NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

By Joe Murphy

Last weekend we did not go up to Kevin’s as I was assisting the 2 convoyers, Dave and John from Ayrshire North Road federation, at their race from Thornton in Fife. The weather was not good early in the morning with full cloud cover but this started to break up mid-morning and the birds were liberated at 12.30 into a north east wind.

The convoy cleared in minutes and I believe the winners were home about the 2pm mark with my good friend Alfie Lawrence winning the first 3 places in the federation so well done Alfie. The other reason I did not go up to Arbroath was I was not feeling 100% as I had a busy day on the Friday and decided to take it easy. Kevin and my oldest son were building decking in his back garden (a sitting area for me while watching for the race birds) however this was completed by the time the race birds were due home. Kevin timed in a chequer cock known as the ‘P Cock’ who was bred by my dear friend Russell Bradford (see Arbroath report for more info) Kevin had quite a good race with his experienced birds coming at regular intervals but the yearlings are taking a hammering as they are being dragged all over the country and some are coming home the next day but we are 7 down. We have discussed this matter and even although I took a lot of time and effort while training these young birds they had never experienced coming out of a transporter and breaking from large batches before heading for home. So it looks like we will have to change our strategy this year and give them a couple of races as I cannot handle loosing pigeons like this.

BICC Falaise

I heard about the problems the BICC experienced last weekend concerning the ferry cancellations to Caen due industrial action by the French which resulted in their birds having to go on a Friday afternoon crossing to Cherbourg which obviously disrupted the normal arrangements of attending to the birds as they did not arrive at the liberation site until the early hours of Saturday morning thus giving the convoyers time to attend to the feeding/watering of the birds at the liberation site. The weather forecast on Saturday was not good and showed very high winds reaching gale force.
8 over parts of the English Channel, (and believe me there is no hiding place over the Channel for the birds) so it came as no surprise to me that a holdover was called for until Sunday. I said last week that the BICC put the pigeons first and foremost and they have proved this again this week by not throwing the pigeons away for the sake of having a Saturday race. I have been a race controller during my time in the sport and believe me it is not an easy task but if you put the pigeons first then fanciers will always respect you and you can hold your head high and say ‘I did it for the pigeons’.

This is what the BICC race control team of John Tyerman and Mark Gilbert as well as their weather advisor Steve Appleby did, so hats off to them.

The convoy of over 4000 birds were liberated at Falaise on Sunday at 08-30am with a much better forecast over the channel with light southerly winds and birds were clocked all over the country. The winner recording a velocity of 1896 ypm was to the loft of Martin and Bernard Flook so well done on winning the Falaise race. Not surprisingly with the strength of the southerly wind, the birds made excellent velocities in all sections of the club with some outstanding achievements going to pigeons racing over 400 miles to the Tyne & Wear area. With M Anderson & Son’s winning 1st NC section with their winner flying 419 miles I also see the outstanding fancier, John Rumney of Houghton-le-Spring, timed in a good one at 416 miles well done to everyone who competed in this race.

I was also happy to hear that John Tyerman’s first arrival from the race was a ‘Murphy’ bred by yours truly this chequer cock is a full brother to Kevin’s ‘Lucky’ a winner of 6 x 1st prizes and a 3 times SNFC national prize winner. Their sire was bred by Ron Lilleby from Barrow in Furness and he is a direct son of his 3 times combine winner ‘The 40 Cock’. The dam of John’s pigeon and ‘Lucky’ was bred by fellow scribe Adrian Duggan’s from his Leo Van Rijn direct stock.

Results

Angus Federation

From the Tow Law flown on Saturday 9th May the convoy were liberated at 12-45 pm into a North wind again Forfar club take the first 20 places with Ian Scott topping the federation and another in 8th place. Dave Glen is 2nd 9th 12th 14th 15th & 16th with Bob Baldie in 3rd 4th 11th 18th 19th & 20th places. Eric Galloway is 5th with federation secretary David J Liddle is 6th and 17th fed with Macaulay Fergusson & Curran in 7th 10th & 13th federation

East Section winners are as follows; this is not complete with only 2 club results sent in at time of going to print. 1st are J & J Leven of Montrose with 2nd & 3rd positions going to Charlie Cameron of Arbroath.

Club Winners are as follows:

Forfar 452 birds winner Ian Scott; Montrose 54 birdage winner J & J Leven; Arbroath 96 birds winner Charlie Cameron; Inchcape 102 birds winner L McKay; Gourdon 47 birds winner D & D Hay; Letham No result.

Arbroath RP society from the 3rd old bird race from Tow Law flown on Saturday 9th May 4 members sent 96 birds with the convoy liberated at 12-45 pm into a North wind. Taking the first 2 places is Charlie Cameron with a pair of yearlings split by 5 seconds. The winner is a dark chequer 2 year old cock his sire is Little Dorrie x Malfait and his dam was 31st open young bird national SNFC in 2012 and is bred from a Len Downie crossed Malfait. The 2nd bird
is a dark chequer white flight 2 year old hen bred from a pair of Ferdinand Malfait stock birds that have bred 16th & 20th open SNFC Clermont and other minor positions.

