

Pigeon Notes

By Vin Blenden

Preliminary Event On Saturday

The SA Homing Pigeon Association will conduct a preliminary event on Saturday when it will road transport its club's pigeons for an educational flight from Port Victoria.

Pigeons which will later contest races from points along the West Australian railway line will be required to cross the gulfs before reaching home, and the Port Victoria flight was planned to give these birds an early look at St. Vincent Gulf.

The flight will also provide young birds with the experience of release under race conditions.

Several thousand birds will be liberated simultaneously from the road transport trailer — an experience only gained previously when they were taking part in their first race.

Owners with pigeons ready for the flight should take advantage of the association's offer to transport to Port Victoria and send every young bird available.

In the main, the most successful fanciers in previous events from across the gulfs were those who trained often from Yorke Peninsula.

Formerly, when the race programme consisted of races from far northern towns, the association made its conveyer available to attend birds for a release from Redhill.

However, since the northern route was abandoned for the

north-west, Redhill was deleted for Port Victoria.

Some clubs will conduct novelty events on Saturday as an eye-opener for the first official race to be held from Carrieton, 170 miles, next Saturday week.

SAHPA Convoys

The Association appointed its two race convoys for this year at its monthly meeting held last week.

The successful applicants were Mr. G. Barker and Mr. L. Dix.

Mr. Dix has convoyed the association's pigeons during the past two seasons.

An experienced racing pigeon fancier for the whole of his lifetime, Mr. Geoff. Barker has all of the qualifications necessary to ensure that our pigeons will receive every care and attention required for a successful race.

Race Results

Results of all metropolitan clubs of the SAHP Association and SAHP Combine will again be included in this column.

Club secretaries are advised that all results must be up-to-date and state the names of the first three owners, flying times, and the number of owners and pigeons competing.

Country clubs are advised to forward their results each week in time to reach the writer no later than the Friday following each event.

Country results must show the date of the race, the distance flown, the first three times, and the number of owners and pigeons competing.

Items likely to be of interest to all readers of these notes should be forwarded with the results.

New Race Baskets

In order to provide for its expected record number of race entries this year, the association recently took delivery of 50 new road transport baskets.

The association has now spent about £1,200 in the purchase of the new type race basket in just over twelve months.

The recent purchases have a slight modification to the release door, and most of last year's baskets have already been modified accordingly.

The alteration was made to stiffen the door and eliminate a slight buckle which resulted under pressure.

Death Of George Hudson

Fanciers everywhere will be sorry to learn that former North Suburban owner, George Hudson, died last week.

The late Mr. Hudson was well-known for his successes won with the Harrison strain, about 30 years ago.

Although he was not actively engaged in the sport in recent years, Mr. Hudson's interest in pigeon racing was such that his was still a familiar figure in the association hall on big race nights.

His death followed close on the passing of the late Jor. DeMack, another prominent North Suburban identity.

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Death Of W. H. Rover

One of Australia's most prominent fancy pigeon identities, Mr. W. H. (Bill) Rover, died in Adelaide last week.

A sound administrator, Mr. Rover devoted a lifetime to the show world, and was always eager to assist in creating and maintaining interest in the breeding, exhibiting and judging of all varieties of fancy pigeons.

His advice on all matters relating to show administration and pigeon keeping in general was constantly sought and given freely, and his passing will leave a gap which can never be properly filled.

There was very little concerning fancy pigeons with which Mr. Rover was not conversant.

His value to the SA Pigeon and Pigeon Society, in particular, was such that its enormous worth could never be actually assessed.

Secretary for countless years, he also held the office of President at one time and was trustee and ring secretary at the time of his death.

He was a current member of the Royal A & HS Pigeon Council.

Well-known throughout Australia as a judge of all varieties, Mr. Rover concentrated more on the fancy species than on the utility and working homers.

During his lifetime he was most successful as a breeder and exhibitor of the short-face, his main favorite being the African Owl.

Although his decline in health slowed him down over the past few years it did not deprive him altogether of an active interest in the fancy.

Men of such integrity and moral fibre as Bill Rover do not eventuate in each decade. They are a rarity, and his contribution to the SA fancy pigeon world was a valuable gift which will be appreciated and remembered by everyone connected with his work.

More Of S. M. Evans

89

Since last week's notes concerning the Clay Barker in which was mentioned that 89 was a son of the Gits C26 cock, a request for particulars of the dam of 89 has been received.

The dam of 89 was bred by T. Wadsworth Wilson, of Liverpool, England.

She was 176, bred from a Janssen Logan cock out of a Logan hen.

So far as our records are concerned, 89 consisted of half Gits, three-eighths Logan and one-eighth Janssen.

However, 176 was inbred back to Logans Old 86 and also carried the blood of Old Debut.

If we care to trace the bloodlines further back it is discovered that the dam of Old 86 in turn was 646, the Gits hen.

It is a fact that a lot of our veteran owners here referred to Evans as the Gits' cock, and there appears to be little doubt that he was, in truth, more than one-half Gits.

It was this blood, crossed with the S. M. Evans importations of the Orchardson 28 and 27 Bonami family and the progeny of the Royals, which came here from the Sandringham lofts at the beginning of this century, that formed the remarkable old Gits. Bonami, Royal families so prominent some 40-50 years ago.

Included in the famous names linked with this old blood are those of Dimmock, Kennett and Quinn, and there are many successful families winning today which are not all that far descended from this old base.

It is also interesting to look at the "probable" bloodlines of the original Royals.

At the time that the Royals came here the most successful families housed in the Sandringham lofts were considered to be a combination of Jurion, Delmotte, Duchateau and Janssen.

The performances of the progeny in races here soon proved that the quality of the original imports was of the best.

One of the imported pairs which was given to Mr. Talbot bred the winner of the Oodnadatta to Adelaide race — it was not until after this pigeon won that Mr. Talbot discovered that his pair were brother and sister.

Another point of interest concerns the Janssen in the Royal base.

One of the most prominent birds in the Royal lofts at the time was a ray pied Janssen hen.

It is significant to note that many of the old Royals here bred the occasional gay pied — a trait which still appears at odd times in the descendants.

S.A. Fancy Pigeon Society

The annual shows of the SAFPS will be held at Gawler on May 22 and June 14.

Entries for the young bird fixture (May 22) close on May 8 and the open show (June 14) on June 1 with the secretary, B. S. Burt, 9 19th st., Gawler Rail.

Membership fee is 10/6 and entry fees are 1/3 per bird members and 2/ non members.

Apart from prizemoney, trophies, ribbons and special cash prizes will be awarded to the best birds.

All birds must be penned in the Gawler South hall by 10.30 a.m. on date of shows.