

Harris & Duits –

Terang Sires



The Sires Produce Classic race from Terang (Vic) 515 km South East of Adelaide was won by a blue bar hen SA17 08751 with a velocity of 1071 m/min. The 2nd placed pigeon was clocked 57 minutes later and third place was a further 25 minutes later, so it was a reasonably tough race for a small number of birds in the race.

The pigeon was bred by Leo Duits, the sire was from Leo's Marla (970 km) SAHPA winner mated to a Van Lint and the dam was a full sister to the Marla winner. The Marla winner was bred from a George Desira Hereman-Ceusters mated to a Grant Paterson Goodger down from the famous Pt Lincoln cock and Temora Hen. The hen 08751 SA17 had been placed 13th SAHPA Short Race Series from Edenhope 1 (320 km, 1474 birds) and 83rd SAHPA Hamilton SA Derby (450km, 1501

birds) before the Sires race, so she was showing some good form.

Leo and his syndicate members (Grant Paterson and George Desira) shared in over \$7,000 in prizemoney and pools for winning the SA Sires Produce Classic. Both Leo and Gavin are previous winners of the Sires Produce event.

Leo won the SAHPA Aggregate points back in 2015 and towards the end of the 2017 season at the age of 82 decided it was time to retire from the sport. Gavin Harris who had tremendous respect for Leo on hearing the news asked Leo to at least keep a few stock birds in his back yard as an interest. Leo had already parted with his stock birds but did keep a few of his race birds. Then his mates Grant Paterson and George Desira, who were also keen to keep Leo in the sport, sent down some more stock birds. Leo agreed to fly a small team in Gavin's loft and bred around 35 birds and the Harris and Duits team registered 50 birds at the start of the season. Leo, Grant and George then prepaid their birds within the team, ready for the Sires Produce.

The Harris and Duits race team had a purple patch in the short distance series leading up to the SAHPA middle distance races. From Edenhope 1 (320 km) one of the team was 2nd SAHPA out of 1474 birds and then at Edenhope 2 a week later the nest mate brother was 1st SAHPA 1593 birds. Both these birds were Canberra rung but bred by Leo from a cock George sent down off Ad Schaerlaeckens stock mated to a Hereman-Ceusters.

On the day of the Sires it was great thrill, Leo sat with Gavin all day waiting for the arrivals and the excitement grew once we clocked and started the ring around to find that no one had heard of another bird for almost an hour.

Pleased to report that Leo has kept the interest and has bred a large team of birds for Gary Barnes to race in 2019.