

ANOTHER GREAT SEASON FOR CLIVE TURNER.

After Clive Turner's great success in 2011 when he won 1st open London & South East Classic Club Alencon (1,811 birds), he has repeated his very high quality performances this season, winning 1st Horsham RPC, 1st South Coast Federation, 1st Combine Saintes (374 miles), 1st, 2nd Horsham RPC, 1st, 3rd South Coast Federation (800 birds) Fougères (192 miles), plus many other premier prizes in the club and Federation. Clive won the Combine from Saintes with his good widowhood mealy pied cock, 'The Saintes Cock', and he was bred by Keith & Betty Mott of Claygate from two Busschaert / Staf Van Reet stock birds bred by Richard and Ken O'Connor of South Norwood. The Saintes Combine winner was latish bred in 2010 and has had very little racing, but as well as winning the Combine he has won several top positions inland in the strong Horsham club this season. His sire is the mealy pied stock cock, 'Young Roman', who is the sire of several good winners and is son of the champion Busschaert, 'Roman Nose', winner of four times 1st Federation, when mated to the Paul Arnold / Staf Van Reet hen, 'Dawn', winner of 1st Combine. The dam of 'The Saintes Cock' is a daughter of the O'Connors 'Champion of Champions', 'Batman', winner of 17 first prizes, including five times 1st Federation and 4th open Combine. Champion 'Batman' is a Busschaert and half brother to Champion 'Roman Nose'. A fantastic family of winners! Clive's 3rd South Coast Federation Fougères winner in the 2012 season was also bred from Keith & Betty Mott blood lines.

The Classic's transport manager, Clive Turner of Capel, won the 2011 L&SECC Alencon race by a 'country mile' and also took 4th open just for good measure! It was very pleasing to see Clive win this Classic as he is a great worker for our club, maintaining and garaging the L&SESS transporter at his yard near Dorking. He is a busy man and was very hard to pin down for a loft visit, but I finally managed to visit his home set in the wonderful Surrey countryside at Capel, to view his great winners. Clive has been a great pigeon racer for many years and has been highest money winner in the very strong Horsham club several times over the years. He tells me he is a pigeon lover really, but doesn't keep the widowhooders for the sprint races only, the whole old bird team race through to 450 miles. When I asked Clive what family of birds he kept he said, years ago they started off as the Busschaerts, which are the base family, but now he could call them 'Turners' as he has crossed in over many years and has now created his own family of pigeons which excel from 80 miles through to 450 miles. He says some of his original birds were purchased in Guildford market for £2 each! Clive has had pigeons most of his life, but packed them up once many years ago, when he had a young family and was very busy farming for a living. He explained to me why he raced as D. Turner! When his son David was a lad he had a 'five minute wonder', obtaining a loft and some pigeons from a friend and when he got fed up with them, Clive took them over, but has never changed the ownership name. Clive had a period of his life living in Hounslow in the late 1960's and raced in the Hounslow Mile and a Quarter Club in the company of greats like Freddie Meal, Hicks Brothers, Mr. Spratley and the great partnership of Claremont & Meads, who was the secretary at that time.

Clive Turner is the Show Secretary of the annual C.H.A.S.E. Charity Show held at Horsham every winter. He has asked me to remind our readers that this 'fun day' show will be held on Sunday 18th November this year. Congratulations to Clive on his wonderful Combine win! (Photos can be viewed in the Website 'Album').

TEXT & PHOTOS BY KEITH MOTT (www.keithmott.com)