

Scottish National Flying Club
Established 1894

FALAISE 2009

REPORT 3

Section F	1 st section 87 th open John Harwood Milton of Campsie	792
	2 nd section 129 th open George Galbraith Johnstone	737
	3 rd section 150 th open White & Baird Dumbarton	719

1st section 87th open is **John Harwood Milton of Campsie** who for the second time this year has won section F; John timed in a 2 year old blue hen named 'Our Lass'; John wrote a letter to me with the details which is as follows 'She is a very inbred Janssen off birds from Pat & Peter Chapman of Scarborough although there is a Janssen cock in her lines that I purchased at Donny and Linda Brooks clearance sale. The Chapman Janssen is off direct Janssen birds going back to 1986. Her sire is a blue white flight 02 cock that each year was a very big winner in the club. He went to the inland national from Newbury in 2004 taking a good position following this up by continuing to win the club; 2 weeks before the inland national in 2005 he homed hawked from Doncaster then the following year he carried on winning the club ending up back at Newbury in 2006.



John Harwood holding 'Our Lass' 1st section F 87th open Falaise; John has won section F twice in 2009 as he was 1st section F 124th open SNFC Alencon

In this race he ended up hawked again ending up covered in oil and was picked up at a school in Carlisle. This was the end of his racing career but at stock the following

year (2007) when paired to his mother they produces 'Our Lass'. I call her Our Lass from being basically off birds from Yorkshire; this is a Yorkshire term for a female member of the family. Unfortunately this cock was not at stock for very long for he went missing from the loft. As you can see from the above her dam is also the dam of her father; she is a blue 00 bred hen who is still in the loft today where apart from the many club prize winners she has produces; she has bred 4 different birds to win National tickets. She is also the dam of the Meuleman Janssen cock that has 5 national diplomas to his credit.

Our Lass flew most of the young bird programme that year where in her last 2 races she won 1st club 5th federation Otterburn 93 miles; and 1st club 1st federation Catterick 147 miles. As a yearling she won she started of racing as a widowhood hen but having lost her mate she ended up flying spare. She was entered into the Ripon comeback race flying spare a distance of 165 miles winning once again 1st club 1st federation. From there she went to Eastbourne inland national 405 miles sent pairing up to a new mate and was timed on the night 2nd bird to the loft but not making the result. She was then sent to Falaise sitting 9 days on eggs; this being her first eggs since March and she had also cast 2 flights in each wing and was timed to win 2nd section F 72nd open after sitting out for 30 minutes. It never made any difference to her section position but lost out on about 20 open positions.



Our Lass winner of 1st section F 87th open SNFC Falaise

2009 paired up in early February to a cock hat was not going to be racing she was allowed to sit 10 days where her eggs were then put under feeders. Allowed to go back down on eggs hatching out; her next pair of eggs were given to a friend where she was then put on widowhood. Raced from Otterburn 93 miles; Catterick 147 miles; Newark 240 miles and then into the inland national from Newbury 336 miles arriving 2nd morning. I got her timing spot on from retuning from this race she was then repaired where she would then have an 8 day old youngster on basketing night for

Falaise. This was her first youngster since March which she was allowed to rear mainly to try and encourage her to trap once she got home. Between Newbury and Falaise she was only in the basket again 3 times and this was when John Hood Junior gave her 3 x 20 miles tosses from Stonehouse. She was timed at 07.50am second morning and yes; this time she did trap right away. I would just like to mention my lifelong friends John and John Hood partnership taking this opportunity of thanking them for all the help they give me. Not having transport myself it was not for them I would not get the chance to compete in the SNFC racing. One final footnote Joe when Derek Hay came to verify my section winner from Alencon he was then handed this pigeon and told 'You may as well verify this pigeon as well while you are here for it will save you having to come back and verify her later on. She is going to win the section from Falaise' and she did just this'; my thanks to John for his letter and also for the photograph of Our Lass for this report.

