

*Scottish National Flying Club
Established 1894*

EASTBOURNE 2009

Section D;

1 st section 38th OPEN	John McNeil Broxburn	1115
2 nd section 41st OPEN	Dave Jamieson East Calder	1111
3 rd section 65th OPEN	John McNeil Broxburn	1099



John McNeil with his 1st section D Eastbourne winner

I returned **John McNeil of Broxburn** phone call to obtain the information on his 1st and 3rd section D winners. John timed in a yearling blue roundabout hen to win the section; As a youngster she won 14th club 46th federation Ripon and 10th section D 72nd open in the SNFC young bird national from Leicester. This year she was mated the end of January and reared a pair of youngsters and was then put on celibate until the middle of April; she had 1 training toss from 25 miles prior to racing and was never in a basket unless to a race point; She had the following races Coldstream 52 miles winning 3rd club 4th federation; Otterburn 71 miles; Seaham Harbour 109 miles; Ripon 147 miles; Wakefield 176 miles winning 16th club 30th federation; Newark 224 miles winning 13th club 32nd federation; Leicester 249 miles; Wanstead Flats 334 miles winning 11th section 93rd open SNRPC. She was then left and was given her cock the night before basketing for Eastbourne; John put some straw on the floor and

they has some in the nest pan the next morning however another cock dominated the floor and took most of the straw for his nest. She was purchased direct from D & J Hawkins from Doncaster and is a Gaby Vandabeele from M & D Evans bloodlines. John's **3rd section D winner** is a yearling mosaic cock also bred by D & J Hawkins however he is a Vandabeele crossed Janssen and was in fact paired to the section winner. Last year he won 2nd section 5th open SNRPC from Leicester and this year the only thing different to the hen was he had 4 training tosses prior to the season starting as John had some late bred he wished to train out and the cocks were taken with them on these training exercises. He was also at Wanstead Flats this year and won 9th section 72nd open. My thanks to John for supplying me the details of his winners and to his good friend Dave Gullane who forwarded me the photographs to go with this report it was very much appreciated.



John McNeil's 1st & 3rd section D Eastbourne winners in their box

2nd section 41st open is **Dave Jamieson of East Calder**; a member of the SNFC management committee, he has not contacted me with details of his winning pigeon.

Section E;

1 st section 173rd OPEN	T Richardson Newmains	1039
2 nd section 192nd OPEN	G Rankin & son Larkhall	1032
3 rd section 227th OPEN	J Wilkinson Glenmavis	1019.4

I received the following report from SNFC management committee member Derek Hay who wrote; 'Hi Joe the winner of 1st section E 1st west region 173rd open is **Tam Richardson of Newmains**, this was not just a great section win but a brilliant team performance as Tam had a fantastic race timing 5 birds on the night flying 388 miles; winning 13th, 39th, 41st & 67th section E and his 2nd bird winning 307th open; his first 3

birds were yearlings. Tam's section winner is a very strong blue chequer cock, which when first brought to my attention, looked an average sort of 'doo', but when in the hand, he showed great vitality and strength. He carried a full wing at time of verification but was just ready to chuck his third flight, he was sent to Eastbourne feeding 2 big young birds and starting to look at his hen again. Tam mated his birds on St Valentines day and most of them reared young birds then went onto the roundabout system but his winner was mated to what he thought was a barren hen so he left them together. Out of the blue, this hen laid 2 eggs and these were the 2 young birds the cock flew home to.



A happy Amy with her proud dad Tam Richardson 1st section E 1st west region 173rd open

Preparation for the national was every race with the Lanarkshire fed except Newbury. The programme is- Kelso-58 miles; Otterburn-78 miles; Hexham 1 & 2 - 90 miles; Wakefield - 176 miles; Newark - 224 miles and Leicester- 236 miles. He also uses the Clydesdale mid week club as a training facility as they train from Kelso or Dunbar every Tuesday. As you will see Joe Tam races his birds hard and they go to almost every race. His section winner also had every young bird race including the SNFC National from Leicester. When at his loft, Tam enthused about his 'old blue cock' that is responsible for scores of winners for Tam and others. When I handled him, although 10 years old, you could see he was a quality pigeon. This old cock is the grandfather and great grandfather of Tam's section winner. Joe when verifying this bird Tam told me that he has been on cloud 9 since the race and has barely slept, even though he did a power of celebrating; well done big man yours Derek' whom I thank for his contribution and support in compiling this report.

