

Phil Thalbourne - 2011 Adelaide \$10,000 Winner - SA08 14403 BBH

Phil has been around racing pigeons all his life having been introduced to the game by his father (Gus). Phil no longer flies with the SAHPA (having retired from that side of racing in 2002). Phil now breeds birds for One loft races and Specials, The Adelaide Club, Adelaide 10,000 and the SAHPA Sires Classic run by the SAHPA Special Races Committee.

Phil first began racing in 1957 with the Plympton club (with Ray Fullgrabe and Jack Patton), then Hyde Park (with Keith & Ross Wickham, Bruce Baulderstone and the Quinn Bros), South Suburban, Oaklands (with Jack Alldritt) and the Adelaide Hills from 1985 to 2002. Phil stays in contact through his social membership of the Adelaide Hills Racing Pigeon Club.

Phil has a small group of 15 breeding pairs (Oakbank Stud) and breeds 80-90 young birds a year. Those pigeons not entered into the races noted above, if good enough, are sent to his brother Dave Thalbourne to race in the SAHPA race programme. (Phil says Dave is getting very fussy about the birds he takes, and they must be graded carefully before Dave will take them!) Phil now concentrates on birds capable of flying 12hr/on the day/all day races.

2011 has been a golden year for Phil. He has been successful in the Adelaide 10,000 (winning \$10,000), the Adelaide Club (winning two races for \$6,000), and breeding the winner of the SRC Sires Produce (purchased by Mike Shepherdson). Phil first entered the 'special' racing scene in 2003 with the Adelaide club and has been financially successful on a number of occasions (twice with BOY - winning \$8,200 in 2010) and provided the 3rd placed SRC Sires Produce bird in 2010.

Phil cleans his lofts every 3 to 4 days, provides medication only as required (and then usually only turbosole to individual birds). During the breeding season he hopper feeds peas (50%) and turkey finisher pellets (50%).

The breeding stock is made up of birds based on the Goodgers, van Loons and Janssen varieties. He inbreeds for stock and crosses for racing - generally crossing Goodger to van Loon and Goodger to Janssen. Water is provided individually to each nest box.

Three hens purchased at the Billing's sale have been introduced for the 2012 breeding season.

The winning hen has been named Rosedale Miss and is bred from Mr Spot (a BB van Loon) and Rosie (a solid red cheq Eitzen Goodger hen based on Vin Blanden stock). This pair was gifted to Phil by Harry Nicklin, and Phil kept them together on Harry's recommendation. A brother of Rosedale Miss gained 23rd SAHPA Glendambo 10BS in 2011 for Dave Thalbourne. Rosie is very protective when nesting to the point where Phil wears gloves when handling or ringing her youngsters - a trait Phil likes in his hen birds.



Phil - with wife Carol collecting some of his 2011 prizes at the SAHPA Annual Dinner - Rosedale Miss below

