

# NTU Newsletter

NATIONAL TIPPLER UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN FOUNDED 1912

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 - JUNE 2006



## Result Competition 2nd April 2006

Liberation 6.15am • 29 Entries (6 not returned) • Dark 8.52pm

### First

S Nixon (7 birds) – Lakeside  
15.50 (Split 9.30pm)

### Second

E Fenton & Son (5 birds) – Private  
15.40 (Split 9.09pm)

### Third

C Bristow – Willenhall  
15.18 (Split 8.52pm)

### Fourth (Joint)

D Black – Wearside  
15.01 (Split 9.00pm)  
H Shannon – Ulster  
15.01 (Split 9.02pm)

### Fifth

S Price & Sons (7 birds) – Dudley  
14.38 (Split 8.52pm)

### Top Novice

A Tipton – Bentley West – 14.02

### North Section

R Stevens – Lakeside – 10.38

### Central Section

M Tift – Willenhall – 14.36

### Irish & South Section

R Singh & Son – Private – 13.28

### Shield Winners

Willenhall  
B Swinnerton – 12.45  
M Tift – 14.36  
K Pitts – Disqualified  
TOTAL 27.21

## Results 2nd April 2006 continued

M Camplin Springfield – 14.30	B Swinnerton Willenhall – 12.45	W Totney Dudley – 11.40	J McManus West Belfast – 4.40
A Watton Bentley W – 14.15	J Bicknell (5 birds) Willenhall – 12.39	J Curoe (9 birds) West Belfast – 4.58	M McManus West Belfast – 4.10

### Disqualified

I Elstob – Tyne & Wear Sheet not signed 15.15	T Veater – Lakeside Bird 2 mins after time allowed	G&P Dove (5 birds) Lakeside Bird dropped for bath 8.42
B Straughan – Lakeside Missed bird – 15.06	J McDonald – Dudley Missed bird – 14.25	

# Result Competition 23rd April 2006

Liberation 5.30am • 33 Entries (2 not returned) • Dark 9.30pm

## First

I Elstob – Tyne & Wear – 18.15

## Second

C Bristow – Willenhall  
17.15 (Split 10.19pm)

## Third

H Shannon – Ulster  
17.01 (Split 10.24pm)

## Fourth

P Straughan – Lakeside  
16.48 (Split 9.47pm)

## Fifth

E Fenton & Son – Private  
16.46 (Split 10.06pm)

## Top Novice

A Stone – Willenhall – 9.59

## North Section

J Baranowski – Private – 15.11

## Central Section (Joint)

M Tift – Willenhall  
16.30 (Split 9.35pm)  
W Totney – Dudley – 16.30  
J McDonald – Dudley  
16.30 (Split 9.45pm)

## Irish & South Section

R Lavery – West Belfast  
16.30 (Split 9.57pm)

## Shield Winners

Willenhall  
C Bristow – 17.15  
M Tift – 16.30  
J Bicknell – 12.10  
TOTAL 45.55

## Results 23rd April 2006 continued

A Watton Bentley West 16.00	J Curoe (5 birds) West Belfast 14.14	K Pitts Willenhall 7.32	P Robinson Brindley Ford 3.45
F Robinson (5 birds) Brindley Ford 14.20	J Bicknell (5 birds) Willenhall 12.10	R Singh & Son Private 5.45	J McManus West Belfast 2.45

## Disqualified

T Veater – Lakeside Kit over time allowed 17.20 (Split 10.13pm)	R Stevens – Lakeside Missed bird 16.45 (Split 10.32pm)	A Cresswell – Willenhall Wrong ring number 15.10
S Nixon (5 birds) Lakeside Failed to get 2 within time 17.15 (Split 9.56pm)	G&P Dove – Lakeside Missed 2 16.35 (Split 10.05pm)	S McDowell – Ulster 2 over hour – 13.45
D Black – Wearside Bird 16 mins over time allowed 17.00 (Split 9.46pm)	S Price & Sons – Dudley Missed bird 16.16 (Split 9.33pm)	P O'Brien – Springview Hawk attack – 12.15
	A Tipton (Novice) Bentley West No ref signature – 15.30	M McManus – West Belfast Out of bounds – 8.30
		M Clarke – Springview Out of bounds

