



Scottish National Flying Club

Established 1894

Maidstone

The second Inland National was due to be flown on Saturday 23rd June from Maidstone. However this 'summer's' diabolical weather again played a part and the convoy of almost 3,500 birds were liberated on Monday 25th June at 0645hrs into no wind. The birdage breakdown was as follows: Section A – 169, Section B – 1081, Section C – 861, Section D – 704, Section E – 438, Section F – 87, Section G 104 – total 3442. It would appear that the west wind forecast further up country, together with the rain in north-west England, had a significant effect as the east of Scotland enjoyed a much better race than those in the west.

Race Controller's Report. Due to poor weather conditions on the Saturday and Sunday, the birds were held over. The forecast for Monday however, gave good clear weather on the route, and winds variable 3 - 6 mph on the route. Visibility was very good. The line of flight was checked by contacting P Miller, Stevenage; H Summer, Nottingham; F Groom, Derbyshire; M Brennan, Sth Yorkshire; J Tiffany, Vale of York; J Bird, Lothians and all gave favourable reports. Contact was made with the convoyer at 5.25am, 6.00am, 6.30am and he reported constantly improving conditions. He reported perfect liberation at 6.45am – all birds cleared immediately. *Raymond White & Richard Combe SNFC Race Controllers.*

Convoyer's Report. Loaded up at Kilmarnock on 221st June and sealed up lorry. Arrived at Newhouse 2100hrs and met up with

other transporters. Loaded on all baskets on to Fife transporter and Central transporter. Both transporters departed Newhouse at 2300hrs heading for the Solway. Arrived at Springfield at 1245hrs. Loaded up with baskets and feeding. Departed at 0100hrs. Stopped at Sandbach Services for 2hrs to give drivers a break. Arrived at Maidstone at 1230hrs on 22nd June, opened up curtains and fitted two drinkers to each basket and filled with water. Birds were then left to settle. Birds were Fed at 1530hrs. Drinkers cleaned and refilled. At 1930hrs drinkers topped up and curtains closed. Up at 5am on 23rd June to blue skies and white clouds at the racepoint. Holdover was called at 0800hrs, due to bad weather up the route home. All drinkers were cleaned and refilled, then topped up at noon. Birds Fed between 1530hrs and 1700hrs, Drinkers all cleaned and refilled. Drinkers all topped up at 1930hrs. On 24th June the dto hold over was called at 10.50am, due to weather at racepoint and up the country, so the same procedures were carried out as day before.

On 25th June I spoke to R Whyte at 05.30 with good prospects, good visibility with high broken clouds at the racepoint and good reports up line of flight. Spoke to R Whyte again at 0600hrs with good reports on line of flight and with sun out and blue skies at racepoint the birds were liberated at 0645hrs into a very light west wind with blue skies and high clouds. The birds cleared well to the north within minutes there were no birds visible over the liberation site. En route home the weather was clear with blue skies and broken white cloud. I would like

to thank R Baird and J McCord for their hard work in assisting me to look after the convoy of approaching 4,000 pigeons over the period of the race. *SNFC Convoyer Kenny Young*

1st Sec B, 1st Open J Robertson, Edinburgh. Jocky Robertson timed a 3y blue cheq cock flown on the widowhood system. Jocky says this cock has been a very consistent pigeon to him lifting the pools a few times, and also being 5th Fed Thirsk earlier in the season. The sire of the cock is a Janssen Tournier through Theo De Kruijk of the Netherlands, with the dam being bred by Dougie Barnes from Crossgates in Fife. Jocky and his silent partner, Philip Coxon, have decided to name the bird in memory of their good friend Mikey Osbourne who sadly passed away at a young age, so now the bird will be known as Mikey's Memory. This is the second National winner to be bred from these Theo De Kruijk pigeons as the sire of Steve Lapinskie's winner was bred at these lofts.

2nd Section B, 2nd Open W. Hume, Edinburgh. Willie Hume from Gilmerton timed his yearling dark ch cock named If Only. The sire of this cock was bred by A Forrest of Ratho being a Vandabeele, and the dam was a g/daughter of Jackie Blackhurst's good hen Allana that was 2nd Open La Ferté Bernard in 2004. Willie has flown the cock on roundabout this season and he has been a steady pigeon being first bird home on a few occasions.

3rd Section B, 3rd Open A Young, Danderhall. For the second year in a row Tony Young appears in the result with his 2y blue cock Billy's Memory, flown this year on the



J Robertson 1st Sect B 1st Open.



