

Jurgen Ewent - Lyndhurst 8BS 11000 SA05 BlkCPH & Alice Springs Winner - 40592 SA04 BBH

Jurgen Ewendt is aged 63 years, resides in Gawler and flies with the Para club Gawler. He has been racing pigeons since 1964 and from that time and until 1996, was racing and domiciled at Pt Lincoln. He notes that winning Alice Springs in 1993 (from Pt Lincoln - the leading velocity in the state when released with SAHPA birds) and in 2007 (from Gawler) has been his career highlights. He has also won the SAHPA Sires produce in 1998 in his second year at Gawler and 1st SAHPA Coober Pedy in 2000 (with a daughter of the Sires hen). During 2007 his winning races were the Lyndhurst 8BS and Alice Springs. Jurgen is a strong competitor in the Para club and within the SAHPA.

Jurgen generally uses 30 pairs of stockbirds to breed 100 young and finishes the season with around 25 birds which race again the next season. The birds are based around a Verco hen purchased in 1993 and most winners are grandchildren of this hen. The best cock he has owned was purchased at the Scott Carpenter sale in 1997. This was a Verco cock from Alan Goodger. In essence, the loft is a Goodger based loft. Youngsters (including 28 day newly weaned babies) are allowed an open loft on 3-4 days a week for a couple of hours then fed



40592 SA04 RRH

Training starts around Anzac day, and by this time birds are expected to be flying for 1 to 1.5 hours per day. Youngsters are hopper fed twice a day, with progression to hand feeding when racing starts. Feed for youngsters comprises peas and pellets ad lib, and this progresses to 70% peas, 20% wheat, 10% maize (plus small seeds as a top up) once racing starts. This latter mix is also provided to stock birds in the non breeding season. On cold nights, cod liver oil is sometimes added to race feed. Last seasons birds are added to the training programme around mid April, and Jurgen begins tossing on Anzac day.

Tossing generally starts at 20 kilometers and progresses to 80 kilometers by the first race. When racing commences, one weekly toss of around 80kms is the normal routine. Birds are only tossed from the north (no hills tossing). As Jurgen has two resident Peregrine falcons nearby, hence breaking in youngsters and roof training is fraught with danger!

The race loft comprises two sections (he traps into one of them), and hens and cocks are trained and flown together until cocks become a nuisance. At that time, the cocks are removed to ensure no disruption to the training routine Jurgen imposes. Generally cocks are sent on the east line (every two weeks) and hens on the north line, but this can vary depending on bird condition and weather. For birds to progress to the stock loft, they must have flown races from at least 650 kilometers and provided consistent or top performances. He has a separate (and good sized) stock loft and flight for breeding birds.

Although Jurgen has tried import varieties (he is currently trialing van Loons and van Wan Roy from Alan Brown) he prefers the old families based on Goodger/Verco.

Jurgen is an advocate for more limit racing (5BS races) and would prefer a twenty bird limit on all races (Club and SAHPA). He would like the SAHPA management committee to provide better representation for the fanciers in outer areas within the SAHPA boundaries.