# Result Competition 21st May 2006

Liberation 4.30am • 29 Entries (1 not returned) • Dark 10.18pm

## First

S Price & Sons – Dudley – 19.05

## Second

C Bristow – Willenhall  
18.55 (Split 11.22pm)

## Third

I Elstob – Tyne & Wear – 18.30

## Fourth

S Nixon – Lakeside  
18.03 (Split 10.19pm)

## Fifth

R Laverty – Springview – 17.33

## Top Novice

A Stone – Willenhall – 9.59

## North Section

D Black – Wearside – 15.10

## Central Section

K Pitts – Willenhall – 15.10

## Irish & South Section

J McManus – West Belfast – 16.21

## Shield Winners

Willenhall  
C Bristow – 18.55  
K Pitts – 15.10  
A Cresswell – Disqualified  
TOTAL 34.05

## Old Bird Club KO Final

Willenhall v Bentley West

## Results 21st May 2006 continued

M Clarke Springview 16.20	B Staughan Lakeside 14.26	J Curoe West Belfast 10.48
M McManus West Belfast 16.08	J Bicknell (5 birds) Willenhall 13.55	T McTaggart Ulster 8.24
W Totney Dudley 15.05	S McDowell Ulster 12.52	
F Robinson (5 birds) Brindley Ford 15.05	R Singh & Son (5 birds) Private 12.22	

## Disqualified

H Shannon – Ulster 2 over hour – 18.20	P O'Brien – Springview Bird over hour – 17.43	J Bradley – Springview Bird out of bounds – 13.40
T Veater – Lakeside Missed bird – 18.04	E Fenton & Son (5 birds) Private Member Bird over hour – 17.34	M Tift – Willenhall 2 over hour heavy storms 13.30
G&P Dove & Son Lakeside Missed bird 17.54	A Cresswell – Willenhall Washed down over hour 14.00	J McDonald (9 birds) Dudley Bird dropped away – 6.45

# All Our Yesterdays

No apologies for printing 2nd Old Bird result 20 years ago.

Entries = 182. Disqualifications = 49 (16 more than full entry this year! – a problem or what?)

I can only go back on old reports when an NTU Newsletter was first printed.

This was sometime after 1978, but some of our friends worldwide like Heinz Kaupschafer of the DFU (German Tippler Union).

His interest is so great that he is a historian for our sport. In his latest newsletter he prints:

'Dear friend, I am very glad to show you a page of the English pigeon paper 'Pigeons', 4th June 1915, with results of the Whitsuntide fly'.

He mentions, 'I have bought these old magazines year by year since founded, from the late Mr D R Clarke, Christchurch, New Zealand.

He says year books were firstly collected by Raymond Dale who had a column 'High Flying' in his paper.

The heading reports a kit of tipplers fly 18 hrs 10 mins. With reports from 14 clubs. Sheffield partners walkland and setters flew the 18 hrs 10 mins.

Some well known names crop up. A J Hartshorne (Burslem TS) and an A Hughes (Derby FTC).

This kit of three were liberated 3.30am Whit Monday, who thought dark training was not done more than 50 years ago.

Heinz says he is computer illiterate like myself.

It would seem email is the direction to go for history or news alike.

Dave Fuller FTS 'Our News' America and Luka Kapal Canadian NTU are proving just that, with excellent newsletters in print.

No doubt Ashley and his team will get together to do likewise.

