

*Scottish National Flying Club*  
*Established 1894*

**EASTBOURNE 2009**

For our second inland national race of the season; we again experienced a fantastic entry with over 5000 birds competing; consequently in our first 2 races of the season we have had over 10.000 birds at our inland nationals. In this Eastbourne race the 668 members entered 4243 birds; the remaining 800 birds were made up from federation who used the club's conveying facilities; I would like to point out that this was every federation in Scotland bar three.

The SNFC section birdage was as follows; Section A; 288 birds; B 1105 birds; C 1084 birds; D 334 birds; E 1046 birds; F 203 birds; G 180 birds; broken down into the following Regions; North 180; South 288; East 2519; and West 1253 with the total birdage from 688 SNFC members being 4243 birds;(up 143 birds on last years race) and competing for a total pools and prize money of £23.712.50. I predicted we would have a good entry after the first national race from Newbury as stated in my report the majority of members had 70% returned and these birds 'blew up' after the time they had on the wing from this first national. One thing the membership have shown is if they get their birds home in good condition then they will set them up again for another crack at one of the club's classic races. The officials and management committee have shown this year that the pigeons will always come first, and in doing so the membership have given a vote of confidence by sending their birds back with the SNFC.

**The convoyer's report;**

Pickup Aberdeen, Dundee, Fife and Bo'ness; no Problems; met up with other transporters at Uddingston. Transporters left in convoy for Gretna at approx. 10.30pm; loaded baskets and feeding at Gretna and travelled on to Stainmore and took 3 hours rest. Departed at 05.00 am for liberation site; stopped at Stibbington Truck Stop where the birds watered and rested for 1.5 hours before travelling to Eastbourne arriving at 3.15pm; birds fed and watered immediately. Controller phoned to say he would phone early next day for weather report; Ray phone at 4.45am Saturday morning; told him it was dry, sun just coming up, high thin cloud – looking ok. He phoned back to say rain around London area would need to clear before we could liberate. We started to put rings on baskets in case of short notice to liberate. Weather at liberation site broke to blue skies and broken cloud. Ray phoned to say road was clear and to liberate at 8.15 am in a North West wind; birds cleared site very well heading North and inland. Transporters left race point after 9.00am; meeting short showers when on the M25; weather was good rest of the way home. My thanks to Ian French; Kenny Young and Stuart for their commitment in looking after the convoy signed Colin Gray – SNFC Convoyer – Eastbourne.

(As you will see the convoy arrived in plenty of time at Eastbourne and with the 5000 birds spread in the 4 transporters namely Central; Midland and Ballochmyle federations with a small transporter with an overspill of birds; this has a release mechanism and proper watering facilities plus it was felt it was better to use this small transporter with this overspill than open baskets and add extra birds into each baskets; our convoyer's Colin Gray; Ian French and Kenny Young had taken more drinkers than was needed, however as they used the large drinkers which cover the whole

length of a basket. These 4 men again did a fantastic job in making sure our birds were well looked after while in their care and this showed by the amount of birds timed on the day (Joe Murphy).

### **Race Controllers Report**

The weather forecast for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June was as follows; Dry scattered showers in the east of England and a west to North West wind. The first line of contact was with Brian Staymaker from Thames Valley at 05.04am his report was 'Raining at Heathrow – Watford wind west to moderate.

Contacted again at 05.30 report 'Belt of rain stretches from west to east of Chelmsford moderate rain; Cambridge very fine; Kings Lynn moderate rain.

Contacted at 07.10 report; 'Stopped raining blue sky trying to break through to the east. Contact then made with Steve Proffitt from the Up North Combine at 07.37am his report; 'Weather good at Norwich; Billericay; Huntingdon; Peterborough; Fresh west winds at Melton Mowbray; dry fresh winds at Newark.

H Summer contacted at 07.40 report; 'good clear weather at Langold South Yorkshire; with a west to north west wind.

Contacted Joe Tiffany at 07.42 his report; 'Dry clear, fresh wind looking into the Vale of York from Leyburn North Yorkshire.

