



Scottish National Racing Pigeon Club.

The Reims Gold Medal National

Third Gold Medal for Peter Virtue

The main national race of the season was flown on the 24th June, the convoy consisting of 252 birds was liberated at 07.45 into a light North West wind with winds on the English Channel a fresh South Westerly continuing into Southern England where some rain was expected on route. What transpired was to be yet another very severe test for these gold medal contestants, although several reports from fanciers in various parts of England were that we could get a fast race due to the strength of the wind. Estimates of around twelve to thirteen hours for the journey into Scotland went by the wayside when thirteen hours passed with no reports of any arrivals; thirteen and a half hours came and went with still no arrivals with the light beginning to go it was becoming doubtful if there would be any day birds. Around 10.15 I received a phone call from Peter Virtue of Cockburnspath to tell me he had timed at 09.59, Peter and I keep in touch regularly and especially on race nights and I was delighted to hear he had timed what turned out to be the only bird on the day and winner of the gold medal, this is the third time Peter has won the Reims national and medal and again put up another remarkable performance clocking 9 of his 15 entries when some fanciers were struggling to get even one home, bear in mind that this is the main national race of the season and it's everyone's best pigeons that are entered for this one. Once again Peter has timed multiple pigeons from this long distance race-point and it being a very hard race speaks volumes for the constitution of his family of birds. It was 06.39 the following morning before the second bird was reported this time to the Cockburnspath loft that of Lloyd Togneri another 37 minutes passed before the 3rd open bird was clocked to Kevin Whitham of Dunbar. Another outstanding performance which has to be acknowledged is that of Dave Burns of Kirkcaldy timing 10 out of his 17 entries

to win section C with all ten his birds on the open result absolutely incredible flying. Section D winner Rab Hamilton of Cambus finishing a very creditable 4th open with Jones & Grandson from Kilsyth section E winners in 5th open. And W Veitch of East Saltoun in 6th & 20th Open and Jim Tullan Kilsyth 7th open with his single entry.



Centre Billy Veitch holding 6th open winner left son Ben with 20th open winner and right Ben's wife Jill

1st Section B 1st Open Peter Virtue Cockburnspath

Peters gold medal winner *Virtue's Treble Gold* is a direct son from the outstanding *Virtues Pride* the 2011 Reims Gold Medal winner and SNRPC Gold Champion 2011 when paired to Peters good Bruggeman stock hen not only was *Pride* a fantastic racer he has turned out to be an ace breeder also, I have said to Peter many times that he is the finest pigeon he has ever owned and believe me there have been quite a few over the years to pick from but this pigeon has everything anyone could ever wish for in a racing pigeon.



Peter Virtues Treble Gold 1st open Reims and Gold Medal winner.



Pictured with the 3 Reims National and Gold Medal winners currently housed in the Peter Virtue loft

Adam Luke with Treble Gold 2016 winner Peter Virtue with Virtues Pride 2011 winner and Duncan Knox holding Double Gold 2014 winner

2nd Section B 2nd Open Lloyd Togneri Cockburnspath.

Lloyd's 2nd open winning hen is a three year old 100% Steve Wright Jan Aarden De Smaragd11, Invincible Spirit lines she has always been a good steady pigeon for Lloyd she returned home from the 2015 Reims national on the 2nd day having suffered a peregrine strike she has certainly made a full recovery and is none the worse for her experience she was clocked at 06.39 to take the 2nd open position.



Lloyd Togneri 2nd Open and last year's winner

3rd Section B 3rd Open Kevin Whitham Dunbar.

Kevin is knocking at the door once again following up on last season's great performance from Reims with another 3rd open win this was with the same pigeon who was 3rd open in last season's Reims race *Howmuir Miller* bred by Andy Miller of Edinburgh what an excellent pigeon he is turning out to be, Kevin's loft is very consistent in the nationals he is a real contender for a 1st open position.



Kevin Whitham with Howmuir Millar 3rd Open winner for the second consecutive year

1st Section 13th Open C Dave Burns Kirkcaldy

Dave's 4 year old chequer cock has been over the channel three times before to Arras, this season he had three races up to Leicester and two 20 mile training tosses his sire is from Bob Blyth and is bred down from the late Jimmy Keir bloodlines his dam is from Dave's old friend Tom Currie of Cupar bred from a half -sister of the late Toms 2010 Reims Gold Medal winner Jay Jay. As previously mentioned Dave had 10 out his 17 entries in the open result what a remarkable performance, when the hard long distance races come along Davy Burns is right up there leading the way.



Dave Burns with his section C winner

2nd Section C 14th Open Dave Clark Leven

The sire of Dave's 5 year old chequer cock is from his own breeding paired with a hen bred down from John Ellis birds he was raced natural and sent sitting pot eggs apart from the first race he had all races to Leicester; He had previously been to Arras three times.



Dave Clark of Leven 2nd Section C

3rd Section C 15th Open J & C Caird Dundee.

Grant is only interested in long distance racing and has had many great performances from the channel over his many years in the sport his 3rd section 15th open winner this year is certainly bred for the job his sire won the section out of Arras and is from a John Ellis hen a daughter of the late Tom Curries *Jay Jay* this hen has bred a lot of good pigeons his grand dam on the other side is from Frank Baillie's 2012 Reims winner *Lex*. Grant's great pigeon *The Quiet Man* also features in the breeding, The 3rd section winner is a renowned bad trapper and sat out on his return from Alencon last season for 7 hours and would have taken a very good position, thankfully he trapped ok this time. He has been very consistent for Grant and has been his first timer from many national races.



