

Messrs. ASHTON-HANSEN & KURTZ Advertisement--continued.

Roche, and Bordeaux. **Dam**, B.C. Hen 264. Flown Rennes. **Sire**, **Determination**. **Dam**, B.C. Hen 873. Bred by Ellis from his famous **Wouters-Guerten** cock ex a **Sheldon** hen, 800 mile blood. The **Wouters-Guerten** cock cost over £20 as a youngster, bred from the famous **Vendome** National 1st prize. Au Chateau, 2791 pigeons. 1st prize and all pools, own brother to his celebrated Barcelona winner, flown from

Spain, across the Pyrenees eight times in 5 years.

5A.—B.C. Hen, 2681F.R.P.A.11, old ring. **Sire**, a son of W. E. Lowe's Old Grouper Cock, ex Lady Orleanist. **Dam**, a daughter of **Determination**, by Hope and Success.

5 and 5A are a splendidly matched pair. They have both bred winners.

Squeakers, 30/- each.

There are several other pairs of Pure W. E. Lowe's, including 2 daughters of "Determination," by "Lady Orleanist," and the White Pied Wouters Guertin Sheldon Hen. Also Pure Soffles, Barkers and Hansennes.

Prices, from 20/- to 30/- each.

Birds seen by appointment at F. KURTZ, "Glenloth, Hereford St., Forest Lodge. 'Phone M1461

None but Strong, Healthy Birds will be sent out.

Address all Correspondence to A. ASHTON-HANSEN, "Denton," Duke Street, Campsie, N.S.W.

10/- Booking Fee with Order.

ANOTHER WIFE'S TRIALS.

Of all the trials that the wives of men have to endure, I believe those of the wife of the enthusiastic pigeon homer are the worst. For many years my husband had that interesting hobby, and I tried to sympathise with his enthusiasm and assist him in every way possible, as any wife should. Keeping pigeons is all very well till the head of the house joins a racing club, then the fun begins.

The birds must be nursed and cared for like children; nothing is too good for them, and when the owner goes out to work in the morning the last words you hear are, "Now don't forget to change the birds' water, and see they have enough food," which means the water must be changed three times a day, and the birds let out for a fly morning, noon and night to exercise their wings. When he comes home in the evening his spare time is spent in cleaning the box, seeing what eggs have been laid, putting down dates, pedigrees of the young ones hatched during the day; then, before retiring for the night, takes a candle and pays a last visit to see that all is right, and locks them up.

For three months in the year, beginning at August, it seems as though the birds are all there is to live for, as then the racing season begins, and all is excitement. Two or three nights a week a basket of birds is sent away to be trained, another night is meeting-night, and Friday night the birds are sent away to the race, so his wife and family see very little of him through the week. But I do not mind my part of it, except trying to comply with the mild request, "I wish you would exercise the birds a bit for me." Exercising the birds, I might explain, is keeping them flying without a spell, and one hour night and morning and half at mid-day is only enough to give them an appetite, not really what they require for racing. There are few mothers who can spare that much time every day for weeks together, but he says, "Oh! let the sewing go, or anything else, till the racing is over."

Saturday mid-day sees him rushing home from work, when he changes his clothes in record time, and then bolts his dinner, so that he can have the whole afternoon for his hobby.

At the earliest possible time a bird

could be expected he rushes into the yard, and takes the baby's daily wash off the line, and bundles it into the washhouse to be dried after the birds come home. It may be that day or the next; then the children must all be kept inside, and nothing left out that will be likely to frighten the birds, as they are nervous after a race, and won't come down, and the least thing may mean the winning or loss of a race.

Then comes the waiting for the birds, and the patience the men display is beautiful to behold. They wait hour after hour, if the weather is bad all Saturday afternoon, and on long races all day Sunday, too, never complaining, till you feel ashamed of begrudging two and a half hours a day for the birds. Then when the bird does come they rush off to the club-room to see who is the winner, and return some hours later, smiling if a winner; if not, downcast, and thinking the birds want more exercise.

But don't think I am complaining, for it is all very amusing. And then at the end of the season there will be the prizes—a piece of new silver for the sideboard, or a medal, or something else by way of compensation for your time; and there are the pigeon pies at intervals when the loft gets overcrowded with young birds, so who can say there are no pleasures, even for the wife of the enthusiastic pigeon flyer?

BALLARAT CITY CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Ballarat City Homing Club was held on June 14th, the President (Mr. Harry Smyth) in the chair. The treasurer submitted the balance sheet for the year, which showed the club to be in a sound financial position. The hon. sec. (Mr. J. Balmain) presented his annual report, which stated—"It must be gratifying to all concerned that the past year has been one of success and achievement. Though our club was only founded last June with a membership of eight, it now stands at fifteen. We regret the death of one of our patrons, Mr. E. W. Van Senden, of Adelaide; also Miss Jenkins, sister of one of our members. Letters of sympathy have been forwarded to relatives of deceased. One of our members enlisted during the year, while another was invalided home.

Several of our members have promised birds to be forwarded to France shortly by the Commonwealth Government for war purposes. Ours was the first Ballarat club to fly from Quorn (South Australia), 500 miles airline. This race was won by Messrs. Woods Bros.' Red Hot. The Ballarat Cup race, from Murrayville, 220 miles airline, for the Grosser Challenge Cup, presented by Mr. E. A. Grosser, of Adelaide, was won by J. Balmain. The old and young bird aggregate was won by Mr. Ray Todd, and the novice young bird aggregate by Mr. Geo. Jenkins.

On King's Birthday our members liberated their birds at the gymkhana held at the Show Grounds. The club has since been congratulated by the hon. sec. (Mr. A. V. Elston) on such a fine display. During the season trophies to the value of £15, presented by the following patrons, were raced for:—Mrs. Eppingstall (2), Miss Woods, Messrs. Llane, F. Crotty, C. Meaker, G. Shee, E. A. Grosser, E. W. Van Senden, Hutton-Jones, J. Lingham, McGibbony, Andy Henderson, Harry Smyth, E. Auchattl, N. Greville and Ern. Preston."

—J. Balmain, Secretary.

The following office bearers were elected for season 1918-19: Warrant Officer D. C. McGrath, M.H.R.; President, Mr. W. Woods; vice-presidents, Messrs. Alex. Henderson and J. Balmain; clock and General committee, Messrs. A. Gunn, R. Todd and R. Woods; auditors, Messrs. R. Lingham and Alf. Gunn; assistant sec., Mr. R. Todd; hon. sec. Harry Smyth, 104 Crompton Street.

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