

LOFT REPORT

WEST TORRENS POINTS WINNER 1994

1943 saw the name of Reg Foureux first come onto the S.A. Racing Pigeon scene.

Reg commenced flying with the Old City and Suburban club (situated in Chatham Street between Wright and Sturt Streets).

Residing in Torrensville and in those days being young and fit (15 years of age) it was no effort to ride a push bike to the clubrooms with a basket full of pigeons and the old tin clock well balanced on the handle bars (a far cry from today with the motor car).

Two years membership with the Old City and Suburban club (which was affiliated with the SAHPA) was a tremendous learning period for the young Reg.. and winning his first race from Oodnadatta was the beginning of a long and successful racing career.

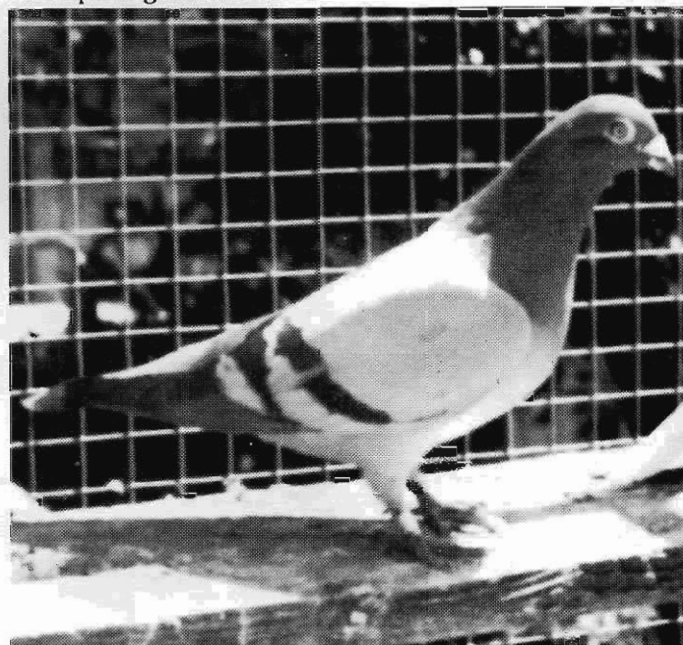
With the closing of this club the Torrensville Tin Clock club (which was also affiliated with the SAHPA) was the next step in his pigeon racing career. After 5 years of racing pigeons in the new club "The Mating Season" had been planted in his mind, so he decided to do some bird chasing of his own. During his 15 years lapse from the racing game, Reg won the best bird of his life - "Joyce", and this happy mating produced 4 squeakers who have in turn proved wonderful sires, giving Reg and Joyce a nice batch of youngsters.

Making a comeback with Henley and Grange club, it was nice to pick up a few winners, including Club Aggregate Points in one year.

1975 was a very memorable occasion - being my first Association winner - 229 owners and 1381 birds.

But... the biggest thrill of all was the 1st Association Benalla Open 1979 winner, also 2nd placing and with all pools, (total of

\$3,000 approx.) competing against 268 owners and 3508 birds. SAHPA records show 2 x 1sts, 4 x 2nds, 2 x 3rds and many minor placings in the Association.



1st Association Temora in Reg's stock loft

RACING LOFT - 10ft x 12ft. (3 compartments). The floor is wood raised approximately 2ft from ground level with a shell grit dressing (changed every day) giving a nice clean and fresh approach. American traps are in use. Holding approximately 90 flyers and looking forward to their first tosses of 2x15km progressing to 3x30km with a further 3x60km before going on the unit.

Living on a good standard of feed .. 70% peas, 20% wheat with the rest made up of barley and small seed. Greens once a week, salt and grit always available with a vitamin and mineral supplement once a week plus Ornithon. (No garlic - I believe it takes away the taste of natural food). All birds are treated for worms 3 weeks before racing commences and birds will be separated after the derbies.

