

*Scottish National Flying Club
Established 1894*

FALAISE 2009

REPORT 2

Section D	1 st section 21 st open Stewart Robertson Clackmannan	994
	2 nd section 36 th open J Thomson Bo Ness	908
	3 rd section 55 th open Greig Drysdale Livingstone	841



Allan holding 1st section D 21st open next to a proud dad Stewart Robertson

1st section 21st open is the father and son partnership of **Stewart Robertson and son Allan of Clackmannan** they timed their blue bar hen at 21.30pm to be the **ONLY BIRD ON THE DAY** into the North West federation which is a fantastic achievement. John Stewart (SNFC committee man) sent the following report; ‘Stewart paired the hen on the 14th February where she reared 1 youngster. She was then put the roundabout and raced from Otterburn 67mls right through the federation programme to Maidstone open 383mls. (10 races in all) She was then paired and sent to Falaise sitting 16 day eggs and on the day of basketing they slipped a day old baby under the hen. As a youngster the blue hen flew the full North West federation programme where she was steady. As a yearling and 2 year old she flew out to Leicester 264 miles.



1st section D 21st open Falaise winner on her nest

Sire of the hen was bought from Woodland Farm Stud and is a Vandenabeele \Carrea; while the dam is a Houben crossed Busschaert crossed Vandenabeele. The Busschaerts Stewart has had for years and he got them from Ian Miller from Grangemouth who was one of the top North West federation flyers. Stewart would like to thank Ian for all the birds he got from him and wish Ian all the best as he was not in the best of health. Joe Stewart would like to thank his son Allan who although not named in the partnership it is definitely a two man show as the work Allan does. Joe when there Allan was telling me his plans for next year and once he gets the work done it will help with roundabout. (Bad news for us in North West federation says John Stewart) Joe I would like to congratulate Stewart and Allan who are having a great old bird season in the North West federation and now to win 1st club; 1st federation; 1st Scottish Central Combine; 1st section D & 21st open in the SNFC is a brilliant performance well done from the Stewart Bros.

2nd section 36th open is **John Thomson of Bo'ness** who timed in a 4 yr old medium sized blue cock feeding a 7 day old youngster; Dr Phil Lynch vice president of the SNFC forwarded this information to me; 'The blue cock was paired up on the 2nd week in March and allowed to rear one youngster only. Prior to racing it he had 2 tosses at the 40 mile mark then 2 club races from 140 and 180 miles he was then entered into the Newbury inland national a distance of 330 miles; then 2 weeks later into the Eastbourne national a distance of 400 miles from where he was jumped straight into SNFC Falaise race a distance of 520 miles. As a young bird is had 2-3 races up to 100 miles then as a yearling he flew the programme to 260 miles and was stopped. As a 2 year old he flew the full programme to the coast 400 miles. Due to Ian's wife's illness (thankfully now recovered) no racing was done in 2008 so the team had a full years rest. Ian arrived at the compound loft at 05.00 am on the Sunday

morning to be told by a passing neighbour that a pigeon had been noted on the landing board at 04.35 am!



John Thomson and son Ian sharing the joy of being 2nd section D 36th open

The sire of the blue cock is from the best of Norman Orr of Larkhall national scoring family crossed with Dave Donaldson of Glassford SNFC gold award winner family. The dam is a chequer hen from Jim Hannah of Blantyre Stan Biss lines, both purchased at the Blackpool Show sale. The other 2 pigeons in the result winning 108th & 112th open are from the same lines. Ian's father John Thomson himself has also recovered from a stroke 2 years ago and has had to give up the 3 times daily cleaning out of the loft; we visited him in his new home a few streets away from the compound where the loft is situated I have enclosed a photograph for you Joe. His sister married one of the famous Beglin Brothers from Bo'ness who won 1st open SNFC Nantes with High Noon and his son Ian now races the pigeons from the same loft and location of his famous uncles. Ian is a willing worker on National marking station nights at Bo'ness and his success is much deserved and carries on the great tradition of

National performances at the Bo'ness compound regards Phil' whom I thank for his update on the partnership and the photographs supplied.