Contact with the convoyer; 04.40am his report; Dry, good visibility 25 miles wind moderate No Sun. Contacted again at 05.10am report; Dry thin high cloud sun trying to break through to the east. The 06.02am report; No Changes at the race point; weather dry, good visibility moderate west wind; 06.50am No Contact with convoyer; 06.55am Blue skies at race point; 07.35am blue skies at race point. The overall forecast was Dry; scattered showers in the east of England with a north west wind.

The convoy were liberated at 08-15am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June into a West wind turning to North West 10 miles per hour; temperature 14 degrees at time of liberation. Convoyer Colin Gray reported a brilliant liberation with pigeons clearing immediately.

I would once again like to applaud our race control team of Raymond White; Richard Combe and Gareth Rankin who worked from early in the morning when most fanciers are still in their beds phoning down the line of flight; checking web sites and web cameras all the way down to the south coast of England. Just to show you a sign of dedication to duty; Gareth Rankin works as a self employed Taxi driver; he started his shift at 20.00 hours on the Friday night came home at 03.30am he then studied the weather sites and web cameras until the liberation and then went to bed; when the rest of you were just getting up; Sterling work from this young man and he like the other 5 men mentioned above are indeed a credit not only to themselves but to the club as a whole WELL DONE GENTLEMEN.

### **On our way Home**

So the 5000 birds were on their way home to Bonnie Scotland and it would be a testing race; with the fittest and keenest birds heading the convoy home. Early signs recorded on the club's lib line service (not everyone is using this service which is a pity as knowing the early arrivals assists me in compiling my reports for the press) indicate this has turned out to be an tough steady race. Same story as always some fanciers having good returns while others never had a bird on the day; nevertheless the result was over on the night with the last Fife pigeon recorded at 20.40pm and

many clubs within Fife have enough pigeons home to fill their club result (this race is part of the Fife federation race programme) Some fanciers have 4; 5 and even 8 birds in the clock (while others still have not seen a feather) when the official result comes out it will again highlight the quality of pigeons and fanciers we have within this great club of ours; these pigeons deserve every fragment of publicity they receive as they are truly outstanding quality pigeons who put in tremendous performances and my congratulations to all the members who timed in day birds from the furthest inland race in the club's calendar.

### Section and open winners

#### Section B;

1 <sup>st</sup> section 1st <b>OPEN</b>	Dave Owen Coldingham	1184
2 <sup>nd</sup> section 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>OPEN</b>	Andrew Lees Eyemouth	1182
3 <sup>rd</sup> section 5th <b>OPEN</b>	Rockcliffe & Manson Duns	1171



*Dave Owen from Coldingham with is 1<sup>st</sup> open SNFC Eastbourne winner*

First section and **1<sup>st</sup> open** is **Dave Owen** a Newcastle lad who moved to Coldingham 5 ½ years ago; however has never lost his 'Geordie' accent; Dave timed in a 2 year old blue widowhood cock now named 'Old Pro' which I will tell you about after. He never sees his hen prior to a race but for Eastbourne he was given her for 30 minutes the longest ever this season the reason for this was Dave wanted him to settle down as he was going to be in the basket for 2 days before liberation. As a youngster he was flown out to Melton Mowbray 223 miles; then as a yearling 5 races out to Ribenhall a distance of 307 miles before being stopped. This year he had Budworth 121 miles;

Worksop 185 miles; Melton Mowbray 223 miles; Wanstead Flats 302 miles with the SRPC being 9 hours on the wing. He was then sent to Eastbourne a distance of 369 miles to win 1<sup>st</sup> open. You will have noticed that Old Pro has missed some races in between races the reason for this was Dave wanted to try a new system and not send his widowhood cocks every week, he feels that by having a break and going every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week the pigeon is fresh and this resting period seems to have paid off for him as you will see from the result as he won 7<sup>th</sup>; 13<sup>th</sup>; 40<sup>th</sup> & 61<sup>st</sup> open in this Eastbourne race and he only races 20 widowhood cocks and 8 widowhood hens.

Sire of Old Pro is a Janssen from Village Lad lines and was obtained from Harwood Brothers from Newcastle and are from Klak Janssen base. This stock cock has already bred a 1<sup>st</sup> open Eastbourne and a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> open Leicester in the SNRPC.