2nd section E 2nd west region 192nd open is the father and son partnership of **George Rankin and son Gareth of Larkhall**, no need to introduce Gareth as I have mentioned him in my opening remarks as he is one of the race control team. Gareth forwarded an email and photographs to go with this report he wrote, 'Firstly on behalf of my father and I we would like to congratulate Tom Richardson on finishing ahead of us in winning section E, a great performance by one of Lanarkshire's successful and most consistence lofts.



Gareth & George Rankin from Larkhall 2nd section E 2nd west region

Our pigeon that has been successful on this occasion is a blue cock bred in 2007 now named 'Westbound Bronze' with his name coming from the prominent bronze he has embossed on his bars. This cock was purchased from Graeme Warman at Stocksbridge Lofts in Doncaster being bred from the successful bloodlines of his good friend Mark Evans of M & D Evans. Sire of Westbound Bronze is "The Spirit" a full brother of Rolls Royce who raced in only 3 Nationals and positions were as follows 2nd section 1652 birds; 2nd open 4154 birds, 32nd section 2900 birds; 33rd open 5617 birds; 9th section 2896 birds; 50th open 7017 birds competing "Spirit" was bred from the dynamite couple of Nationaal Fideel and Belle who when paired together bred 2nd, 3rd; 5th.; 33rd and 50th open in National racing. Dam of Westbound Bronze is Bramble a direct daughter of Steve McQueen from the immortal couple of Jester and Carrie, with the mother of Bramble being Sissi 91 mother of 4th open Nat 11,448 birds, 36th open Nat 31,619 birds, 45th open Nat 24,250 birds and 105th open Nat

25,500 competing pigeons her name coming from being a granddaughter from the famous SISSI considered to be the best breeding hen of Holland.

As a young bird Westbound Bronze had all races to Tow Law 107 miles were he was against 1725 competing birds winning 18th west section 62nd Open Lanarkshire federation and a velocity of 921. As a yearling in 2008 he finished 5th club Uttoxeter 213 miles from 308 pigeons and a velocity of 1187. This year he had shown great form with 7 races his best performance prior to basketting for Eastbourne was 1st club Wakefield 175 miles with 567 birds entered. Westbound Bronze was paired up on 10th of February and reared 2 young birds in the nest with him being separated after sitting on the second round of eggs at 5 days, from this point onwards he was then flown on the roundabout system until 4 days before basketting for Eastbourne when he was repaired to his hen with his first flight ½ up. Training for Eastbourne came in the form of 2 tosses from 45 miles with a further 2 from 13 miles added to this exercise round the loft for 40 to 50 minutes, he is a cock who has powerful shoulders with great buoyancy and a crisp pearl eye. We would like to once again thank Graeme Warman for breeding Westbound Bronze in what was at 387 miles a very hard race into a headwind. Worth noting to the readers that it was the same Stocksbridge lofts of Graeme Warman that bred the section winner in 2008 for Mr Wilkinson that finished 1st section E 5th open SNFC Eastbourne. Joe the pigeon that my dad is holding in the photo I sent to you was a blue chequer cock who in 2008 as a yearling late bred won 6th section E 7th west Region SNFC Eastbourne, and this year he was our second bird finishing 11th section E 13th west region 299th open from SNFC Eastbourne cheers for now yours Gareth', whom I thank for his report on their winning pigeon, I also noticed in the open result the partners won 25th section E 375 open well done and I will be looking for your name on the Gold Cup result.



3rd section E 3rd west region 227th open is **Jim Wilkinson of Glenmavis** who timed in a 3 year old blue pied widowhood cock. This is one of the form lofts in the Midland federation and he races his birds in the Airdrie club. Jim has only been out of the federation top 20 in 2 of the 10 races flown this year. In the last three weeks he has been 1st & 3rd federation Appleby; 20th federation SNFC Newbury and 2nd federation Leicester open – good flying. Last year Jim won 1st section E 1st west region 5th open in this same race.

