

Pigeon Notes

By
Vin Blanden

S.A.H.P.A. Ousts Race Move

The move to oust all races of under 400 miles from the SA Homing Pigeon Association's major race programme failed at a meeting of the Association held last week.

If the move had succeeded, the greatest change in the history of the Association's major race programme system would have resulted.

The idea was thrown out when ten of the 17 clubs eligible to vote on the matter rejected the proposal.

Stronger competition resulting from larger membership and more entries is most likely the main reason for the move, and it must be conceded that the stronger the competition, the harder it is to gain a prize.

However, the idea to cut down the size of the sport to that of the individual, had it been adopted, could possibly have resulted in a gradual decline of the sport and the quality of our pigeons likewise.

It is a fact that in all physical sporting activities from human athletics to horse racing, it is the strong competition which raises the level of quality. Strong competition is just as important in our sport if we are to improve the standard of our birds.

The harder it is to win, the easier it is to lose, and if we care to think about it, it will be found that more than 80 p.c. of the pigeon racing fraternity are losers.

POOR BIRDS

Those of us who lose consistently and seldom take a prize have only two things to blame, bad management or poor quality pigeons.

Messing about with the system is not going to win us money if we are half an hour behind the leaders all of the time. We will be more likely to get a little bit back if we worked as hard as the winning owners and raced more good birds.

It cannot be denied that big prizemoney has its attraction, but the most pleasure is gained from the knowledge that we have bred and raced a good pigeon.

However, it is also true that it costs money to breed and race pigeons, and it is likely that some spend more on their sport than their income permits.

Perhaps the solution to the problem would be a longer prizelist made at the expense of the big ones at the top.

Several years ago the derby races carried 40 prizes in events of 2,000 birds or less — last year only 30 prizes were paid in each derby of more than 4,000 pigeons.

One prize for each 130-140 birds competing is just not good enough and it is likely that many more owners would be happier in the sport if the odds were better, this year.

In any case it is certainly worth giving a trial.

Former association chairman Mr. Colin Nelsen was made SAHPA patron last week.

A member of the LeFevre Peninsula Club, Mr. Nelsen has

enjoyed a most successful career in pigeon racing, both on the competitive and administrative sides of the sport.

Over the years he has compiled a fine record of successes in big Association events.

SERVICES

His services to the association as chairman, advisory committee member, and release officer have contributed much in promoting the sport.

Mr. Nelsen took over from Mr. Chas. Henderson, who has given many years assisting the association, individual clubs and owners spread over the State.

Descendants of Mr. Henderson's importations from overseas have performed grandly in major association races.

Many good prizewinners today carry the old Henderson Gurnay blood and later, the Stassart and Janssen played a major role in improving the quality of our racing pigeons.

Mr. Henderson's contribution has been a long and valuable one.

Messrs. W. A. Smallacombe (president), J. Lewis (chairman), D. C. Green (secretary), C. Burnell (treasurer) and V. C. Blanden (vice-chairman) were all re-elected.

DEATH

Readers will be sorry to learn that Doug Perkins, of Port Pirie, has died.

Mr. Perkins intended to move to Adelaide in the near future, where it was likely he would have raced his pigeons with the Association.

He was a popular and successful owner at Port Pirie.

All fanciers are advised that Mr. A. S. (Stan) Juttner was recently appointed SAHPA ring secretary.

Mr. Juttner replaces Mr. Terry Castle who did not seek reelection because of business reasons.

A former SAHPA ring secretary for many years, Mr. Juttner has all the qualifications necessary to maintain an efficient service.

All "found bird" reports and enquiries concerning rings should now be made to A. S. Juttner, 21 Edward street, Daw Park (7 5352).

Apart from metal identification rings, club secretaries and individual owners are advised that colored plastic bands can also be procured from Mr. Juttner.

BIG WEEK-END

Country owners who may be in Adelaide for the Test cricket are reminded that the SAHPA presentation fixture will be held in the Mile End hall on Saturday night.

The sports day function will be held at Hahndorf oval on Monday.

The Vitesse club will open its short-race series on Saturday, March 5.

Owners interested in the new idea are invited to attend the club's meeting at 8 p.m. tomorrow at 6 Dunedin avenue, Hillcrest.

the fastest win for years when he won the SAHP Association's 540-mile Oodnadatta race by 127 yards a minute last Sunday.

Released at 6.30 a.m. Saturday, the contestants got away to a slow start into a headwind. The winner was clocked at about 6 a.m. Sunday.

Second bird to be clocked, homed to Richmond and Shaw (South Suburban) at about 7.45 a.m. The margin of victory calculated on a yards per minute basis amounted to 60 miles.

It is obvious that some of the birds flew on into the darkness. One contestant was reported at Port Vincent on Saturday night.

