

THE PIGEON FANCIER
Ten Publications—Jan. to Dec.
Vol. 7, No. 8 October, 1966
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CONDITIONING FOR DISTANCE EVENTS

(By "Eye-Sign")

Many fanciers learn and gain valuable experience when breeding and racing pigeons for a number of years.

My old friend Bob Malon's Bundaberg winner, which I think all members of the South Coast Pigeon Federation will agree Bob's hen was the pigeon of the year.

Bob has a great record of homing long distance pigeons over about 28 years of racing.

Bob will do his best to help to give his feeding and training methods of conditioning race pigeons for long distance flying.

Bob goes on by saying, "How many disclose what they have learned?"

It is usually kept as a loft secret, and the knowledge they have gained dies with them.

To my way of reasoning this is wrong, and any information gleaned should be passed on to the next generation of pigeon flyers to make their hobby easier. They, in turn, can improve on the methods used by the old pigeon flyers.

We know that the racing pigeon when liberated for a race flies until it has exhausted itself.

I myself won Bundaberg 700 miles, which was a long hard fly.

The only bird to home to my loft on the second day dropped outside of the loft and never moved until picked up. To clock in that pigeon was really racing.

How many pigeons flyers either kill their prospective candidates for a long distance race by over training or on the other hand have a race pigeon too lean or too fat.

When basketing a race pigeon for a race one often hears the remark: "This is the fittest bird in the race", whereas it is the fattest.

The aim of all pigeon flyers in hard races should be to train and have their birds in the pink of condition—not too lean and not too fat — but the greatest problem is to get the candidate into this condition.

A pigeon flyer's biggest problem is to know when a pigeon is fit for a race. That is the point of pigeon racing.

Many good pigeons are lost through not being fit to race.

Every pigeon flier who is keen on winning long distance races should try the following method of training.

The birds for a long distance race must be of a long distance strain.

They must have done well in previous races, been fed well and recovered, from the moult, above all, they must possess 'eye sign' in conjunction with the metallic glitter in the eyes, which I think is of as much importance as the ciliary itself.

Believe it or not, I have found that flying separated they will fly for hours on end, but when the sexes exercise together the cocks lose interest and instead of flying and exercising they start cruising around slowly, more intent on the hens than on flying. I found this out by constant observation.

My method of feeding goes hand in hand with my training, feeding racing pigeons is totally different from that of stock birds. My racing pigeons are fed twice a day after each exercise, morning and evening.

When I think my pigeons have had sufficient exercise I call them down and hand feed them. As soon as I notice the first bird go to water and drink I stop feeding at once. Usually you will find that the first bird to drink is one of the fittest.

When my birds are called down and some do not trap at once, I proceed with the feeding as indicated, and allow the culprits to go without. The next time they will come when called. This method induces good trapping on race days.

My feeding method is the same as most pigeon flyers use on the Coast, mostly peas, wheat, corn, milo, but the most important part is all grain must be of the best quality. Another important factor is good grit and salt.

These methods have been followed for many years, and I feel there is no reason to change them, as they have played their part for me, so I see no reason why they will not play the same part for anyone else.

Another useful hint is that after a pigeon has flown a 600, 700 or 800 mile race it will not race again that season, if one wishes to breed

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EDITORIAL

I have often heard the old saying "Silence is like gold. That is if you are seeking wealth".

This magazine is out for fair play and sincere advertising. Your Editor has already placed a ban and will not accept advertising from three regular advertisers over the years. So don't ask why they got the axe. But no more adverts will appear in future copies.

(Sgd.) Editor.

To the fancy and members of Taree Pigeon Club, your Editor has never at any time received birds from Grafton area. Please note! It was just another gimmick for a sale.

Had an interesting letter from an advertiser wanting to sell long distance racing pigeons for sale. When I contacted this person and asked him to identify his club and more details in his advert., but oh! no, he wanted an assumed name and not his home address. I then asked why and his explanation seemed O.K. But why the mystery?

To make a long story short, no advert. Moral of above. Don't advertise if you have something you don't want your mates to have. We only accept genuine advertising. If you have trouble with any advertiser contact Editor.

BULLI-WOONONA RACING PIGEON CLUB

Annual and General Meetings will be held at the club room on October 30th, at 10 a.m. All members and intending members asked to attend.

A. Wearing, President.

A. Johnston, Secretary.

HAWKESBURY SHOW

PIGEONS SEEN AT THEIR BEST

Mr. Carl Dunston who judged all the fancy varieties except English Dragoons and Carriers, commenting on the birds said that the quality of the birds penned was the best that he had seen at the Hawkesbury Show for many years. There were an excellent lot of Fantails, Pouters, Jacobins, Magpies, Nuns, Oriental Frills, Turbits and Modenas. Champion fancy pigeon won by B. Dunn with Red Jacobin Cock, good type, nice colour and well flighted. Champion young fancy pigeon won by B. Dunn with a nice quality White Fantail.

It was my pleasure to judge the English Dragoons, Carriers and Homers. I found the Carriers outstanding for quality. For the first prize birds had previously won at the Royal Show. The English Dragoons, good entries, but the birds exhibited were only moderate. I was greatly impressed with the quality of the Homers. R. Woods, K. Bickerstaff and A. Pearson penned strong teams; the birds were penned in top condition and they were a pleasure to handle. They were very hard and tight feathered and a credit to their owners. Champion won by Ron Woods with a well balanced Blue Chequered Cock. Ron also won champion young bird with a top quality red chequered cock. Most successful exhibitor in the show won by Ron Woods.