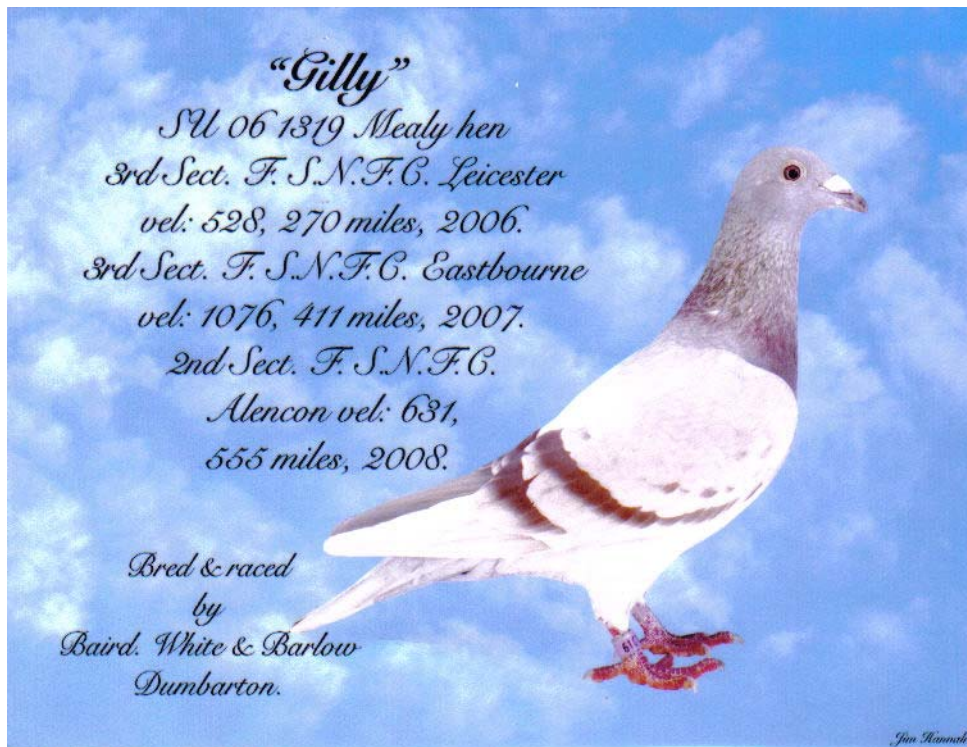
Foot note from Derek Hay SNFC committee member who sent me an email 'Hi Joe, I know you already have details on Johns winning pigeon but I think a lot has been unsaid about this man and how he has raced in the last 2 or 3 years. John Harwood is undoubtedly one of the best pigeon men in my area (I reckon in the top 3) and although he never flew in the nationals for many years, he still hit the high spots at federation level. Now, that he has turned his attention on to SNFC national racing, section F fanciers should all beware. I think I am right to say that he has scored in 8 of the last 9 national races he has sent to, sending on average 2-3 birds per race which is brilliant flying by anyone's standards. The blue hen 'Our Lass' he won the section with, was also 2nd section last year in the same race, as a yearling. This man gets the very best out of his pigeons. John got his yearling cock back from the race as well, so that was 2/2. He calls this cock 'Trapper' and the reasons you would not believe. He told me he was going to write about it in his BHW article, so believe me, this is a story not to be missed. Anyway Joe, I just want to say that I think John Harwood has been flying exceptionally well and long may it continue; very well done indeed kindest regards Derek'

2nd section 129th open **George Galbraith of Johnstone** in Renfrewshire; George timed in a 4 year old dark chequer hen who is a very small hen in the hand; she was sent to the national sitting on a 14 day old youngster her first of the year and George informed me that he worked very hard in keeping the cock away from her as he did not want her going in to egg before the last race of the season. She was paired up the 2nd week in February and laid a single egg in the first nest which she never reared; she was then given 2 tosses from 20 miles every week and raced natural. Her first race being Otterburn 101 miles; Catterick 151 miles; Wetherby 181 miles; Newark 241 miles and Leicester 262 miles. She was then trained from Pentland Hills for 3 weeks by George friend Ian McAllister and she was lifted into the SNFC Eastbourne race a distance of 403 miles and she won 5th section F. She was then let out for daily exercise was trained with the youngsters twice from Harthill and twice from Livingstone then into Falaise a distance of 519 miles.



A happy George Galbraith with his 2nd section F 129th open Falaise winner

As a youngster she had every race out to 160 miles; then as a yearling she was out to Leicester winning 5th west coast combine (her loft mate won 1st combine) in 2007 she returned from Leicester with 3 tail feathers and was stopped for the year. In 2008 she was again race out to Leicester and the same pattern tossed from Pentland Hills then into Eastbourne and into Falaise SNFC winning 7th section F 140th open; so she has improved on last years performance. Sire is a Jan Aarden cock from Louella Pigeon World when George contact John Massarella and asked him to pick out some birds for stock and John did not let George down. Dam of the 4 year old hen is also a Jan Aarden from Peter Reeves from Hasslewood Lofts she was purchased at a sale in Newmains in 2004. My thanks to George for supplying me with the information on his winning pigeon much appreciated.



