

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL RACING PIGEON CLUB

REVIEW OF 2006 by Ian M Brown PRO SNRPC

JANUARY

Having closed my review of 2005 for the SNRPC with the last verse of Robert Burns "A Man's A Man for A That" I think it appropriate that the following verse from another poem of Scotland's Bard, sums up the feelings of many fanciers in Scotland as we moved into 2006, hoping to put behind us the tribulations of parochialism from destroying commonsense trying to establish a democratic future for a recreation already dying from within.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!

And gie's a hand o' thine

And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught

For auld lang syne.

For some who may not understand certain words above then basically it is about continued friendship despite the passing years, accepting that what has happened, has happened and not looking back

On January the 5th 2006 the committee of the SNRPC met to discuss the following.

The First AGM to be held in the Miners welfare in Loanhead Edinburgh on Saturday the 4th of March. To discuss the race programme that had already been agreed by the members and most interestingly the new Extreme distance race being proposed. With the prospects of bird Flu and the probabilities of certain curtailments on racing from over the channel within the UK, the committee discussed other probable race programmes and all that entailed. The forth coming dance and presentation at the Cairn Hotel on Saturday the 18th of February and our early young bird sale for the 7th of May.

The PRO in an effort to promote the SNRPC more broadly and more regularly had arranged a meeting of interested persons who would be prepared to support himself with information for the press and the advancement of the Web Site. They were Duncan Knox of Dunbar, Stuart Bowman of Cowdenbeath Fife, Norman Dixon of Balerno West Lothian, Kerr Stainthorpe of Lesmahagow Lanark, John Gray of Carron Falkirk, Chris Little of Annan and Stuart Malcolm of Glasgow, Stuart being responsible for the Web site, which Gordon Geddes had supported in its creation.

On Monday the 23rd of January came the news that Jimmy Kier of Thornton Fife had passed away. This sad news meant the pigeon world not only in Scotland had lost another well, known fancier who, sadly will never ever be replaced. Also another fancier of repute who departed our company and he too will never be replaced was Jim Bennett of Bainsford Falkirk. Jim was a very close friend and though he had not taken an active part in the official and fysical side of racing pigeons for a number of years he was always keen to know what was going on within the fancy. Jim Bennett was prolific writer for the Gazette writing as the "Bairn" and was an Honorary President of the North West Federation He also flew very successfully in partnership with his brother Tom. To all the other fanciers unmentioned who have passed on, the fancy is diminished immeasurably and sadly no young persons are taking their place.

So the First Month of the New-Year had come and gone, the old thoughts of 2005, now replaced with the new thoughts of 2006, the committee getting to grips with all the problems that 2006 was going to throw at them.

FEBRUARY

This was the month of our very first Presentation and dance, held in the Cairn Hotel Bathgate on Saturday the 18th of February. 160 members, friends, partners, family and guests gathered to celebrate our inaugural year and to present our awards. Our Guests for that special evening were Mr & Mrs Les Blacklock and Mr & Mrs Billy Wortley. Les Blacklock is the very active secretary for the RPRA Cumbria region to which the SNRPC is affiliated, Les has been extremely help full in our inaugural year he also serves on several committees within the RPRA. Bill Wortley is from Annan and is a regular writer on pigeons and pigeon men having been so for many years, producing great reports in both the racing pigeon and the Pictorial.

Once the meal and the introductions were over, the top table, which included our President George Wilson with his wife, the Secretary John Baillie also with his wife and our senior Vice President Frank Baillie with his wife and our four special guests the presentation ceremony began. The following were the principal winners. The Premier Gold medal to Walker & Wilson of St Abbs 1st open Alencon. A silver Medal also to Walker & Wilson for 1st Open Newbury. A Silver medal Again to Walker & Wilson for 1st open Falaise and a silver medal to Walker and Wilson for 1st open in our Leicester young bird national. This was a unique performance by this partnership winning 4 first open positions in our inagural year. Mr&Mrs Chris Little of East Riggs Annan winning the silver medal from Cholet for 1st open being the only bird on the day into Scotland Mr & Mrs Chris Little also won the Silver Plated Quaich for the extreme average award for Alencon and Cholet as well as the sculpted Glass award for best average in section A plus an award from the Cumbria region of the RPRA. J&J Kier & Son won the overall average Crystal Claret Jug for the 4 old bird national races they also won the Sculpted glass award for the best Average in section C. John McNeill of Broxburn won 4 Bronze medals and the Sculpted Glass award for the best Average in section D. John Mack of Alloa won the bronze medal for 1st section D from Alencon. John Bell of Tranent won the best Average in Section B and the Sculpted Glass award. In section E Mr&Mrs Davy Elliot of Newbigging won the sculpted glass award for the averages in that section and 2 bronze

medals for cholet and 5th open from Falaise. Jim O'Hara from Allanton winning a bronze medal for 1st section E from Alencon and John Carberry & Son won 1st section E from Newbury and the Bronze medal.