The dam of Old Pro is a Soontjen stock hen purchased from Mr Stone from the Midlands (he used to have a stand at Blackpool show; with his pottery) this hen has also bred some 'canny pigeons' for Dave over the years. Now for the reason he was christened Old Pro; Dave's partners late father Michael McHale from Rosewell; he was an old 'pitman' and if anyone wanted advice then they would go to see Michael. He then developed the name of the Old Professor hence the reason for naming him Old Pro, as a matter of interest Michael was a good friend of Alistair Rae of Bonnyrigg. After congratulating Dave on winning the SNFC I asked if he wished to add to this report and he asked me to thank all his club members for their assistance since he moved to Coldingham; they have made him most welcome and it is a joy to be part of this club. Dave has done well at the inland nationals with his team of widowers over the years but he is going to have a go at the Channel next week as he has 2 birds going to Reims. He told me 'I'm still learning and I have not got the system right for the channel race with widowhood but I will 'give it a go' when a national winner is still learning this is a good indication for novices reading this report to never give up.



Second section B 2<sup>nd</sup> open is Andrew Lees of Eyemouth a well known fancier within the history books of our great club as he has won the SNFC twice already, first time in partnership with Mel Bell when they won Sartilly in 1995 with **Hussein** then in 2007 he won 1<sup>st</sup> open SNFC Eastbourne with **Northdale Ambition** who beat 2125 birds sent by 401 members recording a velocity of 1373;

*Andrew Lee's winner of 2<sup>nd</sup> open Eastbourne*

This Eastbourne 2<sup>nd</sup> open national winner is related to Northdale Ambition and Andrew could have had a double national winner with the same bloodlines. Still having a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> national winner connected is not a bad position to be in. Andrew timed in a 2 year old chequer cock sent to the race sitting 10 days on eggs and he returned with this 2<sup>nd</sup> flight ½ up; Andrew told me that this pigeon is ‘shinning’ and he looks better now than when he went away; so much so that he is earmarked for the last race of the season from SNFC Falaise race. Andrew had his 4 entries timed in when he went with his clock and he has asked me to highlight his appreciation to the race convoyer’s on the tremendous condition his pigeons are on return; proving they have been well looked after and obviously received the ultimate attention while in the convoyer’s care; Well done lads. As a youngster and yearling this chequer cock was race to Ribenhall a distance of 302 miles and stopped for the future. He was paired up the last week in February and reared one youngster in the nest; his hen was then killed by a cat (Andrew has been plagued by cats this year). He then received about 10 tosses from 50 miles prior to going into his first race from Melton Mowbray 180 miles; by this time he had paired up to another hen and reared 2 babies in this nest; both birds were sent to Huntingdon a distance of 250 miles and low and behold this hen returned severely injured with both legs broken; she was taken down to near neighbour Steven Aitchison who attended to her injuries and she was placed in a basket and was kept in the garage for 3 weeks; I’m happy to report she is now out and flying about with the team and Andrew would like to thank Steven for his time and effort in assisting his injured pigeon. As the chequer cock was now without a hen once again; he caught the eye of a yearling hen; his 3<sup>rd</sup> mate of the year; and having a young thing to devote all his attention to he soon fell in love with her. While driving this hen he was sent to the second Huntingdon race which was about 3 weeks before this Eastbourne national. He was trained for 5 consecutive days from 35 to 40 miles up to 2 days before basketting and was entered sitting 10 day eggs with his new young hen. Andrew told me he is as near as ‘pure’ a Bricoux’s that he can get; his sire is a red cock bred by the late Francis Butler from Sheffield while the dam is a chequer hen bred by John Owen from Crewe; she is the grand dam of Andrews 1<sup>st</sup> open SNFC Eastbourne 2007 winner; as her daughter bred ‘Northdale Ambition’. Andrew would like to thank John Owen and he knows that Francis is looking down on him and smiling at this recent success. Andrew would like to congratulate Dave Owen from Coldingham on winning the SNFC; and he also sends his best wishes to the lads in Forfar on their gallant pigeons who put in an outstanding performance to obtain so high positions in the open result especially in the West to North West wind. My thanks to Andrew for his contribution to this report and may I once again applaud him on his 2<sup>nd</sup> open win.

