

Letters to the Editor

"Letters to the Editor" whether by post, fax or e-mail, will be considered for publication only if they contain the sender's full name and address and should be as concise as possible, and authors must accept legal responsibility for the accuracy of their statements. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the B.H.W.

Sir,
Would the fancier who reported my pigeon, W01D11863, a pencil cock, to me on Sunday, 3rd April, please phone me again as the phone number is wrong and I cannot get hold of him, and I want the bird back. My wife took the call from a Mr Dean of London. The phone number I had is 07946 05668 and as you can see, one digit is missing.

Yours,

L. M. AUSTIN

36 New Dock Street,
Llanelli,
Carms SA15 2HB.

Sir,

ANOTHER FLIGHT HAZARD

I have seen no comment on the effect of the new wind farms on our pigeons. One has gone up a few miles from Forth, Lanarkshire, so I felt obliged to go and view it as it could be on the line of flight, especially training tosses.

It is most impressive – at least a dozen large masts with three turbine blades on each. These structures are spread out over quite a large area and reach a height of 100 to 120 feet. As we all know, the birds fly low into the wind and these farms are situated in windy spots. I was held up by the arrival of four more blades and they, by themselves, are large enough at about 40 feet each.

It is something else for the birds to memorise. I remember frightening myself years ago by nearly flying into London's barrage balloons!

Yours,

W. STEVENSON

Rosedale,
1 Majors Place,
Falkirk FK1 5QS.

Sir,

Just over a week ago while exercising my cocks, when they came into the loft there was a blue hen with them. They all went in the loft, so I caught the blue hen to see where she was from. To my amazement her ring number was FRANCE2002-209683. She was also wearing a blue name ring, it being J. De Portzamparc, Moustoir AC, 56500 LOCMINE, Tel: 02 97479572.

I phoned Cheltenham (RPRA) and was told to report her to the French Pigeon Association, as it was wearing a name ring. A friend of mine has faxed it to the French PA, but no reply yet. How did the bird get to Whitehaven in Cumbria? Or has someone had a loan of her in the UK? Moustoir AC is approximately 40 miles west of Rennes, in Brittany. If anyone out there knows anything about her please ring on 01946 62309.

Yours,

JOHN OSBORNE

11 Homewood Road,
Hensingham,
Whitehaven,
Cumbria CA28 8JJ.

Sir,

I would just like to thank you for the very fast response to my request for two copies of the British Homing World dated 1/4/2005. The reason I requested them was so that I could send them to the organisers of the Mallee Classic Race that is held in Australia every year. The organisers asked me by e-mail if it would be possible for me to get the

copies as you had just run a feature on the event for them. They contacted me because before last Christmas I was fortunate enough to be able to visit Australia and while I was there I contacted Barry Trewin and Duncan MacGregor, who run the event along with many other people. These two stalwarts of the sport in Australia took my wife and me into their care and gave us a guided tour of the Mallee Classic Race lofts. They also took us on a tour of local racing lofts. One of the satisfying things they did was to invite us to a pigeon sale. It was satisfying because the auction was a gathering of fanciers and their birds from many areas, and young fanciers were allowed to bid for pigeons against the older members of the sport. Having said that, the pigeons all went for a reasonable price and some fanciers even bought their own. There were no phone bids, the sale was over in about half an hour and they sold a good number of pigeons. The money went to the support of the club and, as I believe is standard procedure, the host put on a great 'barbie' and a large barrel of beer packed in ice for all to quench their thirst (not forgetting the soft drinks for the young fanciers, of course). All in all we were made most welcome by these two great fanciers and I can only suggest that if any other fanciers are going to Australia, they make contact and they will be given a genuine warm welcome while they are there. The Mallee Classic is open to anyone worldwide. To find out about the agenda for taking part go to their website (see BHW, April 1st, page 9). The cost is minimal compared to other events and it is bound to forge new friendships between the sport in the UK and on the other side of the world in Australia. Once again, thank you for the quick response from all at the BHW. The two copies are already on their way to Australia.

