

Parkinson

with
Les J.
Parkinson



Everyone who writes about any subject must always remember that it is always just one individual's opinion. It does not mean that his or her opinion if followed necessarily will give anyone else the same degree of success or even any success at all because we all have to tweak a system to suit our own needs. What makes racing pigeons so fascinating is the fact that once they are in the air it is the work put in by the fancier which makes the difference. I once wrote an article saying that in sprint racing it is about 75% the fancier and not the pigeon because it is the motivation, feeding and system that brings the pigeons home. However I also said at the same time that for distance racing it was practically the other way around because to cover the distance the pigeon has to have the breeding. The right fanciers can get distance pigeons to win sprint races but even distance fanciers would have a major headache trying to get sprint-based pigeons to win at the distance. In defence of the distance-minded fancier they do have that bit extra insight into the breeding side they know how to breed a distance pigeon which is why their loft continues year-after-year to win in the longer events. There are not a great many consistent distance fanciers around and when I say that I am not taking into account the fact that fanciers do get some from the distance from time to time. That is where the well bred distance pigeon comes from the one that has it upstairs, and has the determination to get home no matter what the distance may be. The good distance pigeon that the average fancier comes across it is hard to replicate in the breeding loft and they don't know why. Now on to the question that I was asked, "How do you select your distance pigeons at the end of the racing season?" Because I only try to breed off distance based pigeons I don't really have a problem because if they are in the loft at the end of the season it is more a case of what has to go. We all look into our loft and can pick the odd pigeons out that we do not think are good enough to stay for another season. The problem then reoccurs when that one has gone as

there is always going to be another in that same class or we think there is. No matter what we do we will always see one pigeon as the worst no matter how many you get rid of? So what do I look for, well not much because if they are in the loft at the end of the year but they have to be here they have come home and to be here they have covered the distance expected of them. One thing I will say and one that many who come here will know and that is I never look at the breeding of what I have in the race loft. If you were here now and asked me about a particular pigeon the chances are I would not know what it was off. Yes some do stand out and we know what they are bred from but not many in my case. I do not run to the loft book all the time to check any breeding unless there is a good reason. I don't like to have favourites so if I don't bother what they are bred from I cannot favour them and let's face it we all favour pigeons for one reason or another. To be honest during the racing season I am not particularly interested in what they are off because all I want is a pigeon to do the job that he/she is there for in the first place. My young bird team are more or less all bred in the stock loft and when they are rung they are put into my little black book and then into the big breeding book. They are then left and moved when they are walking around the floor in the stock loft so they could have come out of any nest box. However they are all booked down when they are rung so there is a correct record of where they come from. Years ago it was easy knowing a young bird because I would look in the boxes all the time and watch them grow so I knew what was bred off what. At one time I could tell you about every pigeons in the loft and what it was bred off and even their ring number but I have gone past that stage and I am now only interested in what is there at the end of the season. As the years have gone by I have looked at pigeons from a different angle and even though I still have the same enthusiasm for the sport, racing week in, week out is no longer now my objective. Originally my intentions for this season were to split the team and compete on a weekly basis but circumstances

change and I made the decision that is not now going to happen. I have also been resting them a bit more for the longer races that are now with us and this is where I will judge whether I have done my job right. In the early part of the Channel season there were some rum races with a lot of losses and some will find it hard to reach the later stages of the season. Some fanciers lost nearly half their birds after the first two weeks of Channel racing what with the heat and at times strong north-east winds being a problem. So what is the result? Well if they are in the loft and competed in the races that you have selected them for then there is a good reason to keep them. However if they are getting a few years about them and they have not shaped up then they need to be looked at. If you are looking for the long distance races of 600 miles plus then they could quite easily come better with a bit more age whereas if you are competing in sprint races then you have to take a serious look at what is in the loft. Some fanciers start to look at what they have in the loft as soon as the old bird season has finished but I much prefer to wait until they have more or less completed their moult because that is a good indicator to what kind of season they have had.

British Barcelona Club

I was talking to Richard Green about the BBC and he was telling me that the membership has increased and he puts it down to the new marking stations introduced for this season. There are over 100 new members for the 2010 season and it is always nice to see a club going in the right direction when so many are on the decline. The Club was fortunate to have a good Secretary with Jim Hooper and his better half, Hazel. Jim was telling me that he now enjoys his racing and the results have shown this to be the case. It also looks like they have another good Secretary with Richard Green and no doubt Anna will be helping as well and a good partnership is worth a lot. The National based clubs are doing well and that is the way many fanciers are now going.

