



Scottish National Flying Club

Established 1894

YPRES

Although the weather in the West of England was poor, the race controllers managed to find a window allowing a liberation on the appointed day. The 1,707 birds entered by 362 members were liberated at 0630hrs into a light southerly wind. A breakdown of the entry is as follows: Section A – 82, Section B – 455, Section C – 304, Section D – 236, Section E – 446, Section F – 102, Section G – 82. It's heartiest congratulations this time to Jim Ferguson in Eastriggs, a clear winner and he takes the Ypres Trophy, the Dale Newcombe Trophy and 1st Yearling Trophy. Mr & Mrs Graham of Ecclefechan win the Cher Ami Trophy, a new trophy donated by Stefan van Moerbeke for the first nominated pigeon.

Controllers' Report. Friday, 6th July 5.45pm: P. Miles – tomorrow's forecast good, south wind 10-15mph, Channel crossing clear, line of flight through England good, light rain around Dunbar and Lothians, rain will die away as the day progresses. 9.45pm: P. Miles – Forecast unchanged, no problem on line of flight, light rain in Lothians, wind will change direction to north. 10pm: Stefan van Moerbeke – good at racepoint tomorrow, south winds. 10.10pm: Convoyer, Kenny Young, good at racepoint. Saturday, 7th July. Forecast good at racepoint, Channel crossing clear, south wind 13-16 knots, weather good en route, scattered showers in Lothians to clear later. 5.30am: Dover Coastguard – French coastline visible, clear, wind 13-16 knots south. 5.45am: Stefan van Moerbeke – good, light south wind. Road closure arranged for 6.30am liberation. 5.50am: Convoyer happy with the weather agree on a 6.30am liberation. 6.30am: good liberation, blue skies, light south wind, pigeons cleared in one batch from the racepoint. 10am: P. Miles – perfect in Stevenage, south wind. 10.10am: H. Summer – fine in Nottingham/ South Nottingham, blue skies, light wind. 10.15am: J. Tiffany – fine in Vale of York. 10.20am – H. Brennan – very good, warm, blue

skies, Darlington and North Shields sunshine. 12.30pm: R. Combe – Lothians poor and damp, cold. no change from early morning, not as predicted. *R. White & R. Combe, Race Controllers.*

1st Section A, 1st Open, J. Ferguson, Eastriggs. Jim Ferguson is instantly recognised as he had the honour of winning the high profile SNFC Gold Cup Race that was flown from Messac in the Millennium season. He entered the pigeon fancy as a boy in 1961, joining Brydekirk Club in partnership with his father. One of the most prominent members in Club at that time was the late Tom Little from Creca who was a long-time friend of Jim's father and it was he who initially encouraged Jim's dad to participate in the pigeon hobby. Having initially lived at Kirkpatrick Fleming, the Ferguson family moved to Eastriggs in the mid-1960s and Jim and his father joined the local Club as J. Ferguson & Son. In 1981, Jim's world fell apart when his father died suddenly. He took over total management of the team of pigeons and within months had an added responsibility when he became involved in assisting Mrs Little to care for her husband's pigeons. Tom Little died in 1985 and Jim cared for the birds until they were sold. Through visiting Tom, Jim was introduced to Tom Laidlaw from Jedburgh, who was a frequent visitor to the Little household at Creca. A friendship was formed and as a result Jim received a number of birds from him. In 1990 he was 2nd Open SNFC Sartilly with a pied cock bred by Tom Laidlaw, the bloodlines 100% Tot Douglas Busschaert. Two years later he was 1st Section, 12th Open Sartilly with a daughter of the 2nd Open and the following season he featured with the leaders once more when he was 2nd Section Sartilly. Having originally housed the birds in a wooden shed in his parents' garden, Jim erected a very impressive 40ft-long brick-built loft at the head of his own garden in 1994. In the Millennium season he achieved a lifelong ambition when he won the Gold

