

INFORMATION AFTERNOON

Hosted by John Pryor

On March 20th John Pryor presented to the South Australian Pigeon Fanciers a very interesting and informative afternoon covering several important theories that he has, over the last few years developed, tested and on many occasions proved, whilst he has competed and gained success in many Long and Ultra Long Distance events.

John gave of his time generously for the benefit of all Junior flyers here in South Australia, and the afternoon proved most successful with the Junior Bank Balance gaining a welcome boost.

John felt very much a need to share any of the knowledge he has gained about our fascinating sport and felt that all too often many of the elite and successful fanciers have not shared the theories of their successes and ultimately this has been lost and has not benefited the sport at all. Secondly, John recently had the pleasure of meeting John Ellis, the Scottish National Long Distance Champion and after having some discussions with him, was very surprised to hear that a fancier from the other side of the world, like John, a Long Distance Champion, shared a lot of the same theories that John himself held, particularly in the wing theory.

Besides explaining in great detail the many facets of his wing theory, John also shared with the members present his breeding, feeding and training programs. During the afternoon a video was taken of the proceedings which will be on sale and all profits will be again to benefit the Juniors. I will touch briefly on the many topics that John covered and urge all fanciers to gain a copy of the video so that John himself can explain to any interested how he has made such an impact on long distance racing here in Australia.

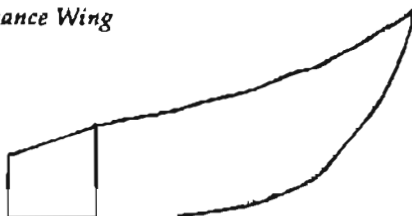
The wing theory stands on its own and John firmly believes that the more criteria the wing of the long distance pigeon fills the longer the bird will be able to stay in the air, but most importantly cover the distance in the shortest period of time and be efficient in its use of energy, stamina and endurance.

John explained that a good wing propels the bird forward in the air but all the other factors such as brains, ability, good heart and lungs, homing instinct, little fear of the falcon, able to travel long distances on their own, appropriate training and above all, bred for the job at hand, make up the complex and elusive special something that culminates in the long distance champion pigeon.

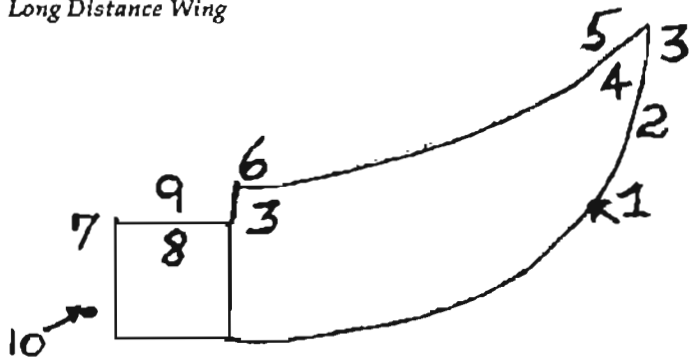
In John's opinion the ideal long distance pigeon is small to medium size with a big wing. This creates a pigeon of extreme manoeuvrability, a better more efficient power to weight ratio and of course this sort of body frame takes less out of the pigeon on its journey home.

Below is a copy of the drawing John put on the blackboard which illustrates the different points individually, and extensively explaining his theory and elaborating further when questions were asked. As this took up the major part of the afternoon, and as it is beyond the scope of this report to go into great detail, viewing of the video would be most beneficial.

Middle Distance Wing



Long Distance Wing



1. Propellor
2. Bow
3. 2:1 Ratio
4. 6-7 Flight
5. Flight Tips \cap \wedge \square and ventilated.
6. Step Up
7. Width } vs. Middle Distance
8. Quantity
9. Length
10. Bone Power.

