



Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club

Reims 2011

Remarkable 5th National win for Countries Top Distance Fancier

The convoy of 424 pigeons were released at 5am on Friday 24th June by Gordon Geddes standing in for our usual convoyer Mathew Boyle who was heading off on a well deserved holiday. The weather conditions could not have been better for this the supreme event of our racing calendar it was a beautiful still summers morning in Reims with conditions on the English channel and all over the country being excellent for pigeon racing. The Dover coast guard reported that conditions on the channel were excellent and that they could see the French coast at 5am in the morning. Our convoy were race marked on Wednesday and were at Reims mid day Thursday with plenty of time for the pigeons to feed and rest, it was apparently very warm in France but we certainly have no worries on that score with the fabulous air conditioned transportation that our birds travel in.

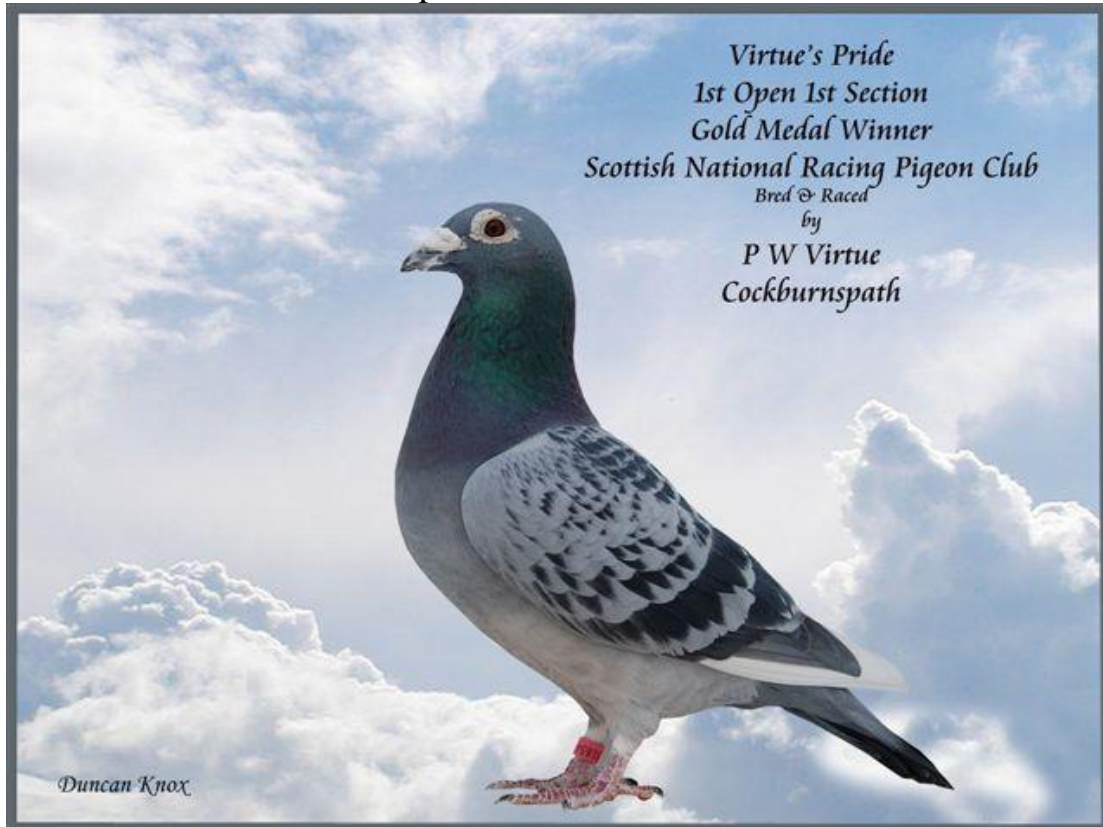
A very difficult race transpired, it is certainly a mystery as both Scottish National clubs and several English clubs experienced the same fate with very few birds being reported on the day of liberation, let's face it under these conditions pigeons should have been tumbling in all over the country, what went wrong we can only speculate but the fact remains that conditions were perfect and race officials were correct with their decisions to liberate as they did.

Despite how things turned out we faired quite well with 16 pigeons recorded on the night with the gold medal winner being timed as many predicted at just over the 14 hour mark

Peter Virtue from the small Berwickshire village of Cockburnspath timed 5 of these exceptional day birds the first being his fabulous Chec White Flight cock **Virtue's Pride** at 19.08 to win the coveted 1st open position this is the fifth time this outstanding pigeon has won from Reims he has already won Bronze and Silver SNRPC Champion awards and now will take a gold to complete his collection, he has competed in 8

National races and scored in 7 the only one he failed to score in was the Young Bird National in 2004. His phenomenal record from Reims is as follows

1st, 6th, 24th, 32nd, 38th all Open positions and now The **1st open** position which he thoroughly deserves. His other two wins were from the inland nationals where he was 8th open Newbury and 57th open Wanstead Flats.