Section F Sadly did not have average winner but the following fanciers won bronze medals. Geddes & Hillis for 1st section Newbury, Ian Ross 2 medals for 1st Alencon and 1st Cholet Douglas Spittal for 1st section Falaise and Barry McCrindle & son for 1st section from the Leicestershire young bird open.

Finally Pete Patrick won the John Trail Trophy for the best performance north of the Forth and a bronze medal for 1st section C from Cholet. John Ellis from Well bank Dundee won 1st section C from Alencon and the Bronze medal and Jocky King of Kirkcaldy 1st section C from Falaise and the Bronze medal last but not least was Andy Thomson from Duntrune Dundee 1st section C from Newbury and the Bronze Medal

Once the presentations were past a superb evening ensued until the very early hours with the band playing some great dancing music.

It is worth noting that all awards are the winners to keep, the premier Gold medal is solid gold and the silver medals are pure silver as with the solid bronze medals, all these awards are special to keep and cherish, a permanent record of the fanciers achievements in the SNRPCs National races, as with the sculpted glass awards these too, are quite unique, the silver plated quaich along with the crystal claret jug and in the future the John Fairbairn memorial scroll this of course will be for recording outstanding performances or dedication to the fancy and finally the John trail trophy for best performance over the Forth donated in Johns memory to the SNRPC by Johns wife.

MARCH

This is the month most fanciers used to think about pairing up but generally many fanciers are virtually separating their birds by now. Regardless of these changes within the fancy the threat of no racing was hanging over the whole of the UK, with our AGM on Saturday the 4th of March and the secretary looking at serious changes to our race programme the committee were confronted by new strict DEFRA restrictions on racing of all pigeons within the UK and the virtual likelihood of no racing from over the channel. Around 100 persons attended the AGM, which was a very well conducted affair. All aspects on the Agenda were well aired, then agreed and with the return of all officials to office the members had given them a mandate to continue what they had successfully begun and the remit to carry out the changes that would be necessary during the coming difficult racing season.

Only 5 days after our successful AGM, the RPRC, confirmed that racing was banned from the continent and the channel Isles, with all racing and training in the UK to be carried out under strict DEFRA rules.

During March the committee met 4 times, including the AGM and when the discovery of a dead swan in the harbour at Cellar Dyke in Fife, was confirmed as bird flu, this sent the whole of the UK into a panic.

A completely new race programme had to be arranged, the logistics of which were really a nightmare. It was at this point when the pressure was on that the goodwill the understanding and support of all members was under stress. A large area of Fife from the Forth Road bridge up to Arbroath and to the east of the A90 was quarantined, and all fanciers within this area were not allowed racing nor training.

All secretaries were now confronted with contacting their Local DEFRA office to be granted permission to train and race their member's pigeons. Information required were training areas, numbers of birds participating, recording of entries and the weeks you would be active. This information was to be retained for an indefinite period.

Once these requests had been carried out to DEFRA's satisfaction permission to fly our pigeons was granted.

With the racing season fast approaching and no racing being allowed from France the SNRPC secretary was fully occupied changing our race programme to UK race points, the logistics of which were not without major problems.

APRIL

The first month of spring, fanciers who could, were preparing their birds for the first club race, restrictions for bird flu in Scotland, causing disruption, mainly to the Fife Area and slightly North of the Tay. The SNRPC committee had now agreed an inland programme. Newbury as originally agreed, now Hastings as our premier race and two other races, one from Portsmouth for our longest race and the other our last old bird race, from the same race point, the extreme distance race, shelved for the meantime and the young bird open still at Leicester.

The logistics of changing were costly and immense but somehow it was organised and the members informed of these changes. On April the 21st it was confirmed that bird flu restrictions were to be lifted in Scotland from the 1st of May, this was a relief for most fanciers in Fife and now gave them an opportunity to catch up with the training and racing of their pigeons for the longer National races. It was still hoped that DEFRA would eventually grant the UK racing pigeon fancy channel racing and as with many associations contingency plans were being arranged and the SNRPC was no exception with our secretary John Baillie working very hard to organise the logistics of this eventuality. Plans for our young bird sale on the 7th of May were now well in hand and some 50 superb long distance young birds promised by many of Scotland's top distance lofts. Normal club racing had started and with the season 2006 now underway fanciers breathed a sigh of relief that the bird flu problem had seemed to cool down and with this situation the distinct probabilities that channel racing in 2006 could still be possible.

