



## COLAC OPEN

The Muirhead and Perkins partnership won the Colac Open against 115 owners 1500 birds. Their hen's Sire is down from a J Pryor cock from P Gatley and a Buxton and Snyder's hen, while the Dam is down from two Buxton and Snyder's birds. These birds were brought at D Buxton's first sale and have been very good pigeons for Andrew.

This game hen flew both lines in 2013, Andrew told us that the race team for each week is picked on fitness and if they are ready they race either line.

Andrew starts the season by breeding from around 20 pairs, he has what he calls 12 A grade and 8 B grade pairs and breeds from racers with around 200 birds being bred. He feeds a high protein mix with maize and rape and millet added and thinks that is the best way to give them a good start, this also continues on into the racing season but adds some barley during the moult.

He has added Gaby Vandabeele blood to help speed up his family, Andrew trains on his own unit and on his own, and gives a lot of tosses before the season starts. The cocks and hens are together in the race loft all year but he might separate a pair into other sections that has mated up, and then bring them together on hamper night for extra motivation.

Andrew is a great believer in natural immunity and rarely medicates his birds, although this year he did give a triple X treatment as the birds were weaned.

Andrew went on to say when preparing his birds for races that he thought it is 60% preparation and 40% breeding.