

Scottish National Flying Club
Established 1894

FALAISE 2009

Report 1

For our last channel race of the season we again experienced a marvellous entry with over 1700 birds competing; In this Falaise race the members entered 1619 birds; the remaining 100 birds were made up from federation who used the club's conveying facilities; The SNFC section birdage was as follows; Section A; 181 birds; B 267 birds; C 482 birds; D 208 birds; E 323 birds; F 43 birds; G 115 birds; broken down into the following Regions; North 115; South 181; East 957; and West 363 competing for £17,106.42p in the total pools and prize money.

As can be seen a slight drop in the west section birdage however this can be expected as both Lanarkshire and Ayrshire had their open federation race from Ypres this year so we could not expect too much as most fanciers would have shut up shop after their federation race; we cannot complain as we have had excellent birdages in all our races this year. This has come about with Federations using the SNFC conveying facilities in 4 of the 6 old bird races; and we thank each federation for their support in this venture.

Race Controller report

Thursday 16th July; 19.50 Spoke with the convoyer Colin Gray were he informed me the pigeons had settled well after arriving at the lib site at 14.50, informed him that because of the weather conditions on Friday it was not looking positive for liberation.

Friday 17th With strong to gale force winds in the channel and rain covering much of the channel and England the decision to holdover has been taken by the Race control team.

18th July Saturday morning after checking various weather charts the forecast that was getting portrayed by each of them were pretty similar in being that the channel was clear until late afternoon, south and midlands clear, with any early rain on the east coast of England and Scotland moving northwards well ahead of the path of the pigeons. Webcams on both side of the channel showing high broken cloud with good visibility 05.00 Contacted Colin were he informed me that he had cloud with blue skies with a gusting west wind. 05.05 R White was happy with the forecast for the full length of the flight. 05.10 Spoke with contact P Osborne at Cherbourg peninsular were visibility was good with high cloud and blue sky's with strong west winds at 20-25mph. 05.20 Contacted R Willis at Selsey 15 miles South East of Portsmouth were visibility was very good with high cloud and blue sky's and like the French North coast winds that were 20-25 mph. 05.25 R Combe satisfied with his info and apart from the strong winds was an ideal day for a pigeon race. 05.30 Informed the convoyer to prepare the birds for a liberation. 05.35 Our French contact Andre Hoche gave the report that the North coast of France was very good with high cloud and blue skies with excellent visibility with the prospect that there could be rain later in the afternoon. 05.45 After consulting with the SNFC race control team of R Combe, R White and myself G Rankin the decision was taken to authorise the liberation at 06.00 of the SNFC convoy with the view that the pigeons apart from the west winds being a little excessive have an ideal day for a successful race.

Gareth Rankin

SNFC Race controller

Convoyers Report – Falaise 2009

Left Cumbernauld yard at 7.00am, with prepared baskets; dropped off baskets at Kirkcaldy, Dundee, arriving at Aberdeen 11.00am. Left Aberdeen at 1.25pm with release mechanisms and back doors sealed and seal numbers recorded in book. At each pickup point, these seals were checked by convenor, resealed once baskets were loaded and numbers again recorded and signed by convenor. This process in line with club security instructions was repeated at each marking station pick up.

Arrived Uddingston 8.40pm; departed Uddingston in convoy with other transporter arrive Springfield at 10.45. Baskets and feeding loaded and transporters underway by 11.05pm Arrive Portsmouth 6.10am booked on to ferry and watered the birds. Loaded on to ferry for 8.00am sailing; arrive Ouisrahan at 2.00pm and onward to Falaise.

Arrive at Lib Site at 2.45pm birds fed and watered immediately. Drinkers cleaned and refilled up at 6pm, then again at 8.00pm birds settled for the night.

Race Controller phoned at 7.49pm to say prospects were not good for Friday but he would phone at 5.30am just in case the weather is better than expected. Race controller phoned at 5.35am. Told him it was overcast and rain but brighter to the east. He said all race controllers agreed to hold over due to the weather over England Race Controller phoned at 8.05pm to say prospects were good for Saturday and he would phone at 5.00am the next morning; informed race controller at 5.00am drinkers had been cleaned and refilled; weather at the Lib Site- Sun on the way up, very little cloud, good blue skies. He said prospects were good and he was going to contact other controllers. He phoned back saying all in agreement to liberate at 6.00am, but he wanted to check with a French contact. He phoned back saying there was no problems and to liberate at 6.00am. Birds liberated at 6.00am into a gusting west wind, cleared well heading in a northerly direction. On way back to port, good weather with good visibility with a strong west wind.

