

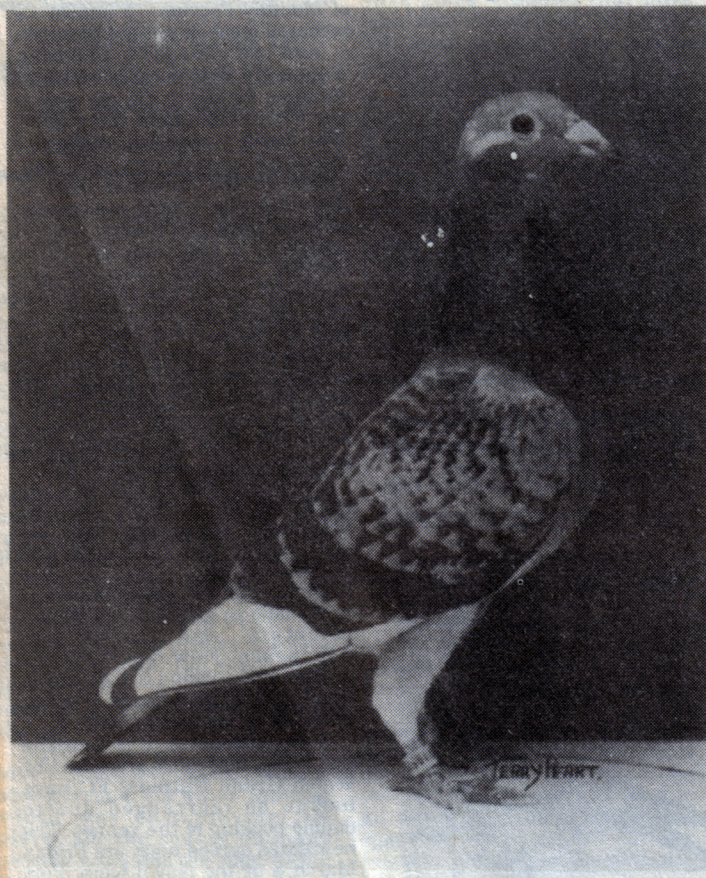
NEVER LOOKED BACK



'Julio'.



'14' The Gatekeeper. Bred by Ko Nipius. Sire of three 1st UBI Combine winners, six 1st Berks Fed winners. Sire of 'Magic Moments'.



'Magic Moments' bred & raced by Paul Stowell.

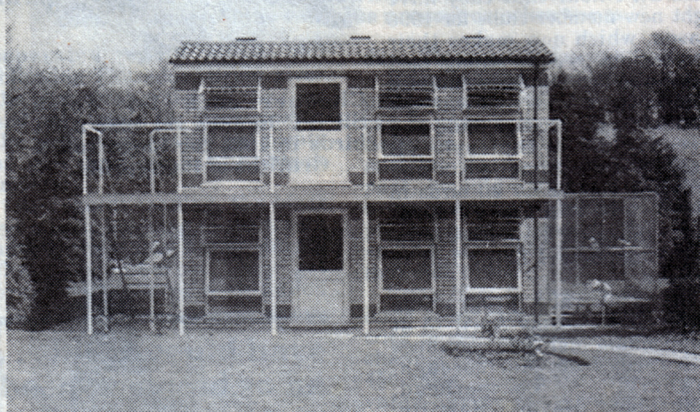
This loft profile is on a good friend and fellow fancier Paul Stowell from Basingstoke. Paul started an interest in pigeons at the age of thirteen, over thirty years ago. He was friends with Kenny Shepherd of Basingstoke, Kenny was already bitten by the pigeon bug. Paul was then hooked himself and his father built a small but adequate 6 foot by 2 foot loft for the birds young Paul had obtained from Brian Thornton. He then later added birds from Jim Stratton and Tommy Deacon, these being of the Logan strain, from Jim and Bricoux from Tommy. Pigeons were bedded firmly in the blood of Paul Stowell and time has moved on from those youthful days.

Paul, a successful businessman running his own company in architectural and survey work moved to the village of Cliddesden in Basingstoke where he has been for the past 27 years. He no longer has the 6 x 2 that dad built, we now have an insulated double-decker loft of brick and block construction which was designed by Paul.

On the ground level the stock birds are housed around 20 pairs, they have access at all times to an aviary that surrounds the ground level. Paul believes this is necessary for prisoner birds as it gives them some freedom, plenty of



Paul Stowell.



