

Ross Chapman - Gabbys



In late 2015 I received a phone call from an acquaintance in Newcastle. Just catching up I was informed. I had met the chap concerned years ago, when my wife and I stayed at the Red Head caravan park, and attended the first or second Newcastle \$10,000 race. That phone call from Allen Limeburner turned into a series of phone calls, resulting in Allen and I becoming friends and me racing six of his birds in the 2016 Sires Produce from Moulamein 500 kms east of Adelaide. It turns out Allen had spent

the best part of the last decade building a colony of birds based around a small number of Gabby Vandenabeele birds bred down from the Little Boy line, purchased from Jack Vanderlinden.

Allen has been following a breeding plan for most of this time, loosely based on the diamond method, concentrating on one BBC 4511. He has patiently tried to explain this to me for some time, but in frustration I think he has finally given up. I figure if he knows what he is doing there is not much point in me having to worry about it as well. I pretty much fell in love with Allen's birds as soon as I got them. Small to medium in size but the thing I liked about them was they were quiet and sensible. They never really showed up in early training but when raced they proved to be better than mine. Not bad considering I only had seven of them. Back to the Sires Produce. Race day turned out to be quite a strong northerly. Not ideal for me living in a northwesterly position but not too bad. Allen and I sent nine birds. I thought we had three reasonably good birds. Eventually three birds homed in four minutes after 9.5 hrs. To cut a long story short they finished 1st 2nd 3rd with a 23 min gap to the next flier. Only thirteen birds made it home on the day and Allen and I had five of them. On the Monday morning while I was patting myself on the back, I realized that the second bird home although I had raced her three times, I had not correctly qualified her. To say I felt sick did not cover it. First I had to ring the Chairman of the SAHPA, and then Allen who really did not know what I was on about at first, but made me feel better by saying "Ah well it could have been the winner" It was still a great result with four in the top 10 but it didn't feel quite the same after that. At this point you may be saying what has this to do with now. The bottom line was I wanted to try some more of Allen's birds as I only had hens, not that I was complaining. Anyway Allen sent me down three young cocks. One of them BBC NH 15 1120 being a inbred grandson of 4511. Here we go again with his breeding plan. These birds crossed well with mine, with one pair being outstanding. Yeah you got it 1120 mated to my BBH SA 13 335.

335 had raced three years on our hard east line being twice placed. But never bred