



# Young Fanciers newsletter

Summer 2021

Young journeys start here...

Hello all you  
Junior Members..

I hope you have all been  
enjoying your racing this  
year.

Going by the stories in  
this edition of our news-  
letter, it definitely looks  
like you have been busy  
and doing really well.

We have stories from  
all around the UK, and  
also our new feature -  
Speedy's Letters - where  
you have been writing in  
to tell us about how you  
have been enjoying the  
sport over the past few  
months.

We also have big news  
on our RPRAs schools  
and how they have been  
doing, and we announce  
our latest competition  
winner.

So until next time!

SPEEDY

**Great start  
for Tyler**

See inside



**THE ROYAL  
PIGEON RACING  
ASSOCIATION**



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# A great start for Tyler

Below right is 9 year old Tyler, who in only his second race, in the highly competitive Duddon club, came 3rd and 5th.

He is delighted with his pigeons' performance and is looking forward to even greater achievements in the future.

He is pictured with his birds: a blue white flight hen called Spike (below), a gift from John Winstanley of Wigan, and a black home-bred P. van de Merwe hen called Black Shadow (front cover).

*Good work, Tyler!*



*It's Skye!*



Hi, I'm Skye. I am 5 years old, and I am from Co Antrim in Northern Ireland.

I have six pigeons of my own, which I like to look at and hold. My favourite colour of pigeons are red. My Granda Willy always helps me to catch them, as my hands are too small to catch them myself.

I hope as I get older I can take my own birds

to shows, and maybe someday take them to the Blackpool Show

In this picture I am holding my wee baby pigeons in a nest bowl.

I always look forward to the Young Fanciers Magazine coming in the post, and it would be great if I could be featured in it.

*Here you go, Skye!*

# Back to School

It has been a great pleasure over the years to see first hand the benefits that racing pigeons have on school children in an educational environment. In the UK we are lucky enough to have one of the few National Schools programmes in the world.

In the last 10 years the number of schools keeping and racing pigeons has grown steadily, with seven schools now regularly competing at local and national level. I am pleased to share with you that the trend of schools being successful has continued into the 2021 season, and as you can see from the schools' reports, the prize cards just keep flowing for everyone involved in the RPR Schools Project.

## St Andrew's School, Oswaldtwistle Teacher: Paul Burns



Having been able to increase our membership at Oswaldtwistle HS this season we were excited to be competing against a larger number of birds. It is also our first season in Division 1 at the club so we were hoping to hold our own against some of the best flyers. The work that had gone into breeding, training and race preparation from Allen, Nev Wilkinson, myself and the children really stood out with how well the birds were looking in the baskets on the first race of the season.

In that race, from Stafford (64 m), we placed 9th club out of 382 birds with a blue cock, bred by Alan Bamford. We were ecstatic to finish in the top ten. Some of our loft managers were able to sit waiting for the birds to arrive back, picnics at the ready and excited for the arrivals.

After an unsettled start to the season with the Covid-19 lockdowns and avian flu, it was great to finally have the children back here at school and our loft managers taking over the feeding and training of the birds under the watchful eye of my father, Allen Burns. We were able to get in quite a few short training chucks of about 12 miles in preparation for the season, along with twice daily loft flying between the spells of horrendous weather, and with only days to go, we were finally ready for the racing season.



We had an exceptional result from Cheltenham (127 miles), finishing 4th out of a whopping 434 birds sent by the club, and then produced one of our best ever old bird results from Mangotsfield (156 miles) a week later with the same cock, a chequer yearling again bred by ourselves (sire gifted by Brian Gudgeon, hen gifted by Mike Liddle). In that race we finished 2nd, 4th, 5th and 7th out of 334 birds sent by the club. An unbelievable result which makes all the time and effort put into the birds worthwhile.

We had even more good results in the following few weeks, coming 1st, 4th, 10th club against 224 birds and also 1st, 12th, 22nd, 33rd West

Pennine Amalgamation against 896 birds from Yelverton (236 miles).

Later on on the 3rd July we also came 1st, 2nd, 7th Club 112 birds and 6th Combine 2661 birds, and 6th and 29th 77th 3 Counties combine all from Yeovil (194 miles).



