



Hello FTS.

We were going to publish a pamphlet with all of our Flyer Profiles that have been appearing in Our News since way back in the early 90s. But I was talking to Nash Milic the other day and he suggested it might be more fun to produce a CD and send that to you instead. Nash also gets the credit for most of the production work of the disks, with editing by yours truly, David Fuller. All you need is a computer that reads CDs. Most if not all of us have computers, but if you don't, your kids do or you can go down to your nearest public library and slip the disk into one there.

You're going to love it.

We've got 42 fanciers, flyers and 95 black & white or color photos of ourselves and our beloved Tippler pigeons. And we've included guest profiles from Canada and Great Britain too. So, for your reading and viewing pleasure, click on over to the next page and enjoy yourself.

Inspiration, promotion and credit for this 2006 Flyer Profiles goes to the

*Flying Tippler Society of the USA Membership
with special mention of the current Executive Board:*

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FTS fanciers have many common goals, but they are far from being common people. Different in what we do, where we live, and where we want to go. But, we all want to succeed in our sport and hobby, and watch our Tiplers fly. Common goals, uncommon people.

If you've been reading the fly reports this season, you already know that we've got some very good flyers/fanciers flying their Tiplers for impressively long times. Would you like to know how they are doing it? We did, so we asked them to tell us. OUR NEWS Flyer Profiles begins with Michael Beat of Downey, CA. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves. Here we go.

Michael Beat Downey, CA

1. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

Michael: When selecting a kit, I place more emphasis on the birds who work together well. The birds must exhibit strong kiting instincts. I prefer birds as close to same age as possible, but I use what I have. Since most of my youngsters are in some way related to one another, I am not overly concerned about having to be brother - sister, cousins will do.

2. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tiplers?

Michael: I have tried various methods of settling youngsters. My thoughts on this have already been expounded and printed in an article entitled "Tippler Eye Sigh." Although not 100% fool proof, it seems best to intergrate one bird at a time and only after the young birds are well trained to droppers.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

Michael: Training begins at 21 days old. Youngsters are placed on roof to watch other birds fly. At 28 days old, birds are placed away from parents into a pen in fly section. Food and water given all of the time until all are eating well. Henceforth, birds fed/watered once per day. At 28-30 days birds can fly and no longer placed outside of "penthouse." Birds are kept inside penthouse while on roof and taught to trap and chase food. By the time eye clears, birds are ready for release. Birds are about six weeks old.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

Michael: Young birds are in form when they are light in weight, fly close together and have indicated a readiness to wait on the dropper before alighting. Dropping must not be watery or discolored. Old birds are ready when similar conditions exist except they will naturally be heavier because of physical maturity. Signs of good health are the primary indicators of good form. (Not much different from racing pigeons.)

5. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

Michael: While young birds, flyers fed only malt (not malting) barley. Pinch of linseed 2-3 times each week given before barley. Old birds same except their meal may be adjusted so that they are fed 5 parts barley to 3 parts hard winter wheat. If birds are too heavy or do not show signs of being hungry towards end of flying, I go back to 100% barley for a while.

6. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a training/competition fly?

Michael: After a day on the wing, this is a good time to feed the linseed first. I feed a slightly larger quantity of feed after putting in hard work. Water and grit is given after all feed has been eaten. After a competition fly, I trap birds and let them peacefully preen and rest for 1 hour. Then I give water before feeding. Then I feed and water a short while after this. I use no special "revival" feeding after a competition. It's not as if my birds flew 20 hours!

7. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

Michael: During molt, breeders are fed regular mix with additional safflower seed for oil content. I allow them to bathe as often as I can. Flyers are never bathed on their day out, but are given bath in afternoon of day before. Flyers's feed is no different than normal. They receive linseed 2-3 times per week.

Breeding

8. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

Michael: My loft is 3 sections of 4'x6' size. Two breeding pens that allow separation of sexes without birds being



able to see each other. I try to keep about 10 pair of breeders and 10 birds flying at any given time. Obviously, we all have more birds in the spring after breeding and fewest birds in late fall after our losses.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

Michael: I feed breeders the best mix of grain available from the feed store. While breeding, the birds have food constantly before them. During molt, pairs are separated and given a small amount of small seeds first. After it is cleaned up, I give mix with safflower. Water is left year around in front of them and is changed daily.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

Michael: I came to know Tiplers in 1977. I acquired birds from Joe Kelly, but never was able to do anything because shortly thereafter my rollers & Tiplers were plagued with paratyphoid. I disposed of all of my birds in the end. Eventually, after some years of moving around, I was able to re-start in 1988. But I never lost interest in this astounding bird.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain? Why?

Michael: I enjoy creating my own strain. Selecting breeding and personal preference in size, color, and disposition enable me to enjoy the birds utmost regardless of their so called "strain."

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

Michael: As a personal note, I am presently single and 27 years of age. I enjoy pigeons very much. For employment, I work for Los Angeles Unified School District as an electrical engineer. The majority of my time outside of work is spent as a Minister whereby I spend quite a few hours preaching and teaching that God's Kingdom is the only true and lasting solution to mankind's problem. This bible educational work envelopes most of my available time and is why some fanciers have a hard time finding me available.

Keith Babbler
Hayward, CA

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles we now feature Keith Baber. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tiplers?

KEITH: I like to spend a lot of time settling my young birds. This means that after they are taken from their parents they are placed in a pen by themselves, until I know that they can find and drink water. Sometimes I will have to dip a birds beak until it gets the idea, but not very often. I will usually leave them separated until they get a little size; this is usually when the primaries are fully grown in. After this, they are moved to my flying loft. Again, this is another loft that I want the young birds to be accustomed to so I usually wait about a week before I start settling.

The first thing that I do is rubber band both wings. The rubber band is put on in such a way as to keep the primaries from being spread. I then open the trap door and allow them their first taste of freedom. I keep them hungry so I can make them move around at will by tossing food back and forth in the entrance. My penthouse on my loft is higher than the loft top and has perches fixed in it so they get used to seeing the roof and the outside right away. Once they are used to entering and exiting I will start tossing them, increasing the distance gradually, if you don't do this the young birds might hit off to the left or right of the roof and you might have to end up jumping a fence to chase a rubber banded Percy Field that thought a fence was where it was supposed to land. By increasing the distance over a period of time they grasp the idea easier. If everything is done gradually you will be in control of the birds. By keeping the young birds mistakes down to a minimum you are building the foundation for it as an older bird.

After about a weeks time I will remove both of the rubber bands, sometimes, however, I might only remove one if the individual seems to be stronger in the wing than in the mind, so I will hold it back. At this stage I think it is judgmental, but I start to toss the bird



Yours truly David Fuller & Keith Baber enjoying Tiplers flying above Keith's loft in sunny Hayward, DA.

tossed nestlings up before they are thoroughly settled only to see them fly egged on farther and farther away. At this stage I will toss birds singly to minimize losses. Before I took the time to settle birds in this way my losses were over 50 percent. Now my losses average 25 percent.

I will always have my dropper out in case the bird decides to move too far. I will talk about the dropper in number 5. It also depends on the strain of birds you have. The birds I fly in competition are 50 percent Percy Field, 25 percent Geof Davies, and 25 percent Macclesfield. They will usually go up, circle, then



land right on the trap. My Lovatts tend to fly out farther the first time out so for me they can be a little harder to settle. Again, you just have to get to know your birds habits and this only happens through trial and error, and the hard way!

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

KEITH: As far as kit selection I tend to be prejudiced towards cocks, but I will always fly the bird that has the strongest instinct to stay in the air, regardless of sex. I also look for the birds who show the strongest kitting instinct, at an early age. I have one Lovatt hen who has not missed a turn as of yet, even on her first forte out with a slightly more experienced bird. I am flying her with my cocks right now as they are the ones I am planning to use in competition later on in the year. Hopefully, her frame will catch up to her desire. In the beginning of the year all of my best flyers came from one pair, so all of the birds are approximately the same build and all have the same inbred wing action. When they fly they fly in unison. I have added two cocks who are 75 percent Lovatt and 25 percent Percy Field to my flyers; though of different lineage they love to kit together and I want to try them in competition later on.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

KEITH: Training begins for me after I have settled the young birds to the flying loft. The young birds have had tosses, first singly, then with an experienced bird. My losses will usually happen at this stage. I will toss the young birds every day until I build up their endurance. When I get them up to about 4 hours, I let them fly with the older birds for stock flying. I don't have the time to work the birds the way I want to so I try to make it easier for myself. I fly my cocks and my hens separate, as a rule. The exception being if I have what I think to be a superior hen who I want to push a little, to incorporate her into the competition kit. I fly my birds every third day. For example, if I fly my cocks on Monday, the hens fly on Tuesday. The next time the cocks fly will be on Thursday, the hens on Friday. I have individual kit boxes and group kit boxes built, but to date I have not used them. I am trying to keep my total birds to under 20, since I feed them together. Any more than this for me and it starts to become a full time job taking care of birds. Also, by flying the birds separated by sex, excluding when they are very young, it is easier to find your more dominate birds. Three weeks before competition I change my routine to flying the birds that I have chosen to train for fly date to every other day.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

KEITH: In my birds I look for several things. I look at their wattles, they must be white and unstained. My birds are self black so I look for the shine and silkiness they get from the increased fat and protein in their diet during feed up. Check their droppings. Make sure that the droppings are tight and solid. Color is not so important if the droppings are tight; this is just an indicator of what they have eaten. If they are loose it means something is wrong with their digestion or they could be ill. I look for the alertness my birds get and the restlessness they get the last few days before the fly date. They vibrate their wings and stretch due to the increased carbohydrate consumption, as well as all of the other energy seeds they have consumed. Finally, I pick them up. I check for muscle condition and over all tone in the chest and wings. I'm also looking to see that they are not carrying fat. The only way that you can really notice these changes in your birds is by handling them constantly. It is amazing how much a bird will change in two feedings by feeding vetch or peas if it has been trained on barley and wheat for three weeks. Also, how much their body weights change just from their exercise, due mainly to water loss, but also from glycogen consumption in the muscle tissues.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many and what kind?

KEITH: I use only one dropper. It is a half Oriental Roller and half Fantail cock. The sex of the bird is not important to me since it is separate from my birds. My young birds become accustomed to it at feeding time after they are introduced to my flying loft. Also, when I allow the young birds in and out of the trap the fantail is on the roof with them. I keep both wings of the dropper clipped because I do not want this bird to strike up, which has happened. I did not think that this bird could fly that well, but one time, before I clipped its wings, it tried to strike up with my birds and ended up on a neighbor's roof. I suppose this is poor dropper training, but I do not have the time to train them. Michael Beat has well trained droppers. My birds have learned through repetition that when they see me toss the dropper dinner is on its way and to land. I usually wait till they are heading towards me and I know that they can see me before I toss the bird. Unless it is very windy I can get my birds down and in within twenty minutes. All I do is make the dropper move from one end of the loft to the other by keeping it hungry. I usually do not feed it for a day or two before a competitive fly. Of course, the dropper knows its way in and out of the trap as well as the Tipplers. Introduction is the same way, by food association.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

KEITH: I think a little differently than most people when it comes to feeding my birds. I like to keep them well muscled and strong. I only feed barley, mixed with wheat, three weeks prior to a fly. During the remainder of the time I feed as follows: vetch, Canadian field peas, safflower, a little popcorn, kafir, groats and wheat. Fifty percent of the mixture is comprised of the vetch and peas. I feed once a day, at 7:00 P.M., all they can eat. I like my birds to fly strong, about seven to eight hours, in training. They stay well muscled on this diet and between their once a day feeding and their flying they carry minimal fat. The training before the fly is when we try to work the fat off them. As far as me being able to feed them at the time that I do I have to give credit to my Mom! She feeds them for me and knows when they have eaten their fill and even knows who has eaten what. Unfortunately, she does not understand why I refer to my birds as numbers and not to the names she has given them.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

KEITH: After I get my birds back in I feed them the same feed that I feed them while they are not in training, though I add a little kafir to the ration as it has high starch content and breaks down and converts to blood sugar quickly, refueling drained muscles as well as the vital organs. After that, they are back on their flying routine of every third or fourth day until the three weeks before a competitive fly.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

KEITH: During the molt I add slightly more starch to their diet, as well as safflower and flax. The safflower being added to the ration and the flax being fed to them by hand in the morning before the 7:00 P.M. feed. I hold back on the exercise because most of the birds are under stress at this time and do not show much enthusiasm for flight. I do exercise but I let them go for just as long as they want. If they are looking for the dropper I do not hesitate to toss it. I also like to add extra vitamins and minerals to the water (Vitapol).

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

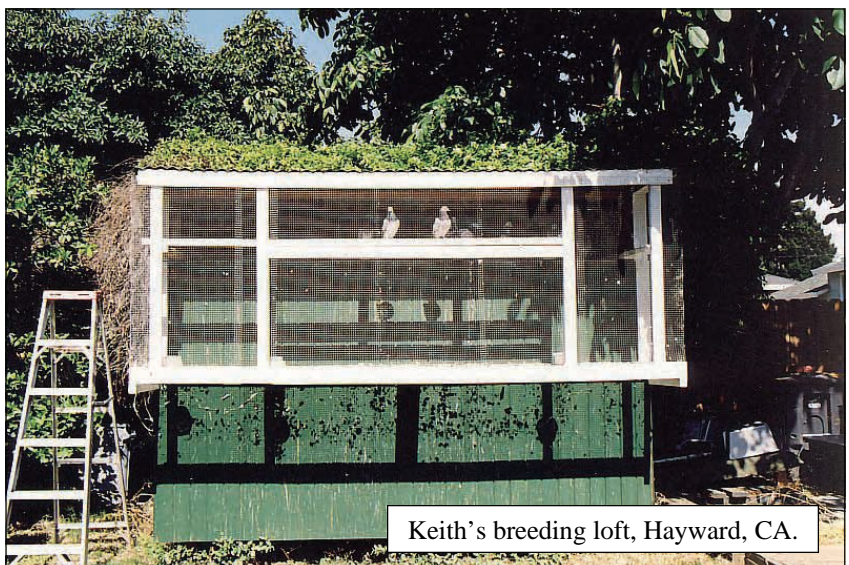
KEITH: My loft size is finally as large as it is going to grow. It measures 20' x 12', with the breeders compartment measuring 6' x 12', the fly pen measuring 6' x 8'. I am currently breeding from nine pairs of birds. I am currently starting to eliminate excess birds from my loft. I want to concentrate on those birds who, in my own opinion, are my best birds and dispose of those who I feel are inferior. I stress "my opinion" because everyone has their own ideal in mind, as I do mine. Too, I spent this season breeding Percy Field crosses. The next season I am going to concentrate on Lovatt birds and Lovatt crosses (75 percent Lovatt, 25 percent Percy Field).

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

KEITH: I feed my breeders the best quality feed I can buy. Where as I mix my own for my flyers, I buy the feed pre-mixed from Joe Nesbitt's in Castro Valley.

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

KEITH: I have had pigeons since I was fifteen years old. I have always enjoyed flying pigeons. Fancy pigeons have their place, but it was always the sight of large



flocks of pigeons, and the stories of the flocks that flew over the roof tops of the eastern cities that got my blood going. My first birds were flying flights; then I changed to rollers and homers. Then I left the birds for awhile during college to raise large cichlids and piranhas in my 12 aquariums. This was too expensive and eventually disposed of all my aquariums. School finished and being a little older and a little bit more stable, I went back into pigeons, this time Tipplers. I first read about them in a small pamphlet on pigeon care by Leon F. Whitney. He talked of birds that "would fly at great heights for hours on end." That was four years ago.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain? Why?

KEITH: My favorite strain is a toss up. I am split between the Percy Field and the Lovatts. I like my pigeons slightly on the large side. Not huge, but more powerful than fragile. The area that I live is one of many microclimates in California, being controlled year round by the ocean. Winds can be quite strong, especially in the fall, and it can take its toll on a small bird. Luckily I am out in the open so when I fly the Fields, which tend to fly a large triangle, I can see them quite easily. Though sometimes it might be 25 minutes if they are energetic. The Lovatts tend to fly in more of a figure eight and spend much more time over head, just their wing tips moving, as they "swim" in the air currents.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

KEITH: I am 29 years old and I am a chef for the Double Tree Hotel in Burlingame. I have been recently married to a wonderful woman from the Fiji Islands who is also employed where I work. I work from 3:00 till whenever I can get out (usually 11:30-ish) and go home to San Mateo. My birds are kept at my parents house in the town of Montara, some 500 yards from the Pacific ocean. I am here every day to feed my breeders. My mother feeds the flyers for me, like clock work at 7:00 P.M.. When I am training my birds I release them early in the morning so I can push them before I go to work. I wish I could release them in the evening to get them use to flying towards the dark, but Tippler flying does not pay the bills!

In closing, the best advice is to try your birds in competition. This is the only real test you can have for your training routine. Birds will not fly fifteen hours every time you turn them out to fly. Long flies are a result of training birds on a low calorie feed, weeding out the birds that don't want to fly the five to eight hours on this feed, feeding up, or switching the feed to a high carbohydrate, high protein, and high fat containing seeds. This sudden change is what gives them the energy to fly the long fly, we hope! In short, by experimenting and finding out what works with your birds you will be on your way to having many pleasurable hours of watching Tipplers. Hopefully your patience and persistence will pay off for you.

This brings our first installment of flyer profiles to a close. The FTS, common goals, uncommon fanciers.

Howard Kogan Stephentown, NY

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles we feature Howard Kogan. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

HOWARD: Your questionnaire comes at a somewhat discouraging time for me as a Tippler flyer. The birds seem stalled at the 4-5 hour plateau. I hope it's the summer weather, but as this is my first year flying competitively, (I did fly a few late FTA flies last year) I'm not sure. Anyway, here go my answers.

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tipplers?

