

Fancy Feathers

Official mouthpiece of the National Fancy Pigeon Association - South Africa
March/April 2015 Issue



**Fadiel Hendricks with Mike Tyson at the 2015 NPA Grand National Show
at Ontario, California, USA**



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Editorial comment

Between the last issue of Fancy Feathers in December 2014, lots of exciting things has happened as you will discover in this issue. It is clear that 2015 will be a year of transformation in our sport, especially with the recent election of Fadiel Hendricks as the SANPO president. His leadership is very evident and I have no doubt that it will filter and resonate throughout the South African pigeon fraternity for years to come. He represented South Africa in an exemplary manner at the prestigious NPA 2015 Grand National Show in the USA, so if you think that this issue is "Fadiel heavy", then, so be it!! We, and our birds, have a lot to thank him for! His contribution on behalf of the NFPA was acknowledged by in the American Pigeon Museum and Library Newsletter April 2015 and he will feature in the next issue of the Purebred Magazine. Also, because Fadiel is at helm of SANPO, we can expect more SANPO news as the process of transformation in our sport takes place which is explicitly indicated by Shane Gerber of SANPO, in the "Notice Board" of this issue. Since we should be near the end of the moulting season in South Africa, which normally heralds the start of the show season, I have included a repeat article on show

preparation, especially for the newer members, along with the other articles in keeping with the gist of our sport - showing fancy pigeons. And, as promised by Yassiem, he wrote a fantastic article about his pigeon experience when he went on his recent visit to Mecca. Happy reading!!

Yours in pigeons
Anthony Thebus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

I write this in my new position as President of SANPO, one of our country's longest-established and recognised sports and recreation bodies.

As I sit behind my desk in my office on a Monday morning it is all starting to sink in. I am totally humbled – if not overwhelmed – that you have given me a vote of confidence. I am also very aware of the tests we face in preserving, promoting and looking after the interests of thousands of pigeon fanciers in South Africa. Already we hear rumours of uninformed parties attempting to introduce legislation that is potentially damaging to the integrity of our pastime. We have had to set our wheels in motion to investigate this already.

Amidst these challenges what makes it such a special and historic moment is that I am the first person of historical disadvantage to be honoured with this position.

For me the way forward is simple: to be grounded, to be focused, to keep the door open and to work for the concerns and interests of all, without fear or favour. I believe leadership is first and foremost, about being a servant of a cause and leading by example.

I am excited and look forward to working with you all.

Regards

President, SANPO & NFPA.

Fadiel Hendricks

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Fadiel Hendricks - the President of the South African National Pigeon Organisation!

By Anthony Thebus

When I an got the SMS advising me that Fadiel Hendricks had been elected as the president of SANPO, I was overwhelmed by a sense of pride and inspiration of his achievement. A short while prior to this, he was rubbing shoulders with the "who's, who" in the international pigeon arena, including Mike Tyson, at Americas largest and most prestigious Grand National Fancy Pigeon show, Fadiel became one of the "who's, who"! In the unlikely event that some of us do not know what SANPO is; it is the only officially recognized pigeon organisation by the South African government. It is thus the official body that represents the interests of every pigeon fancier in the country and for Fadiel to be elected as president of this body - you don't get any higher than this!

For the benefit of our readers, I put a few questions to Fadiel to try to unpack this great achievement, thereby giving us a brief history of his involvement with SANPO leading up to election as the President of SANPO. His responses to my questions are denoted in red.

1. What was the start of the relationship between the NFPA and SANPO? **The NFPA was founded in 2007, with one of its sole purposes to become part of the mother body of pigeons in SA - SANPO.**
2. In your opinion, what would you consider to be some of the highlights between the NFPA and SANPO? **The first NFPA**

show was held with SANPO in Bloemfontein May 2008, this was also a very historic occasion because our AGM was held in Bloemfontein and addressed by the then President of SANPO, Mr. Ryn Van Rooyen, and he was also very instrumental in the foundation of the NFPA. Our second combined show with SANPO was the 2014 SANPO Annual National Show in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain in May 2014; and what a success it was, spoken by many as the best SANPO show ever! And here I must congratulate my show manager Majiet Rawoot and his team.

3. Can you give me a brief summary of events prior to, and at their AGM in terms of your election? **SANPO's AGM went off very well; I was asked to stand for president of SANPO in May 2014 and after the 2014 AGM, it took me a while to accept and consider this request, because I asked myself, "what support would I have?" In November of 2014, I received numerous phone calls from union chairmen and regional representatives asking me to stand for SANPO president; this really gave me the confidence to make myself available for nomination. What surprised me most at the 2015 AGM of SANPO, was the magnitude of support I really had, and that was heartwarming, which I'm thankful for. The rest is history.**
4. What does it mean for us, as members of the NFPA; what is the significance of this historical event? **Nothing new, lol, what's historical about this is that I'm the first president in the history of SANPO to represent both the racing pigeons and fancy pigeons in South Africa. I don't also think that it's ever happened anywhere else in the world.**

So I'll stick to my words Cape Town is the mother city of SA and everything is born here.

5. What can we expect under your leadership? Again, nothing new, I pledge to stay committed and to carry out my responsibility to the best of my ability, and to make the sport of racing pigeons accessible to all in South Africa.

There you have it; from his humble lofts at home, to the international arena, to the absolute head of the pigeon sport in South Africa. Well done Fadiel!!!



My Visit to the 2015 NPA Grand National Pigeon Show at the Ontario Convention Center, California, USA



By Fadiel Hendricks
President – South African National Pigeon Organisation, (SANPO) and the National Fancy Pigeon Association of South Africa (NFPA)

In June last year I received an email from top birdman, Bob Nolan, inviting me to attend the National Pigeon Association, (NPA), Grand National Fancy Pigeon Show hosted by the Los Angeles Pigeon Club, (LAPC), in Ontario, California, in January, 2015. At first I thought I was dreaming, I mean Bob was telling me it was going to be one of the best fancy pigeon shows in US history. History? Wow! And he wanted me there! That said and done, I went back to reality in Cape Town. But a month later I again received a call from Bob - This time it was a more serious Bob. "Fadiel, are you coming?" he asked. My response was, "well, Bob, let me check ticket prices and availability." He curtly responded that I was going to miss the experience of a lifetime.