Winners

The last subject was National racing and there is no doubt that if pigeons are bred right they will come good somewhere along the line. I had an email sent to me from Maurice Van Der Kruk from Tiel, Holland to say he won 1st National NPO Mantes la Jolie in Afdeling 7 in Holland against 18,406 birds. The race was very hard in a headwind and showers that resulted in around 50% day returns and very slow and tired returns next day. The winner was Azziz, a 2y blue pencil hen and she is a half-sister to Prins Sens winner of 1st National NPO Sens Afdeling 7 against 2,450 birds and 2nd Combine Pommeroeul against 17,563 birds. The dam of Azziz is GB05T29923 14 Karat a daughter of Syndicate Lofts famous Young Couple that Maurice bought at the Blackpool auction in 2006. She is already responsible for some really top performers including the famous Obama, winner of his first race this year from Strombeek against 1,300 birds. Last year he won 4th National NPO from Salbris against 8,250 birds. This great cock also scored a 100% record winning eight top prizes in eight races as a youngster and became the 1st Ace Young Bird of the Federation CCG 9 against 350 members. This is quality racing against big numbers of both fanciers and birds and the type of competition that many would like to be up against. The Young Couple bred the 1st Ace Young Bird Long Distance in the Union de Baronie with over 1000 members competing two years in a row. This pair also bred Syndicate Mistress winner of 1st UK, 3rd Int. Hot Spot Ace bird and 1st UK,



1950's photo.

2nd Int. Knock-Out Competition both against 1205 birds Sun City '03, she also won 6th UK. 62nd Int. in the final race vs. 1,632b from 632 k.m. over 11 hours on the wing, winning \$3000. Her full sister is Syndicate Elegance 1st UK 243 birds, 2nd International 1,690 birds Sun City Training Race 2003, she went on to breed the 1st Ace Pigeon in the Albatross One Loft Race, Hungary 2004. Another sister is Lucky Charm winner of 4th Open Europa Classic 2002 winning £3,500. They have also bred an extraordinary amount of really good birds in top competition for many fanciers in the UK. The common thread running through this story is the Kannibaal of Dirk Van Dijk of Zandhoven. This is a bird that proves the point that it is the strong breeding line of a handful of exceptionally pre-potent birds that comes along very rarely, in fact as rare as white ravens, which determines the direction of the sport. This has been true through out the history of pigeon sport. These super birds still breed a large percentage of junk however by crossing into other proven lines they breed a higher percentage of good and even super birds than is normal. In fact they become renowned breeders by lifting the general level of performance and when this happens for various fanciers in different countries, particularly if these fanciers are known to have good birds to start with they become legendary. Kannibaal is one such case. This is the reason why I like the birds of Vandersanden as they practically are all bred off 1st National winners or 1st National Ace Pigeons. The later is really my preference because Ace Pigeons have won that title because they have been consistent whereas a National winner may only put in the one great performance never to be seen again.

Club/Fed News

The series of Middlewich Show races have started these are for fanciers who have entered into a set number of the shows held in Middlewich over the winter months. The first race was from Lulworth when the first prize of £68.65 plus £60.60 in pool money went to Jimmy Smith whose first entry, a yearling recorded 1340. This same fancier also recorded the third highest velocity of 1326 but prizes are based on one per loft. A 2y dropped through the doors for Ian Cooper to collect 2nd plus pools making a total of £91.79. Mike O'Hare & Ron Woodward are 3rd on the result and also collect the DN making prize and pool money of £64.33 with two 2y recording vels of 1319 and 1260. Mel Bratt took 4th also with a 2y to collect £17.16 for 1296. The Moulton FC were at the new race point of Carentan when Club Secretaries Mr & Mrs Chris Herbert topped the list on 1151 with a blue cock. Mel Bratt keeps up the pressure taking 2nd and 4th on 1149 and 1110 with two yearling chequer cocks; 3rd goes to Mr & Mrs Roy Croxton on 1138 after seeing home a chequer pied cock.



Les Parkinson & Geoff Kirkland studying the eye of a 1st National winner at the stock lofts of Ferdinand Vandersanden.

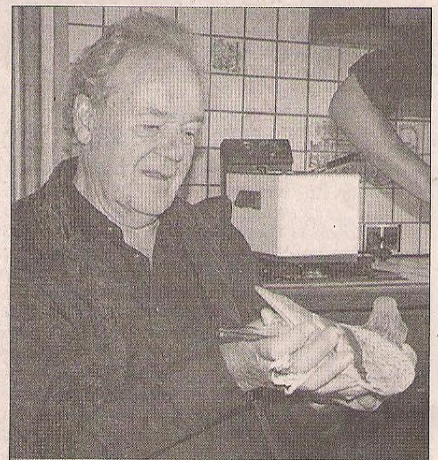


Maurice van der Kruk and his good lady.

