

Jim Marafiote - SA10 35598 BCH

Border Village Winner - 965km - 55 owners - 391 birds.

Jim has been recognised as an elite pigeon flyer for many years and since his move back to Walkerville (an inner Adelaide suburb) he has proven very hard to beat. He featured in the 2009 yearbook - 1st Marla, 4th SAHPA points, 1st SDC open agg, 2010 yearbook - joint 1st SAHPA SAHPA points with Greg Hamilton), and this year winning 1st SALDC Border Village, 1st SALDC Aggregate points, 1st North Suburban club points and 2nd SAHPA Aggregate points.



His Border Village win with SA10 35598 BCH was most emphatic, winning by over 35 minutes from Lee Abbott and another 3 plus hours to 3rd place (S&C Barber & Girls). The hen is all Marafiote 'old Adelaide bloodlines'.

Her 3-year-old sire was bred from what Jim calls his 'Three Winner' cock, which is a full brother to 7th Alice Springs, 2nd Booroorban and 4th Moulamein, and is a half brother to 10th Coober Pedy, and is a half brother to the grandsire of 1st Marla (noted above).

The dam was bred for stock and is a granddaughter to 2nd Gilgandra. The Grand dam is

all Goodger Pryor.

Jim's base pigeons go back 30 to 40 years and the names of past flyers (Harold Webber, Ralph Watson, Alan Goodger, Les Jeffries (Gurnays), and Jack Metcalf) feature heavily.

In addition, when European imports were available, Jim was able to purchase some of the James Bond birds - he rates these birds 'as good as any of the current imports' flying in SA today.

SA10 35598 BCH flew two races in 2011 (before racing stopped due to PMV concerns) and flew two races in 2012 - Ceduna Open and Border Village. Jim was initially planning to race her to Border Village, then changed his mind and put her in the Nullarbor race hamper, then changed her back to the Border Village race!

Jim won the SALDC series convincingly gaining points in all but the Alice Springs race gaining 1st Border Village, 2nd Marla and 3rd Coober Pedy #1 (5th SAHPA) in the process.

This hen (SA07 10837 BCH) has bred 6 hens - 5 of which have been placed at SAHPA race level. She is also grand dam to 5th Nundroo. In all a fantastic group of pigeons built over many years.

This year most of Jim's training has been on his own. It included very good loft work (his team were working regularly for 2 to 2.5 hrs a day), and including a long toss (100-130kms) and a short toss (60-70kms). Sometimes when the loft work was exceptional, the short toss was omitted.

On matters SAHPA - Jim is concerned that the present committee system may not be getting the best available people. He would like to see a way that gets these 'best available people' selected onto the SAHPA committee.

Jim understands that committee people have been chosen by electorates, and that this puts pressure on delegates to pursue 'electorate' issues. In the end though, decisions must be made in the long term interests of the SAHPA to ensure the sport of pigeon racing continues into a sustainable future.

Jim congratulates Greg Hamilton on his winning SAHPA Agg points 2012 and all SAHPA race winners for 2012.