MAY

May began with our young bird sale and the Fife fanciers being allowed to train and fly their birds again. The sale held in the miner's welfare at Loanhead near Edinburgh was a great success and once again due to the generosity of our members and the support of the many interested

fanciers UK wide, a substantial sum was raised for the SNRPC funds. The Committee of the SNRPC thanks every one who is and was connected with the sale.

Our first race of the 2006 race programme was the inland National from Newbury on the 3rd of June, with this date fast approaching, activity was now building up and the committee agreed that if channel racing was to be allowed then a rapid response from the committee would be required if the changes to our race programme were to be implemented quickly. The Secretary had confirmed that the RPRA were to meet with DEFRA on the 23rd of May with a possible confirmation on the 24th, if we would be allowed to fly from France. In view of this the secretary had set all the necessary permits in place intimating that certain race points may have to be changed at the last moment. It was also agreed to phone the committee members if an emergency meeting was required to change our current race arrangements. As it transpired this first meeting of the RPRA with DEFRA was not a positive one, it would be into June before sanction was given to resume racing from over the channel.

JUNE

Saturday the 3rd of June saw 1531 birds entered by 225 members on the starting grid, for our first 2006 inland National race from Newbury. This was quite an occasion, after all the problems encountered in the run up to the original race programme. Entries were on par with 2005 and in all probability could have been greater if the run up to the commencement of racing had not been restricted by the bird flu dilemma.

John Alston our race controller spoke to John Frod the convoyer at 05.00hrs, confirming a lovely morning. John then spoke with Steve Appleby who confirmed that the whole route would be perfect for a great race. John would wish to thank Steve for his help in all of the races he confers with him on and the committee of the SNRPC would concur.. After talking to his contacts Barney Kenny of Loanhead and Roy Seaton of Annan who also confirmed good conditions, 1531 birds were liberated at 05.40hrs in near perfect conditions with a quick clearance being confirmed by the convoyer.

The eventual winner of the Newbury Inland National was to Kenny and Steve Bald of Easthouses Midlothian. Their pigeon now named "Heart Of Midlothian" is a 2 year old, Blue Staf Van Reet cock and was timed at 13.18 flying 318 miles on a velocity of 1221. This pigeon also was 1st section B. What eventually turned out to be an extremely hard race when the weather conditions were set good and for early returns and in good numbers, proves once again that factors other than the weather can affect the racing of pigeons' this pigeon along with the other winners in this SNRPC inland Scottish National race are indicative of the tenacity of the established Scottish long distance racing pigeon lofts. I List only the main winners but must congratulate all who took a position, in a steady but hard race.

2nd Open went to R & M Seaton of Annan and 1st section A. Roys pigeon was 3 year, old Dark Chequer cock with a velocity of 1200 for 261 miles. 3rd Open went to Brian Kinnear of Pitlessie Fife, timing his 3 year old blue cock at 14.15 flying 345 miles with a velocity of 1178. Brian was also 1st section C. 4th Open went to Mr & Mrs Graham of Ecclefechan timing at 12.22 with a 7 year old blue cock flying 266

miles this pigeon was through the Decroix blood lines they were also 2nd section A. Hard on their heels in 5th open place came R White in 3rd section A flying 259 miles with a Alf Rothwell Busschaert, a great grand son of CB this bird was timed at 12.13 and recorded a velocity of 1162. 6th open and 2nd section C went to J Kinnes of Leslie Fife his 5 year old blue pied cock being timed at 14.22 flying 341miles. 7th Open and 2nd section B was taken by Walker & Wilson of St Abbs. Timing at 13.37 flying 313 miles with a velocity of 1153.86. These gentlemen were 1st Open in this race last year. 8th open and 3rd section B was Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath timing a blue pied yearling cock at 13.43 flying 316 miles on a velocity of 1153. Peter Virtue is never far away from the main positions. 9th Open and 4th section A went to G Grant of Gretna timing his 2 year old chequer cock at 12.16 with a velocity of 1151 flying 259 miles. On 10th Open and 3rd section C was Jocky King of Kirkcaldy timing at 14.15 on 336 miles with a velocity of 1148, his 2 year old chequer cock having already flown 520 miles in 2005 as a yearling winning 34th open in the SNRPCs Falaise race.

1st section D and 12th open was John McNeill of Broxburn John timed his 2 year old Blue hen at 14.01 flying 326 miles on a velocity of 1144 taking his 5th Bronze medal from 6 National races. 1st section E and 72nd open went to Walter McGaffney of Lesmahagow timing his 3 year old black Cock at 14.50 flying 312 miles for a 999 velocity. And 1st section F, taking 79th was Ian Lowe of Glasgow timing his 2 year old chequer cock at 15.28 flying 330 miles on a velocity of 988. There are so many names that I recognise on the results of the 2006 Newbury inland national and some that I am not so familiar with, to each and every one well done, and the very best for the next time.

