

Die Sierduif The Fancy Pigeon

November 2020



Christo Britz

Gebore: 28 Augustus 1969

Oorlede: 02 Oktober 2020



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Birthdays

J010 - Celest van Zijl	- 01-Dec
D051 - Charles Swartz	- 01-Dec
J030 - Ertjies v Tonder	- 03-Dec
D011 - Dean Dreyer	- 09-Dec
G041 - Francois Koen	- 14-Dec
K009 - Nico v Pletzen	- 16-Dec
H073 - Natalie Neethling	- 16-Dec
W019- Matt Willemse	- 19-Dec
W073- Danie Fourie	- 19-Dec
N046 - Micheal Frey	- 20-Dec
H072 - AJ vd Walt	- 21-Dec
A026 - Nico vd Westhuizen	- 23-Dec
G003 - Elbé Visser	- 23-Dec
W007- Gawie Gertenbach	- 26-Dec
K040 - Johan Botha	- 27-Dec
C036 - Charl Naudé	- 28-Dec
W017- CD Cillie	- 29-Dec
V029 - Wietz van Zyl	- 29-Dec
K014 - Johnny Rudman	- 30-Dec

Nuwe lede / New members

Mark Radley K062
Braam Rademeyer K022
Nico Taute C051
Johan Britz G046
Patrick Sloan B129
Keanu vd Linde D053

Deaths

Please keep the family and friends of the following member of SAFPA in your prayers.

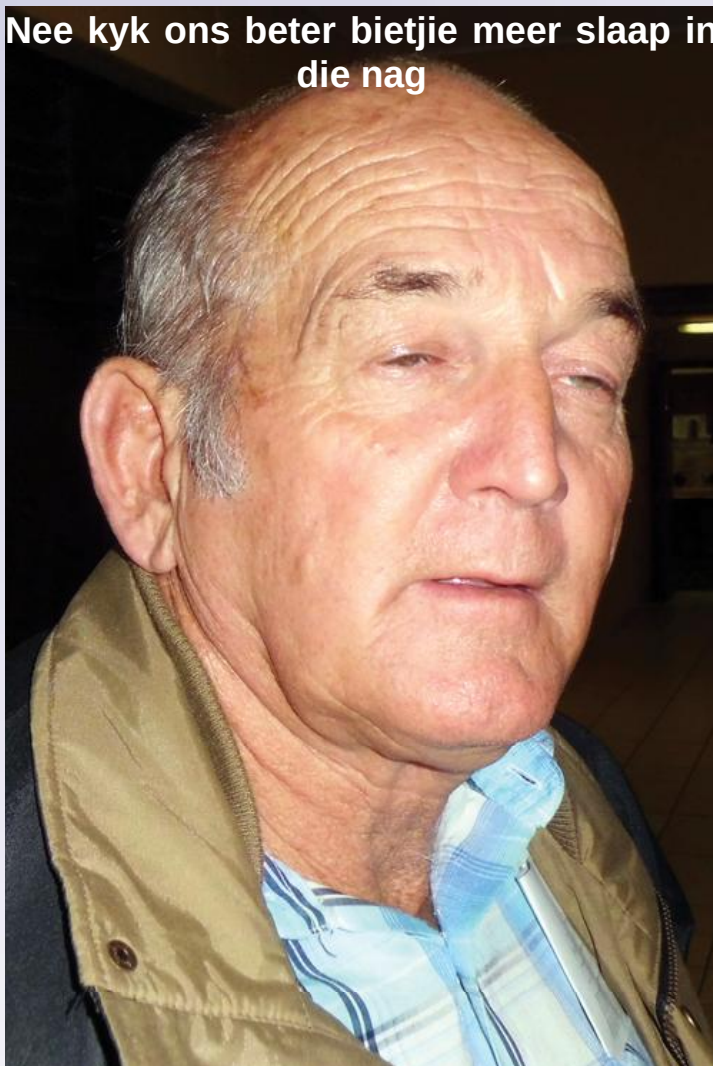
Wimpie Janse van Vuuren member of KwaZulu-Natal Region died on the 5th Oktober 2020.

Gotcha!!!!!!



Is daai gif vir die duif of vir Harry bedoel!!!!

Nee kyk ons beter bietjie meer slaap in die nag





**Nasionale
Redakteur**

**National
Editor**

Cora Munnik

Soos julle seker kan sien het ek die maand weer twee nuwe artikels in die Sierduif geplaas een van Felice Esposito wat onmiddellik gereageer het op my versoek om asseblief iets te skryf oor wyle Christo Britz en sy artikel die volgende dag vir my gestuur het. Hy wou nie eers weet wat die afsny datum vir artikels is nie asof hy geweet het daar is seker nie iets om te plaas in die boekie nie.

Niemand anders wat ek gevra het reageer nie so ek plaas wat ek kry soos julle sien. Dit is dan ook die rede hoekom die Sierduif partymaal so laat is. Ek plaas dan met graagte alles wat Christo Munnik vir my deurgee van sy ou Sierduif boekies af en ek gee hom dan ook somer punte vir elke

artikel wat hy my gee om te plaas. As ek dit nie doen nie gaan hy ook ophou om artikels te gee so ek doen dit maar.

Almal, of die van julle wat die boekie lees het seker darem die artikel van Chris vd Walt oor homself gelees. As julle nie het nie gaan lees dit asseblief en lewer kommentaar asseblief. Ek wil weet of ek daarmee kan voortgaan as daar weer lede is wat vir my weer so 'n artikel sal stuur. Christo het vir George Bell gevra om sy lewensverhaal ook in te stuur maar hy vee sy gat aan my af.