3rd club is Kevin J Murphy with a chequer cock known as the ‘P Cock’ he was sent driving his hen to nest and he was bred by my dad’s good friend Russell Bradford (BICC Treasurer) from Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. He was my 2nd bird from the young bird national flying 288 miles he then won 67th section C 283rd open from Maidstone 392 miles from an entry of 4472 birds and he also flew Clermont 539 miles in 2014 for me. He contains the very best of the Deweerdt family his sire is from a pigeon known as ‘Bernard’s Boy’ inbred to Iban bloodlines and his dam also contains Iban blood however she was crossed with a Mark Gilbert cock a direct son of Invincible Spirit. Dam of the ‘P Cock’ is from a hen who won 21st open BBC Bordeaux 509 miles and 64th open BICC Agen international flying 562 miles for Russell.

**Ayrshire Federation**

News from Mark Findlay who writes; ‘Hi Joe, on Saturday 2nd May Ayrshire Federation were at Otterburn with 2,523 birds liberated at 09.00am into a very fast but cold south by south east wind. I’m pleased to tell you that it was yours truly who topped the federation this week timing a blue grizzle yearling cock (see photo) on a velocity of 2032 he was doing approximately 70 mph. I sent him chasing his hen and I purchased him last year at Ardeer breeder buyer sale he was bred by my club-mate and friend John Donald from his Roland Janssen bloodlines. John has won a good number of races when racing this family of birds in the Clyde Coast HS. John invited me down to pick a youngster from the floor of the loft and it looks like I picked a winner. In 2nd to 6th fed was dominated by Andy Barbour of Dalry HS all 5 birds are roundabout yearlings and were only trained as young birds from 60 miles. The 2nd federation bird is a blue cock from Andy’s good Galaxy Loft Koopman crossed Van Loon lines. The 3rd fed winner is a blue chequer hen again Galaxy Lofts Verkerk crossed Rietvink. Amazing flying Andy and well done my thanks to Archie McIntyre for all the info on Andy’s birds and that’s it for another week all the best, Mark Findlay’. 

![Mark Findlay's 1st Ayrshire Federation winner](image)

**Ardeer HS**

James O’Hare writes ‘Ayrshire Federation moved the 3rd race from Sedgefield forward 24 hours and had a Friday race due to the poor weather forecasted for the week end of 9th/10th May with the convoy of 1940 birds released at 08-45am into a light south wind. Ardeer 8 members sent 91 birds and a fast race was expected to cover
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the 147 miles. Taken the red card this week is the partnership of J & S O'Hare on a velocity of 1670 the winning bird is a chequer yearling cock sent sitting 7 days on eggs and he was doing 1607 he is David Reed crossed Moger Busschaert crossed Willie Hay. The birds were well spaced out again this week and I hope we get a good race day soon best wishes Joe hope all is well yours Colin B’.

Central Federation

Broxburn club news from Bernie Britton with the club result from Ripon flown on the 10th May with 6 members sending 261birds liberated at 11-25 hours into a south east wind. Gordon Mackenzie takes the first 3 in the club all 3 birds originating from the Gabby original stock from M & D Evans. The winner is a yearling blue bar hen flown on roundabout as a matter of interest Joe she won 65th open SNFC young bird national. Gordon’s 2nd bird is a yearling chequer hen and the 3rd is a 2 year old blue hen they are all flown on roundabout well done Gordon.

East of Scotland Federation

News from Tam McEwen who informs me that the convoy were liberated at 13-10 hours at Ripon into a light north wind, topping the federation for the 2nd week in a row and also taking 3rd place is Brian Lavery of Prestonpans outstanding flying. There once again with a top 10 foursome finishing 2nd 5th 7th & 10th federation is John Bird of the same club. Ian ‘Spider’ Rowley of Gladsmuir continues with his good form finishing 4th federation. Mr & Mrs March of Prestonpans have a nice one in 6th place with Dougie Grieve of Longniddry having a great result in 8th federation place and completing the top 10 is Tom Waddell who keeps his name to the fore.
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**Prestonpans HS**

This week’s winner is Brian Lavery with a yearling blue hen on 1151 she was bred by Tom McLeod of Elphinstone. John Bird is 2nd with a yearling blue cock on 1148 his sire is from Premier Lofts and is a Herman Ceuster line with the dam of the blue cock from John’s own family down from Bits & Pieces bloodlines. Brian Lavery comes back in 3rd place also with a yearling blue cock on 1138 his breeding is Alex Hay of Gilmerton while the blue cock’s dam is from Tom McLean bloodlines. Well that’s it for this week Joe wishing you and Kevin all the best yours Tom’.