Colin Gray

SNFC Convoyer at Falaise

RACE WINNERS

Section A	1 st section 1 st open Jimmy Dalglish Ecclefechan	1188
	2 nd section 2 nd open Ralston Graham Langholm	1161
	3 rd section 4 th open George Nicholson Locharbriggs	1147

1st section A 1st south region 1st open is **Jimmy Dalglish of Ecclefechan** who timed in a 3 year old mealy hen sent sitting a 8 day old baby with her 4th flight $\frac{3}{4}$ grown. She is now named Hoddam Dynamo as the parish that Jimmy lives in is called Hoddam and the Dynamo is because she is such a powerful hen; with a broad front and strong back; she also has lovely sickly feathering with a brown colour eye just like the old Sion pigeons. Ian French who verified the hen said he has never handled such a powerful hen in his life. Dynamo was mated at Christmas time and she has laid single eggs in each of her 5 rounds and has not had a baby to rear all year (there is a reason for this as you will find out) Dynamo has developed into a very timid pigeon as she has been frightened by cats and hawks from most of her life; and now will pick about the garden in front of the loft she will wait until Jimmy opens the sliding door and she will go in where she is safe and sound. As a youngster she had all federation races to the young bird national; then as a yearling she 9 races to Maidstone winning



Hoddam Dynamo winner of 1st open SNFC Falaise 2009

1st club Worcester and 3rd club 10th federation Cheltenham on the way. As a 2 year old she had 10 races; winning 2nd club Worcester; 7th section A 110th open SNFC Alencon; then 2nd section A 3rd open SNFC Falaise. This year she had 6 races to Newbury SNFC inland race a distance of 365 miles retuning with ½ tail missing and also feathers on her back she had been attacked by a hawk. She was terrified and was kept at home for 5 weeks with **NO MORE** basket work just exercised morning and night round the loft with the young bird team this consisted of between 40 to 60 minutes. As you will see she won 3rd open SNFC last year on the 8 day youngster so Jimmy set her up in the same nest condition this year and she was his nominated pigeon from his 2 entries and she did not let him down winning the National by 27 yards per minute; she also had a cash lift of nearly £1500 into the bargain. When Dynamo arrived home she went right to the house roof and waited on Jimmy opening the doors and calling her in before she would enter the loft once in she was fine and back onto her baby. Hoddam Dynamo sire was a red cock bred by Martin Adair from Flimby in Workington; his sire won 8th open Nantes in the Cumbrian Combine. Dam of Dynamo is a Staff Van Reet direct from Jimmy's top stock cock called the Mardon Cock who has bred countless winners for him and many others. In fact this pair have bred some exceptional pigeons for example; Dynamo 1st & 3rd open Falaise; a sister won 3rd open SNFC Maidstone and 8th open SNFC Newbury; a brother won 5th section A in the young bird national then 29th open Newbury and timed from this Falaise race just missing the open result. A son of Dynamo won 4th open SNFC Newbury so you will see a good winning line of pigeons conditioned and raced by a master pigeon fancier in Jimmy Dalgliesh. Jimmy second pigeon won 26th open

Falaise; On behalf of the officials; management committee and all SNFC members I once again would like to congratulate Jimmy on winning the Falaise national.



