

# Recipe for Success

Into a bowl put a very devoted, keen fancier, top pigeon bloodlines, good management, observation, a very supportive family and genuine love for pigeons and from these carefully blended essentials came the finished product the S.A.H.P.A. 1988 Sires Produce winner for Jim Marafiote and family of Adelaide.

The race is always very keenly contested as the last few years the annual young bird auction held in February has brought top dollars. For the '88 season 1st prize was \$2,500 for breeder and the same for trainer so Jim won the lucrative double.

The race point was Maryborough Vic. distance 320 miles, conditions were tough and arduous with torturous winds and rain. The race recorded the slowest winning velocity ever for a S.A. sires produce race. Released at 6.55 a.m. into N-NE winds, 333 pigeons battled the elements. No birds were home by nightfall on the first night, and anxious waiting owners realised chances of homing a bird were slim.

With sun-up on Sunday and still no pigeons in sight, Jim decided his team of pigeons for the following week's race had to have their toss, so with son Steve keeping a lookout, a quick trip to the training unit of Bob Blyths was necessary. Hearing the news of no pigeons still reported home, Jim headed back home and shortly after one of his entries in the race hit the loft, being timed at 8 mins. past 9. Steve was greatly excited just to have a bird home.

Jim recalled the blue check pied hen was a healthy youngster and matured beautifully right from hatching. She used to also train on her own around the loft and had only one race prior to the Sires race. The genetical background of the winner encompasses bloodlines of Gurnay, Ralph Watson, Goodger, Jack Metcalf with the original Gurnay Cock dominating the characteristics of the hen.

Jim isn't a newcomer to the winner's circle, he has enjoyed many successes over the years and has been a consistent top

flyer for quite a few years. In 1982 he won 1st Assoc. Temora, in 1988 Jim recorded a 2nd Alice Springs with pigeons released on Friday and with Jim clocking his 2 year old red check hen at 7.49 a.m. on the third morning to take his top position. It was the first time Jim had ever entered hens in an Alice race. It was also the hen's first race for the season and only her third race in her career. The sires hen is a half aunt to the 2nd Alice hen. 12th Assoc. Coober Pedy clocked in the dark on release day in '88 season is also related to his 2nd Alice hen, being half aunt on the other side.

In the Gosses derby Jim recorded the fastest time in the State clocking a mozaic hen, but as the derbies for the '88 season only weren't assoc. races Jim's win wasn't given the recognition of the top fly it was. In 1987 Jim was placed 7th Bathurst assoc. in a tough 4 day race and the Gooses winner and the Bathurst pigeon are half sisters.

Jim gained 4th assoc. points in the '88 season with 11th assoc. Young, 17th assoc. Canberra, 24th Benella, 5th Coober Pedy, 18th Coober Pedy, 12th Coober Pedy, 2nd Alice Springs. He has been placed in the top 20 aggregate points in 11 of the last 12 years.

Jim is still a young man but he has always had pigeons around him. As a four year old with scrubbers and when he was 12 he fell under the intricate spell of racing pigeons and the inexplicable hold they have on some humans. Living in Wingfield at that time, his home journey from school used to take him across a paddock which bordered on a pigeon loft belonging to Abe Walford and Jim used to carefully scrutinise the racing pigeons housed there. Noticing the interest of the young lad brought an offer by Abe to get Jim into racing and henceforth with a supply of 6 pair of pigeons and a hamper from him, Jim was on his way. He became a member of the 18 strong North West Junior Club, with the senior section having 25 members.

The biggest influence in his early days as a fancier came from the late Les Jeffries, he became like a second father to Him, they were very close friends for a long time — a real honest gentleman are Jim's memories of Les.

After marrying his wife Francis, they moved to three different locations in three years and Jim raced only to the derbies for those years. He has been a member of the Vitesse Club since 1976 all bar two years '79 and '80 when he was a member of the Para Hills Club affiliated with the Northern Federation. After winning the Fed. aggreg. points in 1980 he rejoined the Vitesse Club.

Jim is a very successful businessman learning his work skills in the fruit and vegetable trade. Jim and Francis have their own shop and with 23 years of experience know the pros and cons of keeping the customer satisfied with top quality goods.

Francis is a marvel running a busy household with four children, aged 16, 13, 4 and a one year old, helping Jim with the

business and also training birds in mornings, feeding and watering them. Thirteen-year-old Steve loves the pigeons and is an aspiring fancier himself. He said pigeons are a hobby to look forward to not just the racing but breeding season. His dad usually lets him put a pair together. Last season his selection bred 3 hens and 1 cock. He likes to see his own choices perform well and likes to try his skill at selecting pool pigeons and occasionally hits the jackpot. He is fascinated by the birds at moulting time and noticing the changes in the pigeons as they regrow their new feathers. He enjoys going with Jim to the club and assoc. rooms as he likes meeting people.

All the family have their favourite colours, Steve likes the peds, Charlie the mealies, Rosa the grizzles and Jim likes red check and blue bards.

Pigeon racing really is a family affair with the Marafiotes and that is why they are very successful competitors in the sport.

*Pat Marchant.*

## SQUEAKER SALE

CONDUCTED BY THE MID-WEST RACING PIGEON FEDERATION

to be held at

PARKES SHOWGROUND ON SUNDAY 26-11-89

Penning starts 8.30 — all birds to be penned by 10 o'clock

**THIS SALE INCLUDES SELECTED SQUEAKERS FROM LEADING LOFTS**

This provides an opportunity to obtain FIRST CLASS BIRDS from proven stock with 50% of moneys raised going to best performed bird during the 1990 flying season.

Bring the family to enjoy the hospitality extended by the Mid-West members

Lunch and light refreshments available

*For more information contact:*

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