

09 Jul 2011 Parachilna - 420km Nth, 237 owners, 4672 birds

Bowen & Cornish 12999 SA09 BBH

Keith started racing with Vitesse when Leo Duits formed the club in his backyard shed in 1965. Tony Cornish started with Salisbury with his father in 1980 then left the sport and returned in 1980. Keith and Tony raced together in 2011 for the first time, although Tony had assisted Keith the previous year when needed.

Keith's highlights include 1st SAHPA Mt Willoughby 1991, 1st SAHPA Booroorban SAD 1991 and 1st SAHPA Glendambo Open 1996. Tony won Salisbury BOY in 1997, and two 5BS races with Vitesse. 1st Parachilna is their first win as a partnership.



SA 09 12999 BBH is a youngster with an old ring. She had three races in 2011. The first race was Hawker - home on the day. The second race was the Parachilna (1ST SDC) and the third race was the 10 bird Glendambo Special - she came home at 5.50pm on Sunday evening covered in oil! - it took two weeks to clean the oil from her feathers before she started looking good again!

The sire is a BCC SA 07 05284 on loan from G Hodgins and is an L Smith Busschaert. The G/Sire is SA 01 38713 BBC (1st Club Mitiamo). The G/Dam is Stawell 03 93 BCH Busschaert. The dam is SA 08

03258 BBH bred for stock from birds given to Keith Bowen by W&K Markou and is all the old Gus Nelson bloodlines. The G/sire on the dam side is SA 06 20505 BBC (also from W&K Markou birds). The G/Dam is SA 97 18338 BBH and is the dam of 4 SAHPA places and G/Dam of 3rd SAHPA Emmdale for W&K Marcou. B&K breed from 30 stock pairs and also use their best race birds (6 pr) to breed around 120/130 young a year from two rounds.

The birds originated from Ray Hunt in WA (van Loons & Janssens), Busschaert (Greg Hodgins), Goodger/Pryor (W&C Myers) and the old Gus Nelsons (from Bill Marcou).

Race birds are handfed once a day pre racing then twice a day when in training and racing. The mix is generally 35% peas, 25% wheat, 25% maize, 10% barley and 10% small seeds. Into the longer races, safflower is added, and the pea volume upped/downed as needed.

Vitamins are supplied in water weekly and an iron supplement provided to returning race birds.

Youngsters are added to the race team once broken in and flying well, and cocks and hens are separated pre-racing. They are remixed for early races, and re-separated when the cocks become a nuisance.

Loft training starts around 7 weeks before racing, followed by toss training about 4 weeks before first race. The first toss is around 15kms, and by first race 6-8 tosses are completed to a maximum distance of 80kms. When racing starts, 2 tosses a week are used (80kms & 120kms). The partnership generally toss and train north, but occasionally train and race an old bird group to the south east. The birds are tossed on the unit (weather permitting), otherwise Tony does a toss as necessary.

The loft is cleaned daily and triple-x is used for returning race birds.

Breeding birds are hopper fed 100% peas with some small seed handfed to weaning youngsters.

Breeders are generally purchased or placed into stock after good race performances. The stock birds are inbred for stock and out crossed for race birds, with the best of the race team mated in the race cage.

The partnership acknowledges that it is difficult framing race programmes that are fair to all flyers - that should be the aim to ensure that all flyers 'get a fair go'.

New flyers should be especially assisted with the best possible advice and birds for breeding.