

Underdown and Holmes

In 2014 Underdown and Holmes won the Moulamein 10 Bird Special with SA12 06556 bbh. Then in 2015 they won the Moulamein SAD with SA14 15484 in five hours and 54 minutes.

Terry started in 1960 with his father racing as father and son. Started again five years ago after not racing for some years. He says he got pigeons from various flyers and wasn't interested in the strains or bloodlines at all – the ones that would suit his methods would soon emerge. Greg Hodgson helped this time by loaning some birds for breeding. His flying partner, Jamey is Terry's son-in-law and only lives 200 metres from Terry at North Haven. Jamey went to Urrbrae Agricultural School and had an interest in poultry.



He has been successful with what is a relatively small team of racers and only a few stock birds. The stock birds are not prisoners and are progressively added to the flying bunch so that they get exercise but don't hold back the racers. There are 14 pairs of stock birds. Terry only looks for performance and not bloodlines and is not keen on in-breeding. He mates winners to winners. Stock birds are selected on their racing ability.

His six-year-old hen 32093 bbh is dam of 12 top 30 SAHPA placings (4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 29th and 30th) and is also grand-dam of 1st, 6th and 9th SAHPA and many Group winners. First Moulamein 10-Bird-Special in 2014 and 1st Moulamein SAD 2015 as well as winner of the Group points in the five years of flying this time. His SAD winner was bred off a bcc which had two races for two wins with leading volicity in the SAHPA mated with a bbh off his box 1 (with four race wins). Even so he says where he lives is not the best for pigeon racing. However, most goals have been met – except winning Alice Springs.



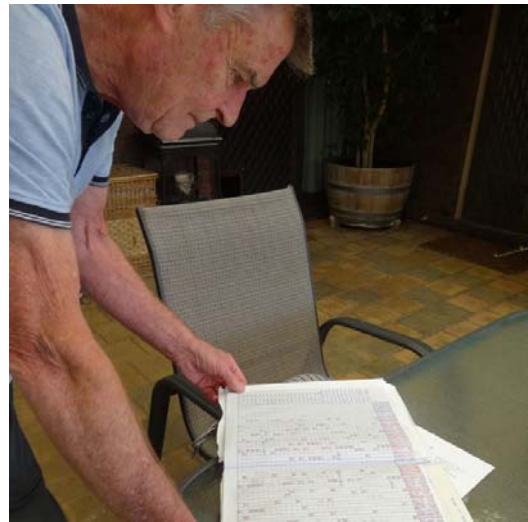
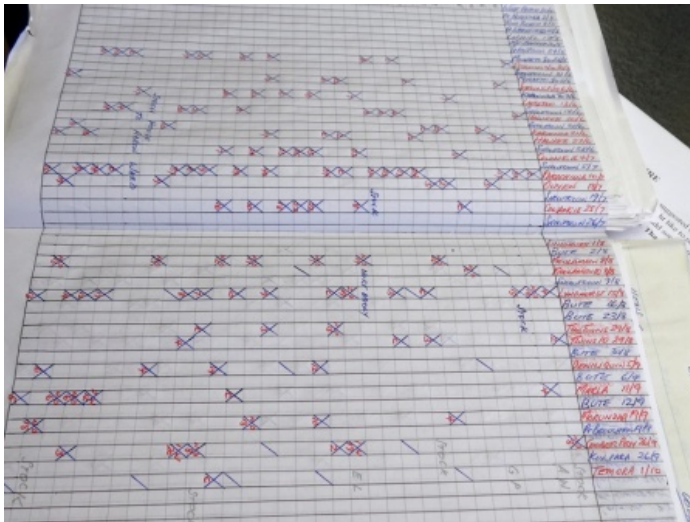
In General: He says the area location is very important – and he likes the cage to face east. Two lines of flight are fairest for all flyers. The birds must want to come home to their loft or square. Middle distance is the favorite for him and the south-east line is the best test of a bird (over the hills). Help is given to new flyers where possible and he likes to think he is regarded as hard-working and honest.

Terry says a loft should have a minimum of three sections and his loft has four sections, facing east, with a separate section for clocking.

Racing, Feeding and Medications:

Turbosole and Doxy-T are used for four days with each and then again in the middle of the season as a precaution. He feels hand-feeding is best and make sure feed is removed after feeding. Worming is done prior to the season and then six weeks later. Grit is a must but no vitamins are used. Carbohydrate is not increased during the season. He keeps a keen eye on the droppings to indicate any sickness.

The feed is 50/50 peas and wheat plus only 10 pc of small seed. The small seed is milo, maize and safflower. The feed is bought in bulk at the beginning of the season and the same is fed throughout. Doesn't feed barley or pellets. Garlic has been used in the water but not apple cider vinegar and doesn't consider it important.



Great care is taken with record keeping – every race is carefully recorded in relation to each bird's performance. See pictures above.

The birds fly out from the loft once a day and he tosses once a week (100 km). Never force flies the birds. Training begins a month before the first race to a distance of 30 km and then toss up to Snowtown twice before the first race. Late-breds are treated the same as all the others. There is no preference to hens or cocks. Most birds, young or old, get six or seven races a year. He does prefer a head wind. Tossing starts six weeks before the first race. Education in the basket to feed and drink is not done before the first race as he feels it is not necessary. Birds can be doubled back but not in the same week. He does think some are smarter than others – and if you know pigeons you can pick this very early when broken in. Terry says you need more than one type of pigeon in your loft – one for the blow home and one for the slow race.

Some Final Words: The new unit should be very good for the sport and the pre-paid is a good system. The SAHPA should be targeting juniors / seniors – this is a must. Hard work will get rewards for the flyer.