Fadiel and Bob Nolan

In October, I received an email from the ever persistent Bob requesting my details so that I could be invited in my official capacity as President of South Africa's National Fancy Pigeon Association, (NFPA). I received this invitation via Lennie Mefferd, the NPA secretary.

Now I realised things were serious. I immediately applied for a US visa and booked my ticket to Los Angeles.

I left a hot and sunny Cape Town late January. What an experience arriving at a bustling LA airport for the first time after 32 hours in the air, mixed with the excitement of attending an NPA America National Show for the first time.

I took a bus to Ontario CA. This trip was supposed to be 45 minutes long, but because

of traffic - the likes of which I'd never seen before - we ended up taking two hours. I arrived at the comfortable Double Tree Hilton Hotel, which was adjacent to the Ontario Convention Center. After checking in I tried to rest after my gruelling flight and the confusion of jet lag -But the next morning I was up just before sun rise. I couldn't wait to get to this show; the one that Bob promised would be one of the best shows that the NPA of America had ever hosted.



On entering the show hall I was stunned. What an outstanding venue, and what a fantastic lay out! I've seen the great European shows, and the Americans were up to their exacting standards. The first person to greet me was one of my best friends, Art Pamplona, who was going to host me later in my stay. The official opening of the show was heralded by boxing icon and passionate pigeon fancier, Mike Tyson, releasing 100 white pigeons.

Click on this link and watch it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpQaF8OuABE>



The show hall was beautifully decorated and laid out with a nice wide aisle, which made viewing a pleasure. I must congratulate the LAPC for an outstanding venue and a smoothly-run event that went off like clockwork. The pigeons that had been entered were close to 8,000 representing 300 breeds from more than 400 exhibitors, and as Bob had promised - it was big: this was the second largest fancy pigeon show in US history. The show got more media praise and coverage than any other pigeon show ever. There were participants from 21 foreign countries in attendance, with many renowned foreign judges. And it had the biggest ever pigeon art display, complete with a first ever Artist's Meet at any show. The show was live broadcasted over the internet. There were a record number of vendors with numerous gifts, presents, materials that were put out by the LAPC including patches, calender, flyers, t-shirts, and a lot more.

The breed with the largest number of entries was the English Trumpeters - 600 English Trumpeters!



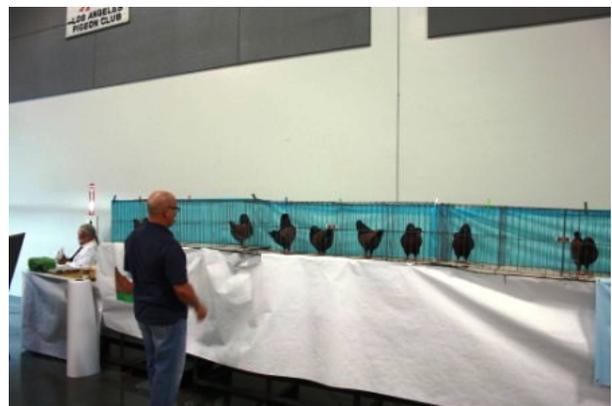
John Heppner at the English Trumpeter section

It was here that I met all the other ET breeders: the irrepressible Bob Nolan, John Heppner, John de Carlo, Snr., Lyn Watson, Zvonko Simunovic, Mike Owen, Pres of the ET club Mark Johnson, Diane Jacky and so many more ET breeders, too many to mention here. Walking through the show hall I met up with so many close pigeon friends that I felt like a little boy again - it was as if I was meeting all my close friends after being grounded by my parents for a year!



I was honoured and excited to meet "Mr Pigeon" himself, Dicky Hammer, and Hans Schipper from Holland - the land of windmills, (and top class pigeons!).

I thought I'd come to the US to see pigeons, but I think I met more people than feathered friends.. I met Willie Richert, Dennis Weyrauch and other Modena breeders.



In the Jacobin section I met up with Drew Lobenstien and Finlay Bye from the UK. In the Helmet section I caught up with some great guys: Jim Garus, Dennis Manning, Pavel Lutsenko, Bob Bollinger and others. I was also reunited with my close friends from Germany, Viola Dziuba, Werner Hartman as well as Neil Pratt, Mike Knaggs from the UK and Amir Turkanovic from Bosnia, Claus Jansen from Denmark and also the webmaster of the LAPC, M Shaheed; and not forgetting my good friend Jerry Sindelar from Canada.

At the show, the quality of the breeds was outstanding, but a blue MFC Helmet caught my eye. This Helmet also became the champion

MFC bird. Many others also got my attention, like a red cock and a yellow hen.

It was now only 11 am and it was then that I finally met the NPA president, Mr Jerry Gagne, and what a warm, bear-hugging encounter was that! I will not elaborate too much on that encounter....LOL

Our very own Dr Ockert Botha, the SANPO official vet, was also invited to the show, and he delivered some riveting seminars on pigeon health.



Dr Ockert Botha, Mr Jerry Gagne with me at the show

I had the honour of chatting to one of the world's great boxing champions, Mike Tyson, a keen pigeon fancier - Our photo got many hits on Facebook. For the next two days it was just pigeon talk with some of the great pigeon fanciers of the US and beyond.

One of the highlights of the show was the banquet evening. After my speech, (which I was told was well-received), I handed an NFPA plaque to the NPA president, Jerry Gagne, and also to Lorrie Monteiro, Curator of the American Pigeon Museum.



NPA President, Jerry Gagne receives his NFPA plaque



Lorrie Monteiro receives her NFPA plaque

I also received an NPA plaque from Mr Jerry Gagne. On the Saturday afternoon we packed up and left for the after-party with Bob Nolan at his Dana Point home. I met up with even more fanciers: from Australia, Allan Makin and Mario Corral and his wife, from Hungary Attila Piuokovic, from Canada Zvonko Angelo Buffi and Robert Burn, from Holland, Dicky Hammer, Iwan Meester and Laura Kruitwagen, from New Zealand, from the USA Stephen St Clair, Mick Owen and his wife Sherry... and so many more.