The SNRPC Premier Gold Medal Race

DEFRA's, decision in early June to allow racing from France under certain restrictions was great news, this in it's self, created major problems in the logistics, at such short notice, for the SNRPC to effect our gold medal race from Reims. Regardless, the committee managed with the secretaries prior arrangements in place, to achieve what seemed to be impossible.

On Wednesday the 21st of June marking for our second Premier Gold medal race was underway, some fanciers sadly did not, for various reasons realise the changes in marking times, despite all of these problems 140 members sent 531 birds to compete for the SNRPC Gold medal from Reims France, this small, very select entry was to fly a very good channel race in spite of everything.

With the birds sitting at Reims France at Midday Thursday in the care of Matthew Boyle and Willie Johnston, John Alston in the race controller's position and the barometer set good. Friday morning the 23rd of June 2006 saw 531 premier Scottish long distance racing pigeons, liberated at 05.50 into a light south- west wind. The route home would dry sunny and warm with the winds light south westerly to westerly varying from 5 miles to 10 miles per hour only in Scotland could there be a little more cloud cover and maybe a light shower. Having digested the information at hand most fanciers reckoned a pigeon timed around 21.00 hrs to the central area of Scotland would be very good.

As it was to be, the first pigeon timed into Scotland was to Crombie and Mechen of Annan at 19.04 this pigeon was flying 504 miles. Quick calculations meant that section D birds would

need to be in around 20.30hrs to win. At 19.45 I was informed that Peter Virtue cockburnspath 536 miles had timed 2 birds one at 19.16 and the other at 19.30 then Wilf Flockart Tranent 549 miles timed at 19.36, Kenny Bald at Easthouses flying 548 miles in at 19.49 it was with out doubt great flying from the distance, but more was to come from Fife John Wishart Kirkcaldy timing at 20.06 on 564miles Davie Burns also of Kirkcaldy timing at 20.08 his distance 564 miles then news from the west section John Cosgrove & Son Lesmahagow timing at 20.37, 554 miles and Ken Buchannan of Hamilton timing at 21.08 565miles John McNeill Broxburn at 20.43 on 561 miles. At this point in time at least 30 members had notified the lib line of arrivals all in all 44 birds were timed on the night ranging from 504 miles to 580 miles flying on the wing between 13hours and 16 hours and by early morning the 53 official open Diplomas had been taken.

These are the 44 outstanding day birds their times their velocities, distances, positions open and section and the fancier.

W&G Flockart Tranenet, 1st open and 1st section B, 19.36, 1171, 549 miles. Peter Virtue Cockburnspath, 2nd open, 2nd section B, 19.16, 1170, 536 miles. John Wishart, Kirkcaldy, 3rd open and 1st section C, 20.06, 1160, 564 miles. D Burns, Kirkcaldy, 4th open and 2nd section C, 20.08, 1157, 564 miles. Peter Virtue, 5th open and 3rd section B, 19.30, 1150, 536 miles. Kenny Bald, Easthouses, 6th open and 4th section B, 19.49, 1150, 548 miles. J Anderson, Anstruther, 7th open and 3rd section C, 20.14, 1143, 561 miles. J Anderson, 8th open and 4th section C, 20.19, 1137, 561, miles. Dennis Dall, Ladybank, 9th open and 5th section C, 20.34, 1135, 570 miles. Peter Virtue 10th open and 8th section B, 19.49, 1123, 536 miles. Peter Virtue 11th open and 9th section B, 19.50, 1122, 536 miles. Crombie and Mechen, Annan, 12th Open and 1st section A 19.04, 1117 504 miles. Pete Patrick, Thornton, 13th Open, 6th section C, 20.43, 1115, 566 miles. Robert Nesbit, Cockburnspath, 14th open, 7th section C, 19.56, 1114, 535 miles. Penman & Grubb, Thornton, 15th Open and 7th section C, 20.45, 1113, 566 miles. Jocky King Kirkcaldy, 16th open and 8th section C, 20.49, 1106, 565 miles. Jocky King, 17th open and 9th section C, 20.49, 1106, 565 miles. Walker & Wilson, St Abbs, 18th open and 8th section B, 19.52, 1106, 529 miles. John McNeill, Broxburn, 19th open and 1st section D, 20.43, 1105, 561 miles, SH & E Butterworth Haddington, 20th Open and 9th section B, 20.23 1102, 547 miles. Pete Patrick, 21st Open and 10th section C, 20.55, 1101, 566 miles. J Cosgrove and son Lesmahagow, 22nd open and 1st section E, 20.37, 1099, 554 miles. Brian O'Neill Edinburgh, 23rd open and 10th section B, 20.33, 1098, 551 miles. Ian M Brown, Powmill Dollar, 24th open 2nd section D, 21.14, 1095, 576 miles. Frank Baillie Bo'Ness, 25th open and 3rd section D, 21.04, 1093, 568 miles. J Alexander of Musselburgh, 26th open and 11th section B, 20.39, 1090, 551 miles. Ken Buchannan Hamilton, 27th open and 2nd section E, 21.08, 1084, 565 miles. Robert Stewart Tillycultry, 28th open and 4th section D, 21.30, 1084, 579 miles. Mr & Mrs Graham Eccelfechan, 29th open and 2nd section D, 19.43, 1075, 509 miles. Brian O'Neill, Edinburgh, 30th open and 12 section B, 20.55, 1071, 551 miles. Peter Virtue, 31st open and 13th section B, 20.32, 1069, 536 miles.

