

*Scottish National Flying Club
Established 1894*

YPRES 3 Report 2009

Section D

1 st section 22 nd open	Young & Son Falkirk	1249
2 nd section 25 th open	C & J Lumsden & D Colligan Stoneyburn	1247
3 rd section 60 th open	D Jamieson East Calder	1192.8
4 th section 61 st open	D Jamieson East Calder	1192.7



Dave Young holding his 1st section D 22nd open Ypres winner

1st section 22nd open are the **Dave Young & son** partnership from Falkirk; Dr Phil Lynch the club vice president forwarded the following information; 'The partners timed in a 3 year old red chequer cock sitting a big youngster. He was paired the end of February and reared 2 youngsters in his first nest; he was then given a couple of

training tosses before the start of the old bird programme. He was raced from 4 races at distances of 110 miles; 160 miles; 180 miles; 230 miles then into the Maidstone open race a distance of 370 miles and timed on the night. He was given 2 weeks to bond to his baby and went straight into Ypres with no training; He won 56th open Ypres last year and a cousin was 2nd open in the same race. As a youngster he had several races and flew to the English coastline as yearling. His sire is Clairbot lines crossed with a Haiden hen (Dutch) Dave's son worked in the war graves commission in France and bought the parents at the Clairbot sale in France and his son has won a French national with these pigeons in the past. Dave is one of most successful and consistent long distance fanciers in North West Federation and his wife was an active and keen fancier with him before she passed away and is much missed however his niece Jessie has filled the breach and is a great help to him' best regards Phil; whom I thank for the information and photograph.

2nd section 25th open are the partnership of **Carol & John Lumsden & Derek Colligan of Stoneyburn** this partnership were formed 2 years ago after flying separately for a number of years; their lofts were close to each other and they decided it would be easier all round if they joined together to form the present partnership. They timed in a 2 year old blue cock driving that had flown widowhood all year however he was sent driving his hen to the nest for 2 days prior to basketing. He was mated in February and reared 2 youngsters before going on widowhood; He won 4th club Wetherby beaten by 3 loft mates; 2nd club Hexham beaten by loft mate; 2nd club 2nd federation Wakefield; 5th club Maidstone. He won the West Lothian breeder / buyer prize as a youngster and was in fact bred by the partnership and purchased back. As a yearling he won 1st Wincanton being the only yearling home in a 'stinker' of a race; Derek told me he has always been a steady pigeon over the years and he gives 100% effort. Sire was bred by Carol & John from their 3rd section D winner from Newbury in 2006; while the Dam won 2nd open Uttoxeter (Derek was 1st open in same race) and again bred by Carol and John from a pair of Graham Caple from Northampton; whom the partnership would like to thank for the good birds he has sent up to them over the years. Derek expressed he was over the moon with the performance of his pigeon in this Ypres race; my thanks to Derek for phoning in the details of his winner and hopefully we can have a photograph by the time this report goes to press.

3rd & 4th section 60th & 61st open is **Dave Jamieson of East Calder** who is on the SNFC management committee and again has failed to supply details of his pigeons for publication.

Section F

1 st section 34 th open	Harvey Pollock Irvine	1224
2 nd section 35 th open	Harvey Pollock Irvine	1223
3 rd section 49 th open	Derek McKinlay Largs	1203.6

1st & 2nd section 34th & 35th open is **Harvey Pollock of Irvine** who is another fancier who has had an excellent season; in club; federation and in SNFC races as he won 1st section F from Eastbourne a couple of weeks ago. From this Ypres race Harvey had his 2 birds drop together and his winner is a 6 year old blue cock flown on widowhood; again nothing changed from his Eastbourne report; the cocks are never shown the hen only the bowl turned over prior to basketing. The section winner was mated mid January and reared 2 youngsters before going on widowhood. He was

raced from Locherbriggs 62 miles; Appleby 114 miles; Ripon 163 miles; Wakefield 187 miles; Leicester 254 miles; Newbury SNFC 323 miles and believe it or not this was the first time this 6 year old cock has spent a night out of the loft in his life. He returned the next morning when the widowhood cocks were out for exercise and he joined in with them and was none the worse for his experience. Harvey's 2nd pigeon that I will talk about in a minute required some training to he and the 6 year old cock were tossed on the Saturday and Sunday from 20-25 miles.