The NTU website address for computer buffs is [www.ntugb.co.uk](http://www.ntugb.co.uk) it can also be contacted on [tipplers.com](http://tipplers.com)

*Harry Shannon*

# Result Competition 27th April 1986

Liberation 5.30am • 182 Entries • Dark 9.44pm

## First

K J Hardy (N) – Leicester  
– 17.45 – New Record

## Second

H Shannon –  
Mountainview – 17.20

## Third

D J Reynolds –  
Bentley West – 17.17

## Fourth

Goldsmith Bros –  
Southmead – 17.15

## Fifth

E Plester –  
Birmingham – 17.12

## Top Novice

K J Hardy –  
Leicester – 17.45

## North Section

L Crossley – Manchester – 15.40

## South Section (Joint)

G Williams – PBA – 16.50  
A Heavens (5 birds) – Southmead – 16.50

## Central West Section

P Bowden – Handsworth – 16.39

## Central Section (Joint)

K Groucutt (N) – Willenhall – 17.02  
A Groucutt – Willenhall – 17.02

## East Section

B Leggatt – Springfield – 15.45

## Irish Section

W McKee & Son (N) – Mountainview – 17.03

## Shield Winners

Willenhall  
A Groucutt – 17.02  
K Groucutt – 17.02  
C Bristow – 16.45  
TOTAL 50.49

## Results 27th April 1986 continued

J Hayward Avon – 15.15	H Baldock & Son Bristol – 14.40	J Barr Mountainview – 14.18
T Dunn (N) Walsall – 15.00	J Peakman & Sons West Mercia – 14.35	B Webber Handsworth – 14.17
P Leek & Son (N) Tipton – 15.00	G Byrnes Birmingham – 14.32	C Shore (N) Old Hall – 14.06
M Walters Cadle – 14.49	P Owen Cadle – 14.30	S Hemmings Derby – 14.00
Hill & Harris Bristol – 14.45	M Plummer (N) PBA – 14.22	R Downen Willenhall – 14.00

## Results 27th April 1986 continued

A King Southmead – 13.44	J Waters Wear – 12.06	D Moseley Leicester – 6.50
D Lewis Tipton – 13.43	F Robinson (N) Brindley Ford – 12.06	P J Murphy West Belfast – 6.39
J Anderson Mountainview – 13.35	R Booth Usworth – 11.00	S Treece Alvaston – 6.35
G Wilkes (N) Willenhall – 13.28	T & C Whetton Alvaston – 11.00	J B Roberts (N) Brindley Ford – 6.09
C Ellis & Son Walsall – 13.30	N Cook Southmead – 10.46	D Gardiner Walsall – 6.00
J Graham Wear – 13.03	J R Brocklehurst Brindley Ford – 10.39	B Cresswell Handsworth – 5.58
S Ames PBA – 13.02	T & P Smedley Alvaston – 10.08	G Ferran (N) West Belfast – 5.30
L Bakos Southmead – 12.52	M Lane (N) Bristol – 10.03	T Fenn Handsworth – 5.21
G Mason & Sons Derby – 12.52	T Quinn & Son (N) West Mercia – 9.59	R Cottrill Gleadless – 5.01
W Archbold (N) Southwick – 12.52	J O'Neill (N) Bentley West – 9.59	M Ruddiforth (5) Gleadless – 4.22
C Lister (N) Southwick – 12.51	W Roden Brindley Ford – 9.58	B Taylor Snr Sunderland – 4.40
T Titley (N) Tipton – 12.32	D Hill Bristol – 9.40	D Smith (N) Brindley Ford – 3.00
G Forse (N) Southmead – 12.30	J Jones CRC – 9.34	S Hill (N) Knowle – 2.58
J English (N) Usworth – 12.15	T Price West Mercia – 8.15	P Leckonby (N) Usworth – 2.34
R A Beattie Wear – 12.14	T Veater Wear – 8.00	S Sayers Birmingham – 2.25
N Stinton (N) Handsworth – 12.10	K Patterson Wear – 7.40	B Mills Knowle – 0.39
F Naisbitt Wear – 12.07	M Clark (N) Springview – 7.25	

## 49 Disqualified

# Newsletter Improvement

I joined the NTU as a private member back in 1996 and I left the sport in the beginning of year 2000. This was due to further education at university.

However I still had pigeons in my head and had the notion to fly tipplers some day again.

