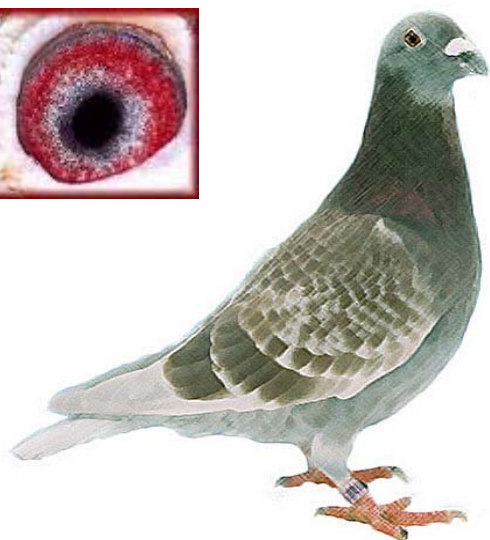


MONTH BY MONTH with Chris



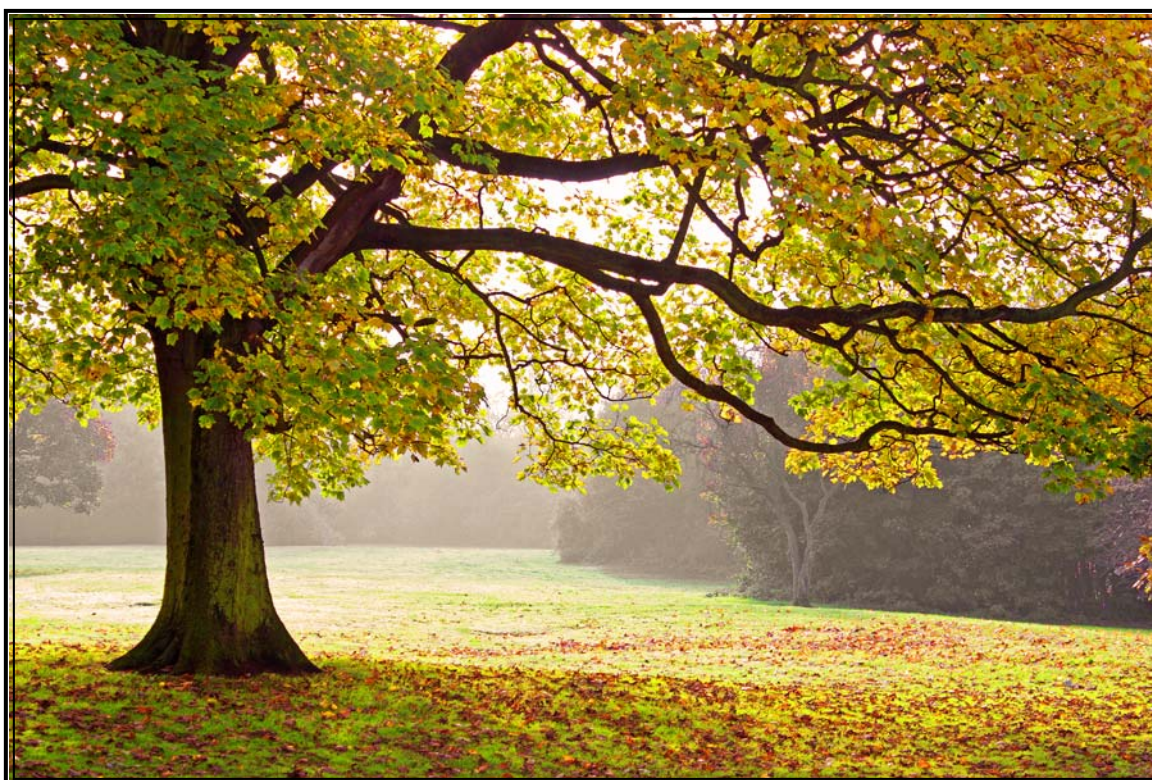
Champion "Tracey's Red" winner of the N.W.C.C. Hall of Fame and over £5,000 in his racing career, for Chris Knowles of Woodley, Stockport.