Harvey Pollock 1st & 2nd section F 34th & 35th open SNFC Ypres 2009

As a youngster the section winner won 1st club 1st federation Tow Law; 5th club 8th federation Catterick and finished off the full federation programme; As a yearling he won; 1st club 6th federation Carnwath; 6th club Ripon; as a 2 year old he won 6th club Carnwath; 2nd club 4th federation Tow Law; in 2006 he won 2nd club Longtown; 2007 he won 4th club 37th federation Cheltenham beaten by 3 loft mates; 2008 he won 3rd club 12th federation again beaten by 2 loft mates; and this year he won 5th club Leicester again beaten by 4 loft mates. The section winners sire was purchased at the Irvine Squeaker sale and was presented by Robert McAuley of Irvine; being from one of Harvey's own hens who was paired to a cock from the late Jim Patterson the federation secretary (whom many older readers will remember) This cock won 3rd; 4th & 5th federation from 500 mile races and in fact when he was 3rd there were only 3 day pigeons into Ayrshire; Harvey told me this was a great cock who won from 50 miles to 500 miles. The dam of the 6 year old section winner won 3rd federation Huntingdon and she is a daughter of the Jackie Bunch hen who bred the 1st section Eastbourne winner. (See his 2nd section winner as this is a full brother to the Eastbourne winner)

Harvey's 2nd section 35th open winner is a 5 year old blue widowhood cock again the same management as the winner; however he only had every race out to Leicester from where he returned with a few feathers missing from his rump and his 2 middle tail feathers missing. He was left to allow these to grow back in and this was the reason he was given the 2 training tosses prior to going to Ypres as he had been off the road for so long; this never stopped him in this race and maybe this was the reason he did well as he was a 'fresh' pigeon. As a youngster he won 1st club 1st federation Tow Law; then in 2005 he was raced out to Newark without winning a prize card; 2006 he was injured and had no racing; in 2007 he won 1st club 5th federation Locherbie; 4th club Appleton; 2nd club 14th federation Stafford beaten by loft mate; 1st club 23rd federation Cheltenham; last year he won 5th club Ripon and this year he won 3rd club Wakefield before being hawked at Leicester. He is full brother to Harvey's 1st section winner from Eastbourne 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.

3rd section 49th open is **Derek McKinlay of Largs** who is having a good season like a lot of others in Ayrshire; Derek timed in a 3 year old blue bar hen sent on chipping eggs the day of basketing. Readers are going to be amazed at the story attached to this pigeon's performance and if ever motivation played a part in a pigeon winning a race then this is your story. As a young bird she had 4 races to Appleby; then as a yearling flown to Stafford; last year she was raced to Leicester and won 1st federation she was sent to Newbury SNFC returning cut on the back; with tail and cover feathers missing after being attacked by a peregrine and was stopped for the year. This year she was

mated on the 14th February and reared one youngster and was then put on roundabout; In her first race from Locherbie she returned home after being again hit by a peregrine with cover feathers and ½ her tail missing. Three days later she was out with the youngsters flying about when they were again attacked by a peregrine and one youngster failed to make it home; the hen landed on the top of the loft and couldn't stand up she had hit her legs against something trying to get away from the hawk.



Derek McKinlay with his 3rd section 49th open SNFC Ypres winner

After what seemed a long time she came into the loft and Derek put her in a section with a few old hens and she lay on the floor for a week; it eventually took this hen 5 weeks to recover from this injury. Derek then re mated her and 2 weeks before the Ypres race started to train her for the event by daily exercise morning and night for an hour round the loft; he also gave her about 5 tosses from 9 miles and she was entered into her SECOND race of the season from Ypres on chipping eggs. Sire is a Van Reet from Mr & Mrs Mardon lines; while the dam is a Janssen from Page Brothers from Yorkshire; the dam bred Derek's 189th open Newbury winner. I joked with Derek when on the phone to say he should name his hen 'Lucky White Heather' and he told me she already has a name Big Laura. The reason this came about was Derek and his partner both have daughters called Laura; with his being the oldest and biggest. On the day of the Leicester race Big Laura phoned her dad's mobile while he was waiting on birds when the blue hen dropped like a stone towards the loft; he shouted 'Here's a bird' and the phone went dead; after timing in the pigeon he phoned Big Laura back

(she was not happy at being cut off so abruptly) however Derek said if she wins today then I will name her after you; and this is the reason this small blue hen obtained the name of Big Laura. In closing Derek wished me to express not only his congratulations and respect but that of ALL AYRSHIRE fanciers to Harvey Pollock on his outstanding performances in this SNFC Ypres race; He would also like to thank Dave Cradock from Largs who assisted him by training his pigeon while going to work and finally the lads who run the Spittalhill race marking station they are doing a GREAT JOB; well done one and all.

