

Great performances in the 2013 season.

Brian Denney of Strensall.

The build-up to the 2013 NFC Tarbes Grand National wasn't too good for Brian Denney of Strensall and his fantastic family of 750 mile pigeons, but in spite of some bad luck he managed to produce a brilliant result in the premier race. A couple of his best birds went missing in early trainer sprint races and Brian has been plagued all season with Sparrowhawk attacks, which have resulted in the loss of some of his prime Tarbes candidates. A month before the Tarbes National Brian's wife, Thelma, had to go into hospital for surgery and he had more important things on his mind than pigeons, with Thelma's wellbeing being his priority. I'm very happy to report that our Thelma is well down the road to recovery and is in good form! Brian sent a team of four pigeons to the 748 mile National from Tarbes and clocked his good dark pied cock, '125', to recorded 2nd section K, 6th open. This fantastic six year old cock is raced on the widowhood system and in the 2012 season won 7th section K, 51st open NFC Tarbes (748 miles). He is bred from the very best in the York loft, being a grandson of Champion 'Tuff Nut' and Champion 'Classic Lad', winner of 1st Open Northern Classic Saintes, clocked from 573 miles on the day of liberation. Some say that Brian Denney's Pau Grand National performance in the 2002 season, when he recorded 1st section K, 5th open, was one of the best performances of all time in the National Flying Club. With only one bird clock on the south coast on the day, Brian clocked his dark white flight cock, 'Tuff Nut', on the second day, flying 738 miles, with north in the wind, to record 1st section K, 5th open. Brilliant stuff! 'Tuff Nut' was born at the loft of David Harrison bred from Brian Denney's 750 mile bloodlines. 'Tuff Nut' had been clocked from Saintes, 573 miles on the day, flying 15 hours, in the 2000 season and from the 2002 Pau Grand National was the first bird clocked in Section K. Only four birds had beaten him with 4,085 birds competing and the fact that he had flown 738 miles on two hard days and was still up with the leaders made Brian feel very proud of my pigeon. The icing on the cake was that Champion 'Tuff Nut' won 1st RPRA Region Long Distance Award and 2nd RPRA UK Long Distance Champion for his wonderful performance.

Fred Dickson of Cramlington.

Fred Dickson has celebrated his 88th birthday this year and is still winning at the highest level with his pigeons! Fred loves long distance pigeon racing and over the years has been outstanding racing 581 miles from Bourges to his loft in Northumberland. He sent four birds to the Up North Combine Bourges race in 2013 and with the race turning out to be a very hard push home, the birds clocked in the Combine on the day of liberation could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Fred lives at the top end of the Combine and clocked his good Eric Cannon blue chequer cock, 'Northern Expected', at 06.03hrs next morning to record 1st club, 1st Federation, 1st New North Amalgamation and 8th North of England Homing Union open result (2,355 birds). This wonderful round about cock has now flown Bourges (581 miles) three times and won 1st, 3rd and 4th Federation. A fantastic achievement! The half-brother to 'Northern Expected', a 100% Eric Cannon blue chequer cock, recorded 1st Federation, 1st Amalgamation Bourges in the 2012 season. 'Northern Expected' is a son of Fred's champion 'Five Times Bourges Cock' which was killed by a Sparrowhawk earlier this year and a stock hen bred by Ced and Clive Allwright of Ashford in Kent. Ced and Clive bred the hen from their champion 'El Ced', winner of 53rd, 42nd, 32nd open BBC Palamos (647 miles) and 'Spanish Diploma' winner, also 1st Kent Specialist Club Nantes, when mated to the partner's great stock hen, '36664', which was a granddaughter of Eric Cannon's Champion 'Marion', winner of 1st open NFC Sartilly. '36664' bred many winners with the 'El Ced', including 1st Federation Niort (337 miles).

'The Five Times Bourges Cock' was bred from 'Foxwarren Fred', a red chequer cock bred by us at Claygate and he has proved to be one of the best 550 mile stock cocks we have ever owned and was bred from the very best of Eric Cannon's wonderful long distance family. 'Foxwarren Fred' is the sire of many premier long distance champions including: 1st Federation Bourges (581 miles),