White & Baird good mealy hen 'Gilly' 3rd section F 150th open Falaise

3rd section 150th open **White & Baird of Dumbarton** who forward an email with the following information 'Hi Joe, our partnership consists of me, Graeme White, and my friend Jim Baird. Our loft is situated in Dumbarton and we are members of West Strathclyde Federation. The pigeon we timed from Falaise is a 2006 mealy hen named Gilly, after my fiancé Gillian Warwick. Gilly's sire is a mealy cock on loan from E Coils, Sons & Grandsons of Sacriston, who in turn is bred from a Ron Williamson dark cock paired to Goldie, a red hen full of German Imbrecht crossed Rawle & Thomson bloodlines. Cowan's Lass is the dam of Gilly, a blue white flight from the late Jimmy Cowan of Shiremoor. She is breeding some fantastic pigeons for us and others. Her sire is a 7 year old who was 2nd open UNC from Bourges for Jimmy in 2004. Gilly was a steady and consistent young bird racing the whole federation programme. She went to the SNFC YB National Leicester 270 miles winning 3rd section F velocity 528. In 2007 as a yearling she again finished 3rd section F in the SNFC Eastbourne race fling 411 miles recording a velocity of 1076. Last season 2008 she finished 2nd section F in the SNFC Gold Cup Alencon race a distance of 555 miles. As you can see from her results she is a bit special as not many birds win a top 3 section position in 3 consecutive seasons in the SNFC.

We were hoping she could make 4 in a row this season in the Alencon Gold Cup race and as you know Joe, she was also entered into your sporting challenge this year; unfortunately on her last training toss 2 days prior to basketing for Newbury Inland National, she returned to the loft with injuries obviously caused by a Peregrine attack. The last 5 flights on her left wing and the first four secondaries were all that remained. Everything else including cover feathers were gone to say I was gutted was an understatement as I thought her season was over. The only consolation I had was as you said yourself, at least she was home. After a couple of days of sulking I swapped her eggs for pot eggs so she could sit another couple of weeks to rest and use all her energy to re-grow her flights. Up until the attack Gilly had raced from Arniston

58 miles, Otterburn 105 miles, Tow Law 134 miles and Wakefield 200 miles. The Peregrine attack was the 2nd June and we got her out flying from the 23rd June and gradually increased her time in the air. She was then given tosses with the young birds from 18 miles. Her flights were growing in well so we decided to give her to Kelso 85 miles on the 4th July and again from Arniston 58 miles on 11th July. We set her up again on eggs and these hatched on Monday prior to basketing for Falaise, this being the first time in her life she'd ever had two babies. After all she'd been through, the hawk attack, her inactivity for 3 weeks and bearing in mind her longest race this season was only 200 miles, it was amazing she got home at all, never mind finishing 3rd section F, 25th west region, 150th open. Joe I'd like to thank Max and Eck for letting me know Gilly was on the board as I was weeding the allotment and didn't see her sneak in behind me. I'd also like to congratulate all the members who sent their birds through the Kilbarchan marking station on their achievements gained in this seasons SNFC races. The ratio to birds sent and prizes gained was remarkable yours Graeme'; whom I thank for his report and as I have a photo of Gilly from the sporting challenge will use this in this report.

Section G	1 st section 53 rd open Jim Donaldson Peterhead	843
	2 nd section 146 th open Andy Wilson MacDuff	816
	3 rd section 147 th open Ian Armstrong Fraserburgh	720



Jim Donaldson holding 5th section G Falaise while his wife Ann is holding the 1st section 53rd open Falaise winner; Jim has won the section twice this year from Alencon and Falaise

1st section 53rd open is **Jim Donaldson of Peterhead** who timed in a 2 year old chequer hen sent on a one day youngster; she flew Hastings 468 miles as a yearling winning 2nd club; this year she had 2 club races before going to SNFC Eastbourne race sitting 14 days on eggs and she won 9th north section from this 475 mile event; she was then set up for her best performance on a one day baby to the 601 mile race from Falaise to win Jim his 2nd north section win in 2009.

Sire is a 01 bred chequer white flight cock kept for stock he is direct from the Dall Cock when he was paired to 7626 winner of 3rd section Sartilly; 1st section 42nd open Messac 670 miles; 4th section 71st open Chenoise 643 miles.