HOWARD: I use a wire settling cage on the loft landing board for a week or so then I remove it and the next time the birds walk out, they're out! I don't push them to fly, they start on their own usually in a day or two. I've only lost 3 birds this year out of about 21 I've let out.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

HOWARD: Every young Tippler has a chance. I put the youngsters in my flying loft and fly them for a few weeks as a large flock. The ones that drop first or show less interest in flying or keep landing in trees are eliminated.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

HOWARD: The young birds are 4-6 weeks old when I begin training. Because of my work schedule I can fly only Wednesday, Saturday and



Sunday. So the maximum number of flies is 3 times a week. Bad weather usually knocks out one day and often--too often--family obligations will close out another day. Ideally I think young birds should be flown every other day, but I can't do that. I usually let them fly as long as they will. I start flying in the morning rather than back from nightfall because it fits my schedule better. I fly anywhere from 3 to 7 birds in a kit, sometimes I fly them all together. When I fly 3-7 birds, I'm trying to find the better flyers and separate them from the poorer ones. At this point in the season I have 14 Tipplers in the fly loft, seven of which will fly 4-5 hours; the others usually fly only 2-3 hours so they will probably be eliminated if they don't improve in the early fall.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

HOWARD: I have a hard time knowing when a bird's in form except for the obvious signs; dropped flight, overweight, etc. I rely on performance to tell me when they're in form.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many and what kind?

HOWARD: I do have droppers but I rarely need them. I use roller/homer crosses--only hens--that will usually fly directly from my hand to the landing board. I've used between 1 and 3, but not to drop the kit, that they do very well on their own! I use them mostly to try to pull a bird that has landed in a tree back to the loft.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

HOWARD: A mix of 1/2 barley to 1/2 European Supreme Pigeon feed. More barley between flies--more Euro/Supreme the next day before a fly.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

HOWARD: Nothing special, just as much feed as they'll eat in 15 minutes or so and water (water is always available).

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

HOWARD: Nothing different.

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

HOWARD: I have two lofts. An 8' x 8' breeder loft and a 4' x 4' flying loft. Both are 7' tall. I have between 6 and 8 pair of breeders and have had as many as 21 young flyers in the fly coop. Now I have a more manageable 14 in there.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

HOWARD: Puregrain Breeders mix, no corn in summer with corn in winter. I get my feed from a local source; Pine Bridge Nursery in Pine Bridge, NY.

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

HOWARD: I had Tipplers as a child, but after that I was living in situations where I couldn't fly pigeons. During that period I kept show pigeons; African Owls and my favorite breed Pygmy Porters. I still have both and I've been very successful with them. Any way, 2 years ago I moved to my present home in upstate NY, where I could again fly pigeons. So, I returned to Tipplers and a few pair of rollers (actually they're the old fashioned tumblers that turn only once as they fly).

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain? Why?

HOWARD: I only had two strains, Lovatts and Hughes and I prefer the Hughes. They are better breeders, colors and seem better flyers. I don't know that this experience is typical of these strains, it might be that I just have better Hughes birds than Lovatts or my style of handling the birds works better with the Hughes. My Hughes line are from Vince Rooney and Ed Buraczewski (whose father imported them years ago from Hughes) and my Lovatts are from Jerry Pace, Bob Culley and Gerald O'Rourke. I think I'll stay with the Hughes since they're doing better for me. Actually, of course, it's been a very long time since G. Hughes or W. Lovatt has been near any of these birds, so calling them Hughes or Lovatts is a little far fetched at this point.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

HOWARD: As for me, I'm a psychotherapist and a life long fancier. I'm 52 now and I've had pigeons off and on since I was 7 or 8. My father was a Fantail breeder. I am married with two grown children 26 & 23 who are now both engaged and living on their own with their fiancées.

As to the question of how I find the time to compete, train, etc.,, the answer is I don't! I really cannot fly more than twice a week and some weeks it's more like once a week or not at all. As you will note from my results, I don't do very well at all. I have 2 weeks off the end of August, so I'll be flying every other day to try to get the birds into some sort of shape for the Fall flies; that's my goal.

If I can do that I'll be pleased. If not I'll really have to look at whether it is worth the effort to fly competitively. Of course I'll still fly some, but just for fun. It is supposed to be fun, right?

This brings our second installment of flyer profiles to a close. The FTS, common goals, uncommon fanciers.

Tony Miryseyedi Birmingham, AL

Continuing our series of flyer profiles we present Tony Mirseyedi. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

TONY: As you know, there are many ways to fly Tipplers. The following are the answers to your questions that will tell you about my way of flying and breeding Tipplers.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tipplers?

TONY: Youngsters will be put in a wire cage on the rooftop at a very early age (3 to 4 weeks old) for about a couple of hours each time. At the age of about 4 weeks, when they can eat and drink by themselves, they will be separated from their parents to what I call the nursery section. Here they are provided with the same feed they received from their parents and clean water at all times. Youngsters are checked the first time the number 9 and 10 primaries are still wet. During this period, which usually lasts around 10 days, they will again be put in a wire cage and on the loft rooftop as often as possible. By doing this, they learn about their surroundings and wild birds flying around. The last few days of this period they are introduced to all kinds of seeds and grains that I use in training and feed-ups.

At approximately six weeks old, when the last primaries are dried up, they will be transferred to the young birds and hens flying section of the loft. This section is 5 ft. wide, 5 ft. deep and 5 ft. tall with box perches. Here they are put on the same diet as the rest of the flying birds. They are fed once a day with a mixture of barley and wheat late in the afternoon and sometimes under lights. Youngsters may not eat their share the first couple of days, but, eventually they get in the action and will eat their share of the food. If I feel that a youngster is not eating enough and getting weak, he will be moved to the nursery at feeding time and allowed to eat all he wants, then returned to the flying section.

They are under ration, eating once a day in the flying section for approximately one week. They are now used to this section, have their own perch and this is their home.

At this time, right before feeding I bring 2 or 3 youngsters out with droppers. They are very hungry and chasing after grains with the droppers. After they fly back and forth between lofts a few times with the droppers and pick a few grains, I put the food containers in their flying section. They see the other birds rush for food. I open the section trap door and the youngsters are trapped in no time. After a few times the youngsters have learned how and where to trap with no problem. By the way, my droppers are not allowed to go in the flying section.

After I am convinced that all the youngsters are used to droppers and relate them to feeding time and where to trap, then the fun begins by letting them fly for the first time just for a few turns around the neighborhood (only one youngster at a time).

I have a couple of Roller type droppers that when they are hungry, they fly for 5 - 10 minutes maximum and land quickly when I let other droppers out. I let the Rollers out with only one young Tippler (squeaker) and let them fly for a few minutes. I let the rest of the droppers out, Roller type droppers land quickly with the squeaker following. If the squeaker does not land, I work my droppers back and forth until he will land.

If a squeaker happens to get confused and drops away, I do not get upset or think bad of him. He is a scared baby trying to learn. I just wait for him and with the use of droppers, drop him on the loft when he comes back. He should do just right the second time unless he is too dumb or nervous and should be culled.

I do this a couple of times for each squeaker. Now they are settled, know when and where to land, relate to droppers as feeding time and know where to trap. It is very important for them to learn what is expected of them at a very early age.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

TONY: Now that the youngsters are settled and know what to do, they are ready for training and a muscle building program.



Tony's breeding section with individual sections for each pair.

At this stage my birds are fed about an ounce per day of malt barley and sometimes wheat. I fly them every other day or at least twice a week (weather/work permitting) and note the ones which are flying good on this diet. This is the time which they can pass or fail. Birds which show signs of weakness or not wanting to fly are culled. I truly believe in heavy culling and keeping only the best, and the best will make the kits. I try to make 2 kits of young birds, about 5 to 7 birds in each.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

TONY: I would like to fly my birds (old or young) at least 2 times a week. On a diet of about one ounce mixture malt barley and certified wheat (1/2 barley, 1/2 wheat) per day, and a little more wheat the night before, young birds should fly 6 to 8 hours and old bird kits should stay up 8 to 10 hours with no problem.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

TONY: When my birds are in shape, they fly the above hours without any problem. At this stage birds are light and have no fat on them, they are healthy and strong, ready for a feed-up program and a long crazy day.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

TONY: I believe in using droppers and many of them. I have a separate small coop (3 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft. h) for droppers only.

My droppers are mostly Nuns which I consider stationary droppers. What I mean by that is that they fly only from loft to loft and stay down no matter what.

I also keep a couple of Rollers which I use for settling young Tipplers. These birds are kept very hungry along with the other droppers and when turned loose, they fly around the loft for about 5 to 10 minutes. They are also used to help lower my Tipplers if they are flying too high at dropping time. Both types of droppers help with this sport.

I like to work with 12 to 15 droppers. I also like my droppers to be very tame. I keep them very hungry so they work hard chasing every kernel of corn I throw. They should fly back and forth by me just moving my arm.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

TONY: I feed my flyers all sorts of seeds and grains. I make sure they get used to all of them at a very young age. I use malt barley and certified wheat mainly for their training and getting them in shape.

During training my birds get a pinch of flax seeds and a few peas once a week. For conditioning and feed-ups, I use a variety of seeds and grains, such as millet, rape, niger, canary seeds, milo, hemp, rice, peas, pop corn, barley and wheat. Of course how much and what I feed my birds changes from season to season.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

TONY: After long flies, birds are trapped with small amounts of canary seeds and no water. After about 3 hours of rest, they are given a healthy portion of high carbohydrates and protein, followed by fresh water. They are given wheat, and Epsom salt in their water the following day. They also rest for at least 3 days before training flies start again.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

TONY: I do not fly my birds at all when in heavy molt. When a flyer loses his 8th primary, I stop flying him. At this time the 9th and 10th primaries and all the tail feathers which are not wet are pulled out. The bird is transferred to the stock birds section where he eats high protein food and rests till all his feathers come back and dry out. The bird now goes back to the flying section and training starts again. How I bring this bird back into flying condition again is very similar to how I start with squeakers, but with a little faster pace.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

TONY: I have a separate breeding loft which contains 6 individual cages each 30 in. x 24 in. x 20 in. tall. This loft is 3 stories high with 2 cages at each level. There are separate compartments between each 2 cages where I keep their food and water dishes. The food and water dishes can be filled without disturbing the breeding pairs. I normally breed from 4 to 5 pairs of Tipplers each year.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

TONY: My main loft consists of four sections. Two stock bird sections in the front and two flying bird sections in the back. Each flying section is about 5 ft. x 5 ft. x 5 ft. tall, equipped with box perches, one for hens and young birds and the other one for cock flyers. The two stock bird sections (one for hens and one for cocks) are 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 6 ft. tall each with box perches and a fly pen.

The birds chosen for breeding are transferred to breeding cages and paired up. From this moment the breeding pairs are put on high protein pellets till they are separated. This is a very good feed for youngsters growth and no grit is required when this feed is used.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

TONY: I grew up around people who kept and flew pigeons and have had them ever since I remember. I don't know

how old I was when my cousin and I used to sit in the corner of the rooftop of my uncle's house and watch him fly his birds for hours (of course we had to promise we would be as still as possible because if we made any kind of movement that scared his birds, we were out of there).

As a youngster, I only liked birds who flew very high and long. Back home in Tehran, Iran, I kept high flying Tumblers. In the summer months the birds were kept on the rooftop and were flown for the whole summer vacation. Beginning of the fall, when school started again, I had to get rid of all the birds and only keep one pair (this of course was my Mom's order). This pair which usually were my best flyers in that summer, were moved to the basement and bred until the next summer when they all went back to the house rooftop. I would buy some more young birds and flying and bragging started again in the neighborhood.

I moved to the United States in 1973 and was separated from pigeons until 1983 when I happened to read an article in the APJ about some Iranian pigeons that had been imported to the United States. My blood started to boil again and I could not wait to get some. They were beautiful birds, just like the ones I had back home. I flew them some good hours, but I was getting too bored with them and needed more of a challenge.

I started to read about Tipplers and how much they could fly and what the world record was. I was very impressed. The more I read, the more anxious I got to get some. In 1986 I joined the FTA and got my first Tipplers. Since then I have had many different types (strains) of Tipplers. At the present time my stock birds are J. Davies, P. Fields and some of my own crosses.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain and why?

TONY: My favorite type of Tippler is a healthy, strong, alert and smart bird which likes to fly high with a pretty wing action. He also kits well and responds to my training.

I see these qualities in some of the birds that I raise and these are the birds that I keep. The rest are culled. I only breed best to best and am not much concerned with the purity of the strain. So you see I do not believe in strain but I do like my birds in the same kit to be close relatives. To me, strain or pedigree does not fly, the bird does.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

TONY: I am 36 years old, married and have 3 children. My son, Johnny who is 9 helps me with releasing the birds out of kit boxes. My girls are Katie who is 6 and Sarah who is 4 years old. I have been in Alabama the last 20 years. I am a mechanical engineer and have been working in the Birmingham area for the last 14 years. In conclusion, I would like to say that the part I like the most about our hobby is the friends I have made through these wonderful little birds.

Dave Thomas
Dryden, NY

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Because Dave's reply to our questionnaire was in letter format it is presented as such and not in the question and answer format.

DAVE: I am 44 years old, happily married, son 17, daughter 16, son 2 (oops!), and a Customer Service Representative for the local utility. Have had birds since '77; started out with rollers and Tipplers and still have them. Have always been drawn to the flying breeds. Flew a kit of Helmets once and they sure were pretty, almost as pretty as a kit of white Macclesfield-type tipped Tipplers. The Macs are small, hens dice-headed. Heinz Kaupschafer of DFU (Germany) wrote last year to me that Tom Beechinor "OMU" got 13-15 hours from them--I don't know about you but I'd be overjoyed to fly these times. The other family I have is Davies/Bartholomew crosses and they show a lot more promise as they fly very high and long. They look more like tortoise-shell rollers to me. I must start dark-training or I know I will lose them. As with most workers, I do not have the time to spend to do right by them as far as competition flying. That doesn't mean I don't enjoy them or that I will never have the time to spend with them. When I raced homers the guys that won were retired and had the time to prepare them properly. My first love in birds is Birmingham Rollers, then Tipplers, Doneks, Helmets, Show Flights, variety. I have as breeders: 10 pr. performance-bred rollers, 6 pr. Tipplers, 4 Macs, 2 Davies/Bart., 3 pr. Doneks (come down from high altitudes in a high velocity "corkscrew" pattern), 3 pr. Helmets, 2 pr Domestic Show Flights. My feed mix during breeding is Purgrain Economy with 25 % High Protein Turkey Pellets. The rest of the year the breeders (and flyers all year) get 50/50 red milo and white wheat. Several times a week I add a little Purgrain Economy. On Saturdays they get hemp and grit added. Also I have barley by itself (all grains are stored in large cans in the garage).

Currently I have "in the air" two kits of rollers; one mixed of 30 and a young bird kit of 16, Two kits of Tipplers; one 16 Macs and 3 Davies/Bart crosses, and one kit of 4 Doneks. Have only had one over-fly in 15 wears and that was 5 years ago with Doneks-- went so high they were like specks of pepper--let them out at 5 P.M. when I got home from work (end of June) and at 9 P.M. they were still up there--never saw them again. I waived a white fantail dropper to no avail. I have not trained droppers for Tipplers but would use my Helmets if I did.

I have a settling cage for youngsters and put them through the bobs at feeding time daily for 2 weeks. Then they're on their own. Rarely lose any, but I get them on the boards at a fairly young age, when 1/2 to 3/4 of feathers are out on the underside of wings.

Birds are in form when they don't want to come down (still love to fly) on a restricted diet. I have no favorite strain, When I am able to spend the necessary time I would like to get a couple pair of Lovatts from Dick Seabridge and try for times in the teens. I fly young birds every possible day (sure has been rainy this summer). I lock some up for the winter and fly some all winter, that way the hawks can't get them all.

I love the birds, love watching them fly, love relaxing in a lawn chair staring into the blue sky. Last November there was a day like that--The larches were a golden color, the air was cool and crisp and the clouds were a puffy, shining white. The Macs flew high and long (I may have dozed a little)--does it get any better than this? Maybe if I were in Wales.

This will bring our flyer profiles to a close unless the other rookies who received questionnaires send them in. OUR NEWS is hopping they will. We've learned a lot of Tippler tips. We thank the FTS rookies one and all. The FTS common goals, uncommon fanciers.

Rene Asencio Le Grangeville, NY

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, we feature Rene Asencio. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tipplers?

RENE: I start my youngsters early, while they still have pin feathers under the wing (wet under the wing). I find, at this age they do not fly off before learning the location of the loft.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

RENE: They must all have the same general ability, size, temperament and gender. A kit of clones would be ideal!

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

RENE: I train three to five birds per kit and fly them two to three times a week. I also gang fly the young birds that are not in kit boxes.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

RENE: When they feel light and strong in the hand and their flying times on low feed improves (barley and wheat in varying amounts).

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

RENE: I use four red Nuns for droppers.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

RENE: Wheat and barley when not on a feed-up.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

RENE: They are given good feed and plenty of rest. The kit box is important not only in segregating the flying kit during a feed-up. It also provides a quiet place for the kit to rest after a fly.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

RENE: Rest, good feed and plenty of baths. Oily feeds such as flax and rape also helps as does cod liver oil mixed into their feed.



Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

RENE: My loft is ten by twelve feet with two ten pair breeding pens and two young bird sections with kit boxes.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

RENE: A good mix twice a day and plenty of grit and water when feeding young.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

RENE: I caught a stray Tippler wearing an ATU band and traced the bird to the late Bob Lewin. He later introduced me to competition flying and the American Tippler Union.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain and why?

RENE: I enjoy the Lovatt strain because they are very tame in the loft and fly very high. I also keep the Davies strain these fly high, rake out well, have excellent homing ability and also have very good feather. I have been flying Tipplers for twenty years.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

RENE: I am fifty years of age, an automotive technician by trade. My wife Jean must be a very tolerant lady to put up with me and my birds the way she does. I have two daughters Tammy Jean, the oldest, is a pre-med student at SUNY Albany and Jill Renee will start college next year at SUNY Fredonia; her interest is in music therapy. At the present time I cannot devote enough time to the birds to fly them to their full potential, but I still enjoy them and as far as I am concerned that's what it's all about.

The only hint or advice I can give is to fly and enjoy your birds.

Hamid Ahmadi Austin, TX

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, we feature Hamid Ahmadi. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tipplers?