Ek wil weereens 'n beroep doen op veral nuwe lede om deel te neem aan die amptelike mondstuk van die SASV en asseblief artikels in te stuur. Ek is seker julle het baie te sê as ek lees op die "SAFPA Recruiting Group" en die "SASV Gesels Groep" op whatsapp.

I want to thank Felice Esposito for the quick response and the nice article he sent me.

Hiermee word u vriendelik uitgenooi na Noord-Vrystaat Sierduifstreek se Algemene Jaarvergadering. Ons vra almal om asseblief die jaarvergadering by te woon. Elke lid se teenwoordigheid is baie belangrik.

Die Algemene Jaarvergadering vind plaas op 14 November 2020 aan huis van Ds Hennie en Roné Hattingh te van Schalkwykstraat 10, Parys. Die vergadering begin om 08:30 en daar is 'n bring en braai na die tyd.

Vir die braai moet u asseblief vir Ds. Hennie Hattingh, Gert Venter of vir my. Attie van Aswegen voor of op 09 November 2020 die totale deurgee van die persone wat dit gaan bywoon.

Vir die braai sal die bykosse voorsien word, u moet asseblief u eie drinkgoed asook eetgerei saambring.



Rest In Peace
my friend Christo
Britz

Felice Esposito

My name is Felice Esposito and I live in Australia.

Christo Britz's passing came as a big shock to me as would of to many people world wide. I met Christo over 15 years ago through our love of pigeons. We met over a international pigeon site and shered the same breed that we were both fanatics about. We became good friends on there and had regular chats over e-mails and phone calls.

Christo was the driving force in Long faced Tumblers in South Africa and most knowl- edgeble about all aspects of the breed. He became known and respected world wide for his prized birds and knowledge of the breed.

After a few years passed in 2008 we invit- ed Christo to judge our birds in Australia. This is where we personally met and got to know each other in a different level. We remained good friends and we planned to visit him in 2010. Me and my family decided to take a trip to visit Christo to have a safari adventure with him. An adventure me and my family will never forget. We spent about a week together and spent day and nights chatting and laughing about birds, rugby, politics and cultures.

To me we had the same weird sence of hu- mor and thats why we hit off so well. One thing he said to me that I still laugh about today was when he seen me with a shirt off,

as I have many tattoos was that it looked like I was slapped with a wet comic book. That was hilarious and we almost choked laugh- ing that hard. We remained great friends and once again went to South Africa to see Christo and enjoy another safari together.

We were planning another trip in 2022 and was only chatting about this a few weeks ago. I wil miss my good friend very much as he was like a brother to me.

May you Rest In Peace Christo and God bless your family to remain strong.



Felice judging the Longfaced Tumblers in 2018 Bloemfontein



Oostelike Streek
hou
Algemene Jaarvergadering

Ingestuur deur Simon Jordaan

Op 31 Oktober 2020 het die Algemene Jaarvergadering by Hennie en Rina Visagie plaasgevind. Dit was 'n heerlike ontspanne dag. Baie dankie oom Hennie en Rina Visagie vir julle gasvryheid en al die heerlike eetgoed.

Die volgende persone is verkies om op die bestuur te dien vir die volgende drie jaar.

President:

At van Jaarsveld

Vise-President:

Peet Botha

Sekretaris:

Jan Labuschagné

Skousekretaris:

Dirk Scholtz

Penningmeester:

Dirk Scholtz

Skoubestuurder:

Daan Labuschagé

Beoordelaarsbeampte:

Pieter Lourens

Verslaggewer:

Simon Jordaan

Jeugorganiseerder:

Harry Labuschage

Trofeemeester:

Hennie Visagie

Addisionele lid:

Flip Koekemoer

Geluk aan almal.

Mag julle almal 'n vreugdevolle Christussefees beleef en bly of ry veilig. Tot ons weer ontmoet.

Groete,
SIMON JORDAAN





Wenke vir jong Beoordelaars

Geskryf deur Lourens Muller vir die
Sierduif van Jan/Feb 2006

METODE VAN BEOORDELING

Om 'n goeie beoordelaar te wees, moet jy 'n oog vir 'n duif hê. Dit is deel van jou as mens en deur die standaard te ken en baie te oefen kan jy net verbeter. Voordat 'n persoon wil beoordeel, moet hy/sy die Standaard van die ras/se ken en streng daarvolgens beoordeel.

Probeer om altyd 'n definitiewe metode van beoordeling te volg, sodat jy nie deurmekaar raak nie. Jy moet ook leer om individuele duiwe te onthou om te verhoed dat jy nie dieselfde duiwe op die end omruil nie.

Baie belangrik is om aan elke duif in 'n klas aandag te gee, al het jy hulle reeds in gedagte uitgeskot, want elke vertoner het moeite gedoen om die duiwe vir die skou voor

te berei en in te skryf. Net daardie bietjie aandag, al wen hulle nie, kan hom/haar aanspoor om volgende keer weer te skou.

WAT IS BELANGRIK TEN OPSIGTE VAN BEOORDELING?

Alles is belangrik, daarom moet jy soveel as moontlik weet.

METODE VAN BEOORDELING

Maak seker van die klas wat jy gaan beoordeel. Hanteer elke duif voor beoordeling. Staar altyd so dat alle duiwe waarneembaar is.

Bekyk die duiwe op 'n afstand en kry die algehele indruk van die duiwe in die loophok, en onthou dat eerste indrukke gewoonlik blywend is.

Laat die duiwe rondbeweeg in die loophok.

Leer dus om gedurende hierdie stadium waar duiwe na en weg van jou beweeg te let op die volgende;

1. Die basiese verskille wat jy kan waarneem tussen die duiwe in die klas. Probeer om te onthou want dit gaan help in die motivering van u plasing.
2. Weeg dan die verskille tussen die duiwe teen mekaar op en u sal reeds 'n aanduiding hê van hoe u die duiwe gaan plaas.