From left to right, Mike Owen, Werner Hartman, Sherry Owen, Atilla, Stephen St Clair, Bob Nolan, Kathie Johnson, Robert Burn, Mark Newby, Mario, Lyn Watson, Zvonko, Iwan, Laure, Allan Makin, and me

Thank you very much Bob and Kathy for being such hospitable and generous hosts. What's so great about such an event is that we correspond via internet and when we meet each other it's like we've been friends for years.

Bob Nolan took us on a tour of Hollywood and it was interesting to see where most of the world's movies are made.

The next day we went on a four hour drive to Art Pamplona's home in Arroyo Grande - what phenomenal journey that was, all along the north coast of California! It's here that I stayed for the next four days with the warm-hearted Art and his wife Jacky. It was like a home away from home. We visited many places in the surrounding areas, but one of the highlights was the visit to Sieglinde Tate's pigeon loft - There are over 4,000 pigeons in them and how she and her loft manager cope with all those pigeons, beggars the imagination.

The other great moment, of course, was being at Art's loft with some of the best English Trumpeters in the world. Thank you Art and Jacky for bringing my visit to the USA to such a grand end - It's a trip that will long be treasured and it provided wonderful memories that I'll share with many.

Thank you all, and thanks to the NPA and LAPC for hosting such a magnificent show.

For a look at some of the champion pigeons click on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITroJBaVPSE>



Panorama Pet Shop

Stockists and buyers of parrots, parakeets and exotic birds. We specialize in bird seed, pigeon products, wire mesh and cages. A large selection of aquarium and pond fish, unusual reptiles, hamsters and all other requisites also available. Please pay us a visit at 88 Wynne Street Parow
Tel: 021 930 2609 Fax: 021 930 3939

Notice Board

CONGRESS & AUCTION

WESKAAP DUIWE UNIE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THEIR ANNUAL CONGRESS AND SALE OF 50 MILLION DOLLAR PIGEONS TO BE HELD ON:

DATE: SATURDAY, 11TH APRIL 2015
VENUE: PAUL DE WET'S RESIDENCE, UITVLUGT (WORCESTER)
CONGRESS: COMMENCES at 09H00
VIEWING OF PIGEONS: FROM 14H00

AUCTION: 15H00 SHARP

FURTHER ENQUIRIES KINDLY CONTACT: SAVILLE PENKIN 083 375 6096

NOTE FRIDAY EVENING:

A VERY INTERESTING TALK ON EYE SIGN WILL BE PRESENTED BY BUTCH EINKAMERER, AN EXPERT.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENDANCE.

NFPA SHOW DATES 2015



Birthdays

For further information about shows and show dates, please contact Mariza or Nico Venter at 021 903 0613 or send an email to ventern@telkomsa.net with your query.

The NFPA extends its warmest wishes those that have celebrated their birthdays recently.

- Tokkas Gericke** - 4 January
- Nico Venter** - 24 January
- Johan Fourie** - 1 February
- Yassiem Khan (YK Lofts)** - 2 February
- Patrick Daka** - 2 February
- Fariet Rajal** - 4 February
- Zaahid Abrahams** - 27 February
- Bill Wepener** - 6 March
- Reggie Fester** - 19 March



News from SANPO

Submitted by Shane Gerber

I prepared out a short write-up about Young Bird disease in Afrikaans. (You can find it in the "Doctors Corner" section of this newsletter.) There is a full two hour video on this illness that can be ordered, please contact me at sgerber@bllsa.co.za for more details or if you need assistance with ordering it.

I am pleased to announce that SANPO have recently set up a research fund so that the SANPO Vet - Dr. O. Botha - can do more research on illnesses affecting our pigeons e.g. the recent spate of Circo Viruses that have reared their ugly head, etc.

Another exciting development that is that SANPO will also be doing is making an "Ask the Vet" link whereby all fanciers can put questions to Dr. Botha; by describing their pigeons' conditions and symptoms to him, thus hopefully by doing this; it will allow Dr. Botha to accurately diagnose the condition prevailing in your pigeons and recommend the

FEBRUARY	JUNE
27.02.2015 – Exhibition Show – RAMOT – Parow.	8 to 14.06.2015 – NFPA National Championship Show at Athlone Civic. 16.06.2015 – Youth Day Exhibition Show at Turfall Grounds.
MARCH	AUGUST
14.03.2015 – Training of Judges – Ottery Youth Care Centre > MUFFED & CRESTED PIGEONS.	15.08.2015 – Training of Judges – Paarl > COLOUR & MARKED PIGEONS.
APRIL	SEPTEMBER
18.04.2015 – Young Bird Show – Malmesbury.	09 to 12.09.2015 – Mooreensburg Agri-show. 24 to 26.09.2015 – Malmesbury Agri-show -TBC 30 to 03.10.2015 – Tulbagh Agri-show.
MAY	OCTOBER
23.05.2015 – Training of Judges – At Majiet’s Home > BLOWER PIGEONS.	09 to 11.10.2015 – PE Show. 24.10.15 – AGM & YEAR END F > Venue TBA 31 to 01.11.2015 – Exhibition Show > Motor Show in Reiger Hall at Goodhope Civic.
EXHIBITION SHOW at Zvenwaght Mall - TBA	NOVEMBER
SUMMER CHALLENGE at V&A Waterfront - TBA	6 & 7.11.2015 – SANPO Nationals in KZN.

appropriate antibiotic or "muti" to overcome and cure such a condition.

By making use of this facility, which will be available very shortly on the SANPO website, it could result in cheaper medication costs by hopefully getting the diagnosis right first time right, and not using the "shot-gun" approach of treating for all different types of possibilities and secondly; it will also allow all who visit and read the content on the website to learn from the questions and answer as well.

There will be many other exciting SANPO initiatives coming your way whereby SANPO is making a paradigm shift from simply being a regulatory prescriptive governing body to being your Sports body serving you the Fancier and embarking on initiatives that will benefit the fanciers on the ground and not the elite chosen few as was heard on many an occasion uttered by various Fanciers in the past.

