



## Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club

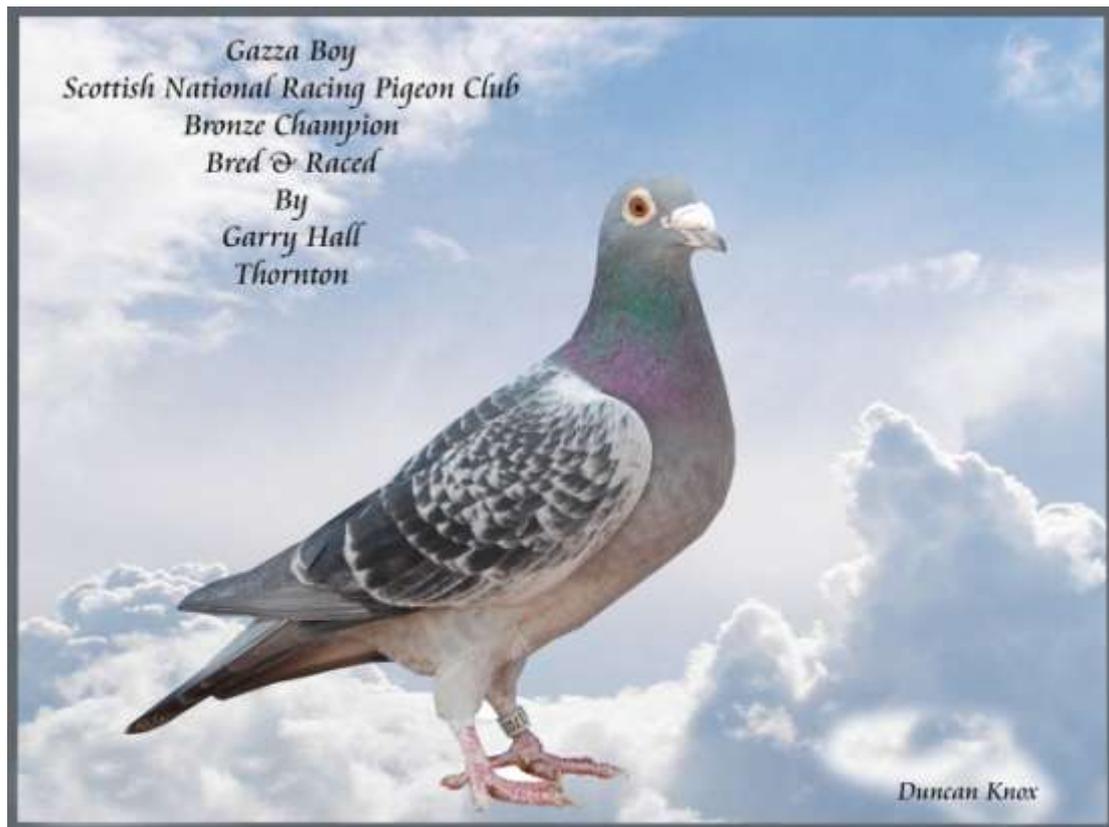
### **GARY HALL OF 124 STATION ROAD THORNTON FIFE**

#### **SNRPC BRONZE CHAMPION GAZA BOY**

#### **SNRPC BRONZE CHAMPION GAZA GIRL**

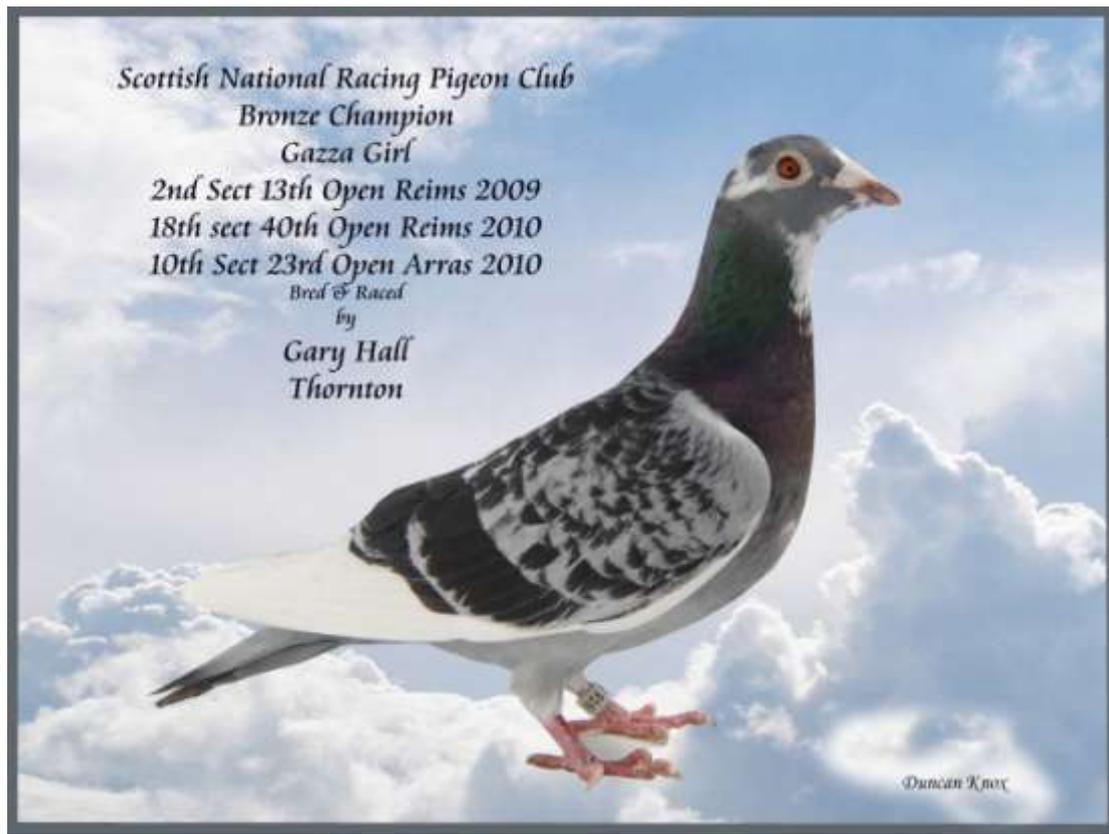
At last I have been able to concentrate my mind on Gary Halls SNRPC Bronze champion for 2009 Gaza Boy, in fact Gary has now recorded another Bronze award champion in 2010 Gaza Girl and will feature in this article plus his 2012 1<sup>st</sup> section C 2<sup>nd</sup> open winner from the Premier SNRPC Reims open gold medal race.