Cup race from Messac with the blue chequer cock, Jane's Boy, which had won out of turn in the Club from the yearling stage. In 1997 he was 29th Section from the Inland National from Frome and then competed from a very difficult Rennes National. The following season he was 2nd Open from the Inland National from Frome. Two years later he was right at the front from the Messac Classic and won the famous Gold Cup. The sire was a son of the loft's good pied cock that was 2nd Open Sartilly, which was, of course, bred by Tom Laidlaw. The dam was obtained from a friend, Matt Halbert, being bred from an Alfons Bauwens hen that was purchased at the breeder's sale at Blackpool. In 2002 Jim continued on the winning way when he was 1st Section, 23rd Open from the Clermont National. Away back in the 1960s and 1970s, Brian, Derek & Rodney Nelson competed in the village of Eastriggs as Nelson Brothers. Whilst in time, they chose to part with their pigeons, they retained an interest in the sport and as the years passed, Jim suggested to them that they re-enter our hobby and race their birds into his original loft, which is located in the adjoining garden to his own. They took Jim up on his offer and re-joined the Club. After several years, however, they decided to once more part with their pigeons. Eventually there were four birds left in the loft and Jim agreed to take them. The National winner is one of these pigeons. It is a yearling blue chequer hen bred by Nelson Brothers. It had race experience as a youngster and prior to competing from Ypres this term, raced celibate from Appleby, Charnock Richard, Lymm, Stafford and Wollaston with the Solway Fed. It then went to the Inland National from Newbury, when the convoy was brought back to Cheltenham. Following Wollaston, she was paired and went to Ypres covering seven-day eggs, with her fourth flight 1/3 grown. She was exceptionally keen on the eggs and wouldn't let anything near the nest. Jim doesn't have breeding



Ypres winner, Jim Ferguson (L) and Michael Johnstone.



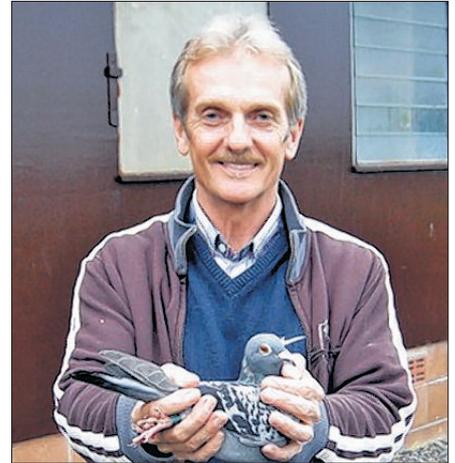
Jim Ferguson's Ypres winner protecting her nest three days after the race.



Jimmy Graham, 2nd Section A.



Jimmy & Helen Graham's 2nd Section A.



Dennis Anderson, 3rd Section A.

details but, to quote the late Andrew Neilson Hutton, 'National winners make their own pedigree'. Whilst writing about Jim Ferguson, I must mention his close friend Michael Johnstone, who Jim describes as his 'loft manager'. Michael has attended Jim's loft for several years and over the past two seasons has actively assisted Jim to manage the team.