Mr & Mrs Davy Elliot Newbigging, 32nd open and 3rd section E, 20.57, 1067, 550 miles. W & G Flockart Tranent, 33rd open and 14th section B, 20.56, 1067, 549 miles. Pete Patrick Thornton, 34th open and 11th section C, 21.26, 1064, 566 miles. Pete Patrick 35th open and 12th section C, 21.28, 1062, 566 miles. J & I Alston Lanark, 36th open and 4th section E, 21.12, 1057, 553 miles. Ian Lowe Glasgow, 37th open and 1st

section F, 21.45, 1056, 573 miles. J Cosgrove and son Lesmahagow, 38th open and 5th section E, 21.25, 1043, 554 miles. John McNeill of Broxburn, 39th open and 5th section D, 21.42, 1037, 561 miles. J & J Gormanly Lenzie, 40th open and 2nd section F, 22.10, 1037, 577 miles. Ian Ross Glasgow, 41st open and 3rd section F, 22.17, 1028, 577 miles. Ian Ross, 42nd open and 4th section F, 22.33, 1022, 577 miles. J Ellis of Wellbank Dundee, 43rd open and 13th section C, 22.33, 1014, 580 miles. W Watson of Lanark, 44th open and 6th section E, 22.01, 1005, 555 miles.

This was the SNRPCs second Premier Channel gold medal race with all 5 sections timing 44 great pigeons on the night, 2 to section A, 14 to section B, 13 to section C, 5 to section D, 6 to section E and 4 to section F. A further 9 birds were timed between 05.31 and 06.18 in the morning to claim an open diploma, plus 77 other birds were timed and recorded that same day congratulations to each and every one.

July

The SNRPCs Longest race was flown on Saturday the 1st of July and a small but very select contingent of 124 birds, some of Scotland's best long distance pigeons were to join with the National flying clubs convoy of 4000 entries flying from St Nazaire on the west coast of France this race point is on the same latitude as Nantes but about 30 miles west to the coast.

The convoy were liberated at 06.45 into clear skies and a light North East wind, which would prevail to the channel, becoming stronger over the channel, changing to southerly winds in the UK.

Without doubt one of the best performances into Scotland and possibly for the whole of the UK was to be achieved by John Proctor of Kirkcaldy on that Saturday the 1st of July, timing his 5 year old Blue cock now named "Mc Fly" at 21.37 on the night 613 miles with a velocity of 1210. "Mc Fly" was to be the only pigeon on the day into Scotland, emulating Mr & Mrs Chris Littles performance from our longest race last year, Cholet, they also having the only day pigeon into Scotland at 556 miles.

John Proctor Kirkcaldy about McFly winner of the RPRA Trophy for the best performance in the UK over 450 miles

Performances to date are as follows. As a young bird he was raced to 180 miles, as a yearling to 370 miles, as 2 year old came back injured from 170 miles and was stopped for that season. At three years old he won 90th open in the SNFC channel race from Falaise 519 miles vel 723 then 3 weeks later again with the SNFC won 6th section and 17th open Tours 627 miles vel 887, in this same race John also achieved 7th Open winning the ER Williamson Trophy for the best 2 bird average. At four years old in

2005 flying with the SNRPC he won 20th open Cholet 633 miles. These performances are an indictment to this bird's ability and justify its position and status now as a supreme National distance racing pigeon not just in Scotland but, throughout Britain

Preparation for St Nazaire was paired up on the 10th of February and reared one pair of young birds and allowed to rear another young bird in his second nest. His first race was at 77 miles then 108 miles at this point John thought he would stop him for the season because of the ban on racing from France. With racing being confirmed from France in early June he was given one race at 77 miles and on the 17th of June he flew from Maidstone some 370 miles with the Kingdom Racing Pigeon Association taking nine and a half hours he was sent feeding a 7 day old young bird. One more toss from 45 miles on the Saturday prior to basketing on the Wednesday with his third flight just thrown.

