

LOFT REPORT

John O'Donnell - Hampstead Club
S.A.H.P.A. Alice Springs Winner for 1993

Johns' outstanding SA91 44313 BBPH won this prestigious South Australian marathon, flying 1320km. The 355 birds represented by 90 owners, were released Friday morning at 7.30am with light west to north west winds. Johns' gallant hen was clocked after flying 19 hours 22mins and 48 seconds. Also in this marathon race Johns' second pigeon clocked, took out 15th position.

John has over the last five years flying in Alice Springs races, taken the following positions 5th, 11th, 15th, 19th, 27th, 38th - a consistent effort.

Pigeons from the O'Donnell loft not only excel at long distance events - in the 1993 season he won the Ponderosa Trophy for the best averages for the 4 x 5-Bird Special races conducted by the S.A.H.P.A. John, who flies in the strong Hampstead club also won the club middle distance points. His pigeons over the years have been placed high in the S.A.H.P.A. middle distance races.

John was born in Ireland and in later years flew pigeons in the Dublin club for about four years. He and his family migrated to South Australia in 1970, five years later in 1975, John restarted in the sport of racing pigeons by flying in the Tea Tree Gully club. They moved to a new suburb called Enfield where he joined the strong Hampstead club and has flown in that club since 1984. John is married and has a pigeon pair, a boy and a girl. He was employed by the S.A. Gas Company for 16 years before retiring.

RACE TEAM

John usually starts with 200 pigeons each season which comprises of 150 young and 50 two and three year olds. Included in this number is only a handful of second year cocks. John is like a gardener with his pigeons and is always on the look out for weeds to pull out. He believes in culling but he is not as severe as he should be these days. He worms his birds twice a year and vaccinates his birds against pigeon pox which is compulsory here in S.A.

John flies his pigeons sexes separately all year and they are exercised separately each day. He uses the local pigeon unit training service to train his birds. This training unit goes every Sunday and Wednesday and with that the cocks will go on Sunday and the hens on Wednesday, and he will alternate the hens and the cocks so that they don't go on the same day each week.

Since retiring John has an easy-going attitude and dislikes private training by himself. He likes to be at home to see his pigeons return from their training toss.

STOCK BIRDS

John revealed to me that he has a smorgasbord of well known Adelaide fanciers' pigeons such as Vin Blanden, Allen Goodger, Vic Pape, Bill Strongman, Doug Green and so on.

He usually only takes three rounds per pair each breeding season.

John believes that when you are lucky enough in your lifetime to have a true producing pair of stock birds, you don't sell any

of these birds because once you sell one or some of these pigeons, it is like cutting a root of your best tree off. He admits that he keeps too many old stock birds.

FEEDING

John mainly feeds peas and wheat and barley in the early part of the racing season. He feeds at least 40% wheat at the beginning then easing off to the end of the racing season introducing maize for the longer events.

No small seed is given at all. John uses chicken growers' pellets during the breeding season.

He also uses mineral supplements in his grit containers which are situated in each division of his lofts. An iodine and iron supplement are regularly used in his drinking water.

ADVICE TO NEW FLYERS

Procure some pigeons from a reputable breeder. Breed from these birds and race out their offspring to see how they perform.

To be a good pigeon flyer, John believes it is in the nature of the man - you must do your apprenticeship and learn as you go.

FINALLY.....

John O'Donnell is one of the true gentlemen in the racing pigeon fraternity. His pleasant nature and, of course, his contagious Irish accent, will win you over.

LARRY MAYNE.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

1993 BIRD OF THE YEAR BCH SA91 7639 Bred
& Raced by Con Moukas - Smithfield Club

Performances 1992

Carrieton 13.6.92, Hawker 11.7.92, Farina YBC 25.7.92, CooberPedy 22.8.92, Booroorban YBC 12.9.92, Booroorban 18.10.92.

This pigeon in 1992 showed absolutely nothing in its performances.

Performances 1993

Paruna 19.6.93, Hattah 31.7.93, Mt Gambier 21.8.93 1st club, Morundah 11.9.93 2nd pigeon home, Temora 25.9.93 2nd SAHPA, 1st club, 1st group, Morundah 9.10.93 2nd SAHPA, 1st club, 1st group.

2nd SAHPA Temora 25.9.93 - 280 members/2964 birds 830km. Time 12hrs.37min. Only 12 birds home on the day. Also gained 6th SAHPA Temora.

2nd SAHPA Morundah 9.10.93 - 241 members/3032 birds 710km. Time 13hrs.23min. Only 2 birds home on the day.

Pedigree Page 10.

SA91 44313 BBPH 1st S.A.H.P.A. LDC ALICE SPRINGS

Bred & Raced by John O'Donnell - Hampstead Club

<p>SIRE SA90 33265 DCC Bred by G Whitney</p>	<p>GRANDSIRE WDF SA83 310 BCPC Bred by W Gertig</p>	<p>BCC 5365</p>	<p>22626 55626 - 1st Gold Band SAHPA & 2nd Open Morundah 1976</p>
		<p>2520</p>	<p>22640 50590 1st Gold Band, 6th Open Morundah, W Gertig</p>
	<p>GRANDDAM SA89 0298 PEN BBH Bred by G Whitney</p>	<p>WDF SA83 310 BCPC</p>	<p>5365 2520</p>
		<p>SA88 07369 RCPH</p>	<p>MPC SA76 29937 BCPH WDF SA85 3235</p>
<p>DAM SA89 0298 PEN BBH Bred by G Whitney</p>	<p>GRANDSIRE WDF SA83 310 BCPC Bred by W Gertig</p>	<p>5365 BCC</p>	<p>22626 55626 (As above)</p>
		<p>2520</p>	<p>22640 50590 (As above)</p>
	<p>GRANDDAM SA88 07369 RCPH Bred by Ron "Butch" Abraham</p>	<p>SA76 29937 MPC</p>	<p>25216 14163 S Field's 5th William Creek</p>
		<p>WDF SA85 3235 BCPH</p>	<p>SA80 924 MCP Millay - Blanden WDF SA82 8153 BCH 40th Alice Springs.</p>