HAMID: I separate the young birds at about the age of 4 weeks, and they learn to eat and drink by themselves before they go into the flying pen. In the flying pen, they get used to the droppers and are let out to the aviary to get accustom to their surroundings. Once the association between the dropper and my signal for feeding is made the birds are let out on top of the loft with a wing tied up for about a week. After that, with droppers on sight, each bird is released, but never frightened. This process is carried out until all the birds are kitting and responding to droppers before their landing.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

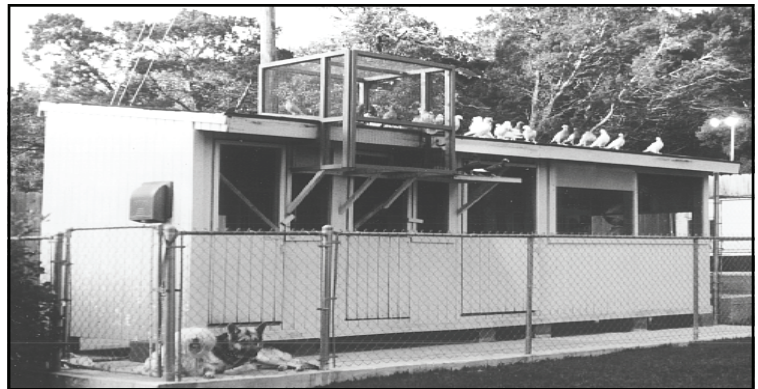
HAMID: In selecting a kit, the number one criteria would be discipline and flying the minimum amount required from the type of feed given.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

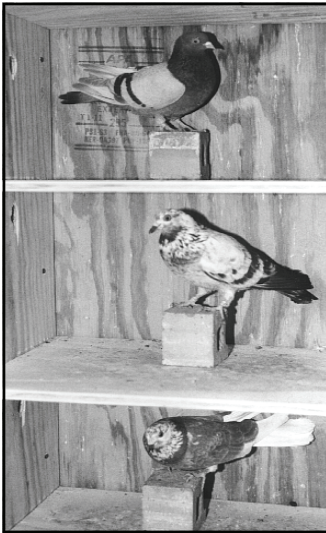
HAMID: I begin training the young birds after they are kitting properly and responding to my signal for dropping and start to fly a minimum of five hours on a feed of barley. The training schedule for youngsters is every three days, for old birds, every five days--weather permitting. For the old birds, training of 7-8 hours which includes about an hour and a half into the dark.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

HAMID: The birds are in form when they are able to fly 5-7 hours on training and dropping upon signal.



Hamid's neat Tippler loft with lights and dogs



*Hamid's record setting old
bird kit*

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

HAMID: I use droppers for dropping depending on the sex of the kit flown--hens, I use hen droppers, and for cocks, I use cock droppers. A total of 5 droppers, Fantails, and West of England Tumblers.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

HAMID: The flyers are fed on basic feed of barley with small amounts of protein and carbohydrates and fat seeds added to maintain the necessary body condition required for training flights.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

HAMID: After each competition, the kit is given half portion of feed consisting of first small seeds and minerals to replace the amounts used up during the competition. And for the next week, they are fed on barley and wheat to build down and the following week, they will be put on feed-up for competition.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

HAMID: During the molt, the birds are given choice commercial feed with small portions of linseed added.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

HAMID: My loft is 20' x 8' and is divided into 3 sections--breeding, young birds weaning, and flying birds. In the flying section, individual and group kit boxes are used. I breed from 10-15 pairs and the young ones are culled for mistakes, so only the best ones are kept.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

HAMID: Breeders are fed on choice commercial feed.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

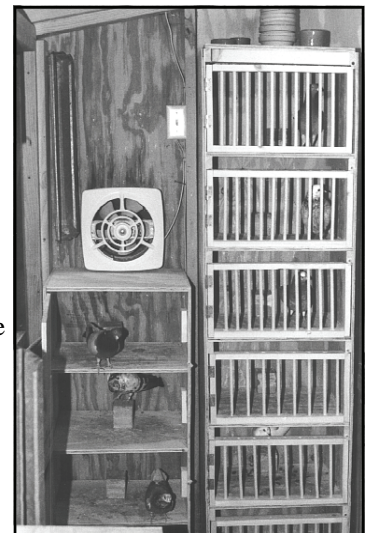
HAMID: I became interested in Tipplers about 13 years ago in the US in search of a flying breed. However, pigeons and endurance-type flying birds have been in my family and my neighborhood, back in Iran, for many generations.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain and why?

HAMID: No favorite strain, but if I have to pick one, to keep one strain only, it would have to be the Davis-type birds, for their ability to take hard training and discipline in the heat. However in my loft the breeders are chosen for their ability of flying and a small consideration is given to their particular strain. I do not hesitate to cross strains. Currently, I am breeding from Davis, Bart, Don Wilson and a few Percy Fields birds.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

HAMID: My name is Hamid Ahmadi, I am in my early 30s, married and expecting my first child. I am self-employed, manufacturing ladies sportswear. I have a flexible work schedule that enables me to spend time with the birds, as much as I can afford to do so. My work involves traveling to the west coast at least once a month. Which hopefully, one day I'll be able to visit a few of the Tippler fanciers in California.



Individual kit boxes

Dale Reynolds
Lebanon, OR

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, we feature Dale Reynolds. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tipplers?

DALE: I wean the young Tipplers when they feather out under the wing which is usually at 30 to 35 days in Tipplers. I put them in a kit box section with a trap on top of a flat roof. I place a wire settling cage on the roof with the trap in the middle and put the young birds in the cage. Usually I have to push them through the trap one or two times and then they go readily if somewhat hungry and it is near evening. I use the cage about 10 days then I put the youngsters in the cage

and gently lift the cage and put it on the ground. I let the birds decide when to fly their first loops around the area.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

DALE: First I look for birds that kit well and love to fly for long periods. I start with about 10 birds and pull off the team any that come down early. I also look for birds that are similar in size, flying form, genetic background and sex.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

DALE: I begin training when the birds are kitting well and flying easily for 3 or 4 hours. I like to start training intensely at least 3 weeks before the fly-day. As the feed-up builds, I fly every other day for increased amounts of time up to 9 or 10 hours. I allow a 3 or 4 day rest between the last practice fly and the FTS Flyday. I like working with about 10 birds while looking for a kit of the best 3.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

DALE: Birds in form should have bright clear eyes, bright white ceres, good plumage and bright red legs. The bird should feel light in the hand, pink in the chest flesh, with a light scale. I always check to see that there are no blood feathers and I check the hens for a tight vent.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

DALE: I use 2 or 3 white Fantails for droppers. I orient the young birds to the Fantails and try to imprint on the young that Fantails mean food is at hand. However, I usually have not needed droppers in competitive flies.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

DALE: When I start intensive training, I like to have the birds on full barley feed and give them a Rue Tea with Epsom Salts to clean their systems. I start adding hard red wheat and milo to the barley until I am feeding one-third of each grain in about 1 week. I add peas, safflower and pigeon grain mix the second week. The week of the fly, I give canary seed, hemp and millet for breakfast and heavy grain composed of peas, vetch, popcorn, safflower, milo and wheat (no barley) in the late evening.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

DALE: I let the kit rest for 3 days; feed barley, milo and wheat, and give an herbal recovery tea.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

DALE: I feed a high protein racing pigeon mix with vitamins in their water.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

DALE: I have 2 loft sections and 2 kit sections for Tiplers. I keep 6 pairs of breeders, 14 old bird flyers and 10 young bird flyers. I aim to keep 36 Tiplers, but sometimes have more and sometimes less.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

DALE: I feed two-thirds high protein mix with safflower and popcorn plus one-third pigeon pellets.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

DALE: I have had many different breeds of pigeons off and on since 1940; I got Racing Homers in 1962 and still race now; I got Stralsund Hihgfliers in 1987 and changed over to Tiplers in 1990. Thus I have flown with the FTS for 4 years.



Coach Reynolds with some of his '93 Tiplers. The settling cage is sitting over a trap on the flat roof. The trap opening is about 5 inches by 10 inches consisting of two 5 x 5 trap holes with one spring mounted bob across each hole.



Jack's neat Tippler loft, it's 8'x12' divided into 3 equal sections

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain and why?

DALE: I don't know much about the many strains. I breed birds that are mostly Lovatt and birds that are Percy Field because I got them from three FTS flyers for whom I have high respect: Hamid Ahmadi, Rex Leon and Laszlo Molnar.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

DALE: I am now retired after teaching high school language arts and coaching track and football for 37 years. My wife of 41 years, Cathy, and I live on a 30 acre ranch in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. We have four grown children and six grandchildren. Presently we raise Scotch Highland Cattle and have three Arabian horses to work the cattle or pleasure ride. We also raise Dahlia flowers and Cathy shows in flowers shows.

This wraps up another installment of flyer profiles. The FTS, common goals, uncommon fanciers.

Jack McPartland Hopewell Junction, NY

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, we feature Jack McPartland. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tiplers?

JACK: I take the young birds at four to five weeks, and move them to the flying section. After they are eating and drinking on their own, I give them a few more days to get accustom to their new surroundings. Next step is to put them out threw the trap, leaving one bar up till they learn they can get back in. I put them out every day hungry till they start to fly on their own. Once they start to fly I cut back on their feed and fly them every day, till they're going three or four hours, then it's time to put them in the kit box. The birds are then flown every third day.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

JACK: Birds that are pretty much the same size, and if possible the same sex although that is not too important when flying young birds. In fact I flew a mixed kit, hens and cocks, in the first old bird fly this year, but if possible I separate them.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

JACK: Training starts when they go into the kit box. I fly them every third day if possible, and if they are to forward, I might go every second day till I get better control. As far as hours per fly, I have had trouble getting them to fly only four or five hours, even cutting way back on the feed. They usually go eight or nine hours on one ounce of barley per bird. I try to start off with five or six birds if possible, but settling birds here is kind of hard with all the hawks, so I'm happy if I get three or four.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

JACK: The birds are in form when you place them on the loft and they are airborne at once, you can also feel it in their bodies, they are light, firm and you just know.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

JACK: My system of dropping is a disaster. When the birds are going, nothing I can do can get them down, till they want to come down. I used Long Faced Tumblers for a year or two, but the birds came down when they wanted.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

JACK: As young birds I feed them Bay-Mor NC-40 till they start flying then gradually shift them over to barley. I also use NC-40 and NC-20 in the feed-up along with canary, rape, and hemp.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

JACK: After a fly I give them one ounce of NC-40 per bird, and then back to the straight barley again, until they are going to fly in competition again.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

JACK: During molt I use the NC-40 and give them some rape once or twice a week. I also give them bath water a couple of times a week.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

JACK: My loft is 8'x12' divided into three sections, 4'x8' each. One section is for my breeders, one for my young birds, and the third is for my two kit boxes and feed storage.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

JACK: NC-40 year round.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

JACK: Ren'e Asencio introduced me to Tiplers about 1978 and except for about a year and a half I've had them ever since.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain and why?

JACK: As far as my favorite strain, I think I would have to say some Harry Hunt birds I got from Ren'e. The reason I say this is the birds were more consistent. If they did happen to overfly you were sure to get them back the next day. I got rid of all the Hunt birds when I moved to California for a year, Ren'e did also, we're both sorry. I now fly Lovatts, and Gordon Hughes, both fly high and with nice style. I prefer the Lovatts I guess because they are all different colors, where the Gordon Hughes are all blue bars.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

JACK: Right now I drive a school bus. I'm a retired lieutenant from the N.Y.C. Fire Department. I'm 54 years old, will be married 29 years this December, had two children, a boy and a girl. My son is still at home when not attending college.

14. OUR NEWS: Please add any useful hints.

JACK: As for useful hints, read all the information you can, try it, change it if you have to, but keep them flying, good luck to all.

Joe Russo
West Babylon, NY

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, this time we feature Joe Russo. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Joe wrote, "Here are the responses to your questions. I hope you find some of interest to you.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tiplers?

JOE: To settle my Tiplers, I had at one time, put them out as soon as they were eating on their own, after about 30 days or so. I had been losing about 60% of young this way. This year, I have been taking the young out of the nesting bowls as soon as they have most of their feathers (about 15-20 days). I put them in a small cage on top of my loft, and so, allow them to view other birds flying and landing. Usually, this is for about 4 hours. Then I return them to their bows. I have since cut my losses to 25%.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

JOE: When I am selecting a kit, I fly all my young together, watching for the ones that stay up after most have come down. Sometimes this takes months, because some take longer than others to mature. When I have three birds that considerably out fly the others, they become my kit.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit, etc.).

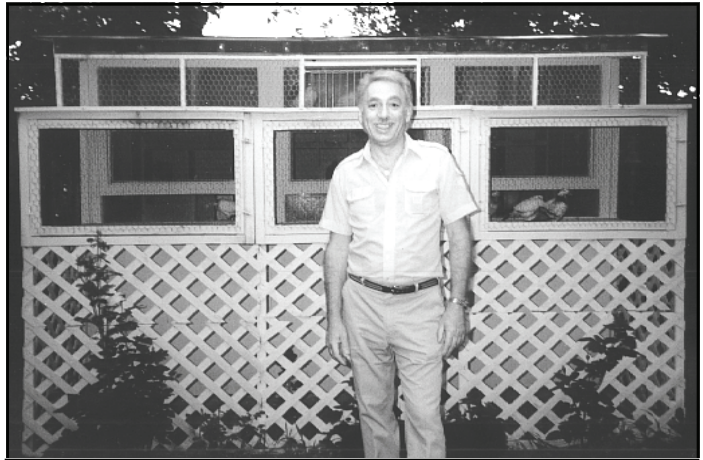
JOE: Because I now work three days on and three days off, I fly my competition kit on the first day off. That gives them three days rest. Then, the third day off, with one day rest. The second day I fly 8 or 9 birds for exercise. I fly them when I'm at work too, releasing them in the morning, and letting them back in themselves. After my old birds come down, I let out the young.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when the birds are in form?

JOE: I know my birds are in form generally by the way they fly on training food, because they are healthy.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

JOE: My system of dropping, and the kind and type I use, are as follows: I use droppers to settle the young; if it's getting dark, and sometimes after the birds land, I put out droppers to settle the Tiplers and get them in right away. I keep the droppers hungry. I use Satinettes for droppers. I have about 8 hens. They seem to spook the young when they fly, because they dive and twist from the roof to the coop. This year, I'm changing to Helmets. I need a dropper that can



Joe Russo in front of his neat loft on Long Island

fly a little, because on Long Island with many tall trees around the property the young need to get higher than the trees to see the area--at least the house.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

JOE: During training, I feed them purifier; for competition, or just to see what they can do, I feed them up.

7. OUR NEWS: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

JOE: After a competition fly, the care I give them depends on whether, and how they flew. If they flew well, I give them conditioning food. If not, they go back on training food.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

JOE: During molt, I feed them high protein food, and give them the chance to bathe every day.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

JOE: I have two lofts. One is a flying loft, and one is a breeding loft. My flying loft has three sections--cocks, young & hens. About 15 birds are in each. In the breeding loft, I have 4 breeding boxes that I lock them into, and 6 open boxes. I breed in 4 boxes in my garage, as well. This way, I'm sure "who is who!" Next year I will have 5 closed boxes in the breeding loft, and no open boxes.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

JOE: I feed my breeders Breeding Food, and some candy.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

JOE: I became associated with Tiplers when I was a kid in Brooklyn. I always enjoyed them. After 30 years, I returned to flying pigeons.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite strain and why?

JOE: (He's still thinking about it.)

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

JOE: I am 54 years old, and retired from the Suffolk County Police Department on Long Island. I am in the Security Business now and work 3 days on and three days off. I live alone. I have 4 children, 3 boys and a girl. I don't have any grandchildren, yet. I have 2 dogs, and belong to the ATU, FTS and FTA which are all flying clubs.

Garry Hulst
Zeeland, MI

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, this time we feature Gary Hulst. The questions are arranged into three categories; flying breeding and personal thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Gary wrote, "I am not a good writer, but I will try. A little about myself: I am 49 years old, married to Bev for 26 years, have a daughter Pam, 21, son Brent, 18 and daughter Kim, 9. I got my first pigeons 40 years ago. They were rollers, which I have raised ever since. I like all breeds of pigeons, but love the flying breeds. I also have racing homers for 25 years. I like the competition of racing and I have many local racing buddies. I get home from work at 2 PM every afternoon and I don't work weekends, so I do have time to fly my birds.

Next spring we are building a new house about 1 mile away on a piece of land 20 acres that was part of the farm my parents owned when I was a child. I don't think I will be flying much next year. One nice thing about the new place should be that I won't have much hawk trouble because there are no woods for 1/2 mile away.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tiplers?

GARY: I settle my young birds about like everybody does, put them out young. I learned one touch from Oskar Zovich that has cut my losses. Dip one wing in soapy water before putting them on the landing board. It does work.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

GARY: The birds that want to fly the longest I put in the kit. They usually are the birds that look the best.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training?

GARY: As young birds, they first are flown with my rollers everyday. At about 8 weeks when they want to fly too long to let them out after work, these are only flown on the weekends once a week. Old birds are only flown once a week on the weekend. Kit size varies, however I like smaller the better. 3 is my favorite size kit.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

GARY: They look great. They also don't eat as much, the same as in racing homers.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping?

GARY: My dropping needs improvement. When I build a new loft next year I hope to improve it. I use a couple of

pouters.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

GARY: I use the same feed for all my birds, which is whole corn and a 17% protein pellets made from chicken mash with vitamins added. Very little grit and oyster shells are also given. I come from a farm background and feed my birds like a farmer would. In my opinion corn fed birds will beat barley fed birds any day. I have had more 600-mile day birds than any body else in our 65-member racing pigeon combine. It also is the cheapest feed available. I feed a mixture of 2 pints corn and 1 pint pellets all year, however a couple of days before a competition I increase the corn to 100%, the birds love it.

7. OUR NEWS: How are birds cared for after a competition fly?

GARY: Rest and a little more pellets.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

GARY: Feed the same, but not flown much.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?

GARY: I have a 14'x24' loft where I fly my rollers and Tiplers out of. They have small 3' by 3' kit boxes. I hope to separate the rollers and Tiplers at my new place.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

GARY: Same as all the birds. They produce great.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

GARY: I got my first Tiplers in the fall of 1991. I bought a pair from Ed Buraczewski of New York at the NYBS in Louisville, KY. I also got a pair at Freemont, Ohio Show from a fellow there. In 1992, I raised 8 young birds and got hooked on how they would fly. Every weekend I would fly them. I got 8 to 9 hours. They were great. Since then I have added birds from Murry Gaskins of GA, Oskar Zovich of Canada and Tim Kvidera of MN.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

GARY: I don't pay much attention to strain. I mate best to best and hope to get better. Strain only looks good on pedigrees. Sorry I don't have a picture of my loft. When I build a new loft, I will have a picture taken and send it to you. I hope you can read my writing. If anybody has any questions, please give me a call 616 688 5522, yours in the sport. Gary, your writing and flying are great, thanks.

