

# LONDON & SOUTH-EAST CLASSIC CLUB



**'WE GO WHERE GLORY WAITS'**

# TARBES CLASSIC

The member of the L&SECC sent birds to the 'main' event from Tarbes for the third Classic race of the season at the back end of June and what a brilliant race we all enjoyed! The convoyer, Rube Johnson, liberated at 0655hrs in a no wind situation, but picked up some keen west-south-west winds en route and the winners recorded over 1300ypm. Generally the first half of the current season has been so bad with strong easterly winds and rain, and we have seen some organisations bring birds back from racepoints to liberate short, change race dates and even cancel races. A consequence of this bad start to the season is the massive drops in birdage, in some cases, thousands of birds. It's been the worst start to any racing season I can remember! Having said that, the Classic's race from Tarbes must be described as brilliant and some members clocking two and three birds on the day of liberation from this 560-mile Classic.

**George & Carol Humphreys of New Addington** sent four birds, clocked three on the day to win **1st, 4th and 18th Open** and got their fourth bird next day. George tells me the fourth bird came with his Tours club pigeon on the Saturday, which recorded 2nd Club. The partners' Tarbes winner was their 2y

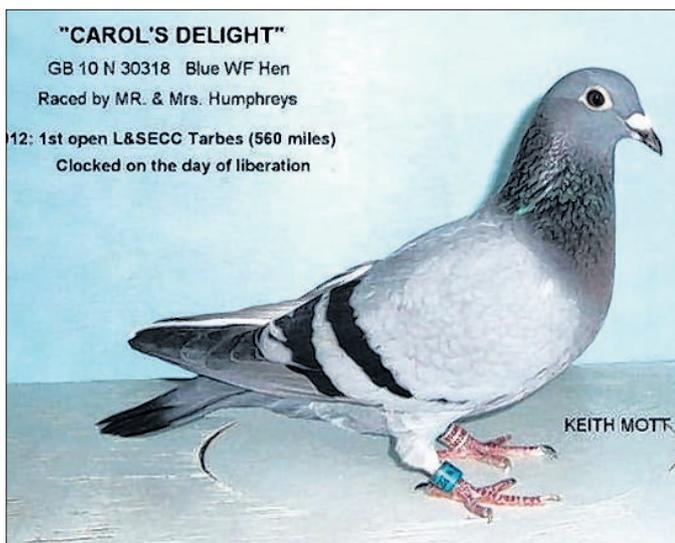
blue white flight hen Carol's Delight and she was sent sitting ten-day-old eggs. She had regular training tosses off the south coast. George tells me he has had some bad health in recent months, and his good friend, Alan Mark, has given his birds a few tosses off Hayling Island. This game little hen was unraced as a young bird and was second bird from the L&SECC 2012 Tours race, to record 81st Open. Sire and dam of Carol's Delight were purchased from Richard Windsor of Cheshire, and are at stock. The second pigeon home, to record 4th Open from the Tarbes Classic, being sent feeding two-day-old babies, was the 3y dark chequer cock named Coker's Boy and he was bred by George's friend, Tony Coker. George's fancied bird for the Tarbes race was his good blue chequer pied, Georges Girl, and she was clocked third bird at 2111hrs on the day to win 18th Open and she was sent sitting eggs. George says two fanciers have been a great help to him in recent time, his good friend, Tony Wing, who has given him some outstanding young birds to work with and as George has suffered some bad health over recent months, his good mate, Alan Mark, helped with the training of the birds.

George and Carol race the natural system and pair up in February, with Channel racing in mind. His old birds never rear young birds at the beginning of the season and are mostly raced dry but on the odd occasion he has sent birds to the longer race feeding small babies. The second bird on the clock was sent on two-day-old youngsters. George told me this is not something he likes to do but he knows some birds perform better in this nest condition. He feeds Gem corn which he buys in once a year and makes up his own mixture from four standard mixtures. He likes to knock some farm tic beans and maple peas into the mixture and tells me he changes the mixture all the time according to the weather condition and distance of the racing at that time. George tells me he trains the old birds off the south coast and uses the inland racing in the local Federation for getting his candidates 'match fit' for the long-distance events he is interested in. Carol is very involved in the pigeons and the partners enjoy a day out training the birds off the beach on Hayling Island, a 60-mile fly back to the home loft in New Addington. George loves racing from France and this Tarbes win has given him and Carol a great thrill. He is a small-team man and the set up consists of two small lofts, with the two-section racing loft being 15ft x 6ft with ETS clocking. He cleans out every day and has never used deep litter on the loft floors. The partners have a small 8ft x 6ft stock loft, with two chimneys in the roof, which has a small aviary attached and this structure has a door at both ends so the wind can blow straight through, for maximum ventilation. The loft houses 10 pairs of stock birds and these are paired up the same time as the racing birds in February.