Third section B 5<sup>th</sup> open are the partnership of **Allen Rockcliffe and Ann Manson** from Duns; Allen has asthma and has breathing difficulties when close to the pigeons so his partner Ann attends to the loft chores and handles the birds and keeps the records up to date. Allen was a game keeper and it was only when he retired 4 years ago that he decided to restart in the sport (he had them as a boy) as he now had the time and many of his friends in Bedlington kept pigeons and were always at him to start up again. So he and Ann joined the local club Duns last year and flew in the first young bird race of the season right through to the young bird national from Leicester winning diplomas. This is their first old bird season and here they are winning 5<sup>th</sup> open in their 3<sup>rd</sup> SNFC race. Their winner is a blue white flight cock who was raced as a youngster from Thirsk 113 miles; Worksop 1 & 2 a distance of 178 miles; Melton

Mowbray 218 miles; Peterborough 237 miles and then into the young bird SNFC national from Leicester winning 151<sup>st</sup> open.



*Ann holding the partners 5<sup>th</sup> open Eastbourne winner with a happy Allen*

This year he was paired at the beginning of April and his single youngster hatched on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. He was then trained from 60 to 70 miles twice a week up until the races arrive at the 250 miles mark; when the team were only trained once a week from 30 miles. The birds are not exercised round the loft because a Sparrow Hawk resides very close to the loft. In fact their loft is situated within a Country Estate and is surrounded by woodland hence the reason for the heavy training. This year the blue white flight cock was flown from Bubworth 1 & 2 a distance of 147 miles; Melton Mowbray 218 miles; Huntington 1 & 2 a distance of 253 miles; Ribenhall 1 & 2 a distance of 301 miles then into Eastbourne a distance of 264 miles; if you count up the distance he has flown in race this comes to 1838 miles prior to Eastbourne then add the 140 miles a week up to the Huntington races shows you that he had to be super fit for the Eastbourne race. Some fancier's birds have not done a quarter of this amount of miles this year so something to think about? Their feeding is Crowthers All Year Round and Irish Mixed together, with Aviform Ultimate & Aviform E Plus in the water most days, they are also given Orego Stim; Hemp Oil and Red Skin Peanuts and the most important item of all; Ann always gives them a kiss before putting them in the basket.

Allen cannot tell me very much about the breeding of the white flight cock; as he received the stock birds from his friends in Bedlington who obtained them from a fellow club mate who took a stroke and was reducing his pigeons, Allen believes the origin are Busschaerts and this is all the information he has been told. Allen asked me to thank his fellow club mates for all their help and assistance since he and Ann

started last year; namely Sandy Bain and Tom Keenan. While on the phone to Allen and Ann their good friend Sandy was present and I spoke to him and congratulated him on his success in the other national 2 weeks ago. Sandy informed me that this win by Allen and Ann could not have happened to a nicer couple; they are both very dedicated fanciers who put in a lot of hard work and they are also excellent workers for the Duns club into the bargain; he finished off by wishing Kevin and I all the best for the remainder of the season; and he has some pigeons set up for the Gold Cup race this week end; I extended my good wished and the very best of luck to Sandy. My thanks to Allen and Ann for supplying me with the information on their winning pigeon and I look forward to them continuing their success story in the SNFC. My thanks to Angela and Eggy Jamieson for supplying the photographs to go with this report also for verifying the winners in section B from this race

**Section C;**

1 <sup>st</sup> section 3 <sup>rd</sup> OPEN	Mike Leggett Forfar	1174.8
2 <sup>nd</sup> section 4 <sup>th</sup> OPEN	D & D L Liddle Forfar	1174.5
3 <sup>rd</sup> section 6 <sup>th</sup> OPEN	Eric Galloway Forfar	1169



