

CHAMPIONS OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL RACING PIGEON CLUB
2010

For the fourth report on the SNRPC champions we highlight W Mitchell and son of New Trows Lesmahagow. This is a family partnership of Father and son, in an area of West Scotland that has many National family partnerships that excel in distance racing, with Lesmahagow itself being a hotbed of successful long distance National fanciers. I am delighted to be reporting on Willie Mitchell his son Willy Junior and to mention a potential third member of this partnership Willie Mitchell's Grandson Stuart who is eight and takes an interest in the birds.

W Mitchell & Son of 270 New Trows Lesmahagow Section E West area winner
of SNRPC Bronze Champion
2010



SNRPC Bronze Champion Margaret

This 5 year old Blue Chequer Hen is a definite distance hen lovely round bodied with good feather texture and was presented to the Mitchell's as a late bred young bird in 2005 by Margaret Gilbert a much respected member of the Lemahagow club who wins out of turn at the distance. This good hen was flown to Leicester as a yearling which is around 230 miles, then as a 2 year old she had Wetherby then Leciester and jumped into the SNRPCs Gold medal race from Reims distance 555 miles and this her first try in 2007 from over the channel, she won 50th open and 11th section E competing with 575 entries and 105 in the section the 2007 race was flown after a 5 day holdover and proved to be a very hard race In 2008 again from Reims and with

the same races prior to the Gold medal race this good hen now as a 3 year old won 38th open and 1st section a very good performance against 450 open entries and 103 in section E. In 2009 with the same training and the same racing prior to the SNRPC Reims Gold Medal race she was placed 73rd and 11th section E competing with 449 open entries and 102 in the section. Their Bronze Champion was sent to the channel on 14 days to over sitting, the partnership is not too sure if they will send this good 4 year old distance hen back to Reims in 2010, it is understandable to be apprehensive as multiple long distance racing winners are difficult to come by and I personally could not blame them if they put her to stock in 2010. The latest news from the partnership is that SNRPC Champion Margaret has been retired and from the young birds bred this year two are out to 200 miles. It is worth mentioning that also in 2009 and also from the SNRPC gold medal Reims race this partnership were 20th open and 6th section E with a 2 year old Chequer hen this pigeon is home bred and we hope to hear more about her in the future, this year 2010 she homed 14 days after the Reims race unfortunately hawked but has recovered enough to try again.



Wull Mitchell & Son William take a well earned break from their busy joinery business to be photographed in front of their lofts.