(The 2011 Reims Gold Medal Winner Virtues Pride)

Peters other birds were timed at 20.06. 20.22. 20.30 and 20.38 winning 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th Open 3rd, 4th 5th 6th Sect with another clocked the next day at 64th Open 20th Sect. What a remarkable family of pigeons Peter has cultivated over the years, the 5 birds clocked on the day, three of them brothers timed within 20 minutes of each other all had the same grand mother with the winner being 50% Jan Aarden.

The Reims winner is a G/G/G/G/Grandson of Peter's first National winner from Avranches in 1968 and nephew to his 1st Open Arras in 2008.

The sire is all Peters' old family and is a g/son of his great racer Peter Thorpe. The Dam is from the No1 stock hen a G/Daughter of Vlekje she in turn was the dam of last years SNRPC Gold Champion Award.

Prior to Reims he won 1st Fed Ripon.

2nd Open 1st Section C Davy Whyte Cardenden

Another loft in excellent form Davy follows up his 2nd and 3rd section success from Wanstead with this fine performance from Reims.

This 3 year old late bred white cock had scored from the channel previously

This season he had three races up to Leicester in which he won 1st club, Davy's birds were raced split them allowed to pair up after Leicester he was sent to the National on 12 day eggs his dam was a gift from Steve Ritchie and contains Proctor and Benvie bloodlines while the sire is a blue from his own family.



(Davy Whyte Cardenden with his 1st Sect C 2nd Open winner.)

3rd Open 2nd Sect B Ben Veitch East Saltoun

Here we have another loft in a rich vein of form, hot from his 1st section win at Wanstead Ben is knocking at the door again with another great performance. This time with a 5 year old cock bred from a Dean Pallat Staf Van Reet hen and a Busschaert Cock bred through W Kilgour of Shotts this pigeon has bred a few winners for Ben including a cock who has 8 firsts including 2 x 1st Fed positions. The 2nd Open winner has won in the club before and has been twice to the channel. This year he had every club race to Peterborough and won 1st club 4th fed Selby, he also won 63rd section with the SNFC from Marlborough he was sent on 12 day eggs.



(Ben Veitch East Saltoun 3rd Open 2nd Sect)

Section B

1st & 3rd Section B P W Virtue Cockburnspath 2nd Section Ben Veitch East Saltoun. Peter Virtues 3rd section winner is a Blue Pied 2 year old hen she is direct out of the John Fairbairn cock that great channel racer who is now retired to the stock loft during his illustrious career he won 2nd, 4th, 19th, 102nd Open Reims 42nd Open Falaise and 18th Open Y B National the dam is bred out the No1 Jan Aarden stock hen. She had 6 races before Reims.

Section C

2nd Sect 4th Open Pete Patrick Thornton Pete Patrick has been winning from the distance longer that he would care to remember, never very far away when it gets hard Pete's pigeons always put in a shift when called upon in adverse conditions, they are raced natural and are exercised round the loft 3 times daily Pete's winner had 5 races up to Leicester then set down for Reims. Last season he was 16th Open Arras he is bred from a Frank Sheader cock paired to hen off a full brother of Trail's Spark.



(Pete Patrick pictured with his 4th Open winner)

3rd Sect 6th Open James Anderson Cardenden.

One of the Kingdoms most consistent fanciers, his good form continues from the Wanstead national to this our main event of the season. James timed his 3 year old Blue hen at 20.52 to take the 6th open position, looks like this one was well fancied by James. Last season she won 52nd Open 23rd Sect from Reims in another hard test. She had 3 races to Leicester racing separated then after the Leicester race they were put back on the natural, she went to Reims on 12 day eggs her breeding is Jan Aarden X J King.



(James Anderson Cardenden 6th Open 3rd Sect)

Section D

1st Section D 56th Open John Mack Alloa.

The only pigeon timed in race time in section D this was the first time over the channel for this 3year old blue hen as a youngster she was flown to 170 miles, up to 300miles as a yearling and 350miles at two years old this year she was sent to The Wanstead Inland National but did not return first day. Bred out John's SNRPC Bronze Champion when paired to a stock pigeon of his own family, John's family are a blend of pigeons received from Hasher Smith of Tillicoutry Van Hees and Tom Beaton bloodlines there are also some of his good friend Joe Lewcio,s birds in the breeding. This is another loft that excel's when the going gets hard.