Fancy Pigeons

Pigmy Pouter Cock: E. Sanders 1, B. Dunn 2, A. Makin 39. Hens: A. Makin 1, B. Dunn 2 and 3.

Jacobin Cock: B. Dunn 1 and 2. Hen: B. Dunn 1, 2 and 3.

Fantail White Cock or Hen: B. Dunn 1, 2 and 3.

Fantail White Cock or Hen (ring 1965): B. Dunn 1 and 3, L. P. Williams 2.

Fantail Blue Cock or Hen: L. P. Williams 1, B. Dunn 2, H. Greedy 3.

Fantail Red or Yellow Cock or Hen: L. P. Williams 1 and 3, H. Greedy 2.

Fantail Red or Yellow Cock or Hen (ring 1965): L. P. Williams 1.

Fantail Block Cock or Hen: B. Dunn 1 and 2, H. Greedy 3.

Fantail Black Cock or Hen (ring 1965): H. Greedy 1, B. Dunn 2 and 3.

Fantail Silver Cock or Hen: L. P. Williams 1 and 3, B. Dunn 2.

Fantail AOC Cock or Hen: B. Dunn 1, L. P. Williams 2, H. Greedy 3.

Fantail AOC Cock or Hen (ring 1965) D. J. Hulbert 1, B. Dunn 2.

Turbit Cock: R. W. Clarke 1 and 2, R. Bennett 3. Hen: R. W. Clarke 1, A. Makin 2, R. Bennett 3.

Performing Tumblers, Cock or Hen: C. Shaw 1 and 2, B. Gordon 3.

Performing Tumblers, Cock or Hen (ring 1965): C. Gordon 1.

Tumbler CLLF Cock or Hen: R. Bennett 1 and 2, C. Shaw 3.

Tumbler CLIF Cock or Hen (ring 1965): C. Gordon 1.

Magpie Block Cock or Hen: E. Sanders 1, B. Dunn 2, R. Bennett 3.

Magpie Yellow Cock or Hen: E. Sanders 1, R. Bennett 2.

Magpie AOC Cock or Hen: E. Sanders 1, C. Gordon 2, R. Bennett 3.

Magpie AOC Cock or Hen: J. Kruger 1 and 2, R. Hogan 3.

Tippler Cock or Hen: J. Kruger 1 and 2, R. Hogan 3.

Tippler Cock or Hen (ring 1965): J. Kruger 1, R. Hogan 2 and 3.

English Dragoon Cock or Hen: R. Bennett 1 and 3, J. Gould 2.

Carrier Cock: R. Bennett 1, 2 and 3. Hen: R. Bennett 1, 2 and 3.

Carrier Cock or Hen (ring 1965): A. Makin 1, J. Gould 2.

Nun Cock or Hen: R. W. Clarke 1 and 2, B. Dunn 3.

Nun Cock or Hen (ring 1965): R. W. Clarke 1 and 2.

Modena Gazzi ACC: C. Gordon 1. Modena Gazzi ACH: C. Gordon 1 and 2.

Modena Schietti ACC: C. Gordon 1 and 2.

Modena Schietti ACH: C. Gordon 1 and 2.

Utility Pigeon, any variety cock: R. Bennett 1 and 2. Hen: R. Bennett 1 and 2.

Homer Classes

Bl or blk chq cock: R. Woods 1 and 3, R. Pearson 2. Hens: K. Bickerstaff 1, R. Pearson 2, R. Woods 3.

Bl or blk Mealy Cock: R. Woods 1 and 3, K. Bickerstaff 2. Hen: R.

Woods 1 and 2.

Red or red chq cock: R. Woods 1 and 2, K. Bickerstaff 3. Hens: R. Woods 1 and 3, R. Pearson 2.

AOC Cock: K. Bickerstaff 1, R. Pearson 2, R. Woods 3. Hens: K. Bickerstaff 1, R. Pearson 2, R. Woods 3.

Cock or Hen flown 300 miles or more: R. Woods 1.

Young Birds, Ring 1965

B or blk chq cock: R. Woods 1 and 2, K. Bickerstaff 2. Hens: R. Pearson 1, K. Bickerstaff 2, R. Woods 3.

BB or Mealy Cock: K. Bickerstaff 1, R. Pearson 2. Hens: R. Woods 1 and 2.

Red or red cheq Cock: R. Woods 1 and 2, R. Pearson 3. Hens: R. Woods 1 and 3, K. Bickerstaff 2.

AOC Cock: R. Woods 1 and 2, K. Bickerstaff 3. Hen: R. Woods 1 and 2, K. Bickerstaff 3.

CONDITIONING FOR DISTANCE EVENTS

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from it, mate it up, but take the eggs away and put them under foster parents and allow them to rear the young. By no means sap the strength of the racer.

I trust that this treatise will help fanciers to win long distance races, which is the dream of all those who are keen on the sport of pigeon racing.

The method of training described pays handsome dividends. I know the thrill when one of your long distance pigeons dive in from the blue sky, so you have nothing to lose, so try it.

Bob has proved his point of training pigeons without a doubt, for his success over the years has proved that.

In the 1962 James Crawford Stakes, Bob was a place-getter. On the same day Bob won the Wollongong Club Derby and was fourth as well.

He also won the club race, the two-bird race, the Loft Auction, and three lots of pools including the connie pools — all with the one pigeon, it just goes to show that success breeds success.

CLOCK ROLLS

10 CENTS EACH Contact: EDITOR