Paul's loft erected for the 1990 racing season.

fresh air, which in turn supports the health and general well being of the stock. Included on the ground level is an isolation unit for sick birds and a corn store.

The next level is where it all happens on race days. Paul houses a team of 25 pairs of race birds in three sections. Trapping is done through the normal sputnik traps, which Paul can access from the balcony that runs the length of the loft. A truly impressive set up, which houses some outstanding race birds.

Paul Stowell is a name that has been at the forefront of racing for many a year. He has been lucky enough to buy some outstanding stock from names like Jim & Jean Jones of Fleet, A R Hill and Mr Johnson of Larne, also Louella. The birds kept by Paul are the Bricoux Ko Nipius lines, he was actually lucky enough to purchase the entire team of birds from Jim

Jones when Jim became ill with pigeon lung, back in the eighties. From that day Paul has never looked back.

The results at all distances especially the long distances are amazing. This family of birds has continued to score at all levels of racing from club to Classics and Nationals. This family of birds was supplemented by the introduction of Ko Nipius from Bob McDonald of Fraserburgh. The eighties saw Paul's name winning right up to 520 miles clocking from Dax when only a few birds made it home. This was not surprising as Jim Jones clocked this family of birds from Palamos a distance of 673 miles.

Paul admits at the start of his racing career he was not a very patient man, he made lots of mistakes, but learned the hard lesson. He admits even today he still makes many mistakes and

there is always something to learn from them; but in 1986 he won the Southern Region RPRA award for best loft performance, he was the highest prizewinner in Basingstoke & Dist club for eight consecutive years. He won the OB and Combined Points Trophy for eight years on the trot. He won over fifty 1st prizes and was 2nd Sect, 11th Open CSCFC Guernsey, 79th Open Bergerac, 125th Open Dinard. And at NFC level 13th Sect, 140th Open Guernsey, 16th Sect, 113th Open Nantes, 9th Sect, 203rd Open Nantes to name a few. All this with 20 pairs at stock and about 25 racing pairs racing Natural.

Even in the nineties Paul Stowell is a name that appears at the top of the Fed results. I can remember when I first started pigeons myself on the Fed result that particular week I recall Paul's name appearing 15 times out of the thirty places printed. In the last three seasons alone Paul has clocked four Combine winners

flying in the UBI Combine one 2nd Combine and two 3rds; and thirty two 1st Fed positions since 1983 winning the Fed regularly each year and 108 1st Club positions. If that's not consistent I do not know what is!

Now I have gone into some of the performances we will talk about the management and feeding of these birds. Running your own business takes up a great deal of time so the minimum of fuss and time is spent conditioning these birds. A clean and dry loft is essential for the health of pigeons. A regular scrape out at least once a week, plenty of clean water and fresh clean corn. The birds are given the normal treatments before pairing and racing with one of the well-known brands that are available, no other treatments are used unless necessary. Should there be some sort of health problem within his loft, Paul would seek veterinary advice and treat as prescribed, luckily this is

not something that has to be dealt with too often.

As far as the feeding systems for these birds go, all the birds are fed a Bosmolen base feed, with grains that are mixed by Paul according to the conditions required. The grains are peas, maize, wheat and barley with an occasional offering of treat seeds like linseed, hemp etc. Corn is bought at the start of the season and this maintains a consistency of quality, we all know grains can vary from season to season. These birds are trained up to about 25 miles as often as work permits, a couple of weeks before the start of OB racing. They are then given a weekly toss during the racing season to keep them on their toes. The YBs once seen to be going away from the loft for a while are then trained. This normally starts with the first toss being about 4-5 miles down the road. Paul has tried one mile away for the first time, but found this to be not too successful. Once confident from

five miles away, they are then taken in stages to about 25 miles, this again as often as work commitments permits. It's then fingers crossed on into the first race.

Some outstanding birds our housed here, and some with outstanding performances behind them like 'Magic Moments', 'The 14' and of course 'Julio'; this bird had a phenomenal racing career from 1987-1991, it was then retired to the stock loft. This bird scored under all wind conditions from Weymouth to Saintes. The '14' (The Gatekeeper) was bred by Ko Nipius and is the sire of three 1st Combine winners, six 1st Berkshire Fed winners and the sire of 'Magic Moments' a remarkable racer. This lady took two 1st Combines, three 1st Feds, five 1sts Club. Truly remarkable birds.

Lady Di