Smail "Kemo" Basic Rexdale, Ontario, Canada

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, this time we feature a guest flyer from the National Canadian Tippler Union and the Flying Tippler Association, Smail Basic. Kemo is generally recognized as one of the best young bird flyers in North America. The questions are arranged into three categories: Flying, Breeding and personal thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

To encourage a reply, I sent along the last FTS T-shirt we had. Kemo wrote, "Thank you very much for the T-shirt (I wear it every day and haven't washed it yet)! Here are the answers to your questions."

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tiplers?

KEMO: To settle my Tiplers I put them on the roof when they are four weeks old and do that every day until they start flying. Droppers are always with them. I used to use 2 to 4 droppers, but with the Irish birds I need at least 10 because the Irish birds are full of vitality and strength. They have a very strong and natural instinct to fly.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selection a kit?

KEMO: In selecting a kit for a flying competition I look for birds with vitality, vigor, strength and a natural instinct to fly.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training?

KEMO: To begin training young birds in Canada, the ideal time is early April. That gives us 8 weeks of training



before the first young bird fly. I use Harry Shannon's training and feeding program. (see above)

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

KEMO: I know the birds are in form when it takes me longer and longer to drop them while they are on the training feed (85% barley, 15% oil seed-rape and niger seed).

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping?

KEMO: When the birds are in good form, I give them droppers early. When they are in poor shape, I hold back the droppers. My droppers are a mixture of tumbler & Indian fan tail and next year I will use as many as I have.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

KEMO: I feed my flying Tiplers 85% barley and 15% oil seeds. There is widespread belief that the primary way top-level participants in flying Tippler Competition get their competitive edge is by feeding the birds special secret diets. Since so many people seem to believe that diet is crucial to success in the fly, it is not surprising that a large measure of fascination and curiosity surrounds the practice of the feed-up. The feed-up is supposed to give your birds a nutritional boost just before a major event, such as the flying Tippler competition. The body has the ability to store carbohydrates, both as glucose in the bloodstream and as glycogen in the muscles.

Sound training can increase the bird's ability to store carbohydrates as glycogen. The increased blood volume of the birds may allow them to carry around larger amounts of glucose when they are highly trained. No matter how well the birds are trained, they may well run out of stored carbohydrates at some point during the fly if not properly fueled. The point of the feed-up is to delay that moment of depletion as long as possible, because when it happens, physical performance diminishes rapidly. There are many types of feed-ups commonly used with success. The one that I prefer the most is that of Wilf Lovatt. Wilf Lovatt, an English gentleman, was the first to fly his Tiplers 20 hours. He practiced a method, which involves depleting the bird's glycogen and glucose stores just prior to the feed-up. This is achieved by first increasing the workout to 5 hours about a week before the fly. The next step is to feed the birds very little in way of carbohydrates for two to three days, concentrating on food sources high in protein such as maple peas while the exercise schedule is increased again this time to 7 hours. This reduces the level of stored carbohydrates in the bloodstream and works the muscles to their lowest point. Finally, three to four days before the fly, the eating and exercise consumption of carbohydrates increases while protein is correspondingly cut. The amount of fat in the diet during this time should be kept low at less than 25%. Thus, carbohydrates make up almost all of the calories consumed. The

Young Tippler Training & Feeding Schedule

Thursday: PM-50% barley, 25% mixed seeds, water
 Friday: AM-worm capsule, PM 50% barley, 25% mixed seeds, water
 Saturday: PM-50% barley, 25% mixed seeds, water
 Sunday: Fly 2-7 hours, 50% barley, 25% mixed seeds, water
 Monday: PM-Cod liver oil in mixed seeds, (50% feed) Epsom salts in water
 Tuesday: Fly 2-7 hours, 50% grains, 25% mixed seeds, water
 Wednesday: Noon-50% grains, 50% mixed seeds, tonic in water
 Thursday: 9-12 50% grains, 50% mixed seeds, tonic in water
 Friday: Same
 Saturday: 9-12 75% grains, 25% mixed seeds, water boiled and cooled
 Sunday: 6 hours before liberation, birds should want only about 25-50% feed of only mixed seeds and water

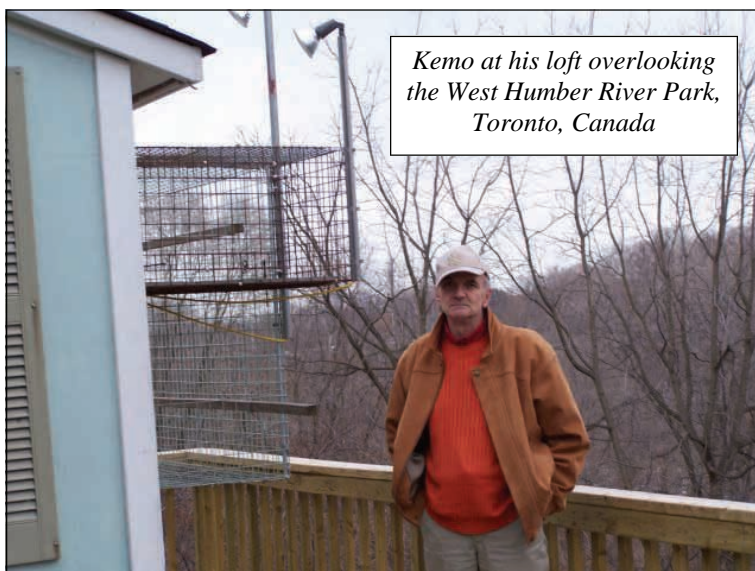
Training mix: Barley mixed with 10-15% oil seeds (rape, niger, linseed, flax)

Feed-up: Maple peas, maize, (corn) dari, (sorghum, kafir, sunflower) tares, (vetch, herb seed) & small carbohydrate seeds

Food Chart In Percentages

included with Harry Shannon's young bird training program

| grain/seed | minerals /salts | water | fiber | protein | carbo- hydrate | fat |
|------------|--------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------------------|------|
| Barley | - | 10.6 | 5.4 | 12.7 | 66.6 | 1.9 |
| Maize | - | 15.0 | 2.0 | 8.0 | 68.9 | 3.9 |
| Maple peas | - | 14.0 | 2.0 | 22.5 | 59.1 | 0.9 |
| Tares | - | 13.2 | 6.0 | 20.0 | 55.8 | 1.7 |
| Dari | - | 10.6 | 2.2 | 11.3 | 71.3 | 2.9 |
| Canary | 7.0 | 15.0 | - | 14.0 | 52.0 | 5.5 |
| Millet | 3.0 | 14.0 | - | 15.0 | 57.0 | 4.0 |
| Rape | 4.0 | 7.0 | - | 22.0 | 20.0 | 40.0 |
| Niger | 3.0 | 12.0 | - | 21.0 | 22.0 | 40.0 |



theory behind this type of method is that only by depleting the body of its carbohydrate stores can the blood and muscles optimally supersaturate with glycogen. Following these guidelines does not necessarily guarantee record performance, but it may help you fly your birds to the best of their ability. Using this program which I have slightly altered from the original, I have flown young birds, often squeakers many times over 15 hours. Practicing the same method but with longer workouts, my best flying for old birds is 16 hr. 24 min.

7. OUR NEWS: How are birds cared for after a competition fly?

KEMO: After a competition fly, I allow the pigeons to rest for half an hour. After a half an hour, I feed them 50% grains, 25% oilseeds (the birds are fed lightly) and I give them water with Vitadol Plus. This soluble powder is a multi-vitamin and electrolyte supplement. After the competition fly I keep them in for a week.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

KEMO: During molt, breeders, flyers and droppers are fed peas, grains and oil seeds mixed with 30% barley.



Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?

KEMO: My loft is 12'x8'x8'. I never keep more than 40 birds including droppers.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

KEMO: My breeding Tipplers are always fed peas, grains & oil seeds mixed with 30% barley. I follow Harry Shannon's feeding program, which excludes wheat because wheat is difficult to digest.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

KEMO: In 1969, I got married and had a room and kitchen on the second floor. Outside, under the kitchen window, I had a box with two Tipplers prints that I had bought at the local market. My wife and I were fortunate enough to save some money for a down payment on a house where one quarter of the double garage was used for my birds. I flew youngsters every day from the garage and I had no idea about droppers. When the birds had enough they came down. The birds were prints, blues, duns and silvers. At my new job in 1974, I met Oskar Zovich. Being of the good nature that I am, (knock on wood) I gave Oskar two young birds that I had flown 10 hours even (that was a great time, I might add). They were very pretty birds, one was a blue bar and the other was a dun grizzle. I then introduced Oskar to my source of pigeon supply: The local market. From then on, our friendship grew as did our stock of birds.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

KEMO: My favorite strain of Tippler is the "Irish Delights." Why? (Look at them again.) They are bred for vitality and natural instinct to fly.

OUR NEWS would like to know something personal about yourself and any good advise you may have for our fanciers.

KEMO: I'm a handsome 52 years old man, married with two children. Everyone helps with training the birds by occasionally feeding or releasing them. Useful hint: we all have good birds and programs, with patience and commitment, we can all be winners! Once you put together this questionnaire could you please mail a copy to our friend Jerry O'Rourke so that he can publish it in the FTA bulletin. P.S. I hope you like the pictures of the "Irish Delights."

Ali Amini Milwaukee, WI

Continuing our flyer profiles, this time we feature Ali Amini-Hajibashi. The questions are arranged into three categories: Flying, Breeding and personal thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Flying

1. OUR NEWS: How do you settle your Tipplers?

ALI: As soon as they are about five weeks old, I put them on top of my pigeon loft for about two hours everyday keeping an eye on them the whole time. Also, my droppers (hens only) are put out with them. When they get strong enough to fly and daily for about a week, I place them in a small cage on top of the loft with food and water for the entire day. In this way, they are able to see the fliers flying. The droppers are out too. I make sure that they are eating enough on their own and if they are not, I let them go back to their parents at the end of the day. After a few days of doing the same thing, I separate them from their parents and put them in with my droppers which are made up of four hens only. For three days I feed them in there, without letting them out, just so that can get used to and comfortable in the new place. Then at this time if they are hungry when I whistle, I put the small seeds such as millet in their loft. They will feel comfortable to come to it, especially when they see the droppers coming. The next day around noon, I tie the first four feathers of one wing of every pigeon and place them on the loft where they used to be in the cage from before. I also have the hen droppers out with them. Then I sit and watch them as much as I can. At about five in the afternoon when they are usually hungry and thirsty, I open the loft and put the food inside. When the droppers enter, the young ones try to enter also. Then I feed them breeding mix and some small seeds. This process goes on continuously for about two weeks. At this time the young ones are about 50% settled. Now comes the hard part, when I begin loosening one pigeon's wing every 3 days. Then, when my flying kit is tired and begin to fly low, I let one of the young birds fly with the kit for about half an hour. Then I open the loft and let the other ones come out onto the loft top. Usually the first two or three times the young birds do not want to kit because the flying is too fast for them. The same process goes on for every young bird. At this stage, I hardly ever lose any young birds. But then, most people (including myself) think that since the young birds have been kitting with the old birds as well as flying every other day for about seven times with each time lasting two or three hours, that they are settled. It is just a trick. At this point in time they are about 70% settled and then I fly my young birds together only by themselves late in the afternoon when they are hungry and thirsty. At this time when they are hungry and thirsty, they can two or three hours later in the afternoon and then I fly them once every other day by adding an additional hour to their flying time. This process continues for about one month. For myself, I have realized that this is the only way for me to train the young Lovatt Tippler to fly without many losses. But one thing to remember is that it takes a great deal of time and patience to teach these young birds to develop as good and lengthily fliers.

2. OUR NEWS: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

ALI: A kit that flies together and has some endurance. Normally birds should be in good condition and want to fly long hours.

3. OUR NEWS: When do you begin training?

ALI: After they are settled, I fly them every other day for about two weeks, then once every two days. Before competitions I let them rest for three days.

4. OUR NEWS: How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

ALI: When I have problems bring my flyers down on the practice fly day, I know that they are in good form.

5. OUR NEWS: What's your system of dropping?

ALI: I have eight droppers, mostly hens. They are white with black tail and black wings. Flyers can see them from high up. Sometimes I use them, sometimes I don't. They are mixed with the flyers and always drink and eat at the same time as the flyers.

6. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your flyers?

ALI: After the fly day I feed them just barley. The next day I feed them one cup of barley and a half cup of mixed:



milo, wheat, hulled oats, flax, rape seed.

7. OUR NEWS: How are birds cared for after a competition?

ALI: After the birds are down I try to get them in the loft right away and let them rest for half an hour. I feed them first then give them water.

8. OUR NEWS: During molt, how are your birds cared for?

ALI: When they are molting, I do not fly them, but I give them more oily seeds such as flax, rape & hemp and a little breeding feed. Also I give them a bath every day.

Breeding

9. OUR NEWS: How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?

ALI: My breeding loft is eight feet by eight feet and I have ten pairs of breeders, but next year I'm going to keep only eight pair.

10. OUR NEWS: What do you feed your breeders?

ALI: I feed the breeders regular pigeon feed with popcorn. Also, every day I give them lentils and yellow peas and green peas along with fresh dandelions and plantain.

Personal

11. OUR NEWS: How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

ALI: We always had pigeons in my father's house in Iran ever since I was born. In 1992 I bought four pairs from Richard Seabridge. One of the hens died and three cocks flew away. Then the next year I bred from one red cock and the remaining three hens which I still have. Year after year I kept the best flyers for breeding, Now after six years I have ten pairs of breeders that are all from the same father and three different mothers.

12. OUR NEWS: What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

ALI: My favorite Tippler strain is the Lovatt. I have never had any other Tippler strain. The Lovatts are very hard to settle. Yet when you have a kit of them flying, it is a joy to watch because they fly like a group of butterflies, very gentle. They go up into the sky so high and then they come lower. Just when you think they are tired of flying, they go high and fly another six hours or so.

13. OUR NEWS: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

ALI: I am thirty-nine years old and was born in Iran. I lived in London, England from 1977 to 1984, after which I came to the USA. From 19987 to 1991 I held the title of Wisconsin State Champion in Marshall arts, Tae Kwon Do. Right now I am teaching the arts and working part time in a European style restaurant. Living with me are my wife (now married 12 years) and four children (two boys and two girls). My children also enjoy the pigeons very much. My oldest child is ten years old and he always wakes up at 4:30 AM on the competition days because he wants to be my witness.



Top: Ali's record kit went 16 30 on Long Day June 14, 2004. Middle: Ali's kit went 15 45 on Long Day, June 16, 2003. And some of Ali's 2006 youngsters returning, in the dark from a training flight, Milwaukee, WI

Ali Rajabnik Woodstock, GA

Continuing our series of flyer profiles of FTS rookies, we asked them to tell us all how they were able to accomplish those great fly times established this season. In this and following issues of Our News we'll feature a different rookie and allow them to tell us how they do it. In this issue we profile Ali Rajabnik, Woodstock, GA.

The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Ali: I really don't feel I have much to offer since there are many great masters in this hobby that I don't feel I am good enough to be even their student. It seems to me that the main purpose of this hobby, which is fun, is forgotten and is being taken too seriously. I'm also surprised how some of the members of both clubs loose many birds in settling. I have to tell you that in order to be successful in this as in any sport one has to have keen ears and a short tongue. Listen well, but never copy, rather use your own instinct and develop a system, which works for you. Create a system, which will make the birds work for you instead of you working for the birds.

Flying

1. Our News: How do you settle your Tipplers?

Ali: At the age of 3 weeks I carry them out of the breeding loft which is enclosed and by the way each pair is separate in a 2'x2' at all times, and put the young birds on top of the loft in a wire cage so I can go about my business. Every time I have a chance I do this in the 3-5 weeks period of their life, once they come out they are already settled and I have spent no time in settling them.

2. Our News: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

Ali: Not so much being from the same strain because regardless of their strain once they are flown together, eventually every bird contributes to gradually make a unified kit. What I look for is strength, equal habits in response to droppers and later fly the sexes separately from each other.

3. Our News: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit etc.).

Ali: At 4-5 weeks, the birds come out and stay out at times with droppers around them. At 5-6 weeks they take off and land by themselves. At 6-7 weeks they come out with droppers but I let them take off on their own and in these 2-3 flies I stand there and after a short time (15 minutes or so) I turn the droppers loose and in this way I show them where so land. I do this a couple or 3 times, and at 7 weeks they go on a strict diet and training flies of times which gradually increase. I then fly them 2 or 3 times a week in the afternoons when I am home. I try to breed such that I fly birds of the same age in the same kit of up to 7 or 8 birds. I gradually cull some or separate them later according to their sex, but not necessarily always. I have to tell you that there are times that if through my instinct, a bird after only 1 or 2 initial short flies does not catch my eye, I do not waist any time on that bird.

4. Our News: How do you know when the birds are in form?

Ali: When all the birds in a kit show the same endurance and strength from the beginning to the end of a good work out fly. It is not in their weight, not in their eyes or in their feather quality.

5. Our News: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

Ali: A few birds of any kind other than Tipplers (Nuns, rollers, etc.) that stay hungry all the time and therefore respond and work well, mostly of white color. Once the birds have had their flying time, droppers are turned loose and mainly fly back and forth in search of food. I am not for a lot of droppers since I train with a few; my birds are used to a few droppers (4-6) and respond well. This keeps my cleaning time and feeding low. I am sure in night flying more droppers are needed, but I do not fly at night, but hopefully in the future I will give it a try.

6. Our News: What do you feed your flyers?

Ali: I cannot get malted barley; I use a mixture of peas, barley and wheat 3/4 once per bird every 24 hours and I feed late in the evening. I give them a small amount of either flax or canary seed every time they fly better than what I expect of them. I give them Epsom salt once every 2 weeks on average and for longer fly times I give them a mixture of small seeds like canary, milo, and millet. I wish I had a secret recipe, but I don't have one to pass along.

7. Our News: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

Ali: I give them the same feed that they flew on. I figure it must have been good that they performed well on it, and then the next day back to the wheat, barley mix and they stay in for a week of rest.

