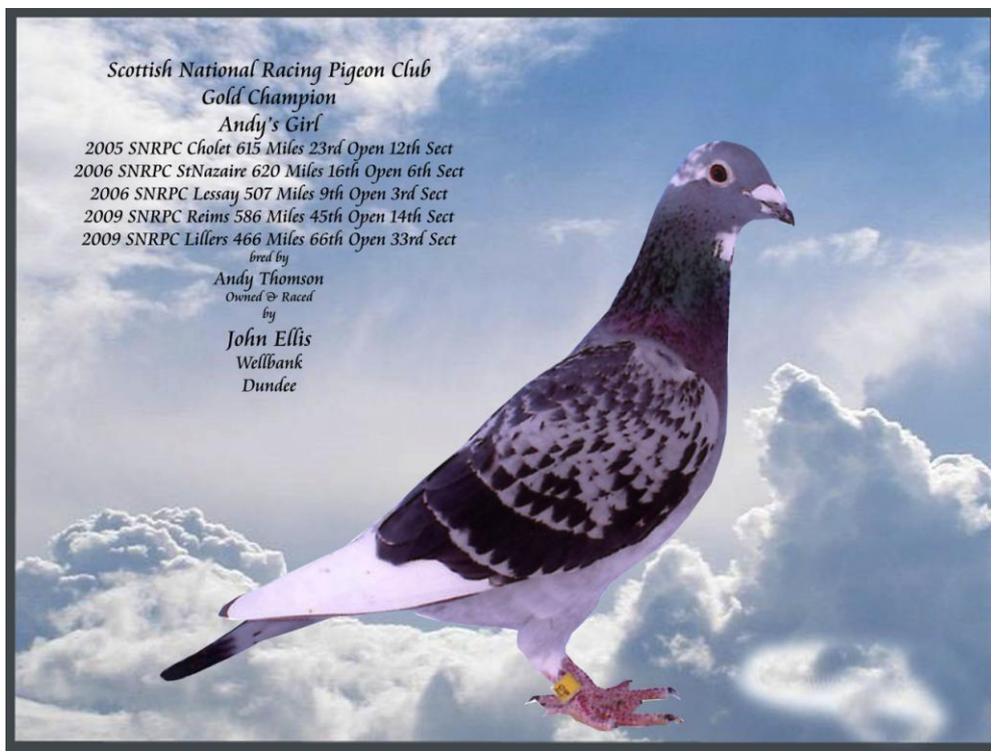


Champions of the Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club 2010

This second report on the SNRPC Champions is another of Scotland's top National flyers. This fancier has also continually won out of turn at the distance right out to 1000 miles over his many years racing pigeons, and is still doing it, even though he is now in his early eighties. John Ellis is a well known effervescent character not only of the Pigeon world but the Scottish Country Dancing scene where he was also much respected for his fiddle playing and his Scottish country Dance Band.

John Ellis of Wellbank Dundee Tayside region Winner of SNRPC Gold Champion 2009

SNRPC Gold Champion Andy,s Hen



This Blue Chequer pied hen was Bred by Andy Thomson and purchased by John at an SNFC young bird sale in 2002. She is a medium sized hen bred from Andy's very best long distance blood. John put this hard working hen through her paces with his own young birds who have to fly the programme out to the young bird National, as a yearling she would have to fly to the Inland National and as a two year old over the channel. It was as a three year old when she flew from Cholet 615 miles in 2005 with the SNRPC competing with 194 entries being 23rd Open and 12th section C the convoy was transported and liberated with the Cumbria region and the North West of England birds. In 2006 Andy's hen was sent to St Nazaire 620 miles with the SNRPC and won 16th Open and 6th section C competing with 124 entries, this time our birds were transported and liberated with the Midlands National Flying club again in 2006 2 weeks after winning at 620 miles this Gallant hen was sent to the SNRPCs Lessay race and this was a hard north east wind and won an outstanding 9th Open and 3rd section C competing against 1106 entries and flying 507 miles that was 1127 miles in 2 weeks not including any preparation races or training. In 2009 as a 7 year old she

was sent to Reims in the SNRPCs gold medal race and flew 586 miles winning 45th open and 14th section C competing with 475 entries, once again 3 weeks after this performance she went to Lilliers flying 466 miles winning 66th open and 33rd section C competing with 685 entries our birds were transported and liberated with the Up-North Combine this amazing hen had again flown over 1000 miles in 3 weeks and won into the bargain. Since 2005 Andy's girl had flown some 2800 miles not including any preparation races or training in all probability you could be looking at some 4000 miles a gallant distance hen worthy of her SNRPC Champion Gold award



John Ellis his loft and Grandson Jack.