Jim Wilkinson holding his 3rd section E 3rd west region 227th open winner

His winning bird this year had three races prior to going to the SNFC Newbury race where he was the second bird to the loft. He was then prepared for Eastbourne where he certainly didn't disappoint. He is no stranger to the SNFC results as last year he was on both the Newbury and Eastbourne results. This was a difficult race into this area and was another good performance from a very consistent pigeon. My thanks to Andrew McKee of the management committee for supplying the details and photographs for this report

Section F;

1 st section 228th OPEN	Harvey Pollock Irvine	1019.03
2 nd section 287th OPEN	Tom Smith West Kilbride	1000
3 rd section F	D McKinlay Largs	940



Harvey Pollock, 1st section F 228th open with is winner in the background

First section F 228th open is **Harvey Pollock** of Irvine; who timed in a 3 year old blue cock flown widowhood and his hen is NEVER introduced to him prior to a race he only gets his nest bowl turned over and then basketed. Harvey's winner was mated the middle of January and reared 2 youngsters before going celibate. He then received 3 tosses from 20 miles prior to the racing and these are all the training tosses he has. He was then entered to Locherbie 70 miles; Longtown 80 miles; Appleby 114 miles; Ripon 156 miles; Wakefield 190 miles; Leicester 260 miles where he won 3rd club as a matter of interest Harvey took the first 6 places in the club in this open race. As a youngster he had 4 races to 120 miles then as a yearling and 2 year old out to Leicester and stopped for the year. Sire is a blue cock from his own family; the breeding of these birds originate from Ayrshire fanciers from as far back as 1950, and

he has cultivated them over the years with introductions from top winning Ayrshire pigeons. The old adage of 'survival of the fittest' being his motto and he brought this family of pigeons with him when he moved to Irvine from Kilmarnock in 1972. As a matter of interest the sire of Harvey's section F winner won 2 x 1st prizes and then returned hawked and was put into the stock loft which has turned out to be a blessing in disguise as he is producing winners.

The dam of the section winner was purchased at the entire clearance sale of the late Jackie Bunch of Netherburn; she was down as a blue pied cock in the sale list but turned out to be a hen; and she has bred a lot of good pigeons over the years. In her pedigree is Alan Darragh Independent Ranger winner of 1st open INFC in 1986; on the other side of the pedigree is Eric Cannon bloodlines going back to 3 x 1st section Pau National winners plus a 1st open Palamos winner, so you will see she is bred in the purple. Harvey would like me to congratulate the conveyors on an excellent job as his pigeons have returned in exceptional condition This is the first year Harvey has been a member of the SNFC for 25 years and the reason he has joined the club again is; the marking station in Ayrshire. Plus the fact this race is also a federation race and Harvey decided to join the club again and here he is winning 1st section F in his 2nd race and to say he was not happy would be an understatement well done once again Harvey on your section win. My thanks to Harvey for supplying his information and to Richard Thornhill for sending me a photo of Harvey with his winner in his nest box in the background.



A happy Tom Smith with his chequer cock who has won 2nd section F 31st open Newbury & 2nd section F 287th open Eastbourne

Second section F 287th open for the second time in 12 days is **Tom Smith from West Kilbride** who you may remember was 2nd & 3rd section 31st & 60th open Newbury.