2nd Section A, 3rd Open, Mr & Mrs Graham, Ecclefechan. Jimmy has been winning at the highest level for over half a century and as the years have passed, has raced a number of fine individual pigeons. In 1992, he and Helen entered there name in the annals of Scottish pigeon racing when they won the SNFC extreme distance event from Nantes with the blue hen Clintpark Lass. She was bred by Jimmy's brother, Alvar, from Montrose and contained the bloodlines of Norman Orr from Stonehouse. In 2001, Jimmy & Helen gained their second National win when they won the Inland National from Frome with the yearling blue pied cock, Clintpark Lad. His sire was a blue Herbot cock bred from a pair of pigeons that Jimmy obtained from the late Keith & Pat Lynn from Dumfries. The dam of the Frome winner was from a pair of stock pigeons bred by the great Jim Biss. Following his National win, Clintpark Lad was put to stock and left a number of winners. Having successfully worked the team on the natural system, Jimmy decided to move with the times and put a squad of pigeons on widowhood. He built a state-of-the-art shed to house the widowhood cocks and, having erected the loft, went about introducing pigeons suited to the system with the primary introductions being De Croix from Fountainhead Lofts. A number of superb individual pigeons emerged from these introductions including several cocks that won multiple 1sts. As the years moved on, 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 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 Federation Diplomas in the Section and Open. It should also be understood that, since 1988, they have gained 125 Diplomas with the SNFC. The composition of the race team has also changed with the partners currently housing a team of stock pigeons bred by close friends, Ron & Angela Crook from Pyrton Watlington, Oxon. From the recent Inland National from Maidstone, the partners were 1st South Section with a 2y dark chequer hen bred by Ron & Angela Crook. Jimmy & Helen Graham's winning pigeon from Ypres is a fabulous 2y blue chequer cock also bred by Ron & Angela Crook. The dam is a Roger Lowe de Klak and the maternal grandsire has won 5 x 1st. The sire of the 2nd Section Ypres is a van Loon x Busschaert cock '3004' from Newquay Lofts. The paternal grandsire was 1st Open BICC Tours. His grandsire was twice 1st London NR Fed, whilst his grandam is a granddaughter of Champion Angela, 1st Open Vaux Usher competing against 20,000 birds. The maternal grandsire of '3004' gained 7 x 1st Club, 3 x 1st Surrey Fed, 3 x 1st Open and 1st SMT Combine. He in turn was bred from a top Janssen producer that was sire of pigeons which gained 1st, 2 x 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th Fed.

3rd Section A, 4th Open, D. Anderson, Annan. Dennis has been winning out of turn since the 1980s, indeed in 1981 he was 1st South Section, 5th Open Rennes with a mealy Dordin cock. He is the owner of a very successful builder's business and in 1988, he and his good lady, Janice, acquired a large, sandstone house in Annan with extensive grounds. They set about renovating and developing the property, which included building a new double-storey pigeon loft in character with the original building. Having built the loft, Dennis organised a Futurity Race into the new building with pigeons being entered from across the country. All pigeons that participated

were race trained in the Annan Club and thereafter competed from the Young Bird National from Cheltenham. The pigeon that that won the Futurity Race was a blue chequer van Wanroy hen bred by Clwyd Lofts which was 2nd Section, 55th Open National. Dennis subsequently developed a friendship with Clwyd Lofts and introduced a number of pigeons from this source. From the Futurity Race there emerged an absolute ace pigeon, a pencil blue cock bred by Ray Ormond from Hartlepool. The bloodlines were Boeyken, the great-grandsire having won the Up North Combine from in excess of 20,000 pigeons. This cock won out of turn from the Channel and was three times in the first seven in Open National competition. In 1983 Dennis was 1st Open SNFC Sartilly with blue hen, Seaforth Solitaire, which was the only pigeon home on the day of liberation. The National winner was a 3y when she won the Classic and bred from two pigeons obtained direct from Jim Biss. At the gateway to the Millennium, Dennis & Janice moved residence once more, to a new house on the outskirts of Annan. On moving, Dennis erected a double-storey building at the rear of the house. Whilst the lower floor was used as a double garage and a stable, the upper floor was kitted out as a very impressive pigeon loft. When Dennis moved, he also took a large conventional pigeon loft with him from his previous residence. When Dennis took up residence in the new house, he organised another futurity race. The winning pigeon from this event was bred by Andy Gregson and was a very good bird on a difficult day. The second pigeon in the Futurity Race was a blue chequer van Heecross hen, bred by Jim Ferguson, which won the recent Ypres Classic. For obvious reason, Dennis named her Fergie and she developed into an absolute 'topper'. In 2004 she competed from the



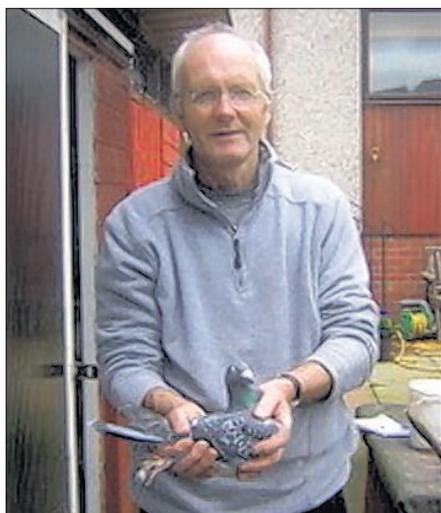
Dennis Anderson's, 3rd Section A.