**Fife Federation**

Dunfermline news of the Sedgefield race flown on Sunday 10th May this week Walker Kennedy supplies the result as his son David is away on holiday. We had 8 members sending 199 birds to the race and 1st over the pads this week again is young Frankie Mitchell with a velocity of 1415 this is 3 in a row for him and it is a yearling cock on roundabout bred by Wattie Sharp from his Frank Tasker bloodlines Joe this young cock was 98th in the SNFC young bird national last year. Frank is also in 2nd place with the sire of the winner and he was sent feeding a 10 day young bird well done Frank very good flying. In 3rd place is yours truly Walter & David Kennedy with a velocity of 1388 this cock was bred by Brian Chalmers of Kennoway and was bought at the Fife Federation breeder / buyer sale last year. Well that’s it for another week kind regards to you Joe and your good lady yours Walker’.

Kennoway HS news from Jocky Scott who dropped off his result to me the 1st & 3rd club winners of the Sedgefield race belong to Sean Diamond with the winner a Louis Cooreman yearling roundabout cock bred by John Smith of ‘Duz Work’ products. Sean’s 3rd club winner is a 2 year old hen also on roundabout and was bred by Frank McBride of Corby. 2nd place is won by Grant Anderson (formally of Ladybank club) with a yearling cock on widowhood.

**Pentland hills federation & New Lothian R.P.C.**

News from Andy Millar who informs us that the above organisations held their 4th race of the season from Ripon a distance of 133-145 miles to most lofts on May 9th. On a day when many Federations delayed basketting for 24 hours, race controller Bobby Graham called it right. Although an early liberation was out of the question and the birds had to endure a few heavy showers at the home end, returns were excellent. 15 clubs sent 3342 bird and winning 1st Federation & 1st New Lothian RPC is Tam Nolan who resides in Gilmerton and races in Danderhall Pigeon Club his winner is a 3 year old widowhood cock bred by Steven Girdwood from Sighthill from his Mick Betts from Doncaster stock of Freddy Vandeheede origin. Tam Nolan was 1st 2nd 5th & 6th with Stevie Girdwood from Sighthill is 3rd place with his club mate Andy Miller is 4th 7th & 9th positions Danderhall Willie & Barry Kinnear are 8th with Steve Lapinski of Woodburn making up the top ten.

**Club Winners are as follows;**

Danderhall 481 birds; 1st 2nd & 3rd Nolan
Sighthill 204 birds; 1st Girdwood 2nd & 3rd Miller
Woodburn 125 birds: 1st & 3rd Lapinski 2nd Allan
Edinburgh West 142 birds; 1st I Bennett 2nd Lamb 3rd McCaig
Inveresk 130 birds: 1st & 2nd Halley & Kelly 3rd Cairns
Castlebrae 141 birds; 1st Sammels & Lunn 2nd Mitchell 3RD McCormack & Fraser
Edinburgh Premier 265 birds; 1st McFarlane 2nd & 3rd Gilchrist
Bonnyrigg 141 birds: 1st A Dewar 2nd & 3rd J Dewar
Gilmerton 175 birds; 1st 2nd & 3rd A W Robertson
Easthouses 394 birds; 1st J Pryde 2nd & 3rd W Pryde & Son
Peebles 40 birds: 1st & 3rd Bissett 2nd Blake
Loanhead 332 birds; 1st Murray 2nd Morrison 3rd Anderson
Rosewell 81 birds: 1st & 2nd Cunningham & Ness 3rd W Tytler
New Lothian 41 birds:
Edinburgh Central 0 birds:
Traprain 533 birds: 1st & 2nd Thomson 3rd Mark
Others 117 birds:
New Lothian RPC from the Ripon on Saturday 9th May 2015 liberated at 13-10 hours into a north wind with 65 lofts sending 1907 birds Tam Nolan from Danderhall is 1st 2nd 5th & 6th with Stevie Girdwood from Sighthill is 3rd with club mate Andy Miller is 4th 7th & 9th with Willie Kinnear & son Barry of Danderhall in 8th spot lifting nearly £300 Steve Lapinski of Woodburn makes up the top ten, My thanks to Andy for the above results.

Joe’s Joke

Three old golfers are walking down the fairway, "Sixty is the worst age to be," said the 60-year-old, "You always feel like you have to pee, and most of the time nothing happens." "Ah, that's nothing," said the 70-year-old "When you're 70, you don't have a bowel movement anymore you take laxatives, eat bran, you sit on the toilet all day and nothing happens." "Actually," said the 80-year-old, "Eighty is the worst age of all." "Do you have trouble peeing too?" asked the 60-year-old "No, I pee every morning at 6.00 am I pee like a racehorse; no problem at all." "Do you have trouble having a bowel movement?" asked the 70-year-old. "No, I have one every morning at 6.30 am." Puzzled with this the 60-year-old said, "Let's get this straight. You pee every morning at 6.00 am and poo every morning at 6.30 am. So what's so tough about being 80?" "I don't wake up until seven."

Have a great day!

Please continue to keep the news flowing; to Joe Murphy Mystical Rose Cottage 2 Flutorum Avenue Thornton by Kirkcaldy KY1 4BD or phone 01592 770331 or Email to joesjmurphy1@gmail.com REMEMBER THE J IN THE MIDDLE who wish my weekly contribution portfolio on pigeon topics from Scotland. © Compiled by Joe Murphy

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