Meanwhile Carentan was the racepoint for the Lymm Club whose birds were out at 1015hrs in a strong west wind that saw Martin Joy take 1st and 4th positions on 1214 and 1179. The winner is a Lucien Geerts/Janssen chequer cock, followed by a blue Lucien Geerts cock, both being raced on widowhood; 2nd is Mike Carey on 1202 but unfortunately no more details with 3rd on 1198 are to Fell Bros who saw home a blue van der Rhee hen bred by Mark Broam of Altrincham. The Middlewich clubs were on a double this week with both clubs having a land and Channel race so there was plenty to go at. In the Middlewich FC race from Carentan O'Hare & Woodward led the way with a yearling widowhood hen from our M. & D. Evans Gaby's. This hen was bought back from the Teurlings Futurity Sale last year where she was clocked from Lessay in the young bird race. A full sister to this hen was 1st Mid Cheshire Fed in 2008. The sire being from Jumping Jack Flash and Foxy Lady while dam is out of Jester and Lady of the Rings; 2nd Club was a 3y widowhood hen from our SVR family. As a young bird she was 10th Section B, 22nd Open NWCC Portland. In 2009 she was 4th Club Yeovil and this year she was 1st Club Lulworth two weeks ago. She is a full sister to the hen who was 2nd 5Bird Club (see above) from our Number 1 SVR pair. Peter & Dawn Latham are 3rd after seeing home a Busschaert cock that has been amongst the prizewinners before while 4th goes to David & Craig Wilkinson who saw home a yearling red cock that is a grandson of Red Barcelona when crossed to a blue pied hen bred by Taveirne-Rigole that won the Mid Cheshire breeder/buyer as a young bird. On the same day the club were also at Hereford but I have nothing on that race at the moment. In the Middlewich 5B race from Swainwick Carol & Robert Carson topped the list with a yearling Busschaert chequer cock from National winning lines. O'Hare & Woodward took 2nd with a 6y widowhood cock from their Mardon van Reet family. This cock was 2nd Fed Wincanton, 2nd Fed Kingsdown as a yearling, beaten by loft mates. Since then he has been 4th, 6th, and 10th Section B in the North West Classic Club up to Fougères 340 miles and also 3rd and 4th in the local clubs. He was put to stock at the end of 2009 after he bred a young bird for Mick Glynn that virtually won the Middlewich 2 Bird Club Averages single handed in 2008. However a box became available in the race loft recently and he was returned to the race team. His breeding is classic Mardon van Reet with his great grandparents being Toey x Regality and Toeys Double x Ratify on the Sires side and Radar x Remedy and Ranger x Resolve on the dam's side; 3rd goes to Dave & Lynn Healey with a Frans van Wildemeersch that prized earlier this year and finished ahead of David & Craig Wilkinson who took the rubber off a Vandersanden mealy cock that is a grandson of 1st National Ace Pigeon Full Try. In the 5B race from Carentan Mark & Heather

Smith led the way after taking the rubber off a Staf van Reet cock; 2nd and 3rd go to O'Hare & Woodward 2nd Club was a 6y widowhood hen from our No 1 pair of Mardon van Reets. This hen prized in the Bamfords Gold Ring Race in 2004 as a young bird. In 2007 she won 1st Club, 6th Fed Swainwick, 3rd Club, 4th Fed Swainwick, 3rd Club, 8th Fed Wincanton and was 6th Sect B, 19th Open, Fougères NWCC, 6th Section B 9th Open Messac NWCC and 22nd Open in the Bamfords Channel Challenge. In '08 she was 18th Open in the Bamfords Channel Challenge. In 2009 she was 4th Club, 13th Fed Yeovil. The great grandparents of this hen are Ransom x Reckless and Toey x Clara on the sire's side and Toey x Roxy and Ragamuffin x Princess on the dam's side. In 3rd Club was a yearling widowhood hen again from our SVR family winning its first card; 4th goes to David & Craig Wilkinson who saw home a granddaughter of 1st National winner The Cerafin crossed with a Taveirne-Rigole that is a granddaughter of 2 x 1st Middlewich 2B winners.

Lulworth (2) for the Winsford HS saw 15 members send 192 birds with the hotspot position going to Mr & Mrs Albert Austin with a blue cock raced on widowhood recording 1350. This is a Wildemeersch yearling who also prized as a young bird and this is the partnership's second time in the winners enclosure at Winsford this season. In 2nd position is Ken & Mike Lamb with a dark cock raced on the roundabout on 1339 and was bred by T. & D. Sherratt of Shavington. This has been a very consistent bird has also won 1st Club, 7th Fed previously and is sure to carry on for some time. In 3rd and 4th and an impressive 5th position are Mr & Mrs Mike O'Grady. The bird in 3rd is a blue chequer hen on 1338 and is a 2y Vandenabeele, the sire being from George Lawrence and the dam from Henry Gonzales she has prized as a yearling and raced on semi-widowhood; 4th placed bird is a black 3y hen on 1331 bred out of a son of the Barcelona bred by Elimar Lofts when paired to a daughter of H. Taylor & Son's King's Cup winner. This hen has prized inland before and has four prizes on the Channel her best being 2nd Niot 15 hours on the wing and also raced on semi-widowhood. Three birds in the first five is good flying and makes me wonder if Mike & Margaret's new neighbour who by chance happens to be a vet, has been a great help. I hope I haven't let the cat out of the bag. Rudheath PO Malc Hewitt has missed a race or two but catches up this week starting with Lulworth where it was another good result for Witton Albions No 1 fan, Ian Cooper, who took 1st and 2nd with two Busschaert widowhood cocks both 3y. Then comes Knutsfords youngest swinger, Frank Lockwood, with a yearling chequer cock and finally Jim brings up the rear with a red cock. Moving on to the next weeks racing when both races were held over we got the birds away at 0900hrs from Hereford in a north-west wind. It turned out a good race for PO Malc Hewitt taking



Geoff Kirkland again looking at the eye of a super Luc Sieon pigeon.