J. Bosworth, 1st Section B.



W. Kinnear & Son, 2nd Section B.



B. Kelly, 3rd Section B.

Gold Cup race from La Ferté Bernard and was 7th Section, 34th Open. The hen was Dennis's nominated pigeon in the Joe Murphy Sporting Challenge from La Ferté Bernard and duly won the event. Over the years Dennis has raced a number of top-quality pigeons and has scored prominently from the Classics on an ongoing basis. Consider, for example, an exceptional chequer pied hen that was 4th Open SNFC Tours 2008 and 1st Section, 3rd Open SNFC Andrezel in 2009. The dam was from the great hen Fergie. Dennis's winning pigeon from Ypres is a 2y blue chequer cock that was unraced as a youngster and went to 200 miles as a yearling. Prior to going to Ypres, this term, he had two Club races with the second of these a very difficult race from Wollaston. The intention was to send the cock to the National on a wee youngster and he was set up accordingly. He advanced into really good order and as the days passed it was noted that he was sitting on the nest at night, 'away passed his time'. With this in mind, he was on the nest when he was basketed for the race and, to his surprise, when Dennis lifted the cock off the nest there were three wee youngsters in the bowl. He reasons that the hen must have laid three eggs and they were all full. The sire is named The Kirkland cock as Geoff Kirkland expressed a liking for him when he visited Dennis's loft a few years ago. The Kirkland cock goes back to the Sartilly National winner, Seaforth Solitaire. This line produces occasional silvers and the The Kirkland cock has bred several of these. The dam is a 6y Jan Aarden hen. Thanks to Billy Wortley and John Mechan for reports and photos.

1st Section B, 2nd Open, J. F. Bosworth,



M. McMurchie 3rd Section C.



Jock Scott, 1st Section C.

Elphinstone. The well-known John Bosworth took this great position with his yearling blue cock, Jubilee John, timing at 1543hrs for 426 miles on a velocity of 1356. As a young bird he had every race winning 1st Club Selby, 14th Section B, 17th Open in the Young Bird National, flown on the darkness system. As a yearling he has had every Club race, worked on the roundabout system before being paired prior to Maidstone where he was 41st Section B, 81st Open sitting five days on eggs, on his return he went back on his eggs. John replaced these with eggs due to hatch before Ypres, and he was sent sitting a newly-hatched baby. His breeding is 50% Leo van Rijn with a Janssen-cross from Freddie Jamieson and van De Pol, a mix that John has tried and tested to 500 miles.

2nd Section B, 5th Open, W. Kinneer & Son, Edinburgh who timed their yearling blue white flight cock, Jubilee Reekie, at 1606hrs for a distance of 429 miles and a velocity of 1312. As a youngster he had every young bird race up to and including the Young Bird National, worked on the darkness system. This year he was paired in mid-January and reared a pair of young birds before being put on widowhood after sitting five days on his second round of eggs. This year he competed in all nine Federation races up to and including SNFC Maidstone where he homed at 2015hrs. During the week following Maidstone he was left with his hen and he was sent to Ypres on his second flight, driving his hen to nest. Jubilee Reekie was bred in the stock loft from a Jos Thoné grandson of Sumo x daughter of the SNFC Gold Cup winner Auld Reekie.

