

## Solent South Road Federation Lessay

Hoorah! Back to the pigeon racing that we all expect and love in this federation, high quality racing across the channel. The sun was shining (as in sun on the baskets), and birds belonging to their 268 owners were liberated at 1100hrs into a light south west wind, which turned south east on route. The count of 4006 birds is not as high as would usually be expected in this first race from France, but in the circumstances, with the DEFRA 7 day rule still the blight of the fancy I feel that this is can certainly be viewed as respectable.

Two weeks ago if the question was asked 'Does lightning strike twice at the same spot?' at the **Wootton & Bashley WMFC** the answer would have been a resounding 'No!'. But here we are with this club celebrating our second 1<sup>st</sup> Solent South Road Federation win in a row. How we cherish a bit of east in that wind! R Byford, Son & Grandson of Brockenhurst saw their 2yr old mealy widowhood cock GB06X67475 'hammering towards the loft' achieving 1725 ypm.

A great win for this most openly enthusiastic of trios. Bob, Robbie and Ben restarted their racing in 2006, with Bob and Robbie having raced before.



They have a super setting in the New Forest, with a clear drop across fields to their very smart Lench Loft. Their winning pigeon was bred by them from two quality Janssen of Arendonke stock birds supplied by the Ponderosa Stud. The sire is a direct son of 'Commander Bond'. The dam is a daughter of 'Lichte 05' from the Hans Eijerkamp & Sons, Greenfield Stud. This fed winner is from their first round when paired together for the first time, although Robbie tells me that he is also racing full brothers to this cock and they too are showing to be full of promise. The mealy is of similar breeding to their 15<sup>th</sup> Section, 16<sup>th</sup> Open CSCFC Prize winner from Fougeres. All the Byfords would like to express gratitude to Tony of Ponderosa for the supply of such top quality birds. So how do they do it? Well lets be honest, you've only got to look at the ample girth of Robbie, and the racing snake size of Ben to realise that Ben is the grafter of this loft with Robbie masterminding operations. They believe that it is imperative to have the racing team ready and rearing to go right at the start of the season as it is usually at this time of year there could be at touch of east in the wind for the early channel races. Historically it then returns to the usual prevailing south west before sometimes turning back to east towards the end of the season. The widowhood cocks are parted early from their hens and very well trained before the season, usually from the west. The cocks are usually flown at home early in the morning for only about half an hour, with training taking place in the afternoons about 5 times a week, weather permitting from about 20 miles. The Byfords feed Versalage and Beyers feeds with Gem Supplements, breaking down the cocks early in the week. The hens are shown before

basketing and from about ½ hr upwards after racing dependent on the distance and race. The plan is to pair up the birds later in the season and get the hens racing.

The rule of Wootton & Bashley is that ALL members must have a job in the club. All I can say is thank goodness for Ben, who now is on the basketing team, rides shotgun to the federation lorry and is one of the loaders there. With the introduction of our new Unikon ETS systems he has now volunteered to be the clubs 'YTS ETS Operator!' but Robbie.....well, he talks a good job.....

What a pleasure to visit a clearly delighted Trevor Green of Ashurst, who won 1<sup>st</sup> Club **Test Valley RPC**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fed. His really classy blue cock GB05T02134 is from Marc De Kock stock that originated from Tony Carter. This family are highly rated by Trevor who feels that they are particularly reliable in the Open/National/Classic races and can score from any distance. His best performance he feels was being 2<sup>nd</sup> Sect. in the CSCFC Nantes in two consecutive years. Next week sees both this pigeon and his full sister being the main representatives of this loft in the CSCFC Lessay race.



Trevor starts each season with 36 Birds raced on a roundabout system enabling him to race both cocks & hens. The birds are fed Bucktons & Gem feeds, and have 'a quick fly' in the mornings before he goes to work and then are trained after work once or twice a week. Congratulations Trevor.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wootton & Bashley WMFC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Solent South Road Federation was....'Ray Hoare & Claire' of Lyndhurst.....yes, me! My little blue two year old hen GB06N59920 took third position on 1717 ypm. Her sire was the full brother to my Pau Cock, Leen Boer/KO Nipius. He won 2<sup>nd</sup> Solent Fed as a yearling when the fed turned north for short time. I lost him from a freaky brilliantly sunny pre season training flight from...Hamble... yes, approx 6 miles. Her dam is a Janssen hen whose parents were from Ron Ayres of Highcliffe. Her next outing will be with the Central Southern Classic flying Club Lessay when she will be my pool bird. Those who new my late father will remember him lamenting about my inability to choose a pool bird. Will the money weigh her wings down as so often happens? I'll have to wait and see.

3<sup>rd</sup> Club Wootton & Bashley was Club Secretary and last weeks Fed winner Don Ellis with his super consistent little blue Janssen/ Van Reet hen GB07X41003. 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fed last year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fed last week and yet again winning another card.

