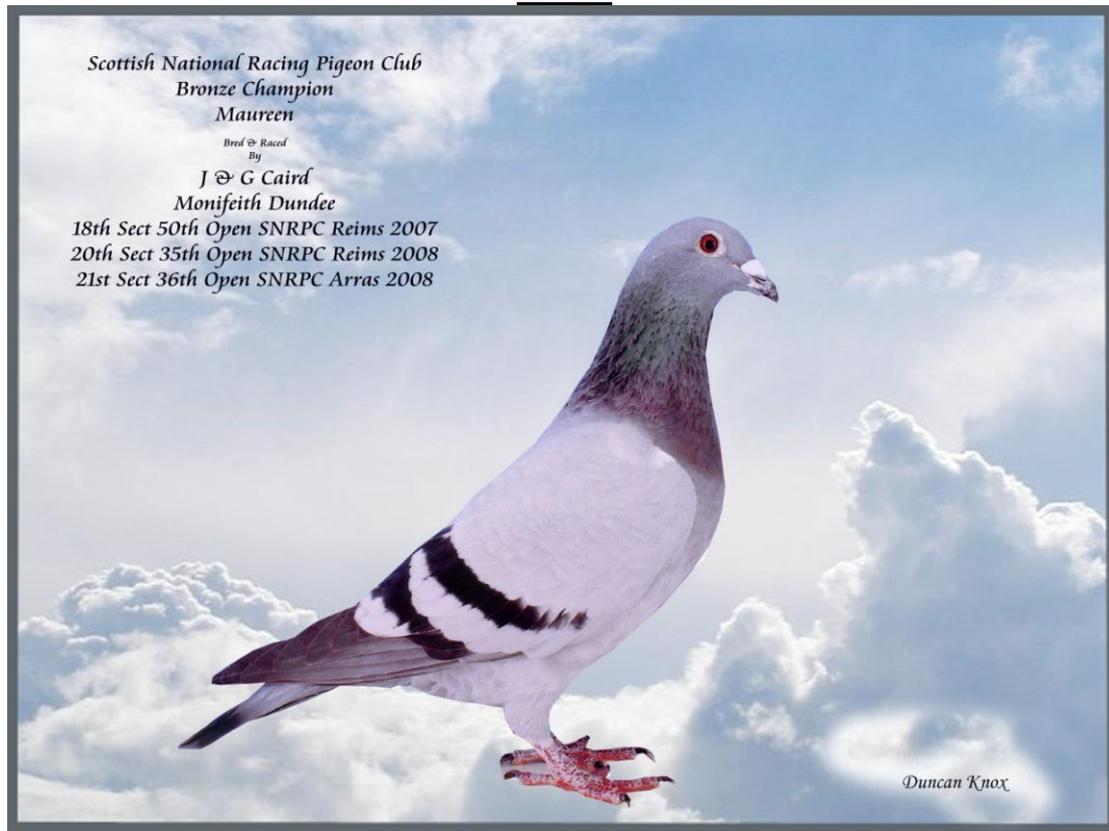


CHAMPIONS OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL RACING PIGEON CLUB
2010

The 12th report on the champions of the SNRPC is on Grant Caird of Monifeith Dundee. Grants name has appeared with great regularity for a number of years on the Scottish distance results. Of late he has been to the fore in the SNRPC distance races and has won the Dewar Trophy with the SHU and now achieved a Bronze champion award with the SNRPC for his efforts. Grant also takes part in the official side of the fancy and for a time was an SHU delegate for Dundee, at present he is a committee member of the SNRPC and the convenor for the Dundee marking station.

Grant Caird of Rattary Street Monifeith Dundee SNRPC Bronze Champion
Award



SNRPC Bronze Champion Maureen

This good Blue hen as a 2 year old in 2007 flew with the SNRPC from our Reims gold medal race a distance of 585 miles winning 50th open and 18th in section C competing with 575 open entries and 190 in the section. This the SNRPCs premier distance race and was flown after a 5 day hold over with our birds being 7 days in the basket from the day of marking plus a mid-day liberation made this a very demanding and difficult race for all entries with only the most courageous pigeons making the open result or in race time. In 2008 Grant decided to send his blue hen Maureen-named after his wife- back to Reims and was delighted to win 35th open and 20th in section C a very good performance competing with 450 open entries and 180 in the section this was also a hard race flown after a 2 day hold over with another mid morning liberation.

In the same year 2008 Grant put his Bronze champion back to the channel 4 weeks later this time from Arras some 510 miles to Monifeith and this hard working blue hen won 35th open and 21st section C. Competing With 625 open entries and 308 of these from section C a decidedly great effort and making her worthy of being an SNRPC Bronze Champion.



Photo of Grant Caird in his loft in Monifeith.

The Sunday Duncan and I decided to visit the four SNRPC champion winning lofts in the Dundee area, thankfully turned out to be sunny and dry but a little cool and when we eventually found Grants address in the early afternoon in Monifeith it was still so. Grant Caird has kept or been associated with racing pigeons since around 1948 when he was 12 and it was his father who had kept racing pigeons that first got him interested. Grant has kept the partnership name of J and G Caird ongoing even though he is now on his own. The lofts are situated at the rear of his house in this well kept garden, with the tidy newly painted lofts running down the left hand side of the garden giving it a southerly outlook. 16feet in length they house some 25 pair of race birds and young birds most years. His stock birds are in a small 8 foot by 6 Loft on their own, the amount of pairs he winters depends on how well he has fared during the racing season.

Flying on the natural system he likes to give his birds as much freedom around the loft as is possible but like most of us this freedom is now seriously restricted, due to the ever present raptors which we now have to endure both around our lofts and in training and in racing. He is mainly interested in the longer distance races and his favourite pigeon being a chequer cock called the Quiet Man 7 times from National channel racing with 7 official diplomas including 4th section 11th open Falaise with the SNRPC and 1st section 12th open Falaise with the SNFC but he still enjoys his club racing as preparation training for the longer distance races, this he augments with regular 30 or 40 mile private tossing. The base strain of birds, are



Grant Caird's neat back garden lofts

Massarella Jan Ardens, with a few various well chosen local crosses and he feels the results speak for themselves as to their success for him, he breed around 30 to 40 young birds and only houses 4 pair of stock birds. He competes with 20 other members of the Dundee and district flying club which also flies within the Dundee Federation. Grant prefers to race his young birds and normally finds that his best long distance winners have been raced right out to the young bird national. He feels that Eye sign is only a guide to the pigeon's health, which of course is one of the main ingredients to winning at any distance, 2009 was a difficult year in racing terms, yet he still had some very good results. He likes to feed tic beans and a general all round mixture and adds regular Aviform and Orega Stim, two well known additives to the water on alternate days, plus he feeds Gerry Plus as a tit bit. This generally quiet pigeon man, a retired painter, is of few words but most certainly leaves his mark on the people who have met him and in this hobby of racing pigeons. A family man, who with his wife Maureen, who takes a keen interest in how his pigeons are performing supporting Grant fully in his recreation, have raised a daughter and three sons, with 8 grand children, one of these sons and 3 of the Grand children now live in Australia whom Grant had the opportunity to visit quite recently. These SNRPC champion Reports are only a mini insight into people like Grant and the recognition of their efforts in supporting this sadly rapidly disappearing recreation of Racing Pigeons. The President the officials and the committee of the Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club congratulate you on your Bronze champion and for your continued support of the SNRPC and the racing of pigeons.

Photos by Duncan Knox PRO of the SNRPC. Text by Ian M Brown Senior Vice President of the SNRPC.