The next topic John covered was his theory on how to win Association races. His formula is set out below:

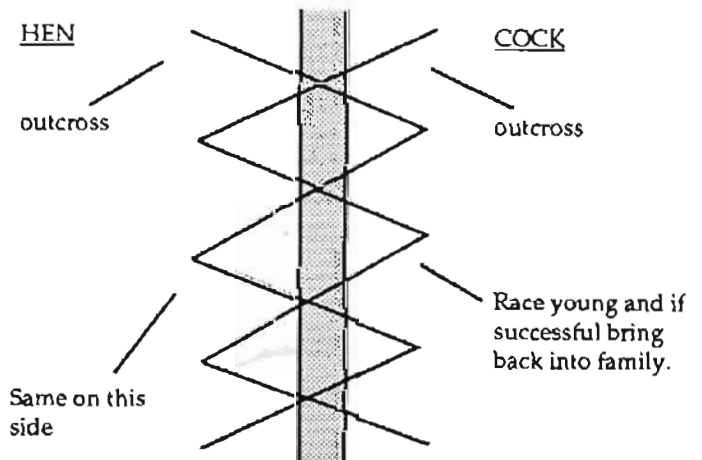
1. OUT CROSS
 - (a) Not related
 - (b) Related (not close)
2. AGE (parents)
 - (a) Sire and dam less than 4 years old
 - (b) Dam less than 4 years old

Examples of the above could be:

$$1(a) \times 2(b) \text{ or } 1(b) \times 2(a)$$

With his breeding program John followed the diamond pattern. Starting with a hen and cock (which can be nestmates) you have the beginnings of your winning family so long as you judiciously sort out the very best to go back into the family and prove the racing ability of the youngsters.

John feels that you must always move forward. Today's pigeons would have to be better if you have been ruthless in your breeding program and to this end the average age of his breeders is four years or less.



In this way John perpetuates the enduring middle column of his family yet breeds in vigour and vitality, the benchmark of every good family of pigeons.

Again John was very generous in the many insights he gave to this interesting and information packed part of the afternoon.

John also touched on his feeding program, being basically a 95% protein feeder. John believes in a high protein diet, during the breeding season for the development of the youngster, in moulting for feather quality and in racing for muscle quality, strength, endurance and stamina.

John doesn't believe in a big medication regime. He has not wormed his birds in quite a few years and believes in fostering a natural immune system. He does not give vitamins or minerals. Basically the birds are given clean fresh rainwater, grit, greens and are vaccinated against pigeon pox. John watches the droppings of the birds closely and assesses the droppings with regards to the bird coming into good form.

John's tossing program starts with north tosses lifting the distance in quick succession and then thereafter east tosses over the hills once a week where he looks for a good hour and a half on the wing. John is not afraid to switch birds to different lines and feels strongly that if the birds can't tolerate this type of training and racing they are of no value to him.

The afternoon being of a very relaxed and in an open forum style, many topics were touched upon and John answered all questions to the best of his ability. Viewing of the video would certainly be well worth a few hours of any pigeon fanciers' time, and I would like to thank John on behalf of the juniors for his efforts to promote the sport and assist the future flyers to race their team of pigeons with a lot of knowledge that has been passed down to them through the generosity of current fanciers such as John.

Any further information regarding the video can be obtained from the S.A.H.P.A. Junior Co-Ordinators John Jarzabek and Ivan Wareing. Sharon Mayne, the S.A.H.P.A. General Secretary (08) 264 0885, would assist in anyone wishing to contact the above gentlemen.

John Pryor can also be contacted through Sharon if anyone wishes to discuss with him any further, the contents of this article or any of his theories.

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PUT SPORT BACK INTO PIGEON RACING

LOFT REPORT

John Pryor Adelaide's No.1 Flyer for 1993

by Larry Mayne

John Pryor Adelaide's No.1. flyer winning the S.A.H.P.A. Aggregate points for the 1993 Season. In doing so he won 1st S.A.H.P.A. Morundah plus taking 10th, 17th and 41st. In Alice Springs, John took the following positions 2nd, 9th, 28th, 29th and 44th.

Born and raised at Broken Hill, John's father was the late Keith Pryor who was a devoted pigeon flyer and was a member of one of the three clubs that race there, way back in 1927.

John married Ruth and they have 3 children. With a chance of employment in Adelaide, John and his family made the move in 1965 where he joined the West Torrens club and at the end of that season John moved to his now present address at Hampstead.

With a further offer of employment in New Zealand he was on

the move again for the next two years.

On returning to Adelaide he joined the Vitesse pigeon club.

