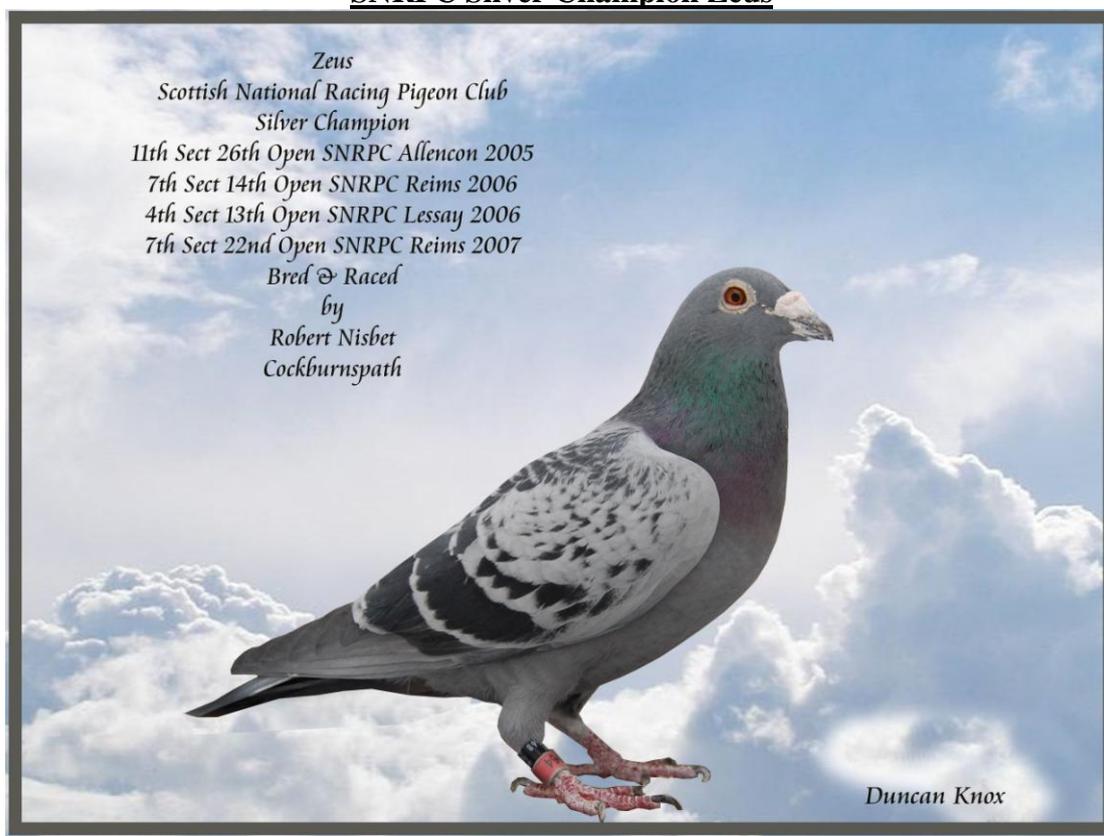


**CHAMPIONS OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL RACING PIGEON CLUB**  
**2010**

With Report number 8 we reach the half way mark on the first champion awards of the SNRPC, this report is on Robert Nisbet a much respected national winning fancier of many years, a fancier who is also known for his involvement in the official side of the pigeon world and also his family's commitment to that side of the fancy.

