

# The Twins Open Winner

Garth Hurrell won The Twins Open with his SA 07 26890 BBC six minutes ahead of the second placed pigeon in the Association which was clocked at Para Hills. Garth's bird had another 40 km longer to fly and in fact Garth's bird was way in front of any pigeon clocked in the Southern area.

The breeding of the Twins winner was BBC SA98 46772 bred by C Carter for Dave Philps and in turn to Garth. The dam BCPH SA01 37215 won Little Topar in the Club for Garth.

Garth first raced as a junior in the Riverside club with John Hofman and Des Evans. Then he took up training pacers for approximately 25 years, when the bug started again.

Since Garth works full time training pacers his wife Kath helps with the birds by letting them out when she returns from work, then letting them back in when they have done sufficient work.

Stock bird lines originally came from Bun Snyder's when he lived at Mt Compass, plus a few he has bought from squeaker sales. He usually pairs up in November.

Garth takes into account the past performances of the birds when pairing up, if not successful he will then reassess the pairing. One hundred babies are usually bred but he has scaled down to sixty.

He keeps about 30 pair of stock birds.

At the end of the racing season Garth predominately pairs his bird's winners to winners.

He does not medicate his birds during the race season, he will however worm them when they are transferred from the stock loft to the race loft and he will worm them once during the race season.

Garth occasionally uses vitamins during the year. He will on a very rare occasion medicate his birds on return from a race.

Garlic is in their water and home grown silver beet.

Training starts around 7 km then increases the distance prior to going onto the unit. He always educates his birds North before going East.

He does not have a preference in racing cocks or hens, "They both have wings!" He has had many good results with cock birds - generally 2 or 3 year old and he really enjoys racing the Cock Bird Special".

Cocks and hens are kept together until the warmer weather kicks in toward the end of the season.

Garth likes the middle to long races mostly because of his location. North East and East lines don't suit him because of the drag of the birds into Adelaide from his position.

Milo is used more on the birds when they get above the short distance races, he will then increase the Milo content in the mix in the longer races, along with less training.

He thinks the wind has a definite influence on the race results, but really you choose to live where you live.

He believes the imported birds need to be bred with the local birds to be able to compete in the longer races.

Garth is a keen follower of the KISS method Keep It Simple Stupid!