I joined the NTU as a private member this year and I have received my first newsletter of the year, issue 5, March 2006.

I was pleased and excited and I have to say the newsletter as improved since then.

The difference between the old and the new newsletter is that the title or the heading of the old newsletter was written in normal lettering but in bold.

Where as in the new newsletter the heading is big, clear and nicely spaced away from the rest of the paragraph.

Also the paragraphs in the old newsletter was tight or should I say too close together, where as in the new newsletter it is beautifully spaced out and make it more interesting to read for the fanciers.

Last at least MEET THE FLYERS. I liked the idea of showing a photo of the tippler fanciers on 'Meet The Flyers'.

This way we get to know the fancier

better and also the face behind that name. Great job to all concerned.

One thing I do what to point out is that there was nothing wrong with the old newsletter we use to get, but it is always nice to see an improvement.

I do admire the hard work trying to keep up with the newsletter the best you can so us fanciers know what is going on in the tippler sport today.

It's people like yourselves and all the genuine tippler flyers who keep the sport alive today.

I know sometimes you have tippler fanciers writing to you about more articles and photos, but you could only do what you can do.

QUOTATION: One man can not sail a ship on its own it needs it's sailors to work with him!

We only can improve the newsletter any further if every fancier in the club write an article or send photos of their pigeons and lofts to either Harry Shannon or Brian Rose.

So if we all work together in a team then we defiantly achieve improvement.

Yours in sport,

*Raysal Hussain*  
*Private Member*

# Footnote

As kids flying tipplers in Belfast in the late 1940s we were always in awe of the great English flyers and eager for any news that would filter through of the great times flown by well-known fanciers like Sam Billingham, Cyril Meridith, the Davis Brothers of Swansea, etc.

Our homes in Ardoyne were just over a mile from the home of old Victor Arbuthnot who was a friend of Billingham and the importer of many of his birds.

In summer when his young Billinghams flew over our area we would attempt to attract them to our motley of droppers without success.

Ardoyne then was quiet rural and we would watch these young blacks race out of sight in beautiful style.

Later I got to know old Victor well and he even helped me to build my first real pigeon loft in 1957.

The following history of Sam Billingham may be of interest to anyone in preserving this great family of birds as Wesley has done and is still doing.

MS

## A Proud Record

1938	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 40 mins.
1939	August	15 hrs. 16 mins.
1939x	Easter	14 hrs. 25 mins. staff Wing Cocks
1939	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 41 mins.
1939	August	15 hrs. 39 mins.
1940	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 25 mins.
1940	August	16 hrs. 17 mins.
1941	Easter	14 hrs. 12 mins.

1924		15 hrs. 35 mins. Youngsters C.W.C.
1926	Easter	14 hrs. 55 mins. C.W.C.
1926	Easter	14 hrs. 57 mins. C.W.C.
1927	Easter	14 hrs. 53 mins. C.W.C.
1934	Old Birds	16 hrs. 57 mins. 7 birds won American Cup
1934	Young Birds	14 hrs. 30 mins. 8 birds won American Cup
1935	3 Cocks	17 hrs. 30 mins. N.T.U. Cup
1927	August	15 hrs. 35 mins. 2nd A.E.
1928	Whitsuntide	18 hrs. 6 mins. N.T.U. Cup
1929	3 Hens	18 hrs. 15 mins. N.T.U. Cup with outright
1931	August	16 hrs. 14 mins.
1932	August	11 hrs. 36 mins.
1933	August	14 hrs. 45 mins.
1934	Easter	13 hrs. 36 mins.

