

Charlie Forbes - Little Topar Open Winner - SA06 05523 BCC



Charlie first started racing as a 12 year old junior with the Woodville club. He notes his career highlights as including 1st SAHPA Nockatunga National 1989 (a pair of sisters gained 1st and 10th), 1st SAHPA Inglewood 1994, 1st SAHPA Booroorban 1998, 1st SAHPA Wilcannia 1990 and 1st SAHPA Little Topar 2008. He has taken many SAHPA placings. His achievements this year include 1st Little Topar Open and 9th Aggregate Points.

Breeding details of the winning bird is Buschaeart/Goodger. The dam (named Sunline) is 50/50 Buschaeart/Goodger and gained 9th SAHPA Mitiamo and 8th Berrigan and was BOY for the Salisbury Club. The sire was all Busschaert from Lindsay Smith - g'sire was Lindsay's #1 cock (the Balcom cock) and g'dam was from M Taylors #1 hen. Charlie has taken to discussing race performances with his workmates and between them they decided to name the best pigeons after champion

race horses - hence the name Sunline for the dam of SA06 05523 BCC.

Charlie breeds from 40-45 pairs to produce 250 babies. These babies plus the 20-30 left from last year make up his flying team each year. All birds fly the programme and very few (if any) are kept back for the following year.

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Breeding of his birds is essentially Goodger/Pryor however he has added some Janssen and Buschaeart birds over the last few years. He has found that crosses of the Janssens and Buschaearts into the Goodger/Pryor birds have been successful both as racers and breeders.

During racing, birds are loft flown daily for an hour, plus a long (100kms) and short (60kms) toss on Fridays and Tuesdays each week. The birds are separated after the derby races.

Race birds are hand fed twice a day - in the am, peas/wheat/barley, and in the pm, peas/wheat/maize/coprice pellets. A small seed mixture is provided as variety, and returning race birds are fed wheat/barley/small seeds. Charlie

provides Golden Boost twice a week.

Young birds are weaned in their own section and allowed free flight once a day. The older race birds are mixed with the babies about 6 weeks before racing. Loft training then begins and once they are working well for around one hour a day, they are tossed initially at 40kms extending to 100kms by first race. They would have had around 8 tosses by this time. Birds are tossed on both lines of flight. Charlie begins twilight tossing prior to the derby races, and times his releases to allow the birds to arrive just on dusk.

The race loft is cleaned once a week, and Charlie rarely medicates, but does get the droppings analysed, and treats accordingly if necessary.

During the breeding season, birds are hopper fed peas and wheat. Birds are paired in September, and he breeds from stock birds and some of the race birds.