Well Tommy timed in his same 2 year old dark chequer cock that won 2nd section F 31st open; he is flown on roundabout; he was mated on the 15th February and reared 2 youngsters in the first round when he was sitting 6 days on the next set of eggs his hen was removed and he was celibate. He was given a few training tosses in stages up to 12 -14 miles prior to the first race; however he receive a set back when Tom heard a thump at the back of the loft and found a hen sparrow hawk on top of him; as he approached she flew off and he picked up the bird who was covered in blood from an open wound on the butt of his wing. Tom told me he recovered quickly and was then given 3 or 4 races with the last being Leicester the week prior to the Newbury event. He was given the normal routine with the only difference being Tommy gave the pairs a little longer together prior to this race about 10 minutes or so. As a youngster he was given a few races then as a yearling he had every race and won the yearling cup in the Ayrshire federation; he also won 14th section F from Eastbourne in 2008. He is much inbred to Tommy's good Busschaert hen who won 1st section F 135th open SNFC Alencon in 2007 for McDonald and Smith. The sire of the dark chequer cock was a yearling cock that was lost racing. The dam is a full sister to the dam of the 1st section F winner from the Gold Cup race. Prior to Eastbourne he was given a training toss on Monday and Tuesday from Glasgow 28 miles; he was left in the loft on Wednesday and received his hen for an hour on Thursday prior to basketing for his second national. Tommy wishes to thank the forward thinking officials of the SNFC for introducing the race marking station in Ayrshire in Spittalhill and he also wishes to thank everyone who runs this station as it is without doubt a 'blessing to Ayrshire fanciers' as they do not now have to split their teams into Federation and SNFC candidates as the federation are now duplicating with the national and as Tommy says 'it makes more sense'. The federation are also going with the SNFC to Ypres and Falaise so let's hope other Ayrshire members achieve the same success as Harvey and Tommy and his good friend John Campbell who won the section from Newbury. I phoned John and Tommy last Friday after I received my pigeon papers and noticed their pictures were missing from the Newbury report. I assured them this was out of my control as I had sent the pictures of the other winners away on the Friday night and the report at 06.00am the following morning; I did not receive their photographs until mid morning and by that time it was too late as the pigeon papers had type set the story and they missed out. **That is why I emphasise it is so important for me to receive the details and pictures as soon as possible as we have a dead line to catch.** Once again my thanks to Tommy for his information and I have enjoyed our chats these past few weeks.

Third section F is **Derek McKinlay of Largs** who timed in a 4 year old hen sent with her egg just hatched the morning of basketing; As a youngster she had 5 races out to 120 miles; then as a yearling she was sent to a 160 mile race along with her cock and was lost, he was lost for a week but returned home. In 2007 Derek sent the cock to the 160 mile race as his all pooler and low and behold he failed to come home on the day; on the Sunday Derek and his wife had gone shopping and on his return he found the cock in his box and would you believe it the hen had turned up a year to the day of the race she was lost. Her feathers were all bleached with the sun (she could not have been in Scotland then as we don't get that much sunshine) and she had roughed it during this time. Derek let her bond to the loft and she had a good moult and in 2008 she was a steady pigeon and flew out to Newbury National 330 miles and was stopped for the year. This year she was paired up on the 21st February and reared one youngster she like all the team are given 5 training tosses from 14-20 miles before the season starts and then the training stops. She then flew the following race programme;

Locherbriggs 68 miles; Longtown 90 miles; Wakefield 201 miles; then the comeback Appleby race 128 miles where she won 1st club this was the Saturday before basketing on Thursday for the Eastbourne national a distance of 408 miles and her eggs hatched out the morning of basketing for this race. This is not Derek's favourite nest condition as he has tried it in the past without success however this was the motivation the hen needed to win her 3rd section F SNFC Diploma; Sire and dam came from Morgan Findley from Inverkip which is up the coastline from Largs; and these birds originated from A & J Orbine from Port Glasgow; Feeding is all round mixture with a slightly lighter feeding mixture in the morning after their daily exercise.



Family man Derek McKinlay with his children and 3rd section F winner

Derek was telling me that he restarted the pigeons again in 2005 after a spell without pigeons, he kept them as a lad with his brother and the 'bug' never left him; This is his 2nd year in the SNFC and the reason he joined the club was the incentive to compete in the club and federation with the same pigeons as the SNFC opened a marking station in Ayrshire; he told me 'Joe this has been a blessing to Ayrshire and Ballochmyle members and the club should be congratulated on this revolutionary ovation as we in the extreme west of Scotland are now gaining results we only dreamed about'. Derek also commented on the condition his pigeon returned in and thanked the convoyers for their attention in looking after the birds. As happy as Derek was at gaining 3rd section F he could not hide his pleasure at his good pal Jake Pearson from Inverkip also doing well in this race; as he timed in a bird at 06.35am to win 1st club 10th section F Eastbourne national well done to both Derek and Jake.