A SANPO Communique from our newly elected president will be circulated shortly I am sure, highlighting such initiatives SANPO will be embarking on, keeping you all in the loop and sometimes where need arises asking for your input and suggestions.

We are all very excited about these developments and I am sure you would also be - after all we at SANPO are here to serve you the Fancy and not be an abstract prescriptive regulatory body only but rather an active body promoting the Sport to the benefit of all - a living dynamic organisation that we all can be proud of.

Thanking you and enjoy the short write-up on YBD.

Yours in Sport
Shane Gerber
SANPO Council Member - Region N

House Keeping Issues



By Yassiem Khan

As a member, and the national secretary of the NFPA, for many years, I have witnessed exhibitors come and go. I have seen some who are still here today and we have become bosom-buddies. Then you have those who come along and pick up a few pointers here and there, have enough financial resources to buy what he wants and metamorphoses into the new expert on the block. Worst still, some have even ventured to turn our Sport into a business and are commonly called a 'smous'. Who are you; and what value do you bring to our honourable sport? It's a question we must all ask of ourselves.

Understanding the Rainbow is physics, but delight in the Rainbow is morality. Our Fancy Pigeon Sport exists in a world of simple beliefs which requires no theology. It is supposed to touch the hearts of all men and women by its beauty and goodness. Intellectual integrity makes it very difficult for me to deal with fanciers who simply want and do not give back, who profits on unsuspecting new members and embarrasses the organisation, and especially those who criticise everything and never lifts a finger - except for personal gain and benefit.

It is imperative that we run an organisation that inculcates in us a determination to want to see our sport grow in leaps and bounds, to create a personal legacy, to breed a pigeon as close to the standard as possible, to support fellow fanciers unconditionally and to promote our sport unabashedly to the world. The time

has come for us to be serious. Let us reflect on the following basic rules of engagement that will move our organisation forward...

1. **MEMBERSHIP YEAR.** Our year starts on the 1 January and ends 31 December. We must understand that participation begins when you have paid your annual fees in full. Should you join in June you are liable for full fees. If you join in July fees are reduced by 50%; until you pay your annual fees you are not considered a member and you cannot buy rings.
2. **APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP or RENEWALS.** Cassie & Marlene are our Ring Masters. All members are requested to fill in new application forms each year. It must be fully completed. ID Numbers or your Date of Birth must be filled in so that the Editor can acknowledge your birthday. You must indicate what breeds you have as well. Proof of payment must accompany your application. Payments must be made into the correct Bank Account and as far as possible NO CASH will be handled at Shows.
3. **VACCINATION OF OUR PIGEONS.** This is a compulsory requirement by the SPCA and a compliance clause in the SANPO Constitution. All pigeons must be vaccinated by the end of March and a certificate must accompany your birds to the first show of the year, i.e. The Young Bird Show or at the first show that you have entered birds. This certificate is kept on file by the Show Secretary / Judges Officer. The certificate must be signed by you and witnessed by an Executive Member. It must be dated and the batch number of the vaccine used must appear on the certificate. Blank certificates are available from the Secretary.

4. **ENTRIES for ALL SHOWS.** Nico & Marize Venter are the Show Secretaries. Members are urged not to wait for the last few days before closing date to enter their birds - enter early. After you have e-mailed or faxed your Entry and Proof of Payment, the onus is on you to call the Show Secretaries and verify that your entries were received and that it was processed correctly. If you do not do this and errors occur, you will have no recourse. Any query about shows must be directed to the Show Secretaries only. Read the Show Rules properly and act according to it.
5. **JUDGES OFFICER.** Zaahid Abrahams is our Judges Officer and Farouk Gameeldien is the assistant Judges Officer. We will use their expertise at all shows. All queries or objections must be directed in writing to them at the show and they will investigate. Their decision is binding and final.

In the next issue of the newsletter we will address more issues. If there is anything that you would like to share with us, or the members, please send me an email at this address: yassiemkhan@yahoo.com or call me at 083 270 6000.

Local shows and related activities

RAMOT Fancy Pigeon Exhibition Show in Parow



by Yassiem Khan

The Ramot Treatment Centre for Addictions based in Parow, Cape Town, is a NPO, (Not for Profit Organisation), that provides a holistic alternative to traditional drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Their facilities are designed to give inpatients a calm and peaceful environment to encourage recovery and self-exploration, as well as interaction with other patients. In addition to their treatment facilities, Ramot provides relaxing recreational opportunities, rooms for creative development, outstanding dining and a church for those who are interested. One of these recreational opportunities was to have a bazaar, the RAMOT Farmer's Day, at the end of February 2015 which included a "petting farm" environment with a few small animals including sheep, goats and ducks.



Nico Venter - NFPA Western Province Show Secretary, got to know about this event via a local community based email forum whereby the local communities are informed of events and activities in the surrounding areas of

Parow. He immediately saw this event as an opportunity to promote and create awareness of the sport of exhibiting fancy pigeons. He contacted the relevant people and organisers with a request to be part of this event by staging "mini" exhibition fancy pigeon show at the event. After receiving the go-ahead, Nico set up this 11th hour Exhibition at the RAMOT Farmer's Day. It was a great exhibition.



Upon arrival, the 'Morning Market' was in full swing.



All kinds and types of stalls prevailed. There was an exhibition of farm animals and we had a great display of Fancy Pigeons. We had tremendous interest in our birds. We exhibited 50 breeds on the day and the public were in awe.



This was a great start to our 2015 season. An 85 year old lady looked at the Stargard Shaker and commented that... *'sy lank laas so 'n lank nek op 'n voel gesien het'*...lol. Yes, many of our pigeons have unique

characteristics that engender us to loving them for a lifetime. We had a fantastic exhibition and met many potential members and especially juniors.

Present at the exhibition were Nico Venter, Nico Esterhuizen, Majiet Rawoot and myself - Yassiem Khan.

Jacobins in Mecca



by Yassiem Khan.

