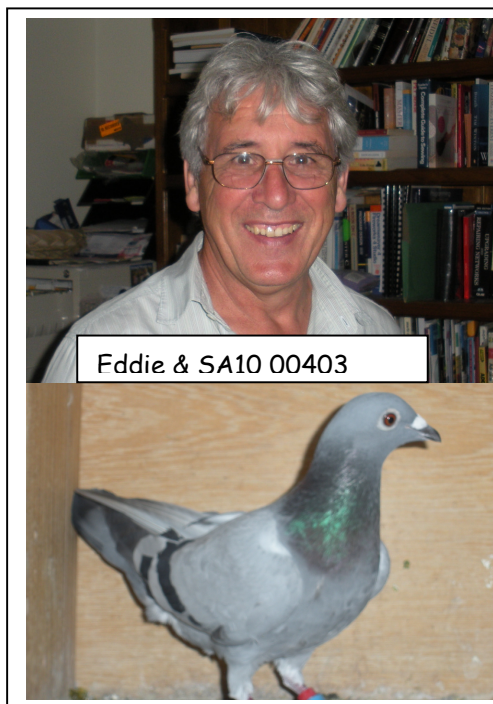


30 Jul 2011 - Hamilton SAD 450km, 173 owners, 2645 birds

E G Lenkic - SA10 00403 BBH

Eddie had pigeons at 14 years of age in Ballarat when he raced for one year in the junior's in 1962, and although the pigeon interest has always been there, the opportunity to restart racing pigeons did not occur until 2000. He has since been a member of the Pt Adelaide South club and looks on racing pigeons as his home hobby. The opportunity to restart in pigeons came about due to the fact that his wife worked with Jack Wollett's daughter (Jack had stopped racing at that time). Pigeons duly turned up at the Lenkic house, and the interest rekindled.



The Lenkic highlights to date are 1st and 4th SAHPA Coleambally 2005 and for 2011 1st Hamilton SAD and 11th SAHPA aggregate points (gaining points in all races attempted and in fewer than half the race programme). The occasional north race is flown, but only for 'fitness purposes' for the SE races. 1st and 4th Coleambally have now produced 1st Hamilton SAD, and 1st Coleambally has also produced a cock that has gained 5th and 14th SAHPA placings.

Eddie uses 10 pairs of breeders (and 3prs feeders) to produce around 80 babies a year. By the time racing starts, this number may well be back to 60. The race team generally starts at around 80 each year.

The pigeons are based on birds from the late Jim Todd (Bricoux/Sion), Paul Brown (Peter Mathews), a Bob Marchant 1999 (a Goodger hen which produced 3 SAHPA placings), Bob Pearson (a Goodger/Dangerfield hen which produced 5 SAHPA placings and 2 SRC CBSpecial placings) and a Bill Verco hen which has produced 2 SAHPA placings including 1st SAHPA Coleambally. He has no Janssens as he only flies the SE line.

Race birds are generally fed what they need/want, and the mix is about 35% peas, 35% wheat, 10% safflower, 5% maize and 5% milo. Moxidectin is used pre-racing and Turbosole and DoxyT used as required.

Toss training starts around 8kms some 4 weeks before his first race and he looks for 4-6 tosses to 130kms before racing. Once racing begins, and the birds are loft flying well, then toss training generally stops.

The race loft is cleaned 2-3 times during the race season (but only if the loft floor gets damp through heavy wind and rain). Perches are cleaned daily. Breeding birds are hopper fed about 80% peas, 10% milo and 10% safflower. Some oil seeds are hand fed as Eddie sees fit.

Stock birds are paired in October (he plans for September every year!), and his stock birds are either gift birds, purchased birds or the best of his race birds from previous years. He chooses his race birds on performance, conformation and size.

Eddie does not like daylight saving as it interferes with his am loft training programme, and the fact that home, work and hobby sometimes gets complicated!

Eddie finds that his biggest losses are when side wind races are flown - he much prefers 'wind on the nose' races. Eddie finds it difficult to understand the reluctance of some flyers to the SE line - for the Mortlake 10BS he homed 10/10 and from Hamilton SAD 29/30.

Eddie understands the difficulty of framing a 'fair to all' race programme, but expects the SAHPA to plan for that as a priority each year. In addition, he would like to see a number of nominated races flown where each flyer nominates say 3-5 pigeons as a special within the main race.