

*Scottish National Racing Pigeon club*  
*2021 Leicester Young Bird National*

Our last national race of the 2021 season got underway on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September following a one-day holdover, convoyer Matt Boyle released the small convoy of 278 birds at 8am into a light Southeast wind, weather conditions for once this season were good so we were optimistic that a decent race would follow. It's a pleasant change to report on a successful race for once this year when you reflect on how erratic the racing has been unfortunately this showed by the number of entries in the race with many fanciers having already stopped what youngsters they had left for the season.

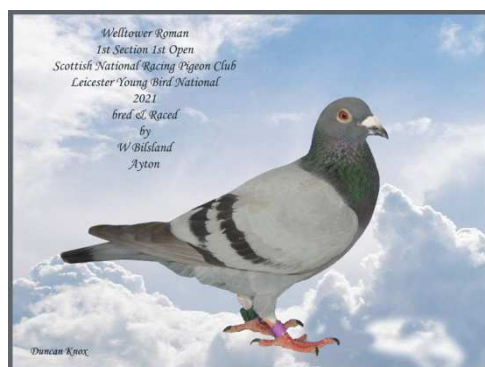
**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Open W Bilslan Ayton**



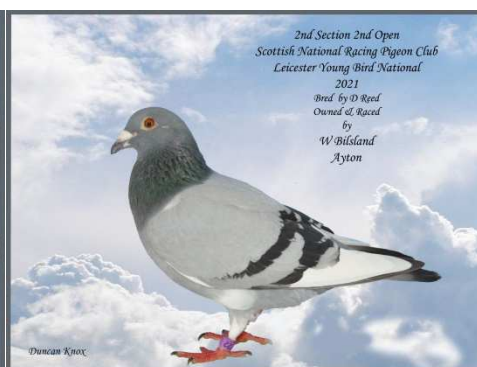
*Billy admiring some of his young bird team*

Here we witness yet again another wonderful performance from this champion fancier; Billy's meteoric rise to the top of the pigeon sport since moving to the small Berwick shire village of Ayton 9 years ago has been phenomenal winning no less than 13 National races.

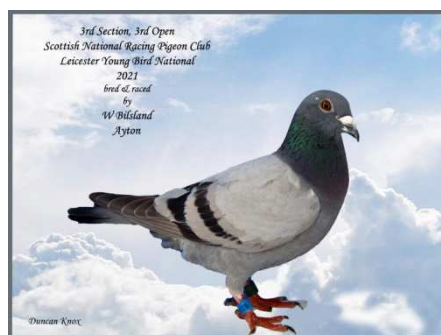
Billy's winner this time is a well bodied blue cock his sire is his very successful Vandenabeele bloodlines from "Pre Olympic" the blue cocks dam was a good racer winning 5<sup>th</sup> open YB National 2013, twice open Tyne and Tweed section U.N.C. ,1<sup>st</sup> open SNFC Buckingham 2014 then put to stock where she has bred some good pigeons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> open winner is a small to medium blue white flight cock bred by Billy's friend Davy Reed from Welltower Neil 1<sup>st</sup> open SNFC Leicester. 3<sup>rd</sup> open is another blue cock his sire was 10<sup>th</sup> open SNFC Maidstone the dam of the 3<sup>rd</sup> open was bred by another of Billy's friends Billy Holland and was 3<sup>rd</sup> section 6<sup>th</sup> open SNFC Maidstone 2020. All three flew Wetherby twice then two weeks before the national they flew Worksop 180 miles then a week's rest before going to the Leicester national. All three where early bred youngsters flown on roundabout and trained twice a week from 40 miles, all three featured in the Border fed result from Wetherby which is always difficult for anyone flying north of the river Tweed.