In 1970 John and the legendary Allen Goodger drew for the S.A.H.P.A. Aggregate points. In 1971 John rejoined the Hampstead club where he has flown ever since. From 1971. He has finished in the top 20 positions in the S.A.H.P.A. points.

John and his pigeons specialise in Long Distance races and he is known in South Australia, as the King of Alice Springs, for his countless wins and placings in the marathon race.

He has won 6 S.A.H.P.A. races in the last six years and in the last decade has won 9. Listed below are the 1993 placings taken by John and also his Long Distance achievement..

JOHN PRYOR'S LONG DISTANCE SUMMARY

Date	Point	Kms	Flyers	Birds	J Pryor	Homed	Results
28.10.83	Sydney	1185	17	113	14	4	2nd, 3rd.
31.8.84	Alice Springs	1321	144	466	8	4	1st, 18th, 24th, 25th.
27.10.84	Wyandra	1120	15	77	7	4	4th.
20.9.85	Alice Springs	1321	144	498	10	6	21st, 34th, 47th.
26.9.86	Alice Springs	1321	153	509	9	4	4th.
30.10.86	Brisbane	1620	12	56	5	1	1st bird home on the 17th day.
4.9.87	Alice Springs	1321	167	632	10	8	4th 5th, 15th, 17th, 35th
16.9.88	Alice Springs	1321	209	791	20	10	3rd.
7.10.89	Moree	1215	29	162	15	8	1st, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th.
31.8.90	Alice Springs	1321	130	396	5	3	1st, 2nd, 4th.
6.9.91	Alice Springs	1321	125	404	8	8	3rd, 25th.
18.8.92	Alice Springs	1321	149	441	6	2	1st, 26th.
17.9.93	Alice Springs	1321	90	355	12	8	2nd 9th, 28th 29th 44th

Summary: 129 Birds sent and 70 birds homed = 54.3%. 1st place 4 times, 2nd place 3 times, 3rd place 3 times, 4th place 4 times and

5th place 2 times = 16 placings in the first 5 positions.

(ALL RACES ARE OVER 1100KMS)

J. PRYOR S.A.H.P.A. PLACINGS 1993

Date	Racepoint	Owners	Birds	Distance	Velocity	Placings
21.8.93	Farina Open	385	6476	533	1227.793	23rd
28.8.93	Mitiamo Open	350	4967	530	1294.658	16th
4.9.93	Cooper Pedy	375	5696	745	1252.776	13th
11.9.93	Morundah Open 1	319	4053	701	928.051	14th, 29th
18.9.93	Marla	283	1762	967	1139.438	10th
25.9.93	Temora	280	2964	817	1022.297	25th, 27th, 28th, 36th
9.10.93	Morundah Open 2	241	3032	701	882.165	1st, 10th, 17th, 41st

1st S.A.H.P.A. MORUNDAH OPEN 2 B.B.H. 16453 SA91

RACES FLOWN IN 1992 SEASON

1.8.92	HATTAH	12.9.92	BOOROORBAN S.A.D.
3.10.92	BOOROORBAN OPEN	17.10.92	BOOROORBAN OPEN

RACES FLOWN IN 1993 SEASON

5.6.93	CARRIETON	19.6.93	PARUNA
3.7.93	PARUNA	17.7.93	HATTAH
31.7.93	HATTAH	4.9.93	INGLEWOOD
25.9.93	TEMORA	9.10.93	MORUNDAH

RACE TEAM

John usually starts with about 150 pigeons, 50 which comprise of 2 and 3 year olds plus an odd 4 year old. In a break down his race team has about 100 hens and 50 cocks. John revealed that his stock birds usually breed about 70% of hens, he trains his birds around the loft together but separates the sexes when in the loft.

A hard task master with his birds he makes the cocks do everything the hens have to do. There is a known saying here in S.A. that if one of us died we don't want to come back on this earth as one of John Pryor's pigeons. I think this is a bit unfair to John, as his birds are only trained once a week on the east track over the Adelaide Hills. He likes them to have an hour and a half to two hours on the wing. John likes his young hens in the first flying season to have at least two four hundred mile races on the east line, and the young cocks to do the same on the north line. John flies his birds from the first race to the last race, he sets a programme for each pigeon and they usually go back every two weeks if fit. His birds have the ability to fly on into the night on a number of occasions. Naturally his favourite race is Alice Springs where he holds the most wins from this racepoint than anyone else here in S.A.