Dam is a 06 hen winner of 3rd section 32nd open Alencon 2008; she is turn is bred from a daughter of son of Jim Emerton Barcelona Dream winner at 800 miles; when paired to a full sister to Donnann 1st open SNFC Sartilly; the dam of the 32nd open Alencon winner is from a dark chequer pied cock from the best of the late Jock Trail bloodlines; when he was paired to 1st north section Falaise winner of 2003. With this type of breeding it is little wonder that Jim Donaldson keeps churning out winner after winner each year; he is without doubt the best 600 / 700 mile fancier in Scotland if not Europe. He also won 5th section G in this race and this year he has won Alencon 1st section G; Ypres 6th section G; Andrezel 22nd open and Falaise 1st & 5th section G 53rd open



Jim Donaldson 1st section 53rd open Falaise winner

2nd section 146th open is **Andy Wilson of MacDuff** in the north of Scotland; who timed in a 4 year old read cock sent sitting 8 day eggs; she was paired up the 3rd week in February and reared 2 youngsters in the first nest she was then on roundabout. She was given 4 or 5 tosses from 30 miles before being entered into Cupar 100 miles; Tow Law 203 miles; Newbury 434 miles being timed to win 19th north section; she was

then repaired the beginning of July she was given another 2 tosses at 30 miles and sent to Falaise sitting 8 day eggs. As a young bird she was raced out to Northallerton 230 miles; then as a yearling to Newark 330 miles; then as a 2 & 3 year old she was raced to Hastings a distance of 487 miles;



Andy Wilson with his 2nd section D 146th open Falaise winner

Sire won 13th north section Falaise and was bred by John Mair who many of you will remember bred Eye Valley Queen 1st SNFC Alencon for Steve Aitchison of Eyemouth. This Mair cock was bred down from the old Joe Shore bloodlines and unfortunately he hit wires near the loft and was killed. Dam of Andy's red cock is a ½ Jan Aarden crossed ½ Andy's old Joe Shore family. Andy phoned me with the details as he was going away back work on the oil rig the following day; he works 2 weeks

on and 2 weeks off and during this time his wife Margaret looks after the birds and does a good job. Andy was telling me that his mother passed away a few weeks ago and he was obviously very down; however he and Margaret received a nice boost when he won 1st 2nd 3rd 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th & 10th club from Hastings 487 miles timing in 11 birds on the day when only 21 made it home in the club on the day. My thanks to Andy for his information and for sending me the photograph by email much appreciated.



Ian Armstrong with his 3rd section G 147th open Falaise winner

3rd section 147th open is **Ian Armstrong of Fraserburgh** who time in a 2 year old blue bar cock; Ian McKay from the management committee forwarded the following report 'The blue cock handles very well he has flown 2 races over 400 miles before being sent to Falaise. Last year he flew Hastings as a yearling Ian has only 11 pair of birds and 25 young birds having lost 5 already. So you can see this really is a back garden loft producing some fine performances at the distance. Ian is a very Couthie calm man and this is reflected in his management of the birds. Birds were from the old Osman family with some introductions over the years. Ian was secretary of the North of Scotland Federation for 8 years and flies into Fraserburgh which is notorious for long distance fliers. Now retired his birds are a pleasure to him more than out and out performers he has recently started to send after taking it easy for a while and is pleased with the performances put up. Ian has 20 young birds in the loft and all birds were parted at the point of my visit and he does not rear late bred pigeons although this blue cock was bred in June 2007. I would like to thank Ian for his willingness to accommodate me and my dog on my visit which was during a thunder storm, come to think of it every time I have visited Fraserburgh this year it has been raining. Ian

timed in a 2nd bird to win 6th section G my thanks to Ian McKay for the information on Ian's pigeon and for the updates and photographs he has supplied throughout the season.

Vote of Thanks

Once again a very special thank you to the above fanciers and management committee members who have supplied the information on the winners for this report; at the same time I thank them for their support and assistance in providing details for all our old bird races. I will not be doing the young bird national report and the president has informed me that Andrew McKee will carry out this task. Again a special thank you to our convoyers Colin Gray and Kenny Young; who along with Tom McEwen have done a marvellous job in looking after our pigeons this year; fanciers from every corner of Scotland have sung their praises for the condition in which their birds returned from this year's races and most importantly they have these experienced pigeon to look forward to the 2010 season with the SNFC. We must not forget the race control team namely Raymond White; Richard Combe and Gareth Rankin; who have tried hard to get it right this year and other than Alencon and the heavy showers encountered on the east side of the country in this Falaise race (which I believe stopped the pigeons); they have done a good job. They are as frustrated as the membership at the outcome of this last old bird race and it did not transpire the way they had anticipated. However we all know that the weather can change in a short space of time and distance; just a couple of weeks ago we experienced sunshine in Thornton and in Cupar (less than 10 miles away) they had thunder storms and the town was flooded; with people saying they had never seen rain like it in their lives so much so that it was on the reported on the BBC news at night. So race controllers are on a hiding to nothing however overall the membership are happy with their efforts and 2 testing races out of 6 old bird races is not bad.