Breeding

The sire of John's winner came from a local fancier in Kirkcaldy called Chris Brown nicknamed Buster. The Chris Brown sire had Eddie Newcome of Macmerry blood in its pedigree the dam of the winner was also bred by Chris Brown. John also timed another pigeon next day a four years old grizzle cock on a velocity of 973, to take 6th open a point of interest is that Jackie Wisharts 3rd open winner in Reims last week, was bred by John Proctor. 2nd open went to Harry Maidment of Ladybank timing at 05.52 in the morning and a velocity of 1037 flying 623 miles, this is a very well bred pigeon and a well deserved win, Harry has named his blue chequer hen "Cloe's Angel. On 3rd open was Mr&Mrs Davy Elliot of Newbigging These exceptional long distance flyers to section E timed at 05. 24 on a velocity of 1000 flying 585 miles Davy had another two pigeons one to take 8th open and the other 21st, on 4th open and 5th open was Wilf Flockart of Tranenet timing at 06.06 and 06.14, both Wilf's pigeons were flying 600 miles on a velocity of 986 and 978. All told 28 pigeons were recorded on the sheet from 124 sent this has been an exceptional race with a superb result.

The Final Channel race from Lessay

Saturday the 15th of July 2006 saw 1106 entries liberated at 08.05 from Lessay, this race incorporated a yearling section. Jim Benvie of Ladybank timed his Blue Chequer yearling cock at 21.04 flying 491 miles with a velocity of 1110 to win 1st open 1st yearling and 1st section C. This was a great performance in a very difficult race, with only 16 birds being timed by Night-fall. Presumably because of a 30mile per hour NE wind over the channel, the race went on well into mid-day on the Sunday. It says so much for these day birds and their velocities on encountering such difficult conditions in the channel

Second open went to Robert Nesbit of Cockburnspath who timed his 2year old chequer cock at 20.38 flying 465 miles on 1086 and a second pigeon at 22.07 to take 13th open In 3rd open was Ken Buchanan of Hamilton timing at 21.06 flying 464 miles velocity 1044, Ken timed a second pigeon at 2.15 on 8th open and a 3rd pigeon at 22.05 on 15th open and from 05.12 proceeded to time 7 other birds till 10.37 am. Pete Patrick Of Thornton Fife timed at 21.40 to take the 4th open position and Stuart Mullan of port Glasgow in section F timed a very good yearling at 21.49 flying 481 miles and 5th open also 1st section F.

6th open was taken by Steven Aitchison of Eymouth and 7th open another section F bird was to J & J Gormanly. Section D did not have a pigeon until 05.01 and once again John McNeill took 1st section D and his 7th Bronze medal also 17th open. A very Hard race won by a yearling to close what had been a second successful channel racing season for the Scottish National racing pigeon Club.

August

It was confirmed that John Proctor had won the RPRA, Shyllass trophy for the best performance in the UK over 450 miles and an award from the Cumbria region of the RPRA making this, the second year Scottish fanciers in the SNRPC have achieved such awards for exceptional performances in Britain.. Kenny bald of Easthouses also won an award from the Cumbria region and in 2005 Walker & Wilson and Mr & Mrs Chris Little were also honoured. The following SNRPC Medals and Trophies have been won. The SNRPC Premier Channel Race from Reims. Wilf Flockart of Tranent the Gold medal, the silver Quach award for the Extreme distance Average from Reims and St Nazaire and the Bronze medal Award for 1st section B from St Nazaire. John Proctor of Kirkcaldy wins the Crystal claret Jug for the Overall Average award from Newbury, Reims, St Nazaire and Lessay, plus the special Glass plaque for best averages in section C and the Silver Medal award for 1st Open St Nazaire. Kenny Bald of East Houses the Silver medal for 1st open Newbury. Jim Benvie of Ladybank Fife the Silver medal for 1st open Lessay and a special award for being 1st yearling. Stewart Roberts of Ayton wins the silver medal for 1st open in the Leicester young bird open. John McNeill of Broxburn wins the special Glass Plaque for section D averages and Bronze medals for Newbury, Reims, St Nazaire and Lessay, for John 7 bronze medals and the section averages in 2 years very good flying. Robert Nesbit of Cockburnspath wins the section B Glass Plaque Award and the Bronze medal award for section B from Lessay. Mr & Mrs Davy Elliot of Newbigging win the Glass Plaque award for the Averages in section E and the Bronze medal awards for 1st section E St Nazaire and the Leicester young bird race. Newbury Bronze awards, Brian Kinnear of Pitlessie wins the medal award in section C. Walter McGaffney of Lesmahagow wins the medal award in section E. Roy & Marion Seaton win the medal award for section A and Ian Lowe wins the medal award for section F.