Always a fancier to be recognized for winning at the distance he also won 22<sup>nd</sup> open in the same race his distance is 566 miles and when one thinks of the distance flown and that only 413 SNRPC birds were competing for the Gold medal it puts the word SNRPC champion in prospective. These pigeons have no major drag from larger fields of entrants and in all probability have virtually to fly the entire distance with only a few other birds as companions this is what in my opinion sets the value of a SNRPC Champion award.



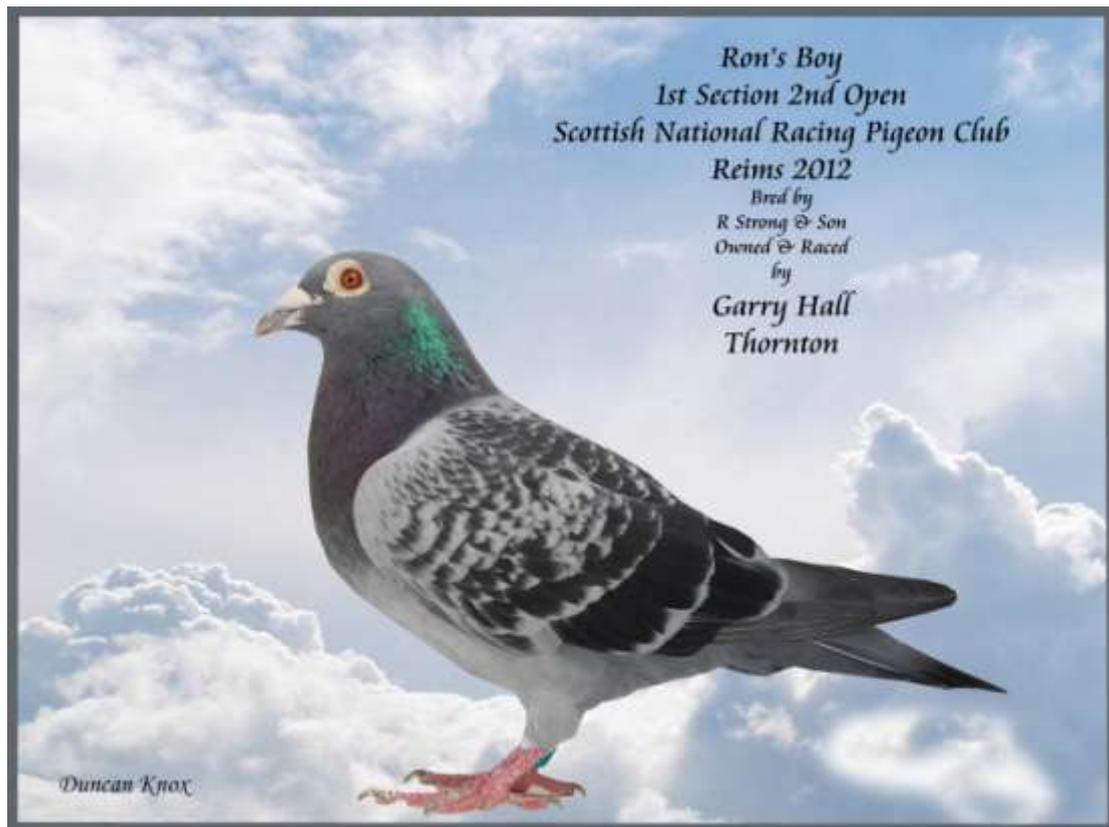
**SNRPC Bronze Champion Gazza Boy**

This classic racing style Dark chequer cock was bred in 2003. As young bird he was flown the race programme to 200 miles, as a yearling was flown to 340 miles and as a 2 year old flew the channel some 400 plus miles, then as a 3 year in 2006 was sent to the SNRPC Premier Gold Medal race winning 49<sup>th</sup> open competing with 532 open entries, Gaza boy was timed in the early morning. Three weeks later was sent back to Lessay again with the SNRPC this second race was 484 miles and he was timed on the day to win 35<sup>th</sup> open against 1106 birds this bronze champion flying 2 races and 1000 miles in three weeks. His third win was in 2007 at 4 years old and was with the SNRPC and again from Reims the premier gold Medal race winning a marvellous 18<sup>th</sup> open from 566 miles this was a very hard race and he was competing against 575 entries.



**SNRPC Bronze Champion Gazza Girl**

Bred in 2007 this hard working chequer pied hen was timed from the young bird national being 109<sup>th</sup> on the sheet at 250 miles, in 2008 as a yearling she won 3<sup>rd</sup> club from 186 miles Then in 2009 as a 2 year old won a very commendable 13<sup>th</sup> open from 450 entries and 2<sup>nd</sup> section C from Reims flying 566 miles. In 2010 as a 3 year old she won 40<sup>th</sup> open Reims 18<sup>th</sup> section C competing with 467 entries 3 weeks later he sent her back to Arras where she won a magnificent 23<sup>rd</sup> open and 10<sup>th</sup> section C competing with 604 pigeons at 474 miles another of his winners flying over a 1000 miles in 3 weeks winning 2 open diplomas This hen was bred from a long distance racing cock retired to the stock loft when crossed with a hen that was presented to him from his Uncle Ronnie Strong of Hexham one of the UP North Combines distance winners who fly as R Strong and son, sadly Ronnie passed away earlier this year.



**Rons Boy 2<sup>nd</sup> open 1<sup>st</sup> section C SNRPC premier Gold medal open race 2012**  
**Competing with 413 open entries**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> open is a 2 year old chequer cock on his first time over the channel one of 7 young birds he got from the late Ronnie Strong of R Strong and Son of Hexham, top Up North Combine National flyers. Quite a lot of Gary's birds are related to his late uncle's blood lines and vice versa. Ron's boy flew the club programme as a young bird and raced every race to Leicester 259 miles as a yearling. This year as a 2 year old he had every race to the inland open 340 odd miles and three weeks later entered in to Reims 566 miles during which time he had several 20 mile tosses his last toss being at 25 miles, liberated at night, 8pm and in pairs 3 days before being basketed.

