

LOFT REPORT

GARRY GRANTHAM - PORT AUGUSTA

Garry Grantham - Member of Port Augusta Homing Club.

Age: 36.

Married to Jenny with two children, Adam and Chloe.

Garry has flown pigeons for 14 years and during this time has also been involved in coaching juniors in the local football competition and still plays "B" grade cricket.

He is employed at Australian National as a heavy equipment fitter.

LOFT: My loft is 20ft x 10ft deep which includes a 3ft aviary right along the front. There are five compartments, the middle three are for race birds and one each end for stock birds. I have yankee traps with a burglar alarm fitted for birds homing during the night.

NUMBER OF BIRDS: I usually try to keep about 140 race birds which comprise of 30/40 old birds, the rest youngsters. Most of my stockbirds are prisoners and the type of birds I keep are mainly medium/small blues, reds and mealies and nearly all my stockbirds originate from a local flyer, Graham Horseman, with an odd cross used, but is discarded if not successful within 2 years at stock.

I do not believe in putting young birds aside as I find they are usually my best birds when the races get hard and long. I believe a young bird will not dog it like the older ones who get cunning and only home to the loft instead of racing to it.

I usually fly my birds once a month early on in the programme with plenty of tosses to 50 mile mark and then race them every fortnight if fit and toss twice a week of an evening into wind about 15/20 mile.

FEEDING: My feeding is pretty basic. Light feed Saturday and Sunday with lemon juice and brewers yeast added to it and then a heavy mix rest of week.

My heavy diet consists of peas, wheat and corn with some small seeds added.

Breeders are on wheat with a few peas in off season and in breeding season 80% peas, the rest wheat and other seeds.

Race birds start off on one and one eighth oz. per bird per day early on and after derbies go to 1.25oz. and then hopper feed after 450 mile stage.

VITAMINS: Yes I do feed Vitamins - "Primactor" three times a week and give an iron tonic on Sundays - it is a recipe from old "Barney Horsemans". I only treat for worms at start of flying and breeding seasons.

LOFT HYGIENE: My lofts are cleaned daily during racing season but in off season, whenever the mood gets me, which is not very often I can tell you.

THEORIES: I am not a believer in theories, only the proven foot theory - although I would really like to be able to fully comprehend genetics as I think this is an integral part of breeding for the future.

ADVICE: As for my advice to new flyers - go to a successful flyer in your district and get some eggs to hatch, or late breds, as I do not believe that however honest and well meaning a flyer is, he would only be a fool to give away proven breeding stock, or better still, be his man Friday for several years and learn from him, and then go into competition using his birds as a base.

Note: Garry is an extremely successful flyer at the long distance, and along with Ray McDonald, David Cunningham and Dennis Ashman, these men are recognised as the ones to beat in the Iron Triangle when it comes to the distance.

Garry has won the coveted N.A.H.P.A. Aggregate Points Shield for top flyer in 1990 and 1991.

Some of his wins have been 3 x Benalla (550 mile), 2 x Madura (610 miles), 2 x Eucla (550), 1 x Alice Springs (700), Ararat and Nullarbor, both 400+ and has a nasty habit of clocking in at ungodly hours during the night. Like the time from Echuca when his alarm went off at 3.00am and he thought the house had caught fire and it was the fire brigade.

Yours in sport,
GRAHAM HORSEMAN.

CONVOYERS' REPORT

PARUNA 3.7.93 - Departure time 10.50pm, arrival 2.20am.

Weather on arrival: 10 knot N.W. Thunder - light rain.

Weather at release: 10-15 knot west/north/west wind - 70% cloud cover, sunny.

Released at: 9.30am.

Get Away: Approximately 4500 birds in 6 min. All but 500 remaining birds in 35-40 min. The last 500 in 50 min.

AT Paruna 6.00am we had 10 knot W.N.W. with 30-40% cloud cover - no rain. 8.30am - 10 knot W.N.W. sunny - clear, approx. 10% cloud cover. Birds settled well at Paruna, however, as stated above, the getaway was average.

HAWKER 10.7.93 - Departure time 11.00pm, arrival time 3.40am.

Weather on arrival: Cloudy - no wind, light rain.

Weather at release: Overcast with a 3-4 knot N.W.N. wind.

Released at: 9.30am.

Get Away: All birds were in a swirling mood, they got up high & after 8 mins approx. 4000 disappeared up in the clouds. Approx 4000 were out of sight in 14 min., balance in approx 25 min.

At Hawker 6.00am there was a 2-3 knot E.N.E. and overcast. 6.20am - light rain fell for 20 min, no wind. We had mild conditions on the return journey from Pt Augusta to Red Hill it was sunny with cloud increasing from Red Hill to Gepps Cross, no rain.

HATTAH 17.7.93 - Departure time 11.30pm, arrival time 4.45am.

Weather on arrival: Clear - cold, no wind.

Weather at release: Sunny, no wind, no cloud.

Released at: 9.00am.

Get away: 8000 within 10 min, 2000 in 13 min, the rest peeled off in small groups, until all birds had lift, which took 26 min.

A small group of birds (approx 100) were chased by falcons for 10 min. However the falcons gave up in the end to allow the birds to vacate the area and hopefully headed for home.

All day we had mild conditions with very little cloud and wind.

HAWKER 24.7.93 - Departure time 11.00pm, arrival time 3.45am.

Weather on arrival: 15-20 knot N.N.W, cloudy.

Weather at release: Light N.N.W. breeze - sunny, approx. 80% cloud cover.

Released at: 10.30am.

Get away: One third in 4 min, one third in 6 min, the rest broke into 4 groups - the last group went out of sight in 45 min.

At Hawker 5.45 am 20 knot N.N.W., no moon, some cloud.

At 7.20am a few drops - wind the same as 5.45.

At 8.30 - 5 knot N.N.W. with approx. 90% cloud cover.

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