



# Young Fanciers newsletter

Young journeys start here...

## Hello to all you young fanciers...

It's been a busy few months for us pigeons, we have completed lots of races and its been fairly hot too.

In this edition of the magazine you will find news stories from around the UK, plus details of our two membership offers.

Visit our members area at [rpra.org](http://rpra.org) to see what others have been up to.

Until next time...

Percy Pigeon



**THE ROYAL  
PIGEON RACING  
ASSOCIATION**

[www.rpra.org](http://www.rpra.org)



## Meet Ellie!

We talk to One Loft race winner  
Ellie Davidson

## Oswaldtwistle

Homing Society  
recruits local school

# HI THERE!

Welcome to the first issue of Young Fanciers, our new, exciting magazine for all our Young Flyers and Young Racers...



Hey everyone

Welcome to the very first edition of Young Fanciers, this is a new magazine totally focused on you guys, under 18 fanciers.

We have lots of stories from around the UK of young people getting involved in racing pigeons and showing off some of the great achievements over the past few months.

Remember, if you want to feature in the next edition of Young Fanciers, just send in a picture of you being involved with pigeons and some information about yourself and the birds, and you could be the next star in the spring edition.

So what are you waiting for, get reading.

**SPEEDY**



## MASON FOWKES

getting stuck in  
**IN DERBYSHIRE**

Mason Fowkes, aged 12 is doing a great job at his local club.

As you can see he is always willing to lend a helping hand at Heage FC in the North Derbyshire South Road Federation.

Mason, who is part of the partnership P. & M. Fowkes is always on hand with his main duty being to fill up the drinkers as the pigeons are waiting for the main

Federation transporter on a Friday. He is also working hard back at his lofts as you can see cleaning the nesting bowls and keeping his pigeons in the cleanest of environments, which is excellent to see.

It looks like Mason is one to look out for in the new season and his hard work will surely pay off.

*well done Mason, keep at it!*

# Tyler BLOWS AWAY

## THE COMPETITION in Winsford

Tyler and his dad Stephen started racing pigeons in 2018 and fly under the name Harrison & Son.

Tyler has his very own 8 x 3 foot loft where he looks after his own birds after he saw his grandad's birds and wanted a few of his own.

Once the loft was up, Tyler's grandad gave him 12 young pigeons to start to race. On his first race, where Tyler sent out 10 of his small team, he came 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th in his club and all 10 pigeons returned home, which is excellent. Tyler is over the moon with

the result and has been working hard feeding the birds and cleaning them out every day.

What an amazing achievement by Tyler and this just shows that you do not have to have a lot of experience to race pigeons, just time and dedication is all you need and you could be like Tyler and his Dad, winning prizes or just enjoying your own birds come home from their races.



*what an amazing achievement!!*



Young birds in the Loft



The Club Mini Transporter



Junior Loft

## OSWALDTWISTLE HOMING SOCIETY AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPORT

# St. Andrew's Primary School



St Andrew's children

Earlier this year, Oswaldtwistle Homing Society sent out a four page leaflet and letter to three schools in the area offering a free starter package to race pigeons. The letter highlighted what was on offer and how racing pigeons can be linked to the school curriculum relating to history, geography and maths.

There was also a two page case history on the success of Longshaw Junior School.

It also stressed that the project requires a Teacher or Parent to be involved.

Two of the schools replied positively and St Andrews Primary School were selected, with another School set to join the Club next year, which means three schools flying in competition with each other in 2019.

The starter package consists of a Junior Loft 5 ft x 5 ft x 3 ft with a four bird stall trap and base, 12 box perches and an optional hinged doweled door that can be opened during the day. The loft has been built by R V Woodcraft of Fife and is on loan to the school, there is also a feeder,

drinker, scraper and small basket from Pallats of Leicester and a wing stamp from the Andover Rubber Stamp Company – plus a free bag of Breed and Wean kindly donated by Bamfords Top Flight. Generous fanciers have donated 10 Young Birds and there is a free T3 clock on loan from the Club. Support and assistance is also part of the package.