I would like to thank Kenny Young for supplying the photo and details and Derek whom I also phoned after finding his message to call him back on my answering machine; during this call I managed to obtain some more information on his winning

pigeon. Well done to everyone in Section F it is indeed a pleasure to see so many West Coast fanciers on the open result.

Section G;

1 st section 198 th open	A Williamson Aberdeen	1030
2 nd section G	Robbie Higgins Fraserburgh	897
3 rd section G	A Robb Inverurie	856



*The happy Williamson family with Alan holding the 1st section G 1st north region
ONLY PIGEON ON THE DAY also 198th open*

First section G 198th open is **Alan Williamson of Aberdeen** who timed the only bird into the region on the day; this blue chequer yearling cock was timed at 21.12 on Saturday 20th June. He has now been named Ace 64; he was timed from Newbury with the SNFC to record 4th Region G 12 days ago. This bird has flown 7 races in the Aberdeen federation and when you add the 2 inland SNFC races this comes to a total of 1851 miles in one season; when you take into account he flew 854 miles in the space of 2 weeks from the Newbury and Eastbourne nationals; this is not bad going for a yearling. After flying the Newbury race Ace 64 was left with his hen which had just laid to go natural; previous to this he was raced on roundabout. Alan did exceptionally well with this system as he won the averages for the first 6 races in the Aberdeen federation no mean feat as there are some top widowhood fliers in the federation. Sire was lost racing in 2008 and was of Alan's own breeding; while the dam is a Janssen and was a gift from Bob Whyte of Fraserburgh; she was timed in to win 6th club and 21st federation from Newbury 2009. She has also won 5th club from Eastbourne in 2008 and arrived at 12.28 on the second day from this race. When Ace

64 arrived he was with a blue cock which had a rest for about 10 minutes then flew off he also had mud on his feet and Alan suspects he was down somewhere for a drink. Alan Williamson is a small young man and his birthday is next week (40 years old) but he has put up some big performances over these past few years. For example in 2003 Alan won 1st region G from Claremont, 2004 1st region G from Newbury; 2005 1st region G from Eastbourne. This win gives him his 4th x 1st region trophies in 6 years which is no easy thing to attain. When you also consider that he has won 3rd region G from Eastbourne in 2008. How proud his grand dad would have been to see his devoted grandson win 4 x 1st region trophies in the mighty SNFC; Alan's grandfather was Johnnie Chapla whom Ian McKay raced against in the Mastrick R P C way back as a matter of interest Ian tells us that Johnnie was in the Polish army and settled in Aberdeen at the end of the war. Once again our sincere congratulation to Alan and his devoted family on this noteworthy result to win the north section is an achievement but to win it with the only pigeon on the day is all the more amazing well done Alan.



2nd section G
2nd north
region is
**Robbie
Higgins of
Fraserburgh**
who timed in
his 2 year old
dark chequer
roundabout
hen at
04.44am
second
morning
flying 489
miles. She
was paired up
on the 28th
January and
reared 2
babies in
both her first
and 2nd nests
as Robbie
does not keep
stock pigeons

Robbie Higgins of Fraserburgh with is 2nd section G 2nd north region winner

so he breeds from his race team to have youngsters for each season. His pigeons receive 4 x 30 mile tosses prior to racing and they go to the first 3 or 4 club races on natural and are then put on roundabout. His wining pigeon had 2 x Cupar 101 miles; Arniston 132 mile winning 6th club; Tow Law 202 miles; Ripon 246 miles; Rotherham 295 miles winning 3rd club 13th federation. She was then given a single up