I think having the children at the school loft on race day is really bringing us some luck and creating everlasting memories for the children involved.

Back at school, we are looking at race points, measuring distances and working out velocities in class with the children who all eagerly await race results every Monday morning.

We are incredibly lucky to be able to create these unique experiences for the children, giving them the responsibility to care for and train the birds alongside introducing them to the fascinating sport of

pigeon racing. We are now concentrating on preparing for national and water races alongside getting our young birds up to scratch before their season begins.

We must once again thank all the experienced flyers at our club for their support and assistance, alongside the RPRA and Richard Chambers for their continued hard work in getting young flyers into the sport. We must also not forget flyers from across the country who have gifted us birds and Alan Bamford who sponsors our feed to help build our team to what it is now.

I am sure you will agree it's great to see the success of St Andrews continue into 2021.

Next we go to Longshaw Junior School, who compete in the same club as St Andrews and who were a big help to the school setting up a few years back. As you will see from the results, they have also been performing to the highest level with one of their best ever seasons to date.

## Longshaw Junior School, Blackburn Teacher: Mr Berry

The best results so far this year came in the Yelverton race where they were 2nd club 8th Fed, winner of the club knockout, cock bred by W Haslam and Son. He is a grandson of the famous Box 9 pair. The school won him in an auction at their club's presentation evening. This year he has won two cards and the following prize money. £40 nom £30 club knockout £30 Fed nom.

In the same race Longshaw Junior School also came 5th, 9th, 13th, Club 224 birds 8th, 19th, 31st West Pennine Amalgamation. A few weeks later Longshaw also came 3rd, 9th, 13th & 14th club 112 birds and 22nd & 63rd Three Counties Combine 3376 birds from Yelverton 235 miles 1578 yards.

To top it off, just before this report was being sent to print the school achieved its ultimate goal for the season, which was to come 1st club - they did this on 10th July against 142 pigeons flying from Cheltenham 126 miles 901 yards with a velocity of 1491.670yppm with a Cheq Cock GB20X19175.



What a list of performances the school has built up this year, and things seem to be going from strength to strength for the Longshaw School team. They also entered the RPRA One Loft Race for the first time in a few years, so it will be great to see how the birds compete at that level. From the results they have achieved so far, they will have every chance of doing very well in the next few months and we look forward to hearing more from their loft in Blackburn.



## Diggle Primary School, Oldham

Just a few miles away from Oswaldtwistle HS is Diggle School of Oldham, who in the past have had some huge performances in the Midlands National Flying Club.

Who can forget their fantastic 1st Open win in the UK Masters One Loft Race two years ago?

This year they have been hit hard by the pandemic, however this has only been a small setback and one they have overcome, as you will see from their results so far.

**We do like to know what you are up to - please let us know by emailing your stories and a photo to [speedy@rprra.org](mailto:speedy@rprra.org)**

Diggle School have once again been in the prizes, and to follow on from last season's success in the MNFC they have backed this up in 2021 by becoming provisional 6th North West Section Yelverton again.

This pigeon is a dark pied cock bred by Diggle School GB20A22100, sire is GB18Z62452 dark pied bred by Sanderson and Ramshead, purchased at their entire clearance sale. Unfortunately this pigeon was lost in the winter but he was winner of 2nd section, 15th Open MNFC beaten by 1 sec by a loft mate. Dam is "Brittany " GB18Z60836 blue hen bred by Alan Maile of Wisbech. She herself was winner of 19th Lincs

Combine Messac. Known as "Alien" at school she is flown on widowhood, however due to the pandemic the school has only raced five widowhood cocks all season. On arrival from the race he was clapping and boating around the loft before landing, not tired or thirsty at all - it was like he he could do it all again!

Diggle School had yet more success with their bird in the RPRA Yearling One Loft Race, with the pigeon GB20Z59389 picking up the following positions:  
Hot Spot Race 1 = 2nd Schools, 39th Open winning £60  
Hot Spot Race 2 = 1st Schools, 10th Open winning £100  
Hot Spot Race 3 = 1st Schools, 43rd Open winning £100

It is great to see the pupils doing so well at the school and I know hopes are high for the 2021 Young Bird season, and for the pigeons they have entered in various One Loft Races. We move south now, to Epping Forest and a school who were looking to branch out into pigeon racing.