3rd Section B, 11th Open, B. Kelly, Chirnside. Brian timed a 2y cheq cock at 1543hrs for 402 miles and a velocity of 1279. As a young bird he only had one race from Newark, 200 miles, then as a yearling he had five races being a very consistent bird for Brian. This year he has had four races prior to Ypres, two from Huntingdon and two from Melton Mowbray. He was sent to Ypres sitting 10 days on his second round of eggs. Thanks to



R. Hamilton, 1st Section D.



G. & B. Hunter, 2nd Section C.

Bobby Dickson and John Bird for these reports and photos.

1st Section C, 10th Open, J. Scott, Kennoway. This 2y chequer cock was timed at 1640hrs for a distance of 444miles with a velocity of 1281. He had three races out to Maidstone, then was sent sitting on 10-day eggs. He took a bad peregrine attack last year and had no racing as a young bird. He was bred by John McCord.

2nd Section C, 44th Open, G. & B. Hunter, Dunfermline. This blue pied hen flew the young bird programme and was very steady. She flew Messac last year and just missed the result. This year she was intended for the Gold Cup race but was too late in laying after SNFC Cheltenham due to the holdovers, so it was decided to send her to Ypres, 445 miles, on ten-day eggs. She is a full sister to their SHU Dewar Trophy and Gold Award winner, Kingdom Spirit, bred from their No 1 stock pair which are Alfon Bauwens x Kirkland family.

3rd Section C, 49th Open, M. McMurchie, Glenrothes Mick told me that this 3y blue widower cock had all the Club races, then the Newbury National (brought back to Cheltenham, 299miles). He went on to say, 'After six days in the basket he was my fifth bird, being on the National result, then just flew around the loft morning and evening. Incidentally, none of my birds has had a single toss since the first race. He is bred from a really super pair of breeders, the sire is Zoon Tips, bred by Marijke Vink, sire of many winners. His sire, Tips, is an absolute ace breeder, sire of Farah Diba, 1st National Ace Bird of Holland, one-day Fond racing. He is also the sire of Reza, reputedly claimed as the best middle-distance racer in the world, winning 1st 29,332b, 1st 21,984b and 1st 10,589b etc and was sold for €85,000. The dam of my blue cock is Dream Girl, bred by Gerard Koopman, my No1 best hen, direct dam of 9 x 1st Open winners up to 6,010 birds and grandam of countless more



D. McBeath, 2nd Section D.



Davie Young, 3rd Section D.



John Paton, 1st Section E.



Lindsay & Henderson, 2nd Section E.

throughout the UK. All inland down to the coast, 400 miles. This is the first time I have tried them at the Channel, 446 miles, and I am delighted to have timed him on what was a difficult day, pouring rain all day. Can I say thanks to the National for having a programme which suits most flyers and not just the specialists. I am enjoying it immensely as I no longer get any 'buzz' from Club flying and it has given me a new desire. Can I also congratulate Jocky Scott and Geordie & Brian Hunter on their winning birds. The official who called said it was a miracle any birds got into Fife and Dundee as due to the weather you couldn't see the end of your nose, never mind over the river, so well done to every bird.' Thanks to George Briggs for these reports and photos.

1st Section D, 9th Open, R. Hamilton, Cambus, who timed his yearling blue cock from Ypres, 458 miles, at 1659hrs on the day of liberation for a velocity of 1282. This was a fantastic performance as his location is away in the west, beyond Stirling, by the river Devon in a beautiful spot. The blue is bred off a superb breeding pair from Geoff Kirkland, sourced and presented to Rab by his family. The pigeon will be called Joey after his son. The breeding pair has already bred 5 x 1st Fed, 25th Open SNFC Messac last year and this year 42nd Alençon, approximately 550 miles. The blue cock which scored from Ypres had every race in the Fed as a young bird and was at the SNFC Young Bird National. This year it had three races to Wakefield, 150 miles, then SNFC Cheltenham, 300 miles, home on the day. The 9th Open Ypres went to the race sitting 18-day eggs. Rab is a committed long-distance fancier with an average-sized loft. He has a long history of success in the Fed and the Classic races in the SNFC with his old family of Billy Napper pigeons. Amazingly he won the SNFC

East Region Averages back in the early 1990s when he was, as he is now, one of the furthest-west-located lofts in the East Region. His wife, Rosena, was involved with the pigeons then but is now working full time. The woman's touch is now back in place as Rab's daughter, Kim, has taken over her mother's role with the birds. I am sure this heralds another successful episode in the performances of the Hamiltons of Cambus against the odds in National racing. Well done, Rab and family.