Section G

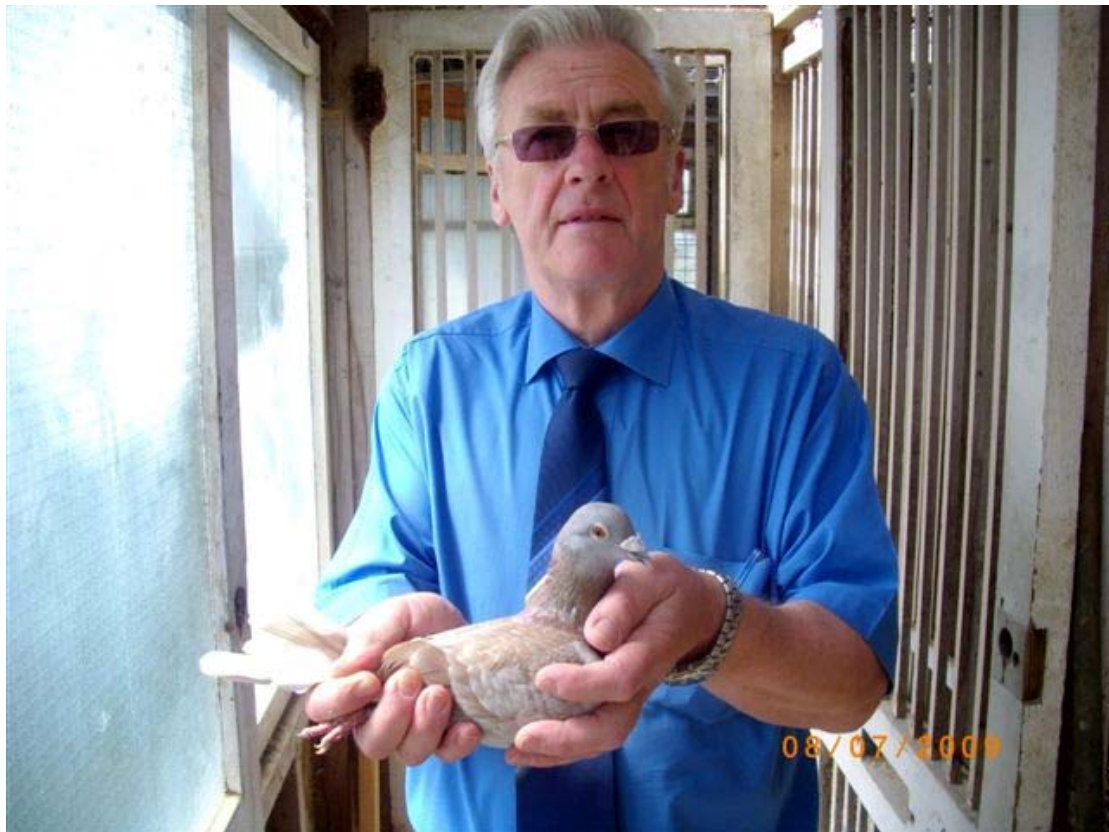
1 st section 37 th open	Jim Murdoch Aberdeen	1220
2 nd section 115 th open	Irvine Buchan Peterhead	1146
3 rd section 123 rd open	M I Patterson Stonehaven	1137



A happy Jim Murdoch with his 1st section G 1st north region 37th open Ypres winner

1st section 37th open is **Jim Murdoch of Aberdeen** who timed in a 2 year old chequer cock sent feeding 2 x 10 day old babies; he was mated the end of March and reared one youngster before going on roundabout. He was trained 5 times from 15 miles before the racing started Jim was telling me that he goes to the same place all the time to avoid being attacked by hawks. The section winner then had Thornton 84 miles; Alnwick 110 miles; Rotheringham 280 miles; Alnwick come back race and then into Ypres he was trained every week from the 15 miles mark mostly at 04.00 hours before the peregrine was out hunting; plus Jim started work at 05.00am as a document control manager (unfortunately his company have gone bust and he is now unemployed; lets hope something turns up soon Jim) As a youngster the section