**Channel SRFC** showed their strength and quality in this race by achieving good velocities in what was adverse wind conditions for an east of the fed club. Mr & Mrs V Venables took top position, 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 10<sup>th</sup> Fed with GB05N60732, a Blue Cheq Cock on 1686 ypm. This pigeon was bred by George Wood from the Isle of Wight. 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 34<sup>th</sup> Fed was Moody & King with their Maurice Matthews blue hen GB02N46035 still obviously flying on top form on 1652 ypm. A previous Fed winner herself, she had also bred two fed winners. This partnership also took 3<sup>rd</sup> Club, 35<sup>th</sup> Fed with another blue hen GB07N32220 on 1651 ypm.

**Romsey SRFC**, where 11 members sent 134 birds had a real tussle for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Club chairman Colin Edwards scraped in with his blue Van Reet widowhood cock. GB06N01747 flew very consistently as a yearling and is the same way bred as last weeks winner. 1686 ypm proved

good enough also to secure, 11<sup>th</sup> Fed. Richard Bull & Charlie Vincent were right up there too. Their Janssen GB07R06793 Cock was a whisper behind on 1685 ypm for 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 12<sup>th</sup> Fed, only the fourth yearling home in the whole federation. A true gentlemen of pigeon racing Cyril Lever with his wife Jean took 3<sup>rd</sup> Club, 49<sup>th</sup> Fed on 1638 ypm with GB06J03284, a red cheq Janssen cock which was sent while driving to the nest.

**Camrose PC** saw 13 members sending 185 birds. Young Billy Gilbert took top honours 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 13<sup>th</sup> Fed with the Red Cheq Buschart cock GB05C63463 bred by Jimmy Webb, flown natural on 1682 ypm. 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 21<sup>st</sup> Fed was Camrose Press Officer Peter Campbell, with a Blue Cheq yearling 'Silver Toy' cock, GB07N09914, flown round about. This pigeon was 4<sup>th</sup> Guernsey as a Young bird. Club Chairman, and Solent Fed Committee member is Dave Hawthorn who took 3<sup>rd</sup> Club, 32<sup>nd</sup> Fed. His GB06N82996 blue cheq hen is a grand daughter of his CSCFC Bergerac winner, and was 36<sup>th</sup> Solent Fed from Kingsdown last year. Her dam is of Ebony Aarden breeding, while the sire is a Southwell. She is raced naturally.

**Parade FC** had a well supported race with 15 members sending 246 birds. Solent Fed Chairman Lee Paterson won 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 15<sup>th</sup> Fed with GB07P33952, a blue bar cock on 1677 ypm. John Byling Buschart x R O Jones Jan Aarden is the breeding of this winner. The cock is flown naturally and was sent sitting a day old youngster. This is a proven family with a brother winning 1<sup>st</sup> Club Cholet for Stuart Woolger last year. Another committee member is Dave Mitchell who is always in the cards. His blue bar cock GB06N64278 took 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 20<sup>th</sup> Fed. This good position came as no surprise as last season this bird won 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 11<sup>th</sup> Fed Picaville 2, and both parents have in the past taken 1<sup>st</sup> positions and Fed cards. Dave flies his pigeons naturally, and this cock was flying back to his hen. 3<sup>rd</sup> Club, 56<sup>th</sup> Fed was Hamid Laakvand with GB04N35588, a Blue Cheq Cock on 1634 ypm that has in the past been very consistent for him. This is the first season Hamid has raced his birds on the widowhood system. All at Parade were queuing behind Tony Hounsell at the bar as he won the club's £5 noms!

**Gosport Club** had 7 members sending 108 Birds. This turned out to be a family affair for both the birds and the winner. The clear winner winning 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 19<sup>th</sup> Fed was Paul Ayling on 1667 ypm, with a 2 year old blue cheq hen flown on roundabout. She was bred by Paul's dad John, the sire being a brother to John's Pau NFC winner. Runner up was John Ayling with a natural blue cheq hen on 1590 ypm. This is related to the winner, with the dam being John's 1<sup>st</sup> Sect, 9<sup>th</sup> Open, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Dax hen, and is the sire of John's best Pau birds, and a cousin to Paul's winner. Paul also took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize with a yearling roundabout hen on 1576 ypm. This is a Janssen. Ponderosa x Brian Wall De Klak.

**Portsmouth Manor Park** where 141 birds competed, Patrick Harris was the victor with his naturally flown Blue Cheq Hen GB05N17330 on 1662 ypm to win 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 23<sup>rd</sup> Fed. Runner up was Mr & Mrs D Tolfrey with their widowhood yearling cock GB07P24537 on 1635 ypm. K W Wearn took third with GB05N67728 reaching 1612 ypm, flown on a natural system.