W Hume 2nd Sect B 2nd Open.



A Young 3rd Sect B 3rd Open.



Jimmy Graham 1st Sect A.

widowhood system. This year the cock has had a very steady season, lifting the pools in the Club and Fed on a few occasions. The cock is an Andre Clemens pigeon with the sire coming from W Hay, and the dam from Ian Parsons, and has now been named in memory of Tony's cousin, Willie Young. Tony has asked that we send his congratulations to Jocky Robertson on winning the National and also says thanks to the team of helpers at the Musselburgh marking station who, he says, do a great job in a small space. Thanks to Bobby Dickson for reports and photos.

1st Section A, 89th Open Mr & Mrs J Graham, Ecclefechan. This is the husband-and-wife partnership of Jimmy & Helen Graham. Jimmy has been winning at the highest level for over half a century and in 1992 realised a lifetime ambition when he won SNFC Nantes with blue hen Clintpark Lass, which contained the lines of Norman Orr from Stonehouse. She was bred in 1988 and from the outset proved she was something different. In 1990 she went to Sartilly and was 2nd Club, 22nd Section, 54th Open. She was then doubled back into the SNFC Blue Riband event from Rennes and was 3rd Club, 42nd Section, 84th Open. Back to Sartilly (1) in 1991 and she was 2nd Club, 60th Section, 102nd Open. She was then doubled back into Sartilly (2) and was 2nd Club, 27th Section, 63rd Open. In 1992 she went to Sartilly (1) and was timed on the night after having been on the wing for 13½ hours but failed to make the result. In 1992 the Scottish



J Farmer 1st Sect C.



Brian Love 2nd Sect A.

entry at Nantes formed part of a large convoy including a number of English organisations with the Scottish contingent being liberated at 0600hr into a light north wind. The event proved difficult with only occasional pigeons being reported into England on the day. The blue hen was timed at 0614hrs in the morning and won the National by 90ypm. In 2001, Jimmy and Helen gained their second National win when they won the Inland National from Frome with yearling blue pied cock Clintpark Lad. Sire was a blue Herbot cock that was bred from a pair of pigeons that Jimmy obtained from the late Keith & Pat Lynn from Dumfries. dam was from a pair of stock pigeons bred by the great Jim Biss. The blue pied was subsequently put to stock and left a number of winners.

Having worked the team on the natural system over many years, with great success, Jimmy decided to move with the times and put a squad of pigeons on widowhood. He erected a purpose-made loft to house the widowhood cocks and went out of his way to obtain pigeons suited to the system. The primary pigeons introduced were De Croix from Fountainhead Lofts and a number of superb individual pigeons emerged from these introductions. As the years moved forward, Jimmy erected a purpose-built loft on top of the family garage for the widowhood cocks. In time the system was changed to roundabout, with the loft being



Bruce McKenzie 2nd Sect C.



Albion and Mary Russell 3rd Sect A.

modified to enable him to successfully manage cocks and hens on the system. In 2011 he and Helen won 12 x 1st, 7 x 2nd and 7 x 3rd in the local Club and gained 50 x Federation Diplomas in the Section and Open. As the years have moved forward they have also won consistently in Classic competition and indeed, since 1988, have gained 123 Diplomas with the SNFC. The composition of the race team has also changed with the partners currently housing a superb team of stock pigeons bred by close friends, Ron and Angela Crook from Pyrton Watlington, Oxon. The Section winner is a 2y dark chequer hen that was bred by Ron and Angela Crook. She raced through the programme to the National as a youngster and went through the Federation Inland programme as a yearling. She was coupled just before Blackpool Show this term and reared a pair of youngsters. She was then worked on roundabout and went through the Federation programme to a difficult Federation race from Wollaston. She was re-paired for the Inland National and went to the race sitting eggs. Sire is a de Klak Janssen that was bred by Ron and Angela Crook out of a daughter of '52', which was Brian Long's noted stock cock when paired to another Brian Long cock named Storm. dam of the Section winner is a van der Espt and was kindly loaned to Ron and Angela Crook by Nigel Llewellyn. It is named Gwen and was 1st BICC Bergerac 2006.