# S. BILLINGHAM

66, Norton Avenue, Gleadless, Sheffield

## LIST OF SUCCESSIVE FLYS.

1941	Whitsuntide	18 hrs.
1941	August	12 hrs. 45 mins.
1942	Easter	14 hrs. 9 mins.
1942	Whitsuntide	16 hrs. 10 mins. Washed down by rain
	Next time up	
1943x	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 10 mins. 24 Young Birds 8 minutes longer than young birds world's record but does not stand
1943	August	15 hrs. 51 mins. Same Young Birds

## OTHER FLYS

1935	Old Birds	14 hrs. 2 mins.
1936	Young Blacks	15 hrs. 15 mins.
1938	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 48 mins.
1938	Young Birds	16 hrs. 16 mins.
1939x	Easter	13 hrs. 25 mins. staff Wing Cocks
1939	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 41 mins.
1939	Young Birds	16 hrs. 38 mins.
1940	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 25 mins.
1940	August	16 hrs. 17 mins.
1941	Easter	14 hrs. 12 mins.
1941	Whitsuntide	18 hrs. 3 Cocks
1941	August	12 hrs. 45 mins.
1942	Easter	14 hrs. 9 mins.
1943x	Whitsuntide	17 hrs. 10 mins. Youngsters Same Ed. x Young Bird Record broken but does not stand
1943	August	15 hrs. 51 mins.
1945		14 hrs. 10 mins. Won American Cup
1945		16 hrs. 7 mins. Same Birds. Won All England Cup

I was Secretary of A.E.T.S. through six years of War. Resigned through illness. Elected President of A.E.T.S. 1946. Judged Crystal Palace, Belfast, Swansea, A.E.T.S. and N.T.U. and Great Yorkshire Show three years in succession. Lectured Tipplers for 26 weeks at Evening Classes, also flown International, England and Wales and top that day, 16 hrs. 6 mins., also member of C.W.M.C. Tippler Society for 24 years.

With Best Wishes for the Future Tippler Fancy.

SAM BILLINGHAM.

# Past and Present

It's been over 20 years since my first visit to Northern Island, when Paul Bowden and myself were invited to judge birds at the famous Kings Hall Belfast.

My host that weekend was Harry Shannon, I remember Harry's wife going to bed leaving Harry and myself 'talking tipplers' into the middle of the night.

We talked about flyers in Ireland and back home, how birds were introduced to Ireland, the Bowdens, the Hughes, the Curry's, the Irish boys knew what they wanted and perhaps 70% of the birds they bought had proved good investments for them.

My first visit there I took notes of all the flyers we visited, I still have those notes, maybe later in the year I will put those notes into an article for the newsletter.

Going back to our late night chat I don't remember Harry talking about a flyer named Wesley Ferguson his name was to crop up 20 years later.

Moving up to 2004 I visited Northern

Ireland again with members of my club 'Willenhall'.

When you go there, and sometimes it's ten of us the hospitality is first class with the likes of Harry, Bobby Dunseith, Tommy MacTaggart and the rest of the boys looking after us.

When you visit the flyers, there is always food and drinks waiting for you, bear in mind the lads are all working class, like our selves, they really do us proud.

One of the flyers we visited was Wesley Ferguson on the outskirts of Belfast.

Wesley is now in his 70s and a carpenter by trade.

Pulling up outside his bungalow and loft I sensed he was in the building trade.

The first thing that hits you is his large and high flights.

After meeting Wesley he took us to his loft.

The thing that hits you right away is

the feathering on the birds and the broad end flights.

Living in the countryside with open flights, the birds get the rain, the wind and the sunshine, hence the good feathering.

Another thing that hits you, you know these are a family of birds.

I wanted to know more about them, the lads and I were very impressed.

Later on over tea and home baked bread and cakes, Wesley told us how he acquired his 'family of birds' and his friendship with Harry Shannon.

Four or five members of our club wanted to buy some of Wesley's birds but it was to be another two years before the wheels were set in motion to purchase some of this family of birds.

## **2006**

Harry Shannon phoned me to say Wesley would let us have some birds, would it be possible to travel to Northern Ireland to collect them.

It was decided by the members of our club that the club would pay for

the purchase of these birds, and birds bred this year would be passed on to members to fly them.

John Bickley the club secretary, Ashley Creswell and myself travelled to Ireland for the birds in Ashley's van.

Harry told me not to worry about digs, as Wesley would look after us during our visit.

Tommy MacTaggart met us off the ferry and we followed him to Wesley's home.

