

## Graham & Jan Watson - The Twins Winner - 35312 SA05 BCH

Graham is 64 years of age and first started racing in 1969. He currently races with the Salisbury Club and lives at Parafield Gardens. He rates his 3<sup>rd</sup> SAHPA Aggregate Points achievement as the highlight of his racing career to date. His achievements in 2007 are 1<sup>st</sup> The Twins and 21<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Aggregate Points (having missed four races).



He uses around 50 pairs for breeding comprising stock birds and race birds, and likes to start the season with around 150 birds of which 40-50 are two year olds. His birds are based on birds from Peter Mathews (whom he considers his initial mentor in pigeons), purchases from Roy Dangerfields sale (Roy assisted with advice on purchases). He considers Ivan Wareing as his second mentor with regard to racing pigeons. Breeders are hopper fed on a mix of 80% peas and 20% wheat plus some linseed, plus lots of pink powder and grit. Stock birds are paired after racing is finished and he breeds two rounds (he feels the third and subsequent rounds are not as healthy as the first two rounds).

For the last few years Graham has been putting greater emphasis on performance when mating up. This means that birds not placing well in the SAHPA races are unlikely to make it to the stockloft. From around 1998, Graham was getting better race performances. This centered on birds gifted from two Pt Augusta fanciers mated to Graham's inbred families. The two fanciers (Fred Franks and Harold Grantham) had purchased some of Graham's birds and crossed them into their birds with excellent results! - hence Graham's interest in their birds. Birds from John Jarzabek also provided good results. Graham uses the Hawkeye



Pigeon Management system (the best present his wife has ever given him!) to review his potential matings and confirm the breeding pairs. He flies import and import crosses from the north and the South Australian old families on the harder east line. Graham likes to have lines of flight fixed for some years so that pigeons can be bred for that line of flying.

He likes his race birds to fly for an hour a day and puts them out around 2.30pm daily. Race birds are hand fed - lightly fed in the am, and as much as they need (fed to appease hunger) in the pm. Feed comprises 4 parts peas, 2 wheat, 1 maize, 1 barley and small seeds to taste. Graham follows the advice of Gordon Chalmers (the Canadian Vet) with regard to protein and feed requirements - limiting the protein to around 14%/15% during racing). Minerals (pink powder) grits, garlic and omega oils are provided with feed, and electrolytes are used post races or hard tosses.

Youngsters are raised with last years hens and all are given an open loft and a bath daily from around 2.30pm. No two year old cocks are kept (unless for stock purposes). Condi's crystals are used in the bath water daily and permethrin is added monthly. During the period through to mid March the emphasis is on a stress free growth period. Once the young cock birds are identified, they are housed separately to the hens, but allowed to fly with the hens as one group.

He consults Dr Colin Walker's book on Pigeon Health and Management and if issues arise which are a concern, he emails or phones Dr Walker for advice.

Graham is passionate about the promotion of the sport, and is Chairman of the SAHPA promotions committee. His philosophy is that any small measures by flyers to promote the sport is worthwhile and must be done to ensure the sport has a future. He will welcome any direct assistance on the promotions committee.