Mr & Mrs Jim Dalglish 1st section A 1st south region 1st open SNFC Falaise 2009



Ralston Graham 2nd section A 2nd south region 2nd open

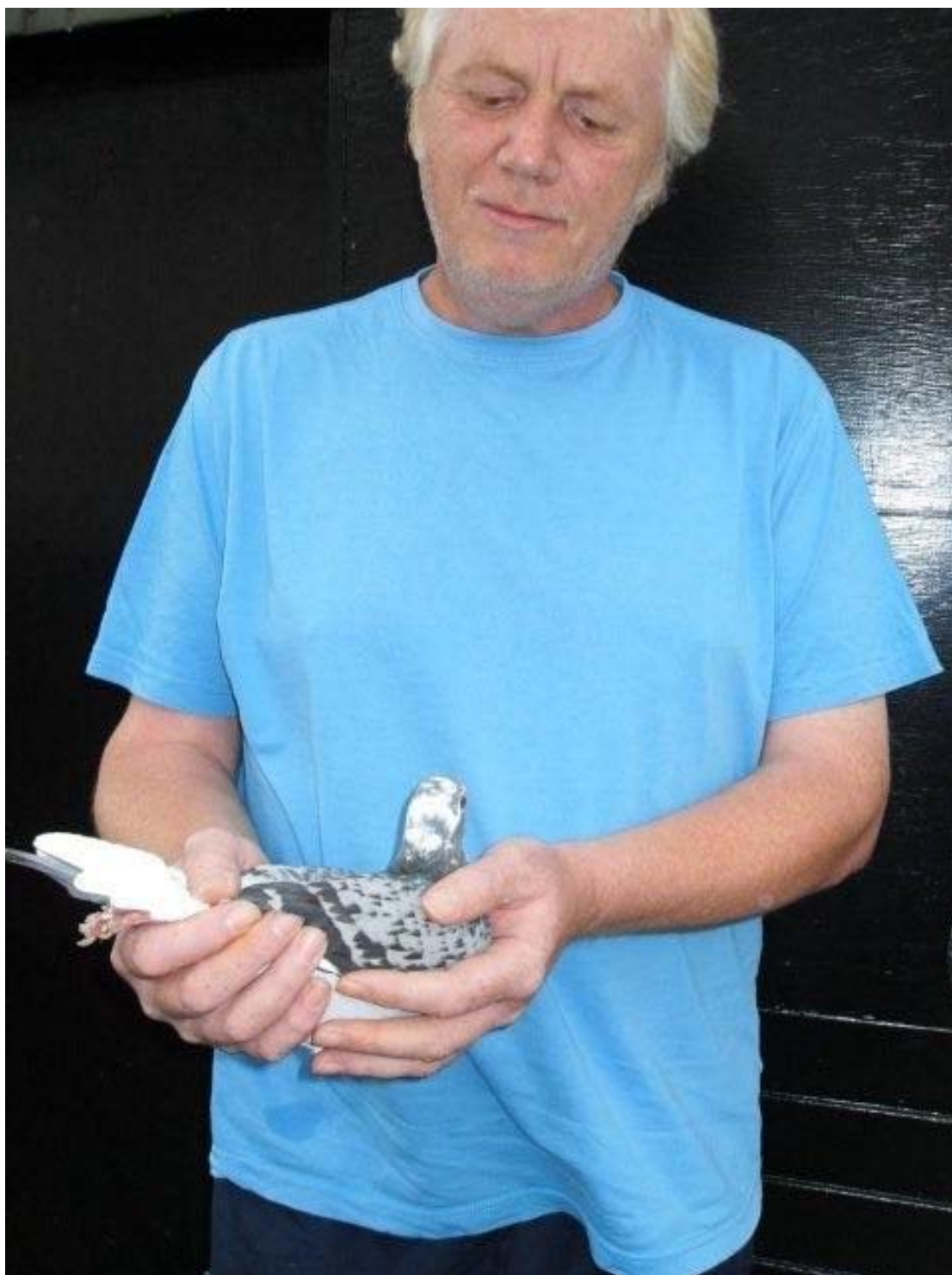
2nd section 2nd open is **Ralston Graham of Langholm** who had a great race being 2nd, 8th; 9th; 17th & 41st open fantastic flying indeed. Many of you will know that Ralston is also a past 1st open 2002; 2nd open Messac 2000; 2nd open Alencon with Eskvalley Jackie who won a SNFC Gold Award in 2005 this wonderful hen won 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 7th & 10th section A prizes to win her Gold Award, unfortunately she was killed by a

hawk the following year. However Ralston paired her to his SNFC winner and took 4 late bred for stock and he still has these in his loft. As a matter of interest Ralston won his first Gold Award in 1976 with Esk Valley Goldie. From the Falaise race his 2nd open winner is a 2 year old blue pied hen who returned with her second flight just burst. As a youngster she won a minor prize; then as a yearling she won 1st club; 1st east section 2nd open federation Appleton; then 8th club Worcester. This year she had 7 races to Windrush then set up for Falaise sitting 12 days at basketting; her sire is something special as well he is a 2004 cock bred by Raymond White of Springfield and is a cross between Raymond's own pigeon and a youngster he purchased at the Solway federation sale bred by Ralston. This Raymond White cock has won 7th section A 17th open Maidstone; 6th section 14th open Eastbourne; 330th open Newbury; 19th section Alencon; 8th section 33rd open Falaise and this year 2009 he won 8th section 44th open Andrezel and 41st open from this Falaise race; a cracking pigeon who should win a Silver Award in the SNFC this year.