A proud Greig Drysdale holding his 3rd section D 55th open winner

3rd section 55th open is **Greig Drysdale of Livingstone** who timed in a 3 year old blue bar hen sent to the race 'spare' she returned with her 4th flight ½ up; The reason this hen has been spare is Greig was moving house and the birds had to be reallocated from his back garden in Deans in Livingstone to a Compound ¼ of a mile away. The birds were in the loft from last August and he was not going to race at all this year; however in April one of the birds got over his head and after a while returned to the loft; the next day the sputnik was broken on the front of the loft so Greig just opened it up let the birds out and repaired the sputnik and as a matter of interest he only lost one bird. As they were now going in and out he then let them pick a mate and pair up if they so wished; he then gave them 2 x 10 mile tosses; the blue bar hen did not take a mate and was spare and was raced from Otterburn 72 miles; Seaham Harbour; Ripon; Wakefield; Newark; Leicester and the Wakefield comeback race before going to Maidstone where she won 14th federation from this 360 mile race point. She was then given the open bowl and had one toss from Dunbar on the Monday; Galashiels on the Tuesday and the Wednesday a toss from Lauder; she then had the open bowl for the next 4 days was given her daily exercise on the Monday and kept in prior to basketing for Falaise on the Wednesday. She had ever race as a young bird; as a yearling and 2 year old she was given the full federation race programme; in these 3 years racing she has only missed one race the first race this year. Sire and dam were from Jimmy Stevenson who lived in the same street as Greig he moved to Livingstone

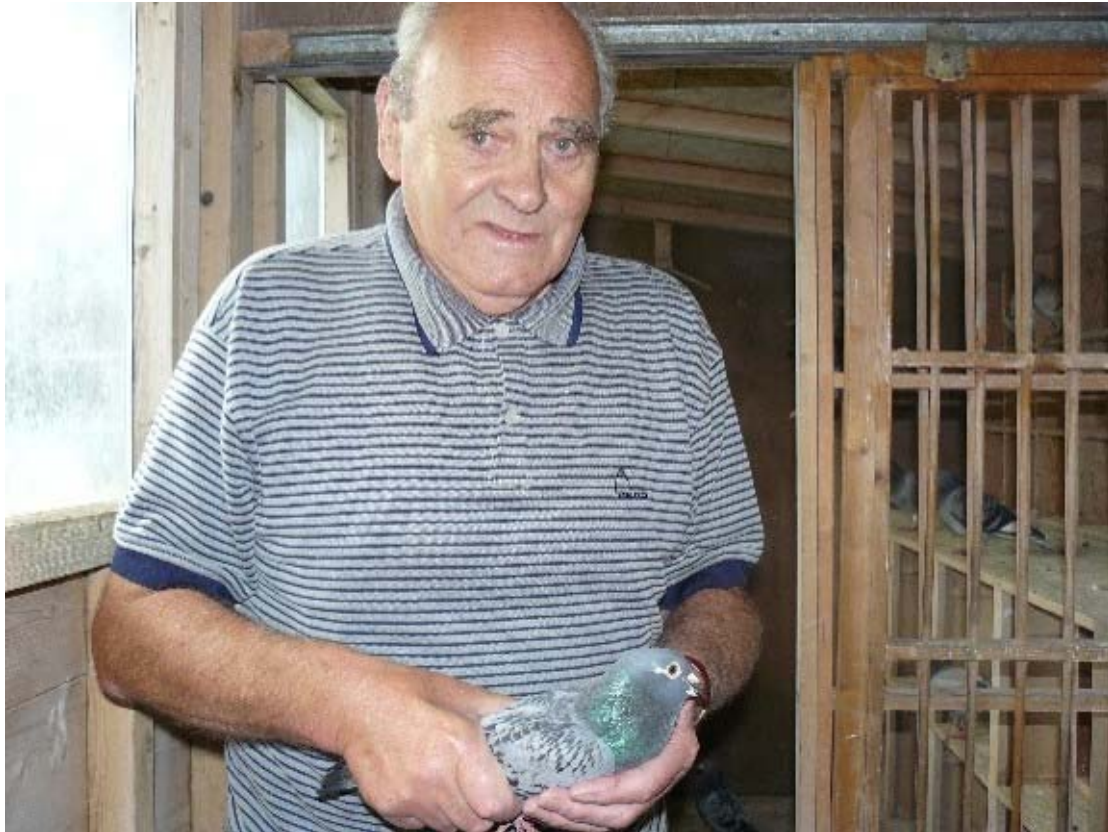
from Belfast nearly 40 years ago and sadly passed away 3 years ago; he would have been proud of Greig's performance in the SNFC Falaise race; my thanks to Greig from the information on his pigeon and for taking the time to phone me and email me with the photograph to go with this report.