WAARNA MOET U OPLET OM DIE BASIESE VERSKILLE TE BEPAAL?

1. ALGEMENE VOORKOMS

Is die duiwe in 'n Skoukondisie en afgerig.

2. TIPE

Dit sluit bouworm in, kyk na die lengte, breedte, diepte, balans en kwaliteit.

Met die volgende stadium van beoordeling gaan u ook elke duif noukeurig na en let op

vir enige diskwalifikasies of onge-wenste eienskap ingevolge die standaard van die betrokke ras. Indien dit nodig is kan u weer een of twee duiwe hanteer ten einde sekerheid omtrent die een of'ander punte van die duif wat pla te verkry. Hierna behoort u gered te wees om die klas finaal te plaas. Dit is in kort, hoe u min of meer te werk moet gaan met beoordeling.

Baie belangrik:-

Onthou wanneer u die duiwe klaar geplaas het, moet u nooit huiwer om jou plasing hard en duidelik te bespreek nie. Die toeskouers het gekom om kennis op te doen en met plasings alleen kan hy nog nie begryp wat is u as beoordelaar se motivering vir u plasings nie.

Onthou jy is die beoordelaar en as jy begin twyfel, sal die vertoner sowel as die toeskouers geen vertroue in jou hê nie.

WAT MOET DIE BEOORDE-LAAR DUS WEET?

Om in staat te wees om te beoordeel moet u oor die volgende beskik;

1. Die nodige kennis.
2. Die vermoë om die verskille te kan waarneem en te onthou. Vergelykings tussen sodanige te tref en u plasings op sodanige verskille te baseer sonder dat u toelaat dat enige iets of iemand u besluit beïnvloed.

OM OP TE SOM

1. Jy moet kyk en sien waarna jy kyk.
2. Jy moet waarneem wat jy sien.
3. Jy moet verstaan wat jy waarneem.
4. Jy moet weet wat jy verstaan.

Op grond van wat jy weet, kan jy dan besluit, of nog beter,

5. Jy moet weet wat jy doen.

OM DIT ALLES TE KAN DOEN MOET JY OOR DIE NODIGE KENNIS VAN DIE DUIWE BESKIK.

1. Jy moet die samestelling van die duif verstaan en ken.
2. Jy moet die korrekte benaming van die verskillende liggaamsdele ken en gebuik.
3. Jy moet weet hoe die verskillende liggaamsdele van 'n volmaakte duif in geheel lyk.
4. Jy moet die foute van die duif, asook die korrekte benaming daarvan ken.
5. Jy moet weet wat of wat nie belangrik is, met ander woorde, waardebepaling is belangrik.

Om 'n goeie beoordelaar te word moet jy leer, leer en nog-maals leer, want jy moet beskik oor kennis. Leer uit boeke, leer van medetelers, leer van beoordelaars en op skoue. Woon duiwedae by, vra vrae. Dis nooit dom om vrae te vra nie. Leer dan om op grond van u kennis die verskille van duiwe raak te sien. Die verskille teen mekaar op te weeg en te besluit hoe die verskille teen mekaar opweeg.

Skou self want dit maak beoordeling maklik.

MOETS EN MOENIES VAN BEOORDELAARS.

1. Wees altyd netjies.
2. Wees betyds.

3. Bepaal u volle aandag by beoordeling.

4. Lewer altyd positiewe kom-mentaar.

5. Maak seker wat die klas sê wat jy moet doen.

6. Wees beslis met wat jy doen. Ontnou wat u gedoen het, dis belangrik.

MOENIES

1. Moet nooit drink terwyl beoordeling aan die gang is nie.

2. Moet nooit probeer uitvind wie die eienaar van die duiwe is nie, julle kan dit later bespreek.

3. Moenie rook en beoordeel nie.

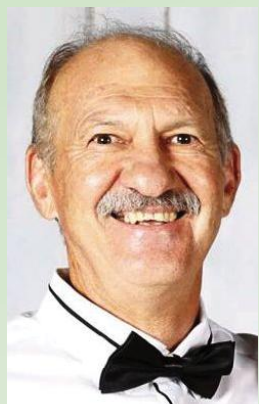
4. Moenie sit terwyl jy beoordeel nie.

5. Moet nooit 'n ander beoordelaar se werk probeer oorneem nie.

6. Moet nooit mede beoordelaars tydens beoordeling aanval nie, veral nie voor die publiek nie al sien jy hy maak droog, praat liever later alleen met hom daarvoor.

7. Moet nooit 'n plasing vergeet nie, Dit is die ergste wat met 'n beoordelaar kan gebeur, indien hy 'n moontlike wenner vergeet, veral by hooftoekenings.

Die belangrikste is. Wees te alle tye eerlik teenoor jouself.



**Vertellings van
my vriend Jan
Helberg**

Vanoggend besluit ek en Liefie om buite ontbyt te maak op ons elektriese braaiplaat wat ons vir jare nie gebruik het nie. Alles word mooi reggepak, tafel, stoele, braaiplaat, broodrooster en al die kos en spesserye.

Ons tuiningenieur het die gawe om alles in die motorhuis af te sit wat aan moet wees en aan te sit wat af moet wees wanneer hy die grassnyer inprop.

Een dag toe Liefie my stuur om iets in die woonwa se yskas te gaan haal dog ek daar was marsmannetjies in die yskas. Daar is sulke groen goeters op alles in die yskas wat nou 'n warmkas is. Die tuiningenieur se ore het seker by sy huis gefluit soos ek hom

alles van die beste toegewens het. Die hele inhoud van die yskas is asblik toe verplaas en wat 'n storie om die yskas weer van die marsmannetjies terug te eis, skoon te maak en van die reuke ontslae te raak.

