



## *Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club*

### *2017 Autumn Forum*

The club held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Autumn Forum on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> October, this has proved to be a very popular event not only with our own members but also with many other fanciers from all over Scotland. This year's panel consisted of Jim Sanderson of Pathhead one of Scotland's all-time great distance fanciers, Jim Nicholson of South Shields one of the North East of England's top fanciers with a lifetime of experience in the sport and Bob McKie of Blackhall Mill another of the North East's leading distance fanciers and the driving force behind the Pioneering Sportsman Flying Club bringing extreme distance racing into the North of England. The evening started off by SNRPC president John McFall extending a warm welcome to everyone present especially to the many non-members in the company, it was very pleasing to see so many top fanciers in attendance some having made the long journey from the Peterhead, Dundee and Aberdeen areas it was a pleasure to meet these gentlemen and we sincerely hope they had a good weekend. After a brief outline on the evenings proceedings John made a start with the many questions the audience had in line for the panel and the first session got underway, you can always tell if things are well by the order in the hall this was excellent throughout the night with the fanciers listening intently to the views of the panel, following the first session there was a stop for a comfort break and the buffet which was enjoyed by all.



*President John McFall welcomes everyone and introduces the panel left to right Bob McKie, Jim Nicholson, John McFall and Jim Sanderson*

Following the buffet we commenced with the presentation of this year's Reims Ace Pigeon awards, to qualify for one of these awards a pigeon must be timed from the Reims Gold Medal national three years in succession, this year we were delighted to have 6 high quality entries, the entrants performances are sent out to each of that years panel to be judged by them, the panel are not aware who owns the pigeons and they are judged on merit only.

Winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Reims Ace Pigeon for 2017 was Dunbar's Kevin Whitham with his wonderful "*Howmuir Millar*" what a great performance pigeon he has been for Kevin 3<sup>rd</sup> open 2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> open again in 2016 and 6<sup>th</sup> open 2017, I am pleased to say Kevin has decided to retire him to the stock loft as pigeons of this quality usually only come along once in a lifetime and every time he opens the loft door he is there to admire and hopefully produce a string of winners, very well done Kevin.



*Kevin Whitham winner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ace Pigeon 2017 with Bob McKie*



*Howmuir Millar 1<sup>st</sup> Reims Ace Pigeon 2017*

2<sup>nd</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Ace Pigeons were from the sensational loft of Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath, just imagine having not one but three of these top quality birds in your race team with the pied hen being beaten into second place having 4<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> open positions to her name just shows the quality of the winner beating a pigeon with her racing record from the distance.



*Bob McKie presents Peter Virtue 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Reims Ace Pigeon*

5<sup>th</sup> Ace Pigeon was raced by Ian Ross of Kirkintilloch, Ian is another very consistent fancier who specialises in distance racing only with Reims being his main objective. 6<sup>th</sup> Ace pigeon was from a loft that has been in great form this season that of Les McKay of Carnoustie. Very well done to all these fanciers and their exceptional pigeons.



*Jim Sanderson presents Ian Ross with his 5<sup>th</sup> Reims Ace Pigeon Award*



*Les McKay being presented with his 6<sup>th</sup> Reims Ace Pigeon Award from Jim Sanderson*

As part of the Forum for the last three years we have tried to honour an exceptional fancier in the form of a This is Your Life tribute the first year it was the late John Ellis of Dundee and in 2016 it was one of that years panel guests the great John Hodgson of Annan this year it was bestowed on our own Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath, John read out a many of the highlights feature in the book which was superbly printed and donated by Ken Buchanan of Hamilton, now to try and include all Peters wonderful successes over a lifetime in the sport in the time available was an almost impossible task but as usual John made a first class job of honouring this remarkable fancier and his incredible achievements, Bob McKie was invited to Present Peter with his book which was receive with prolonged applause, a fitting tribute to one of the country's all-time great fanciers.



*SNRPC President John McFall presents Peter Virtue with his book*

John resumed the final part of the forum with many excellent questions being put to our very knowledgeable panel after about another hour John drew the evening to a close by thanking the guests who were all excellent answering the many questions in their different styles with Jim Nicholson adding a touch of

humour now and again which was very well received, the remainder of the night was spent by allowing plenty time for friends old and new to get together to talk pigeons this is something we consider to be a most important part of our night.

It was a true pleasure for the SNRPC to have these three gentlemen bless us with their company for the evening and enjoy a few hours with them listening to their views and opinions on this great sport we all love and share.

Finally on behalf of the members and guests I would like to record our thanks to the man who made this possible, did all the hard work involved leading up to make this event such a great success our hard working president John McFall.

Duncan Knox

Press Officer