Greig's 3rd section D 55th open winner

Section E	1 st section 18 th open John Frame Lanark	1006
	2 nd section 39 th open Willie Watson Wishaw	902
	3 rd section 61 st open Dave Donaldson Glassford	830

1st section 18th open is **John Frame of Lanark**; whose details and photo have been forwarded by Gareth Rankin who wrote 'The winning pigeon from Falaise in section E comes from the loft of John Frame better known to his friends as Jock from Cleghorn near Lanark with a lovely blue chequer hen which has now been named 'Kyle's Girl' after his grandson, who whenever visiting his grandfather cannot wait to get down to the loft and help wherever he can including cleaning out duties at the age of 6 years old. Kyle's girl is small to medium and well balanced hen that was sent at basketting for Falaise on a 4 day old young bird on with her 4th flight being thrown. As a young bird she flew 4 young bird races with the Lanarkshire federation then as a yearling she flew Leicester twice. In 2008 she was flown no further than Cheltenham 270 miles; then this year she was paired at the end of February and reared 2 young birds and for the rest of the year was left to run as natural as possible, races came in the form of Hexham and Ripon but due to circumstances were brought back to Hexham after this her next race was Newbury with the SNFC were she returned just failing to make the result.



*John Frame who has a unique way of holding his
1st section E 1st west region 18th open winner Kyle's Girl*

Over the last couple of months Kyle's Girl had 6 races with the Clydesdale midweek club from Dunbar which is approx 50 miles and her final preparation for Falaise had a further 6 tosses from 30 miles from the east and south. Kyle's Girl sire is bred from local pigeons that include the bloodlines of his own family with cross that comes from John Forrest and the dam was bred by Alex Hector also of Lanark. John was surprised to have won the section as he does not expect any thing from the sport and enjoys it just as a hobby but is extremely pleased to have now done so and this has to be the best performance he has put up in 35 years of keeping the pigeons. John started up in the sport in 1974 flying in Douglas Water after his son took an interest in the sport at that time the club was full of some of the greats including Leishman Bros and John Burrell. John is saddened to see that his former club no longer exists. John told me that he is very fortunate to have the joy of taking 1st section E as the clock he timed into was his old toulet clock but at the close of the race that night he forgot to control the clock so in effect the clock was void, luckily for him with not hearing any pigeons recorded at 8 pm on the SNFC lib line when his pigeon arrived he decided to get his good wife Mary and grandson Kyle to take the second rubber to local fancier Jock Alston's clock which is nearby with Kyle in charge of the rubber which was positioned stretched over his finger. I would like to finish off by congratulating John who is a modest and unassuming man on a fantastic performance well done; yours Gareth' whom I thank for his report and photographs of John.



*A happy Jenna with her proud grand dad Willie Watson holding his winner
Jenna's Girl winner of 2nd section E 2nd west region 39th open Falaise*

2nd section 39th open **Willie Watson of Wishaw** received the following report from Derek Hay who wrote 'Willie (Soaper) Watson timed his 2 year old blue chequer hen " Jenna's Girl "after midnight in a very tough SNFC race from Falaise. Only 2 gallant pigeons made it into the west region on the night and Soaper Watson is overwhelmed to own one of them. Willie left his loft at 22.20 hours just before the race closed for the night, to collect his wife Janet from their local club. He didn't see a problem with this as it was very dark and he did not think there was any chance of getting a bird. On return around midnight, Willie, as always, went out to his loft to check there were no young birds etc locked out as the neighbourhood cats would be on the prowl. His heart missed several beats when he noticed his little chequer hen sitting sleeping on the stall trap. Young Willie (now aged 74) got hold of the hen and sprinted into the house to show his wife Janet. They were both elated and very very proud of this

wonderful achievement put up by " Jenna's Girl ", who battled into a head wind for 507 miles. In fact when I went to verify this pigeon you could sense there was still a buzz in the Watson household. Describing 'Jenna's Girl' (she is named after Willie and Janet's grand daughter) I would say she is a small, well balanced, apple bodied pigeon with plenty of silky feathering. She had a cracking expression, with intelligence in abundance. If you were an eye sign enthusiast then this hen would make your mouth water. Full ceres, eyes heavily serrated with very strong iris and small pupils, altogether a perfect specimen. As a young bird she had 3 races to 100 miles with the Lanarkshire federation, she was then raced to the coast as a yearling but never showed any world beating qualities, just a steady, middle of the road pigeon.



