

ALLAN HARRIS – WINNER OF BIRD OF THE YEAR 2015

Allan won the bird-of-the year with SA13 24915 bch. As a yearling this bird flew only the Verco races, Stirling North and Bookaloo. However the race program in 2015 was as follows: 1 - Lameroo, 2 - Cowangie, 3 - Moulamein Open, 4 - Deniliquin (19th SAHPA 5/9/2015), 5 - Morundah (6th SAHPA 19/9/2015) and finally Temora (5th SAHPA on 1/10/2015). The background bloodlines are G. Watson (Dangerfield / Buschaert) and Goodger (Lot 63). Allan's basic family is Goodger / Pryor from a flyer years ago – and the sire was purchased from Ian Kutcher who lived and raced in the Adelaide Hills. A Harshegyi bird he purchased for \$100 some years ago was a foundation bird. These days he has his own family of pigeons (mainly line-bred) and says he probably has too many stock birds. Hasn't bothered with the imported birds.



Pigeon racing began about 50 years ago (Allan is 85 now) when Jack Hicks (now 94-year-old) got him interested. Jack ran a garage and told Allan one day he had to dash home to clock his bird from Maree. This was enough to hook Allan who wanted to know how a bird could fly that far. A couple of other names popped up too – P. Mathews and Joe Burke who were big influences. He has had his share of wins having won four SAHPA firsts but would still like to win an Alice Springs. Favorite distance though is the middle distance. He does feel a bird that has won the harder race has more value to him. Position does count for something and also the wind on the day.



The trap is still the old bob trap – no electronic here and although he says he has had results that could have been better he enjoys the challenge of getting the bird in and getting the rubber in the clock and won't be changing.

Feed is his own mix of roughly two parts peas to one part wheat and this doesn't change much during the race season. Small seed is used only for trapping purposes. Feed is via a hopper but does hand-feed during the racing season. Grit and salt are always available. Hasn't tried pellets and doesn't play around with the carbohydrate levels. Turbosole is used but not vitamins (rarely) or any special treatment when coming home from a race. No apple cider vinegar. He keeps a look-out for any dirty wattles or watery eyes and likes the droppings to firm and definitely no green. Healthy, well trained pigeons given fresh water changed anything up to three times a day is his advice. As far as feed is concerned he tells the story of A. Weir (this is years ago) who raced with birds fed on wheat screenings and peas that were smoke affected mixed in a 44-gallon drum and soaked in cod-liver oil and was one of the hardest flyers to beat. Just had good birds.

Allan looks for a nice eye in a bird, fitness and not interested in wing or throat theories. Years ago he used to look for the curtain down the throat but then won Ceduna with a pigeon that didn't have the curtain so gave that idea away. He would only put a bird straight into stock (young bird) if he specifically bred it for stock.

Allan Harris SAHPA Bird Of The Year SA13 24915 bch

Graham Watson sale: Lot 63 SA10 19634. Lot 61 SA02 41211 and Lot 62 18842.

Reference "C" SA88 05909 Blue Griz Cock

Purchased from G.Dangerfield sale (Lot.25). Sire of 2nd Club/7th Group Booroorban, 2nd Club Paruna, BOY Salisbury, 2nd Club Moulamien SAD. G/Sire of 22nd SAHPA Booroorban, GG/Sire 1st SAHPA Farina Open, 4th SAHPA Inglewood, 18th SAHPA Coleambally, 1st SAHPA The Twins. When mated to reference "E", produced 01 SA 06914 & 01SA 06995 (Lot 116). These two brother's progeny feature throughout the catalogue. **Deceased.**



A typical example of Allan's family of birds

Reference "E" 'Grand Lady' 95 AUST 16762 BCP Hen

Purchased from Nick Brent. Dam of 6th SAHPA Inglewood CocksSpecial, G/Dam of 1st SAHPA Farina Open & 17th SAHPA Lyndhurst. GG/Dam of 1st SAHPA The Twins, 1st SAHPA Stirling North, 2nd SAHPA Carrieton. She produced two sons with reference "B", both responsible for SAHPA winners. Her progeny are always around the mark and in the placings. A greatfamily to have. **Deceased.**

DAM

SA10 19634

Color: BG

Sister to 1st SAHPA The Twins, 1st Stirl. Nth, 1st Club, 2nd Carrieton, 5th Club, 38 Peterborough. Clock bird Hawker.

SA02 41211

Strain: Dangerfield / Busschaert

Color: BG

Alias "Ultimate Bruce". Stopped for stock after sister 1st SAHPA Farina Open. Sire of 1st The Twins, 1st club, 2nd SAHPA Carrieton and 1st club, 1st SAHPA Stirling North, 5th club, 38th SAHPA Peterborough.

SA04 18842

Strain: Dangerfield / Busschaert

Dam of 1st SAHPA The Twins, 1st club (2nd SAHPA) Carrieton, 1st club, 1st SAHPA Stirling North and 5th club 38th Peterborough.

SA01 06995

Bred for stock. Sire of 1st SAHPA Farina Open. G/sire of 1st The Twins, 1st club Carrieton (2nd SAHPA), 1st club, 1st SAHPA Stirl. Nth, 1st club Moulamien, 27th Warracknabeal SAD for C. Forbes, 5th club,

SA00 10464

Her g/sire is an inbred James Bond from Penderosa. Her g/dam is the daughter of Silver Shadow. On loan from W. Thiele.

SA01 06914

Sire of 3rd club, 17th SAHPA Hawker. g/sire of 1st The Twins, 1st Stirling North, 2nd Carrieton. Son of Reference C SA88 05909 Blue Griz Cock Purchased from G.Dangerfield sale (Lot.25). Sire of 2nd

SA00 02

Unrung Busch / Danger. Dam of 1st club, 17th SAHPA Lyndhurst for W. Fekete, Hyde Park. G/dam of 1st The Twins, 1st Stirl. North and 2nd Carrieton. Given to M. Marquis.



The year starts with 100 young birds and 50-60 old birds. Tossing is twice a week and quite a bit on his own. Starts with Two Wells and also likes Sellicks Beach as a toss point. The babies would normally get only one race before the Derbies but the old birds would get a lot more before that. Says he does well with older cocks that some flyers wouldn't persevere with. Hens and cocks are not separated and does think the hens race better than the cocks overall. Tried single-tossing years ago but after spending all day putting them up looked up to see his batch circling around decided it wasn't worth the effort. Training is given in the basket to feed and drink before racing. Young birds would get around six races for the year and at times he does double them back. North and east lines are not strictly adhered to and birds can be flown both directions.

On the future he is a bit pessimistic – thinks the new truck will take time to evaluate and the pre-paid system is a bit tough on pensioners especially if they are finding it hard now they will find it harder.

