

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS & DISTRICT FEDERATION

PRESS OFFICER – T. GARVIE – PUBLISHED IN THE BHW

Hi, this is the first article I have written for the Federation after being offered the position of Press Officer to Staffordshire @ Moorlands, a post I was happy to accept, as very few members of the Fed will know me let me tell you a little bit about me. I moved from Scotland almost 2 years ago to live with Liz who I am now married to, happily I might add, last year we bred and raced young birds from some of the stock birds I brought with me and paired them to some of the racing pigeons that Liz had and we had some great racing with very few losses indeed. While I lived in Scotland I raced with Lanarkshire Fed who is the largest in Scotland, and when in Lanarkshire I also had the post of Press Officer there and wrote the articles for them in the BHW till I upped sticks and moved down south, sadly nobody seems to write for them now.

Liz and I joined Hayfield club where there are some great members who like to share a joke and marking is always fun but not as good as reading the clocks off after the race because it is hilarious because I am the clubs chief clock setter and nobody could understand a word I said to begin with so you can just picture the scene and liken it to the three wise monkeys as we have Eric Milner who is a stalwart in the club, he could be "see no evil" as he has great difficulty in reading off the times, we have Jimmy Gibb who could be "hear no evil" as he is deaf and the situation is worse because he cannot understand me and I suppose I would have to be "speak no evil" as nobody understands me !!

I spoke with Roy Jones ,who has too many jobs within the fed to mention but he does fantastically well in helping to control the races which have been great with brilliant returns in all the races I know about, he flies in Blythe Bridge club and he told me that in the race from Messac in France one of their members, K. Pettitt had the first six birds in the race a fantastic feat and when he timed in the first three birds he took his clock to Roy for a strike and Roy told him it was great having three timed in when Ken informed him that he actually had six home but just timed three, Roy sent him packing and told him to get the others timed in so after going back and doing just that Ken then ended up having the first six in the club with velocities of 1064,1021,983,920.8,920.7,920.6.I think I will have to have words with Ken for maybe a loft report later on. Roy also said sadly that the club had just lost two members that had died one was Ray Wheildon and the other was a lady, Sandra Lindop who was always busy doing something to help at the club, both these members will I am sure be sadly missed. Since joining the Fed I have been keeping a watch on a lot of the results via the Federations own website which is kept up to date by Fed secretary Neil Mullins and I have to say it is the best Federation website I have ever come across and it has a provisional result up first thing on a Sunday morning after each race and that in itself takes some doing, and it was while I was going through the website [<http://www.pigeonsglossop.co.uk/>] that I kept seeing the name of Mantle Brothers cropping up and I was given a little bit of info about them by Paul and it looks very impressive, they fly in Buxton club and so far they have won eight out of ten races

One pigeon so far a 09 bird called "BRIGHT EYES" has won very impressively

3rd club Cheltenham 143 birds (beaten by 2 loftmates)

1st club Frome 136 birds

1st club Vire 77 birds+1st section 391 birds+13th open 1,375 birds.

Also in that race from Vire he was 3rd in the yearling 2 bird classic winning £500.

1st club Blandford 111 birds.

And in the NMCC from Fougères he was 4th section 488 birds and 10th open 1,384 birds winning £770.

In that race they also finished 11th section, 26th open sending only 5 birds.

The bird that was 11th section in the NMCC was named "MACHINE" and went on to win 1st section 239 birds and 2nd fed 870 birds at Messac...

He also won the fed Messac 3 bird race winning £540.

In the Messac race they also finished 13th, 14th, 17th open and 5th, 6th and 8th section.

They have had a really great start to the season so far and Paul has said he will keep me up to date with their further results and going by their record I am sure they will have plenty to write about and if my memory serves me when I had just moved down here they won a big race netting £10,000 in the process.

In my own club, Hayfield a couple of the members had a really good race from Messac, namely Chris Mourne and David Ashby, Chris won the race and David and his wife and partner took the next four positions with Chris timing in the sixth bird in the club, Chris's winning velocity was 1028.57 and his other bird did 680.60, Davids velocities were 884,767,735 and 685 respectively, the club sent 23 birds so it was a good feat in timing the birds they did although only the first two were timed on the day with the others the next day but all in all the club had good returns over the couple of days. I would like to say a little bit about Chris who wins quite a lot in the club and he does really well in the North section as well as in the Fed results, his bird blue hen ring number GB09H 29825 won the Messac race, it was also third in the North section and 15th open and the same hen was second in the previous race from France [Vire] but Chris also won that race with another bird, he definitely seems to be the expert from France at the moment, Liz and I missed both the races from France as we were on holiday in Mexico, the weather was great and we had a fantastic time but back to Chris. His yearling hen contains the bloodlines from stock pigeons off his

good friends Mr and Mrs D Ashby and Malcolm Gregory from Daley Dale, the hen contains good long distance as her grand-dam bred by Malcolm for Chris in 2000 won a number of inland prizes and it also won Messac two years running and was second from Cholet when Chris took first and second in the club so Chris certainly has had the results from over the water as well as his continued form with the inland races, I have added a photo of Chris with his winning hen and the other photo is of the clubs old timers at marking with Chris on the left and young David Ashby seated in the centre with another excellent flier, old Jimmy Gibb seated far right but Jimmy does need a seat now because of his age.

In the Federation race from Messac on June 12th 102 members entered 870 birds and they were liberated at 09-45 in a North wind which made it a much harder race for the birds and the fittest made it in decent time, for this race the Fed paid out £200 to the winner with prizes down to 6th place, quite a nice sum to win which was won by P Beck of Longdendale with a velocity of 1101.550 in second place were Mantle Brs. of Buxton, who I spoke about previously, 3rd place went to D and N Hordern of Stafford, 4th place went to Mr and Mrs B.T. Smith of Macclesfield, 5th was N Kelly of Newcastle, 6th was K Pettitt of Blythebridge [who as I stated had the first 6 in the club] so that took up the Open prize money but included within the race the fed held a 3 bird race which was of course won by none other than Mantle brothers winning an additional £554, second in the 3 bird race were Mr and Mrs B T Smith taking home £281 and third was K Champ also winning £281 so there is quite a bit of money to be won in these races something Liz and I will definitely be trying next year when we have some older birds along with our yearlings. Well I think that is just about it for now and word should be getting round by now that I am the new PO for the fed so it now down to clubs or members to send me anything they would like to see in print whether it be pigeon related or just something they want to say about their club, you can also send me some photographs if you want them included, as not everybody is on the internet I will try and keep those members up to date of anything that is happening within the fed so that nobody will have to miss out on anything special that is happening, any info can be sent to me either by e mail at thomas.garvie@yahoo.co.uk or phone me on 01663 733317 but please not after 7-30pm, if you do not get me on the phone please leave your details and I will call you back at the first opportunity, looking forward to hearing from all the clubs so bye for now from TG.