Grant Caird Dundee 3rd Section C

1st Section D 4th Open R Hamilton Cambus

Robert's 2 year old chek cock flew the full federation programme as a youngster and at the yearling stage he has 9 races up to Portsmouth and won the following positions 1st club 36th fed Aycliffe, 4th club 27th fed Ripon 1, 3rd club Ripon 2, and 3rd club 10th open Leicester 267 miles. As a 2 year old he had 6 races before Reims and was 1st club Appleby, 2nd club 14th fed Ripon and 3rd club 17th fed Wakefield and 2^{ns} club 19th open Leicester what a good all-round pigeon he is bred from Geoff Kirkland pigeon crossed with one from Robert's *Rosina's Boy* 4400 lines. He was sent to Riems on a two day youngster and homed in excellent condition after what was a very hard race.



Robert Hamilton with his Section D and 4th open winner

2nd Section D 30th Open S Morrison Grangemouth.

Scott's hen is a Jan Aarden and was bred by Keith Warnes from the Norwich area she was raced up to Newark 234 miles then exercised round the loft she had 4 training tosses at 20 miles then shut in for a week as Scott was on holiday on the day of basketing she flew for 45 minutes and was sent sitting 15 days before being slipped a chipping egg an hour before basketing this was her first time over the channel. Unfortunately Scott has lost contact with Keith.



Scott Morrison Grangemouth 2nd section D

1st Section E 5th Open E Jones & Grandson Kilsyth

Evan and Andrew timed their section winner “*Young Whizzle*” at 08.29 next morning she had 4 races prior to Reims Otterburn, Aycliffe, Wetherby and Newark winning 7th section Otterburn, 1st club 4th section Aycliffe and was their last bird home from the Newark race at 8 pm. She was fed on Versa-Laga All-round, High energy beans and peanuts and sent to Reims on hatching eggs the day of basketing. She is bred from Denis Dall lines from their good friend Dougie Spittal. She has 5 training tosses 2x25mls, 1x40 and 2x60 before going to the gold medal race. Andrew would like to thank Billy Smith for the training and Gavin Ferguson for his advice prior to the race.



Evan Jones and grandson Andrew 1st section E & 5th open with their winner Young Whizzle

2nd Section E 7th Open J Tullan Kilsyth.

Jim's 2nd section 7th open winner was one of 6 from John Ross of Camelon. They swapped birds annually until John passed away a couple of years ago. This good old 8 year old cock has been over the channel 4 times and scored twice for Jim. This season he had two training tosses and then put into Leicester then was trained the following prior to the national 2x 25 mls, 1x40 and 2x60 mls he was sent sitting on 23 day eggs. What a great performance with only one bird sent.



Jim Tullan 2nd section 7th open with a single entry

3rd Section E 21st Open J McFall High Blantyre.

Another great performance with a single entry John's 4 year old Grizzle hen was timed at 12.04 the following morning to win third section. John's single entry for Reims is a 4 year old Grizzle hen she is bred through a George & Gareth Rankin pigeon paired to a grizzle hen from local fancier Arthur Morrison from his Jim Cullen stock. As a youngster she flew the programme then up to 280 miles as a yearling as a 2 year old she topped the South Lanarkshire fed in the opening race then was John's 6th bird home from Arras, In 2015 due to John being in hospital the whole team were only lightly raced with the grizzle only having 1 race at 170 miles. She was re-paired this year after losing her mate off the loft prior to Reims she went to 250 and 260 miles and had 4x50 mile tosses she was raced natural and sent sitting 7 days eggs with her second flight just bursting through.



John McFall High Blantyre 3rd section E

1st Section F 36th Open I Lowe Cartcosh

When it comes to the Reims National Ian is very consistent he has timed some excellent pigeons in over the past few years, this time his section F winner is a 3 year old chec pied hen clocked at 16.44. She is from his Jim Hannah family crossed with a Southwell, Ian has done well with the Southwell cross and his system of breeding from his winners is certainly paying off. This hen was 5th section F, 81st open from Reims last year as a 2 year old, she was raced up to Leicester and had 7 tosses from Edinburgh prior to basketing she was sent on 7 day eggs.



Ian Lowe Gartcosh 1st section F

2nd Section F 48th Open I Ross Kirkintilloch

Ian Ross is another fancier with a great record from the distance having won section F on no less than 11 occasions his family of pigeons excel at these distance events. Ian's 2nd section winner is a three year old hen and was 4th section last season from Reims she is Jock Allen bloodlines and was paired on third week in March had four races to Leicester and went to Reims sitting 14 days she arrived home with most of her tail missing and injuries consistent with a peregrine attack but as Ian says she lives to fight another day and hopefully go to Reims next season to try for one of the Reims ace pigeon awards.



Ian Ross Kirkintilloch 2nd section F

3rd Section F 48th Open Smith & McCallum Cumbernauld

John and Billy timed their good 5 year old blue hen to take third place in the section; she has previously won the section for the partners out of Arras and Billericay and also a 5th section Arras. She is bred out their old red cock father of the loft and a good stock hen. She was sent sitting 18 day eggs at the time of basketing after being raced from Newark and Leicester she had 2x 25ml, 1x40ml and 2x60 mile tosses, they are hopper fed on best all round and Gerry plus.



Smith & McCallum Cumbernauld 3rd section F

Duncan Knox

Press Officer