Dam of the 2nd open winner sire is a son of Eskvalley Niall winner of 2nd open SNFC Messac while the dam is a daughter of Eskvalley Mark winner of 11th open SNFC Rennes; so you will see she Ralston 2nd open winner is bred in the purple and just right for the job of winning in the SNFC. My thanks to Ian French and David Smith for supplying the details and the photographs throughout the year

3rd section 4th open is **George Nicholson of Locharbriggs** who timed in a 3 year old chequer pied hen; who as a young bird it had 4 races and was then stopped; as a yearling she flew to the 100 miles mark and returned injured so was stopped for the season; as a 2 year old she won 1st club; 155th open Newbury SNFC; This year as a 3 year old she was jumped from the loft into Leyland winning the £5.00 nomination in the club. She then went to Stafford 168 miles; Coventry 206 miles; then into the Newbury national being 5th bird to the loft to win 376th open; She was then sent to Alencon sitting fresh eggs and won 105th open she was then sent to Falaise sitting a 7 day youngster winning 3rd section and 4th open so she is not a bad pigeon winning 3 times in this years nationals. Dam was bred by Billy Graham of Uddingston from his Dr Iley Busschaerts; while her sire is a Jan Aarden and was a gift from George's good friend Willie McGregor of Kirkton; being bred down from his Peter Hockridge (from Cornwall) line of Smaragd lines. These are the same bloodlines as the cock that won 1st section 11th open SNFC Tours last year and are responsible for Emil McCarton 2009 Gold Cup winner from Alencon so proving to be good honest birds in the SNFC racing.

George would like to thank Billy Graham; Willie McGregor and Peter Hockridge for the good pigeons they have given him over the years. Once again my thanks to Ian French and David Smith for the information for this report and for supplying photographs on all the south section winners during the old bird season.



*George Nicholson with his pied hen who has won 376th open Newbury;
105th open Alencon and 4th open Falaise in 2009*

Section B	1 st section 3 rd open Walker & Wilson St Abbs	1147.9
	2 nd section 12 th open Steve Aitchison Eyemouth	1041
	3 rd section 14 th open Brian Johnstone Pencaitland	1025



Robert Walker & Jim Wilson

With

1st section B 1st east region 3rd open SNFC Falaise 2009

&

1st section B 1st east region 13th open SNFC Alencon 2009

1st section 3rd open are the successful partnership of **Walker & Wilson of St Abbs** fanciers may remember they were 1st section B 13th open SNFC Alencon this year; so are again showing how good fanciers they are by winning section B for the second time. From Falaise they timed in a 2007 chequer hen now named 'Shore Splints' who as a young bird broke both her legs and she was taken care of by club mate Steven Aitchison who put her in splints and looked after her until she was well enough to go back to Jim and Robert who incidentally would like to thank Steven once again even though he ended up being 2nd section to his hen. Shore Splints is from Willy Thas bloodlines and is in fact a cousin to the hen that won 1st section B 2nd open Falaise in 2008. As a yearling she had only 2 races from race points at 200 & 240 miles and then left for the year. This year she had Melton Mowbray 224 miles then Rivenhall 310 miles and into Wanstead Flats with SNRPC where she was 4th section 4th open; she was then entered into the SNFC Eastbourne race winning 33rd open from an entry of 5000 birds. The 2 weeks previous to Falaise she had 5 tosses at 40 mile with the last one the Sunday before the basketing for the race on Wednesday and she was sent sitting 14 days eggs with her 3rd flight just burst through, hope this is enough Joe

kindest regards Eggy Jamieson' whom I thank for his contribution and to Angela who typed up the info and forwarded the photographs on these first 2 pigeons in section B.



*Steven Aitchison with his 12th open Falaise winner
being verified by Kieran & Eggy Jamieson*

2nd section 12th open is past 3 times SNFC winner **Steve Aitchison of Eyemouth** who timed in a 3 year old blue white flight hen, a late bred in the year of her birth she was not trained or raced as a yearling she received 3 races out to the 300 mile mark; then as a 2 year old she flew the programme again to 300 miles. This year she was injured by a hawk attack earlier in the season while being trained therefore she missed the first part of the season. Her first race was from Leicester 227 miles, then Melton Mowbray 222 miles on 20th June, these were her only 2 races before being entered for the SNFC Falaise race she then received 10 tosses from 40 miles up until the Sunday before basketing of the national she was sent sitting 15 day on eggs; Her breeding is Pol Boston crossed Janssen going back to 1st open SNFC Appledore, 1st open SNFC Nantes, 2nd open SNFC Rennes, 38th open SNFC Rennes and 40th open SNFC Rennes. Steve wishes to thank Robert Walker; Jim Wilson; Andrew Lees and his wife Lorna who helped train the birds during the season.