*Mike Leggett 1<sup>st</sup> section C 3<sup>rd</sup> open Eastbourne*

First section C 3<sup>rd</sup> open is **Mike Leggett of Forfar** who timed in a 4 year old blue roundabout hen; She was mated the end of January and reared 2 youngsters before going on roundabout. On the day of basketting they were together for about 3 hours, this was longer than normal because Mike was playing badminton at lunch time and was a bit pushed for time so he put them together before he left. Mike stated; 'She has never been a brilliant hen having only a few minor club and federation positions but over the last four years she has had practically all club; federation and inland SNFC races. She is what you would call 'Dependable' having never spent a night out. She was sent with a full wing her 10th almost fully grown. This year because of my wife's hip operation in early April training was somewhat curtailed but I did manage to get 2 or 3 training tosses from Dundee. Since then she has had all but one of the club/federation races. She was earmarked for SNFC Newbury but I got the marking times wrong and therefore she missed out; which is maybe a blessing in disguise Joe. This year she has raced from the following race points; Arniston 54 miles; Hexham 120 miles; Witton Castle 147 miles; Ripon 180 miles; Wakefield 1 & 2 a distance of 210 miles; Leicester 289 miles winning 8th club 15<sup>th</sup> federation and then into Eastbourne a distance of 428 miles. She is exercised along with the rest of the team both morning and evening; feeding is the best of Versa Laga mixtures with Hormoform and peanuts used as titbits; No medication is given apart from the annual vaccinations; the only other thing I do Joe is Cider vinegar is used in their drinking water every day. Sire is a Janssen crossed Van Den Bosh from John Robertson of Arbroath; with the original stock birds from Albert Brassington from Midlands; the dam is a Dordin from a Mr Taylor of Carlisle

There is a tail to this achievement; Mike and his wife Pat had booked tickets for the local bowling club Barbeque for the Saturday night; however with the late liberation and the North West wind the birds were due home when the Barbeque was started. Mike being a pigeon man would not go until he had a bird home. So when the blue hen came over the house; down and in the clock at 18.56 he was over the moon. He waited until 19.20 and then decided to go to the Barbeque; so Pat did her normal and switched off all the sockets in the house before they left. At the end of the Barbeque Pat and Mike came home about 23.40 and he went right up to the loft to see if he had any more birds home; finding another 4 birds in their boxes. He then looked at the ETS to see the time of their arrival and could not get it to work, so trying all the connections he could still not get the clock to work, so up to the house to check the socket only too discover it was switched off. It was just as well he had timed the blue hen in before he left or there could have been world war 3 in the Leggett household. We can all imagine how he felt as these birds could have made the open result; however this is a big 'IF'. While at the same time you can understand that this is one of Pat's tasks she does every time they go out, as she has heard of so many incidents resulting in tragedy over the years. Mike said laughingly 'It was a B.... Tragedy for me, Joe' and we both had a good laugh. To continue with this story before going to bed Mike checked the SNFC Web Update page and noticed that David Liddle had a bird the same time as him and as he had over fly on David it would all depend on how quickly the birds trapped. He could not sleep a wink thinking 'one of us is going to be very disappointed' and it would be hellish to loose a race of this stature by a few seconds. So the next morning he visited David's house to find out his time and let him know he had a bird in as it so happened in front of him. Mike says he 'feels for David, as he thought he was winning the section for so long and then to be told he was beaten is a hard pill to swallow and I know how I would felt had it been the other way around'.

2nd Section C 4th open are the partnership of **D & D L Liddle of Forfar** who timed in a 2 year old dark chequer cock flown on widowhood. He was a darkness youngster however was injury during training and he missed the first two young bird races but flew the rest of the club programme winning a couple of minor positions in the process and he also flew the SNFC young bird national from Leicester. As a yearling he flew 10 races out as far as Leicester winning 1st club 1<sup>st</sup> federation from Tow Law a distance of 136 miles; 7<sup>th</sup> club 9<sup>th</sup> fed and 9<sup>th</sup> club 10<sup>th</sup> federation Witton Castle 143 miles and 9th club 13<sup>th</sup> federation Newark 259 miles.



