

## Champions of the Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club 2010

This is the Third Report on our Champion award winners and is about George and Elizabeth Archibald of Bilston. Bilston is a fairly large suburb on the south of Edinburgh and George is well known in these parts not only for his pigeon racing abilities but his commitment to local club and national racing. George is a founder member of the SNRPC.

### G & E ARCHIBALD OF MEADOW PLACE BILSTON NEAR EDINBURGH WINNER OF SNRPC BRONZE CHAMPION AWARD 2010

#### SNRPC BRONZE CHAMPION MEADOW LASS



#### Meadow Lass

This lovely 4 year old chequer hen comes to hand like a champion should, tight and silky of feather lovely apple bodied, really typical of how a top long distance winner should handle.

As a 2 year old she was sent to Reims having to be re-paired after she lost her cock in racing. The 2007 race turned out to be very hard but despite these conditions and flying 545 miles she won 25<sup>th</sup> open and 9<sup>th</sup> section B competing with 575 open entries and 150 entries in the section. In 2008 again from Reims she won 34<sup>th</sup> open and 12<sup>th</sup> section B competing with 450 entries and 110 in the section and in 2009 again from Reims competing with 449 entries in the open and 100 in the section she won a marvellous 8<sup>th</sup> open and 5<sup>th</sup> section B. She was flown to 14 days eggs in all 3 races having reared an early nest of young birds in 2007 and 2008 but in 2009 did not rear any young birds. Meadow Lass was trained only to around 50 miles as a young bird,

as a yearling she was raced to Leciester about 230 miles, and prior to her channel races was given at least 3 races to a similar distance, then 10 days prior to basketing given a 35 mile toss nearly every day. George proposes to send her back in 2010 we wish meadow lass every future success. I can confirm that George sent Meadow lass to the 2010 Reims gold medal race, this race was very hard and she returned just out of race time but injured he thinks he may retire her to stock.

Her breeding is out of the best long distance blood lines from the well known Tommy Gibertson of Carlisle through the Un Rung Blue white flight cock an inbred double grand son of Jay Bee, Jay Bee topped the Cumbria combine from Noirt 604 miles for Tommy. A half brother to Meadow lass, named Lucky Guy has won from Alencon, Falaise and Claremont and a half sister a chequer pied hen has been 75<sup>th</sup> open Reims in 2006 and 48<sup>th</sup> open Reims in 2007 and other fanciers are winning at the distance with birds from these blood lines. George is now trying to cultivate the progeny from these winning genes.



**George Archibald**

The E in the partnership is George's wife Elizabeth and whilst she used to be active especially in the shorter races and when younger she is happy to now just to remain a partner.

George has kept racing pigeons since 1953 and was born in Roslin which is very close to Bilston and Meadow Place, where they moved to in 1962. He originally worked as a brick layer but became employed by Ferranti electronics where he worked until his retirement, during that time his other hobby was bowling in fact Elizabeth was also keen at the bowls.

The Lofts are situated at the bottom of the Garden and face south to south east they are not large lofts and consist of one racing section for young birds and another for old birds and a small stock section with aviary. He winters some 33 pair of pigeons which includes a few stock birds. Racing is on the natural system and his young birds may only have a couple of races but all are trained to 40 or 50 miles.

George and Elizabeth Archibald and others like them are the reason for the SNRPC Champion Awards. The recognition of fanciers and their birds that would never normally receive that exposure for their own and their pigeon's achievements, most reports cover the main winners and quite rightly so but what about the pigeon that does not make the first three but appears with great regularity on the open or section results surely a pigeon that wins in the first 10 percent more than once must be as important as the pigeon that appears in the first three and may never appear on a result again.

G & E Archibald fit that slot well and they have won many positions in other races and they enjoy flying their pigeons regardless of winning first open, the effort time and support they extend is as important to the future of our recreation as is the fancier whose pigeons appear with great regularity at the top, it is called sportsmanship, competition needs all its competitors and the recreation of racing pigeons needs them all now more than ever.

The committee and officials are pleased to congratulate George and Elizabeth Archibald on their winning pigeon SNRPC Bronze Champion Meadow lass and hope that they will continue to support what they helped to create in the future.