After something to eat which was provided by Wesley's lovely wife Ella we sat down and talked 'tipplers'. I wanted the CV of his birds.

First of all I asked him when he met Harry Shannon.

They met when they were 14 years of age and Harry was a keen cyclist and still is and Wesley used to be a marshal on the track.

Wesley lived near Harry in the 1960s and started competition flying in 1963.

Cyril also says in his letter that he also sent birds to Sam Bellingham in Sheffield.

These men were top flyers in the 1950s and 1960s and would only use top birds.

Wesley has also got a copy of Cyril's times, and I can tell you there are a few 19 hours on there, bear in mind dark flying in those days is not like it is today with modern lights.

Wesley's best times were 19 hrs 10 mins (1966) old birds and 13 hrs 40 mins (1966) young birds.

But what Wesley liked about the birds was they did not fly too high into the wind, a good point for tipplers.

The main colours of the family are the famous Bellinghams Blacks, light blues and silvers.

We bought back 16 pairs of these birds, what I will do is ask Wesley for copies of his paperwork then club member Carl Reynolds who operates the internet for us will put them on line.

Just going back for a minute, a lad from up north named Ray rang me to tell me he is writing a book on tipplers, I told him no book would be complete with out talking to Gordon Hughes,

I gave him the number, he rang him and arranged to see him.

Ray rang me and said Gordon sends his best wishes to all tippler flyers, sadly Gordon does not have pigeons any more.

Back to Wesley, on the night before we came home with the birds he told us he does not want any money for the birds, they were a gift to the club.

On behalf of Willenhall Tippler Club I would like to thank you for this generous gift to our club.

None of this could of have happened without the help of Harry Shannon once again Harry, Thank you.

Last but not least thank you to Ella and Wesley for being the perfect hosts during our stay in Northern Ireland.

Youngsters from these birds will be flown this year by our own keen young members.

Bringing you a pure family of birds of fifty years past, into the present.

Yours in sport,

**Ken Potts**

# Solution Needed

Flying birds within sight of other competitors would seem an ideal situation for anyone.

Seeing your own birds and refereeing others without leaving your own doorstep or garden seems perfect.

The down side comes when three or four kits mix on fly day and continue all day.

What do referees do when one bird is missing and cannot be identified or claimed by its owner?

Arguments arise and if the missing bird returns over time allowed and continues to fly to dark.

Luckily this situation has usually been resolved when those in dispute have been disqualified for unrelated reasons.

Obviously this question has to be addressed otherwise good fanciers will leave the sport for good in areas such as ours.

*P O'Brien, Springview*

# Visitor from 'Down Under'

It was a pleasure to welcome to the UK President of the newly-formed Australian FTU Danny McCarthy and Wife Pat.

His enthusiasm for the flying tippler was infectious and, although he would insist, he has no claim to flying success.

His knowledge and common sense attitude and approach will no doubt achieve just that success.

I had the pleasure to meet his small but keen as mustard band of fanciers who, even in such a vast country, are determined to make competition with flying tipplers possible even though

time zones, climates, distances, etc, will make this no easy task.

No doubt the internet will help shorten the distances and who knows with the progress of technology in the future it may be possible to see flying birds 2,000 away!

We wish the AFTS every good wish and success for the flying tippler 'down under'.

Sadly Danny and Pat had to return home a week early due to the death of his father.

*HS*

# Starting Out (again) in Flying Tipplers

October the 8th was indeed a memorable day, it was also the date of the NTU AGM which I attended with Fay.

It was memorable because not only did I renew old acquaintances (Paul Bowden and Mick Tift whom I'd met previously in the mid 1980s when I last kept tipplers) but I also met amongst others Harry Shannon and his wife Anne who had travelled all the way from Lisburn, Northern Ireland, for the meeting.

The meeting itself was very interesting but from a Private Member's point of view it wasn't possible for me to have an opinion on the various proposals on offer because apparently the agenda for the meeting together with any new proposals to Rule Book changes are only sent to club members.