*The father and son partnership of Dave and David Liddle of Forfar with their 2<sup>nd</sup> section C 4<sup>th</sup> open flying a distance of 428 miles*

This year he was paired on 14th February and reared a single young bird; he sat his second round of eggs for a week and was then widowed. He had 4 short tosses before the first race and has received no training since. He has flown every club race; Arniston; Hexham; Witton Castle; Ripon; Wakefield winning 6<sup>th</sup> club 16<sup>th</sup> federation; Leicester; Wakefield winning 12<sup>th</sup> club 13<sup>th</sup> federation and Witton Castle winning 5<sup>th</sup> club 11<sup>th</sup> federation the week before Eastbourne. In his 25 races to date he has been on the federation result 10 times which is a good average don't you think. His sire was the partners good cock 2188 who won 1<sup>st</sup> Grampian Combine from Maidstone by 20 minutes in 2005 and won the Forfar club 10 times and the Angus federation 4 times but unfortunately failed to return from Eastbourne last year. The dam of the dark chequer cock is a stock hen that was from a Busschaert cock bred by the late Peter Fenton of Arbroath, when paired to a hen from the partner's own family which won 2<sup>nd</sup> section SNFC Leicester young bird national. Incidentally the dam also bred their

pigeon that won 8<sup>th</sup> open SNFC Newbury in 2005, The Liddle partnership also timed in 2 other pigeons to win 17<sup>th</sup> & 157<sup>th</sup> open so a good race overall; my thanks to David for his contribution and to George Briggs who verified the Forfar winners and supplied me with the photographs.



*A happy Eric Galloway with his 6<sup>th</sup> open Eastbourne winner; Eric has 21 home from his 27 entries; with 9 birds on the open result.*

3rd section C 6th open is **Eric Galloway of Forfar** who had an excellent race timing in another 8 pigeons to win 36<sup>th</sup>; 44<sup>th</sup>; 63rd; 114th; 186<sup>th</sup>; 196<sup>th</sup>; 266<sup>th</sup> & 386<sup>th</sup> open plus another 2 on the day; truly fantastic performances when you consider Eric like Mike and David is flying 428 miles; His 6<sup>th</sup> open winner is a 2 year old blue chequer pied hen flown on the roundabout system they never see their mate prior to any race however they are left together on return from a race for at least 2 to 3 hours. Eric has now left his birds together as they are now going to be re-mated for the last SNFC race from Falaise. This pied hen flew the full programme of 9 races out to SNFC Leicester young bird national as a baby. The following year as a yearling she again flew 9 races out to SNFC Eastbourne; returning home the 2<sup>nd</sup> morning. This year the

pied hen was paired in the second week in February and reared two youngsters before going on roundabout at the start of the season. She had 5 tosses from Dundee around 10 miles before racing started and had flown every race winning out to Eastbourne winning 1<sup>st</sup> club 1<sup>st</sup> federation from Wakefield a distance of 214 miles.

The sire is Lefebre Dhaenen from Alf McPherson Arbroath crossed Bricoux from Larry McLangin from Birkenhead Wirral Merseyside and the dam is a Busschaert from Davie Glen of Letham (near Forfar) breeding. One interesting fact that Eric told me was he and Mike Leggett have swapped youngster over the years; and would you believe it Mike's youngster this year is direct from this 6<sup>th</sup> open hen. My thanks to Eric for supplying me the information on his winning pigeon and once again to George Briggs for the photographs; the Forfar lads have had a brilliant race and once you have time to study the open result you will see how well these Angus federation members have done, I would love to mention everyone but space does not permit however I would just like to send my congratulations to every Angus member who make the open result well done one and all.

### **Section A;**

1 <sup>st</sup> section & <b>79th OPEN</b>	Mr & Mrs Guenther Dumfries	1089.74
2 <sup>nd</sup> section & <b>80th OPEN</b>	Mr & Mrs Guenther Dumfries	1089.71
3 <sup>rd</sup> section & <b>104<sup>th</sup> OPEN</b>	Bill Pirie Eastriggs	1075

First & 2<sup>nd</sup> section A 79<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> open are the husband and wife partnership of Mr & Mrs Guenther of Dumfries as many of you may remember they won the inland national and Gold Cup in the club a few years ago. You won't find a more dedicated fanciers than little Karl who works so hard for his pigeons and deserves every piece of success that comes their way. Karl told me that he sent 5 yearlings and had 3 on the day and has not seen the other 2.