What of the man? He is a quiet young looking bachelor, works as a life guard at the baths in the Fife institute at Glenrothes, has kept pigeons a long time, from the age of 9 to be exact when he lived in Perth. When he moved to Glenrothes his dad and his brother George helped build the loft that stands in Thornton today he was in a family partnership but that was long time ago and has been flying on his own for around 20 years now.

Gary was deeply saddened to loose his uncle Ronnie who lived in Hexham and flew extremely successfully at the distance in the huge Up North Combine as R Strong and son. Gary has exchanged pigeons very successfully with his uncle over the years these introductions have been responsible for many of Gary's wins at the distance. The blood lines of his loft are through major national winning pigeons from local fancier's one blue hen that was 13<sup>th</sup> open Reims and 18<sup>th</sup> open Lilliers was bred by Jim Mullen of Thornton. Within striking distance of Gary's loft lives the following well known distance national fanciers George Harley, Pete Penman, Pete Patrick now

retired from racing, a little further away was the late Jimmy Keir, John Proctor and a number of other well known Fife national lofts such as Dennis Dall, Jim Benvie and Davy Burns.

Gary houses around 50 birds each year and breeds around 60 young birds, he races on the natural system and likes his birds going on 16 day eggs. All young birds are trained and raced every race, all his yearlings fly to the inland national 340 miles and the odd one will do the channel. As 2 year olds and older he picks the races he wishes as preparation for his channel candidates added to this some private training from around 40 miles plus sitting eggs get some great results As a member of the Coaltown of Balgonie club to win and compete in this small but very strong competitive racing pigeon club you have to be dedicated to your pigeons and they have to be from winning blood lines it is without doubt that Gary Hall and his pigeons have all the right credentials.



*Gary pictured in front of his loft*

The lofts are situated at the bottom of the garden with a small young bird section to right of the 18 foot racing and breeding loft which faces south west. Feeding is traditional beans peas barley wheat and some maize plus the odd tit bit. Gary is a dedicated distance pigeon fancier his pigeons mean everything to him and as I have found over the years is the only consistent factor in the winning and racing of distance pigeons, for surely if he continues this dedication he will eventually win a premier position at the distance.

The committee of the SNRPC congratulate Gary Hall on winning his SNRPC Champion Bronze awards and thank him for his continued support of the SNRPC. I am sure it will not be to long before Gary will be claiming further Champion awards.

Text: Ian M Brown Photos Duncan Knox.