Thanks to Hyndburn and Ribble Valley CVS, the Club have been able to obtain a grant of £500 to finance the project from the Eric Wright Foundation Trust. At the moment the total cost for the junior loft and equipment is just over £500.

To start the ball rolling, Jonathan Berry, the Deputy Headmaster of Longshaw Junior School, who are a member of the Club, took a group of children to St Andrews to give a talk and presentation on racing pigeons. They took a few birds with them and covered aspects on how birds are prepared for a race with demonstrations of wing stamping, ringing the birds with rubbers, marking up a race sheet and timing into a T3 clock. Also details of egg laying and incubation cycles, and then moving onto training and getting them ready for the first race.

The project then started live with the loft being delivered and erected by R V Woodcraft. After receiving a set of keys, club members were able to open the various security gates in the school yard and get to the loft, which is set in an open lawned area in the school's grounds. The Head Teacher, Tina

Wilkinson has been fantastic, providing a food store and offering to have a water supply fitted close to the Loft.

The ten young birds have now arrived and been vaccinated and are on deep litter. The perches will not be cleaned for the first 10 weeks – Colostrum with a sprinkling of cinnamon is added to the daily feed and elderberry concentrate to the water, all helping to build up the young birds' immune system. The birds have also been put on darkness.

Feeding starts at 9am and on the second day the birds were put in a basket on the lawn for half an hour – the basket was then placed next to the door and the birds walked into the loft. Each day the basket is moved further away and soon the young birds will be flying into the loft from 20 yards like widowhood cocks. Eventually the young birds will be trained in the Club mini transporter twice a week.

The final stage will be handing operations over to the children, teachers and parents who will feed, loft, fly, train and hopefully time a winner, with Assistant Headteacher Paul Burns overseeing the project.

Any remaining young birds at the end of the racing season will be wintered at a nearby member's loft and returned to the school as yearlings in March the following year.

The Club hope to work with the new RPPA Development Officer, Richard Chambers, and have prepared a booklet entitled 'Information on Racing Pigeons and Schools'. It includes full details of the starter package, suggested letter to schools and information on how clubs can apply for grants.

During his eight year tenure at Kingsmead Technology College, Richard had tremendous success with recruitment and 28 children had their own small lofts and were all members of racing pigeon clubs.



# PIGEONS

## Ball the way!!

Karla is another young lady who is loving spending time with her pigeons. Ever since the day she was born Karla has been around the pigeons as her father Lee was a keen pigeon keeper and introduced her to the pigeons when she was just a baby.

As Karla got older she took on more and more responsibility around the pigeons from changing the drinking water, feeding them and also cleaning them out. It has now got to the point where Karla cares for the birds, with her father, Lee, just helping out where he can.

"Karla would spend every minute of the day with her pigeons if she could" her father said. "She loves watching them go in and out of the loft in the summer and they help her a lot as she has a few health problems. She suffers from panic attacks and anxiety attacks but the pigeons are her 'happy little out time'



KARLA BALL

where she can relax and enjoy herself. They all have names plus its gets her out the house in the fresh air."

Karla loves the breeding season and really enjoys the challenge of breeding the nice coloured pigeons, which, as you can see she has been doing a great job. Her favourite coloured pigeons are Pied's, Reds and Silvers. Karla is dedicated to the sport and she is in the loft from 6am to 6:30am every morning and again as soon as she gets back from school, right up to when her mum goes mad at her to get changed out of her school uniform – which I know many of you will be able to relate to, I'm sure! Her favourite part of keeping pigeons apart from breeding is settling the new young pigeons into their new home and also watching them grow and fly. I think the way that Karla feels about her pigeons is really summed up by something she said to her mum and dad one day: "There's nothing without pigeons." Both her mum and dad feel that they have been great for her.