Conclusion

Quite a number of fanciers have experience the same old story; some have had a good race while others have either not seen a feather or only have one or two birds home. Like the Gold Cup race there are some good pigeons still missing and we can only hope they return over the next few days and build up for next year. Like every race there are positives to take from this Falaise race; some fanciers timing in quite a few of their entries and will remember the last old bird race in the 2009 season for all the right reasons. On studying the open result the following fanciers caught my eye and deserve a special mention for their pigeon's efforts; fanciers who entered one bird and timed it in were as follows;

Crombie & Mechan of Annan 20th open; **G Dalgliesh & son Ecclefechan** 25th open; **S Allen of Gretna** 33rd open; **G Galbraith of Johnstone** 130th open; **White & Baird of Dumbarton** 150th open; **Sean Diamond of Kennoway** 153rd open; **John Campbell of Greenock** 5th section F; **F Fraser of New Deer** flying 607 miles won 4th section G; Then we have fanciers who entered 2 birds and timed both in; **Wright & Blackhurst of Dalkeith** won 74th & 134th open; **W & S Aitchison of Eyemouth** 12th & 107th open; **Bill Pirie of Annan** 13th & 27th open and **Ian Armstrong of Fraserburgh** winning 3rd & 6th section G. Other fanciers to time in 2 or more birds are as follows; **Gilmour Brothers Leven** 37th & 144th open; **Jock & Isabel Alston of Ravenstruther** 90th & 113th open; **John Bosworth of Elphinstone** 65th & 115th; **D**

McDonald of Dalbeattie 60th & 117th open; **D Noble Danderhall** 87th & 91st open; **J Neill of Peebles** 120th & 129th open; **J Somerville Carluke** 100th & 165th open; **J Wilkinson of Glenmavis** 101st & 104th open; **L Ralston Plains** 110th & 131st open; **M McGoff Junior Laurieston** 83rd & 146th open; **Norman McCulloch & son Dalbeattie** 29th & 52nd open; **Richard Combe of Elphinstone** 125th & 135th open; **Smith & Scott of Kirriemuir** 121st & 149th open; **Tom McEwen of Elphinstone** 16th & 119th open; **Tom Richardson of Newmains** 93rd & 116th open; **J Mulhern of Stirling** won 18th & 20th section D; **Billy Allison of Cambuslang** time **3 pigeons** to win 77th open; plus 28th & 29th section E; **W J Smith of Maxwelltown** time 3 to win 35th; 46th & 136th open; **E & R Jamieson & J Hardie of Galashiels** timed 3 to win 28th; 137th & 143rd open; **Eric Galloway of Forfar** timed 3 to win 69th; 72nd & 75th open; **Jim Gardner of Letham** in Angus also timed 3 to win 48th; 81st & 118th open; **John Little of Ecclefechan** time 3 from 4 to win 7th; 30th & 138th open; **Bruce McKenzie from Dundee** time in 3 to win 62nd; 102nd & 128th open; **Colin Creees from Coldstream** time 3 to win 34th; 45th & 56th open

Well done to one and all.

Trophy Winners

Jimmy Dalglish of Ecclefechan wins **The T Dickson Memorial Trophy** for 1st bird in the race;

Ralston V Graham of Langholm wins **The Owen McIvor Memorial Trophy** for 2nd bird in the open result.

Robert Walker & Jim Wilson of St Abbs win **The Elinor Main Memorial Trophy** for the first bird in the east region

SECTIONS - A * B * C * D * E * F * G Trophy Winners as per result

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Average Trophy

All claims for the average trophies should be forwarded to the club secretary Andrew Garvin as soon as possible stating name of trophy claimed; SNFC race; positions won MUST be shown on claim letter.

The Dr William Anderson memorial trophy; best average **Alencon; Andrezel & Falaise**

The News of the World Trophy; for the best average from **Alencon & Andrezel**

Ellsworth Challenge Trophy; the best nominated competitor with the best combined average from **Alencon & Andrezel**

Mr T Buck Trophy; the best average **Alencon & Falaise**

The Clive Newcombe Memorial Trophy; the best average in **ALL** old bird races;

Robert Telfer Award; the best average in **ALL RACES**

Tickets for the Annual Dinner Dance and Presentation of prizes will be held on **Saturday 31st October 2009** in the Glyhill Hotel Renfrew tickets are £25.00 per person and can be booked from the secretary.

The sale of **Late Bred** from some direct off the top national and section winners will take place on **Sunday 6th September 2009** starting at 2pm; venue still to be arranged

Joe Murphy
SNFC Press Liaison Officer