

Geoff Verrall - Coober Pedy Cocks Special Winner - 10975 SCF08 BCSLTC; 76 Owners - 391 Birds - 750kms



Geoff flies with the Port Adelaide Nth club and has been racing seriously since the year 2000. As is often the case, he had pigeons as a child. Then as an adult a mate re-introduced him to pigeons and he was 'hooked'!

He rates his club wins (by handsome margins) in 2008 and 2009, and his Alice Springs returns as highlights of his career to date. He placed 12 SAHPA Marla in 2008, and 5th & 13th SAHPA Marla, plus 4th and 14th Alice Springs in 2009.

The win in the Coober Pedy Cocks Special provided icing on Geoff's racing cake for 2009. **SCF08 10975 BCSlateC** raced his first four races as a hen (Hawker, Carrieton, Lyndhurst YBC and Lyndhurst Open) before declaring his sex and being raced as a cock in The Twins (as clock bird) and Coober Pedy Cock Special (1st SRC).

Geoff gained this pigeon (and the nestmate which unfortunately became ill and died) via the internet. He became part of a forum group which gifted a pair of pigeons to another member of the group by what is called the 'buddy system'. Geoff received his pair from Frank Raschilla (who flies with the SCF in NSW).

SCF08 10975 BCSlateC grandparents are all from different flyers (Wayne Carmady, Colten, Graham Davison and Bill Lamers). The sire was bred by Frank Raschilla. He was raced to 420kms. The sire is full brother to 2nd SCF 420km, and sire of 2nd Adelaide Club (AC) Glendambo, 6th AC Pimba, 6th AC Coober Pedy, 17th and 18th SCF Moruya. The dam was 1st AC The Twins, 27th AC Marla and is sister to 2nd SCF Tasmania.

Race birds are loft flown for a minimum of 50 minutes daily and cocks and hens are raced and trained together. Race birds are handfed twice a day a basic mix of 40% peas, 40% wheat 10% maize and 10% small seeds. Oil seeds are provided in cold weather, and additional maize is fed as the races get longer. Vitamins are occasionally added to drinking water, otherwise clean water is provided.

Youngsters are weaned into the 2yo and 3yo hen pens. He likes to have around 25 old birds to fly the next year. 2yo cocks are flown every 2 weeks depending on their fitness and general condition.

Geoff gets his birds loft trained before starting toss training. He judges his birds to be ready for tossing when am loft flies extend to 1 hour plus and small groups of birds return to the loft after exercising with other pigeons in the area. Toss training starts around 20kms about 4 weeks before racing. They will have about 10 tosses out to a maximum of 120kms before the first race. Once racing begins, birds are expected to complete a SAHPA toss on Sunday and a Tuesday toss to 80kms. All tosses are generally line of flight. He has already planned his toss programme for 1010 to the SE and reckons that good toss training will be essential to successfully negotiating this SE line.

Turbosole is provided on a three week preventative cycle, and other medication is provided if needed. Breeding birds are hopper fed 100% peas plus some small seed for variety. Breeders are paired in September. Geoff pairs 'best to best' and 'hopes for the best'!