

# PETER MATTHEWS & DAVID GRIMMER ON THE COME-BACK TRAIL

By R Warry

Peter Matthews has been side-lined from the pigeon sport for the last four years but he did not waste that time. Indeed he put it to good use as he now has a wife and two beautiful children - a "pigeon pair". The other half of the partnership is David Grimmer. David has not had much opportunity to race his birds in the past due to a very heavy work load which did not leave him enough time for training. However, this partnership worked well in 1992 with David going to the club while Peter was setting up a new business and both shared the training and clocking duties.

The highlight of the year for this partnership was 1st Club 1st North Section 1st Open Fed from Broken Hill - 765 miles the longest race point on the Q.P.F. programme. This race took 20 hours 15 minutes on the wing and the bird was clocked at 2.15am with only two other birds making home during the hours of darkness.

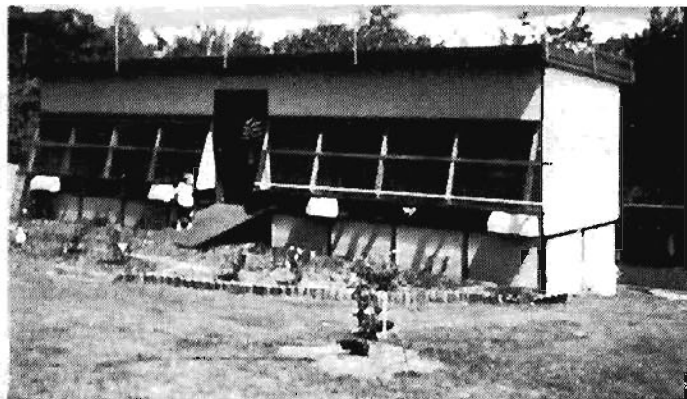


A new loft was built at Peter's Shorncliffe home located above a windswept cliff looking directly across beautiful Moreton Bay - a really top spot from which to fly birds. The loft was the main concern and a lot of planning went into design. It is 36 feet long by 8 feet wide, grading from three to four feet above the sloping ground level.

Up to floor level is all steel with a mesh floor and fully enclosed under with service flaps at the rear for easy access to clean underneath. From the floor up it has been craftsman built using cypress pine with Hardi-Flex walls and roof to keep the heat down. The loft faces north-east but, because of the prevailing sea breezes, the front had to be closed with clear Suntuff

sheeting. The loft is now almost perfect. The sun is in there for most of the day, the easterly breeze is kept out but with excellent ventilation and no pigeon smell is evident.

Inside, the loft has a stock section at each end with eight self-cleaning two-tier nest boxes in each; then four compartments each measuring eight feet by four feet for the race birds and a central section for open door trapping, electric lights and power for mozzie zappers to keep the hordes of summertime mosquitoes at bay.



*New loft at Peter's Shorncliffe home*

Although the loft would support a larger colony of birds, it is intended to keep only about twelve pairs of stock and not more than between 50 and 70 race birds. Peter has been a successful flyer in the past and was never a mob flyer. He believes much better results can be achieved when lofts are not overcrowded.

The partners started with about 35 birds which were an assortment from various fancier friends, plus those David bred at his old loft, but most were an unknown quantity so they were all treated the same and raced on their merits. The birds in the main series were only sent on average about every three weeks, depending on how they finished in their last race and what was planned for their next race. The birds were set for particular races and, because of the limited number of birds, the club races were of secondary importance.

Aiming for some Section results and thinking the open Fed was a bit of a dream at this stage, it was not given much hope but, as the season progressed, some creditable performances were recorded in the lead up to the Broken Hill Federation win. These included - 1st Club Collarenebri 505km, 1st Club Byrock 748km which was a memorable win, 1st Club 1st Section 1st Open Fed. Broken Hill 1224km, 2nd Club Inglewood 231km, 2nd Club 3rd Combine Talwood 367km, 3rd Club Thane 165km, 3rd Club Talwood 378km, 3rd Club Walgett 570km, 4th Club Collarenebri 505km.



*Peter Matthews & David Grimmer*

Training of the birds began after the young birds had been free lofted during their early days to create a bond with the loft. They were then exercised twice a day, usually doing little in the morning but working quite well in the afternoon. At this time, a lot of work was put into teaching the birds to trap quickly.

When racing started no set pattern of tossing was adhered to but the birds were not over-worked as it is believed that over-tossing creates stress and this puts the birds off form. The health of the birds was also very important and a strict schedule was followed including inoculation for pox as soon as possible after weaning. The birds were wormed every six to eight weeks. Emtryl was used for control of Canker, Ampromix Plus for treatment of Cocci and, when needed, Dynamutillin was used for any respiratory problem. The birds should have a snow white wattle, pink throat with an open slit in the roof of the mouth. These were the signs of good health that were looked for all year.

In the build-up to the Fed win, the partners prepared their birds for the possibility of coming in after dark as they nearly always do in Brisbane. The birds were tossed so as to return to the loft just after dark and this, coupled with night flying at home, surely helped the courageous little hen to win at 2.15am in the dark.

The partners wish to thank Rob Wilson of Gurnayville Lofts in South Australia for supplying this bird. They would also like to thank the following people for the help and support shown to them in 1992 - these include Dan Warry, Gary Valko, Peter Fox, Darryl Duncan, Norm Parks and Morrie Svensson.

With results like these in the first year, the future looks very promising. The partners will be flying to separate lofts in 1993 as Dave has moved to Bribie Island. I wish both men every success in the future and I am sure they will have their just share.

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## NORTH EAST CLUB



Members of North East Club enjoying their food at a recent social event at their clubrooms.

## THE SPIN TWINS!!!

Answer from Page 15.

The Myers Boys - Brenton and Wayne  
of the Woodville Club.  
Wayne is on the right!!!

# BOMBER



## STOWAWAYS - 1967

By Bing Moyle

The recent report of H Appenzeller's pigeon seeking refuge on a ship at sea adds another to a long list of similar reports from all over the world.

Not long ago an English bird which failed to return from a short race, not a channel race, was found in the U.S. For some obscure reason it had gone the wrong way and obviously landed on a boat somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

Unlike many others, this one apparently deserted the ship in favour of firm ground.

Many years ago an Adelaide bird released at Oodnadatta on a Saturday morning, landed on a ship 50 miles out in the Bight off the West Australian coast the next day.

Given the freedom of the ship the truant travelled the world for more than a year before the boat eventually berthed at Port Adelaide.

The familiar landmarks of home apparently proved too strong for the wanderer, within half an hour of the ships' arrival, it was safely home on its old perch.

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