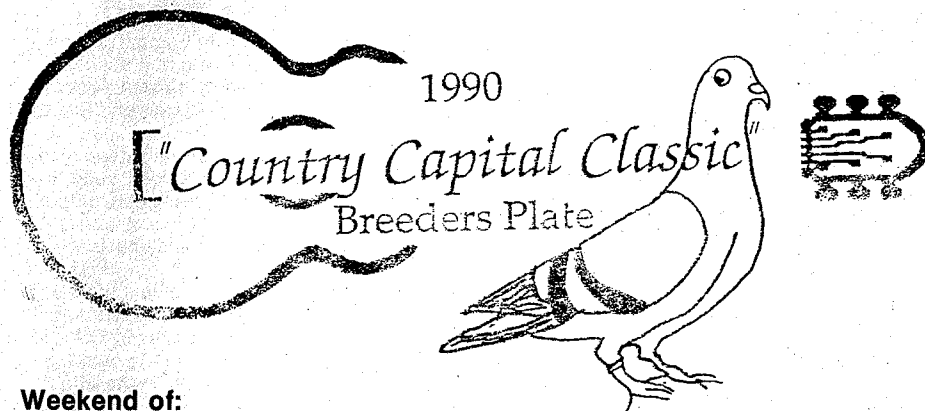


# New England Racing Pigeon Federation

presents ...



## Weekend of:

**Date:** Saturday, 18th November, 1989

**Where:** West Tamworth League Club

**Time:** 3.00 p.m.

- ★ Film to be shown on top Continental Lofts. Also Stud Book of "Louella Lofts" and orders will be taken for Imported Pigeons.
- ★ Dinner and Social Evening to follow afternoon session. All partners are most welcome. Bookings for accommodation required by end October 1989.

## SALE 1

**DATE:** Sunday, 19th November, 1989

**WHERE:** Tamworth Showground

**TIME:** Penned by 9 a.m. — sale commences 10.00 a.m.

★ *Lunch and refreshments available* ★

All Sydney, Newcastle and Country Clubs are especially invited to participate in this race to "Test the Best".

Contacts — R. Rindall (049) 34 1507, T. Steed (02) 622 2611.

## Prize money as follows:

- 60% of prize money for first place (4 places overall)
- Out of area owners to draw for Trainer within Federation
- Trainer of winner to get 10% of prize money won
- 60% of balance of prize to Owner
- 40% of balance of prize to Breeder
- Where no Trainer involved, 60% to Owner and 40% to Breeder
- **ANTICIPATED PRIZE MONEY OF \$10,000**

## SALE 2

**DATE:** 10th December, 1989

**WHERE:** Armidale Showground

**TIME:** Penned by 9 a.m. — sale commences 10 a.m.

For information, contact: K. Staines on (067) 677399 or M. Kingham on (067) 670215

# The Pigeon or The Flyer?

By Len Vanderlinde

Which is more important the trainer or the pigeon? No doubt most flyers have at some time heard this question asked; many will have heard answers in favour of one or the other, but which is correct?

Consider the following as a possible answer. Let's take the pigeon first, if we rate each pigeon on its natural ability, to race home as fast as possible, with points varying from 1 to 5. With 5 points being given for a champion bird and 1 point for a dud, remember this is as far as racing ability is concerned. Now there are very few No.5 pigeons bred, this score is for those champion pigeons capable of winning in top company at any distance but particularly over distances greater than 300 miles. Between a score of 4.0 to 4.9 points we find more birds but still a very limited number. Many pigeons scored between 3.0 to 3.9 and the great majority of birds with a score between 2.0 to 2.9. Any birds with a score from 3.0 downwards are of little use as racing pigeons.

Now we can rate trainers or flyers, as we call them, in the same manner. 5 points for the champion flyers down to probably 1 point for a person who has never seen a pigeon in their life! However flyers probably vary their rating throughout the year, with a higher rating when they are keen and really trying. Most of us would fluctuate between 2.5 to 4.5 depending on our skill and keenness at the time. Some years everything falls into place and we have a top year, when this happens a flyer would consistently be operating above 4.0.

Now how does all this answer the original question. Which is more important? If we multiply the flyers score by the pigeons score we find our maximum total is 25 points, i.e. flyer rating 5.0 × a pigeon rating 5.0 = 25 points. It would be rare for 25 points to be scored, i.e. a champion flyer with a champion bird doing everything just right. So let's assume it takes a score of

over 22 points to win a Open Fed. race in top company. This could be scored by a champion flyer, rating 5.0 points, flying a good bird rating 4.5 points ( $5.0 \times 4.5 = 22.5$  points) or the other way around, a champion bird (5.0) handled by a good flyer (4.5) also scoring 22.5 points.

Depending on the quality of flyers and birds, each club, combine or federation will require a different rating to win. e.g. a small club where competition is not keen, a total of 16 points may be enough to win. A score of 16 could be reached by an average flyer, rating 3.5, flying a good pigeon, rating around 4.6 points ( $3.5 \times 4.5 = 16.1$ ). or a top flyer rating 4.6 racing an average pigeon rating 3.5.

It can be seen from the above a good flyer with a team of average pigeons could fly like a champion in a club with little competition. Conversely an average flyer with a team of good pigeons could do the same. It is when you get a top flyer, consistently rating above 4.5 points, with a team of good pigeons, also rating around 4.5, you will have a man very hard to beat at any level.

If a flyer consistently rates between 2.0 to 3.0 it can be seen he will very rarely win even if he owns champion birds, ( $3.0 \times 5.0 = 15$ ) and as champion pigeons are very rare a score of even 15 points would be very hard for this type of flyer to achieve. Conversely even a champion flyer (5.0) could not win in top company with a team of pigeons rating between 2.0 to 3.0 points.

The most difficult part for the up and coming flyer is to determine whether it is his rating or that of his birds which has to be upgraded. It gets even harder to improve above that 4.0 rating both for the flyer and the pigeon. No pair of stock birds, not matter how good, will breed many No.5 birds. Most years they won't breed any!! When

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