So what is next for Karla? She wants to race and show them when she is older, and I think at the rate she is going she is not far from doing that. I just wanted to leave you with this final quote from her mum and dad and I think you will agree that it sums up this whole story of a young lady and her pigeons.

"She loves what she does and they bring her happiness and peace she has told us many a times she would rather be with them than playing in the street. As long as she has got her pigeons and dog she doesn't care what goes on in the world – that's my little girl Karla and we are very proud of her."

*If you can relate to this story and any other stories in this edition of Young Fanciers please send in a few photos and a little write up of you with your birds. If you have got your friends and family involved we would love to hear from you. Just send your pictures and stories to richardchambers@rpra.org I look forward to hearing from you.*

Karla feeds her pigeons



"It's a fascinating sport dating back to the world war and ideal to help with all issues anybody has."



## EAST RIDING COLLEGE RPRAS SCHOOLS ONE LOFT RACE WINNER

### Student Profile: Ellie Davidson

**Name?** Ellie Davidson.

**Age?** 17.

**College?** East Riding College.

**Favourite subject?** Beauty theory.

**Interesting fact?** I am studying Beauty and race pigeons.

**Greatest pigeon moment?** Being young fancier of the year in 2017 and recently coming 6th in the one loft race.

**How easy was it to start racing?** I was very lucky as my stepdad, Sam Jackson already raced pigeons so I was given pigeons from an established racing team. I was also lucky enough to get a Unikon clock thanks to Sam and Chris Vasey (of Loftus) donating

pigeons and holding an auction to raise the money. Kristian Coil (from Sacriston) found a used Unikon that was for sale.

I have support from Nafferton flying club which I am a member and from other fanciers; Gary Cox, Kerry Mellonby, Stuart Watson, (who bred the pigeon for the one loft race) and Jamie Langrish, Mr Higgins and many many more, but also the support from my mum and stepdad.

**What made you take up the sport?**

My step dad and because I became isolated after being diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

**What do your friends think about the pigeons?**

My friends know about the pigeons and one friend, Megan, did help to liberate them.

**How did you find out your College had won the RPRAS One Loft Schools Race?**

I was told by my stepdad and Mum and Stuart Watson.

**What's next?**

To continue to fight this illness and have another great year at college and hopefully have an even better year racing.

**Would you recommend young people to get involved in pigeon racing?**

Yes I would, it's a fascinating sport dating back to the world war and ideal to help with all issues anybody has. With the support from the RPRAS and fanciers who are willing to help new starters should be easier.

Ellie Davidson

'Young Flyers' is an excellent way of getting involved in the sport of racing pigeons.

'Young Flyers' membership makes you a junior member of the RPRA and gives you an introduction to the sport.



**£5**  
a year

## Young Flyers

- ◆ Quarterly 'Young Fanciers' magazine with stories about Young Flyers and Young Racers from all over the UK.
- ◆ Young Flyers Badge each year with four to collect.
- ◆ Cool Poster all about racing pigeons.
- ◆ Free Entry for you and two adults to the British Olympiad.

'Young Racers' is an excellent way of getting involved in the sport of racing pigeons.

'Young Racers' membership makes you a full member of the RPRA and allows you to race in your local club from your own back garden.



**£10**  
a year

## Young Racers

- ◆ Quarterly 'Young Fanciers' magazine with stories about Young Flyers and Young Racers from all over the UK.
- ◆ Young Racers Badge and Membership Card.
- ◆ Registered to race your own pigeons.
- ◆ 20 Rings to put on your own pigeons.
- ◆ Cool Poster all about racing pigeons.
- ◆ Free entry for you and two adults to the British Olympiad.

## Join us...

Fill in your details below and send along with a cheque made payable to

'THE RPRA' to the following address:

The Royal Pigeon Association, The Redding, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 6RN.

You will receive a welcome pack within 10 working days.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Town .....

County .....

Postcode .....

Parent email .....

Parent phone .....

Membership type **Young Flyers** (£5)  **Young Racers** (£10)



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