8. Our News: During the molt, how are your birds cared for?

Ali: I feed them better quality of feed, but lesser quantity so they won't gain weight. They need the better feed for their feather build up during the molt. I also give them a lot of baths during the molt. I also try not to fly them as often (once a week or so during molting season).

Breeding

9. Our News: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

Ali: My loft is separate from my flying loft; it's a 6'x10' walk-in with individual 2'x2' breeding boxes built in the loft with separate doors for each breeding box. All the breeder pairs from day one on the last day of breeding stay in their own boxes and never get out. This first year I bred from 6 pairs since I did not have many birds to fly and so I was trying to get the pairing mixture developed. Now that I have established that, I plan to breed from 3-4 pairs max and 2 clutches from each. This way I will have time to bring the best out of the young birds.

10. Our News: What do you feed your breeders?

Ali: I feed the breeders one kind of pellets only, this way there is no choice or picking and by the time the first clutch is out they are used to it and they get all the nutrition they need in this pellet feed.

Personal

11. Our News: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

Ali: I became accustomed to flying pigeons growing up at home in Tehran where to see pigeons, all you have to do is raise your head to the sky and you are bound to see them sooner or later. Since childhood I have had and flown pigeons off and on. As for Tiplers, I started with a few birds from Tony Mirseyedi in the summer of 1991.

12. Our News: What is your favorite strain and why?

Ali: I don't have a favorite strain because I am yet to see a so-called strain of Tippler, which among other qualities has a good height, which it will keep steadily. I am, by trial and error mixing certain strains and it seems like I am getting better heights out of them. Overall I like the Josh Davies strain of Tippler except for their low height.

13. Our News: Who are you? Tell us about yourself.

Ali: I was born and raised in Tehran. After high school I went to England and after a couple of years I came to the States to continue my education in Architecture. I have been married for 6 1/2 years and have 3 boys (5, 3 & 1). Unlike certain beliefs that flying competitively takes time, I do not necessarily spend a lot of time, but rather enjoy my life and my children and as a hobby I spend an adequate amount of time with Tiplers. I played roller all my life and now that I have slowed down I spend this spare time with my birds. I am 37 years old.

I truly believe that if one develops a solid management system and keeps a small number of birds and trains them the right way, one does not have to have a lot of time to enjoy Tiplers. Having an understanding wife or other family members to help with releasing birds or feeding while you are away helps a lot and I am very lucky in this respect.

PS: I wanted to tell you how sincerely happy I was for the time that Michael Beat flew. I always new that we had quality birds here in North America and it was just a matter of time for us to bring the record or at least close to it home. My congratulations to Michael. By the way, I have 2 pairs of birds that after going through culling and also fulfilling my friends needs in Tiplers, I can spare. If anyone is interested, please call me. And like usual anything I can do for the club, please call.

This wraps up our third installment of flyer profiles. The FTS, common goals, uncommon fanciers.

Jon Mazaran
East Meadow, NY

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, this time we feature Jon Mazaran. The questions are arranged into three categories; flying, breeding and personal thoughts they have on the sport and themselves. Jon wrote, "At this time I would like to thank everyone who helped me and gave me advice as to how to fly Tiplers. Thank you very much!"

Flying

1. Our News: How do you settle your Tiplers?

Jon: I take the young Tiplers at 14 days old and put them on top of aviary every day in the afternoon for about 3 hours, from 4-7pm. I put a wire cage over them so hawks and cats can't get them. This way they look around and learn where the loft and yard is. At 7pm, I bring them in to their parents at feeding time. By doing this I learned that they don't get lost as much during training. At 26 days old, I start to teach them to go through the trap in the young bird section. At about 30 days old, I move them to the young bird section, by this time they eat on their own. Now I start to add parley to their feed and all kinds of small seeds, which I use during training.

2. Our News: What do you look for in selecting a kit?

Jon: I look for Tiplers that are the same size and fly good together, at this time sex does not matter. When they get older, I separate cocks from hens. Although, from time to time, I fly a hen with the cocks or vice versa.

3. Our News: When do you begin training? Please give a brief schedule (times per week, hours per fly, number of birds per kit etc.).

Jon: I begin training when they get about 5 weeks old, by this time they fly together. They fly every other day in the evening for 2 hours. I fly as much as 7 birds per kit, and as low as 3.

4. Our News: How do you know when the birds are in form?

Jon: Birds in form have smooth feathers, clear eyes, light in hand and love to fly.

5. Our News: What's your system of dropping? If droppers are used, how many droppers are used and what kind?

Jon: To drop the Tiplers, I use Elbinger tumblers. I find them very tame and calm. Most of the time Tiplers come down on their own.

6. Our News: What do you feed your flyers?

Jon: I feed the flyers barley as the main feed, when needed I add wheat, peas, flax and small seeds.

7. Our News: How are the birds cared for after a competition fly?

Jon: The night after a competition fly they are fed breeders mix. I let them rest for 4 days before they fly in training again.

8. Our News: During the molt, how are your birds cared for?

Jon: During molting, I feed them breeders feed mix, little vitamins in the water and bath water twice a week. I find that this way they get beautiful feathers and good health.

Breeding

9. Our News: How large a loft do you maintain? How many birds?

Jon: My loft is 12' by 8' with three 4' by 8' sections. There are flyers', breeders' and young birds' sections. I have 5 pairs to breed from. In the spring, when possible, I raise about 20 young ones.

10. Our News: What do you feed your breeders?

Jon: I feed my breeders Bay-Mor NC-40; in the winter months I add popcorn to this feed.

Personal

11. Our News: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

Jon: I've had pigeons since I was a little boy. When we moved to New York, I lived in an apartment and was not allowed to have pigeons. My friends had pigeons on the rooftops and we would fly them. In 1993, a man from the Racing Pigeon magazine gave me Mr. David Fuller's address in Louisiana. I wrote to Mr. David and he sent me papers to join the FTS.

12. Our News: What is your favorite strain and why?

Jon: I have Lovatts, Seabridge Tiplers; they fly very well.

John Lamb Ireland

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*The National Tipler Union of Great Britain Newsletter has a series of interviews much like our own Flyer Profile, which they call: **Meet the Flyer***

Name: John Lamb Age: 47 Club: Private Member

Question: How long have you been flying?

Answer: I first joined the NTU 6 years ago in 1992 and started flying in '93. However, I first kept pigeons as far back as 1965 when I bought my first "Pet Shop" Tiplers. Of course I knew nothing about training or competition flying in those days. The most they ever flew was 6 hours on a particular day. I still don't know how they managed it. It must have been bred into them because it wasn't anything I did. After about 2 years my brother bought some homers and so we decided to go into racing until 1982 when I stopped keeping pigeons altogether. However, I still had pigeons in my head and still had the notion to fly real Tiplers some day.

By chance in 1991, I met my friend Paddy Slane, whom I have known from my early days with the racers. He told me that he was back in Tiplers and I told him I would like to have a go at them also. His reply was for me to come and see him as soon as I had a loft ready. And so plans were laid. By February 1992 I had built an 8'x6'. This is still in use as my flying shed today. Paddy supplied me with 2 pairs of breeders and also a kit of 4 young birds. I flew these young birds according to Paddy's instructions and had them up to 9 hours, but one fine day I put them out and watched them go into the heights and out of sight. I never saw them again. I will never know until my dying day what happened to them. Did a falcon scatter them or did they follow a batch of homers on a toss? Only God knows!

I am grateful to Paddy for all his help. He taught me how to train and feed. He has loaned me various birds for breeding and if ever I had any problems, he was only a phone call away.

Q: What breed do you fly?

A: As you will have already guessed my main family of Tiplers are P. Slane. In 1995 Paddy loaned me a pair of

grizzles which bred 2 grizzle cocks to fly 20 hours 25 minutes for me, 1st place NTU Long Day 1997. One of these was also 2nd NTU as a young bird (16 08) and Irish Section winner (14 59 YB). Paddy's birds have also crossed well with others. In 1992 I had a black hen from Paul O-Brian crossed to a P. Slane cock. She bred 2 black cocks to fly 16 42 as ybs (5th place NTU) and 17 05 as yearlings, but they were hard to see in the dark. In 1995 Bobby Dunseith supplied me with 2 pairs of his birds. I paired one of the blue cocks to a silver w/f hen bred by myself off a P. Slane pair. They bred 2 pencil blue cocks, which completed my 20-hour kit. One of these pencil blues was also in my yb kit (Irish section 14 30, Irish 14 59, 2nd NTU & UFTC Charity Cup 16 08). I also have a pair from Harry Shannon. I won these as a prize in the 1996 Charity fly 16 08, but in 1997 I lost the ybs of this pair. I 1998 I will cross them with P. Slane birds.

Another cross I must mention was that of a grizzle badge cock given to me by Ronnie McGregor of Lisburn. The late Gerry Mooney had bred this grizzle badge, but I believe its bloodlines came from Gerry's brother-in-law Emanuel Fenton. I paired this cock to a Pl Slane hen. They produced a grizzle badge cock to fly 19 35 as a yearling in the company of 2 P. Slane pigeons, Long Day 1995.

Q: How many breeding pairs do you keep? A: 12 pairs.

Q: When do you pair? A: Mid-February.

Q: Do you inbreed or pair best to best? A: Inbreed and outcross.

Q: Describe your loft set up.

A: 8'x6' flying shed & 12'x6'breeding loft.

Q: How many flyers do you keep?

A: In '97 I had 8, but in '98 I will have 15.

Q: How often do you fly? A: Every 2-3 days.

Q: How many hours do you fly? A: 4-6 hours.

Q: When do you give your last fly? A: Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on shifts, as I work some nights.

Q: Do you prefer to fly cocks or hens?

A: I know there is a line of thought or theory which says that hens are better at staying kitted in the dark therefore giving them a better chance of a record fly, but I can only say my best time was flown by 4 cocks, 2 pairs of brothers. I have a feeling it could be due to the particular family of the birds, where in some, the hens could be the best while in others the cocks could be the goods. I had a hen a couple of years ago whose children and grandchildren would split in the dark, even in twilight, so I have now eliminated them.

Q: Do you use the same feed-up for old birds and young birds?

A: Generally yes, but if one bird doesn't take a particular grain, I'll tempt it with something else.

Q: Do you use a tonic?

A: The answer to this is yes. I have used Parishes Chemical Food and Johnson's Tonic at different times. Both have worked. However, if you look at the contents of these you will find both contain iron. This isn't a magic substance to make Tipplers fly time. It is simply a substance to give them an appetite and therefore feed better. But, of course they must be good Tipplers and be in good condition to accept their build-up feed. It is only an aid to help you get the best from the birds. Of course, sometimes I find a bird will not take a drink of the tonic. In which case, I simply give it clean water. Perhaps we place too much importance on tonic.

Q: What are your best ob times? A: 20 hours 25 minutes, 4 cocks.

Q: What are your best yb times? A: 16 hours 57 minutes.

Q: How many droppers do you have? A: 4

Q: How many ybs do you breed? A: 40-50

Q: Do you dark train young birds?

A: Yes I do dark train my young birds for a couple reasons. Firstly, I want to be in with a chance of a good fly in the early young bird competitions, but as you can see from my best young bird time, I still have some way to go in that department. Also, if the young birds are dark trained, it makes life easier in the springtime as they can be brought into dark quickly as yearlings. However, I do feel yearlings are more settled than young birds and less would be spoiled if dark training was left until the yearling stage. I think this is worth consideration.

Q: have you any suggestions that might improve the sport?

A: I think an honor system would encourage those who can't get a referee to stay in the sport. Later, if they do find one, they would naturally return to full competition.

A: More articles from experienced fanciers. I think they should be approached to write an article on a specific aspect. Also, more photographs of birds and lofts.

Q: What advice would you give the novice?

A: The advice I would give is as follows: 1, Obtain stock from a fancier who can regularly produce good times. 2, Listen to what he has to say about training and feeding and put his words into practice. 3, Read about pigeons and learn about disease and health matters in particular. 4, Be a good listener. When you meet an experienced fancier, ask

questions. 5, Make good use of a scraper. And finally, 6, I would like to relate the story of a champion pigeon man who once was asked the secret of producing winners. He simply replied that in general, the best results were found by pairing a cock with a hen.

Q: have you any other comments?

A: I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped me in Tipplers. First and foremost, Paddy Slane, who introduced me to Tipplers. He supplied me with the right birds and taught me how to feed and train them. I am indebted to him. Also Bobby Dunseith who supplied me with 2 pairs of birds and has always been willing to supply advice and help. And finally, Harry Shannon. He is always willing to give advice and pass on information. I have obtained some useful tips from him anytime I have met or talked to him on the phone. I would also like to wish all NTU members the very best for 1998.

And here's a bonus article on feeding by John:

Flying Tippler Methods

by John Lamb

I was very surprised to find out that my words in the NTU Newsletter had reached the shores of "Amerikay" and into your magazine.

I will be pleased to pass on my feeding methods and indeed my thoughts on feeding of Flying Tipplers. But first, I must point out that I regard feeding as only one piece of the jig-saw which goes into a successful fly. If the birds fail to fly a good time, it may not be the feeding that is the fault and indeed I would not wish anyone to blame me if they failed after trying out my feeding methods. I used the term; "my feeding methods," but I believe them to be similar to most fanciers this side of the Atlantic and elsewhere.

To begin with, I will say a few words on feeding stock pigeons or breeders. I feed the same mixture all the year round. This, I believe should contain a high percentage of peas which are high in protein (about 25%). I also like some Indian corn in the mixture, but not a terrible lot. On no account do I use barley on my breeding mixture when rearing young ones. It is low in protein and not therefore suitable for rearing youngsters.

I was once told that barley also leads to eggs being laid which are brittle and easily broken, but I have never experimented to find out if this is true. Barley is only therefore fed to my flying pigeons during training and stock birds which have finished breeding.

My birds also have ample grit and minerals. Occasionally, I give them some leftover lettuce which they really devour. Lately, I have given them things such as breakfast cereals, porridge oats, etc., things which have not been used in the house. They seem to like them.

To breed good strong young ones I have been adding vegetable oil to the corn and coating it with baby milk powder. I only feed this when young ones are in the nest.

And so on to feeding of my flying kits. As I said before, I regard feeding as only one part of the jig-saw puzzle that goes to produce a successful fly. Firstly, you must have the right birds. You must obtain your original stock from a fancier who can regularly produce good times in the high teens of hours. Don't just buy a bird simply because it has a strain name of a fancier who lived fifty years ago. The fancier who bred it may not/will not certainly have paired his birds in the same way as the originator of the particular family of yesteryear.

Also, the loft in which you house your birds must be dry and adequately ventilated. My own loft has vents just below roof level, front and rear to allow a fresh flow of air through the loft. The constant changing of air in the loft is important. I do not like my flying loft to be too bright inside as this encourages the molt. Also, the use of an electric light in the flying loft will bring on the molt, so I keep this to a minimum. For two years now I have reached long day fly without any birds casting a flight.

With regards to the actual feeding of my flying Tipplers, this goes hand in hand with their training. I suppose I can assume that your readers will have trained their Tipplers to come to droppers (white fantails). I start training my young birds as soon as they leave the nest and start to feed on their own. They are removed to the young bird section and fed once a day on breeding mixture and given a drink. Each time, of course, the dropper bird is introduced and the young Tipplers soon learn to associate them with being fed. Gradually then the feeding is changed so that by the time the young ones are flying they are eating only pure barley. A few days before they are eating only pure barley. A few days before they are allowed to fly out for the first time I cut down their amount of food so that they are hungry and won't stray too far at first until they are well used to the loft and surrounding area. Up until this point I give my young birds daily access to a small flight or cage on the front of the loft, so that they can acquaint themselves with the area outside. When they are flying around and seem settled I increase the amount of food to make them fly longer. Small seed (e.g.; Linseed) can also be given now, but only sparingly about twice a week just to make them stronger. This must not be over done or the molt will be induced. In the past, I have fed a depurative mixture (i.e.; barley, wheat, dari (*Kafir*) and safflower) to my young birds, but on occasions they have over-flown into darkness without being properly dark trained. I now find that pure barley feeding keeps them under better control. I use depurative for my old bird kits, but I find that they do not need any small seeds at all, the depurative mixture being sufficient on its own. If any birds refuse to come in to the droppers, I can

simply change their feeding by either stopping the small seeds (young birds) or changing the depurative to pure barley (old birds) or simply feeding less to regain control of them and so their training and diet continues, training every two to three days, four or six hours each time. If flying every two days, four to five hours is sufficient; if flying every three days about five to six hours is enough. Some people would fly longer hours in training, but only twice a week.

The birds can be brought to fitness in about six weeks or even less if the weather is good and their training is regular. I prefer not to fly them on days when the wind is cold, as it can knock the heart out of them and destroy all the good work of previous days. It can take several weeks to bring them back to form again.

To feed the birds up for a competition fly, I start one week previous, i.e.: On Sunday night I give Epsom Salts in their water to "dose them out," to use a vernacular term. One teaspoonful to a pint of water. On Tuesday night I give them an Iron tonic in their water (same dosage as Epsom Salts). On Wednesday night after their fly, I change their feeding to small seeds, but only 50% of their normal amount. This means that by Thursday morning they are still hungry enough for a full feed. These small seeds consist of a proprietary brand of conditioning seed to which I add oil seed, rape and hemp seed. On Wednesday night they also get tonic in their water. On Thursday morning they get 50% small seed and 50% good breeding mixture, pure water to drink. On Friday morning I feed the same as Thursday plus 50% extra small seeds and pure water. I must add that I do not leave water with the birds all the time. They only get a drink after they have finished feeding. On Saturday morning I feed them as much small seed as they will eat followed by pure water to drink. By now the kit of birds should be looking well and handling well, bright eyes breast muscles swelled, feeling firm, but not too firm, a sort of spongy firmness and feathering feeling almost oily, certainly not dry. It only remains to finish them off about two to four hours before their fly on Sunday morning by feeding some plain canary seed, oil seed rape and hemp and a drink of water, also a few grains of Indian corn (about six to eight is sufficient). Don't worry if they are only picking at this stage. I like them to take about half a crop-full at this last feed. I feed all my fliers in individual kit boxes so that they all get about the same amount of food and if all the birds are of the same family or at least type, this helps as well.

