

Joint SAHPA Points Winner

Jim Marafiote tied for the SAHPA Points with Greg Hamilton. Jim also placed second in two SAHPA races. He also had the joint B-O-Y.

As a twelve year old Jim joined the North West Club in 1964.

The origins of Jim's birds are from the Ralf Watson sale where he bought a hen who became one of the most prepotent birds Jim has owned. He also had a very good Gurnay cock.

In later years he bought from the Harold Webber sale, reference birds A and C. He also was very good friends with Alan Goodger and they would swap birds regularly between them.

Jim's mentor was Les Jefferies, Les had a huge influence on Jim's training and racing of his birds, he was also gifted a lot of good birds from Les. He also had an excellent cock from Jack Metcalf.

Jim imported some pigeons - the best of these were the James Bond Jansen's.

Jim hasn't got a time limit when he will start training his birds, the birds will tell him when their ready, it's usually between 4 to 6 weeks before the first race. The distance of the first toss is around 40 to 50 km. He mainly goes training by himself sometime with friends and also on the Assoc training truck.

He tries to leave the cocks and hens together as long as possible but later in the season he will separate them.

Jim feels loft position is important with the certain winds we have in winter, the winds do help in certain areas.

"The most important thing as a pigeon flyer is you make sure you have your birds in the best physical level as you possibly can, mentally and physically so when it suits you, you get a chance to get a good race out of them".

He feels in a perfect world its better not to have late bred, you have to train them differently, "you have to bring them in a lot later, and this becomes more difficult in the longer Assoc races".

He has tried all the medications programs but feels you only treat pigeons if you have a specific problem. The only time he will treat his birds is if they have a problem.

Jim does use Apple Cider Vinegar at certain times of the year, but will use garlic through most of the season.

He likes to race all distances and he would like to see all SAHPA races count for points.

On lines of flight he would prefer to fly where the majority of members have a chance of being placed in races and the true worth of their pigeons is highlighted, where ever that is, he is quite happy to fly those race points.