Die oplossing was toe om 'n waterdigte kragpunt buite te installeer en die tuiningenieur met rampe van epidermiese proporsies te dreig as hy dit ooit weer net naby 'n kragprop in die motorhuis waag.

Alles is gereed vir ons Al Fresco ontbyt en ek moet net die verlengkoord by die tuiningenieur se buiteprop inprop. Ek lig die dekseltjie op en versteen. 'n Rooiperdebyfamilie het besluit dit is die ideale plek om hulle ingrendeltyd te spandeer. Ons staar vir mekaar en hulle begin opwarm met hulle wapenarsenaal gereed vir aanval.

Laat my dink aan jare terug toe ek en oorlede swaer op die plaas turksvye wou pluk. In die turksvybos met die mooiste turksvye was 'n groot perdebynes en die perdebye het geen naby hulle geduld nie. Swaer hand-

haaf 'n veilige afstand. Ek soek sorgvuldig na 'n geskikte klip soos Dawid van ouds en laat waai. Die perdebynes sneuvel maar een perdeby vlieg reg op my af. Ek hardloop maar die perdeby haal my in. In die hardloop piets hy my op die boud. Swaer skree: "Jy kan nogal hardloop!" Ek skree terug: "Dis niks, watch my nou!"

Vandag het ek nie lus vir hardloop nie. Die erf is in elkgeval baie kleiner as die plaas en ek gaan dit nooit tot by my topspoed wat deesdae al aansienlik minder is, maak nie. Ek beding maar 'n skietstilstand met die perdebyfamilie en gaan haal maar 'n langer verlengkoord om krag van die motorhuis af te kry.

Vandag is woef baie opgewonde en huppel rond soos 'n springbakkie wat die werking van sy pote bemeester het. Sy het seker nog nie gehoor dat ons vonnis met twee weke verleng is nie.

Ek het die ringnek kos en water gegee en uitgevat. Laat my nou dink aan die tyd voor die plant van papegaaaislaai vir eie gebruik wettig geword het. In die oggend het ek die voëls versorg en buite op die stoep gesit en buurman het sy potte met papegaaaislaai versorg en uit gevat om so bietjie sonlig

te kry. Nou pronk hulle sommer tussen die blomme in sy tuin.

Ek gaan terug in die huis en woef hardloop soos 'n pyl uit 'n boog met die gang af. Dit is duidelik dat dit nou nie van uitbundigheid is nie maar vlug vir gevaar. Sy vat die draai uit die gang na die kombuis. Haar vaart is ver bo wat veilig is op die gladde teëls. Ondanks haar vierstrek aandrywing maak sy nie die draai nie. Haar agterstewe is verder gang af en haar voorpote grawe verbete om vastrapplek te kry. Stadig kry sy weer traksie en trek deur die kombuis na buite.

Versigtig is ek in die gang af slaapkamer toe om vas te stel watter groot gevaar daar is. In die kamer kry ek vir Liefie met verestoffer in die hand. Vandag is huisskoonmaakdag dan beter jy uit Liefie se pad bly. Die besem is reeds afgeskryf. Nou is dit ek wat gang af vlug. Ek hoop net ek gaan met my tweepootaandrywing die draai by die kombuis maak.

sal ek en woef onself maar buite besig hou. Ek wonder of ek dalk met buurman kan onderhandel vir bietjie van sy papegaaaislaai. Dalkies kan ek Liefie so bietjie kalmeer met 'n papegaaaislaaiomelet.



**South African Rare Breeds Club
Suid-Afrikaanse Skaarsras Klub
Established *** 1988 *** Gestig**

**We endeavour to enhance the following rare breeds
Ons bevorder die volgende skaarsrasse**



Arabian Trumpetter, Carneau, Cauchois, Crested Soultz, Damascene, Danish Saubian, Danzig High Flyer, Domestic Flying Flight, Domestic Show Flight, Dutch Capuchine, Dutch Highflyer, Fairy Swallow, Full Head Swallow, Maltese, Indian Fantail, Jacobin, Memeler Highflyer, Muffed Ice Pigeon, Cleanlegged Ice Pigeon, Nuremburg Lark, Ptarmigan, Silician Swallow, Skoorsteenveër, Starling, Stargard Shaker, Steinheimer Bagdad

**For more information - Contact - Vir meer Inligting kontak
President: Hennie Hattingh Tel: 034 995 1020 Cell: 082 923 3910
Sekretaris: At van Jaarsveld - Tel: 013 245 1700 of Cell: 082 368 1214**

Julie 2019



Two very interesting articles published in the March/April 2006 Fancy Pigeon sent in by Kobus Snyman

**Pigeon Health -
written by Rory Ryan
submitted by Raymond Julian - Canada**

"During my time breeding pigeons, I have found them to be a very hardy bird. The number of sick birds I have encountered over my years as a fancier are insignificant in comparison to the number of birds I have maintained. If your birds are given fresh food, water, grit, air, a dry loft and above all are not over crowded they should remain healthy.

However, even with the best conditions you

will encounter some illness amongst your birds. The hardest thing to do is to isolate the cause of that illness. The first thing to check is the food to see if it is suitable for consumption (not mouldy). All water vessels should be clean, tamed iodine or normal household bleach are excellent to clean your drinkers with as these will kill any "nas-ties" that are in the vessel.

If a bird becomes ill and you are unable to diagnose the problem please, seek veterinary advice. I have always been of the opinion that unless a bird makes a rapid recovery it is better off culled. External parasites will lower a birds resistance to disease. One of the most common external parasites are lice. There are several different species of lice. All these are chewing parasites, which obtain their food from feathers and body scales. Heavily infested birds are restless and will loose their desire to breed. Lice are extremely easy to control with ivomec or other bird specific products.

