



## *Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club*

### *Troyes Extreme Distance National*

On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> July we sent our small convoy of only 45 birds to this specialist race, they were released at 05.15 with no wind reported at the race point. It is an enormous task for such a small convoy to undertake flying this kind of distance on their own and I have nothing but admiration for the valiant pigeons that made it home into Scotland. We received tremendous sponsorship for this Troyes race from our members I only wish it had been better supported, if we are to continue with this venture in the future we have to sit down and give the logistics of it some serious thought.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Open 1<sup>st</sup> Sect C, Dave Burns Kirkcaldy**

As expected there were no pigeons home on the day and no early morning birds either, it wasn't until 12.08 mid-day that the winner was clocked to the loft of that great distance fancier Dave Burns of Kirkcaldy in Fife. Dave timed his six year old chequer cock "*Lynn's Boy*" to take the 1<sup>st</sup> open honours. What a tremendous record Dave has from this race since 2011 when he won the Fontenay national he has won the following positions **2011**: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> open 6 birds entered. **2013**: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> open 3 sent. **2015**: 8<sup>th</sup> open, 3 sent. **2017**: 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> open 3 sent. **2018**: 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> open 4 sent. **2019**: 1<sup>st</sup> open 2 sent. And this is only from the extreme distance race he also has a wonderful record in the Reims national as well.



*Dave Burns loft*

The national winner is a 6 year old chequer cock recording a velocity of 718ypm a reflection on just how severe a race this was, he is typical of Dave's old family which originated from the very best Fife distance bloodlines (Jimmy Keir, Dennis Dall). The winners sire was bred by club mate and old friend of Dave's Bob Blyth also from Kirkcaldy he was from his Jimmy Kier lines crossed with a hen Bob got from Dave. The dam of the winner is none other than "Clare" the 2011 Fontenay winner, the sire of "Clare" was his 3<sup>rd</sup> open SNFC Rennes cock. He was sent on a two day youngster and had 3 races prior to Troyes up to Kettering with the Kingdom Association. This season he has lost 5 Channel pigeons training which he puts down to the dreaded peregrine.



*The 1<sup>st</sup> national winner pictured with his nest mate also a big winner from the channel.*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Sect C, Les McKay Carnoustie**

Les McKay is another great name in Scottish long distance racing with many impressive performances to his name in his long association with the sport, he is a past national winner from Liege and 2<sup>nd</sup> section M MNFC Saintes 2009, 1<sup>st</sup> section M, MNFC Saintes 2011, 1<sup>st</sup> section SNRPC Arras 2017 highlights only a few of his excellent achievements. Carnoustie is situated on the North East coast of Scotland approximately half way between Dundee and Arbroath his very neat back garden lofts are situated a stone's throw away from the famous Carnoustie links one of the toughest links golf courses in the world (they breed their pigeons tough up there too) The five year old dark chequer hen was bred from a blue hen Les got from Dave Pirie of Aberdeen he in turn was bred from a mealy Les sent up to Dave that was bred off "Bert's Boy", Les paired the blue hen to a son off John Proctors Lucky Jim to breed the dark hen, also in the breeding is a red cock from Grant Caird and a white hen from Jack Alexander both from Monifeith. Last season the dark hen was 7<sup>th</sup> open Troyes in 2017 she was 13<sup>th</sup> open Reims and 2016 4<sup>th</sup> section Arras, she had two races before Troyes one at 170 miles and one at 270 miles she was sent on 14 day eggs.



*2<sup>nd</sup> section 2<sup>nd</sup> open Troyes 635 miles Les McKay Carnoustie*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Section D 3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Keogh Broxburn

Peter must be recognised as one of the best fanciers in Scotland what a tremendous run he has had and is currently unstoppable with his wonderful team of pigeons which he has expertly blended with selective breeding from some of the best lofts in the country. This most recent winner is a 2014 Mealy hen “*Pomona Lion Heart*” this is her 3<sup>rd</sup> section win having won 1<sup>st</sup> section Reims for Peter in 2017 her sire is a Smyth Brothers of Ireland Kenyon gifted by Steve Burton of Pinxton while her dam is a granddaughter of the John Callan hen via a John Bosworth cross paired to the A Smith & Son Jan Aarden stock hen. She was flown celibate system and had the first four federation races before SNFC Buckingham then exercised round the loft with a weekly training spin or short race to keep her fresh. Peter congratulates Dave Burns and Les McKay on their performances. Peter got another one out of race time from this very difficult race. It has just been confirmed that Peter has in fact won the Arras Old Bird National on the 12<sup>th</sup> July many congratulations Peter from the president and all at the Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club.

Another pigeon clocked from Troyes was to the loft of Jim Benvie of Kirkcaldy, Jim is one of Fifes renowned distance fanciers and past national winner unfortunately this time he was just out of race time.

Well done to these fanciers and their courageous pigeons.



*Peter Keogh Broxburn pictured with his 1<sup>st</sup> section 3<sup>rd</sup> open winning hen*

Duncan Knox

Press Officer