So there you have it, above are the finer details of my feeding system, the final part of the jig-saw puzzle if you like, but all parts are equally important. The above feeding method will not make champions out of sub-standard stock, improperly trained.

To sum up, train on a low protein, high carbohydrate diet of barley plus some small seeds or a depurative mixture (e.g.: Barley, wheat, dari, safflower. Build up on high protein, high oil/fat content seeds and mixture (e.g.: Oil seed, rape, hemp, maple peas, Indian corn and finally, plain canary seed).

A thing to remember is that a pigeon's body can turn protein into carbohydrate, but not the reverse.

The above system has enabled me to enjoy my Tiplers to the utmost and anyone who follows it should be able to gain success. But, the training program must be adhered to over a sustained period of weeks and months bringing the birds gradually up into top flying condition. It cannot be achieved in days, but as I just said, only over sustained period. The fancier who wants to succeed, must be dedicated.

Finally, I would like to wish all American Tippler flyers every success with their Tiplers, perhaps some day you may emulate the times of flyers in Ireland and Britain.

Bob Adams
Bohemia, NY

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, this time we feature Bob Adams. The questions are about three categories; flying, breeding and personal thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Bob wrote: Here is the profile you asked for. I couldn't find any writing paper, and knowing me the way I do things 2 months from now I'd still be getting the paper. So here it is. I hope you correct my spelling. It was nice talking to you last week. You can put this letter in the Tippler Special if you want. Please send a copy to **Joe Russo** and **Jerry O'Rourke** for the FTA Bulletin.

I was born in 1944 in Brooklyn, NY. I started raising pigeons at the age of 10; Rollers and Homers, Budi's, Bronzes, etc. I became interested in Tiplers around 1980, a friend of mine had some and I loved the way they flew way up in the "pins." I've been working on my own strain of Tiplers since 1987. Which if I was asked what they are I'd have to say Lovatts with a pinch of Sheffield. But then, do any of us really know what we have? I never had the chance to fly my birds in competition as I worked day and night. In February 1998 I was rendered disabled and started a full time "project" of flying. The first couple of flies I didn't have too much luck flying: 1 47, 2 28 & 2 26. I was ready to give up, but with a feed up program supplied by Joe Russo (my mentor) I started flying in the double digits. This year (1999) I've enjoyed great success with times of 10 24, 12 35, 12 00, 12 40, 14 21, DQ, 15 44 and 16 15 which is a new North American Young Bird Record, beating a time of 16 6 flown by S. Basic in 1998.

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tiplers? When my young birds are eating on their own I move them to the flying loft and put them on a depurative mixture. I give them the freedom of the outside world after a few days. I always put them out with a dropper until they start kiting up. Once they are flying together as a kit no dropper is shown until I want them down.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit? I look for the same style of flying. My birds are all related so their style is most often similar. I don't like birds that "clap" too often and they are culled.

3. When do you begin training? Once the young birds are flying as a kit I start training. I like to start off with seven to ten and weed them out as training moves along. This was my first year training to dark, but I'll tell you there's no other way to go, dropping your birds at dark or after is what this is all about!

4. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form? Once my birds are on the "low feed" program and feel like an empty beer can and I start my feed up and when they just pick at their ration I know that they are ready for an all day (weather permitting) fly. You don't want your birds too heavy, as far as I'm concerned, fat birds won't fly. There is a lot of trial and error with a feed program and you have to pay strict attention to all aspects of it.

5. What is your system of dropping? I use lights (if they are called for) and I use one white Flight with wings clipped so it can just about fly. I only use one dropper because I think if the birds are trained to one that's all you need.

6. What do you feed your flyers? Well I have a low feed week and a feed-up week. During the low feed week I feed just a depurative mix and during feed-up week I feed a combination of canary seed, maple peas, rape, flax, safflower and peanuts with a drink of tea on Wednesday and tonic on Thursday for a fly on Sunday.

7. How are your birds cared for after a competition? One hour after they come in I let them eat all they want of pigeon candy and a drink of tea. If your birds are right they will just pick at the feed. The next day it's back to a depurative mix if I'm going to use the same kit in the next competition.

8. During molt, how are your birds cared for? During the molt all my birds are given tea twice weekly and frequent baths.

I have two lofts the breeding loft is 6'x 16' which can be sectioned off when breeding stops. Most of the time it's wide open as all the birds in the breeding loft are kept prisoner. The flying loft is 8'x8' with 3 sections. One is for my kit boxes, section is 5'x4.' Another is for my young birds with just perches, section is 5'x4' and the last is my isle where I keep the various feeds, medication, etc. I don't put the young birds in kit boxes until I decide which birds I will use. I guess my

Bob's record setting young bird kit went 16 35 in a prearranged fly 2003



Laid back Bob and a couple of his Tiplers and ribbons.

favorite Tippler strain would be Lovatts, being mine are the closest things to Lovatts without being them. I like the way they fly!!! I have tried the Shannon strain, but as of yet don't use them in competition. I hope this letter has been informative. It's what I do & it works for me, which doesn't mean that it's right. Every Tippler flyer has his own ideas and opinions

Colin Bristow Willenhall, England

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Question (Q): What Breed do you fly?

Answer (A): My own, but with some recent additions from B White and H Shannon

Q: Whom do you most admire in the sport?

A: The fanciers who continue to fly their birds despite the regular hawk/falcon attacks.

Q: What time of year do you start to dark train?

A: January, if I have the time.

Q: How many pairs do you breed off?

A: As many as I can, usually 20-25 pairs.

Q: Do you believe in family, or pair best to best?

A: I pair what I consider to be best birds, to achieve the results I want, this may be family related or cross pairing, but rarely have I paired best flyers together.

Q: What would you like to see in the sport, that would benefit it?

A: Active promotion of the sport.

Q: How many times a week do you train your birds and how long do you fly them?

A: Train 2-3 times a week for 4-5 hours.

Q: What size would you say is the ideal Tippler loft?

A: As big as you can afford or your garden will allow.

Q: How many birds do you breed and how many do you have left at the end of the season?

A: I breed around 120 youngsters each year. Many of these are used to meet requests for birds from other fanciers or newcomers to the sport. I will select 20 or 30 birds for myself to try to settle and train and consider myself lucky if I have 10 or more left at the end of the season. Quite often I will keep 2 or 3 which have caught my eye for the stock pen.

Q: Is there a set time your birds have to do before you put them away for next season?

A: No, but they must have shown themselves receptive to my training methods.

Q: Are you keen on showing?

A: Not really, but I enjoy making the effort to show just once a year to be part of a great day out and to meet other Tippler fanciers.

Q: Are your feed-ups basically the same?

A: Yes. In as much as the ingredients are the same, however quantity and timing tends to vary from fly to fly.

Q: What are your best times Old and Young Bird?

A: 20 hours, 12 minutes Old Bird and 17 hours 28 minutes Young Bird.

Q: If your birds make a mistake do you kill them?

A: No, but birds that have no value either as a flyer or potential breeder, are culled.

Q: Is ventilation a must in your loft?

A: Yes, especially considering the quantity of birds I keep.

Q: Is there a secret to Tippler flying?

A: No.

Q: What would you say was your biggest mistake in Tippler flying?

A: Keeping too many birds and I'm still making the same mistake.

Nino Bugeja Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

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Continuing our series of Flyer Profiles, this time we feature Nino Bugeja. We asked Nino about flying, breeding and personal thoughts he has on the sport of flying Tipplers. Here is what he wrote: Thanks for your interest. I started with Tipplers when I was a young lad of seven with my father. I was active with them for about 23 years. My young daughter got me back into them while visiting the local flea market. She convinced me to buy a cock bird that was in 1997 and in 1998 I joined the CNTU and in 1999 I joined the FTA. The rest is history.

I have mixed strains of birds that I have used to create my own family. Some of them your readers will recognize, such as Hughes-Zovich crosses, Morden strain, and some of unknown origin from the local flea market. I have only one loft measuring about 6' X 12' consisting of a breeding section of 5' x 6' and the remaining space contains 7 community boxes.

I mate my pairs the first week of February. I keep 8 to 12 pair and normally raise about 50 young birds. It seems like a lot but my losses can be great.

When settling the squeakers, I start them at the age of 4 or 5 weeks. Youngsters are separated from their parents and put into a community box with my droppers. They will have access to the roof of the coop from the box along with the droppers until they are orientated well and beginning to kit. At this stage they are put on a low feed diet and flown 2 to 3 times a week depending on the weather.

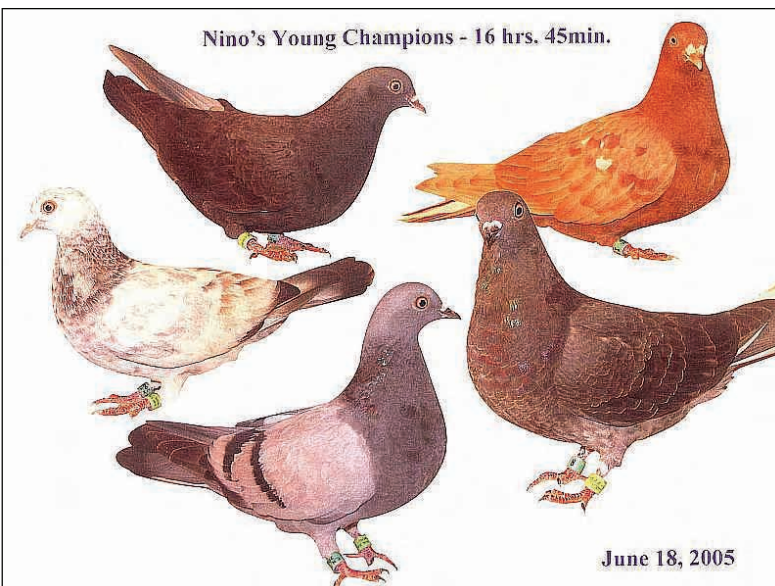
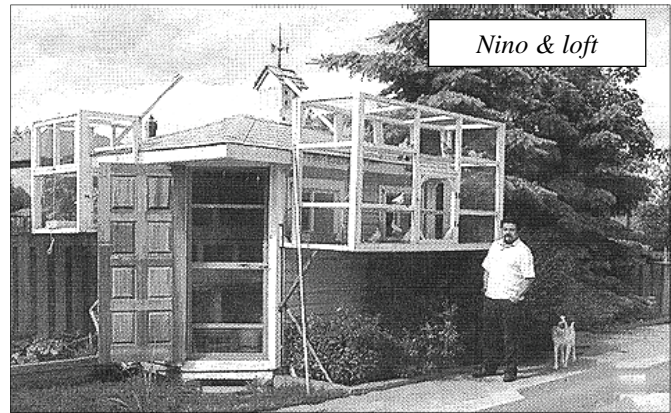
At this point I do not look for too much time from them, but rather concentrate on getting the birds to respond to the droppers. I use fans or any white birds other than Tipplers.

I train from dark backwards, and as time goes on, their response gets better and they get stronger. As their time increases so must the quality of their diet, not the quantity.

They are now introduced to the conditioning seeds such as Niger, millet, canary etc., but in very small amounts mixed with their regular ration. When they feel strong and like an empty beer can, I know they are getting close to the shape I want them in, but you must handle the birds to know if they are in really good shape.

By now they should be doing 8 to 10 hours in workouts and still on a relatively low diet. When I'm selecting 3 candidates for a competition, I look for birds with equal body condition, typical size to each other, excellent feathering, and willing flyers. After a competition the birds get a light feed of a high protein feed and allowed to rest.

I tend to admire the people in this sport that are willing to help the newcomers, teaching them what they need to know



rather than misleading or with-holding valuable information for their own personal gain in the fancy. We should all realize this is just a hobby for us all to enjoy and share. A wealth of information can be learned from members like **Oskar Zovich, Danny Kinnear, Kemo Basic, Stan Ogozalek, Michael Beat** and many others that are too numerous to mention. These gentlemen are highly respected in this sport for this reason.

I think the worst mistake I made in Tippler-ing is trying to fly more than one kit at one time. It's just too much work if you work.

By contrast, the best experience was joining the CNTU and the FTA. I made many a good friend here in Canada and in the USA. The other great thing that happened to me was flying 16 hours, 19 minutes and breaking the young bird record.

On a personal note I am 50 years old, married to a great woman, with three great kids, two boys aged 26 and 23, and a great daughter aged 10, whom I thank for getting me back into birds. If it were not for her, I would not be writing this letter. Thanks and keep on flying!

Nebojsa "Nash" Milic Los Vegas, NV

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, we feature Nash Milic.. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

Nash: When my youngsters are 40-45 days old I take them from their parents. I put them all together in a small box and feed them as much breeder food as they can eat for a couple of days. I gradually add in more barley and decrease the breeder food for about 7 days until they are eating barley only. At this time I introduce the droppers into the feeding program. At this time, they only see the droppers when it is time to eat. When the youngsters are eating barley only, I begin

to cut their food gradually, until they're eating only one-half a teaspoon a day. Within 6-7 days they are getting very lean, and they become very excited whenever they see the droppers. Now it's time to tape the birds out five flights and release the birds outside. I let them outside only with the droppers. I try to stay with them whenever they are out, tossing a few grains of barley here and there, to teach them to follow the droppers. After about 5 days of this training, the birds are feeling comfortable around the loft and on the roof. Then I take off the tape and hope the birds don't fly away! I keep the droppers out with them during this crucial period. After about 5 more days of this, with the droppers still out, I begin to toss each bird individually, to allow the bird to fly around in a few circles on his own. After he lands, I toss another bird. After a few days of this training, it's time to fly all the birds together. After 3-5 times they will begin to fly as a kit.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

Here's a shot of Nash's Tiplers out enjoying the sun.

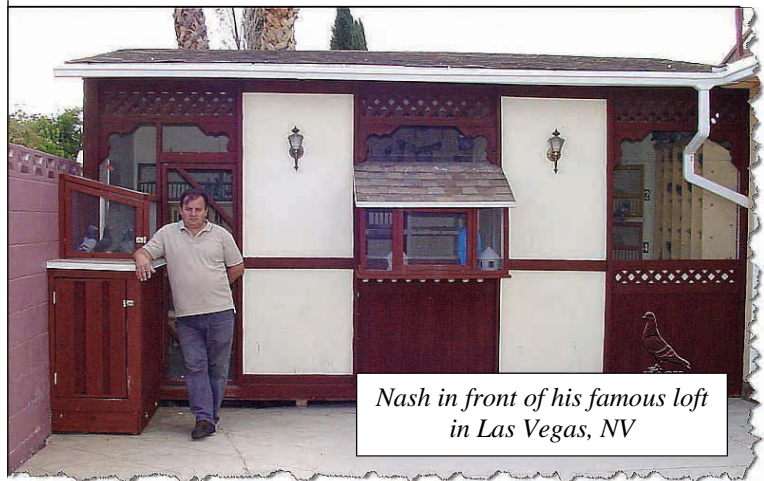


the first fly. I increase their food to about a teaspoon of barley a day, with a teaspoon of flax once a week. You have to know your birds; a teaspoon of barley may not be enough for some of your birds. Droppers are crucial at this point of their training. Now the flyers must not ever see the droppers until it's time to land and feed them.

4. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

Nash: The kit must respond quickly to the droppers and trap quickly. Then I know they are ready to graduate from the first phase of their training.

As the bird's wing strength increases, and flight times increase, so must their food intake increase. I know the birds are getting into form as long as their flight time continues to increase. Hopefully, about a month before the first competition fly, the kit will fly for 2-5 hours. I know my birds are in proper form when, in the morning, before competition, they are in their individual boxes, standing straight. Feathers must be neat and tight, nose and feathers will have a good powder on them, and crop empty. The kit will not want food or water when it is put in front of them.



Nash in front of his famous loft in Las Vegas, NV

Nash: Now that they are flying in a kit, it's time to pick the best. I look for the leaders, the stronger flyers, and the birds that fly the closest together. Any birds that cut their circles short, clap their wings, glide excessively, look down a lot or follow too far behind the kit are eliminated. The best birds will be affected by these bad behaviors. Don't expect these birds to ever be champions. Train your best together!

3. When do you begin training?

Nash: Training depends on the fly schedule for competition, but in general, I separate the flyers into individual boxes about 40 days before

One of Nash's fine little flying machines



5. What is your system of dropping?

Nash: I use white pigeons only. My droppers are kept together in a small cage where the flyers never see them until I want them to. Their cage is located underneath the individual flyer boxes. I keep them starving. This way they will respond immediately wherever I toss a few grains of seed. I train the droppers to fly from the ground to the roof and back. This attracts the flyers only to land where the droppers are. Droppers are extremely important to the Tipplers. You cannot be successful without them!

6. What do you feed your flyers?

Nash: Different weather requires different types of feed. Everyone knows how important barley is to Tipplers diet. It's the main food. Flax gives them the oil they need. In addition to flax, I also mix in wheat and millet with their barley. This increases the flight time and shortly before competition day I add in a little brown rice, hemp and rape. I will also add in a few Maple and Canadian peas.

7. How are your birds cared for after a competition?

Nash: They get only barley and water with dextrose, vitamin A & B the first night. A little flax and barley (a teaspoon of each) the next day. They'll get 5-7 days rest, depending on the next fly schedule. If they're flying in two weeks, they will get two training tosses before competition. I try to get right back into my feeding and training schedule.

8. During the molt, how are your birds cared for?

Nash: They get as much breeding food, grit, minerals and pick stone as they want. They bathe as frequently as they want. Sometimes I put baking soda in their bath. I don't fly or breed during the molt.

9. How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?

Nash: My 8 x 8 x 18 loft is divided into three compartments. One is for the individual boxes and droppers, one is for breeders, and one is for separating the sexes during the molt or for extra birds. I have 4 pairs of breeders, 16 droppers, and about 20 flyers at this time.

10. What do you feed your breeders?

Nash: I feed a generic breeding mix consisting of about 16% protein. Frequent baths, lots of minerals and grit.

I used to fly Serbian Highflyers in Yugoslavia. My friend and I heard about Tipplers and bought 5 pairs from John Cullen in England in 1974. I enjoy any strain of Tipplers that flys tight and high. Blue-bars are my favorite color.

I am happily married, with one 18-year-old son. I was born in Yugoslavia in 1954. I've been raising pigeons since I was ten years old. My best advice to anyone raising pigeons (Tipplers) is to only keep your best birds and not crowd your loft. Keep the loft clean and keep your pigeons healthy!