3rd section 14th open is **Brian Johnstone of Pencaitland** in East Lothian who is having a great season; Brian timed in a 3 year old blue bar cock that he purchased in the winter at Dale Newcombe's final sale prior to his passing. Dale raced the cock in 2008 as a 2 year old and he was sent to Alencon and Falaise. Brian mated him up in January and his first round of eggs was floated and he reared a single youngster in the 2nd nest. He was broken to the new loft location however after a fright he did go back to Mackmerry and Karen phoned Brian to say that he was back; this was the one and only time the cock went back. He was given 2 tosses from 20 miles prior to racing and entered into the following races; Witton Castle 97 miles; Selby 164 miles; Newark 213 miles; Newbury 320 miles just missing the result; he was then sent to the Selby comeback race with Almond Valley federation; then given a toss at Carter Bar and 4 tosses from Dunbar prior to going to Alencon 534 miles on a small young bird and he

won 60th open SNFC; a week before Falaise he was given 1 toss from Galashiels and 1 from Dunbar and he was sent feeding a big youngster and sitting 4 days on eggs.



Brian Johnstone with his 3rd section 14th open Falaise winner

Sire is a son of John Birds of Prestonpans 'Bits and Pieces' winner of 6th & 11th open SNFC Alencon and 73rd open Le Farte Bernard.

Dam of Brian's blue cock is a daughter of Night Star raced by Charlie & Francis Dickson of Bonnyrigg; Night Star won 2nd section 4th open Reims; 16th section 20th open Liege; 49th section 75th open Reims; as a matter of interest Brian's good mealy cock who won 24th open SNFC Alencon last year was bred by Dale and contained Night Star bloodlines. Brian timed in his 2nd pigeon to win 162nd open when you consider he has been 370th open Eastbourne; 60th open Alencon; 75th open Ypres; 70th open Andrezel and now 14th & 162nd open Falaise he has had a good season well done Brian and thanks for supplying the details of your pigeon and to Tom McEwen and Bill Gray for forwarding the photograph to go with the old bird report this season.

Section C	1 st section 6 th open J King Kirkcaldy	1115
	2 nd section 23 rd open J King Kirkcaldy	973
	3 rd section 24 th open Frank Tarnawski High Valleyfield	963



Jock King 1st & 2nd section C 6th; 23rd; 70th; 92nd and 164th open SNFC Falaise

1st & 2nd section C 6th & 23rd open is **Jock King of Kirkcaldy** who had a great race being 6th; 23rd; 70th; 92nd and 164th open in this race; Jock timed in a 2 year old blue bar cock sent to the race sitting on a 3 day old young bird. He was paired up on 20th February but having reared only one youngster in a previous nest. Racing in 2009 he had 4 races out to Wanstead Flats an approximately distance of 340 miles then 8 training tosses from Fife side of Dundee prior to the Falaise National. As a young bird he was trained to 30 miles only; then as a yearling he had 6 races out to Huntingdon approximately 290 miles His sire is a blue bar being $\frac{3}{4}$ Davie Campbell of Northern Ireland, this sire has already scored 3 times from France for Jock. The dam is a chequer white flight hen whose sire is a full brother to Jock's SNFC Gold Award winner 'Fair Isle Supreme' Her dam being a Jock Traill hen.



Jock King's 1st section C 6th open cock with his hen after the race



The wing of Jock King's 2nd section C 23rd open SNFC Falaise hen

Jock's second section C 23rd open winner is a 5 year old blue hen; she was sent to Falaise national sitting on a 3 day old young bird which is the next mate of the young