2nd Section D, 12th Open, D. McBeath, Avonbridge. David timed his 2y mealy cock at 1645hrs on the day for a velocity of 1278. Dave is the son of Jim McBeath, a long-standing stalwart of distance racing in the SNFC. Dave started up on his own with the support of his partner, Lorna, and his two children about five years ago and has already had great success in his Club and Fed. The mealy is a Jan Theelen from the Ian Axe Stud bought at the Blackpool BHW Show of the Year. As a young bird it flew every race to 153 miles. As a yearling it hit wires, required stitching up and had no racing. As a 2y it had every Club race to Newark, 229 miles, then flew Cheltenham with the SNFC, 282 miles, just out of the result. The mealy flew Maidstone two weeks later, approximately 370 miles for 42nd Section D. It had a 45-mile training toss and was sent to Ypres two weeks later, again on roundabout, to win 12th Open. Dave flies total roundabout system throughout the racing season. His pigeons are mainly Gyselbrecht stock from his father. Dave is a 'new' fancier from a pigeon fancier background. He oozes enthusiasm and experience. I am confident he will make his mark on distance racing in the future. Well done Dave & Lorna.

3rd Section D, 13th Open, D. Young & Son, Falkirk. Davie was again up front in this race, this

time with his 4y cheq cock. He is a small-garden-loft fancier with a big impact at the distance. The bird was bred by Andy Combe and is from Irvine Buchan stock from Andy's uncle, George Combe of Stenhousemuir. The cock is called Andy after its breeder. As a young bird it flew just one race, as a yearling it flew the Fed programme to 250 miles, as a 2y it was 12th Open Fed Maidstone, 371 miles, as a 3y it was 37th Open Ypres with the SNFC, 445 miles. This year as a 4y it was 19th Fed Peterborough, approximately 270 miles, then flew Maidstone and two weeks later scored in this race from Ypres sitting four-day-old eggs. Great performances from a great pigeon in experienced hands. Since Davie's wife, Betty, died five years ago, his niece, Jessie, trains the birds as Davie has no car, bringing in to focus once again the important role women play in the prominent fanciers' success. Davie is becoming the man to beat locally in the Ypres race. He was 2nd Open in the first SNFC Ypres race just a few years ago. Well done, Davie, and niece, Jessie. Thanks to Dr Lynch for these reports and photos.

1st Section E, 8th Open, J. Paton, Cambuslang. The performance by John's winner is quite astonishing as she is a 2011 latebred, still carrying four nest flights with her sixth flight just coming up when I visited on Saturday, 14th July. It's fair to say not many fanciers would have sent an experienced bird with that wing condition, let alone a latebred bird, and it brought a smile my face when one of the first things John said to me



Davie Gillespie, 3rd Section E.



D. McKinlay, 3rd Section F.



Alex Rae, 1st Section G.



Colin Rae, 3rd Section G.

was, 'I know nothing about pigeons', but he knows enough to get them fit and motivated and most importantly winning. The hen's breeding is also rather unusual for a Channel race, being from a blue Delbar cock and a Roland Janssen grizzle hen. The sire is out of an Ian Axeblue pied cock that John purchased at Blackpool five or six years ago, and the Roland Janssen hen came from a clubmate of John's, Mr Baird, who had a good Roland Janssen cock that was winning out of turn in the Club. The sire and dam were both sent to Ypres along with the winner, with the dam coming on the second day, but unfortunately the cock is still missing. It's always a pleasure meeting new fanciers and meeting John for the first time was no exception. I wish him more success in the seasons ahead and I'm sure that when he realises how much he really does know about his birds, the more often he will win positions against the best of Scotland's fanciers.