1<sup>st</sup> Open



2<sup>nd</sup> Open



3<sup>rd</sup> Open

## 1<sup>st</sup> Section C 11<sup>th</sup> Open Bruce McKenzie Dundee



*Bruce McKenzie's 1<sup>st</sup> section C winner*

Bruce is without doubt one of our top fanciers he has 3x1<sup>st</sup> National wins to his name including the Yearling National from Arras and 13x1<sup>st</sup> sections 8 with the SNRPC and 5 with the SNFC. Bruce's section winner from Leicester is a chech hen her dam was a full sister of "Big Red 65" 1<sup>st</sup> section 4<sup>th</sup> open SNFC Maidstone 394 miles, 16<sup>th</sup> open SNFC Ypres 460 miles and is also a fed and combine winner, the sire of the chech hen was 1<sup>st</sup> club 3<sup>rd</sup> fed Wakefield, 1<sup>st</sup> club 1<sup>st</sup> fed, 1st Combine Lauder this season

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Section C 22<sup>nd</sup> Open John Wiseman Dundee



John's 2<sup>nd</sup> section winner was a mealy hen flown on the darkness to the perch she was clocked at 14.00 right on the six hour mark for the 281 miles. Her sire is a grandson of a Dutch Pigeon called "New Rainman" and the grand dam is a daughter of Bruce McKenzie's national winner "Red Tornado"

The dam of the mealy hen is a granddaughter of "New Rainman" when paired to a son of one of Billy Bilsland's national winners; this pair also bred a pigeon to win 45<sup>th</sup> open in the 2019 Golden Algarve final race.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Section C 23<sup>rd</sup> Open Gary Hall Glenrothes**

Gary's 3<sup>rd</sup> section winner is a Herman Ceusters hen, small to medium bred by Andy Gregson of Preston, she was sent to the national to chipping eggs on the day of basketing. She was in such good condition on her return she was sent back to the SNFC Huntingdon race the following week and homed at 10.40 the next morning.

### **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Section D, Robert Hamilton Cambus.**



*Robert Hamilton Cambus 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Section D*

Robert has capped another excellent season by winning section D this is the third year in succession he has won the section in the Young Bird National and a total of three 1<sup>st</sup> section wins for the season, wonderful flying yet again by this top fancier. The section winner is from his Anton Shultz long distance family that he recently introduced he was one of six Robert purchased and so far they have stepped up to the mark. The 3<sup>rd</sup> section winner is from Roberts old lines of Billy Napper Up North Combine fame crossed with a Kirkland pigeon the 3<sup>rd</sup> section winner has raced steady this year winning 10<sup>th</sup> Fed the week before the national, both pigeons were raced natural to the perch.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Section D, Chic Devine Aloa.**



*Chic Devine with his 2<sup>nd</sup> section D winner*

Chic's blue pied hen 2323 has raced very well for him this season she previously won 1<sup>st</sup> club 1<sup>st</sup> fed from Darlington her sire is a Paul Macloney and her dam a Goeff Kirkland, there are many federation winners in both familys

## 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Section E Jock Leadbetter, Slammanan



*Jock Leadbetter Slammanan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Section E*

Jock had an excellent race clocking the first four in section E. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> section winners were bred by Peter Keogh Broxburn in fact the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> section winners were nest mates bred out a John Bosworth cock paired to a hen off Peters Frans Zwols via Willie Donachie, the other being a grandson off Peters 9144 “Pomona Producer” his main breeding cock(Bosworth) when paired to a daughter off Virtues Pride the 2011 Reims National and gold medal winner for Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath. Jocks section winner was raced previously from Alnwick 91 miles where she was his 10<sup>th</sup> bird home from his 21 entries she then went to Darlington 135 miles again his 10<sup>th</sup> home out of 21 then the young bird national 255 miles when she homed to win the section.

Overall we must consider this a successful race with many fanciers enjoying 100% returns; from the 278 birds entered there was exactly half of the convoy 139 on the open result. The conditions certainly favored the east side of the country which is evident when you look at the result but in saying that there were some excellent performances in other sections, worth a special mention was the performances of Kevin Whitham who had 4 birds in the first 10 of the open also my club mate George Brookes of Dunbar who clocked his 5 entries with them all featuring in the first 65 of the open result, Jock Leadbetter of Slammanan took the first 4 in section E. The section C winner was Bruce McKenzie of Dundee who also took a very creditable 11<sup>th</sup> open position flying 279 miles, and John Wiseman who was second section again into Dundee, Robert Hamilton capped yet another tremendous season by winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> section D of course the performance of Billy Bilsland's loft not only did he have the first three in the open he had 5 birds in the first 10 with a total of 11 pigeons in the open result out of his 12 entries.

Well it's all over for another year it just seems to have flashed by, let's keep our fingers crossed that we get back to Channel racing next year.

Duncan Knox

SNRPC Press Officer