

racing pigeon

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STARTING THIS MONTH — A NEW
SERIES OF EYES IN COLOUR



PAUL STOWELL OF BASINGSTOKE (see page 168)

PAUL STOWELL'S NATURAL WINNERS — PIERRE & ROSA MOMMENS, BELGIUM —
JIMMY FITZPATRICK SHOW CHAMPION — CHRIS DYER WINS COMBINE AVERAGES —
JOHNNY HARRIS ON SCHOOLBOY WINNER.

NATURAL WINNERS IN BASINGSTOKE PAUL STOWELL WITH KO-NIPIUS AND BRICOUX

text and pictures by Terry Peart

Paul Stowell has now been racing pigeons for over 25 years and throughout this time has regularly taken many good positions in any competition right up to National level. Paul's first interest in pigeons was as a 13-year-old when he became friends with Kenny Sheppard who kept pigeons in his then home town of Camberley. His first birds were obtained from Brian Thornton and to these were later added birds from Jim Stratton and Tommy Deacon. These were the first pigeons of any known strain which was Logan. Racing these pigeons to a 6ft x 2ft loft his father had built him, Paul bred a mealy which went on to be his first Solent Fed winner from Guernsey.

Paul is now well settled in the village of Cliddesden on the outskirts of Basingstoke & Dist RPC. Paul recalls when he first joined this club there were several top fanciers racing in the club and he recalls the late Bert Bryant who raced a very successful team of spangles and Brian Thornton who was a top racing fancier as well as an excellent show judge. A great thrill about this time was when the late great Ron Mitchieson joined the club. On one particular occasion when there were very few birds clocked from La Reole Paul was 3rd Club just beating Ron who was 4th and that to Paul was something he recalls with fond memories.

Over the past decade Paul's pigeons have flown with

remarkable consistency from the shortest to the longest races in his club and they more than hold their own at Fed, Combine and National level. Paul has been highest prize-winner in his club for the past six seasons picking up many Fed and Combine positions. Up until 1988 he had won the clubs OB & Combined Points Trophy for five consecutive years in which he also won forty 1st prizes. In the CSCFC over the past few seasons he has won 2nd Sect, 11th Open Guernsey 1,623 birds; 79th Open Bergerac, 447 miles; 20th NE Sect, 125th Open Dinard plus the NFC, 13th Sect, 140th Open Guernsey, 8,512 birds; 16th Sect, 113th Open Nantes 10,508 birds; 9th Sect, 203rd Open Nantes 10,573 birds plus many more.

His present loft is a double decker constructed with "Celcon" insulating blockwork on the ground floor with a waterproof rendering. The stock birds are housed on the ground floor and have access to an aviary at all times. Included in the ground floor is a corn store and sick bay. The top loft is basically a Kidby loft with a few alterations to it with Sputnik traps and a balcony running the full length. The race loft has three compartments. In the last RP Loft and Garden Competition this loft was placed 10th out of 1,000 entries. On the design of the loft and pigeons Paul has received a lot of help and advice from Tommy Deacon who still takes an interest in Paul's pigeons.

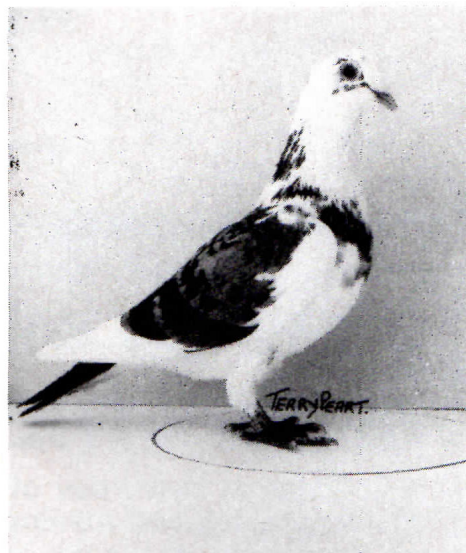
Going back a few years Paul purchased pigeons from various sources namely A R Hill, Louella and Johnson of Larne. More recently Jim & Jean Jones of Fleet's performances, particularly over the distance were outstanding and since Paul's very first bird that won the Solent Fed originated from the Jones's Paul approached Jim with a view to buying some. He did so for a few years and so successful were these Ko Nipius and Bricoux pigeons that in 1986 Paul purchased the entire team of Mr & Mrs Jones as Jim had an acute problem of pigeon lung. To this family Paul has also introduced some Ko Nipius from Bob McDonald of Fraserburgh.