When Fadiel returned from his visit to the Holy Land, he was overwhelmed with Ahmad Allehyani and his collection of Jacobin Pigeons. I listened to his stories in awe and envy. It was a good envy though. I had the greatest honour in December 2014 / January 2015 to undertake the same voyage, and trust me it was a real Voyage of Discovery... I was privileged to find myself visiting the Holy Cities of Makkah and Medina and the amazing abode of Ahmad Allehyani - the Jacobin King of Saudi Arabia.





As everyone in the NFPA knows... I am fanatical about my Jacobins. So, despite fulfilling all of the rituals of my Holy Undertaking, I made time to hook up with Ahmad Allehyani who resides in Makkah, but has a small holding on the outskirts of this Holy City. I travelled by taxi and met him half way to his farm. He picked me up and after a short trip arrived at his farm. It was rustic but very homely.



He gave me a short tour of his farm. He had recently acquired some wild buck and had a flock of sheep. He pointed out that these sheep were the best 'meat sheep' in Makkah. He had also planted corn and other interesting vegetables.



We then sat down in his orchard on a carpet and he served me a special coffee with dates, giving me a sense that I was in a different world. We had a serious discussion about life, in particular: life in Makkah as opposed to life in South Africa. Soon it was time for our afternoon prayers. We performed ablution in the orchard and then proceeded to the main house.

We entered his trophy room and performed our prayers there. Thereafter, I was exposed to his collection of winning trophies. I was astounded at his phenomenal successes. He

had won in every colour class over the past few years. His achievements spoke volumes, but what a humble person Ahmad was. I gave him a Peak Cap as a gift from the members of the NFPA. This he proudly accepted and placed it amongst his many trophies. I was escorted to the building that housed his Jacobins.



The building was a double storey warehouse, measuring some 25m x 40m. It was completely tiled out and air-conditioned. Most of his Jacobins were in moult and were housed individually in cages measuring 1.4m x 1.0m x 1.0m.



I was speechless - If I had died and gone to heaven, then that was the moment. The quality of Ahmad's Jacobins were of textbook standards!





He selected a few birds and asked me to identify the champion amongst them. I am very proud to say that all the birds I selected fulfilled the criteria of Champion Birds. Ahmad acknowledged that I have a good eye for the breed. I have never in my entire life seen such a stunning selection of Jacobins ever.



I must congratulate Ahmad on his amazing birds and wish him every success. However, I must say...if you have such quality birds, success follows you.



Soon it was time to leave Ahmad and his Jacobins. With a very sad heart we parted company. I remain ecstatic when I speak about Ahmad or when I recall my visit and reminisce about what I had experienced. When I returned to my hotel in Makkah that evening, Ahmad called me and pledged to give me four pairs of his Jacobins as a gift. He wanted me to come back and fetch them before I left. This was not legally possible. I phoned Fadiel immediately and told him about this and Fadiel has assured me that with the first opportunity he will initiate the process of getting these majestic birds into my lofts. I patiently wait on Fadiel to make the magic happen. Ahmad has promised to visit us here in South Africa soon. I most certainly look forward to the day that graces our shores.

NFPA makes more SHOW PENS



by Yassiem Khan

It was a scorching day in January 2015 when all members were invited to get together at

Nico Esterhuizen's home to make more Show Pens for the NFPA Western Province. I was very disappointed to see a very poor turnout. Members failed to avail themselves despite timeous notification at the AGM.

However, the usual dedicated bunch of members were there to ensure that we have enough cages at our disposal for the effective staging of our shows and the housing of our prized possessions...our Fancy Pigeons.



Nico Esterhuizen, Majiet Rawoot, Nico Venter, Nazeem Fortune and I braved the sweltering heat, stared sun-strokes in the face and robotically produced 50 sets of openings. OK, so the others did most of the work whilst I stood by and played 'safety officer' for the day.



I was also very instrumental in ensuring that no-one went hungry...I went to KFC and got us a barrel...lol. After a hearty meal, it was unanimously agreed upon that we will have to call for another such day to finish the job.

This time the appeal is once again extended to all members to avail themselves to help finish the job. The venue and date will be announced shortly. We thank Nico Esterhuizen and his wife for making their home available to us to make the Show Pens.

Training of Judges

By Zaahid Abrahams

We recently had the first of many "Training of Judges day" on 14 March 2015 at the Ottery Youth Care Centre. The focus was crested and muffed breeds.



Everything was well set up with some nice pigeons on display for discussion. We started off with a general discussion regarding the way forward for judging at shows. In the past judges were lenient regarding birds with a few pin holes on show. It was decided that in going forward, we would be very strict in disqualifying birds with pin holes and that birds with parasites, diseases, etc. will be immediately disqualified and removed from the show cages, so please make sure your birds are in top show condition.



Zaahid (left) and Farouk (right) at the Training of Judges Day

At the 2014 AGM, I was elected as the Judges Officer and Farouk Gameeldien as Assistant Judges Officer. We will be looking at our current score cards which will be modified, and in addition a scale of points for each breed will be provided to the judge so that each bird can be given an accurate final score. See the example below.

BREED: MODENA

SCALE OF POINTS:

SHAPE OF BODY.....	20
STATION.....	20
HEAD, NECK & EYE.....	20
COLOUR & MARKINGS...	20
LEGS.....	10
CONDITION.....	10
TOTAL.....	100

SIZE OF CAGE:

400MM X 400MM X400MM

WALKING PEN TO BE USED:

YES:.....NO:.....**X**...OPTIONAL:.....

We call upon breeders to assist in acquiring the scale of points for the breeds you have in your loft. We have quite a number of breeds so your assistance will be appreciated. I will give my details below so that you can forward it to me. As many of you know, breed standards are updated and revised from time to time. The NFPA will adopt the standard of each breed from the country of origin, and because there are so many breeds; it is impossible for one person to keep track of updates etc. therefore we request that breeders notify and/or assist us in keeping standards up to date.