**Robert Nisbet of Cockburnspath Berwickshire**  
**Winner of Silver champion and Bronze Champion awards 2010**

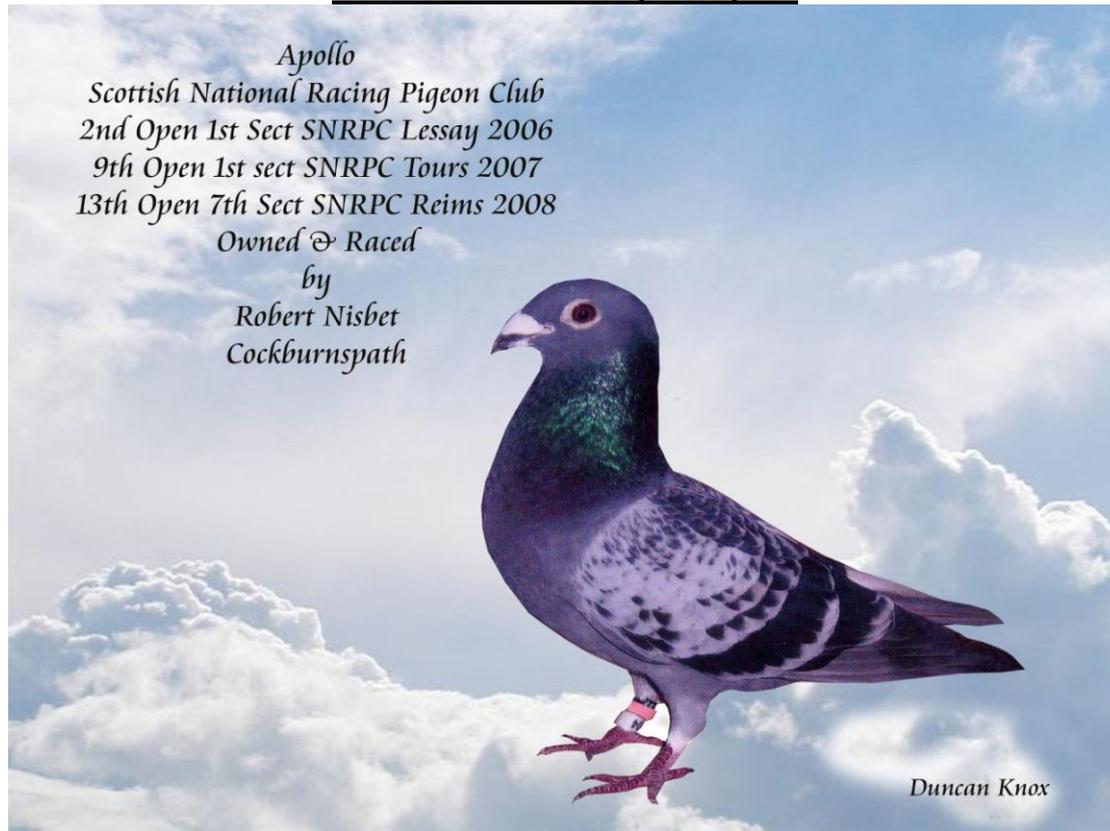
**SNRPC Silver Champion Zeus**



This Blue Chequer cock bred in 2001 was 4 year old when flown with the SNRPC in our first gold medal race from Alencon, competing with 762 entries, 190 of these in section B. The distance is just on 529 miles and Zeus won 26<sup>th</sup> open and 11<sup>th</sup> in the section with a velocity of 847. In 2006 from Reims our new Gold medal race point flying 535 miles this good distance pigeon won 14<sup>th</sup> open and 7<sup>th</sup> in section B competing with 532 entries and 120 in the section the velocity 1114, again in 2006 Robert sent this pigeon back to the channel to compete in the SNRPC Lessay race a distance of 465 miles and this brave blue cock won 13<sup>th</sup> open and 4<sup>th</sup> section B his velocity was 971 and he won against 1106 open entries and 250 in the section. In 2007 from Reims our gold medal race point he won a courageous 22<sup>nd</sup> open and 7<sup>th</sup> in section B competing with 575 entries and 140 in section B velocity 675 this was a

very hard channel race flown after a 5 day hold over when many experienced channel pigeons did not make it. This pigeon is now 9 years old and is the sire of Roberts Bronze champion. It is also of interest that this very special Chequer cock flew the entire programme as a young bird, as a yearling was flown to the coast some 350 miles as a 2 year old again went to the coast winning at the distance and as a 3 year old was flown from La ferte Bernard 500 miles plus and has been producing winners into the bargain for Robert since his retirement from racing.

