



Phillip Jacobs

Phillip won the SAHPA Open from The Twins with SA14 01601 bbh as well as taking out 1st SAHPA north points with 116 points in 2015 as well as 4th SAHPA points with 138 points. He has had three firsts in the SAHPA – 1st Lyndhurst YBC, 1st Marla and The Twins. His most memorable win was the one from Marla. Racing has been from the present location for the past 23 years. He would like to win a race on the east or south-east or north-east line. At this stage though his aim is for the Derbys and the last two races on the program.

He became interested in pigeons at the age of 10 or 12 via his stepfather, Wayne Griffith who taught him a lot. A number of good flyers inspired him and he also learnt a lot from Frank Coppock. The favor was returned to Wayne when a bgh bred for Wayne was mother of two SAHPA winners. He also learnt by reading books and trying new things.

Phillip thinks John Pryor and M.V. Lofts were great inspirations especially winning four SAHPA races in one year!

Feeding and Medications

The stock birds are hopper fed but the race birds get their feed for 10 minutes and then it is taken away. Maize is used in the feed to get good condition on the birds. Vitamins are used in the water and pink powder is available along with grit and minerals. The feed is bought pre-mixed from Gilbertson's Fodder Store and consists of peas, wheat, pre-mixed small seed and maize. The peas are roughlyly 20 pc early on in the season but increasing to 40 pc later. Carbohydrate is increased as the races get longer. Has never tried pellets.

In the early days he used Primator but doesn't feel it is as good now. Doesn't medicate when the birds return from a race. He looks for droppings marked on the tail and knows when the pigeon doesn't look right. A vet is used to get the right advice. Apple cider vinegar is used. The loft is cleaned daily.

Breeding, tossing and racing

The loft has four sections and fly into a trapping section. His advice to a beginner is for the loft to be kept dry and well-ventilated. The loft should ideally face north or east.

Pairing up is done three weeks after the last race. Eye-sign is another tool he uses. Previous performance in the bloodlines is taken into consideration when mating up. He tries a couple of new pairs each year and was fortunate to buy some good birds at the R. Dangerfield sale. His stock is now Van Loon x Dangerfield. A pair from Dangerfield bred 1st and 2nd, 2nd SAHPA and mother to Twins Open winner bred 1st and 2nd SAHPA. Crossing is done within the family of birds he has. On the imports he feels they should be performing here and not just overseas.

Each year he has around 200 young birds for the coming season. Around 60 old birds will race. Feels he probably has too many stock birds.

If a young bird had the right genes and the previous results are on the board he would consider putting it straight into the stock loft. Conformation, eye-sign and previous results of the bird is most important – you can write anything on a pedigree.

The birds need to be flying 45 to 50 minutes before tossing is commenced. Likes to give them a long toss in the two weeks before a race. Training is mainly done on the week-ends. Tossing begins in April with the old birds to Two Wells / Dublin (two tosses) and then on to Pt. Wakefield. He will flag them to get them going then after half an hour they do as they please. Exercise is once a day and tosses are on the week-end. Latebreds are ok to bring into tossing a little later in the season. Prefers to race hens over cocks.

He has tried widowhood but it didn't work for him. Hens have been the best but has had good performances with cocks as well. The racers would get five or six races a year and if they are in form they can be doubled back. He feels fast and slow race winners both have their merits. Some birds will be short distance winners and other will do better in the longer races. A new flyer should look to someone who has been consistently in the top 20 to acquire stock.

Single tossing and training the birds to eat and drink in the basket isn't done mainly because there isn't enough time. He feels a retired person with more time has an advantage but money is also a factor. Separating the hens and cocks is something that depends on what shift he is working.

Droppings are sent off every two weeks when racing or if there has been a poor result he would send the droppings away the next day. He is in favor of drug testing and feels it should be used more. Worming is done both before the season and during. He looks for a "glass eye" in his birds and they have to look a picture in the loft.

The future and comments:

Phillip feels the SAHPA should have more 5-bird Specials to give the smaller flyer a chance. More help should be given to new flyers. We should be targeting both young people and the retirees.

The new transport unit should have been bought years ago – especially with the hot weather around our long races. The pre-paid system has its merits but he hopes it doesn't increase every year otherwise we will just lose members. The Association should try to keep members in the sport. He would like to see a sponsor put some money back into the sport.

He values the support and friendship of other flyers and tries to be humble – and around the mark in races. You have to take the good with the bad. The most critical need is hard work and good pigeons. The breed of the pigeon is more important than wind, feed or position when racing.