Early arrivals were few and far between with the bulk of the 45 prizewinners in the clock between 8.45 a.m. and 9.15 a.m.

About 50 p.c. were home on the perch when the race closed on Sunday night.

Kevin Smoker's winner is a very gay black pied two-year-old hen which was not raced at all last year and was raced only lightly this season.

She flew one Carrieton, one Pimba and homed with the clocked bird in the fast Marree open race to finish equal third in the club event.

The sire is Black Diamond and Daily Marriott and besides producing the PAA derby winner, he is grandsire of First Association Benalla for Hines and Son and grandsire of A. Nelsen's winner of Third Association Maryborough derby this year.

The dam is a sister to another PAA derby winner.

She is all Schumann being closely inbred to the celebrated Plum hen.

The second prizewinner for Richmond and Shaw (South Suburban) is a two-year-old blue che. hen which flew one Keith

bird from Carrieton, flew Pimba and two Marree races, and competed in the recent \$200 Oodnadatta event.

The sire is a son of the Williams and Voyzey pair—a combination of Barker, Logan, Blunden, Harrison, Soffle, Grooter and Juniper.

The dam won 16th Association Benalla for R. Colmer.

She is similarly bred to the sire, being Williams and Voyzey, Blanden, McCarter, Stassart and E. Hampton.

A model of consistency, F. Fraser (North-West) clocked at about 8.15 a.m. to finish in fifth place. He only needs to maintain his run over the next three races to take the aggregate honors in his first year with the association.

The SAHPA Combine had a fast race from Benalla, 425 miles, when the leaders of 272 birds in the event came home at over 50 m.p.h.

Released at 6.15 a.m., the winner was clocked by A. Wear and Son (PAA) just before 2.45 p.m.

However, arrivals were spread out with almost 100 yards a minute between first and 18th places. Returns were advised as satisfactory.

RESULTS

Oodnadatta. — SAHPA — K. Smoker 1,247, Richmond and Shaw, 1,120. A. R. McLean, 1,067, D. Briggs, 1,066, F. Fraser 1,064.7, Thede and Heuchan 1,064.4, M. Zawitzkowski 1,063.

W. G. Allen 1,050, M. Harshegyi 1,037, G. Forrest 1,035, A. Pearce 1,034, M. Bird and Son, 1,030, 1,022, R. Watson 1,019, H. Ford 1,017, H. Ford 1,016.9, S. Greerson 1,016 W. Strongman (two birds), 1,015, H. Schultz 1,014.8, K. Watts 1,014.7, W. Matthews, 1,014.6, R. Cossey and Son,

D. Edwards 1,493, A. Wear and Son 1,484, R. Wiles 1,482, H. Whaithe 1,477, N. Richardson 1,474, L. Thamm 1,458, M. Edwards 1,441, A. Morris 1,405, J. Burke 1,404, H. Simmons 1,401, R. Wiles 1,400, R. Wiles 1,399, R. Watson 1,398, L. Thamm (3 birds) 1,396.8, C. Lodge, 1,396.1, Victor Harber—3, 8)—D. Hann 10.40.48.

Angaston (7, 38)—A. Fairley 9.30.6, L. Parish 9.32.13, J. Miller 9.35.10.

COUNTRY 17-9-66

Renmark. From Bannockburn, 340 miles (13, 75)—M. Carslake 988; D. Matulick, 943; R. Lockett, 901. Combined event with Mildura Club. Combine winners.—T. Warburton, 1082; T. Fleming and Son, 1061; C. Cathoreole, 1080.

Solomontown. From Horsham, 340 miles (13, 169)—C. S. and M. J. Connor, 1054; H. Warner 1049; Argent and Legg, 1046. Trophies by J. Pearce and Peterborough HC.

Port Pirie. HS. From Horsham, 340 miles (14, 167)—G. Bowring, 1053.9; J. Dormer, 1053.7; H. Jackson Jnr., 1052. Trophy by D. Berry.

Clare (two races). From Benalla, 458 miles. Open race—J. Lane, M. Hancock, Wilson and Hicks. Trophies by Harris Searle Ltd. and J. Colloitti.

Five-bird limit race—Wilson and Hicks, J. Lane. Trophies by the Patron and A. Pink.

Whyalva (two races). From Cook, 450 miles (15, 120)—L. and G. Raymond, 1134.3; A. R. Willard, 1134; H. Gregory, 1132.

Trophies by Mr. and Mrs. R. Clayton, W. Forrest and Mr. and Mrs. F. Spencer. From Mount Gambier (10, 70)—D. McLaren, 1170.4; M. Clayton 1170.3; J. Virgo and Son.

Trophies by B. Gerlich, R. Mcstead and Mrs. A. Elkblom.

Waikerie. From Mount Gam-

By
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Easy Win
(ge) bolted away to score