2nd Federation Bourges, 2nd Federation Bourges, 2nd Federation Bourges, 3rd Federation Bourges, 5th Federation Bourges, 8th Federation Bourges and is grand sire of 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 4th Federation, 1st, 1st Amalgamation Bourges (581 miles) in the 2012 and 2013 seasons. He is the sire of the champion cock, 'The Five Times Bourges Cock', winner of 3rd, 5th, 8th Federation Bourges and sire of 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 4th Federation, 1st, 1st Amalgamation Bourges. Sire of 'Foxwarren Fred' is 'Culmer Sam's Lad' bred by Eric Cannon, the last son of Eric's Number One stock cock 'Culmer Sam', who was the product of Eric's Fear Brothers cross. Champion 'Culmer Sam' was the ultimate stock cock and was the sire of Eric Cannon's highly successful 550 mile family. Dam of 'Foxwarren Fred' is 'Culmer Fantasy' GB 00 N 12628 blue hen, bred by Eric Cannon. 'Culmer Fantasy' is a daughter of the stock cock, '93177', a half-brother to Champion 'Culmer Channel Queen'. The parents of '93177', are the champion stock cock 'Culmer Producer' when mated to a direct daughter of 'Culmer Expected', winner of 22nd, 27th, 103rd and 231st open NFC Pau. The dam of 'Culmer Fantasy' is Champion 'Culmer Bess', winner of 6th, 26th and 170th open N.F.C. Pau (540 miles), 47th open N.F.C. Pau / Saintes, winning the NFC Pau merit award. This brilliant hen was top priced pigeon at Eric Cannon's dispersal sales, sold for £2,300. Champion 'Culmer Bess' is a daughter of the premier Mike Spencer stock cock, when mated to 'Culmer Joan', winner of 1st section A. 12th open NFC Pau, who is a daughter of 'Culmer Rose' winner of 30th, 56th, 131st, 389th and 541st open NFC Pau. 'Culmer Rose' was a daughter of the great 'Culmer Sam'. 'Culmer Fantasy' is a full sister to the dam of Champion 'Night Flight', winner of 1st open Saintes / Pau Grand National in 2003, for Mark Gilbert. The dam of the champion 'Five Times Bourges Cock' was the pied hen 'Foxwarren Northern Complete' also bred by K. & B. Mott at Claygate. A fantastic stock hen and dam of many premier 550 mile racers including: 2nd Federation Bourges (581 miles), 3rd Federation Bourges, 4th Federation Bourges, 5th Federation Bourges, 8th Federation and is grand dam of 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 4th Federation, 1st, 1st Amalgamation Bourges (581 miles) in recent seasons. The sire of 'Foxwarren Northern Complete' is 'Foxwarren Black Splash' a grandson of Eric Cannon's Champion 'Culmer Gold', winner of 21st, 70th, 83rd, 103rd, 111th open NFC Pau (550 miles), 164th open NFC Nantes, winning the NFC Pau Merit Award, Best Average Nantes / Pau, also 9th and 11th open Combine. 'Culmer Gold' was the champion of all Eric Cannon's champions! The dam of 'Foxwarren Black Splash' was the premier Eric Cannon stock hen, 'Culmer 14 Hen', and she was a daughter of Champion 'Culmer Sam'. The dam of 'Foxwarren Northern Complete' was 'Foxwarren Complete' GB 01 N 23207 blue chequer hen, bred and raced by Keith & Betty Mott. The champion 550 mile racing hen, being the winner of 2003: 32nd open L&SECC Dax (530 miles), 2nd East Grinstead CC Dax, 2004: 29th open L&SECC San Sebastian (560 miles), 2005: 116th open L&SECC Pau (552 miles), 2007: 109th open L&SECC Pau. Phil Fishlock bred a winner out of a son of this hen in the 2007 season and Joe Bradford recorded 37th open L&SECC Tarbes with a son in 2009. She is the dam of the champion long distance breeding hen, 'Foxwarren Northern Complete'. A real class hen! Her sire was 'The Cannon Cock' bred by Eric Cannon and winner 331st open NFC Pau (552 miles), 77th open L&SECC Perth (370 miles). This cock was the original pigeon Eric bred for me on my restart in 1998 and was a grandson of 'Culmer White Flight' and 'Culmer Sam', being a son of the great 'Culmer 14 Hen'. The dam of 'Foxwarren Complete' was the brilliant blue cheque hen, 'Pathfinder', bred by Brian Denney and her dam was Champion 'Blue Pau' winner of 41st, 201st open NFC Pau (738 miles). 'Pathfinder' was lightly raced before being put to stock and in 2001 flew 900 miles in three weeks to record 91st open L&SECC Perth, 52nd open L&SECC Thurso (520 miles). 'Blue Pau' is the dam of several premier 750 mile racers, including Champion 'Classic Lad'. A late bred son of 'Foxwarren Complete' was donated and sold at the 2008 BHW Blackpool Show Charity Auction for £740.

Later in the 2013 season Fred won with a yearling blue chequer cock bred by us and he recorded 1st club, 2nd Federation, 12th New North Amalgamation Arras (377 miles) in a strong north east wind. This game cock was a son of our premier Eric Cannon stock hen 'Foxwarren Katie' when mated to a son of our Number 1 Brian Denney stock pair 'Sasha's Boy' and 'Lady Tuff Nut'. 'Foxwarren Katie' is the granddaughter of the Eric Cannon champions: 'Culmer Marion' 1st open NFC Sartilly and 'Culmer Channel Queen' the NFC Pau Merit Award winner. 'Sasha's Boy' is a full brother to 'Dark Charm' and 'Dark Dancer', with 'Lady Tuff Nut' being a daughter of the champion

of all the champions 'Tuff Nut'. Congratulations to Fred on his brilliant success in 2013! I have known Fred Dickson since the early 2000s and following his great success racing in the 'hotbed' of the north east of England over that time, I have asked him for article many times. Fred being one of the true gentlemen of the sport and a very modest man has always declined the offer. His racing record in a life time in the sport is second to none and as far as I know has never been record in the fancy press. In recent times I have written dlibs and drabs about Fred and his brilliant performances, but at last he has given me some matter verbally and we can now give him a proper article. Fred Dickson lives several miles away from the pigeons and has to travel to tend the birds every day, whatever the weather conditions might throw at him. I remember one day he rang me up and there was two foot of snow on the ground and he was off to feed and water the birds. This great fancier has to hire a taxi cab on race days to take him to the pigeon club to get his clock read! Fred's cousin, John Dickson, is very keen on the pigeons and helps out with the transport, and around the loft. I have known and spoken to Fred on the telephone many times over the years, but never met him, until in November 2011, when I was invited to judge at the NEHU Show in South Shields and we met in person for the first time. I really enjoyed our pigeon chat and I must say he looked much younger than his 88 years!

Well, there you have it! I hope my readers have enjoyed our 2013 update on the two long distance greats Fred Dickson of Cramlington and Brian Denney of Strensall. Photos can be viewed in the website 'ALBUM'.

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