from Peterhead on the Tuesday (20 mile) and left with her cock for an hour. The following night he allowed the pair together with some straw on the floor and she was basketed in this condition going to the race. As a youngster she won 3rd club Alnwick 157 miles and as a yearling she raced right out to Hastings a distance of 483 miles winning 15th club. Robbie has named the pigeon Stephanie's Girl after his daughter; she was bred by his good friend and Scotland's Fancier's Fancier of the Year 2008 Alan Ritchie who won the coveted Annie Ross Bowes trophy at my sporting challenge presentation. Stephanie's Girl is one of 3 birds Alan gave Robbie and believe it or not one of them won 1st club Hastings in 2008 so not bad having 2 winners out of the 3 birds. Bloodlines are Jan Theelan crossed Jan Aarden crossed Van Wan Roy. Robbie bred some birds for Alan and one of these has won 11th section G from this same Eastbourne race flying into Banff. Robbie has been interested in pigeons all his life; however as he was a fisherman for 15 years and did keep pigeon; he admits he never gave them the 100% dedication they deserved and in fact it was his wife Michele who looked after them and she was more the pigeon fancier than Robbie. In 2004 he came ashore and got a job at St Fergus Gas terminal outside Peterhead, and joined the Fraserburgh & District and he won the old bird averages 3 out of 4 years; he was also the only club member to win the combine averages 4 years in a row and last year he won 16 trophies in club & federation winning the federation averages. He has now changed clubs recently to the Fraserburgh West End and he is now going to concentrate on long distance racing and has introduced 20 young birds for this purpose. Robbie would like to pay tribute to Alan Ritchie, Robert Barclay and Bob Whyte for all their help and assistance and with a team like that pushing you forward no wonder Robbie Higgins is being successful.



3rd section G 3rd north region is **Sandy Robb of Aberdeen** who timed in a 4 year old blue white flight cock at 05-28 hours 2nd mornign flying 460 miles. His breeding is Sandy's old base family of Vandenbosch -Vander Esp. crossed with Jim Biss Dordin. As a young bird he was lightly raced but as a yearling flew the programme through to Hastings 450miles winning 5th club. As a 2 year old on roundabout he collected more minor club tickets and was also 10th north region Newbury 400miles. In 2008 he had only been entered into 3 races in preperation for the national events when Sandy's loft was badly affected by attacks from a pair of Goshawks;

Sandy Robb of Aberdeen holding his 3rd section G 3rd north region

the result was the old birds were confined to the loft and locked up from mid June. This year all birds were kept natural, this being part of Sandy's strategy to avoid goshawk attacks. He had no road training but instead had 4 races through to Rotherham 264miles winning 2nd club and was then sent to Eastbourne sitting 16 days eggs, with a small youngster waiting for him on his return. As a much younger man Sandy graduated from Aberdeen University and went to the Marine laboratory where he stayed until he retired in 2007 from a lifelong career as a Fisheries Biologist. He looked forward to finally having more time to spend with the pigeons as his previous work commitments meant that he never had the opportunity to complete a whole racing season,. But of course he did not count on the attentions of the local goshawks. These past two years have been a nightmare with the number of attacks that his birds have had to put up with during the racing season with the inevitable consequences; 22 young birds lost in 2007. Coming from a scientific background Sandy has logged the goshawk activities for the past two years and this season has adopted a management procedure which he hoped would reduce the attacks and so far this seems to be working although that could all change in the blink of an eye. As a result he did not plan too far ahead as regards the racing season and just took things on a weekly basis. This meant that the birds were left very natural with little training rather than being put on roundabout and flying all over the skies. Sandy has kept pigeons all his life having been introduced to the sport as a young man by his father and the bug has been there ever since that time even though he could not always get them raced. Despite being short of time Sandy has had a reasonable level of success having won at all distances from the shortest race to across the channel. Sandy's loft is a 3 section loft in a back garden set up and all the birds have to earn their perch to be there the following season. Approx 20-25 pairs are wintered with no stock birds and 40 young birds bred each year. Sandy started racing in Aberdeen with the Aberdeen & District R P C back in 1960's but joined Inverurie and the North of Scotland federation when he moved out of the city in the 70's; Sandy has won Region G from SNFC Rennes soon after he moved out of the city of Aberdeen but work commitments affected pigeon racing activities for a good number of years. He has won 1st section G twice from France plus other positions; 3rd Maidstone; 10th SNFC Newbury in 2007; and he can be very competitive when he puts his mind to it. Like a lot of fanciers he looked forward to retirement so that he would have more time to spend on this great hobby of ours but now golf seems to be creeping in as a rival for his attention. (He is chasing a hole in one) Sandy came back into the National scene in 2007 with some success and hopes to build on this in future years before the time comes for him to hang up his Scraper. Ian McKay remarked 'On my visit to Sandy and looking at the well kept loft I think it will be some time before he hangs up his scraper Joe or at least I hope so'. My thanks once again to Ian McKay for obtaining details and photographs of the north section lads for me, as I know he is very busy as Ian is the man who runs the Lib Line service and he supplies Andrew Garven with the details for the SNFC Web Page service.