The next point that was discussed was the qualifying of judges. The requirements for applying to qualify for the judging exam and

the criteria applicable to qualification as a judge are as follows:

- The person must have been a steward for the breed in question for a minimum of two years which has to include being a steward at a minimum of four major shows i.e. two national shows and two young bird and/or provincial shows.
- The person must have bred and shown the breed for a minimum of two years.
- Judges who have qualified in judging more than five breeds will be allowed to qualify for breeds which they have not bred and showed.
- Qualifying exams will be conducted at our national shows and persons interested in doing their judges exam should hand in their applications with show entries.
- Those interested in being stewards at any shows, regardless of whether they want to be enlisted on the judge training programme or not, should notify me or Farouk prior to the show at which they want to be a steward.

Our next "Training of Judges day" will be on 23 May 2015 at the residence of Majiet Rawoot where we will focus on blower or cropper pigeons, such as Norwich Croppers, Brunner Pouters, Dutch Croppers, and so on. We will be implementing the new score cards and scale of points at all our major shows. Please note that attendance at these "Training of Judges Day's are not only for aspirant judges - everyone is welcome to attend, even if you don't breed the type of fancy pigeon that is being focused on. In August we will focus on colour pigeons where I will also give an introduction on basic colour genetics, which is very important when breeding for colour.

If you have any questions, comments and queries regarding fancy pigeon judging or judges, or anything relating to judging, e.g. breed standards, etc. please feel to email me at zab84@hotmail.com

What it means to be a Judges Officer



By Zaahid Abrahams

My beginnings....

I started keeping pigeons at the age of 14. My grandfather kept racing pigeons since I can remember, so I knew quite a lot about pigeons. Initially I only kept white garden fantails, and for the first year or two I went to every pet shop in Paarl looking for other colours and eventually found a black pied cock which I was very happy about. A friend of mine gave me a pair of American Show Racers, at the time I knew they were show pigeons but only later found out what they were called.

One day there were fantails for sale in the newspaper, I immediately called the person to enquire. He had various colours available but he lived in Cape Town. I asked my dad to take me there, and that was where I purchased my first pair of saddleback show fantails. The old man kept many other breeds, and for the first time I saw breeds like Magpies Archangels, Jacobins, etc.

I remembered that one of my cousins used to keep various show pigeons including Modenas, Lahores and Tumblers, etc. I went to him and

he gave me a few books on show pigeons. I found contact numbers of various breeders in the books. I noticed that one of the breeders lived in Paarl and I purchased my first Modenas from him. Subsequently, I heard about a pigeon show being held in Kraaifontein. At my visit to that show I met many breeders. I have since kept and showed many breeds like Lahores, South African Toys, Old Dutch Capuchines, Show Fantails and my favorite which I still keep, Modenas.



One of my Lahores



My favourite breed – The Modena

I also kept Racing Pigeons or Working Homers as we call them. I specialized in all the unusual and rare colours. In 2007 I qualified as a SANPO (South African National Pigeon Organisation) judge and have been judging at the FBHU, (Federated Board of Homing Unions), Western Province regional racing pigeon show annually since then.



My loft

On being the NFPA Judges Officer...

My response to the questions posed by the Editor of our newsletter, Fancy Feathers, should put being the NFPA Judges Officer into perspective.

Question 1: *When did you start with pigeons? (racing and/or fancy pigeons).*

Answer: I started with pigeons in 1998.

Question 2: *What are your favourite breeds?*

Answer: My favourite breeds are the Modena, Fantail, Old Dutch Capuchine, Gimpel and Lahore

Question 3: *What breeds do you specialize in?*

Answer: I specialize in the Modena, Gimpel and Old Dutch Capuchine

Question 4: *What is your background in judging?*

Answer: On the racing pigeon side I got quite a bit of training from my uncle, who is a SANPO judge, I was also a steward for 3 years at FBHU shows and in 2007 I passed as a judge. I was also involved with the Cape Modena Club where I got quite a bit of training from well known Modena judges.

Question 5: *In terms of the NFPA, what is a Judges Officer and what is an Assistant Judges Officer?*

Answer: The Judges officer is basically the person who oversees the judging process and ensures adherence to the correct procedures

in terms of the show rules which are found in the Show Schedule. The Assistant Judges Officer will stand in when the Judges Officer is not available and will help with drawing up procedures and running training programs, etc. The Assistant Judges Officer also plays a consultancy role in reaching decisions during the resolution of disputes.

Question 6: *What is a steward?*

Answer: A steward basically assists the judges during judging, they have to write down the information and the scores that the judges allocate as per the judging cards and thus in the process learn more about the breed and the judging procedures.

Question 7: *What are the duties and responsibilities of the Judges Officer?*

Answer: The duties of the Judges Officer are to allocate specific breeds to be judged by the various judges and stewards, to make sure that the judges understand and follow procedures, if any problems arise during judging he will work with judge to resolve it. The Judges Officer, supported by the Assistant Judges Officer, is also responsible for training of judges and keeping breeders up to date with judging procedures, etc.

Question 8: *How would you describe the "Judges Training Programme and the implementation thereof?*

Answer: I would like to get as many people as possible involved in the training programs, so that judges as well as breeders can learn and understand the various breeds. The idea is to guide breeders into the direction/breeds that they are interested in so that we can have specialist judges in the future who can help train the newbie's.

Question 9: *How can people get onto/into the programme?*

Answer: People that are interested in being a steward can contact me and I will show them the way, it is also important that they attend

training days. Those that have been involved as a steward and feel they are ready for the exam can contact me and I will forward the forms to them which they have to return with their national show entries.

Question 10: In addition, to the future training dates given, what do you think should be the ways and means to generate interest in the programme, maintain momentum of participation and what are your long objectives of the programme?

Answer: We should have more pigeon days where breeders can bring along some birds which they have questions about and we can have general discussion regarding the birds present, this way everyone's views will be heard and we all will learn something.

My long term goal is to have judges specializing in 5-10 breeds, we can then have more than one judge per breed so they can work together in keeping the standard high, train and help breeders to improve their breed.

In conclusion, as with any other office bearer in the NFPA, the integrity and sincerity of the Judges Officer is of paramount importance because the position is based primarily on the trust that members have in the Judges Officer to have an unbiased and objective disposition.