2nd Section A, 94th Open B Love, Dumfries. Brian Love is from Locharbriggs, He entered our hobby in 2003, being encouraged by the late Alex Maxwell, a near neighbour of Brian's mother. On starting in the fancy he erected a 12' x 8' loft for old birds and a 7' x 5' loft for his youngsters. In 2007 he made



Jim McCafferty 3rd Sect C.



T Blair 1st & 3rd Sect D.

everyone sit up and take note when he was 2nd Section from the SNFC Blue Riband event from Alençon with a pigeon bred from one of the Alex Maxwell's when coupled to a hen that came into the loft as a youngster. He reported the pigeon and learned it belonged to J. McInnes from Minnigaff, near Newton Stewart, who allowed him to keep it. This hen proved to be an able performer and was in fact 9th Fed Maidstone. The 2nd Section Alençon was a 2y chequer white flight hen that raced to Wakefield as a youngster and Cheltenham as a yearling. Prior to going to Alençon in 2007, she went through the programme to Newbury and was basketed for the National on 10 day eggs. In October past, Brian moved residence to Quarry Road in Locharbriggs and on moving, he took the smaller of his lofts with him to assist him to heft the pigeons to the new address. He also acquired an impressive new 12' x 10' 'L' shaped loft, which was manufactured by Ecco Lofts. His winning pigeon from Maidstone is a yearling blue hen that was bred by friend, Murray Aitken, who formerly competed in partnership with his brother in law, Davie Rae. Some years ago, however, they chose to leave the fancy and Murray changed his interest to greyhound racing. Whilst he resigned from the Club, he continued to house several favourites including a pair of superb Krauth pigeons that he had obtained from Ireland. The 2nd Section winner was in fact bred from this pair of pigeons and when he bred the blue hen, the cock of the pair was actually sixteen years old. The blue hen raced out to 129 miles as a youngster. Brian coupled his entire team immediately after Blackpool Show this term, consciously pairing them early to assist the hefting process. The hen reared a pair of youngsters and was thereafter managed on the natural method. She had six races with the Federation and was then split from her mate and worked spare.



1st Sect E with his hen.



S Morrison 2nd Section D.

Immediately prior to despatch to the National she was reintroduced to her mate and this obviously motivated her.

3rd Section A, 107th Open A Russell, Dumfries

Albion Russell is a really good fancier and is one of four brothers who participated in the pigeon hobby. He houses his pigeons in a 40' 'L' shaped loft that includes a cabin/corn store. The pigeons are worked on the natural method and trap through sputnik traps. His 3rd Section Maidstone is a yearling Blue cock that went through the programme to the National as youngster. He was paired after the Blackpool Show and having reared a single youngster, was split from his mate for several weeks. He was then re-paired to enable him to be worked on the natural system. He raced through the Solway Fed. programme and then competed from the Inland National from Newbury and was 48th Section 242nd Open. His mate failed to return from Newbury and after a few days he began to toy on with a mature young hen. Albion felt, however, that the cock was taking too much out of the hen and moved it away. Nevertheless, within days the cock was chasing another hen. To capitalise on the situation, Albion moved the original hen back into the compartment just before the cock went to the race and on basketing, he was deep in the bowl with the two hens sitting beside him.



Colin Grieve 2nd Sect E.



D Sloan & Son.

Sire is an unrun mealy cock that was received as a gift from Mark Goldie from Easttriggs. He was bred direct from a mealy cock that was 1st Section 14th Open SNFC Clermont 2011. dam of Mark Goldie's Section winner is a Blue hen from a pair obtained from Frank Bristow that contain Frans Waermiers bloodlines. Sire of Mark Goldie's Section winner is a Red cock that contains Mark's own bloodlines, going back to Busschaerts obtained from W.Dayman from North Devon. dam of Albion's 3rd Section Maidstone is a 2007 Janssen hen that was purchased from LPW. This hen was raced but failed to return on one occasion and was reported injured in Carlisle. Albion went and collected her and decided to 'put her by' for stock. Thanks to Billy Wortley and John Mechan for reports and photos.

1st Section C, 9th Open J. Farmer, Lochgelly. Jim timed his yearling hen at 1615hrs for a vel of 1157. This chequer hen had 5 races: Witton Castle, Ripon, Wakefield and Ripon and was sitting 18-day eggs on basketing day. Gsire is a grandson of Penny his Chenoise National winner x Newcombe. Her dam is an Ian Hawkins x D. Dall

2nd Section C, 10th Open B. McKenzie, Dundee. Bruce timed his dk chequer cock at 1645hrs for a vel of 1154. In combination with this race he was also 1st Dundee Federation, 1st Grampian Combine. His sire, mealy SU03DF1676 (Twirler) was 1st Dundee Federation Leicester, 1st Grampian Combine Leicester, 7 days later 1st Section C 3rd Open SNFC Newbury. His dam dark cheq



Callum Walker 3 Sect E.