He has no set family of pigeons but brings in birds from premier fanciers from time to time, saying he just likes good pigeons, whatever the strain! When bringing in new stock birds he likes to see all the usual things – good feather, handling and eye – but the main thing is good, long-distance winning



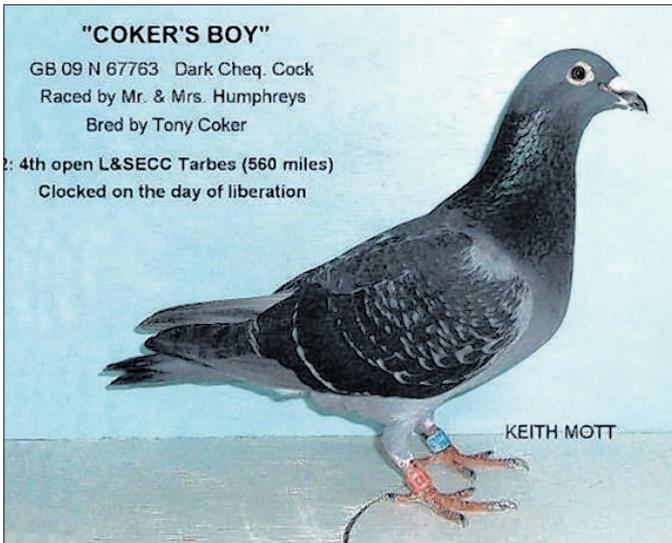
George & Carol Humphreys.



**"CAROL'S DELIGHT"**  
 GB 10 N 30318 Blue WF Hen  
 Raced by MR. & Mrs. Humphreys  
 12: 1st open L&SECC Tarbes (560 miles)  
 Clocked on the day of liberation

KEITH MOTT

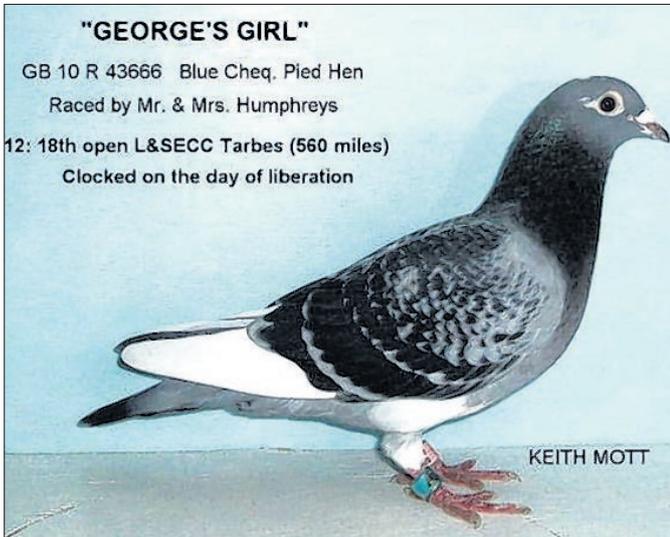
Carol's Delight.



**"COKER'S BOY"**  
 GB 09 N 67763 Dark Cheq. Cock  
 Raced by Mr. & Mrs. Humphreys  
 Bred by Tony Coker  
 2: 4th open L&SECC Tarbes (560 miles)  
 Clocked on the day of liberation

KEITH MOTT

Coker's Boy.



George's Girl.



The L&SECC President congratulates the 2012 Tarbes winners.

lines. In recent months his good friend, Tony Wing of London, has bred the Humphreys some good birds and these are mostly from the NFC Tarbes winning lines of Champion Indy. The stock loft houses a very good cross section of 600-mile winning families. George breeds about 30 young birds to race every season and his babies were put on the 'darkness' system this season, as he maintains you have to follow this practice if you want to be competitive in the young bird Nationals and Classic races. He has not used the 'dark' for several years as he worries about finishing their moult at the back end but tells me he has taken them off the system three weeks early this time to help with their moult this autumn. The babies are liberated on training tosses in batches of 10, starting at five miles. They get many tosses, working through to the south coast. Once they reach the coast he gives them as many tosses along the coast as he can, with racing from France in mind. Because of ill health, George has not raced his young birds in recent seasons, but normally they would go to every race and be trained off the south coast between races. The babies are never paired up and fly natural to the perch.