### **SNRPC Bronze Champion Apolla**



**Photo of Apolla**

Roberts second champion was bred in 2004 and its first time over the channel was as a 2 year old in 2006 to Lessay. This very nice chequer cock out of 1106 open entries flying 465 miles won a superb 2<sup>nd</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section B velocity 1086 there were 250 entries in the section. In 2007 from Tours flying nearly 606 miles now three years old he won 9<sup>th</sup> open and 1<sup>st</sup> section B. there was 109 open entries transported and liberated with the MNFC. In 2008 this special distance racing pigeon was sent to the SNRPCs gold medal race from Reims 535 miles and won 13<sup>th</sup> open and 7<sup>th</sup> section B competing with 450 open entries and 114 in the section velocity 914. This is a first class distance channel pigeon and has well earned its Champion award.



**Photo of Robert Nisbet at the loft.**

Robert Nisbet originally hails from Pencaitland this area being one of Scotlands hot beds of long distance racing pigeon men but more than that it is the land of the famous Glenkinchie whisky distillery and once the coal minning industry at Monckton Hall.

In the beginning it was Roberts Father, John Nisbet with his Uncle who successfully flew as Nisbet Brothers in Pencaitland later Robert eventually flying with his father. The main employer in the area was the Monckton Hall colliery where Robert worked and where he eventually became a deputy manager at the age of 50 some 25 years ago though he is now retired.

These original birds from John Nisbet and his uncle are still the basis of the lofts today and in some instances have helped in the formation of other lofts in the area, as well as continuing to win at the distance for Robert to day.

Robert and Eva have 2 grown up Daughters June and Evelyn. June is married to Gordon Paton who also has his own successful loft. June for around 7 years was the secretary of the SNFC. Evelyn is married to Farmer Peter Hood and together they run Cove farm an agricultural farm which can be seen from Roberts loft situation.

Robert now lives in Dunbar which is some way from where his current lofts are situated and faces a fairly lengthy journey each day all year to tend to his birds. The lofts face South East looking across Pease bay, the main loft is about 32 feet long and has 4 sections for old birds, breeding, racing and young birds and there is a smaller separate stock loft at one end, sited opposite is a small caravan which is Roberts office, store and look out shelter and where he can make a cup of tea waiting for the birds to arrive. With the magnificent views and the openness of his situation he tells me that it is of major concern regarding raptors both the Peregrine and the Sparrowhawk when he lets his pigeons out, even as his birds arrive back on race days, hardly a day goes by without an attack of some kind.

Robert is a member of the Cockburnspath club which he joined in 1993 when he came to live in Dunbar, the Cockburnspath club flies with the East of Scotland Federation

of which he is president and the membership of the club and federation are all prominent distance flyers and Robert more than holds his own in all competition.

Robert keeps around 25 pair of pigeons and breeds forty or fifty young birds each year. the old birds are flown on the round about system and he uses stall traps, he also flies the whole race programme with his birds old and young, when his old birds reach around 235 miles he decides what longer races they will go to and what birds to send Robert likes to make up his own feeding mixtures the basis being an Irish mix. Barley features prominently in this loft in the hopper during the winter.

Robert feels quite strongly that raptors are decimating our racing pigeons, during racing, training and around the lofts and the enjoyment of watching and racing our pigeons is being lost to justify this one sided law. Convincing the powers that govern the rules protecting them that the anecdotal evidence is true and that our birds are being persecuted and the law needs to be changed is another matter.

This is another dedicated family whose life over the years has been tied to the racing pigeon world in Scotland in so many ways, competing and official. The SNRPC congratulates Robert Nisbet on his Champion awards.

Photo's Duncan Knox SNRPC PRO Text Ian M Brown SNRPC JVP.