Pigeon mites are another parasite that is unfortunately very common, feather mites, depluming mites and seldom seen here in Australia scaly leg mites. Birds infested with these are very nervous if the parasite is present in large numbers.

The control of diseases and parasites is something that one learns with experience. Every fancier, at one time or another, has gone through a very frustrating period with their birds as a result of disease or parasite



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Februarie 2020

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Desember 2019

Ons verkoop

Verskeie Duiwekosse

Groot verskeidenheid Duiwemedisyne

Skulpgruis (Grid) vir Voëls & Duiwe

Verskeidenheid Kos en Waterbakke

Asook

Voëlsade - Voëls en Visse

Alle Troeteldierbenodigdhede

infestation. The most important thing to remember is that it may cost a little more to care for your birds in a proper fashion, but in the long run you will be money and time ahead.

The steps to good pigeon health in your loft are:-

1. Healthy breeding stock.

The birds that you purchase to start your breeding program must be free of disease. If the adults are infected, the youngsters will also become infected.

2. Proper sanitation.

The loft should be clean and dry. Make sure that your birds are insect free (parasites). Eliminate the possibility of rodents and wild birds entering the loft.

3. Loft Management.

Build the food, water and grit vessels, containers so that they cannot be easily contaminated. Isolate birds that are purchased from other lofts before introduction into your own. Check carefully all birds that have been at a show. Any bird that becomes sick should be isolated from the rest of your birds.

4. Proper feed.

Make sure your birds have food that will provide them with a balanced diet. Make sure the birds also have available a good grit to digest their food.

5. Clean water.

Give your birds fresh water daily and clean vessels regularly.

6. Sunshine and fresh air.

The birds need sun shine and fresh air to gain vitamins and to remain health.

7. Bath water.

The birds should have a bath at least once a week rain hail or shine. The bath helps the birds maintain feather quality and assists with the moult.

I hope these few lines have reinforced your current practices or given you a few new ideas".

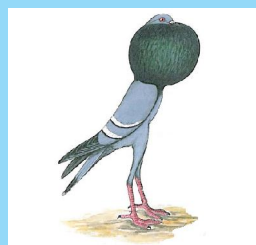
The official IMC Web page can be found at: www.InternationalModenaClub.com

**Things to remember -
written by Dr. Davis Marx
submitted by Raymond Julian - Canada**

Too often, we forget some very important points in our breeding program. Let see those important items enumerated by Dr. Davis Marx. Please read them again, you will see that with time going by, we forget about them:

"We have all heard these things before, I am sure, but we all forget and need to be reminded periodically of the medication no-no's. There are all degrees of net results and variables involved, but in general, the rules apply.

Avoid using Emtryl during mating times. It has been shown to temporarily decrease fertility in the cock. We assume that the other anti-trichomonas drugs have similar effects but as far as I know, this has not been



Gerhard van Aswegen
Teel met Norwich Cropper, Brunner, Working
Homer, Oriental Roller, Holle Cropper, American
Showracer, Chinese Owl, en Stargard Shaker,
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Sel: 082 921 1747 - E-mail: gjtlofts7@gmail.com



Januarie 2020

demonstrated.

Avoid using the "bendazole" dewormers such as Panacur and Telmintic during the moult or when feeding youngsters. This family of drugs can cause feather abnormalities, sometimes severe.

Avoid having grit or pellets available when treating with the Tetracycline family of antibiotics. The calcium in grit or pellets can bind the drug making it unusable in the body, resulting in severe underdosing. The Tetracycline family includes Terramycin, Aureo-mycin, Tetracycline, and Doxycycline.

Avoid leaving medications in the drinking water more than 24 hours. The medications gradually break down and become ineffective. The warmer the temperature the faster this occurs, so in warm weather a 12 hour limit may be more practical. Make fresh preparation each morning.

Avoid higher doses when medicating. Just because a little bit is good doesn't mean that more is better. The recommended dosage should be adhered to. Some drugs are very toxic at higher levels.

Note: Remember, when treating via the drinking water that the dose should be adjusted depending on the volume of water consumed. The recommended doses are for mild temperatures. Use a little less in hot conditions, and up to twice the dosage in very cold weather when the birds drink much less.

Avoid using drugs at lower than recom-

mended doses and for less than the recommended time. This practice allows the organisms to become tolerant or resistant to the medications by being exposed to them for insufficient time or at levels too low to eliminate them. This resistance factor becomes very important and gradually produces "super bugs" which are unstoppable with antibiotics.

Avoid using antibiotics as "preventive medication". Antibiotics prevent nothing. They are used to treat certain infections but, by no means, prevent anything. Actually they may make the birds more susceptible to infection because they eliminate the normal beneficial bacteria, and these bacteria protect the birds, in some degree, from infection.

Avoid mixing medications unless the mixtures are shown to be safe. Certain combinations are known to be safe and generally used. Don't get carried away and assume that all medications can be mixed and dosed simultaneously. Proceed cautiously and try to stick to known safe combinations.

Avoid putting anything else in the drinking water when household bleach, such as Clorox, is used as a water disinfectant. These are very strong oxidizing substances and will change the product mixed with them, either rendering them ineffective or toxic. Clorox is to be used only by itself. Discontinue it when medicating in the water, or even using vitamins in the water.

Dr. David E. Marx D.V.M."