**Milton HS** must be one the toughest clubs to win in the federation, with 21 members sending 294 Birds. Triumphant this week are Albie Webb & Son with a yearling blue chequer widowhood cock from Tony Carter Vanden Plas stock. 1657 ypm was enough to secure 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 27<sup>th</sup> Fed position. Not far behind was another widowhood cock. John Good's De Klak x Campius yearling was 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 28<sup>th</sup> Fed on 1655 ypm. Third position went to Robertson & Vaizy with one of his Staf Van Reet widowhood cocks. This two year old on 1647 wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Club, 40<sup>th</sup> Fed.

**Eastleigh Irish Society RPC** sent 90 birds. S Sollit timed in his Jock Reid two year dark Cheq Hen GB06E64968 on 1657 ypm to win 1<sup>st</sup> Club, 29<sup>th</sup> Fed. Flown naturally, the mother of this pigeon was bred by S Mc Manus. D Hayles & Son's black yearling hen, GB07E74664 took 2<sup>nd</sup> Club on 1620 ypm. This is not the first card for this naturally flown bird, having been 4<sup>th</sup> Club Truro last year. K Pritchard was 3<sup>rd</sup> Club with his GB06N84135 Van Reet widowhood cock on 1595 ypm.

**Racecourse** saw Mark Ellins win his second x 1<sup>st</sup> Club already! His yearling Maurice Matthews cock on 1629 ypm was bred by Bob Thompson and also takes 59<sup>th</sup> Fed position. 2<sup>nd</sup> Club, 94<sup>th</sup> Fed went to Joey Clements on 1597 ypm with a stray off Stuart Luff of Closter. Lee Freshney took 3<sup>rd</sup> position with a 9 year old cock bred by Mr & Mrs Whitley & Son.

**Fawley** saw Mr & Mrs Cox take 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> position. First home was their Blue Cheq yearling Janssen Cock flown naturally on 1624 ypm. This pigeon had good form last year winning 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> Club and 18<sup>th</sup> Solent fed as a youngster. Not far behind was their Blue Bar Janssen x Buschart Hen on 1621 ypm. Keeping it in the family taking third prize was James Cox with his yearling Buschart dark pied hen, flown naturally to make 1534 ypm.

**Portchester** had 5 members sending 75 Birds. Mr & Mrs I Mitchell took first prize with GB04R40835, a dark cheq hen on 1603 ypm flown naturally. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize was won by E Evans. GB06P36892, a blue bar hen flew 1597 ypm. 3<sup>rd</sup> was F Smith with a three year old blue cheq hen GB05P46605 on 1565 ypm, flown naturally.

Last but not least in this week's report is **Bognor & Chichester SRFC**. Lets face it lads & lass-es. Being the mostly easterly club in the fed this day, with the weather conditions as they were, it was never going to be easy for you. 16 members sent 226 birds and top position went to M Morter with GB05N31056, a blue cheq cock flying 1520 ypm. A Herman x Janssen from Dicky Marsh, this pigeon is kept naturally and was flown to chipping eggs. This is not his first 1<sup>st</sup> prize as he has won 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> Prizes Stratford on the North Road, a good performance. On 1420 ypm was the two year old silver cock GB06A01089 of Crammond & Langstaff on 1420 ypm taking 2<sup>nd</sup> position. This is a Vanden A Belle form M & D Evans as was their 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winner, a blue bar cock GB07N87289 on 1414 ypm. Congratulations to Messrs Crammond & Langstaff who won the South Coast Fed last week.

### **Conveyers Report**

All birds loaded at Portsmouth and Southampton by 2130hrs. Boarded ferry at Portsmouth 2315hrs. Transporter on top deck in the open air. Sides up on transporter, birds getting good flow of air.

On site at 0830hrs. All birds watered and rested for about 2½ hours. Birds liberated at 1100hrs after we had received an update from Tony regarding the weather. Weather at race point sunshine and blue sky, a few clouds. Wind mostly south with a slight touch of west. Birds cleared the site in seconds to the North. This was the first time we had used this site and really thought it was first class. No wires or obstructions. Its far better than the Picauville site.

A real worker for the Solent South Road Federation, Dave Cave, our Social Secretary, organised the 'Second bite of the Cherry' breeder buyer sale held recently at Bitterne Park PC headquarters. Prize money is now assured at

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £350 Breeder, £350 Buyer. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £150, Breeder, £150 Buyer and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £75 Breeder, £75 Buyer. The race will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008 from Guernsey. Dave has asked me to convey his gratitude to all at Bitterne Park for their hospitality, and in particular Tony Cowan, master auctioneer/ director of ceremonies who he assures me always obliges when asked?? ( I make no further comment).

Solent federation members are politely reminded..... **'DON'T FORGET THE £1 PER BIRD LOFT NOM, FALAISE 2, 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008'**

Many Thanks to those who sent in their reports this week. If your club is not mentioned please remind your Press Officer that you too would like your fed, your club, your loft, and your pigeons promoted.

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