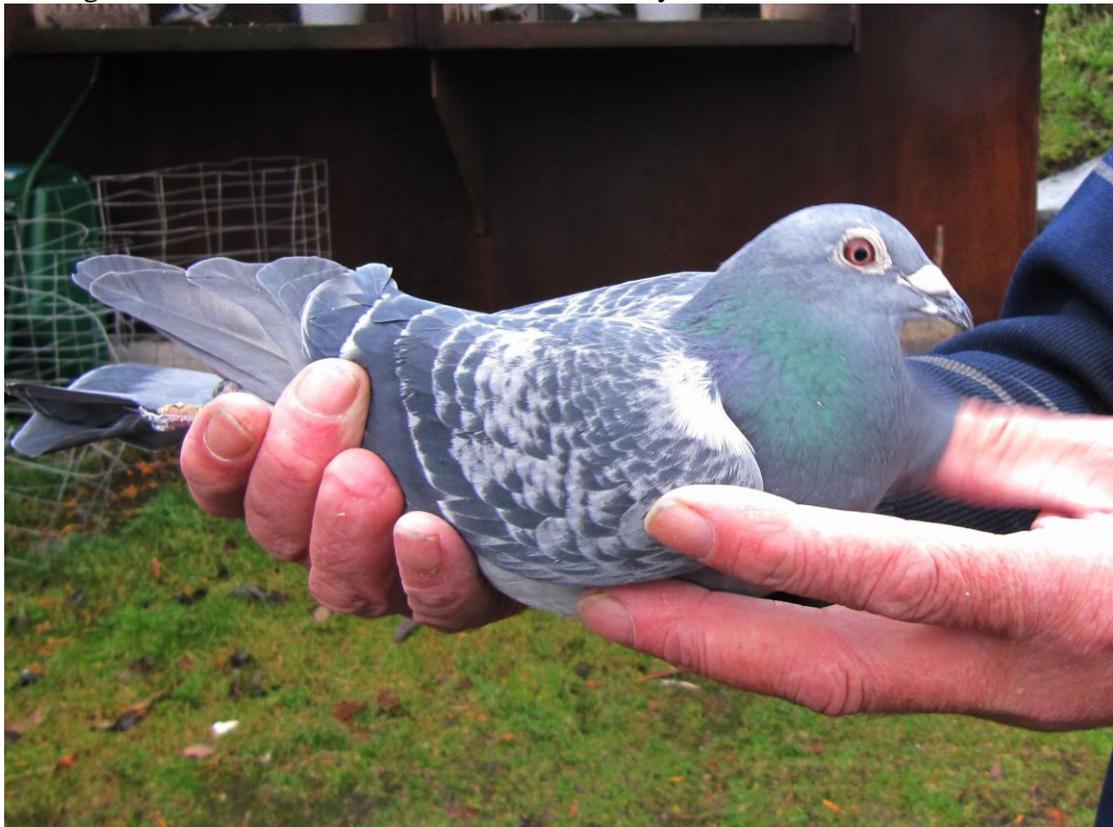
The partnership was formed in 1966, when young Willie was only 10. Over the year's father and son have enjoyed breeding and racing their pigeons in club racing but especially at the distance where they get great enjoyment competing with their pigeons and waiting for their arrival from the distance.

The lofts are about 44 feet long and in three separate sections close together, one for young birds at 12feet long and two by 16 feet for old birds. They are situated below the house and on a slope above the Joinery business workshops the fly in is good and the lofts face south easterly. The lofts as you would imagine are well built with the partnership being very successful joiners running some very specialist joinery work

with some very intricate wood machinery producing doors windows and staircases to high spec and individual private design, this year they produced an outside hard wood stair way for the whisky distillers on Isla. They house around 24 pair of race birds in three sections two for old birds and the other for young birds. They do not keep any stock birds preferring to breed from the birds that make it in the racing. Young Stuart Willie senior's grand son loves to help move the young birds through to the young bird section and is seen holding the SNRPC Bronze Champion Margaret in fact I am told that if his mother cannot find him in the house he is more than often found sitting in the loft watching the birds

The partnership fly's on the natural system and are not interested in the celibate way or round about systems

Feeding is an all round premier gold mix fed all year with a few peanuts for the longer races cleaning out is shared by the partnership and is done every day usually in the early morning. the loft is run for enjoyment of the family who are all extremely interested in how the pigeons are performing. Original Blood lines are from Kerr Stainthorpe Lesmahagow, Billie Davidson and son Coalburn and the late Jimmy Frame of Lesmahagow and Bobby Hislop Earlier success at the distance was with a red hen oh Bobbies taking 2nd and 3rd section 1976 and 1977 from Avranches The partnership fly with Lesmahagow club and the South Lanarkshire federation and have had regular success in the club federation over the years



On the day that Duncan Knox and I visited all the family were present and we enjoyed some lovely home baking and tea. Willie Juniors Wife Alexis was extremely proud of their daughter Laura who is a member of the Scottish pony club and it was evident by the cups and prize tickets that were on display a bit of an expert at it, her grand dad proudly spoke of the fact that she has been chosen for the Scottish pony club team and we wish Laura all success in the future. For me it is important to see this very special

family connection that exists with the Mitchell family in an era of many dysfunctional families Duncan and I thoroughly enjoyed our day at New Trows Lesmahgow

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with the Mitchell's and to see the enthusiasm that emanates from this partnership congratulations on your SNRPC Bronze Champion award and more future success at the distance racing.

Photos by Duncan Knox SNRPC PRO

Text By Ian M Brown SNRPC Junior Vice President.