There were of course copies of the proposals available on the day but with the start of the meeting only minutes away it doesn't give much time for thought.

One important item of advice that kept cropping up during the proceedings was that fanciers must read the Rule

Book from cover to cover each year at the outset of the season and become acquainted with the rules governing flying and showing etc.

It's no use saying 'I didn't know' after a particular rule or procedure has been transgressed; that was the message coming down from Council.

It was certainly different racing around Walsall and Wolverhampton in the driving rain trying to keep Ray Tift's car in sight on our way to Woody's corn store but we got there eventually thanks to Mick and were able to purchase some feed and bits and pieces for the loft.

As I said in my article of the day (it might have been already printed in the Newsletter) I was touched by the generosity of fanciers who gave me birds and droppers to get me started.

A few short weeks ago I spoke to someone in the West Midlands (who shall remain nameless) asking where I might buy some tipplers only to be told that 'there were no birds available in the area'.

This of course has been proved wrong, very wrong in fact!

I collected a total of eight tipplers, four from Paul and two from Harry, and six droppers, four from Mick and two from Paul.

Naturally I am extremely grateful to these gentlemen for their help in getting me off to a good start.

Later in the day I met with Colin Bristow whom I had met years previously when he lived in Willenhall and Colin immediately offered me some late-bred young birds.

I sent for these birds during the next week and received ten on the Wednesday.

So I am all ready to go now.

My first aim will be to settle the droppers and this shouldn't prove too onerous, as they are all cross fantails and mainly hens (there's only the one cock bird and he shall remain inside for the moment).

The loft layout for those interested is; I have a 12' x 6' loft with a half-dowelled front.

There are two sections and I have outfitted one section with four large kit boxes and eight individual boxes, all with dowelled fronts and doors, and the remaining section is fitted out with eight double nest boxes.

On top of the loft and leading into the first section is a 7' x 3' x 3' wire flight

which has a sliding door to one side to let birds in and a door on the front to allow birds to fly out.

It has taken many hours' work to get everything done but it has been well worth while.

All I need now is patience and more than a little luck to settle as many of the youngsters as possible so that next year I will be able to fly out a couple of yearling kits.

Thanks to good advice from Mick Tift in regard to settling birds and feeding them etc I will begin the business of settling the birds in a couple of weeks time.

Meanwhile for the moment the four dropper hens are out in the flight every day until I return from the office to let them back in to the loft.

By the time they are allowed out they should know the immediate area very well.

They will of course be very peckish when they are let out so hopefully they will be too busy chasing seeds to think about flying off into the blue.

As soon as they are settled and flying in and out confidently I will start on the youngsters.

I will keep you posted on progress.

# Fancier Profiles

In 2003, when Tom Bray was editing the Newsletter I submitted a questionnaire which Tom published in one of the issues.

The questionnaire posed a number of questions to fanciers relating to their start in tipplers, where they got their first birds, the methods used to settle youngbirds, feeding etc.

I was disappointed to only receive two responses, one came from Cliff Clarke who was leaving the sport and didn't really answer any of the questions correctly but nonetheless he had a go and from the sparse information he supplied I wrote a profile on him which was published in the Newsletter.

The second response came from Tom himself but unfortunately the information

he sent was a confused diatribe about his unfortunate young life which was not about pigeons and was totally unsuitable for a tippler magazine.

I sent it back to Tom with an explanation telling him why I could not use the information for a loft profile and his response was to print it anyway just as he had written it.

I suppose that was his right as the editor but to be honest the pages of print he produced about himself were drivel.

The point of this short piece is to ask again if fanciers would consider filling in the questionnaire and sending their answers to the editor who I hope will pass them on to me.

I promise not to write any drivel.

NL

## Wanted For Stock

**BRIAN WHITE (GORDON HUGHES) PIGEONS**

**MUST BE PURE AND HAVE BRIAN WHITE RING NUMBERS**

**WILL PAY REASONABLE PRICE**

**CONTACT RAY AFTER 6.00PM ON 078 0074 0053**