Reims Bronze medal awards. Crombie and Mechan of Annan the medal award for section A, Jackie Wishart of Kirkcaldy the medal award for section C, John Cosgrove & son the medal award for section E and Ian Lowe the medal award for section F.

Lessay Bronze medal awards. Ken Buchannan of Hamilton the medal award for section E, ken had an exceptional race from Lessay. Stuart Mullan of Port Glasgow the medal for section F this was a yearling and was 5th open and Roy & Marion Seaton of Annan the medal for section A.

The Leicester young bird open Bronze medal awards. Mr & Mrs Chris Little of Eastriggs the medal for section A, John Anderson of wellbank Dundee the medal for section C, Jim Smith of Grangemouth the medal for section D and Bary McCrindle & sons of Glasgow the medal for section F. The John Trail Trophy for best bird over the Forth, was won by John Proctor and, the John Fairbairn memorial plaque will be en-scribed with the major winners to date.

September

With the final SNRPC race of the season imminent and the racing season coming to a close our late-bred sale was taking prominence on Sunday the 3rd of September at Loanhead Near Edinburgh. This turned out to be an outstanding success with some 50 lots raising £6000.00 plus, a direct son of McFly, John Proctors National Winner being sold for £700.00 this was to an English Fancier, with many other lots achieving three figure sums, the committee were delighted and thank every one who contributed to the sale.

The young bird national attracted 649 entries slightly down on last year it would be reasonable to assume that some hard young bird racing was partially to blame, though many fanciers are not keen on flying young birds to that distance, never the less racing young birds is an important part of a racing pigeons training and has its serious followers. Saturday the 9th of September 2006 was very nearly perfect weather wise, which was in stark contrast to the previous 3 weeks. John Alston our race controller after consultation with his assistants Roy Seaton and Barney Kenny and the invaluable information that Steve Appleby supplies, the birds were liberated at 08.00 hrs into a Light South east wind. At 12.07 Tim hall of Chirnside timed his blue pied hen flying 225 miles achieving a velocity of 1602 this bird was eventually 7th open Then Stewart Roberts of Ayton timing at 12.07 on 228 miles velocity 1623 this blue cock was to become 1st open and once again Stewart proves he is a great young bird flyer, this pigeon is now named "Georges Boy" and was a gift pigeon from George Hastie of Berwick on Tweed George fly's in the Up North Combine, Stewart was also 6th open. In 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th open were Walker & Wilson of St Abbs these gentlemen need no introductions when with their performances in 2005, in the SNRPCs inaugural year they became part of UK racing pigeon history, All in all 31 section B pigeons were on the result before John Anderson of Wellbank Dundee timed his slate chequer hen at 13.36 to take 1st section C and 32nd open velocity 1464 on a distance of 280 miles. 2nd section C was Andy Thomson of Duntrune Dundee, his Grizzle hen being timed at 13.40 also on 280 miles, velocity 1451 Andy also had a second bird in the clock at 13.40 it's velocity 1448 these birds being 35th and 37th open. At 3rd section C was B McKenzie also of Duntrune Dundee who timed his Blue Pied hen at 13.59 to take 36th open on 279 miles velocity 1448 only decimals separating him and Andy Thomson at 4th section C. 5th section C and 38th open and all credit to him is D Glen of Forfar timing his blue chequer hen at 13.50 flying 288 miles on a velocity of 1445. 1st in section D was taken by Jim Smith of Grangemouth timing his Blue hen at 13.23 flying 256 miles on velocity of 1397. 2nd in section D was John McNeill timing at 13.14 on 249 miles and a velocity of 1396 Jim Smith being only the second section D fancier to beat John in 10 races for the Bronze medals in SNRPC national racing. 3rd in section D was G McKenzie of Uphall timing his blue hen at 13.15, flying 249 miles on a velocity of 1392. 1st Section A were Mr&Mrs Chris Little Eastriggs timing a blue chequer hen at 12.16 on a velocity of 1270 their distance was 185 miles this partner ship also took 3rd section A timing 2 minutes later at 12.18. 2nd section A was Scott Irving Junior timing his dark chequer cock at 12.21 velocity 1263 his distance, 187 miles. 1st in section F went to Barry McCrindle & Sons Glasgow timing his blue hen at 14.50 with a velocity of 1111 for 259 miles Barry was also 2nd section F Ian Strachan of Kilmarnock taking 3rd section F. In section E, 1st