Mike Brewer
Las Vegas, NV

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Continuing our series of FTS flyer profiles, we feature Mike Brewer. The questions are arranged into three categories; Flying, Breeding and Personal, thoughts they have on the sport and themselves.

Hi, thanks for sending me the Flyer Profile Questionnaire. I'm afraid my answers will sound very familiar to you since I learned so much from **Nash Milic** and he has sent you similar information.

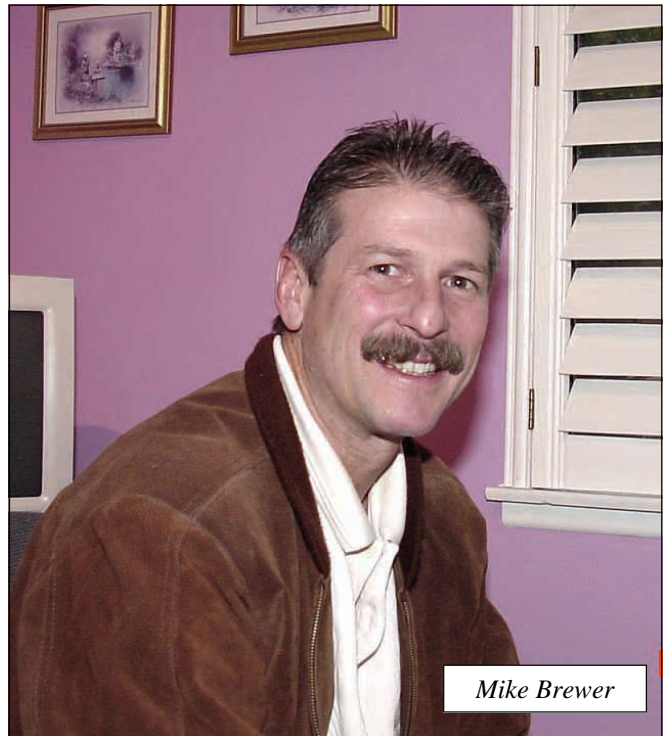
I settle my young birds by taking them from their parents at about four weeks and keep them all together in a dowl-front box (about 3'x2' by 18" high) located just above my flyers individual boxes. I let them eat regular breeding food (as much as they want) for another week, and watch them closely to make sure they know how to drink and they are healthy etc.

Then I let them have as much barley as they want for another week. After that, I cut their barley intake and keep them hungry, tape their 5 outside flights with electrical tape and let them out to flutter around the loft. When I need to bring them in, I let the droppers out and whistle and scatter a few grains of barley around to entice them back into the loft. I repeat this process for about 2 weeks and then I take the tape off. Another week around the loft as they explore the neighborhood and I'm ready to begin soon serious training.

My young birds that are the same age train together for about a month. They get about a teaspoon of barley after each flight at night. At first I release them about 2 hours before dusk. As they develop, I release them earlier and earlier, and

once a week I give them an additional teaspoon of flax, once in a while introducing a small seed like canary grass. The only time they eat is after I release my white droppers (this year I'm experimenting with white rollers), they land and go into the loft where I place them in their individual boxes. Then they get a good long drink and I rest them awhile. I'll handle each bird, (I'm training 10 right now) to make sure they are strong and not too heavy. I don't know how to explain how I know they are in form, but if a bird is not anxious to fly as soon as I release it, or lands before the droppers are released, I will either rest it, or adjust it's food before making a decision to cull it.

By the time they are ready for competition they will be eating mainly barley, until I begin a feed-up about 4 days before competition. I vary mixtures of wheat, milo, flax, canary grass seed, and a few grains of rice. After a competition, the birds are given a little sugar water and one teaspoon of barley a couple of hours after landing. Their food consists of 3 teaspoons; a mixture of wheat, milo, and barley for about 3 days and then I cut their food back to 1 teaspoon of barley and a couple of short training flights before the next feed-up for the next fly begins again. This season I've moved and built a new loft so I won't compete until the fall, as it's already over 100 degrees here in Las



Mike Brewer



Shannons are mostly blue bars with an occasional white feather, the Percyfields range from grizzles, to reds and yellows, and all the combinations they create. Color is not important, but it is a lot easier to tell them apart in the air while training, so I can cull the ones I don't want.

I owe any success I've had with Tiplers to Nash. He's trained me every step of the way and has been very generous with what I consider the best birds in the sport. If we weren't having so much trouble with predators, I think we might be breaking some records. My wife and kids have played a great part in caring for my birds (I'm a Fire Captain, on the job for 21 years)

As I work 24-hour shifts, you all know how important it is to have consistence in feeding and training. My wife has encouraged me in my hobby, and many is the time she has carefully measured out feed for each individual flyer while

Vegas in May. During the molt, (June here in Las Vegas) my breeders and flyers are separated (males from females), and given regular breeding food and rested until fully feathered.

My loft is 10' by 10' and six feet high with attached fly pens for baths and sun. I have (this year) six pairs of breeders but usually have only 4. I'm using more this year to build up my stock since I sold most of my flyers last year.

I became interested in Tiplers about 3 years ago when I met Nash Milic.

I've had rollers since I was fifteen (I'm now 48) and I had dabbled in Racing Homers for a year prior to meeting Nash. My favorite Tippler strain is my own mixture of Shannons and Percyfields because Shannons are very strong, but difficult to settle; and Percyfields are easier to settle and have some great color. When I combine the two, I don't lose as many during the settling period, and they fly a little lower, which makes it a lot more enjoyable to watch them fly. My



I'm at work. My best advise to fanciers is to have fun.

We all love to compete so much that I think sometimes we lose sight of the fact that this is a sport and a hobby, not something to argue about in the mail, bulletins, or on e-mail. Thank you FTS, for your advice and support, and keep up the good work!

Thomas Scott Baltimore, MD

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The questions are arranged into three categories; flying, breeding and personal thoughts Thomas has on the sport and himself. Here we go:

Flying

1. *How do you settle your Tiplers?* At the age of 30 to 35 days old, I settle my youngsters by putting them in the settling cage for seven days. On day five I give them half ration, on day six no rations and on day seven they are liberated with the droppers out.

2. *What do you look for in selecting a kit?* Performance is based on how much birds want to fly on a low diet.

3. *When do you begin training?* Training starts the first day they are moved away from their parents and put into kit boxes in the flying section. There they see the dropper introduced at feeding time to the other birds in that section. The youngsters have a lot to learn in the next ten days.

4. *How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?* The kit is coming into form when they are flying 8 to 10 hours. Being fed 3/4 to 1 ounce of diet mix of "low feed." In good weather young birds are able to do this in about 2 to 3 weeks. Old birds in 2 weeks.

5. *Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix?* Hens because they get in shape much quicker than cocks.

6. *What's your system of dropping?* Rollers and white tumblers.

7. *What do you feed your flyers?* Diet mix with a little flax for training flies.

8. *How are birds cared for after a competition?* After a good fly of 8 hours or better I feed light protein feed with a few peanut hearts. About 3/4 ounce per bird and I give vitamins in the water.

9. *Do you train to or into the dark?* Yes, I like about 3 hours of sunlight left at liberation and work backwards from there.

10. *Got any advice for a novice?* One must watch your numbers it is better to have a little bit of something than a whole lot of nothing.



Here's Maceo Price, our Eastern Vice President presenting Thomas Scott (right) with his award.

Breeding

11. *How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?* My loft is in a two-car garage that has six sections in it. Each section is 4'x4'x7' high. A separate breeder 10-boxes 24"x30"x14" high.

12. *Do you breed your Tiplers by family pairings or best to best?* I breed family mostly, but I will cross strains.

13. *What do you feed your breeders?* High protein feed with a little flax.

Personal

14. *How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?* I was in the old neighborhood and ran into a friend, **Sterling Garnes** and he had pigeons that he showed to me. When I saw them the love affair with



birds was on again. Thanks Sterling. I had not touched a bird in thirty years.

15. *What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?* Well actually I have two: Shannon and the Gordon Hughes, the old blue line and the imports that the FTS sold. Performance.

16. *Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?* The NA club should go forward and Dave Fuller should be a part of it.

And Thomas we would like to know something personal about you, such as age, are you married, any children, and any advise you may have for our fanciers? I am 48 going on 18 when it comes to the birds. Have some fun, yours in the sport!

P.S. Thanks for considering me to be profiled.

Keith Wilkerson Baltimore, MD

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OK Dave here we go!

Flying

1. *How do you settle your Tipplers?* First I get the birds used to the settling cage by placing them inside for about a week to a week and a half. I make sure they're hungry and getting used to the droppers. After that I place a small rubber band over the first 7 flights of one wing and begin to let the birds walk about freely on top of the loft, tossing a few grains on the roof so they will chase about with the droppers to eat. This also works well with trapping, letting the youngsters chase feed through the bob traps.

2. *What do you look for in selecting a kit?* First control, it's very important when selecting a kit, the birds must respond to your control in feeding, dropping, training, and most important trapping. Secondly flying! The bird should seek to kit quickly and be willing to endure the long times that will be asked to kit. The bird should not be trying to drop out early, or looking for that awesome tree branch or roof top to watch the other birds go on for hours and then want to join in at the end.

3. *When do you begin training?* Right out of the nest the youngsters are transferred over to group kit boxes and are fed with the droppers. This is how I imprint the youngsters right from the start. Information that I received from the TipplerTalk list that works - thanks guys.

4. *How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?* The birds should be alert, moving about, standing on the tips of its toes, feathers tight and gleaming, with the bird rearing to go, not sluggish, fluffed up or non responsive.

5. *Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks, or a mix?*

Hens, by far hens, to me they just do much better, cocks cause too much trouble, but I have had great success with young birds and most of them wound up being hens.

6. *What's your system of dropping?* The birds fighting over the small grains that I toss on the loft. I use white droppers, the kit birds respond well to them. I keep the droppers hungry on fly day and that is for a number of reasons. First it keeps control of the droppers, keeping them on the loft, and even if they fly off, they return quickly. Next it keeps the loft top busy creating constant movements of feeding patterns for the kit to take note of. This causes the kit to respond and drop to the wire or loft and has reduced my trap time from close to an hour to anywhere from 3 to 12 minutes, depending on other conditions such as weather, hawks, children, odd noises, etc. And I'll take those trap times over the others anytime.

7. *What do you feed your flyers?* Purifier or some call it diet mix with a little added flax seed (25%), safflower (12%) and rape seed (12%) and I also use showtopper for a supplement after a long fly as well as vitamins in the water twice a week.

8. *How are birds cared for after a competition?* They are checked and placed back into their boxes and given some vitamins in their water and the showtopper to put back into them what they just lost from all that flying. Oh yeah, I still incorporate the droppers in this process.

9. *Do you train to or into the dark?* I train to dark, with a little training in the dark. The reason for this is to get the birds used to trapping in the dark, so you won't lose your fly to the dark skies. I have had some birds trap in the dark, so



Keith Wilkerson, BMTU Central Timer
and your FTS Central Timer too.

my next goal is to train in the dark so I can not only extend my flight times but complete them also. The only problem is there is very limited light after dark and I must be careful not to over fly or possibly cause injury to the birds. So I guess it's still work, work, and more work.

10. Got any advice for a novice? Wow, tough question, Well from one novice to others, my advice is to purchase some good birds, take good care of them, hang in there, read a lot and listen to advice from others, (with experience comes wisdom), not all advice will work for you, so use what will, learn to develop your own routine that works for your birds and try to build from that, but practice, practice, practice, and pray, pray, pray, but, most importantly don't be afraid to fail because that's what teaches you to succeed.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?

2 lofts, my flyer is new. It's 12'L x 8'H x 7'W and has group kit boxes all around it. My breeder is 18'L x 8'H x 9'W and has 35 nesting boxes in it, I have 30 breeding pair, 15 flyers and 12 droppers and soon will be cutting down in numbers for better breeding control and training.

Compared to my former life in pigeons as a feather merchant where I used to house over 1500 pigeons and fly a kit of over 200, I'll say I've come a very long way with downsizing.

12. Do you breed your Tiplers by family pairing or best to best? Best to best, but with all of the talk on line, I might get into family pairing.

13. What do you feed your breeders? High protein feeds, 15, 16 and some times 17% feeds that I mix together and grit is a must, as well a vitamins in the water.

14. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been? My father brought me my first Tippler when I was two years old, and I was always fond of them since then, but I also got into rollers, homers, and a few show birds but, the Tippler has always been my first love, I've had them for 34 years and within the last three years I've learned to fly them competitively.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain and why? The Hughes, by far are my favorites, their working machines, they seem to love the skies, flying for hours at a time even as young birds they just take to the skies. But a word of caution: they are high stung and will keep on flying until they are gone never to be seen again, but once you settle them boy oh boy do you have some great birds on your hands and don't get me wrong the Lovatt's, Davies, Shannon's and Bowden's are excellent flying birds also and I've had great success with them too, but the Hughes they are the ones that are a challenge to me and thus have become my favorites.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport? Well, we need to do what ever it takes to keep those birds flying and breaking records as well as teaching newcomers the benefits of achievements in this sport. We need to teach our children the fine art of raising and flying so that they can continue with the sport and most of all we have to put aside our differences, positions, status, and ignorance's, and learn to stick together, to use constructive criticism, to promote, strengthen and encourage each other.

My Profile

I'm a 36 years old, a married man, my wife's name is Tanya and I have 4 children (3 girls and a boy), Tierra, Caitlin, LaKeitha and Keith, Jr. Two of my children are showing interest in the birds, my son being the most interested. He's 4 years old but, who knows maybe he'll be one of our youngest flyers, and LaKeitha; maybe she'll be one of the few women in the sport. We're a religious family serving as Jehovah's Witnesses and enjoy sharing Gods words with others, Oh yeah! By the way my wife is my coach and kit instructor and who knows maybe one day I can get her to join. Yeah right! And as far as some advice to the fanciers:

This is a hobby, something that I do to relax myself from all of the other hundred million problems that I have in life, and too be able to share that with others of the same interest around the world is a blessing. But when the fun is taken away and there is no longer any enjoyment left, then this is no longer a hobby, and without hobbyist there is no longer a sport.

To me, Mankind and Pigeons are two of Gods grandest creations, to be blessed with them show's the love that God has for us, so may we show our love for what God has done by appreciating the gifts he has given us, (Mankind and Pigeons).

See ya in the air! Try to catch me if you can!!!! HA, HA, HA, that was a good joke.

Jane Gulley
Little Rock, AR

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I am answering the questions because I do the interviews for the Rare Breeds Club and the American Parlor Roller Association and know how difficult it is to do the newsletter! Ha! I am the last person to be talking about expertise in raising pigeons, but I genuinely enjoy my birds. With disclaimer I will go on with your questions.

I put my Tiplers in a box that I built for Rollers. I fly four Tiplers and only keep four birds to fly. I have two breeding pairs and am very pleased with them. When my Tiplers are just feathered under their wings, I start putting them in a settling cage on top of the kit box. I have a complicated way for the birds to get in the kit box, so I make certain the birds have mastered that before I move on. I keep the birds hungry, but not as hungry as I would if I were going to compete. When I am sure the birds can get back in the kit box, I put them in the same place on the roof, but not in the cage. In a few minutes they discover they

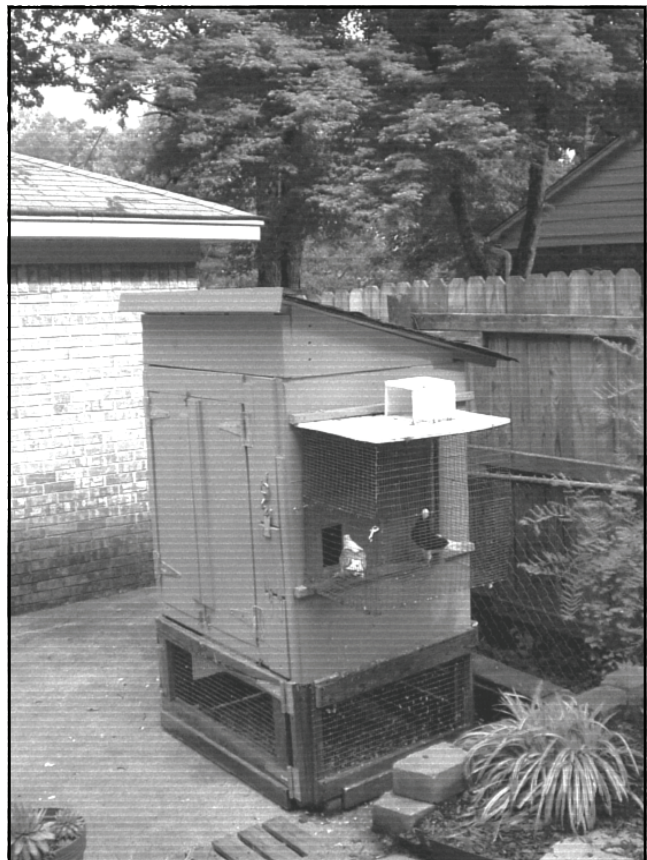


Jane's big loft.

can fly and will try going to the roof of our home. I let them do that until they are flying around more and then I start scaring them up. I use a fishing pole with a crank type reel and brass swivel on the end of the line. I tie several strips of different colored surveyor's tape to the swivel hook and scare the pigeons up. I do not use droppers because I let the birds come down on their own. They usually stay up for three hours or so. I always check the barometer and weather conditions before I put the birds up. I do not tolerate them landing in the trees or on neighbor's roofs. I keep them under tight control during their early training by keeping them very hungry. After I have them trained I give more food. If one bird messes up after I consider them trained, I go back to very slim rations and if the bird does not learn on the second chance, I eliminate that bird from the group.

I have a very small loft, 14'x10' and keep two pairs of several types of pigeons sometimes I use my Tiplers as pumpers for my Short Face Budapest Tumblers. I feed all my birds Kaytee pellets and add sunflower hearts one day a week. I give the birds baths regularly because I enjoy watching them play in the water. I enjoy the Tiplers because they are even-tempered, pretty, intelligent, purposeful little birds.