SU06DF1089 was 1st Dundee Federation, 1st Grampian Combine Wakefield. There's an interesting story about this hen. In 2006 when he was racing a couple of hens which were paired to his stock cocks he wanted a small youngster to slip under one of them as she was going to a big race. His good friend Jim Donnet was going to help Andy Thomson vaccinate his young birds so Bruce asked Jim to ask Andy if he had a just-hatched youngster that he did not need. Jim turned up with this 6-day-youngster, stating it was the smallest Andy had. The hen took to the youngster but did nothing exceptional in the race. He did not need it but decided to ring the youngster and raced it with his own. This dark hen was 1st Fed also 1st Grampian Combine Wakefield. When he told Andy what his winner was off he had a happy then unhappy, strange look on his face. It was probably because he had finished 2nd! This hen has gone on to breed several very good birds - so thanks again to Andy.

3rd Section C, 12th Open J McCafferty. Jim's pigeon was bred by J. J. Edward from Inverberie. He is a Wildermeersch, the sire and dam originating from Jim's mate in Sunderland. This pair have bred at least 20 x 1st prize winners for Jim. His racing career to date is as follows: as a y/bird flown to Wakefield; as a yearling flown widowhood out to Leicester 278 miles then stopped; this season he had all races up to Leicester and was then put by for the Maidstone National. He is flown on the widowhood system and has been a very consistent pigeon for Jim, particularly when flying in north-east winds. A full brother to this pigeon won 1st Sect C 7th Open Wanstead Flats SNRPC in 2009 and also won as a y/bird, all in all an excellent family of winning pigeons. Thanks to George Briggs for reports and photos.

1st Section D, 5th Open and 3rd Section D, 22nd Open T. Blair, Stirling. Tommy is a phenomenal fancier. He timed two great hens hereto what is a very disadvantageous location place in Scotland for National racing – at the foot of Stirling Castle. He has the company of a pair of nesting peregrines at the castle keeping an eye on the loft. No wonder he has soft music on at the loft all the time to keep himself and the pigeons calm. The two hens were raced on roundabout and paired up on the day of basketing. The 5th Open hen is a beautiful compact Heremans-Ceusters blue now called Ellie's Girl with many wins in the Club and Fed including 13th Open Peterborough 288 miles. The blue is bred off birds that have won 1st and 14th National Argenton with over 30,000 birds



J Lannigan 2nd Sect F.

competing. On the sire's side is a top stock cock, Chief, sire and dam to 1st National ace pigeons. The cheq hen is a bold headed robust pigeon bred by Mike Donnachie of Kingseat and was 63rd Open Clermont SNFC in 2011 flying 530 miles. Both birds were in great condition. Tommy's performances in the Fed have made him a kind of legend and the man to beat. He has now extended that to inland National racing from a highly disadvantaged location in Stirling. Well done Tommy.

2nd Section D, 8th Open S Morrison, Grangemouth. Scott timed his blue hen from Maidstone on the day from 376 miles. He is a newcomer to the sport, being a show pigeon man who has just joined the ranks of the pigeon racers in the past two years. The blue hen was a gift with others from Ian Hunter from Grangemouth and is a 2009 latebred Vandenabeele from M & D Evans. It was attacked by a hawk last year losing its tail and wing feathers and was rested for the season. The blue has been called Kadie 2 after his grandchild, Kadie (1). It was raced on roundabout and was re-paired sitting on 15-day eggs. The hen has been 1st Fed Wakefield 186 miles and was trained by Jimmy Smith and Alan MacGonigal in the build up to this race. Scott appears to have a natural affinity and instinct for the birds. I am sure we will hear of more success in the future. Well done, Scott and wee Kadie! Thanks to Dr Lynch for reports and photos.

