

BILL WALFORD'S LAST YEARS OF BREEDING

During his final years of breeding racing pigeons at his home in Stansbury, Bill was concentrating on the Goodger pigeons via Alan Thede of Ridgehaven and Brian Ashwood of Broken Hil. In particular during the last couple of years he was concentrating on the bloodlines of his "Ace Red Hen" SA 81 494 which was Lot 65 in Allen Goodger's auction sale.

The "Ace Red Hen", a producer of producers, was a daughter of Goodger's Lot 60, SA 78 1593, also an outstanding breeding hen. When mated to BCC SA 81 428, Lot 53, she produced both John Pryor's and Grant Paterson's number one stock cocks. Goodger's 2nd SAHPA Booroorban was bred from Lot 59 x Lot 52 and Lot 53 was from Lot 51 x Lot 52, bloodlines that keep on producing top birds.

A sister to the "Ace Red Hen" was BCH SA 80 19261, Lot 64. She bred 2nd SAHPA Alice Springs, 2nd SAHPA Morundah, 17th SAHPA Nundroo and 17th SAHPA Alice Springs.

The "Ace Red Hen" herself produced RCC SA 84 35623 "Young Star" who in turn bred 1st SAHPA Emmdale, 3rd SAHPA Moree, 13th SAHPA Nyngan, 17th SAHPA Cobar, 17th SAHPA Marla and 34th SAHPA Gilgandra.

A daughter of the "Ace Red Hen", Mealy SA 91 23798, bred 1st SAHPA Morundah, 2nd SAHPA Emmdale, 4th SAHPA Booroorban, 7th SAHPA Booroorban, 13th SAHPA Mt. Gambier & 27th SAHPA Mt. Gambier for Jim Marafiotte. To produce this Mealy hen, the "Ace Red Hen" was mated back to her son.

Another son RCC SA 83 7633 produced the sire of Charlie Forbes's 1989 Nockatunga National winner which won Charlie a trip to Europe. "7633" was one of the first two sons bred from the "Ace Red Hen". A great grandson of "The Ace Red Hen" bred Rod & Judy Billings 1st SAHPA Alice Springs in 2009. Greg Hamilton's famous marathon hen "Grange", bred by David Cunningham of Port Pirie, won 19th, 4th & 3rd SAHPA Alice Springs in successive years, 2007, 2008 & 2009. Her sire contains a lot of the "Ace Red Hen's" blood in her. A daughter of "Grange" has also won 5th & 3rd SAHPA Alice Springs in 2009 & 2010.

The sire of the "Ace Red Hen", RCC SA 78 1533, lot 59 in Goodger's sale and his bloodlines were described as "All Blanden". He was the sire of 2nd SAHPA Booroorban, 2nd SAHPA Numdroo and 3rd SAHPA Young.

In around about 2003 the Hams Brothers of Ardrossan got hold of a direct son and a direct daughter of the "Ace Red Hen", among other pigeons, from Bill. They were full brother and sister and Bill advised them what to mate them with. The story goes that they got Bill's advice wrong & "stuffed up" by mating them together. When Bill saw this red hen Kadina 01 701 (old ring – bred 2003) and found out that she was bred from a son and daughter of the "Ace Red Hen", he just had to have her. He loaned

her to Alan Thede in 2006 and each year gave Bill a cock or two off her, mostly with old rings on. Alan inbred/line bred with her to the 494 line. Bill got her back this year and with the recent acquisition of Red Chequer Pied cock SA 03 29836 he was confident that he could reproduce the "Ace Red Hen". Some months ago, Bill and his wife Judith drove from Stansbury to Angaston to pick up this cock. He picked it up from Len Colgate who in turn had it from Ray Linkevics of Birdwood. This bird was bought, among others, from Ken Hams prior to his death, by Michael Partington and Ray Linkevics and apparently is an inbred grandson of the "Ace Red Hen". It was planned to go into the auction and had even been allocated a lot number when I found out that it was on loan to Bill from Linkevics & Partington. I have arranged, with the permission of the owners, to display him only in Lot 7 pen at the auction, next to his intended mate, RCH Kadina 01 701. Naturally he cannot be sold and he will be taken immediately after the sale by his rightful owners.

I have tried to decipher Bill's breeding books to the best of my ability but cannot guarantee that all pedigrees are entirely correct. The task was made difficult due to the fact that throughout the years Bill often failed to record the ring numbers of the grandparents of the breeding pair. Often the ring numbers of the actual breeding pair were not recorded either. For example, not that it concerns the compiling of the pedigrees for this auction, but in breeding season 1978/79 his rings were numbered 901 – 1000. Approximately 115 youngsters were bred but not one ring number was recorded against any of the youngsters. It must have all been in his memory. The same thing again the following breeding season when about 75 youngsters were bred but additionally there was no record of the batch of rings that he purchased that year. Also, throughout the years, a large number of unrung birds and birds with old rings were used, particularly in the latter years at Stansbury.

John Hofman