

Bert & Sieng Balk Winners Coober Pedy Open



Bert & Sieng Balk with SA04 19224 BCH

The following insights were volunteered by Bert...Perches are scraped with lofts cleaned, all droppings removed and sand sieved and topped up on a daily basis. Three times each year perches are sprayed with a surface spray while birds are out at afternoon exercise. Drinkers are washed out with plain tap water daily and clean water containing half a clove of garlic is used at all times, the clove being replaced twice weekly. Hardly any medications are used other than annual Pigeon Pox Vaccine and a few drops of Top Loft Company's product for the occasional one eye cold. A trichomoniasis treatment was used only once as a canker preventative but never repeated. No worm treatments are used but here Bert stresses the importance of using garlic as a wormer, blood cleanser and immunity builder. Each year he has his droppings tested with no problems detected. Two pots of common salt and sulphur powder are before the birds at all times and shell grit from the beach is used. Each Monday after morning exercise the birds get a bath with half a teaspoon of Condies Crystals and a tablespoon of Epsom salts added. The same day they also get Apple Cider Vinegar at the rate of 60ml to 8 litres of water. During the race season the birds also get a vitamin B12 supplement over their feed every Wednesday morning. Bert & Sieng's stock birds in the off season are fed almost



BCH SA04 19224 Winner Coober Pedy#2

exclusively on Barley. Two weeks before breeding starts the stock birds are fed Peas and Pigeon Pellets which continues throughout the breeding season. The race team is fed a diet of 3 parts Peas, 2 parts Wheat all year. When racing starts 5% Maize & 3% Barastock Protein Pigeon Chips form part of the mix. A small seed mix containing a fair proportion of rice is given after the main feed each night. The flying birds are taught to 'work to the flag' from day one and are exercised for 1 hour at the same time morning and night. Tossing consists of 2 by 10km and 10 by 60km on the North pre-season then on the Transporter to 130km North each weekend. Once handling this well, Bert splits off his East line team and these are then tossed 50km from the east line in lieu of the weekly North toss. Frequency of racing is every 2 weeks for the Cocks and monthly for the Hens. Bert reckons there is no rocket science needed here, which is fortunate for him...hey. Bert & Sieng's winning bird flew Stirling Nth 3, Parachilna, and then her winning race at Coober Pedy 2. The Sire is Goodger-Dordin-Kakoschke, the dam is all Dordin and was bred by Steve Sargood's Mum at Temora. Bert & Sieng would like the give acknowledgement to Ken & Dori Roberts and Trevor Haines for breeding and giving of Stock Birds and Babies.