bowman of Cowdenbeath for the information on the Section C winners.



2 year old chequer cock

1st Sect D, 12th Open. Winning the section for the fifth time out of six SNRPC races is John McNeill of Broxburn. His 2 year old blue Theo Hartog roundabout hen was timed at 14.01 flying 326 miles recording a velocity of 1144. John 's section winner has been named 'Dream Girl' by John's wife Marion, in recognition of John's continued success in SNRPC national races. Both the sire and the dam of the section winner were purchased from A & M Kerr of Irvine out of their stock loft. 'Dream Girl' has always been a consistent racer and has won top prizes. As a young bird in 2004 she won 2nd Open in the Scottish Central Combine Doncaster, the week before she won 2nd club, 4th Central federation Wakefield flying 176 miles, beaten by a loftmate. Just a quick footnote, someone out there has a very well bred young bird from 'Dream Girl' which was purchased at this year's SNRPC young bird sale in May.



John and Marion McNeil with the 1st Section D SNRPC winner from Newbury (Left) Dream Girl 1st Region D (Above)

2nd Sect D, 14th Open. Is Jim Smith of Polmont, near Falkirk. Jim who is a very good friend of John McNeill's timed his blue chequer pied 2 year old Busschaert roundabout cock at 14.16 flying 332 miles recording a velocity of 1134. This pigeon was bred from Billy Parke's of Northern Ireland stock when crossed with a hen gifted to Jim by John McNeill, out of his winning Busschaert Blood. The 2nd Sect D winner was given the name 'The Pied Piper' by Jim's partner Mary. Pied Piper was lightly raced as a young bird and as a yearling, but has had every club race this year right up to the Newbury national and was still bouncing around the loft with energy when he returned from the race. Jim had a very good weekend as he timed a good one from the North West Federation's Open race from Wakefield and should be in the top five.



Jim and Mary with the 2nd Section D winner SNRPC Newbury / Pied Piper 2nd Section D Newbury for Jim Smith, Polmont

3rd Sect D, 15th Open. Went to the partnership of Lafferty & Simpson of South Queensferry, the partnership consists of Robin Lafferty, Pamela and Keith Simpson. Their 3 year old blue chequer hen was timed at 14.11 flying 328 miles recording a velocity of 1134. This hen was a previous top performer, last year she was 1st club, 1st fed, 3rd sect D, 16th Open SNFC Falaise.



Robin Lafferty 3rd Section D SNRPC Newbury 2006.

Just to show the calibre of pigeons entered in this race and rose to the challenge of national competition, the winner of 4th Sect D was Robin Lafferty's good friend Tommy Arthur of Newton Village, near South Queensferry who timed his champion pigeon 'John Rob' that won 1st club, 1st Fed, 1st Scottish Central Combine Yearling Derby from Huntingdon. My thanks to Norman Dixon of Balerno for the information on the Section D Winners.



Tommy Arthur 4th Section D SNRPC Newbury 2006

1st Sect E, 73rd Open. Walter McGaffney of Lesmahagow timed a 3 year old black cock at 14.50 flying 312 miles and recording a velocity of 999. the sire of the section winner is from Walter's old black hen blood, four times on the result from the SNFC Sartilly races the grand dam also 3 times on the result from the SNFC Sartilly races. This blood is originally 50% Bricoux of Bobby Pringle of Selkirk. The dam is adark chequer hen bred by Robert Cormack of Winchburgh from Robert's cross with the Norman Black of Drumore pigeons. In fact this cross achieved a 13th

Open national win for Robert. Walter has always been a long distance fanatic, with national racing his goal he has been 2nd section E before but now he has achieved 1st section with the SNRPC lets hope he is due for more wins.

2nd Sect E, 74th Open. William Mitchell & Son of Lanark timed 4 year old blue chequer hen at 14.50 flying 312 miles and recording a velocity of 999, very close to the section winner in fact .18 of yard behind it you really can't get much closer. This hen is a prolific racer and every year competes in at least 5 races in 2006 she had 5 races up to Newbury and was sent sitting her first hatched youngster of the season. She flew Falaise with the SNFC in 2004 and Cholet with the SNRPC This partnership have been racing for many years and are big supporters of national racing with great success.

3rd Sect E, 85th Open. Mr & Mrs David Elliott of Newbigging timed a 5 year old chequer cock at 14.59 flying 311 miles recording a velocity of 979. The sire of this pigeon is a stock bird bred from the Aristocrat when crossed with the dark hen. The dam is also stock bred from Edwin's Choice 1st section, 5th Open SNFC Nantes when crossed with a stock hen, a daughter of their Blue Rennes hen 10th 12th 26th and 62nd section. The Elliotts entered 22 birds and had 19 home on Sunday their section positions were 3rd 7th 8th 13th 21st and 23rd section. My thanks to Kerr Stainthorpe of Lesmahagow for the information on the Section E Winners.



David Elliott of Newbigging

1st Sect F, 80th Open. Ian Lowe of Glasgow timing a 2 year old chequer cock at 15.28 flying 330 miles recording a velocity of 988.

2nd Sect F, 82nd Open. Graham Bros of Muirhead timed a 4 year old blue chequer hen at 15.32 flying 331 miles recording a velocity of 985.

3rd Sect F, 89th Open. Willie Gass of Inchinnan timed a 4 year old blue chequer cock at 15.47 flying 335 miles recording a velocity of 972.

The result reads like a Who's Who of Scottish Pigeon Racing and I thought I would mention some of the top names not mentioned already in this report with their Open Position. Gordon Grant of Gretna 9th Open, Scott Irving Jnr of Annan 11th Open, Dennis Dall of Ladybank 13th Open, G & E Archibald of Bilston 16th Open, Crombie & Mechan of Annan 17th Open, Mr & Mrs Chris Little of Eastriggs 18th Open, Robert Nisbet of Cockburnspath 20th Open, Mel Bell Jnr 21st Open, John Ellis of Wellbank 29th Open, Norman Renton of Foulden 33rd Open, Doran Bros of Broxburn 34th Open, George Anderson of Scone 35th Open to mention only a few of the members of the SNRPC.

If you would like to tell us about your pigeons or would like to discuss the website or its content you can phone me on 01324 555888 or send an e mail to _____ and we will try to help you. I hope that you have found this report interesting and informative. I would like to thank the following for their help in putting together this report on our first race of 2006 Ian Brown P.R.O., Stuart Bowman, Norman Dixon, Kerr Stainthorpe, Duncan Knox, Stuart Malcolm and our club secretary John Baillie and all of the members who gave their time giving the information to our contributors.

John Gray for the Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club