*A happy Karl with his grand son Lewis and daughter Nikki, holding their 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> section A winners*

Their section winner is a blue yearling cock on the widowhood; he has had every race this year from Appleby 55miles; Leyland 101 miles; Appleton 126 miles; Stafford 167miles; Coventry 203 miles; Windrush 238 miles; the comeback Stafford race and then Eastbourne 340 miles. Karl's widowhood cocks never see their hen before going to a race; however for the inland national he shows her for 10 minutes and this

seemed to have done the trick. As a youngster the blue cock had 2 races fewer than 100 miles and was then stopped for the year.

He is bred from Karl's good friend and mentor Thorsten Daum from Germany; sire was purchased from Thorsten and his half sister won 3<sup>rd</sup> open Sun City Million Dollar Classic race in 2008 where he won \$70.000 or £40.000. The breeding lines of the Sun City winner are from Dirk & Louis Van Dyck cock line from Olympic Zigo from Co Varbree –Ernst Nabel's Charlie One lines.

The partners 2<sup>nd</sup> pigeon is a yearling blue pied cock again flown widowhood and beaten by ONE SECOND; this year he had Appleby 55 miles was then sent to Leyland however returned badly injured with no feathers and badly bruised undercarriage, it looked as if he had hit a wire; He was allowed to recover and given the Stafford comeback race and then shown his hen for 10 minutes before going to Eastbourne and he arrived alongside his loft mate. He won 1<sup>st</sup> club 1<sup>st</sup> section from Shap from an entry of 626 birds. Sire is one of Karl's most consistent pigeons in his race team at the present time as he has won 3 x 1<sup>st</sup> prizes and flown Alencon in 2008; this cock is known as Karl –Lewis named after himself and his grand son. The dam of the 2<sup>nd</sup> section winner is also in the racing loft she in turn is bred from Karl's stock pigeons. Karl has asked me to congratulate the winner Dave Owen and wish all the members of the SNFC the best of luck for the remainder of the season. He like so many others is delighted to see the large birdage from our first 2 nationals 10.000 pigeons in the 2 convoys is a testament of 'The Good Old Days are back again Joe'. My thanks to Karl for phoning me so quickly after being informed of his success and I again wish him and Liz all the very best for the remaining national races as I know he will be trying like a 'beast'. Once again I'm grateful to Ian French and David Smith for supplying me with the photographs to go with this report.



*Bill Pirie with his 3<sup>rd</sup> section A Eastbourne winner*

Third section A and 104<sup>th</sup> open is **Bill Pirie of Eastriggs** whom many of you may remember won 1<sup>st</sup> open SNFC Newbury last year; Bill timed in a 3 year old blue hen that has been a very consistent pigeon over these 3 years winning quite a number of prize cards in her racing career. As a youngster she flew out to the young bird national; then as a yearling she was raced right out to SNFC Newbury winning 13<sup>th</sup> open; As a 2 year old she had 5 races to Newbury and was then returned into the Eastbourne race. This year she was mated up the end of January and sat on eggs for 5

days; she was then taken away and has been celibate since flying the roundabout system, only seeing her cock a few minutes prior to club racing; She received 3 x 40 mile tosses before the season began and flew from the following races in the Annan Premier club; Leyland 90 miles; Appleton 115 miles; Stafford 155 miles; Leyland comeback race; Woolston 179 miles; Cheltenham 216 miles; Marlborough 253 miles and was then given her cock for a few minutes longer than normal and basket for Eastbourne a distance of 326 miles. Breeding is Tony Marden crossed Jim Biss; the sire is a Staff Van Reet from Rockcliffe (from the Toey line) when paired to Rosetta line. Dam is a Jim Biss from Natrix and Vend lines. Bill was telling me that he entered 2 birds in the race and had 100% returns; however he did admit to having a bad race from Newbury and was disappointed as he sent a good team. Again my thanks to Ian French and David Smith for obtaining some details and the photographs go with this report, it is very much appreciated.

To be continued in Eastbourne 2 2009

Joe Murphy  
SNFC Press Liaison Officer