winner had the first 2 races of the federation programme then stopped; As a yearling he was flown out to the 300 miles mark as Jim was working in Holland with his company at that time. His sire is a son of the Malcooke Cock who won 3 times from Lerwick (600 miles) when paired to a Jan Aarden hen. The dam of the section winner was purchased direct from Louella Pigeon World and is a double grand daughter of Invincible Spirit. When the chequer cock dropped on the board he was as fresh as a 'daisy' and Jim could not believe it was a Ypres bird the addreline rush he received was unbelievable and this is what keeping pigeons and racing against the best in the land is all about. Jim's future plans include altering his garage by extending it to accommodate his stock birds. At present Jim has a main racing loft which is 45ft long two stock lofts (20ft) & (8 x 6) and a new racing loft of 24 feet just erected. He suffers like most with bird of prey visitors; he also keep's a variety of birds mostly of long distance origins: Southwell, Louella Jan Aarden's and Wim Muller Jan Aarden's Jim had 4 out of 5 from Ypres; Jim and I did discuss the mileage and amount of over fly given in this race and it seems unfair to think that Irvine Buchan who was 2nd section living in Peterhead only has 10 miles over fly; it is the same with the lad in Fife on 448 miles and the Arbroath pigeon only getting 6 miles over fly; something to think about for the A.G.M lads and lassies; my thanks to Jim for his information and it was good to speak personally to him well done once again on winning the north section.



Irvine Buchan with his 2nd section 115th open Ypres winner

2nd section 115th open is **Irvine Buchan of Peterhead** who phoned to say he timed in a 3 year old red cock sent sitting 10 day eggs; he was mated 21st February and reared 2 youngsters in his first nest and has been on pot eggs ever since as he races natural.

This year he was flown from Brechin 60 miles; Cupar 90 miles; Arniston 120 miles; Tow Law 190 miles; Ripon 230 miles; Newbury SNFC 420 miles being 5th pigeon home on the 2nd day. He was then entered into the comeback race from Brechin and then lifted into the Ypres race. As a youngster he was raced out to the 150 mile mark; then as a yearling to Leicester and last year flew the SNFC Eastbourne race.

Sire is a dark chequer white flight cock who has 2 x 1st prizes in the club he has also flown Tours twice the first time he returned injured; however he picked up in time to go back to the extreme distance event the following year. This white flight cock is bred from a son of Irvine's Blue Cock and Grizzle Hen who are the base of his family of pigeons. This son of the stock pair was mated to a Kenyon hen from Bill Ishmal to breed the white flight cock. The dam of the 2nd section winner is a mealy hen who is bred from a mealy cock winner of 10th section Claremont; 6th section 85th open SNFC Falaise and 3rd section 93rd open SNFC Falaise; this mealy cock was mated to a full sister of his grizzle cock who won 5th section 76th open SNFC Falaise to breed the mealy hen dam of this years 2nd section 115th open winner; my thanks to Irvine for phoning and answering the questions on his bird for this report; my thanks also to Ian McKay for supplying the photographs.

3rd section 123rd open **Mike Patterson of Stonehaven** who timed 5 out of his 7 entries on the day and the other the following morning and is still one short. Mike winning pigeon is a 3 year old blue chequer hen sent sitting 10 days on eggs; she was paired up in February and is flown on the natural system; Mike allows his old birds and young birds to mix together in the loft and when it comes to exercise time the whole lot are out together; when he is at home they have the open bowl; Mike works as a network engineer and like a lot of us finds spare time a premium; therefore the birds get trained when he has the time sometimes he will take his wife to Tayport market and he will sit and single up his race birds while his wife does some shopping. The 3rd section winner has flown this year from St Boswells 98 miles; Alnwick 124 miles; Witton Castle 156 miles; Leicester 304 miles her eggs were then taken away and she was set up for this race with a few tosses in preparation for the SNFC event. As a youngster she flew out to Arniston 84 miles; then as a yearling she was raced to St Boswells and stopped as her cock was the main racer in the pair; as a 2 year old she returned from Arniston hawked and was stopped for the year. Sire is the same sire as Mike's 41st open winner from Ypres last year; he is from his old family of birds which originate from local fanciers over the year plus a bird he received as a gift from a London fancier. The dam of the 3rd section winner was purchased at a reduction sale held in Blackpool 3 years ago from Crathorne & Parrott from Essex; the base being Jan Aarden. She was broken to the loft and flying out when Mike heard the seagulls making a lot of noise he knew the peregrine was about on looking up he saw 5 of his hens in a tight group trying to get away from it; 4 returned and needless to say the hen purchased was the only bird not to return. The reason the Jan Aarden were introduced was to put a little speed into the old family and this seems to have worked and Mike is happy with the outcome so far; he informed me that he also has his 2 out of 2 from Andrezel home; so not a bad week ends racing well done Mike and nice to talk to you and congratulations on your section and open position.