2nd Section E, 21st Open, Lindsay & Henderson, Wishaw. My good friends, Ian Lindsay & Ian Henderson's, winning bird from Ypres is a yearling blue pied cock, Stormtrooper, which on his return had wattles as pink as could be, and they were still pink when I called in to visit two hours later. The name was given to him by Ian Lindsay after last year's SNFC Young Bird National, when he returned the second morning at 8.30am in what could only be described as monsoon rain conditions. Indeed Ian had just thought there was no chance of getting a bird when he came that morning, so he was named Stormtrooper. The breeding of the winner came from very good friends of the two lads, John & Marion McNeil of Broxburn and Jim & Jean Cullen of Uddingston. The sire was a swap pigeon from John McNeil of Broxburn. In 2008 Lindsay & Henderson were 1st Section, 8th Open and John McNeil was 1st Section, 5th Open SNFC Falaise, so they decided to swap a youngster from each of their winners, the sire of this winner being the swap pigeon. The dam of the pied cock is a granddaughter of Jim Cullen's 1st Section, 2nd Open Tours pigeon that was gifted to the two lads by Jim Durning, son of the late Andy Durning. Andy got the youngster that the Tours cock was feeding when going to the race from Jim Cullen, and when he passed away Jim gifted a hen from it to them. The Lindsay & Henderson partnership has stood the test of time, it is now 37 years since they joined forces, one of the longest-lasting and continuous partnerships in Scottish pigeon racing, if not the longest. Many, many top performances have kept them at or near the top of Club, Federation and SNFC racing and it will surely continue that way in the seasons ahead. Both lads would like to congratulate the Section winner, John Paton, on the fine performance of his winner in this race.

3rd Section E, 22nd Open, D. Gillespie, Blantyre. The pigeon putting Davie's name near the top in this race is his cracking 2y mealy pied cock, which is bred in the purple. The sire being a son of Jim Cameron of Uddingston's 1st Section E SNFC winner, and the dam a direct daughter of

Emergency, Jim O'Hara's gallant red cock which took 1st Section E SNFC, only Section bird on the shift. The mealy pied cock caught Davie's eye as a youngster and has always shown himself well in the race basket, having been a Club winner from Newark last year before being stopped for the season, with this year's Channel races being Davie's long-term plan for him. Of course this result made all the planning worthwhile and compliments must go to Davie for his handling of him. Talking with Davie I learned that over the years he has taken nearly every position in the first 10 of the Section in SNFC racing, except 1st Section. With some luck on his side this cock will be sent to the SNFC Gold Cup race in 2013 where I'm certain if he gets to it he will score again for Davie, and with added luck he might just pull off that elusive 1st Section, a position both fancier and bird are well worthy of. Thanks to John Quinn for reports and photos.

1st Section F, 18th Open, Cree & Cuthbert, Ayr. This partnership timed its 5y blue hen at 1655hrs for 446 miles and a velocity of 1256. Unfortunately due to holidays it has not been possible to obtain any further details, but as a 5y this hen has obviously won previous to this outstanding performance.

2nd Section F, 19th Open, J. Mathieson, Mossblown. This 2y chequer hen was time at 1653hrs for a distance of 445 miles and a velocity of 1256. This has always been a very consistent bird having been 2nd Club, 20th Fed in a very bad Leyland race, and 14th Section F in this year's SNFC Cheltenham race. Being of the old Kenyon strain she was certainly bred for difficult races, and this race certainly came into that category.

