

Alan Brown - SA11 07096 BCH

Nullabor #1 Open Winner - 815km - 146 Owners - 2429 birds.

Alan has been associated with pigeons from six years of age when his father got a pair of pigeons from a workmate who flew pigeons. It wasn't until he married Kathleen and he built a loft at Royal Park behind her father's shops that Alan started racing pigeons himself. He initially joined the Riverside club but was unable to race because his birds were stolen. After moving to Largs North in 1959 he joined the LeFevre club and started racing. Max Smith were also flyers at LeFevre. Alan has quite successful whatever the location.



The GSire of the winner is a Gaby Vandenabeele cock from Jack Vanderlinden and the GDam is a hen from Cook & Edwards. The son of this mating is the Sire of the Nullabor winner SA11 07096 BBC, and the Dam is all Alan Brown (Goodger/Gitts/Blanden). The winner raced very consistently all year and gained 2nd loft Kimba, 5th loft Hawker, 4th loft Wudinna, 2nd loft Poochera, 3rd loft Ceduna SAD, 2nd loft Ceduna Open, 5th loft Nundroo Open and 1st SAHPA Nullabor #1.

Alan uses 20 breeding pairs but also breeds off race birds from the years racing (these are generally mated by Alan, but those that mate 'in loft', are left mated).

He breeds about 150 (and keeps 25/30 from the previous year) - but manages to lose birds around the loft to hawks. He generally starts racing with about 100 birds and in 2012 started the derbies with 50 birds.

All race birds are loft flown daily for around 1.5hrs and tossed once a week between 40 and 60km. None of the birds were trained over water in 2012 - the nearest to water was a side track in from Pt Wakefield heading west.

Race birds are fed 50/50 peas and wheat and as the races get longer, he increases the peas to 75%, and provides maize after peas and wheat eaten. Small seeds and some vitamins are fed as Alan thinks necessary.

Breeders are hopper fed - 50/50 peas and wheat. Breeders are mated with contrasting traits - light eye to dark eye, small bird to larger bird etc. Best stock birds generally are from racing on the south line - larger birds raced north, smaller birds raced south.

Prior to the races beginning, Alan treats with Turbosole and Triple-X. Birds are also given a dose of Epsom salts about every 6-8 weeks as required. Mix is 12 tablespoon to ten litres of water and this is provided to returning toss birds on the Sunday after racing

Alan has been flying pigeons for 52 years and remembers with fondness that when he started racing, it was an 'everyman's sport' - now it is a 'rich man's sport'.

Alan would like to see greater returns to flyers from the SAHPA. He notes that fewer fliers are participating and that the sport gets more expensive from year to year. In addition Alan questions the SAHPA code of practice regarding the non release of race birds into temperatures higher than 30 degrees C. He recalls many races in the past when much higher temperatures were encountered with no ill effects to race returns.