Conclusion

This was another fantastic response by the membership with over 5000 birds entered and we have had over 10.000 pigeons in our 2 inland nationals. As you will have read in this report even the members are saying 'The good old days are back again' and long may it continue; we have proved time and time again that the club is bigger than any individuals. The new management committee insight and enthusiasm has been the inspiration to the members; the innovation of new race points plus marking stations in Ayrshire has been a resounding success with the west of Scotland fanciers now having a chance of achieving their goals of winning SNFC Diplomas. Listening to member's complaints is not enough and we must follow this through and carry out their wishes; and this is exactly what has happened over the past few years; decisions; visions; planning for the future of the club are at the nucleus of everything we do. This positive outlook can achieve the excellence we strive and I honestly believe **WE CAN DO IT**; the future of our sport in Scotland is in the hands of the SNFC officials; management committee and **MEMBER'S**. We know the focal point of our great club is the membership and we are conscious that each individual member is the **HEART BEAT** that drives us on to achieving greatness.

Vote of Thanks

Once again a very special thank you to our convoyers Colin Gray; Ian French; Kenny Young and Stuart who did a marvellous job in looking after our pigeons, Kevin told me that his first arrival was tired but the 4 birds home of his 6 entries are looking very well and in excellent condition. We must not forget the race control team namely Raymond White; Richard Combe and Gareth Rankin who again got it spot on by waiting until the weather was just right for the liberation; the fact the race was over in the space of a few hours speaks volumes on their judgment. Yes there are some birds missing and I know of fanciers who have lost up to 20 birds in the first 2 races; which obviously affect the entries at Alencon; Ypres; Andrezel or Falaise. However many fanciers will have kept their channel candidates at home for the main events, hopefully this will show in the entries for our channel races.

I would also like to highlight our appreciation to the fanciers who assisted at the race markings and clock checking stations as I heard that the Easthouses lads worked until midnight to have the clocked information ready for the secretary the following day. Andy Garven requires all this information as swiftly as possible to allow him to have the result out as speedily as possible; some fanciers phoned on Sunday afternoon to find out who had won the race. (The birds were just timed in the night before and some of the conventional clocks were not taken off until Sunday night) How the hell can we tell anyone any news until the secretary has compiled all the information on the race then he will supply the results to the members via the web site; this appeared on Tuesday night on www.snfc.co.uk results; from where I have obtained the open probable positions to go with this report. We cannot inform anyone of their position until all the information is collated and we have the probable result; fanciers will just have to be tolerant and show a little respect to the officials who are working very hard to achieve the same goal as everyone else; remember these officials have birds at the race the same as the member and they too want to know as much as anyone if they have been successful in making the result; remember there was over 5000 birds at this race and will have nearly 430 positions on the open result so your patience is appreciated.

Trophy Winners

Dave T Owen of Coldingham wins The Eastbourne Trophy and 1st National Cock;

Mike Leggett of Forfar wins 1st National Hen

SECTIONS; A * B * C * D * E * F * G - Trophy Winners as per mentioned above.

Sponsors

The S.N.F.C. is indebted to the following:-

THE BRITISH HOMING WORLD: - Publication of result in B.H.W.

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Joe Murphy

SNFC Press Liaison Officer