## Theydon Bois Primary School, Epping

The school has been on an unfortunately long journey to get their racing season up and running due to covid restrictions, following their success in showing pigeons in the 2019 BHW Show of the Year, where they won a prize card.

The school is the latest addition to the RPRA Schools project and I can now report that they are almost there. It is a great example of a co-curricular approach to learning, and the pigeons have now been used in lessons across the whole of the school. Not only that the school is also at the heart of their community and the community have really bought into the project.

The pigeons are not only looked after by teachers and students, but also the family and friends of the school children. There are more than 10 people involved in feeding, exercising and training the pigeons and I am a member of their What'sApp group - they all got stuck in and enjoyed preparing the pigeons for their first race

The school has been welcomed with open arms at their local pigeon club in Loughton, and some of the parents, teachers and students have been paying regular visits during the old bird season to see how things work.

I spoke to the Secretary of the Federation, who also paid the school a visit, and this is what he had to say: 'What a great project they have at the Theydon Bois School. I honestly could not believe the set up they have down there and how the whole community had come together. I did not realise what a school project could achieve, and I thought that it was just for the students.

was just for the students. This is not the case here, and the loft that was funded by the RPRA and the BHW Show of the Year is perfect for the needs of the school. We look forward to welcoming them very soon to our sport and the 2021 racing season."

Once again we were able to get pigeons donated from all across the UK, and the 25 birds they have received this year will add to their original team of 8 pigeons currently living in the new 12ft x 8ft loft that was installed by Blakes Lofts in early May.

This loft has 3 sections, and in 2022 the school will be looking to race on the widowhood system.

As I said, the school now have all of their 2021 young birds, with the last arriving on 6th July, so they will be just fine to catch the back end of the young bird season.



A special thanks must go to the following people for donating the 25 young birds to the school this year: Tumley Lofts, Doug Gatland, Dan Clayton, Martin Waters and E Hanson. The school also runs its own blog on the school website where there are regular updates on the pigeons, training, racing and how they use the pigeons in the classroom. These are usually in the form of short

videos that are uploaded on a weekly basis, so there is always new content to view. I would recommend anyone to log on and view the videos as it really does show the very best of our sport, and is also great for any new starters who may also pick up some ideas. You can view the videos at [www.theydonbois.essex.sch.uk/our-school/pigeons](http://www.theydonbois.essex.sch.uk/our-school/pigeons)

Finally, we now have some exciting news to report from the schools races in the **RPR One Loft Yearlings Race 2021**. Below are the results of the 2021 Yearlings races, and as you will see there are some very impressive performances and large sums of money that have been won by the schools:

<i>School Posn</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ring No</i>	<i>Main Race Posn</i>	<i>Prize Money</i>
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**Hot Spot 1 - Worksop (103 miles)**

1st	BAPS Birdie	GB20H26068	16th	£100
2nd	Diggle School	GB20Z59389	39th	£60
3rd	Frizzy Flier	GB20F20924	41st	£40
4th	Orchard Vale School	GB20B57919	50th	
5th	St Andrews Maghull	GB20P25873	110th	

**Hot Spot 2 - Richmond (167 miles)**

1st	Diggle School	GB20Z59389	10th	£100
2nd	Orchard Vale School	GB20B57919	26th	£60
3rd	Frizzy Flier	GB20F20924	61st	£40
4th	BAPS Birdie	GB20H26068	74th	

**Hot Spot 3 - Alnwick (235 miles)**

1st	Diggle School	GB20Z59389	43rd	£100
2nd	Frizzy Flier	GB20F20924	51st	£60
3rd	Orchard Vale School	GB20B57919	79th	£40
4th	BAPS Birdie	GB20H26068	90th	

**Final Race - Brechin (334 miles)**

1st	Frizzy Flier	GB20F20924	4	£600
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As you can see the competition was really exciting, with a total of £1200 in prize money given out to schools. In the final race it was Frizzy Flier from **Frizington School** who came through to take the 1st position in the schools race, and winning prize money for coming 4th in the main race, which is an excellent achievement for the school.

