

# Pigeon Notes

By  
Vin Blanden

## Changes In System Likely

Major changes to the present system of racing are likely to eventuate in SA Homing Pigeon Association events next year.

There is unrest among members of various clubs because they claim they are out of position and so have little chance of taking the big prizes.

This unrest has been evident for many years and about twenty years ago sectional racing was given a trial because of this but failed to provide the answer.

Everyone is apparently ready to admit that "loft position" plays the major part in deciding the winner of the normal race of under 400 miles, but few are prepared to make an effort to eradicate it.

Retreating into smaller groups or sections is a refusal to face the real issue and can only lead to weaker competition and loss of prestige. The blue ribbon derby events would have to be abolished unless they were conducted from distances of more than 400 miles.

The fact is that we are stuck with a system that has adhered to us like glue since pigeon racing in earnest was first started here, and few of us appear to possess the energy to shake it loose.

The remedy will not be found in isolation, but can only be applied, by the forming of a new prizelist system which will ensure that all birds worthy by performance in the day, irrespective of loft position and wind direction, receive their just and proper reward.

At no time has any real effort been made to eliminate the "positional advantage" menace.

Group racing or any other similar form of sectional racing will not contribute one iota to ensuring that the bird worthy of its prize will receive it.

Those owners who enjoy the advantage of position in the day will still reap the harvest

to the detriment of others less fortunately placed.

### SOLUTION

There is only one way to get rid of the "positional" problem and that is to adopt a similar prizelist method, used by the Belgians and others on the continent where pigeon racing is a national sport.

The method provides for one prize for every 30 many birds competing and all prizes are of equal value. Special nomination races are held jointly with the ordinary event and these are the means of providing the big prizes. One special nomination is a one-bird limit, winner take all.

Other specials conducted are similar to the 5c, 15c, 30c, 50c, \$1 and \$2 system in use here. Three or more prizes are paid in each of these special races.

Here is an example of how the system would have worked if it had been used in the first four Association races this year and allowing for one prize for each 30 birds competing:—(1) Marree derby, 4,934 birds. Stake \$1,506.90—164 prizes at \$9.18 each. (2) Maryborough derby, 4,998 birds. Stake \$1,530.90—153 prizes at \$10 each. (3) Marree open, 3,060 birds. Stake \$850.60—102 prizes at \$8.33 each. (4) Maryborough open, 3,158 birds. Stake \$857.10—105 prizes at \$8.16 each.

An average 308 owners raced an average of 3,960 birds in each of these events—between 12 and 13 birds to each owner.

The total costs for each owner for an entry of 12 birds at 24c each in the derby races, and 44c each in the open events amounts to \$16.32.

## Football

**COWELL**—At the annual general meeting of the Cowell South Football club

The return to each owner with a bird placed in each long prize list amounts to \$35.67.

If an optional one-bird limit at \$2 per bird had operated (winner take all), and an average of 250 of the 308 owners had competed, the good prize of \$500 would have been an attraction.

Prizemoney in the optional special nominations in the same four events amounted to \$3,221.80 this year.

The total costs to the owner with one of his 12 birds entered in the \$2 one-bird limit in each of the four events, and another \$2.50 invested in the ordinary specials (to give him the chance to win some of the \$3,221.80) amounts to \$34.32—still less than the \$35.67 return.

Strong competition and prize would be retained if the system of racing, which provides owners with a better chance to make two ends meet was adopted.

It would effectively destroy the "positional" bug and still give everyone the chance to win a rich prize—something that no system of group or sectional racing can equal while the present prizelist method is used. Our constant refusal to recognize and admit the fact that all birds which comprise the leading batch are of equal value and the main reason for their gradings on the prizelist is by means of loft position in the day, is a deplorable head-in-the-sand, ostrich-like attitude.

## Death Of Showman

Fanciers will be sorry to learn that well-known exhibitor Harold Hains died at Strathalbyn last week.

Mr. Hains raced a few birds in the small Strathalbyn Club this year. During his career he amassed a huge total of prizes at country shows and Adelaide fixtures including the Royal Show.

## Results

### AGGREGATES

**Solomontown**—R. M. Sykes Argent and Legg, L. E. Tee and C. S. and M. J. Connor junior division A. Argent, W. Newberry and P. Pavlich.

**Jamestown**—P. C. Couzner 89. E. Swearse and Son 81, an Smith and Son 58 points.

**East Suburban**—M. Harshegyi 81, M. Bird and Son 61 and C. Hawke 60.

### COUNTRY 15-10-66

**Renmark** from Naracoorte, 18 miles (8.42)—R. Yonker 84, R. Doevendans 846, R. Locke 836.

**Jamestown**. Two races from Portland (Vic.), 394 miles (1.29)—Smith and Son 13.0.0.1 Couzner 13.4.0. E. Swearse and Son 13.13.0. From Cook, 513 miles (5.40)—E. Swearse and Son 12.42.0. E. Swearse and Son 12.49.0. E. Swearse and Son 12.53.0.

**Solomontown**. Two races. From Cook (9.56)—Argent an Legg 1415.7. R. Sykes 1415. I. and W. Newberry 1412. From Benalla (9.59)—C. Thoms 792. Argent and Legg 738, L. E Tee 633.

## PIGEONS

Flown stages, Oodnadatta, Benalla, closely. Related by 3rd Oodna and 4th Benalla Assoc. Reasonable. A. R. McLean, 372 Anzac Highway, Plympton Pk. 53 2822.