2009

January	February	March
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
April	May	June
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
July	August	September
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
October	November	December
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

October : "the eighth month"

No I haven't gone mad, well not yet anyway. In roman times October was the eighth month as as it does today has always had 31 days. The Latin *october mensis* from which it comes, means "eighth month". This is the month when there is no doubt that summer has well and truly gone and that autumn has arrived. The colour transformation of trees and hedges is perhaps something that we take for granted but is something to enjoy and behold. As the hours of darkness are highlighted by the turning back of clocks by an hour, the moult of our pigeons has reached a peak and the ugly ducklings are taking on the appearance of swans. Animals and birds are busy building themselves up for the winter to come and their activity is reduced to a minimum as November approaches. The geese have begun their southward migration and the squirrels are digging holes all over the lawn.



In my opinion, it is very important to retain focus on the moult and the health of your pigeons throughout October, November and December. In some cases, if pigeons have been on a controlled light system through into September, some birds will continue moulting throughout January. It is important that the moult is continuous and does not halt, as more often than not, this is a sign that something is not well. My own experiences have taught me that young pigeons which, when they have been on a controlled light system and do not complete a full moult, are lacking in constitution. My personal experience is that these birds fail later in life when the going is tough. For this reason, in my loft, all birds that do not complete the moult are eliminated.

Lancashire Social Circle: The end of October is a time that I look forward to it is followed by the Autumn gathering and prize dinner of the LSC. Which, takes place on the first weekend of November. It is a most enjoyable weekend, when members and their guests, many of whom are distinguished names within the pigeon sport, get together and share friendship and hospitality. The prize distribution evening dinner is usually attended by around 120 members and guests, all of whom are male and support the strict code of tradition which is the infrastructure on which this great club is founded.



Centenary year trophies and medals on display.



Tables await the members and their guests.



The banner proudly shows the 100 years of red rose friendship as celebrated in centenary year!

This is the time of the pigeon season when, we are bombarded with adverts and sales lists in the fancy press. A time when thousands upon thousands of pigeons are sold, many of which, have no performance to their name nor have the parent pigeons that bred them. A time when many purchasers of such pigeons, are chasing dreams and rainbows. Falling foul of the "designer label" strain tag! The sad thing to me is that many of these fanciers will not attend a prize night of any kind, they will not share in the success of those that they compete against and will be putting very little back into the sport that they strive to take as much out of as they can. Is this directional influence what the sport needs, if it is to survive the stress and pressures of a "credit crunch" mentality and society in which so called "working class" sports like pigeon racing, are shrinking and losing a battle against techno. games when it comes to pastimes for children ? I strongly believe that we all need to put some effort into resurrecting the social side of our sport and bringing back true sportsmanship and the thrill of good competition. It is all very well to support one loft races and similar ventures but these will not provide the training and testing ground that champions need if they are to perform at the highest level. Whether you are a fan of club racing or not, it has a role to play and without member support, this infrastructure of pigeon racing will collapse.

Sorry about that, I am off the soap box and I do truly hope that subsequent generations of pigeon fanciers will have the opportunities to enjoy the kind of friendship and social life, that I have been lucky to enjoy from this sport. I note from the BHW that there are shows being held at Doncaster in early November and December and of course there is Show of the Year at Blackpool to come in January. I always look forward to Blackpool and meeting friends both old and new, especially friends from the continent. I think the addition of the exhibition of fancy breeds has been a good thing as it presents a chance for fanciers of all types of breed and competition, to come together and share and learn from each other. Lets face it no matter how much we think we know, there is always something to be learned in this game!



Three true gentleman of our sport, Rod Adams, Rod Flint and my great friend the late Richie Ryder. This picture was taken at the LSC back in 2004.

**Good friends are like stars.....
You don't always see them,
But you know they are always there.**

Until next month, Enjoy your pigeons! **Chris K**