3rd Section F, 48th Open, D. McKinlay, Largs. It was a proud Derek McKinlay who timed his fine yearling hen after she put in a great performance. Her breeding is a mixture of Derek's own old distance family of pigeons. Prior to going to Ypres her last race was Wollaston on 10th June taking 1st Club, 8th Fed, flying 255 miles. This fine yearling hen was paired up for the first time this year for the Ypres race and was sitting five days overdue, she was slipped a small young bird before being put in the basket for Ypres. Mention should also be made of Derek's next-door neighbour, **Andy Hughes.** Their lofts are only four yards apart. Andy was **4th Section F, 92nd Open** sending only one yearling hen. Thanks to Archie MacIntyre for this report.

1st Section G, 104th Open, A. R. Rae, Aberdeen. Alex timed his 3y blue cheq hen at 1953hrs, the only bird in the Section on the day and flying 482 miles. This is a fantastic racing hen and besides her Club and Fed positions has been: 10th Section, 181st Open Eastbourne, 455 miles; 3rd Section, 72nd Open Ypres, 482 miles; 8th Section, 245th Open Marlborough, 397 miles and 4th Section, 347th Open Cheltenham, 363 miles. She is a van Geel cross and was sent to the race sitting 12-day eggs. Her last race was Cheltenham on 13th June, then she had a few 20-mile trainers before Ypres. Alex gets a lot of help with the pigeons from



Jim Donaldson, 2nd Section G.

his wife, June, so well done both of you.

2nd Section G, J. & A. Donaldson, Peterhead, who timed their 2y blue cock at 0648hrs on the second morning, flying 498 miles. He was a 2010 latebred and in 2011 was Jam & Ann's second bird from a hard Newark race, 308 miles, 12 hours on the wing. In 2012 he has had three races out to 280 miles before going to Ypres. His dam was 2nd Section, 7th Open Alençon. Well done.

3rd Section G, G. & C. Rae, Aberdeen, who timed their blue cheq hen at 0733hrs on the second morning, flying 482 miles. This is the same pigeon that was 2nd Section G, 217th Open Cheltenham on 13th June. She was sent to Ypres sitting eggs and had had one other race from Witton Castle, 173 miles, before that. Well done again, lads. Thanks to Willie Davidson for reports and photos.

Once again this turned out to be a race affected by the weather with the heavy rain across Central Scotland making it difficult for the birds in that area and severely restricting the chances of birds flying into the more northerly locations. Nonetheless six Section winners appear within the first 20 Open positions making it a very even race for the early arrivals. As usual there have been some exceptional performances. Two birds made it into the extreme west, **Cree & Cuthbert, Ayr** and **J. Mathieson, Mossblown** to take very creditable **18th and 19th Open.** However, to many one of the performances of the day was in **Section G** where **Alex Rae of Aberdeen** timed his good chequer hen at 1953hrs with a velocity of 1058 to be the **only bird on the day in the North Region,** the latest in a long line of great performances by this hen, as detailed earlier in this report. How that hen managed to get through the rain in the south then battle on into Aberdeen will remain a mystery – but that is one of the delights of pigeon racing.

A. McKEE
Press Officer

London North Road Combine Thurso

Open positions: 1st B. K. Hawes; 2nd R. Fenech & Son; 3rd B. Woodhouse & Son.
Stations. New Eltham: Wheeler & Son 1374, 1192; Webster & Family 1276. **Dagenham:** P. Kellet 1391; T. J. Haghey 1385; A. Brown 1385, 1349, 1315; R. Davis 1334. **Stratford:** B. Woodhouse & Son 1433; F. Dawkings & Son 1420; M. Sontag & Son 1383; M. Connolly 1380. **Tilbury:** T. Gunn 1347, 1245, 1175; T. Hughet 1305; B. L. Robinson 1284; W. H. Roberts 1254. **Havering:** F. Knott 1261, 1252, 1234; J. Croxson 1226; L. Stevens 1226; Hagger Bros 1221. **Barking WOMS:** B. K. Hawes 1443 (2); R. Fenech 1441, 1385, 1311.

Tommy Long Trophy. 1st M. Connolly & Son 1441; 2nd Mr & Mrs A. Brown 1436; 3rd B. Woodhouse & Son 1435. Full report to follow next week.

BOB SCOTT