John does the usual health standards like compulsory vaccination against pigeon pox. He told me, he has not wormed his birds for the last 5 years. He culls about 25% of his birds because these birds do not come up to his standards. If a bird becomes ill it is culled irrespective of what it is. John believes many flyers over-medicate their birds when it is not necessary, and this interferes with the birds natural immune system, he said let nature do its course. He also keeps an eye on his birds droppings it reveals the health and the fitness of his pigeons. We all know what John means it is the firm round and the smaller the better, the ones that bounce back into your hand when you drop them. John said there are three types of droppings, he looks for when his birds return from a race. First is the normal one, which you get on easy races. Second is the runny creamy colour one, John said this is the old fat coming away from the body which is good and he likes to see this, as these birds will put on new fresh fat and are able to be sent back, usually in two weeks. The third is the green slimy one, this is the type where the pigeon has dug down deep to reach the loft. The fat has gone from the body of the bird and this pigeon will take longer to recuperate.

John has developed his own wing theory and sticks to it, when selecting birds to his standards. The visiting Scottish long distance champion, John Ellis, who was here in Adelaide in 1993, had a similar wing theory to John's. Maybe we can get John to do an article on this theory for one of the near future magazines. John has developed a family of pigeons that sprints 500 miles on the day, then fly on another three hundred miles the next day. This is proof of what John's pigeons do from our marathon race Alice Springs, each year with excellent results.

STOCK BIRDS

John's pigeons comprise of his late father's from Broken Hill, Lou and George Downers of the West Torrens club crossed Goodgers and Jack Metcalf's pigeons. They are virtually Goodger based. John sent three pairs of his best pigeons to Hans Eijerkamp in Holland in return he received a pair of Wm Mullers. His second SAHPA Alice Springs was half his bloodline and the other half was Van WanRoy of Rob Wilson's Imports. John believes in youth in breeding, his stock hens rarely exceed the age of three years and the cocks to the age of four years with a few exceptions. John keeps very few stock birds and relies on what's left over from the end of the race

season. He has a cock bird which he calls his Number 1 Stock Cock and this bird has bred two SAHPA winners and his Number 1 Stock Hen has bred three SAHPA winners. This pair is responsible for countless SAHPA placings both directly and from pigeons bred down.

FEEDING

John is a protein feeder and in his mixture he uses 95% peas. He feeds his race birds the same from the start of the season to the end of the season and his stock birds are fed exactly the same way. John likes to get his peas from four different locations. He does not give any form of vitamins at all. When his birds are going into the moult, he feeds extra oil seeds such as linseed and safflower. When John's birds are flying only club races he feeds them once a day and as much as they like. He has a small seed mixture made up for him by a local Fodder store which contains 11 different varieties of seeds and the main base is millet, which he gives his race birds prior to hampering on race nights, and uses it with added milo for a trapping mix. John uses a legume which must have one of the most highest protein content that is 39% (spotted lupins).

ADVICE TO NEW FLYERS

Make your first year in racing pigeons a learning year and learn from your mistakes. At the end of that season go to a top flyer and purchase a few pair of stock birds. In todays type of racing, to be competitive you must create your own family of pigeons.

FINALLY

John's father Keith gave him a book which is called "The Pigeon". Both held this book in high esteem and is regarded by John as the Bible of pigeon racing.

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Group Flying Continued from Page 11.....

Central Districts Elizabeth Smithfield Nyunga	Central Districts
Para Hills Paralowie Salisbury	Salisbury
Barossa Valley Para	Para
Peninsular East Peninsular North Peninsular South	WDF - Port Adelaide
Happy Valley Noarlunga City	Noarlunga City
Glenelg Millswood/Plympton Southern Districts	SARPF - Brighton and Southern Districts
Hyde Park South Suburban	

Club Secretaries are to ensure that members do not handle or process their own pigeons for any SAHPA race.

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