

AN INTERVIEW WITH REG WRIGHT OF HULL.

***1st Section 2nd OPEN BICC FALAISE 2015.
1st Section 3rd OPEN BICC POITIERS 2017.***



The subject of this interview, Reg Wright, has enjoyed great success racing his pigeons both in the south and in the north of England. However, since joining the BICC, Reg has set his sights on gaining success on the National and International stage with the BICC. In a very short time he has come close on two occasions, culminating in his recent 1st section 3rd Open win in the Poitiers race at over 500 miles into Hull in the 2017 season to follow on from his near miss with 2nd Open BICC Falaise in 2015. I hope the reader will gain some information of interest from the ensuing article.



Reg Wright outside his impressive range of lofts

THE BEGINNING.

Reg was born in Hull and then moved with the rest of his family to the Croydon area of London where he spent a large portion of his life before moving back up North in 2009. He became involved in the sport at a very

young age as his father was a fancier, although at that time there was no room in the garden for a pigeon loft. The first stock was obtained from a Scottish fancier through the Young fanciers post in the BHW/RP. With that pair to start, plus a couple of pigeons from his Dad, Reg was ready for the off and enjoyed a bit of “beginners luck” winning his first ever race also topping the Surrey Fed in 1987.



Roundabout cocks sections red ,white & blue

At that time Reg was greatly helped by several pigeon fanciers and these included Tommy Woodcock (Wimbledon) who gifted Reg a couple of young birds and Reggie Carlisle (New Addington) who supplied the Kidby loft which was to be Reg’s first loft.

There have been a number of fanciers over the years who have helped and encouraged Reg and these include Dave Reid and R&K O’Connor, who he regards as two great fanciers and honest gentlemen.

As far as the main competition at the time when living in the Croydon area, this included such great fanciers as Ronnie Roe, Dave Lurkins, Ron Wasey, Jonny Adcock, so if you won the club against this little lot you were well placed to finish near the top of the Fed result.

At the present time, Reg is a member of Holderness Flying Club in the East Coast Fed and Withernsea Flying Club in the Yorkshire Middle

Route Fed. He is also a member of the BICC and the MNFC which all race on the south road.

Reg has been around pigeons for most of his life and at 49 he has around 30 years experience in the sport. Ill health followed by a major operation caused him to have a clearance sale in 2006 and soon after he moved back to his roots in the Hull area where he resumed his racing career in 2010. Reg has always had an interest in the “Eyesign Theory”. The subject has fascinated him from day one when Brian Vickers did a loft evaluation. Since then it’s been a massive part in choosing stock birds and pairings. Reg is often amused when fanciers say it’s a load of rubbish, but when he has gone to their lofts and selected their best birds using eyesign they soon go quiet!

LOFTS.

The first loft was obtained from Reggie Carlisle, which was a 15ft x 6ft three section Kidby Loft. Section 1 was for Widowhood cocks, section 2 was widowhood hens, and section 3 was young birds.

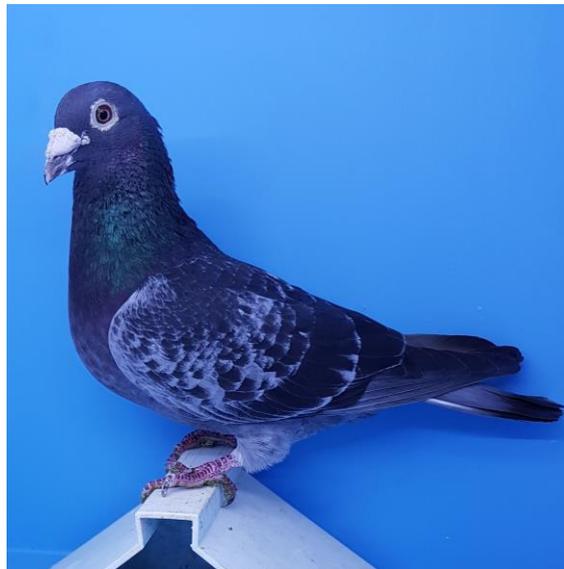


The Red, White and Blue Sections of the Roundabout system

The present loft is a self-built 62 ft x 8ft L shaped structure with a tiled roof . There is a 3 sectioned young bird loft 18ft in length. With an L corner storage for crates/corn. There are three 6ft sections for roundabout cocks in up and over boxes, two 4ft sections for roundabout hens and one 8ft section for stock. Ventilation over the years has been adjusted on several occasions to get it as Reg would want it. This means basically that fresh air goes through the front rises up and over the boxes through the tiles and then exits through the eaves. This Reg believes, is the most important factor in loft design. The loft needs to be dry and warm but with a good flow of fresh air.

MANAGEMENT.

Reg keeps around 10 pairs of Stock birds plus around 30 cocks and 30 hens for racing and breeds around 60 – 70 young birds each year. He likes to line breed for Stock and crossbreed for racing as he has found this method very successful in the past.



“The Master”

Stock birds are paired up at the beginning of December and racers at the end of January/February.

