

Alan Cook & Dennis Edwards - SA11 14933 BCH

Lyndhurst YBC Winner - 510Km - 227 Owners - 4504 birds.

Allan began his racing career as a junior with Hampstead in the 1960's when the likes of Alan Goodger, Bill Blythe, Jim Cox, Roy Dangerfield were flying. The following year he flew as a senior at North Suburban when the club was at Kilburn, and continued there until his marriage, job and study made racing too difficult. He rejoined racing in 2008 with North Suburban (2 years) then joined Vitesse.



Dennis was 11 years old helping several flyers from LeFevre Club. Then he flew with his brother for several years from Exeter family home. He moved to Largs Bay where he continued to fly as G & D Edwards at Port Adelaide for 47 years. Dennis continues to live in the Pt Adelaide area and travels daily to Allan's race loft at Clearview. Dennis and Allan have been racing as a partnership since 2010. Their racing highlights to date include winning the club points at Vitesse, winning the SDC Open and SDC Group 1 Aggregates - both in 2011.

Breeding details of SA11 14933 BCH are as follows:

Sire PRF08 7558 BBC Houben purchased from David Vanalst in Western Australia (**Gsire** AUST04 2179 BBC Houben, **Gdam** AUST03 1803 BBH Houben)

Dam SA05 27135 BSLT bred by Dennis Edwards (**Gdam** SA03 14761 BSLT WFLT purchased from Jack Vanderlinden, **Gsire** SA04 33549 BBP purchased from Dennis Shaw ARL).

Performances to date in 2012 includes winning Lyndhurst YBC, also the full brother to 14933 is SA10 03003 BCH won Hawker # 2 winning 1st SDC and gaining leading open race velocity). A cock from this family also flew Alice Springs in 2012.

The partnership breeds from 30 pair of stock birds and raise around 200 babies each year. Breeding is based around the 'old Pt Adelaide stuff' (Cec Dunstan, Jim Todd etc) with latter day purchases of Houbens, Flor Engles, Dennis Shaw's Mealy line and some Slaters purchased from Jack Vanderlinden in 2003.

Race birds are handfed twice a day with a mixture for club racing comprising 10% peas, 40% wheat, 10% maize, 10% barley and 30% small seed mix. For the SAHPA races, maize is increased to 20% and the barley removed.

The only additives provided are pink powder and a good grit, also apple cider vinegar provided when necessary

Weaned birds are broken in then mixed with the older birds from previous years. The partnership prefers to fly youngsters but do carry over around 20 older birds (which may include a few cocks). Cocks becoming a nuisance later in the year in loft or loft training are removed from the race team. The Benzing electronic system is used for clocking.

Toss training starts about 4-5 weeks before the commencement of racing with a 20km toss which extends to 60 kms by the end of the first week. The race team gets around 8 tosses before racing commences and is extended to 100kms by then. Once racing commences, tossing is twice a week (Sundays from 100kms, and Tuesdays from 60kms). After the Derbies, Dennis adds a third 60km toss on a Monday.

The race loft is cleaned once each day, and the birds are loft flown daily for around an hour.

Medication is limited to individual birds as needed, but the partnership has very few ill pigeons. A course of Turbosole, Triple-X, and worming is completed pre racing.

Breeding birds are hopper fed 50% peas, 50% wheat in the off season, changed to 80% peas, 20% wheat when breeding. Cuttle fish, grit, pink powder and calcium block is provided daily.

Breeders are paired on Labour Day and the aim is to have three full rounds completed by the end of February the next year.

Breeding birds are selected from the race team and by purchasing from proven race stock from other lofts. The aim is to breed best to best and this is usually by crossing (rather than inbreeding). The partnership consider hawk predation the greatest threat to present day racing, and in their opinion the SAHPA COM decision to return to the SE line in 2013 as 'good for racing' to ensure southern and western flyers get a fair crack at winning. Their biggest disappointment is that there is not enough young people coming into the sport.