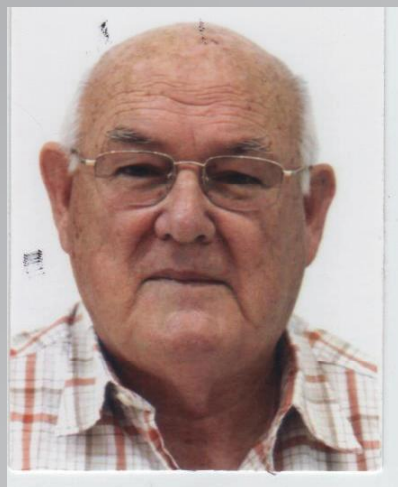
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THE DRAGOON

**Published in the
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of March/April
2006 and Com-
piled by Stewart
Patterson**

Having been a dedicated breeder of English Longfaces for over 30 years I added Dragoons to my range of breeds with 2 pairs I imported in 2001 from John Heppner of the United States. I was pleased to receive the August 2005 issue of the Pigeon Debut which was dedicated to Dragoons, as apart from the standard, there is little available to read and learn more about Dragoons. As other Dragoon fanciers may also be wishing to learn more about this fascinating pigeon I have paraphrased major issues dealt with in the magazine as I believe the information could be helpful to fanciers. I have taken, however, some liberty in editing for the benefit of local readers.

The Early History of the Dragoon Joel Kinkade of Michigan

The Dragoon was originally a message carrying breed whose ancestors flew for the "Barbarians" against the mighty Roman Empire. The use of pigeons to carry mes-

sages in times of peace and war goes back to ancient Greece and at least to Cyprus of Persia, about 550 B.C. The earliest uses of these message carriers may have been restricted to the reporting of victories as opposed to strategic purposes in the field. However, the Saracens did use them strategically during the Crusades. The landing of a crusading party led by King Louis IX of France was reported by messenger pigeon to the Sultan of Cairo, who was able to surprise and defeat the French invaders. This method of communication was not known to the Europeans until a bird shot for food was found to be carrying informational strategic maps.

In the late 1800's it was not only the most popular breed in all of England, but show entries were so large that they outnumbered all other breeds combined! Lyle (1887) comments with dissatisfaction upon its great popularity in England in 1876 where at the Oxford show there were eighteen classes of Dragoons as opposed to 16 for Carriers, Pouters, Tumblers, and Barbs combined. In the early 1900's entries of over a 1000 Dragoons occurred with repeated regularity and were common place!

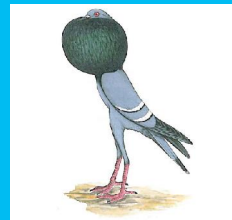
The Dragoon Standard John Heppner of California

It is very interesting to note that in the Dragoon standard no points are allotted to the



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Julie 2020

various features of the breed. I'm sure it is one of the few major breeds that does not have point allotments



We can be successful without a point system because we have a good written standard and a great Order of Evaluation. The order of evaluation obviously gives a hierarchical importance and weight to the major features of the breed. For example, the first item in the order of evaluation is Carriage and Outlook. Major breeders have slightly differing views as to how many points out of a 100 pts. total that should be worth. Some say as much as 40 pts., others 35 or even 30. It really doesn't seem to matter because

we have as much judging uniformity as any other breed I know of.

The order of evaluation of course is nearly as important as the written standard itself. Do you not agree that it is both surprising and amazing that the Dragoon fancy can flourish in America, Canada, Germany, England, France, and Australia, to name but a few, without points being allotted for the various features of the breed. Speaking about specific points in judging, the Dragoon fanciers considered it as far back as 1905. Tattersall and Butterworth, two Dragoon experts of their day, wrote the following: "The system of judging by points has been strongly advocated at times in various quarters. In this system each property of the breed has allotted to it a certain numerical value which indicates the proportion, or rather the weight, excellence in this point should have in balancing the relative merits of the birds. We have always considered this method to be a most fallacious one... although we can conceive that an individual may make such a scale of points for his own use, or take a scale already made and use that as some guide in coming to his decisions, still, we seriously contend, that a judge who requires such assistance is not really competent."

I guess it was pretty easy to knock the point card system if you did not even have a scale of points to begin with. What Tattersall and Butterworth were concluding is that judging a Dragoon, and for that matter any fancy pigeon breed, is ultimately an artistic endeavor.



Chris de Bruin
Teel met Cauchois, American Giant
Runt, Strasser, Swiss Mondain &
Gros Mondain.

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Februarie 2020

or. The impression of the cumulative whole is infinitely more valuable than the sum of its parts. I agree with them. Of course some scientific data or points are used when a scale of points is in existence, but the application of the judging assignment always includes an element of artistic interpretation that can not be reduced to mere points or numbers. The Dragoon standard proves this point. We don't even have a scale of points and our judging overall ranks very highly and we all get along just fine with the system and its results. I am sure many pigeon fanciers are not aware of this feature of the Dragoon standard. I am amazed at how well this system works.

Carriage Outlook and Station by Joel Kinkade of Michigan

Having read and reread the Dragoon standard hundreds of times over the past 17 or 18 years, it has always struck me as a little odd that so little is written about what constitutes good carriage, outlook, and station! Researching the classic Dragoon works of Woods, Fletcher and Wright are little help, nor is Levi. Neither have I read any articles about Dragoons that describes their distinctive stance as anything beyond "Erect and Bold" or "Alert and Proud" or "Ready for Flight". Actually, a couple of the above works spend so much verbiage discussing the standard colours of the breed and how to supposedly perfect them, the enthusiastic novice Dragoon fancier could reasonably surmise that the Dragoon is a colour pigeon that has a tad more importance given to the head than say a German Field pigeon. Oh, and as an afterthought, it should present itself in an "Erect and Bold" fashion.

When you read the standard, you'll notice that nearly 70% of the wording that describes the physical characteristics of the Dragoon deals with the structural properties of its head! Almost all the classic English wattled breeds were head pigeons first with

everything else having a lesser importance in the cumulative evaluation of the breed. The majority of points, or in this case importance, was on head properties and their collective, interwoven symmetry. The Dragoon is very similar to the Carrier in one respect because station and outlook carry much more weight in the overall scheme of things than they do for most of the other classic wattled breeds like the Antwerp, Barb or Scandaroon.