Jenna's Girl winner of 2nd section E 39th open SNFC Falaise 2009

This year she was mated on 14th February and reared a pair of young birds before competing in 3 races from Kelso 60 miles; Hexham 90 miles and Wakefield 180 miles with the Lanarkshire federation. Next race was Newbury with the SNFC and 'Jenna's Girl' timed at 21.30 hours; this was the first indication of this pigeon's ability to fly until late at night. Willie sent her to SNFC Ypres in Belgium for her last race of the year and Jenna's Girl came up trumps and was timed at 17.30 hours to win 37th section E 118th open and on return from Ypres she went straight onto her eggs. Willie had set his sights on sending one pigeon to the last race from Falaise but as time went

on Jenna's Girl started to sparkle and his mind turned to getting her right for this race. After a couple of 25 mile single up tosses from Currie hill he thought he would slip a chipping egg under her. Club mate Billy King gave him a newly hatched young bird to use but when Willie was putting the youngster under his hen he discovered the eggs she was on were actually hatching, therefore she went to Falaise sitting a 3 day old young bird.

Sire of Jenna's Girl is a stock cock bred from a pair of Van Geels Willie purchased at Allfairs auction. Dam of Jenna's Girl is from a cock bred by Tam Kyle from a son of Fallowhill Superstar crossed a Jim Biss hen when mated to a Jan Aarden crossed Janssen. Well done to Willie Watson and 'Jenna's Girl' oh by the way Joe Willie has promised a youngster from this hen for the late bred SNFC sale on the 6th September yours Derek' my thanks to Derek for the information and supplying the photographs to go with this report.



Dave Donaldson holding his 3rd section E 3rd west region 61st open Falaise winner

3rd section 61st open is **Dave Donaldson of Glassford** whom Gareth Rankin wrote 'Members in Scotland should need no introduction to this long time successful fancier from the small village of Glassford which is positioned between Strathaven and Larkhall, his record for the last 30 years is quite astounding including positions such as 2nd open Rennes 1997 which was when there were only 21 pigeons timed in race time from 3000 birds and he is also the winner of two Gold Award's which are few and far between in the history of Scottish National Flying Club. What makes his achievements in the sport ever the more impressive is that this all comes from a small back door loft which has to be one of the smallest in Scotland which measures only 14 foot by 8 foot this for both old birds? This loft only started of the season with 18 pairs of pigeons and before the pigeons had started training 4 pairs of these were lost to the peregrine which is a big lost for any loft never mind one so small. Now on to his latest quality pigeon which is a blue cock small to medium with a strong back, traditional head, yellow/red eye with a wing that has great ventilation within the last 4 flights. As a young bird he had 5 races to Catterick 130 miles, yearling stage he had 5 races to Leicester 250 which Davie is more than happy with at this stage in their development. 2009 raced from Catterick, Wetherby, Leicester and lastly Maidstone with the Caledonian Combine which is 350 miles, this race turned out to be a hard race and his blue cock returned early next morning looking neither up nor down so at this early stage Davie had his eye on sending him to Falaise were he was sent sitting 17 days on eggs with his 4th flight 2/3 up, his final training preparation came with some of Davies closest friends Willie Semple and Billy Graham who he would like to thank releasing them from Dunbar a distance of approximately 60 miles. The winning blue cocks sire is full of Davies long established family of pigeons with the dam (now stock) being a cross from a cock bred by Victor Lough from Dunbar when mated to a quality hen of Davies which won 3 time from France including Lille; Le Farte Bernard and Reims, this hen in turn was bred from Davie's Gold award winner with the SNFC which requires a pigeon to score 5 times from across the English channel. Congratulations to Davie on another great performance and extend the congratulations to both Davie and his good wife Mima who had just celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary on the Friday of the Falaise race yours Gareth' whom I once again thank for his contribution throughout the old bird national season.

To be continued in Falaise Report Part 3

Joe Murphy
SNFC Press Liaison Officer