Frizzy was donated to the school by A Kenmare & Son (see picture on page 7) and not only has this partnership been breeding top quality pigeons for the school, they have also conducted talks inside schools educating the next generation about the sport.

I spoke to Andrew Kenmare about the schools' performances and he said: "It has been great to help schools enter the One Loft Race, and to see them do so well. We have given a number of school talks, including Moor Row School. Next year we are hoping to get even more involved as we have paid for two entries for Moor Row School, and again we are hoping for more success in the races and in the classroom."

Earlier last month I spoke to Les Blacklock, the Cumbria Region Secretary, where Frizington School is situated, and he told me: "In 2020 Andrew and Tom Kenmare of Frizington entered the RPR One Loft Race as one of the Region's free school entries. The pigeon - Frizzy Flyer - won the school race on behalf of Frizington School. Frizzy was then entered into the Yearling Race, again representing the school, and during the three Hot Spot races Frizzy has performed really well. To top it off, he won his second Final Race in two years in the schools competition.

"Three gallant pigeons homed in on the day, and at 5.18am Frizzy Flyer arrived home to record 4th Open and 1st Schools. A tremendous performance by a really honest pigeon. Naturally Andrew, Tom and everyone at the school are over the moon. Well done Frizzy - you have done our Region proud!"

To add to this success, on the same weekend the brother of this pigeon won 1st West Cumbria Federation from Weymouth 273 miles. It is no surprise that the school intend to buy the pigeon back so that they can continue to breed and send high quality birds to enter into future races.



## Schools Locations



- 1 St Andrews School
- 2 Longshaw Jr School
- 3 Diggle School
- 4 Kings Hawford School
- 5 Beech Grove School
- 6 Theydon Bois School
- 7 St Andrews School (Coming in 2022)
- 8 Penkrige Middle School (Coming in 2022)
- 9 St Nicholas School (Coming in 2022)



It has been great to see the schools yearling race back up and running for the first time in a few years, and we are all very proud of the schools who entered. It does not stop there!! With a full house of schools entering the 2021 Young Bird competition, it's looking like it will be the best years yet, so keep your eyes open for more excellent performances in the RPR One Loft Races.

That's it from me for now - it is just left for me to congratulate and thank all of the people that run and support the schools, enabling them to compete in our great sport.

If you would like to learn more about the RPR Schools Project, or would like to enquire on how to set up a school loft in your area, please contact me by email at [richardchambers@rpra.org](mailto:richardchambers@rpra.org)

# Young Fanciers Awards 2020

Thank you to everyone that submitted a nomination for an RPR Young Fanciers Award for 2020. Unfortunately, not everyone can win an award, but we would like to congratulate all nominees, and especially the following winners:

## Young Fanciers Short Distance

1st Place Trophy, Medallion & £50: Reece McMillan, Carlton in Lindrick – GB20A26568  
2nd Place – Medallion & £30: Mia Hoddinott, Crossway – GB20L01949  
3rd Place – Medallion & £20: Millie Ann Coleman, Dover – GB19L17505

## Young Fanciers Middle Distance

1st Place Trophy, Medallion & £50: Zoe Bowler, Chesterfield – GB20L00316

## Intermediate Young Fanciers Short Distance

1st Place Trophy, Medallion & £50: Keelie Wright, Craigavon – GB20L10961

## Intermediate Young Fanciers Middle Distance

1st Place Trophy, Medallion & £50: Keelie Wright, Craigavon – GB17L02765



For the second year in a row, the Guy Barrett Trophy was awarded to Keelie Wright of Craigavon. This award is based not just on performance, but also on attitude to the sport and how the young fancier helps their club. Keelie...

## Schools Awards

### Bamford's Top Flight 2020 Schools Championship Trophy

St Andrews Primary, Oswaldtwistle – GB20N61594 Coefficient score 1.22

### Bamford's Top Flight 2020 Sprint Schools Champion

Diggle School, Oldham – GB19S41475 Velocity 2023.555ypm