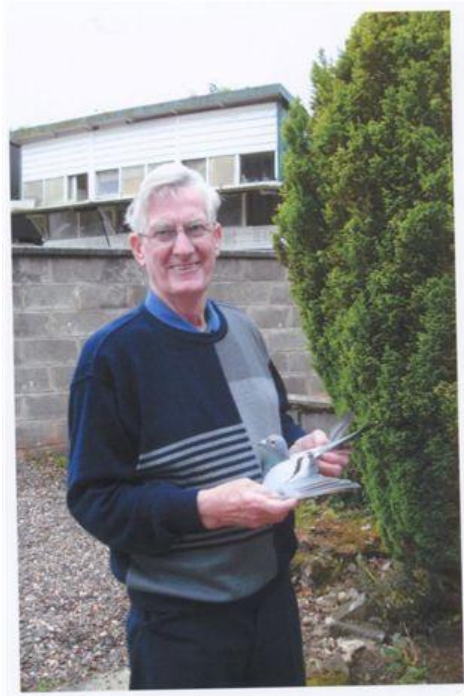


(John Mack Alloa with his section D winner)

Section E

1st Section, 5th Open John Stokes Carstairs.

John timed his 3 year old Blue hen at 20.17 she was sitting ten days at basketing and is home bred with lots of long distance bloodlines in the family. As a youngster she raced the full programme and went to the coast(Maidstone) as a yearling .As a two year old she went to Eastbourne. This year she only had two races prior to Reims Weatherby and Leicester then 10 training tosses at around 50-60 miles, she was sent with a full wing. I am informed that she handles very well, this is the latest winner in a long line of channel successes for John who is a very consistent and experienced fancier.



(John Stokes Carstairs with his 5th open winner)

2nd Section 8th Open Kerr Stainthorpe Lesmahagow

Kerr is another great fancier who has been winning for many years. Flying natural and sitting on 12 day pott eggs she had 6 races to Leicester and was trained every night the week prior to basketing with John Callan and Billy Davidson with a final toss from Haddington on the Sunday morning, Kerr is very grateful for their help in training the birds. As a youngster she went as far as Weatherby them at the yearling stage she had all races to Leicester obviously Kerr has been careful with this one and it has paid off. Her breeding is certainly made for the distance the sire was a present from the late Jimmy Hamilton (Iron Lady Lines) while the dam was a gift from J&I Alston Ravenstruther from their Stirling cock lines, this stock hen has been a prolific breeder for Kerr to date she has been responsible for 1st sections winner 2 second sections and one 3rd sect winner. Kerr and Cathy have named their 2nd section winner Suzanne after their Grand Daughter.



(Cathy and Kerr Stainthorpe with 2nd section winner Suzanne.)

3rd Section 15th Open Wilson & Jack Lanark

Davy and Robert seem to keep on churning out winners from the channel consistently, the mark of excellent fanciers I would suggest, this dedicated partnership have a super team of pigeons bred for the job. This their latest winner is a three year old hen timed at 21.53 was sitting 12 days at basketing with her second flight almost fully grown. This hen was lightly raced as a young bird winning 3rd club 8th fed Risdale, she went as far as Maidstone as a yearling and scored at SNRPC Lillers winning 14th Sect 122nd Open. As a 2 year old she had 3 races to Peterborough and homed a week late from the Wanstead National. This season she only had two races Weatherby and Leicester winning 3rd Club 6th Fed then trained privately prior to Reims. She is bred down from a son of their good red cock 4 times a winner at over 600 miles and a hen bred by John Todd Lanark from Philippe Martin's Bricoux family.



(Wilson & Jack with their 3rd section winner)

Section F

1st Section 37th Open Ian Lowe Gartcosh

Another established West section loft who is very consistent from the channel especially from Reims where Ian's birds do extremely well every year. This 2 year old Blue WF hen was only trained as a youngster and flew up to Wanstead Flats as a yearling where she scored. This season only 4 races to 260 the 260 mile mark them trained once a week for 4 weeks at 60 miles she went to Reims on 12 day eggs. Her breeding is Jim Hanna crossed with Ian's own family.



(Ian Lowe Gartcosh pictured in front of his excellent loft)

2nd 3rd Section 42nd 49th Open Ian Ross Kirkintilloch

Ian Ross is without doubt one of the top distance fanciers in Scotland he wins from the channel year in year out with great consistency and again this year he is there again with two good ones from this hard Reims national. His 2nd section winner is a two year old late bred, Ian has treated this one carefully only trained as a youngster, raced up to 200 miles as a yearling this season had 3 races to 240 miles prior to the race then trained at 60 miles the week before basketing he was sent on 14 day eggs. He was bred from one of Ian's stock pigeons a mealy cock which was a gift from his dear friends John and David Carlin of Kilbrachan.

The 3rd section winner is a three year old chec hen bred by Ian's brother Allan from birds purchased at Jock Allen's clearance sale, she scored last year from Arras and had 4 races this season before being sent to Reims on a 2 day youngster.

(Ian Ross with his 2nd section winner)



We would like to offer congratulations to all fanciers who made the result on such a difficult day and again to the race winner Peter Virtue who won with a tremendous all round performance.

Duncan Knox
Press Officer