Mike Patterson with his 3rd section 123rd open SNFC Ypres winner

Conclusion

I had no intention of going up to Kevin's for the race and to be honest the long wait at Alencon 'did my head in'; you are fine when you get a bird the pressure is off but to wait for 11 hours and not see a feather was too much for me to take I'm afraid. Anyway Kevin phoned and persuaded us to go up as they were going to have a barbeque and the grand children wanted their gran and grand up beside them; the fact that Kevin said 'I'll time in today' had no bearing on the matter whatsoever. When we arrived he informed us that Wynn and Charlie had 2 good pigeons about the 5pm mark. We settled down to wait and once the barbeque was in full flow (you could not

see for smoke) a chequer hen arrived and was duly clocked on the Unikon ETS system. I went into the house for the phone number to phone the SNFC Lib Line when I heard Margaret shouting here's another bird and looking out of the window saw a black pied cock land and go right in; 4 minutes behind Kevin's first bird. This was Rachel's (Kevin's girls) Rocket and she was jumping up and down and everyone was kissing each other and I'm not ashamed to say I had a tear in my eye; as everyone was so happy and this is what keeping racing pigeons is all about; not the politics or the back stabbing. To time a pigeon in the SNFC ranks as one of the greatest thrills you could ever wish to have in the sport. As a matter of interest Kevin won 86th & 94th open and it looks like I have lost the bet we placed at the beginning of the year when whoever bred the highest placed bird on a SNFC result would take the other couple out for a meal. To tell you the truth it will be well worth it as seeing these pigeons coming home and doing so well in the result is what Kevin and I are trying to achieve in each race. We then settled down to watch for the Andrezel candidates who were liberated on the same day but that's for next weeks report. In finishing off this part I have to highlight as we left at the back of 10pm; Margaret spotted a bird coming from the south west area; it was heaven high and racing like a bat out of hell; shut its wings and started to drop down towards the loft; when it landed it was like an oil painting and just stood there; Kevin said 'That's my last yearling home form Ypres' believe me we will hear more about this pigeon in future years. He must have gone with birds into Ayrshire or Lanarkshire before realising he had made a mistake; however to want to make it home after being on the wing for 15 hours 45 minutes speaks volumes for his determination and future.

Vote of Thanks

Once again a very special thank you to our convoyers Colin Gray who this time received assistance from SNFC President John Houston; who while over at the Ypres was invited to lay a wreath on behalf of the SNFC. The Menin Gate was the gateway from the town of Ypres through which all the hundreds of thousands of British and Commonwealth troops had to pass to enter the Ypres Salient; it is now a memorial gate to the Missing Soldiers. The walls of the memorial bear the names of almost 55.000 men posted missing believed killed in 'action'. Another wall at Tynecot Cemetery bears the names of another 35.000 men. On the 24th July 1927 Field Marshall General Lord Plumer in his dedication of the memorial stated; '**They are Missing; They are Here**'. At 20.00 hours prompt every evening wreaths are laid and the Last Post is played by buglers from the local volunteer Fire Brigade. John and Colin represented not only members of the SNFC but also the **PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND AND THE UK.**

We must also thank our race control team namely Raymond White; Richard Combe and Gareth Rankin who again worked tirelessly over the 2 days until the weather was just right for the liberation; the fact the race was won at 15.42 and all over in just over 2 hours highlights their decision. There are some outstanding performances achieved in this race and once I have time will highlight some of these in future articles.

Trophy winners

**Willie Kinnear & son Barry of Edinburgh win The Ypres Trophy;
Section winners; A * B * C * D * E * F * G - Trophy Winners as per result**

Sponsors

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

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

BAMFORDS FEEDS for supplying feeding for all S.N.F.C. races;

UNIKON:-For supplying base stations

With the Ypres race over it was now down to waiting on the Andrezel birds and a report on the SNFC winners will appear next week and believe me it is worth waiting for as we have the furthest flying **DAY PIGEON** from 3 convoys winning the SNFC at 625 MILES.

Joe Murphy

SNFC Press Liaison Officer