Another point of confusion, is the "All Breeds Judges" that make statements like:

(1) "This bird is not a good Dragoon because it doesn't point its beak toward the sky" or (2) "The Dragoon's beak is supposed to be held horizontal to the ground". Our standard doesn't say anything about how the beak should be carried relative to the ground; Our standard which is nearly identical to the English standard (ours in-



cludes more recognized colors), says "...set horizontally...", not carried horizontally! If that's not enough, note which section of the standard in which this statement is placed; it is placed under BEAK and is meant in reference to the skull! The beak is to be "set"

horizontally on the skull, which gives the bird the proper "straight face". The Dragoon is the only Home type breed and very well might be the only non-tumbler breed with the beak set on the skull so that the dividing



lines of the mandibles goes under the eye, not into it or above it (Down faced).

A Dragoon pigeon that does not have its beak positioned properly upon its skull, regardless of its eye colour, wattle shape, mass of skull, thickness of neck, hardness of body, etc..., is simply not a very good Dragoon! The beak setting, wattle development, eye colour, skull attributes, body conformation, and stationing are the 6 most defining characteristics of the Dragoon! Everything else is icing on the metaphorical Dragoon cake!

Prior to 1932, the standard specified that the setting of the beak was such, that the dividing line of the mandibles passed through the center of the eye. The English Dragoon

standard was changed in 1932 and the American Dragoon Club later adopted this same 1932 standard revision!

The upright, attentive carriage and outlook of the Dragoon has been diligently pursued since the English first started exhibiting the Dragoon and establishing a standard by which to judge them. In England as well as the U.S., a horizontal carriage of the beak has always been considered at least the minimum acceptable standard. Fletcher and Fulton both describe this point but add that even then, many fanciers preferred a carriage of the head and beak that gave the perception of, or was actually carried slightly above parallel to the ground. This was especially true with regards to the birds they preferred to keep as breeders, since "it is much easier to keep their heads up than to develop this trait in birds that do not have it"!

Our German friends prefer a Dragoon that carries its head and beak a little higher past parallel than do the English or most of us Yanks. The German birds frequently station in what I refer to as an angular stretch. This stretch is mostly of the neck, with the head and beak pointed more skyward. In the States, we commonly refer to an exaggerated form of this as stargazing. Since the written standard does not specify, the Germans are equally correct in their interpretation of the standard.

One has to assume, that since Dragoon fanciers have always strived for a straight faced bird that their intention was for it to

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Julie 2019

be carried straight out or slightly higher. In addition, the breed was named after an elite group of soldiers, The Dragoons, who were the precursors to today's Western Special Forces. One only has to imagine the stance of a young, proud, cock-sure 20-something soldier standing at attention with his chin held high to envision the proper outlook of the Dragoon! Therefore, it is personal preference whether the dividing line of the mandibles is held horizontal to the ground or is carried slightly higher than horizontal. Either outlook should be considered technically correct.

As a breeder, fancier, and judge, I really don't care, as long as the beak is carried at least parallel to the ground and it isn't carried so excessively high as to distract from the bird's overall appearance. Too often, judges get tunnel vision on one quality or property that is vaguely mentioned, eluded to, or not even addressed in the standard. They overlook glaring shortcomings and major faults that are specifically mentioned in the standard and are included therein, for the sole purpose of eliminating those traits from the breed!

What the standard does say about the Dragoon's carriage, outlook, and station is interwoven under the various headings for the various body parts.

BACK: - flat, **WINGS:** - the flights short and broad, resting upon the tail. The shoulders thick, muscular and prominent, but not standing out from the body conspicuously.

TAIL: - Running in a line with the back, close fitting, carried clear of the ground, somewhat short in proportion to the size of the bird, and extending about 5/8 of an inch beyond the extremity of the flights.

LEGS: - Short and well set back, **Carriage:** Erect and Bold.

So whether the bird holds its beak parallel to the ground or slightly higher is personal preference and not a requirement of the standard. "Set horizontally" deals with the placement of the birds beak relative to its skull and is in reference to the bird's head structure. This characteristic is a defining characteristic of the breed and is not preferential. The Dragoon should station in an erect and bold fashion with a flat back that continues in a straight line to the tip of its tail. There should be no curve to the birds back or a break of this straight line at the



hips. The tail is carried clear of the ground and is short proportionately to the rest of the bird. It should extend only about 5/8 of an inch beyond the flights. Birds that carry their weight too far back and "tripod" on their tail are obviously not carrying it clear of the ground and their point of balance or center of gravity is too far aft.

The bird should be alert and upright, not cowering back upon its tail. The flights of the wings should lie tightly upon the tail as if they were "carved out of the same, singular piece of material" not split and creating a "V". The legs should be placed correspondingly far back, so as to allow for the Dragoon's upward, straight backed, tail clear of

the ground, pose.

A bird that possesses a characteristic contrary to what the standard specifically states has a MAJOR FAULT and should be penalized accordingly. Characteristics not addressed by the standard are personal preferences, and should be judged with little or no merit given these preferences over attributes specifically described in the standard. Characteristics that are preceded with the words "about", "approximately", "in proportion to", are obviously subjective, but are meant as a way for the judge to determine what a good Dragoon should have, as opposed to what every Dragoon must have!

A judge should always attempt, to the best of his/her experience level and ability, to pick the best all-around Dragoon pigeon present. His/her evaluation must include consideration for all aspects of the standard and the hierarchical importance the standard gives to the individual properties therein.

The Dragoon is a well poised show pigeon that aesthetically merges multiple wedge shapes into a streamlined, muscular, tightly feathered, alert, show pigeon.

