

**CHAMPIONS OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL RACING PIGEON CLUB**  
**2010**

For our 10<sup>th</sup> report I highlight a fancier who really needs no major introduction to the Scottish or even the UK long distance fancy John McNeill of Broxburn West Lothian Central Scotland. John has raced and won at all distances over the years and continues to do so. He has a loft of superb racing pigeons, is dedicated to the fancy with his wife Marion in full support. John was on the SNRPC committee until very recently and along with Marion ran the marking station for the SNRPC at Broxburn for section D this is another dedicated Family to the Scottish racing pigeon fancy.

**JOHN MCNEILL OF BROXBURN WEST LOTHIAN CENTRAL SCOTLAND**  
**WINNER OF SNRPC SILVER CHAMPION AND SNRPC BRONZE**  
**CHAMPION AWARDS**

**SNRPC Silver Champion Solitaire**



**Solitaire**

This Blue Chequer hen named Solitaire I have handled each of the 4 times she has won from the distance and each time she impressed me with her quality as a long distance on the day winning pigeon. I have handled none better. Her first Channel race was from Falaise in 2005 as 2 year old and was with the SNRPC winning 12<sup>th</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section D flying 505 miles there were 908 open entries and 51 in section D Johns Bronze award winner Blue Gem was also 55<sup>th</sup> open and 4<sup>th</sup> section in the same race, she is a full sister to Solitaire. In 2006 in our first Gold medal race from Reims in the SNRPC she was 20<sup>th</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section D timed on the night from 561 miles one of 44 day pigeons from an exceptional SNRPC premier Gold medal race with 532 open entries and 39 in section D. John decided that as Solitaire was in such great condition he would send her back to the channel to compete in the SNRPC Lessay race being flown 3 weeks later and once again this hen did not let him down winning 17<sup>th</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section D against 1106 open entries and 104 in section D. It must be said that the birds encountered a very stiff north east wind over the channel which made this race extremely difficult the distance was 470 mile

For her 4<sup>th</sup> distance race this very special hen was sent to Reims our 2007 gold medal race and in what turned out to be an incredibly hard distance race after a 5 day hold over was timed to be 27<sup>th</sup> open and 3<sup>rd</sup> section D from 561 miles competing with 575 open entries and 62 in section D. To win her well earned Silver Champion award this hen is typical of John's current long distance family blood lines that are mainly Bussharet based with solitaire being related to Sannys memory his 1<sup>st</sup> open winner in 2000 from Beauvais

**SNRPC Bronze Champion James Delight**



**James Delight**

This Blue cock was 4 years old when sent to Cholet with the SNRPC in 2005 the distance was on 623 miles and the SNRPC convoy of just short of 200 entries was liberated with Cumbria region and west of England Amalgamation he was 37<sup>th</sup> open on the sheet and 2<sup>nd</sup> section D from 12 entries. In 2006 at 5 years old he was sent to StNazaire, the SNRPC entries of 124 were convoyed and liberated with the NFC this real distance pigeon won 22<sup>nd</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section D there were 10 section D entries the distance was again over 601 miles. In 2007 as a 6 year old James Delight was sent to Tours a distance of 618 miles the SNRPC were transported and liberated with the MNFC this good blue cock won 31<sup>st</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section D competing with 109 open entries and 11 entries in section D. James delight prior to 2005 was flown the programme as a young bird, as a yearling he flew from 300 miles plus as a 2 year old and as a 3 year old was flown over the channel along the way he has also won some good positions in these races. This good blue cock is a half brother to Solitaire Johns silver award winner same dam different sire.

### **SNRPC Bronze Champion Blue Gem**



**Photo of Blue Gem**

This Blue hen is a full sister to John's silver award winner Solitaire. In 2005 as a 2 year old she won 55<sup>th</sup> open in the SNRPC race from Falaise 505 miles to John and 4<sup>th</sup> section, competing with 908 open entries and 51 entries in section D. As a 3 year old Blue gem was sent to the SNRPC's Gold medal Premier race from Reims this was one of 44 day pigeons timed in this very good distance race at 561 miles blue gem was 39<sup>th</sup> open and 5<sup>th</sup> section D competing with 532 open entries and 39 in section D. Blue Gem was again in 2006 sent to the SNRPC Lessay race and competing with 1106 entries in the open and 104 in section D she won 77<sup>th</sup> open and 8<sup>th</sup> in the section flying 470 miles this was not an easy race and it really shows the quality of John's Pigeons being on the open results in the same year from two 500 mile channel races, both with Blue gem and Solitaire.



**Photo of John and Marion McNeill at the loft.**

John Mc Neill first kept racing pigeons at the age of 14 in Broxburn. The year was 1965 and he flew 3 young bird races as a member of the Broxburn club the loft was set in a field close to where he lived and in 1966 he won his first old bird race then in 1968 he flew Rennes with the SNFC winning 1<sup>st</sup> club and a place on the open result. From these early years in Broxburn his blood lines were mainly local strains including stock from a fancier named Arthur Miller, this was Marions uncle and the reason John and Marion met. At this time he introduced the Busschaert blood lines from a work mate from Musselburgh named Rab Halley. John Moved to Blackburn in 1971, Marian and he married and have a family of 2 girls and now 3 grand children. He joined and flew in the Blackburn Club and during this time he managed to win at club level and the distance. In 1986 John and Marian came back to their present home in Broxburn where his blood lines were extended and his distance results grew stronger and stronger. In the lofts at Broxburn John flew originally on the natural system with about 12 cocks flown on the widowhood as cost of fuel rose like we have all found and training becomes to costly and time consuming, John now flies on the roundabout system, Pairs up early February separates his birds after the young birds are away gives them two or three 40 miles tosses then they race every week end out to the distance, with only the odd pair racing on the natural system. He races around 90 birds, cocks and hens and he keeps a few chosen stock birds which he feels is very important to the future of his loft. He breeds quite a few young birds and trains and races them very hard to the distance so only the best survive. His present families are still the original Busshaert strain with Rab Hamilton of Cambus own distance family being prominent he also crossed these lines with the D J Hawkins of Doncaster Van D Beeles and Alistair Kerr of Irvine Hartogs. Without mentioning specific wins Johns pigeons appear on club, Federation, Combine and National results in both old bird and young bird racing either at the top, close to the top, or prominent on the results in

general. For anyone interested on an in depth report on John, I can recommend the Racing Pigeon of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and read an excellent report penned by Bill Wortley. The officials and the committee thank you and Marion for your major input with the SNRPC and congratulate you on your champion awards.  
Photos Duncan Knox PRO text Ian M Brown SVP.