The birds used to be raced exclusively on Widowhood but Reg found that the Hens were being wasted as they didn't get to race, so he decided to race the Roundabout System for Old birds. The race cocks are fed in their boxes

and the hens by hopper. The Old birds have around 6-8 training tosses up to about 20miles before the first race and then they are exercised around the house 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening. The birds are not forced to fly as Reg firmly believes that they should do it naturally if they are in good health. Their first inland race is just under 50miles, followed by a second inland race at 90miles then they go to 330miles for their third race with the BICC. Young birds are darkened off from March to June and are raced to the perch. They then receive 4 weeks training up to 50miles prior to their first race and then just exercised around the house. During racing the pigeons are cleaned out daily and hopper fed, but during the off season the cleaning is done once weekly. Young birds are fed as much as they want to gain a natural balance. Old birds are not repaired at any time during the racing season. Reg mixes his own corn to his own specifications as he has found that many of the corn mixes these days have too many pellets, green peas and white peas in their make up which the birds seem to dislike.



Daughter of The Master

Everything is kept as simple as possible as Reg does not have a flying partner. As he says “the sport is complicated enough as it is without adding to it”. He likes cocks to handle shallow bodied and a hen to be apple bodied and not too big. In terms of medication he only treats when necessary and uses cider vinegar and garlic as supplements.

BLOODLINES.

The origin of the present family of pigeons is mainly Janssen Van Loon purchased from Dave Reid which are based on the Planet Van Loons. Reg has also been fortunate to have R&K O'Connor as his great friends and they have provided their Maris / Staf Van Reet and Batman (57 times prize winner) lines to cross successfully with the base family of Van Loons. He refers to these as "Van Mareetbats". All of the pigeons, no matter what breed, will start racing at 50 miles and anything that doesn't prove themselves inland will go across the channel in the Nationals right up to Pau 716 miles.



"The Wizard"



2nd NE sect 6th Open BICC Poitiers

Reg says that he would love to race the longer races such as Barcelona and St Vincent, however at over 600 miles, it is a BIG ask to compete with the shorter flyers. Maybe another move back down South is in order!

PERFORMANCES.

Some of the best performances to date and most memorable ones are as follows:-

Blandford: 1987 : 1st Surrey Fed. Busschaert

Plymouth: 2001 : 1st SMT Combine. Van Loon

Exeter: 2003: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th Surrey Fed. Van Loons
Yeovil : 2003: 1st 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th Surrey Fed. Van Loons
Blandford: 2004: 2nd 3rd 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th Surrey Fed. Van Loons
Fareham: 2004 : 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th Kent Valley Fed. Van Loons
Blandford: 2005: 1st 2nd 3rd 6th 7th Surrey Fed. Van Loons
Exeter: 2006 : 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Surrey Fed. Van Loons
Cannappeville 2011: 1st East Coast Fed. Van der Merwe
Clermont: 2012: 1st Club Patrington Haven Flying Club. Staf Van Reet x Van Loon
Huntingdon: 2012: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Yorkshire Middle Route Combine. Van Loons
Sleaford: 2013: 1st Club Patrington Haven Flying Club. Van Loon
Falaise: 2015 : 2ND Open 1st NE Section BICC Van Loon x Van Reet
Poitiers: 2017: 3rd 6th 8th Open 1st 2nd 3rd NE Section BICC. Van der Merwe. Maris x Van Loon x Reet. Van Loon x Van Reet



“No Fluke”



1st sect 2nd Open BICC Falaise

During 2017 Old Birds to date the Wright team has won 8 x 1st including 1st 2nd 3rd East Coast Fed. These performances attained with a combination of Van Loons x Van Reets./ Van der Merwe x Van Loons./ Maris x Van Loon x Staf Van Reets. However, Reg regards his proudest moments have been his 2015 (Falaise) and 2017 (Poitiers) BICC results where he finished at 2nd Open and 3rd Open respectively.



Dam of Paula



“The Hurricane”

Some of the individual winning pigeons that have achieved these successes are as follows:-

***Paula :** 2nd Open 1st NE Section Falaise BICC Van Loon x Van Reet*

***Blue 400:** 6th Open 2nd NE section Poitiers BICC G,G dtr to Batman, R& K O’Connor*

***The Duchess of Doom :** 1st Club Clermont. Dam to Paula. Van Loon x Van Reet*

***The Wizard:** 2x1st Club + 2nd East Coast Fed beaten by full Brother The Hurricane (only a yearling) Maris x Van Loon x Van Reet*

***The Hurricane:** 2x1st Club also 1st East Coast Fed (only a yearling) Maris x Van Loon x Van Reet*

***The Master:** 2x1st Club then put to Stock. Van Loon. Bred two separate winners.*

***Kwikfire:** 1st Club Dtr of The Master. Van Loon x Batman lines (R&K O’Conner)*

***No Fluke :** 3rd Open 1st NE Section Poitiers BICC Van der Merwe .*



Some of Reg Wright's current top racers

The FUTURE OF THE SPORT.

Here's what Reg thinks about how the sport can progress:-

“In terms of the sport moving forward I think that the governing bodies should be more involved regarding how many federations there are for each area to ensure more birdage at less cost i.e. if you have 3 federations in one area, these could merge into one big federation which could then be split into 3 sections such as West, East and Central. In this way fanciers can win their section rather than having multiple transporters going to the same race point thus saving on costs.

Many thanks Reg for taking the time to answer my many questions so patiently and here's hoping that you achieve that 1st National win that has so far so narrowly eluded you.

Gareth Watkins.