The name John Ellis is so well known not only in the world of racing pigeons but in the Scottish country Dancing scene, on top of this as a sideline John run's a successful market Garden Business. Life has kept John busy over the years and for any one who has met or is friendly with John you would not expect anything else from this straight talking personality. However he has in his wife Pat, a retired nursing sister, a great understanding partner, there to keep him in line, but always supportively strong for him. The day Duncan Knox and I went to visit John Ellis, their Grandson Jack had stayed over allowing their Daughter and her husband a short break, the photograph shows John with his Grandson Jack at the front of the loft.

His current loft is around some 30 feet long and houses some 25 pair of racers with a number of stock birds in a small section at the entrance to the loft, he has a separate young bird section at the other end of the loft, John prefers normally to work mainly on the deep litter system due to his busy life and flies the birds on both the widowhood and the natural system. The loft faces South east and has a wide open fly in over the bedding area of his market Garden and the birds have always been allowed an open door, even though John's birds have been harassed by the Sparrow hawk and he has lost some very important birds. On speaking to John recently he has had to lock up his birds due to the persistent attacks and the loss of so many important birds

that can no longer be sustained. This is the first time he has had to do this since he started keeping racing pigeons 50 years ago.



The Wellbank Lofts of John Ellis

When one speaks about top fanciers and blood lines, it is most interesting to note that the following older fairly local men's pigeons have had a perch in John's loft and left their mark.

Matt Telfer of Dundee, Robert Strachan of Well Bank Dundee, Dave Liddle of Forfar, Jock and Hugh Reid of Stenhousemuir, Duncan Ogilvie of Stirling, these are but a few of the many fanciers from Scotland and the UK that John shared blood lines with and it is for certain that they too made their mark on his birds performances, he also had connection with the Belgian top Fancier Emiel Denys through his top distance blood lines of Tee

If the reader wishes further in depth information then you can look up the following reports that have been written about this top long distance Scottish Pigeon Fancier By Stuart Bowman in the Homing World Spring 2006 and on the SNRPC Web Site.

John Has had two other birds honoured for flying the channel for winning 5 times with the SNFC The first one was in 1977 a Black Pied hen named Wellbank Faithfull winning 53rd section Avranches and as John does sent her back the same year again to Avranches to win 172nd open she then won 38th open Rennes 1974 and in 1975 was 279th open Rennes she was injured in 1976 flying from Rennes, in 1977 having recovered from her injuries she won 285th open Rennes and in 1978 just missed the result again from Rennes this pigeon flew from France a total of 8 times.

His second Gold Award winner was a Chequer Hen named Wellbank Reliable this pigeon was related to Wellbank Faithfull being bred from a grandson of the first award winner, a host of Johns national winners appear in Reliables' pedigree, this hen winning her 5 Diplomas with the SNFC having flown the channel 5 times and won by the time she was only a 3 year old.

It would be wrong not to mention some of John's famous winners over the years, The Paris cock, Wellbank Star, Wellbank Endurance, twice from 1044 miles. Wellbank Pride and another recent winner was Wellbank Jack the Lad, lost to the hawks and many others that are mentioned by Stuart Bowmans report on John and his birds it is quite in depth on his blood lines and Performaces over the years. It is not the intention of these Champion awards to produce full blown loft reports but highlight the quality and the strength of the long distance pigeons being flown by the various members of the SNRPC.



John Ellis and SNRPC Junior Vice President Ian M Brown

John Ellis is most certainly another of the SNRPCs outstanding long distance fanciers proved by his continued exceptional performances at the distance and the extreme distance, the SNRPC are also fortunate that he has this last year became a committee member bringing a wealth of experience for the benefit of the SNRPCs members. The SNRPC congratulate him on his achievement.

Photo 5

Wellbank Blue another of John's Champions