## Race To Fraser

**F. Fraser (North-West)** easily won the Association's one-bird limit at \$10 entry from Oodnadatta on Sunday.

He won by 73 yards a minute from M. Bird and Son who finished six yards in front of K. Raymond in third place.

Released at 10 a.m. on Saturday, three hours 41 minutes behind the 2,677 open race contestants, the small batch of 28 birds covered the distance at a much slower rate than the early release.

The winner of the open for K. Watts (Hampstead) recorded a speed of 277 yards a minute greater than the feature race winner.

Fraser's winner was clocked at about 1.50 p.m. Sunday and Watts timed his winner near 6.15 a.m. H. Sykes (North Suburban) also performed well to clock at 6.30—about 90 minutes clear of the third prize-winner.

Prizemoney for the 28 bird event, split three ways, amounted to \$274 with the winner receiving \$137.

Arrivals were few and far between in both races. "Home" birds continued to "home" until late on Sunday with a poor return of about 50 p.c. resulting.

Outstanding performances were recorded in the open race by the winner K. Watts, who also took 12th prize and C. Hawke (East Suburban), seventh, 13th and 15th.

Hard racing resulted in the Union's and Combine's Benalla races.

Four of 366 Union birds reached home in the day, and A. R. McLean recorded a fine feat to win first and second places—he took fifth and eighth prizes with his third and fourth birds, home on Sunday, to complete a grand performance.

Returns up to the close of the race on Sunday night were reported to be about 50 p.c.

Results of the Combine's race are not to hand.

## Oodnadatta

**S.A.H.P.A.** one-bird (28.28)—F. Fraser 918. M. Bird and son 845. K. Raymond 839.

**S.A.H.P.A.** Open (234.2677)—K. Watts 1195. H. Sykes 1167. Buckley and son 1069. R. Fleming 1034.8. M. Hawes 1034.1. J. Budas, 1016. C. Hawke 1012.2. Heovich 1012.4. R. Birch 1012.2. J. Bergen 1009. M. and P. Looker 1004. K. Watts, 1003. C. Hawke 1002.6. J. Basted 1002.4. C. Hawke, 1002.1. R. May 999.9. R. Bell 999.8. R. Rust 994. P. Arvola 993. D. Bennett and Son 991—subject to check.

**North-East** (14.134)—L. Todd 1148. L. Naismith 1001. Thede and Heuchan 985.

## Trotting

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### Benalla

**SAPU** (40, 366)—A. R. McLean 1048.4. A. R. McLean 1048.1. Warren Moyle and son 1043. Arnold and Brown 1034. A. R. McLean 983. S. Mitton and son 978. L. Patronev 974. A. R. McLean 968. F. Considine 967. H. Hobby 968.

**Victor Harbor** (5.14)—L. Ruggatt 19.27.33—only bird to qualify.

## Country 21/9/68

**Port Pirie H.S.** From Oodnadatta, 420 miles (12.106)—J. Dormer 1915. K. Smit 952. Dormer 944—trophies by R. Hogen and Mrs. P. Brown.

**Solomontown**. From Horsham (12.85)—Mrs. G. Nitz 1316.8. Mrs. I. Newberry 1316.5. Miss B. Argent 1315—trophies by Mr. Nayda, R. Hobba and A. Ryan.

**Port Augusta** (Flinders HC). From Ballarat, 492 miles (21.67)—V. Medwin 1244.8. R. and L. McDonald 1244.4. Frank Grantham 1243.

**Kadina** (Two races). From Maryborough one-bird limit, 401 miles (11.11)—J. Chapman 780. J. Smith 772. D. Rule and son 751—trophies by E. E. and Marshall. Ross Kutcher and C. Marks. From Cook derby, 485 miles (11.147)—J. Champion 966.7. M. Hughes 966.4. L. Wakefield 965. Trophies by Bill Hodge, Geo. Tucker Memorial and Colin Watson.

**Walterie** (Two races). From Booleroo Centre (9.45)—R. and V. Wain 1314. R. Curtis 1296. G. Elliott 1267. From Pimba derby—Alza Bros 964. R. Curtis 919. L. Kemble 915.

**Loxton**. From Stawell, 220 miles (8.33)—R. Carslake, A. Goldney, C. Kruger—trophy by J. Shannard.

**Millicent** (Two races). From Parachilna, 470 miles—J. Dean 1192. F. Carthew 1191. S. Hunter 1181. From Maryborough 190 miles—M. S. Hunter 729. L. Serle 315.

**Whyralla** (Two races). From Oodnadatta, 396 miles (14.190)—M. Raymond and son 1003.5. I. and G. Raymond 1003.4. A. Williams 1003.3—six birds in day. From Naracoorte, 325 miles (13.13)—M. Raymond and son 1395. J. Virgo and son 1394.7. C. Reese 1394.1—ten birds in day.

**Clare**. From Benalla, 458 miles (3.8)—J. Boyd 960 (only bird in race time)—trophy by J. McAvaney.

**Murray Bridge**. From Benalla—R. Ellis, G. Rowland, L. Leighton.

**Angaston**. From Oodnadatta, 535 miles (6.86)—Parish 15.36. R. Starick 17.20.50. A. Peary 17.2.32—trophy by A. Stott.