Paul finds that both these strains perform equally well at all distances up to Dax 520 miles and in the past have proved themselves for Mr & Mrs Jones flying from Palamos 673 miles. Like most fanciers Paul made plenty of mistakes in the early years and like many fanciers he still admits to making mistakes today. He thinks probably his biggest mistake in the early days was lack of patience and also in trying to obtain birds from various sources instead of trying to obtain and maintain an established family of pigeons. Paul thinks the novice should try and befriend a successful fancier and learn to receive advice. Listen and learn from him.

Paul's loft usually carries 20 pairs of stock, 25 pairs of racers and



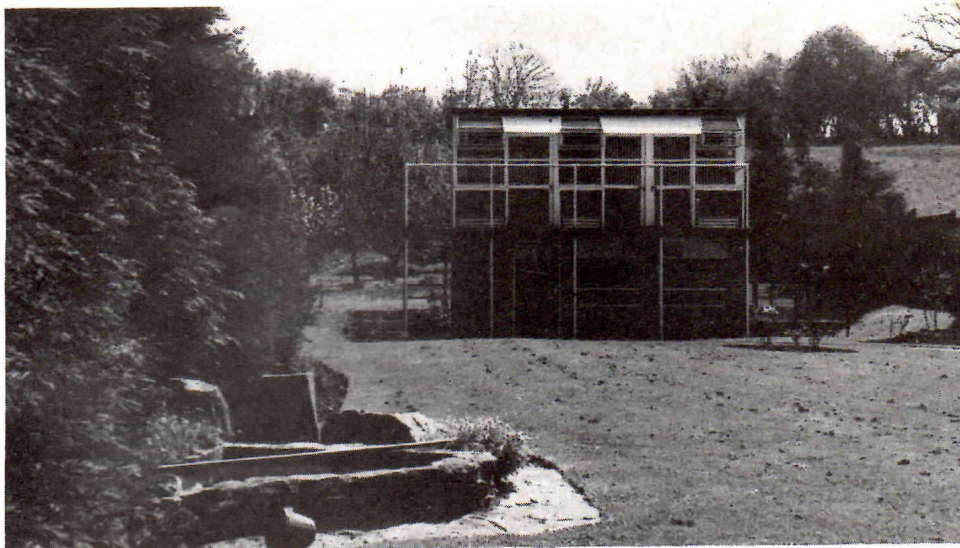
'Cliddesden Ricardo', 2nd Fed Weymouth, 15th Fed Saintes, 1st Fed Rennes



'Cliddesden Angel', 14th and 16th Fed Weymouth, 17th Fed Exmouth



'Cliddesden Hat Trick', 15th Fed, 16th Fed Exeter, 13th Fed Nantes, 11th Fed Saintes



The loft and the beautiful garden

breeds 40 youngsters. All the pigeons are raced on the Natural system and therefore no pigeons are paired before March. The birds receive plenty of training but how much depends on the distance of the coming race and the amount of hours flying the pigeon has had on the wing the previous Saturday. He makes up his own mixture of feed consisting of a variety of grains plus a trapping mixture of hemp and linseed with Hormoform fed every day.

Being a building consultant and self-employed Paul works a lot from home on most days, so his pigeons are given an open hole as he prefers to see the birds enjoying themselves and this is the main reason he is opposed to Widowhood. On the subject of fanciers never scoring with their pigeons he feels that they do not know if their pigeons are suffering from some form of illness, such as respiratory disease and send their pigeons when they are not in condition. Instead they end up disposing of them and buy in more birds and they continually use

antibiotics which destroy the birds' natural resistance. Paul himself prefers to use herbal remedies which are much safer and therefore can be used on a more regular basis.

To be successful Paul thinks any fancier must really not only study the external conditions of the birds but must try and work out the mental and psychological aspect and try to judge what the previous race or training has taken out of the pigeon. Paul is a very well travelled man having been to Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, Italy and Malta. While visiting Malta in 1987 he was determined to meet the great Eddie Newcombe which he eventually did with the help of Joseph Brincut who is the son-in-law of Alfred Naudi the president of the Maltese Fed of racing pigeons. Paul Finally met Eddie when he arrived one night with his good friend Joe Xuereb and from this meeting Paul made loft visits to both Eddie and Joe and it was a great thrill for Paul to meet one of the top fanciers Britain has produced.



'Cliddesden Charmer', 16th Sect, 113th Open NFC Nantes; 9th Sect NFC Nantes; 5th Fed Dax



'Cliddesden Charmer' 19th Fed, 7th Fed Plymouth, 10th Fed Weymouth