1st Section E, 200th Open D Sloan & Son Loft 2, Airdrie. Des and Frannie timed their 3y chequer cock at 1715hrs with a velocity of 1041 to give them their first Section E, 1st West Region after years of trying. Previously they have been 4th West Sect Alençon, 5th West Section Alençon, 15th West Sect Rennes, but until now their best position was their most recent when they were 2nd West Sect with their good hen, Ann O'Leary. This hen is a daughter of past SNFC President John Houston's great hen and West Section winner, O'Leary. This year's winner is a Koopman bred from a stock pair purchased from Karl Kelly in Kirkintilloch. He flew the Fed programme as a YB, as a yearling and a 2y he flew out to the SNFC Ypres race. This season flying natural he had every race to Stafford – 225 miles, and after three more tosses he went to Maidstone sitting 14-day eggs.

2nd Section E, 220th Open C Grieve, Greengairs. The name Grieve Bros has long been associated with pigeon racing into Longniddry in the east of Scotland. About two years ago Colin moved to Greengairs where he is now trying his luck in the West Region, with brother Dougie continuing at their original location. Colin timed his 2y blue hen at 1721hrs with a velocity of 1036 to be a close 2nd in Section E. This hen had been lightly raced throughout her career, having had only three races as a young bird and four races as a yearling to a distance of 160 miles. This year she was raced on Colin's version of roundabout up to Stafford, then mated for Maidstone. She went to the race sitting 12-day eggs. A full sister to this hen was 3rd Open Bovingdon for Colin's brother. She was definitely bred for distance, the sire coming from the well-known Crammond & Langstaff partnership, and the dam from McGimpsey Bros in Ireland.

3rd Section E, 270th Open C Walker, Law. Callum Walker lives in Law village in Lanarkshire. He timed his good Delbar ch pd cock at 1713hrs in what was a very hard race. This cock had already flown the first seven races in the Lanarkshire Fed to Wollaston, coming well from them all. He was then sent to Billericay with the SNRPC and took 2nd Section before putting in this sterling performance from the SNFC Maidstone race. He is a medium-sized bird, medium to long cast in the hand and races on what Callum calls easyhood, not quite widowhood but the same principal in motivating his birds to race. Callum

said he 'messes around' with the cocks but they see more of their hen than the full widowhood system. Whatever shape this method takes it works well with his birds with many of them in the loft being 1st prize winners at Club level. John would like to thank Callum for his time and hospitality and is sure he'll be back verifying more of his birds in future. Thanks to John Quinn for report and photo.

1st Section F J Kennedy, Ayr. This 2y chequer cock was timed at 1836hrs for a velocity of 890. Unfortunately we have been unable to contact Mr Kennedy for further details. **2nd Section F J Lannigan, Thornliebank.** This fine chequer white flight cock was raced on widowhood all season going to every race bar the first, and picked up a 1st Club along the way. He is a Van den Bosch crossed with Carlin Bros of Kilbarchan. John says he feeds a widowhood mix without breaking them down, He would like to again thank Roy Seaton and the Carlin Bros for their advice and birds. **3rd Section F J Haggerty, Johnstone.** John's blue white flight hen was a young bird he got in from McFall of Blantyre. It has raced every year and been very consistent gaining several Club positions. It has also made the result from Marlborough, Eastbourne and now Maidstone – a very good bird. It is from the Supercrack lines and was sent sitting between 9 - 15 days, the way John likes all his birds to be sitting. She flew several races this year to Newark 240 miles, then was given three training flights on the last two weeks before basketing for the race. John hopper feeds tic beans and hand feeds a widowhood mix as required. Thanks to David Morris for reports and photos.

1st Section G, 123rd Open – J Coutts & Son, Kintore. J Coutts & Son timed their 2y blue hen at 1839hrs for a velocity of 1067 to be a clear winner in Section D. **2nd Section G, 322nd Open R I Buchan, Peterhead.** Irvine timed his 2y grizzle hen at 1942hrs for a velocity of 1004. **3rd Section G A R Rae, Aberdeen.** Alex timed his 2y blue hen at 1942hrs for a velocity of 967. Apologies to the three North Region fanciers for brevity of reports. Details and photos will be included in a later report.

The race turned out to be a success, if somewhat one sided. Birds tumbled into the eastern Sections, and the first of the West Section birds appears at 200th Open. Of the approx 400 birds on the result fewer than 50 are from the West. This, however, is pigeon racing and it takes absolutely nothing away from the winners. Congratulations must go to all who timed in, especially **J Robertson in Edinburgh** who will remember this race for the rest of his career. He wins the **Maidstone Trophy and 1st National Cock. T Blair in Stirling** wins **1st National Hen.**



J Haggerty 3rd Sect F.