George first had pigeons in 1973 but had to pack up when his first wife passed away; he restarted when he married Carol in 1992. They were on holiday in the Canaries when Carol found an old pigeon paper in the apartment they were staying at and this re-kindled George's interest in the sport. On their return he built a small loft in their garden at their home in New Addington. He says that, although this L&SECC Tarbes performance is his best to date, he has won some good prizes through the years, including being

premier prizewinner in the very strong Bromley Club a couple of times. He owned a good Busschaert hen that recorded 5th Open L&SECC Bergerac, 4th Open L&SECC San Sebastian and it was one of his best long-distance racers. I must say it was great to see George and Carol win the Classic from Tarbes, as he has been suffering a lot of bad health problems in recent month and this win has given him a good lift. Well done to you both!

**L&SECC/CSCFC Transport Amalgamation.** The CSCFC birds were conveyed and liberated with the London pigeons at Tarbes and I'm highly delighted to report that they also enjoyed a brilliant race with many day birds. I personally had several meetings with the Central Southern Classic Flying Club in the winter months to secure our transport amalgamation for the two longest old bird races in 2012, which is a major financial factor for both Classic Clubs. I personally think this arrangement is paramount in our financial agenda, as with out this annual amalgamation both the Classics would lose thousands of pounds. Long may it continue! I received this email from the CSCFC secretary, Clare Norman, after the Tarbes race: 'Hi, Keith – On behalf of all the members of the CSCFC who sent to Tarbes, we would like to thank Rube and Ian for a job well done. The birds came back in immaculate condition and most of them didn't seem as though they had left the loft. Please give them both our sincere thanks. Kind regards, Clare.'

The next Classic race is from Bergerac on Friday 13th July. Good luck to all our members this weekend! Member please note that the new L&SECC Internet Website is now live on [www.lsecc.com](http://www.lsecc.com)

TEXT & PHOTOS BY KEITH MOTT  
([www.keithmott.com](http://www.keithmott.com))

# Let's hear it for Leigh Arms IFC

## FORGET THE GLOOMY WEATHER – READ ON AND FEEL A WARM GLOW

By way of introduction let me refer you back to the BHW of 24th October 2003:

'May I take this opportunity to introduce the **Leigh Arms Invitation Flying Club** to you. In the old days, with over 15 members, they didn't race for money but the winner of each weekly race received a food hamper. The object of the Club was to cater for the families and children of members with two trips to Blackpool each year but 1986 saw a change to this format, most of the members' children having grown up and not wanting to go with their parents on day trips. The race programme was reduced to three club races per year – one old bird inland, one old bird Channel and one young bird – members nominating two birds per race. Thus, the Club having surplus money, our President, T. J. Hawkins, instituted giving this to charities in and around Merseyside each year. Our first donations in 1986 were £50 to Alder Hey Scanner Appeal and £50 to Oxford Street Baby Care Unit. From a modest £100 that year we are now donating over £1,000 per year to charities and up to the present time have donated over £9,000.

Our first Gold Ring race in 1996 was again the brainwave of Tom Hawkins, as a way to generate extra funds for charity, and we started with

£3,750 in prize money.'

Let's fast forward to 2012. We all know that times are hard for most of us. Pigeon fanciers see the cost of their hobby rising each year but does this stop them giving to those less fortunate – not a bit. Forget Barclays chief wheeler dealer the members of Leigh Arms in particular and fanciers in general are the real 'diamonds'.

I spoke to both Tommy and Mr Bray and this year £750 was distributed between the five chosen charities:

- ★ Saturday Carers Club
- ★ Alder Hey Leukemia
- ★ Wavertree School for the Blind
- ★ Marie Curie
- ★ Merseyside Kidney Research.

To date £14,300 has been raised from this one club. I call that amazing.

In the early days members children and children from local orphanages joined together and were treated to a Christmas party with Santa giving out gifts – alas health & safety restrictions meant this had to end.

ELEANOR