bird under the blue bar cock who won the section. Paired up on 20th February and reared 2 young birds during the season prior to getting this young bird put under her for the national. Her previous racing was 4 races out to Leicester, approximately 260 miles then into Andrezel where she was Jock's first bird winning 4th section C 26th open flying 578 miles she was sent sitting on 8 day old eggs which she continued to sit on her return and then was slipped a small young bird as above 3 days prior to going to Falaise. As a young bird was never raced only trained; raced out to Huntingdon as a yearling approximately 290 miles. Then as a 2 year old she went to last channel race from Falaise. As a 3 year old in 2007 she was stopped through injury having had only one race. Then last year as a 4 year old she had 3 races prior to Newbury with the SNFC approximately 340 miles then Messac with the SNRPC where she was 5th open then 2 weeks later, she went to Saintes with the SNRPC over 735 miles, with her arrival home being verified by the NFC. Her sire is a red cock bred by Sid Myles of Peasedown St. John from the best of his Pau National Flying Club winning strain. While the dam is a blue bar hen who won 3rd open Vire with the SNFC winning the only bird on the day in the east section and winning the Scottish Homing Union Ogilvy Trophy for the Best Performance in the race; as a matter of interest this hen in 2001 was 41st open SNFC Liege; my thanks to Catherine and Mel Jarvis for obtaining the information on Jock's pigeons and for supplying the photographs



Mary raced by Jock King SNFC Gold Award winner, 7 times SNFC Winner

As a matter of interest to readers Jock King has had a fantastic season winning the following positions in the SNFC; Eastbourne 23rd, 49th & 84th section C; 53rd; 140th & 248th open. Alencon Gold Cup 6th & 10th section C 70th & 103rd open; Ypres 15th section C 66th open; Andrezel 4th section C; 26th; 28th; 38th & 73rd open in this race from Falaise he won 1st; 2nd; 24th & 48th section C; 6th; 23rd; 70th; 92nd and 164th open



Jock King showing the wing of his Champion hen Mary

When then take into consideration Jock timed in his champion chequer hen Mary to win 92nd open in this race it is quite staggering as she is something very special. Here are her performances bred in 2002 she has won the following positions;

2003;	140 th East Section	152 nd open	SNFC	Claremont
2004;	29 th section	92 nd open	SNPRC	Falaise (2)
2005;	8 th section	19 th open	SNRPC	Alencon
	1 st section	8 th open	SNRPC	Falaise
2006;	8 th section	17 th open	SNRPC	Reims
	5 th section C	35 th open	SNFC	Falaise
2007;	106 th section C		SNFC	Newbury
	21 st section	58 th open	SNFC	Alencon

2008; 6 th section C	30 th open	SNFC	Falaise
2009; 6 th section C	70 th open	SNFC	Alencon
24 th section C	92 nd open	SNFC	Falaise

Gold Award winner in the SNPRC and SNFC

7 times SNFC winner 4 times SNPRC winner

10 times winner from France plus 1 win from the Inland national from Newbury



A happy Frank Tarnawski with his 3rd section 24th open Falaise winning hen

3rd section 24th open is **Frank Tarnawski of High Valleyfield** who timed in a 4 year old blue bar hen sent sitting 14 day eggs on day of basketing and she was holding 5 flights only in each wing. Prior to going to the Falaise national she had only one race which was Wakefield approximately 190 miles on 23rd of May. She was trained one week before the Falaise race on Tuesday and Wednesday from Dunbar then Thursday and Friday from Pittenweem on the Fife coastline by club members. Previous racing; there is no record as a young bird in 2005. As a yearling she was raced out to Maidstone approximately 370 miles prior to being sent to the last SNFC race from Falaise returning home on the third day. In 2007 she was raced up to Newbury 340 miles, and then sent to Eastbourne with SNFC 400 miles, being 3rd bird to the loft arriving home on the day. Last year she had 2 races prior to SNFC Alencon arriving home the next day just out of race time she was again sent to last old bird race from Falaise and home two days later out of race time.

Sire is a 03 bred cock whose grand sire is 96 cock (no further details) – grand dam is a 1989 bred hen who won; 127th ease section 252nd open Rennes in 1992: then 36th east section 63rd open Sartilly in 1994 and 11th east section, 22nd open Niort in 1996 - all with the S.N.F.C.

Dam is 2002 bred by W Montgomery's who gifted her to Frank when Monty gave up the sport in 2003 Grand sire was a 95 cock who won 44th east section 68th open Sartilly – and the grand dam was a 01 hen who won 153rd east section 278th open Reims Gold Cup in 2003. Once again my gratitude to Catherine and Mel Jarvis for supplying the details and photographs throughout the old bird season on the Fife section winners in the SNFC races.

To be continued See Part's 2 & 3 on Falaise 2009

Joe Murphy
SNFC Press Liaison Officer