Yours,

B. C. ASHCROFT

413 Moorside Road,
Flixton,
Manchester M41 8UR.

Sir,

BILLY COLLEDGE

Many thanks to the dozens of fanciers who have telephoned regarding Billy's health problems. It was very nice of Mike Smith to phone from Spain. The latest information is that Billy's blood pressure has returned to normal and his diabetes is under control. Far more worrying is that he has lost his eyesight and, despite the length of time he has been in hospital, there is no sign yet of it returning to normal, although we are hoping for the best. Initially I went to his loft and managed to clean out for him and Terry Kirman has been to the lofts a few times as well. Very luckily for Billy, he has some first-class friends and a big thank you to Maurice, who has taken the pigeons to his loft to look after them until Billy can decide on future plans. If he can have the pigeons back in the near future, after a discussion with his son Steve, we decided that Ben Heath and I will go up to Telford and spring clean the lofts for Billy's and the pigeons' return. I know he will be discussing the future of the pigeons with his best friend, Terry Kirman, as soon as he is well enough. For anyone who wants to send a card, the details are as follows: The Princess Royal Hospital, Apley Castle, Telford TF1 6TF. The ward number is 15, which is the rehabilitation ward. If I have further

news I will inform everyone through the British Homing World, as usual.

Yours,

BRIAN HYNES

50 Second Avenue,
Brownhills,
Walsall WS8 6JJ.
Tel: 07904 068241
Email: brian.hynes@ejeffries.co.uk

Sir,

The clock which R. E. Casey has (BHW, 8th April, page 5) is the Invincible Timing Clock. I have one in my collection, number 4068. Printed on the dial is: G. & J. Wood (makers), Robin Lane, Pudsey, (Leeds), Yorks, England. The owner's name is written under the clock lid: Park & Beeton, Harrow & Wealdstone. I wonder if anyone can remember them? I have had it for over 25 years. I also have a one-bird clock, a converted alarm clock which is set standing and starts when the bird is timed in. The winner was the clock which ran the longest.

Yours,

AUBREY ADAMSON

Pheasant Cottage,
Birdsall,
Malton,
North Yorks YO17 9NT.

Sir,

TO THE LADS IN THE TEESSIDE AREA

Through your letters page may I say a very big thank you to John & Janet McGregor, C. Booth, Lister Bros & Peice, M. Peice, Mr & Mrs Derbyshire, S. Cuthbert, Coates & Metcalfe, Worton, Worton & Ruddy, David Wallas, Hayes Bros, K. Heighley, Son & Hayes. We ran a young bird breeder/buyer sale on 10th April and the above fanciers all donated young birds. The sale was a complete success and what makes it different is that all the birds were sold in Northampton and the breeders all come from the Teesside area so this means there will be £200+ going north for the fastest bird home on 20th August. Once again a big thank you for your support, especially John and Janet who collected the birds and brought them down to us, a round trip of some 400 miles, and would not take a penny for fuel.

Yours,

S. GUBBINS

29 Bishops Drive,
Kettering,
Northants NN15 6AJ.

Sir,

'Letters to the Editor' is an excellent forum for fanciers to pass on information regarding the number of websites now available for analysing the weather for pigeon racing. Jack Pickup's letter in the 15th April issue of the British Homing World is a good example. I have often read articles and weather reports over the past couple of years and by far the best have been by Steve Appleby, whose excellent website (www.weatherpigeon.co.uk) has many interesting and useful links, including the one suggested by Mr Pickup. Race controllers and all those interested in our sport could do no better than visit Steve's website on a Saturday morning to get the very latest information. His article 'Wind and the Racing Pigeon', which you published in the BHW on 23rd December, 2004, was particularly interesting and informative. Steve should consider writing a booklet for race controllers and convoyers. Good racing, everyone.

Yours,

ALAN STOUT

10 Countryside Farm Park,
Church Lane,
Upper Beeding,
West Sussex BN44 3HF.

Sir,

On behalf of the 'Nedscan' Committee, I would like to thank Colin Nicholson for his donation of £200, which is very much appreciated. As Colin knows, this charity works to buy diagnostic scanning



Barry Trewin – Duncan MacGregor – Baz Ashcroft