The Beak

Ralph White of Watshot, England

I think a straight outlook is THE ESSENTIAL characteristic of a Dragoon. Once lost it can take generations to get it back, believe me, I know! My interpretation of horizontal is parallel to the ground or at right angles to the vertical, and this is how a Dragoon should stand; the line of the beak horizontal, parallel to the ground. The dividing line of the beak can pass through the center of

the pupil or under the eye, whichever and the bird can still stand with the beak-line held horizontally. It is to do with the setting of the head on the neck, in most breeds of pigeons the head is tilted forward. What we have to breed for in Dragoons is pigeons that naturally hold their beaks horizontally when at ease in the loft and aviary.

How many times have we seen in the show pens birds standing relaxed and looking down until we tap on the pen or touch them with the judging stick and all at once they adopt the correct pose. What we should see, are birds all relaxed but with horizontal beak carriage, it is then that with a tap on the show cage or touch of the judging stick they look up and sometimes "stargaze". This is acceptable, but I don't believe we should seek to overemphasize this characteristic and breed our Dragoons to permanently hold their beaks above parallel.

It is interesting to note how the line of the beak has changed. Woods in 1892 says "mouth line" running nearly horizontally with the center of the eye. I don't know if this was the written standard at the time but I assume it probably was. Fletcher in 1908 accepts this, although he is a bit ambiguous about straightness of face. Tattersall preferred a horizontal beak line which runs just under the eye. The English standard was revised in 1910 with the beak setting horizontal.

Ed: This is the first part of a very interesting article. The second part will appear in the next issue. There will be three or maybe four parts.

As jy jou ware self altyd vir ander verberg, kan jy jouself later nie meer vind nie

Die woord "genade" beklemtoon terselfdertyd die hopelose armoede van die mensdom en die grenslose liefde van ons God.

Bankovs, Manie Fourie and Bertie Wessels Trophies/Trofees

Rules

1. The duration of the competitions will be from the 1st of July to the 30th of June.
2. An informative/factual article written and researched by a member will earn 300 points. An informative article from another source send in by a member will earn 150 points.
3. A letter from a member will receive 150 points.
4. Regional news will be awarded 200 points.
5. A match meeting report will earn 200 points.
6. A Regional, Young bird, Agricultural, District or Speciality Club show and the Championship show will earn 1 point per 1 bird, exhibited plus 200 points if areport is send with.
7. A good idea will earn 100 points.
8. A region which increases its membership as explained in 1 above will receive 100 points for every additional member.
9. For every R1 advert for The "Fancy Pigeon" a Region will receive 1 point towards the Bertie Wessels Trophy.

NB Any member who obtain a R850 full page advert for the Magazine will earn free membership for the following year.

Important information

Order from the National Ringmaster:

1. Book of Standards R200 each
2. SAFPA ties (Navy blue) R120 each
3. SAFPA Pocket badge (Navy blue) R70 each
4. SAFPA Area scroll (Navy blue) R30 each
5. SAFPA Honour scroll (Navy blue) R30 each
6. Metal Member & Judges scrolls R50 each
7. National pocket badges (Green) R70 each
8. National Honour scrolls (Green) R30 each
9. National Ties (Green) R120 each

All prices excludes Postage contact National Ringmaster Mr. Robin Prince for correct postage

Reëls

1. Die tydperk van die Kompetisies strek van die 1ste Julie tot die 30ste Junie.
2. 'n Leersame/feitelike artikel deur 'n lid self geskryf en nagevors verdien 300 punte. 'n leersame artikel vanaf 'n ander bron wat net deur 'n lid ingestuur is verdien 150 punte.
3. 'n Brief van 'n lid verdien 150 punte.
4. Streeknuus verdien 200 punte.
5. 'n Verslag oor 'n Duiwedag verdien 200 punte.
6. Enige Streek-, Landbou-, Jongduif- Grasperk Spesialiteitsklubskou asook Kampioenskapskou sal 1 punt per duif vertoon ontvang plus 200 punte indien 'n verslag saamgestuur is.
7. 'n Goeie idee sal 100 punte ontvang.
8. 'n Streek wat sy ledetal verhoog soos in 1 hierbo uiteengesit sal 100 punte ontvang vir elke addisionele lid.
9. Advertensiegeld wat 'n streek/lid vir "Die Sierduif" insamel, sal 'n punt ontvang vir elke rand ingesamel ten opsigte van die Bertie Wessels trofee.

NB 'n Lid wat 'n R850 volblad advertensie vir Die Sierduif werf, sal vir die volgende jaar gratis lidmaatskap ontvang.

Score board

Bank OFS Shield

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. KwaZulu-Natal: | 2309 |
|-------------------|------|

Manie Fourie Trophy

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Northern Cape: | 695 |
| 2. Eastern Province: | 500 |
| 3. Eastern Region: | 500 |
| 4. Freestate | 350 |
| 5. North-of-the-Vaal: | 300 |
| 6. Western Transvaal: | 150 |
| 7. Western Cape: | 0 |
| 8. Northern Freestate: | 0 |
| 9. SW Districts: | 0 |

Om te weet hoe die punte vir die twee trofees toegeken word lees punte 1 tot 8 van die reëls bo-aan die kolom. Die streek met die meeste punte wen die BANKOVs skild en die tweede beste streek wen die Manie Fourie trofee./To know how the points are allocated for the two trophies read the rules from 1 to 8 in the column above. The best Region win the BankOFS Shield and the second best Region win the Manie Fourie trophy.

Bertie Wessels Trophy

1. Nil

Die Bertie Wessels Trofee se punte gaan slegs oor punt 9 van die reëls./The points for the Bertie Wessels Trophy is according to point 9 of the rules