Preparing for a Show

Original article by Doratha Connally posted on <http://texaspigeonassociation.com/>

The end the moulting season is generally the start of the show calendar in South Africa, culminating in the National Championship Show in the middle of winter; luckily for us our winters are not as harsh as in some other countries. It's never too early to begin preparing your birds to compete. Below are a

few simple ideas to help make your birds more competitive.

Feed and vitamins

It almost goes without saying; that show pigeons need good quality food to develop overall condition and beautiful feathering. Ask other breeders in you area what brands they use; and then experiment with what works for you. It isn't necessary to feed the most expensive food but you probably won't get great results with the cheapest, either. Some exhibitors give their birds pigeon vitamins and believe that they add extra condition to the feathers and overall health. If you give the water-soluble type you must clean your water containers every day as bacteria thrive in vitamins.

Bathe your birds

At least once a week, take a large shallow pan and fill it with about 4-5 inches of water. Place it in your flypen or loft and watch the pigeons dive in — pigeons love to bathe. There are various products that you can add to the bath water to help with feather condition, ask your local pigeon supply shop or an experienced fancier.

Three to four days before a show, let your pigeons bathe. This allows time for the feathers to redevelop their "bloom" before the show.

Check your birds for any sign of feather lice

The most typical louse is easily visible - usually inside the birds' wings. They are brown, cigar shaped and about 1/16th to 1/8th inch long. They feed on the feather material and if you don't get rid of them, they can actually chew tiny pinholes through the feather.

Many judges will instantly eliminate a bird from competition that has lice or more than a few of these pinholes.

Treatment: There are various treatments, including powders and sprays. Again, check the pigeon supply houses. One of the easiest treatments is Sevin dust. Place it in an old jar; punch about 8-10 holes in the lid (kids get your parents to help you with this). Screw on the lid. Wear a dust mask.

Holding the pigeon, shake a little onto the bird's back; gently work it into the feathers. Then powder under each wing and on the breast. It isn't necessary to powder the entire bird. Keep the powder out of the bird's face, eyes and mouth. Powder your loft and the perches. This needs to be done at least every 6-8 weeks.

According to Wendell Levi, author of THE PIGEON, it is probably impossible to get rid of every single louse. But don't let this deter you from battling these pests. They can ruin your very best bird's chances at the show.

Very Important: When using pesticides, wear a mask. Wash your hands thoroughly and change your clothes after using any pesticides.

Trimming

This is the process of taking out unwanted feathers by plucking (and on some breeds cutting). For example: If your breed standard has specified color markings and your bird has a feather of the wrong color in the wrong place you will want to "trim" or pluck that feather. Some breeds, such as Swallows, need to have broken or misshapen foot feathers removed about 6-8 weeks before the show so they will have time to re-grow.

Getting hold of a single pigeon feather can be tricky — take your time and be careful. You don't want to end up with a bald spot. Some breed standards allow for the judge to

disqualify a bird that has been obviously trimmed.

Always look for instructions about your breed or talk to a breeder before you start.

Trimming can make a bird look extremely sharp or can ruin it.

Two important definitions

Station - This means the bird must stand confidently in the correct posture for your breed. Use your current breed standard and read through it thoroughly until you get a mental picture of your breed.

Standard - Many pigeon breeds have written "standards." These are guidelines for the size, shape, colors and appearance of the breed. Judges reward birds that most closely resemble their breed standard.

Training

No matter how beautiful your bird is, if it is terrified — flying all around the judging coop or crouching in the corner — it probably won't win. You need to train your bird to understand the judging procedure so that it will be calm and have the correct station.

To train your bird you need either an actual show coop or something very similar. Begin by simply placing the bird in the show coop. Do this gently and calmly. Allow it to stay in the coop for 10-20 minutes. Remove it and return it to the loft. This process should be done as calmly as possible so that the bird doesn't associate the coop with fear.

Do this for several days, lengthening the time as you go. If you are involved in one of the more popular breeds your bird may be in the judging coop for long periods of time at the show.

After your bird seems calm in the coop, begin studying it just as a judge would. Slowly extend your hand to the bars of the coop. Walk back and forth in front of the coop. Open the door slowly and then close it. When

your bird accepts this without fear, flatten your hand as if you were going to shake hands with someone and slide your fingers through the bars. You can direct your bird into or out of a corner doing this. Remove your bird from the coop and inspect it as if you were judging it. Open out each wing and spread the tail feathers. Look closely at its head and eye. Then return it to the coop. Wait a few minutes and then do the whole procedure again.

Many judges use a judging stick. This is usually a metal fold-up pointer used for business or school presentations. An old car antennae or thin dowel rod will work. Again, you must be very gentle in getting your birds accustomed to the judging stick. The first day just unfold it and slowly wave it in front of the coop and then over it. The next day, touch the bars of the coop. When the bird shows no fear then you can begin to reach through the bars and very gently touch the bird on the tail or under the breast. The judging stick is used to help encourage the bird to station correctly. In a breed like Modenas, the judge would use it to encourage the bird to lift its tail; in American Show Racers, the judge might push down on the tail. Again, read your standard and study other birds of your breeds to know how your breed should station. The tricky part of training is to not overdo it. You can make a bird so relaxed with the whole procedure that it appears bored. So; train to the point where there is no sign of wildness and then just a weekly quick refresher may be all the training your birds need.

Carrier or Crate - Getting Your Birds to the Show

How do you plan to carry your birds to the show? There are fancy boxes, baskets, metal crates, etc. that you can buy through the supply houses. Some people make their own or use cardboard boxes with lots of holes for

ventilation. (Pigeons can generate a lot of body heat and can get too warm in a container without good ventilation.)

Ideally, each bird should be in its own compartment to minimize pecking. Place some wood shavings in the bottom to give the bird traction and to absorb droppings. Just like the show coop, it is a good idea to get your birds accustomed to traveling in their carriers. Load them up the week before the first show and just drive around the block. This will also give you practice in the process of loading your birds. And give you some idea of how much time you'll need the morning of the show to load up.