section went to Mr&Mrs Davy Elliot of Newbigging timing a Blue chequer hen at 14.35 flying 236 miles velocity 1051, Davy has had an excellent season on the distance results. 2nd in section E was to D Tervit of Ravenstruther timing a Blue chequer hen at 14.38 on 238 miles velocity 1052 only .02 separating 1st and 2nd section E. 3rd section E was our race controller John Alston from Ravenstruther timing his Blue chequer hen at 14.41 flying 238 miles with a velocity of 1044.

One can see by the results that section B dominates and if you follow the reductions in velocities it would appear that the main drag of young birds had held to the east before these national young birds had decided to break for home. Whatever one feels about young bird racing every member is to be applauded for competing, regardless of his situation. 44 open diplomas were won, 40 to section B and 5 to section C and these velocities varied from 1623 to 1427. Sections A, D, E and Fs velocities varied between 1397 and 1044. This maybe gives food for thought on young bird national racing and it's problems.

October

This is the month when every one starts to think about AGMs, next years race programmes, changing rules, pigeon shows, presentation functions and a host of other things to do with our recreation. The SNRPC committee are no exception, one of the most important proposals to come from the SNRPC committee for the members to consider at the AGM will be the restructuring of our Hall of fame awards the proposal was by Ken Buchannan and the committee are in full support. The following Awards for channel racing to be a Bronze Diploma for 3 times across the channel, a Silver Diploma for 4 times across the channel, the Gold award diploma for 5 times across the channel and a Platinum award diploma for 6 times across. The diplomas will show each of the races competed in, the positions won and entries competing against. Each fancier will be responsible to have his winner photographed by a professional pigeon photographer for inclusion on the diploma. The criteria to be eligible for these awards will be an open diploma in channel racing with the SNRPC or a section diploma. If the members agree to endorse this proposal any diplomas prior to 2005 won within the SNFC will be accepted only for the gold award. A race programme was agreed for 2007 this would be the Agenda for our race meeting on the 18th of November.

November

Our race meeting was held in the Miners welfare at Loanhead near Edinburgh on Saturday the 18th and the following was adopted. The Inland National from Wanstead Flats on the 2nd of June 2007, the "Premier Gold Medal race" from Reims France on Friday the 22nd of June 2007, our longer race from

Poitiers of Tours transportation dependent on the 1st of July 2007. The extreme distance from Saintes on the 22nd of July also transportation to be confirmed and our last channel raced from Arras on the weekend of the 15th July date of which will be confirmed at the AGM on the 10th of February 2007 this due to problems with Bastille day in France. The young bird national to be from Leicester on the 8th of September.

All of these races were subject to racing being allowed by DEFRA. John Gray, Ken Buchanan and Stuart Malcom brought the SNRPC web site to a new level of information and the site address is www.snrpc.co.uk it is really worth a visit. It was confirmed that our guests for the Presentation dinner and dance to be held in the Cairn Hotel Bathgate on the 17th of February would be the manager of the RPRA Mr Peter Bryant with his wife and the Editor of the British Homing world Steve Richards also with his wife. IT was interesting to note that the function was already over subscribed.

December

A month for reflection, it would be true to say that the last two operational years of the SNRPC have been traumatic in many ways, but most certainly they have been extremely successful. The president George Wilson and our secretary John Baillie have given their positions great stature and ensured along with the committee that the member,s interests were always to the fore. It is hoped that the members will support the SNRPC by being present at the AGM on the 10th of February 2007 to ensure that the new Scottish National racing pigeon club goes from strength to strength, making sure that this independent association continues to give racing pigeon fanciers in Scotland their proper place in the say of their club. The following verses are from a Christmas card I received from Friends in Dothan Alabama USA, I hope all who read them may find they ring true to how we should live our lives.

The Greatest Gifts

May we break boundaries, tear down walls and build on the foundation of goodness inside each of us.

May we look past differences, gain understanding, and embrace acceptance.

May we reach out to each other, rather than resist.

May we be better stewards of the earth, protecting, nurturing and replenishing the beauties of nature.

May we practice gratitude for all we have, rather than complain about our needs.

May we seek cures for the sick, help for the hungry, and love for the lonely.

May we share our talents, give our time and teach our children.

May we hold hope for the future very tenderly in our hearts and do all we can to build for a bright tomorrow.

And may we Love with our whole hearts, for that is the only way to love.

And so, to 2007.

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