Reg and Joyce are looking forward to a very competitive 1995.

BREEDING LOFT - 10ft x 12ft. (2 compartments) Carrying approximately 10 pair of stock, selected from his best performed pigeons, with the rest of breeders being taken from the flying loft (mating best to best). Reg and Joyce have a proven winning family which originates from a selection of stock in 1963 from the late Clarrie Simmons of Woodville club, one of South Australia's top line flyers, consisting of Puttman, S M Evans and Bastian. (Including a good Soffle x Jurion hen) which was a daughter of a 3 winner hen.. a champion RCH from West Torrens clubmember Laurie Maddern. The late Artie Morris Old Port Combine winner blood was thrown in for good measure. Reg likes line breeding and inbreeding but will bring in an outcross when necessary. This year will see the introduction of the Dordins as a cross. As an interest has included Van Wanroy, Matthys and Cobut (only on a trial basis).

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Reg in front of loft with 1st Association Benalla

clearly on the ring.

There are also flyers that have birds reported that do not bother to contact the person that has found them. This leaves the finder in an awkward position. I understand some states have rules with regards to strays but again I cannot understand why a pigeon we have developed, trained, put hours of work into is not worthy of a phone call deciding its fate.

Another point this raises is what would happen in the event the original owner has either moved without a forwarding contact, given up pigeon flying all together or passed away and there is no way of contacting that person to obtain a release for the bird. In my opinion, the ring secretary for the particular club involved should then be able to issue the finder of the bird a release paper so that the finder can keep the bird and enter it in competition. If the person that purchased the ring, for whatever reason cannot be contacted and another flyer has taken the time to feed, treat if necessary and care for the bird then should he be forced to kill it or keep it illegally?

I guess it comes down to the fact that trust is not enough anymore. It unfortunately needs to be backed up in writing. Every bird sold, lent, or given would have to have written proof of either purchase, lease or gift.

As it stands, if I am given a bird and the flyer and I have a disagreement three months later and he wants his bird returned, legally I would not have a choice but to surrender the pigeon.

What's fair? Where does the buck stop...or in this case, the pigeon?

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Appearance and cleanliness of the loft is most important - Joyce has been a great help through the years - the loft is cleaned every day during flying season, ably directed and assisted by Joyce.

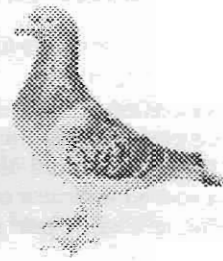
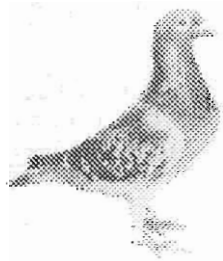
The Foureur performance is more than just a little impressive... Aggregate Points in SAHPA - 5th, 7th, 2x10th, 12th and numerous placings in the first 30.

Aggregate Points Winner in the West Torrens Homing club, 10 times (first season being 1974) and occasionally having a year off for holidays.

Reg places plenty of importance on stock birds....after 5 to 6 years, will bring in young birds *but is not afraid to give praise to the 2nd Association Maryborough hen*, who was 10 years old when she produced the 1st Association Temora hen (this was the ideal hen). The sire of the 1st Temora hen also sired the 2nd Association Benalla cock. More cock birds are flown on the north line, which are ably assisted by prevailing north winds, conditioning over-rides any racing programme, but I always try to race birds every 3 weeks.

When a bird is approaching race form - Reg likes the bird to be buoyant, full in the hand, bright eyes, warm feet and clear of scale. Loves the long tapered wing with plenty of cover over back (medium size pigeon).

Reg and Joyce Foureur have assisted many people over the years and the advice given to beginners is to go to fanciers that have good consistent performances, a good strong family. Be regular at all times with training, feeding, cleanliness and calmness around the loft. Reg and Joyce are always willing to give advice and assistance to new flyers.



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