Again, three or four days before the show, allow your pigeons to bathe. Check for any odd feathers that need removing and trim your bird's toenails (unless your standard calls for sharp toenails). Just the very tip needs to be removed. If you've never done this be careful not to cut into the "quick" — the pink part that has blood supply.

The Day of the Show

Calmly load your birds into your carrier and place them on a level surface in your vehicle in an area that is not too warm or too cold. You want this trip to the show to be as stress-free as possible for you and the birds. Give yourself plenty of time to get to the show with at least a few minutes extra so that your birds have a chance to relax and get used to their surroundings.

When you get to the show, find your show coops. These will have your bird's band number on a card attached to the front of the coop (your name may be on this card also). As you place your bird in the coop, check it over — if there are any droppings on the feet or elsewhere, wipe them with a barely damp paper towel or cloth.

Your coop should have a food cup and a water cup. Make certain that the water cup is full of fresh water. Your birds may need a drink,

depending on how long they have been in the carrier. Dehydrated birds will not show well. Pigeon shows are run in different ways so if this is your first event, find the show secretary or show superintendent. Ask if you will be allowed to carry your birds up to the judging area or if the club is using "runners." (A runner is a person who carries birds from the show coop to the judging coop). Then ask which judging area your breed will be judged at and when. Times for judging are usually not set at exact times so you have to be flexible and watch your judge to see when he/she is ready for your breed. Yours may be the very first breed to be judged or it may be later in the day.

Don't get upset or stressed — pigeon shows are usually very loosely run. The judge will wait for you — within reason — and the other exhibitors will usually help you in any way they can.

DON'T get discouraged if you lose!! Every judge has a different opinion — your birds may lose one week and win the next. For your first show season, try to learn as much as you can — to develop an eye for your breed. Study the winning birds — how do they look different from your birds?

Are they in perfect feather condition while yours are still molting?

Are they in better weight?

Did they station well every time the judge looked at them?

Is your bird just having a bad day? Did it drop its tail or head when the judge was looking?

Does the winning bird more closely resemble the written standard for the ideal bird?

Breeding and exhibiting an excellent bird is an art — if it was easy there would be no reason for competitions. Be honest with yourself

about your birds — are they close to the standard?

After judging; ask the judge his opinion of your birds, if he/she has time. Try to learn how to help your birds win.

You may be one of the fortunate ones who starts winning in their first season. But for most, it takes work and time. DON'T GET DISCOURAGED! Make the commitment to the sport of showing pigeons — work to develop a winning line of birds that are beautifully presented at each show. You'll have something to be proud of!



The Doctor's Corner

JONGDUIFSIEKTE

By Shane Gerber

Duifies wat gespeen word moet ten minste 4 weke apart gehou word in 'n jongduif "Speenhok". Gedurende die periode moet hulle voorbereidende behandeling kry teen die normale parasiete wat in jongduiwe voorkom. Geen nuwe duiwe moet ooit direk in hokke geplaas word nie maar moet ook eers in die "Speenhok geplaas word",

Hulle moet glad nie saam met ander jong duiwe gesit word nie. Rede is immuunstelsel moet eers opbou en die kritiese periode van 3-6 weke waar meeste Circo virus uitgeskei word moet verby gaan. .

1. Eerste keer wat gespuit word vir Paramixo, moet 'n duiwe stam-entstof gebruik word, nl. PMV 1 of Chevivac P200 Nobilus Paramyxo vaccine. Vier weke later moet gespuit word met 'n hoender stam entstof soos Aviovac . Dit is om maksimum beskerming te gee teen beide die duiwe en hoender stam.
2. La Sota moet glad nie gebruik word by jong duifies wat gespeen is nie, dit is lewensgevaarlik. Kan wel in vliegseisoen gebruik word as 'n "Booster" aan al die duiwe, dan is die jaaroud duiwe al sterker en weerstand teen siektes is hoer. Indien die siekte in die hok sou uitbreek moet behandeling geskied soos volg:
Gebruik Aviomed se YBD + Probiotika oor kos vir ten minste 7 dae. Duiwe moet glad nie gevlieg word of aan stres blootgestel word indien jy nie 'n merkbare verbetering kan sien aan die duiwe nie. Amoxilyn 40 % sterkte is baie goed en kan in verhouding oor duiwe se kos gegee word. Probiotika in water gedurende behandeling.
3. NB – Mikotoksien vergiftiging by duiwe word veroorsaak deur swak gehalte kos / grane; dit is 'n swam wat n onsigbare en permanente toksien afskei in die graan soos wat dit groei. Dit kom voor in die "Hart" van spesifieke graane veral Mielies en Grondbone.. Mikotoksien vergiftiging veroorsaak twee dinge, nl

- 3.1. Breek weerstand van duif heeltemal af wat hom weer vatbaar maak vir siektes en swak prestasies.
- 3.2. Tas die lewer van duiwe permanent aan en laat die duif se teëlwaardes verswak, teel swak babas.

Toetse vir al drie stamme Mikotoksiene kan gedoen word teen 'n fooi.

Indien jy op "Google" ingaan, sit jy net "CALLABS" in om kontakbesonderhede te kry om grane te laat toets. (In Pretoria)

Voorkoming vir die gevreesde vergiftiging is deur om duiwe 3 X per week "Entromune" oor die kos te gee, dit absorber die Mikotoksiene en voorkom dat dit kumulatief genoeg opgeneem word om toksiese

vlakke in duiwe te bereik. Die produk voorsien ook probiotika sowel as Prebiotiese vesels wat die goie bakteria weer laat groei in die duiwe se derms.. Entromune bevat twee bindmiddels wat die gifstowwe daarin sal laat klou wat weer deur die duif uitgeskei sal word.

Dr Ockert Botha kan geskakel word by 082 922 6355 bestellings vir die 2 ure lange Video oor Jongduifsielte geskiet tydens Dr Botha se lesings in die VSA kan geplaas word deur sy seun Marko te e pos by marko@vetsfocus.co.za. Dr Botha het bevestig dat n skenking van R20-00 per video verkoop gemaak sal word aan die SANPO Veterinere navorsingsfonds.

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