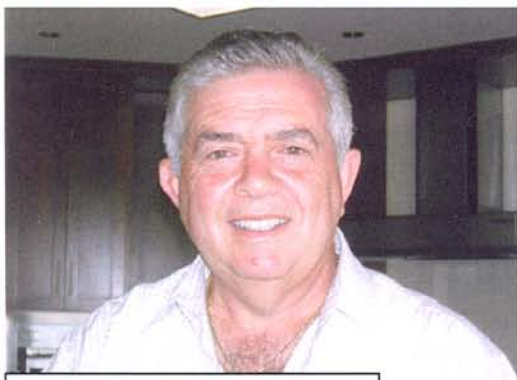


Jim Marafiote - Marla Open - SA07 10837 BCH - 29 09 2009

139 Owners - 1921 Birds - 970kms



Jim and SA07 10837 BCH



Jim first raced pigeons in 1964 following his initial purchase of rings for the 1964 breeding season. In 1965 he raced as a junior with the North West Club. Highlights of his race career include winning the SAHPA Aggregate points in 1988, and being runner-up 4 times (two of those while living at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills). Prior to moving to Hahndorf, he was 19 times in the top 20 over a 20 year period. Jim has accumulated 7 SAHPA wins (Temora, Gilgandra, Booroorban, Emmdale, Morundah, Wedderburn and Marla in 2009) and won the Maryborough Sires Produce in 1988. He was especially pleased with the Gilgandra win as he homed 1st (10.15pm) and 2nd (10.45pm) on the day. **SA07 10837 BCH** was in the best condition on return that Jim has ever seen a bird returning following a two day race. She did two laps of the loft before landing and Jim was convinced she was a toss bird returned late! On checking she was indeed his race bird from Marla, and handling her he found that she was still in excellent condition. His 2009 highlights include 1st North Suburban club

points, 4th SAHPA Aggregate points, 1st SDC points (gaining points in all races he competed), and the fact that he reckons his birds in 2009 were in the best flying condition he has ever been able to achieve.

The parents of **SA07 10837 BCH** are all old family Marafiote - an interbred group consisting of the best old South Australian families - Goodger, Webber, Watson, Jeffries plus the Gurneys from Latchford of Victoria and Davies of Pt Pirie (the latter by courtesy of Les Jeffries). Since imports have been allowed into Australia, Jim has added the James Bond Janssens to his loft with success. Jim is especially pleased with **SA07 10837 BCH** win because he still has the sire ('06), grand sire ('05), g-grand sire ('01), g-g-grand sire ('99), her dam ('06) and grand dam (05). The dam is a daughter to the full brother of Jim's 1st SAHPA Gilgandra. This brother has proven to be an excellent producer of race birds.

Birds are not tossed until 'ready' and Jim would rather miss races than start too early. He likes to adopt a conservative approach when getting ready to race young birds. When ready the first toss is around 50-60kms and he likes all birds to have around 8 tosses before the first race. By first race all birds will have been tossed to 130kms. Only birds that are fit (and with full wings) are sent tossing and or racing. Once racing starts he tosses twice a week (generally a long (130km) and short (80km) programme). Jim reckons the biggest issue for pigeon racing is the falcon menace. The destruction and fear that is wrought by this pest causes great trauma to pigeons. Minimising this trauma and engendering security and good health in race birds is one of the keys to good pigeon management and race success. He never tires of reviewing the 'new years' pigeon management issues and providing results which translate into race success.

Jim's advice to all flyers is to ensure their birds are well trained over the hills for the south east line racing in year 2010.

Jim is appreciative of the work done by the SAHPA officers (COM, and all office bearers) without whom, the sport would not proceed.