



● Terry Underdown

The 1973 pigeon racing season will be the last for SA Homing Pigeon Combine flyer Terry Underdown.

Terry, who is 25 and works as a technical officer at the Torrens Island power station will begin full scale training and racing of greyhounds next year.

His retirement will mean the end of a very successful career in pigeon racing.

He is one of the few Australian pigeon racing owners who prefers to have cockbirds entered in races.

His Largs Bay loft consists almost exclusively of cockbirds from the Eitzen and Putman strains. And almost 80 p.c. of the Putman racing birds are related.

In his first year with Osborne club he competed with only 11 pigeons, and he entered birds in every race during the season bar one.

Last year was his fourth in the sport, although as a youth he used to race in partnership with his father Rex who is now retired.

Terry is now married, and has two small children.

In his second season Terry won second position in his club, but followed this up the following year with first place in both the club and combine points.

Last year he was second in the club again.

Overfly favors Terry more on the South line.

Last year Terry was credited with a very good win in Temora, which he won by 1½ hours.

He is quick to point out that on race day if only a handful of racebirds are home, and two of these

are cockbirds, one of them is usually his.

Much of his current success he owes to Hampstead SAHPA flyer Wally Speed, who provided Terry with the birds to establish a loft. Wally returned the favor that Terry's father did for him.

Terry's loft contains about 60 racing birds and 12 stock pairs at the start of each season, and he has a set training pattern for both the north and south line birds.

He exercises the birds around his loft each afternoon as well as giving them tosses each week on the transport.

One pair of stockbirds in the Underdown loft has bred combine race winners in the past two seasons. A hen won from Tarcoola, and later followed this up with a Cook win.

A cockbird from the same pair won Benalla for Terry the following year.

Terry rates this cockbird as the best he has ever had.

During the last breeding season Terry mated the breeding pair the same way and will be closely watching the results of the progeny this year.

He is a firm believer in the policy of champion race birds breeding champions. And his performances over the past four years speak for themselves on this point.—**GRAHAM BADGER.**

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