



## Young Bird **Ace Pigeon** Awards

The **Ace Pigeon** Awards are presented to individual birds performing in SAHPA races. The scoring is established using the Universal Performance Rating (UPR) system. Percentiles for each race performance are calculated by dividing the bird's position in a race by the total number of birds entered in the race and converting the result into a percentage. These percentages are then averaged over the number of required races to determine the Unirate (averaged percentile rankings). Birds are then ranked in their order of increasing Unirates. Smaller Unirates are better, i.e.; 1% Unirate is better than 5%.

The top ten qualifiers will be awarded a certificate, with the top qualifier being crowned **Ace Pigeon**.

### Eligibility requirements

To be eligible the pigeon must be rung with a current SAHPA life ring issued for that year. It is the responsibility of the owner to nominate their bird at the end of the racing season.

### Performance requirements

The pigeon must clock in the top 5% of the total number of birds competing in the race in three (3) different SAHPA races. The Unirates of the qualifying races must average 5% or less.

This award is based on information taken from the American Racing Pigeon Union. They have a National Database and awards are given for six different categories with requirements based on the total mileage for each category such as long distance, middle distance, marathon etc. Their young bird award is based on four races where the bird must clock in the top 20% with a race total of at least 800 miles or more.

### Logic

The SAHPA sell approximately 30,000 rings per year and as our Assoc racing is mainly a young bird competition I felt that this would be the most suitable award to begin with. If successful this could be expanded to include other categories such as old birds. This award is based on consistency but I felt that four Assoc races would be unsuitable and clocking in the first 20% is too high, e.g. 20% of 3,000 birds = 600 positions, not forgetting that the results have to be entered into the computer on race day. Therefore finishing in the first 5% of 3,000 birds = 300 positions is more acceptable. Results entered for the last three YBC were 9.3%, 8.2% and 7.9% of total entries.