

Death Of "Blue Cheq"

One of Australia's foremost pigeon racing authorities, Mr. T. W. V. Richardson, died last week. He was 77 years of age.

A prolific writer, Mr. Richardson conducted a pigeon column for the "Express" and "Journal" under the pen name "Blue Cheq" for about 20 years.

Considered by all to possess the best all-round knowledge of the sport in South Australia, "Blue Cheq" was always ready and willing to assist the novice and old hand alike.

His energy and enthusiasm was such that for many years he worked for the SA Homing Pigeon Association in an official capacity and was made a life member of the association in recognition of his great service.

In 1944, during his long term as SAHPA secretary, he compiled a stud book and training register for use by owners in 1945, believing that the association should produce an annual publication, in keeping with other similar bodies overseas. However, this was the only issue ever printed.

"Blue Cheq" kept a complete record of performance pigeons and was the fountain of information for those seeking facts and figures in relation to individual champions both in SA and elsewhere.

A confirmed student of pedigree, there were few noted strains in the world, of which the ancestry was not known by him. So highly was he respected that he had access to most of the successful lofts in SA including such notables as H. A. Taylor and C. G. Kennett.

During his most successful years on the competitive side of the sport, his loft housed many of the best birds, obtained from his friends.

His famous Orbest winner, clocked at 4.45 p.m. second day (Nov. 8, 1930) was mostly, if not all the great "Black Diamond" blood of Cliff Kennett. Only two of 106 birds completed this event in race time, with Minerds Bros. taking second prize at 2 p.m. on the 5th day.

As of the Diamond blood came from the Richardson loft produced many fine sires for other owners in later years.

Concentrating mainly on long-distance racing, "Blue Cheq" almost won the Goulburn race flown on November 22, 1929, which was taken by J. P. Trezona's famous "Lone Hand."

Three of 83 birds competing finished in race time with Mr. Richardson leading clock at 6.45 p.m. second day and Mr. Trezona with "Lone Hand" in the clock at 6.50 p.m.

George Jeanes finished third at 5 p.m. on the fifth day. Although he had a number of minor placings from Alice Springs to his credit, the major prize eluded him until 1957, shortly before he retired from the sport.

Pigeon Notes By Vin Blanden

Only five of 125 birds, all clocked on the third day, were home in a week, with Mr. Richardson winning at 8.32 a.m. from L. A. Wallace, also 8.32 a.m., B. Minerds 9.45 a.m., Max Smith 10.10 a.m. and G. Weilowski at 5.45 p.m.

This popular victory was a fitting climax to a lifetime devoted to the sport, and a just reward for the skill required to condition his bird for the race.

One of his earlier ambitions was to top the SAHPA aggregate and so gain the champion of the year award. He gained this distinction in 1929 with the total of 68 points—he needed a good one from Goulburn to take the honors, and got it.

Despite his inactivity over the past decade, "Blue Cheq" has left his mark to such effect that his record of service and achievement will fill a major part in SA pigeon racing history for all time.

Young Grass

Used as the greens in the diet, young grass is considered superior to lettuce, cabbage and silver beet. It is at its best, nutritionally, at about four to six weeks after sprouting.

In comparison with lettuce and the other usual greens, it contains about 19 p.c. solids against between five and six p.c.

It is rich in chlorophyll and has about 24 p.c. protein.

Pigeons will eat it with gusto if it is plucked by the handful and cut into about 1/8 inch lengths with scissors.

Result

Vitesse, from Callington, 30 miles, April 20. (16,179)—B. Cameron 1 hr. 17 min. 27 sec., B. and K. Bowen 1.18.25, B. and K. Bowen 1.18.33.

Cricket

CARRINGTON. — Grand final — Eureka 6/191 (Maloney 61. Hombach 40; Reid 3/33) d Carrieton 189 (B. Williams 116. Hombach 32; P. Manning 3/43).

STANLEY. — Grand final — Blyth 364. d Mintaro 194 (G. Mitchell 54; B. Mugge 4/8. J. Eckerman 3/53). B. Mugge made 184 runs and took 4 wickets for 8 runs