I spend many hours in my garden, I raise antique roses and give many rose talks and have frequent visitors to my yard. People enjoy looking at the roses and at my pigeon loft. I get a real thrill having visitors look up at the little specks in the sky and telling them about the Tiplers and the Tippler's athletic abilities. When I take a break and sit in the shade with a glass of iced tea, it is very satisfying to watch my Tiplers enjoying their freedom with such grace. My husband of 38 years is not a "pigeon person," but he enjoys watching the Tiplers fly. My favorite part is when the Tiplers come in to land and cup their wings and put their little legs out. Mine always land on the roof of our home and then walk down to the edge near their loft. Their little heads bob when they walk and they strut around and then drop to their kit box roof and go in their hole to a nice safe clean home. I can't imagine a



person not enjoying watching them.

I do not have any advice for fanciers. I could use some! I enjoy my birds very much and have enjoyed the friends I have made in the pigeon hobby. The people I have contacted for the interviews I do have all been enthusiastic about their pigeons and are people I would enjoy having as friends. I enjoy Tipplering!

PS: If you're like me, you noticed how lush Jane's backyard is, so I asked Jane if she uses her Tippler droppings. Here's what she wrote: Yes! I use sand on the loft floor and every day I use a plastic cat litter scoop and pick up the "clumps." I put the clumps of sand and pigeon droppings in a compost pile and use it in the early spring as a top dressing. Sometimes I use heavy plastic bags--contractor's bags I get at Home Depot—and put mulched leaves, and the sand mixture, and a can of beer in then tie up the bag and leave it a year. It is like liquid gold!

It is best to use a little frequently instead of lots all at one time. You can... as I have burned my plants to a crisp.

Luka Kapac Pickering, Ontario, Canada

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Luka flies the honor system in the CNTU & FTA. So we asked Luka how he did it.

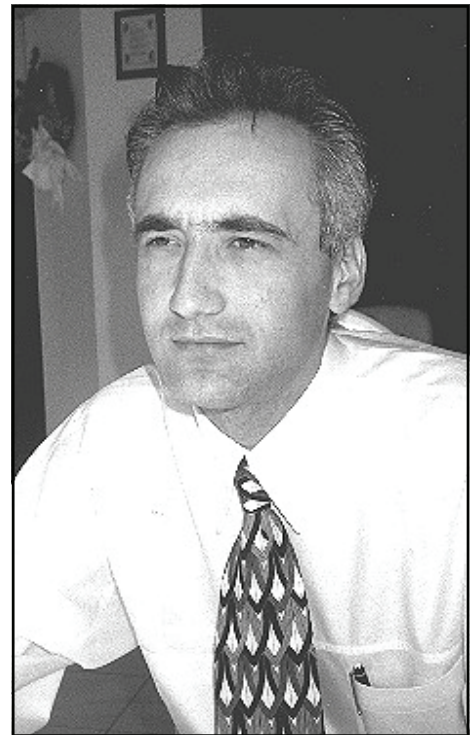
I am 40 years of age, married and have one 7 year old daughter that knows far too much about Tipplers for her own good. I've been flying and breeding Tipplers for about twelve years now and find the sport absolutely fascinating. Here are my thoughts, all three pages - remember you asked for it.

Most of the practices and methods that I use have been passed onto me by my good friend and a great Tippler man Oskar Zovich (The Wizard OZ). Without his patience, knowledge and generosity I would not have learned half as much. Now I am passing these same methods onto my brother in hope that he enjoys the sport as much as I do. The biggest thrill in flying Tipplers for twelve years is having people like my brother, Oskar, Nino and other flyers to share the experience. These are practices that work for me and may or may not work for anyone else. I have tried various techniques and find myself constantly tweaking the system, trying other methods and always changing the status quo to improve personal results.

1. How do you settle your Tipplers? I am absolutely the wrong person to give advice on this subject. My settling average is at best about 50%. I raise about 16 youngsters and settle them in groups. I don't have the time to settle individually which may be the reason for the high losses. I don't starve the birds but let them have plenty of time on the loft roof confined in a fly pen of course. Last year however, I hit an all time low. I only managed to settle 3 young birds or 18%. Not sure if it is me, the birds, or my flying position, I would think a combination of all three. The funny thing is that I did settle a kit of eleven and had them training 2 hrs at a time for about 2 weeks on 2 teaspoons of barley. As soon as I added a pinch of wheat the kit hit the clouds and disappeared with only 3 returning. Incidentally, two of the three birds that did return ended up flying over 15 hours with a two-year-old cock I added the following year. However, the kit was disqualified for not trapping in time. Can't get a break!

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit? Kit evaluation is based entirely on performance in the air, tightness, formation, and rhythm of the team and disciplined landings. A bird could fly backwards for all I care as long as it does fly. No Tippler is spared because of pedigree and no idiot is worth losing your marbles over. The latter is sometimes harder to practice. Because I use individual kit boxes I can rate one bird against the other confidently knowing that each receives equal feed and equal treatment. The kit usually selects itself after that.

3. When do you begin training? Because I mostly fly in competition with old birds my training starts around the end of March. The ultimate goal is to have the team ready for



the Long Day Fly. I believe two and a half months of training is more than enough to get them ready and should keep the birds from going stale as well. I will enter a May fly to establish the strength of the kit and hope that they fly 13-15 hours. If they do fly between 13-15 hours chances are they will fly 16 plus on Long Day. If they do not, I have plenty of time to correct the situation (maybe). I do not train into dark but to dark because of family and work commitments for now but do look forward to a season when I will be able to. Currently I am gathering and reading as much information about night flying as I can. I certainly don't have to re-invent the wheel here but follow the practices of past or current flyers and tweak to my comfort level. Can't wait!

4. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form? I am never absolutely sure but I do have a pretty good idea. I hope to put in at least 10-12 training flights before their first competition. When each training fly is without an incident and when the fly itself seems routine, than I suspect they could fly throughout the day. If the times flown are consistently between 7-9hrs on the same feed the birds should be ready. I notice the kit gets stronger with the same feed and goes longer on the last few releases. They feel like a tennis ball, firm and solid to the touch, antsy and alert in the kit box with a different look about them.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix? I prefer hens as they seem a little more manageable but they may also lay eggs. During training the egg laying is not disastrous as it would be during feed-up and competition. I find that if they are off training for more than 6 days they may lay an egg. The hens are less matey and calmer in the kit box. The clapping of the wings in the air by the cocks drives me crazy as I feel they are ready to drop. A mixed kit I have not flown, only as young. This would be my last choice and only if all other possibilities were exhausted. Fear of mating when down is the obvious concern.

6. What's your system of dropping? Very, very hungry tumblers and fantails are used as droppers. My droppers do not go to the kit and pull down (I wish they did) but are active on the loft roof instead. I seem to loose quite a few each year for one reason or another. I find that 3-4 is more than enough.

7. What do you feed your flyers? The kit (old birds) is fed 2 teaspoons of barley each for 2 weeks prior to first release. This brings down the weight put on over the winter and makes them manageable for the initial training. The idea in this early stage is to focus only on discipline of dropping to the loft. Once the lesson had been grasped the feed is gradually increased to 3 teaspoons of barley to the eventual goal of 3 teaspoons barley and 1 teaspoon of wheat. In the middle stage a pinch of milo is added to boost stamina only on the evening before the training fly. After each fly the kit is fed high protein/fat seeds to replenish the muscle loss of the flight and an electrolyte mixture is added to the water. The following day they are back on 3barley and 1wheat. Birds are flown twice a week until 3 weeks prior to a competition fly at which time the frequency is increased to every third day if possible. This last part I found to be extremely beneficial in establishing a good kit. Oskar Zovich once told me that training is 90% and feed-up is 10% of the battle. This I find to be very true.

Of note, I have recorded the details of every single training and competition fly since 1990. Such points as weather, temperature, cloud cover, time, mistakes and general information about the kit is recorded every time out. I must have close to 400 recordings that I can look back on and evaluate. I use it as a reference on anything that I might have forgotten. It certainly makes for interesting reading during the off-season.

8. How are the birds cared for after a competition? Half amount of feed (protein/fat seeds) is given such as canary and electrolytes in water as above. The kit is back into training 4 days later. Some flyers do a much better job in taking greater care of the birds at this stage.

9. Got any advice for the novice? When starting out always obtain your stock from a reputable active flyer. This is the



*This smoky blue cock
went 15 15 for Luka*



*This nice little
hen went 16 15
for Luka*

foundation for everything else that you will learn and experience. Active flyers perpetuate their birds and the sport with hands on management, not absent-minded breeding and dumb luck. Year after year they improve the line by pushing and flying the birds further. You than become the beneficiary of that hard work and commitment. This commitment is the reason the Tippler may soon fly an entire day (24hrs). Need I say more?

10. How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons? Size of yard limits size of loft but it does keep me honest with the quantity and quality I keep. I cannot breed quantity because I don't have luxury of space. Each bird must prove itself in the air and in the nest before it is considered a permanent breeder. Even than, the birds rotate in hopes of finding the best possible pairing. The idea is to establish and maintain pairs of equal strength and performance that produce birds of equal capability. I realize that this goal is ongoing and cannot ever be fully realized but at the same time I must keep on trying, that's half the fun. I keep between 35-45 birds and breed from 8 pairs - one round only for the last ten years. I do admire grizzles and blues above all others but that does not cloud my judgment when selecting the kit and the keepers.

11. What do you feed your breeders? I mix my own feed on a weekly basis according to the season and condition of the birds. The breeders receive a higher ratio of protein (15-16%) while breeding. Green, maple and yellow peas make up about 22-24% of the mixture. I also use about 15% of Martin pellets in the breeding mix as it contains many elements, minerals and vitamins that grains lack. A very small percentage of oil seeds such as linseed, rape and safflower are added for the feathering and growth of the young. Because I mix the feed so frequently the mixture is more appropriate for the needs of the birds at a specific time. Since I started mixing my own feed the condition of the loft has noticeably improved.

12. What is your favorite strain and why? The one that can fly! Strains do not concern me to any great extent or the reputation they may have. I used to be fixed on this subject more before I realized that each has its strengths and weaknesses and it is up to the owner to bring out the best traits and characteristics. Every human is not compatible with the rest of the world and neither is a Tippler with every fancier and every flying position. Having said that, I fly the Zovich type Tippler, because it's right for me and because it's not just a fair weather flyer. I find that they perform extremely well in adverse conditions such as heavy rain and high heat.

13. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport? Get involved! It is our responsibility as members to put into the club as much as we expect to get out of it. We cannot depend on the regular few to continue to give their time and effort while we stand by and do little or nothing to help. So, fly your birds, send in your correspondence, run for office, recruit new members, offer suggestions but just do something. The reward will far outweigh the effort.

Best of luck to the FTS and its members in the coming season and I hope that we come together as one for the progression of the sport and for the little bird with a big heart ... known as the Flying Tippler.

Sterling Garnes
Baltimore, Maryland

You know the drill, our questions are arranged in three categories: Flying, Breeding & Personal thoughts Sterling has on the sport and himself. Here we go!

Flying

1. Our News: How do you settle your Tipplers?

Sterling: I settle my birds very slowly at about 6 weeks old. I put them with the droppers straight from their parents at 4 weeks; on the 5th week in the settling cage; 6 weeks out with the droppers. Sometimes I put them out one at a time.

2. Our News: What do you look for in selecting a kit?



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Sterling: I look for performance in selecting a kit. I look for the birds that want to go that extra mile on barley and flax.

3. Our News: When do you begin training?

Sterling: Training starts right away. First they learn the droppers are in a group section. The droppers are in a cage within the section and released only at feeding time.

4. Our News: How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

Sterling: I can tell when the kit is in form when they are flying about 8-10 hours. You can tell all they want to do is fly.

5. Our News: Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix?

Sterling: I prefer cocks because I don't have to worry about eggs.

6. Our News: What's your system for dropping?

Sterling: I use white tumblers for dropping.

7. Our News: What do you feed your flyers?

Sterling: I feed my flyers a depressive mix from the local feed store.

8. Our News: How are birds cared for after a competition?

Sterling: After a competition I feed my birds a high protein mix feed and a tonic.

9. Our News: Do you train to or into the dark?

Sterling: I am just starting to train seriously into the dark.

10. Our News: Got any advice for a novice?

Sterling: Be true to the breed and keep your numbers down as

much
as

possible.



*Sterling at his loft
in Baltimore, MD*

Breeding

11. Our News: How large a loft do you maintain? How many pigeons?

Sterling: My loft is built inside an 8' by 10' garage; all the space is utilized with the aviary on the side.

12. Our News: Do you breed your Tiplers by family pairings or best to best?

Sterling: Both family and best to best most of my birds now are related.

13. Our News: What do you feed your breeders?

Sterling: I feed my breeders high protein feed as high as I can get, usually 16-17%.

Personal

14. Our News: How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

Sterling: My father started me with pigeons as a kid about 12 or 13 years old. I didn't get serious with Tiplers until 1994. A man by the name of Joe Bowers who owned the local feed store had Tiplers at home. He would bring me some of his and I loved them, he called them Macclesfields. Joe passed a few years back.

15. Our News: What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

Sterling: I fly the Gordon Hughes type Tiplers. I like the way they fly.



Some of Sterling's Tipplers at feeding time



Some of Sterling's Tipplers & droppers.

16. Our News: Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

Sterling: Yes, personally I think the Tippler clubs should stick together all 5: FTA, FTS, ATU, CNTU and BMTU. It doesn't get any better. Five clubs are a strong foundation. Wow and by all means have fun!

Our News: About Sterling? I am 54 years old. I am separated. I have one daughter, 2 grand children, Dakota (5yrs) and Anthony (8yrs) and one on the way.

Shantwan Barnes Baltimore, Maryland

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You know the drill, the questions are arranged into three categories: Flying, Breeding & Personal thoughts Shantwan has on the sport and himself. Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tipplers? When my young birds are about a month old, I take them from their parents. I set them in the settling cage for a week, and then off they go.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit? In selecting a kit, I ask 3 important questions. a) Do three or more birds want to fly together? b) Do all birds land in the right areas around the loft? c) Able to fly 5 to 6 hours on a low diet feed less than one ounce per bird?

3. When do you begin training? I begin training 2 days after they have been taken from their parents to make sure they are eating and drinking well.

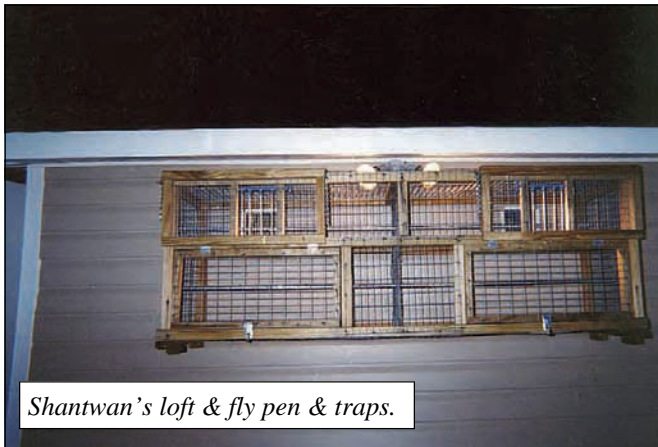
4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form? I know when my Tipplers are in form when they reach 5 to 6 hours on the low diet food that's less than an ounce per bird.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix? Up until this past fly season, I would have rather flown cocks. But hens settle quicker for me after being shut in from the fall through the winter, also hens get in shape faster. But, I love flying youngsters 2 to 3 weeks out of the nest.

6. What's your system of dropping? I haven't found out a system of dropping just yet. In the last 2 fly seasons, I lost about 70 to 80 hours because of my dropping system. Birds flew into the dark or wouldn't make a move from the wire to the loft in the dark. My goal in the 2003 fly season is to gain control over the birds in the light or dark.

7. What do you feed your flyers? I feed my flyers 85% of the time a low diet feed 15% breeder mix and vitamins when needed also grit everyday.





Shantwan's loft & fly pen & traps.

questions and take notes.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain? My loft is 6'x12'x8' with about 60 pigeons.

12. Do you breed your Tiplers by family or best to best? I breed my Tiplers by families and best to best.

13. What do you feed your breeders? I feed my breeders high protein feeds and grit.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been? I became associated with pigeons because my next-door neighbor had a loft with hundreds of birds. It has been about 20 years.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain and why? My favorite Tippler strains are Shannon and Gordon Hughes Blue Bars. They perform well early in training and my own Black and White Mottles.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport? Stay true to the sport and to all the other fanciers.

I am 30 years old, single and have 2 sons, 1 stepson and 1 stepdaughter. Join in to have fun learning how to fly Tiplers in competition. Thanks for the Profile Questionnaire!

8. How are the birds cared for after a competition? My birds get a good protein mix with vitamins after a competition fly. They also rest well for a week.

9. Do you train to or into the dark? No, but I am going to start this upcoming season.

10. Got any advice for the novice? Have a healthy breed of bird and a well-cleaned, ventilated loft, then join a club or two and learn how to fly competition Tiplers. Ask



Some of Shantwan's droppers.



Some of Shantwan's flying Tiplers.

Jerry Pace
Massapequa, NY

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The questions are arranged into three categories: Flying, Breeding & Personal thoughts Jerry has on the sport and himself. Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?

Settling my youngsters, nothing special. I just keep releasing them out on to the landing till they begin to fly on their own. Some take longer than others, but that's okay.

2. When do you begin training?

Right after birds begin to fly at least 2 hours training begins.

3. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

I know when they're in form sometimes by just looking at them, but then putting them in my hands puts the icing on

the cake. The birds just sits in your hands with almost no weight. You know the bird is ready.

4. Which do you rather fly, hens, cocks or a mix?

I group fly the birds in large bunches as much as 26-30 birds. As days go into weeks and months, this group will reduce itself to less than half. By this time the hawks and falcons come into play and reduce a few more and then I stop flying for the winter.

5. What's your system of dropping?

I don't use droppers as such. I let rollers out when the Tiplers are flying. They'll fly and come down and go in and the Tiplers will still be flying. The Tiplers this way get use to them when it was getting late I could put out the rollers to help me bring down the Tiplers.

6. What do you feed your flyers?

I feed the flyers a depurative mix which is basically, wheat, white cafir, barley with some candy.

7. Got any advice for the novice?

My advice for the novice is be patient and good things will come of it.

8. How large a loft do you maintain?

My loft is 10'x18'x7' in 3 sections with the flyers in the middle 6'x8' section.

9. Do you breed your Tiplers by family or best to best?

I select the breeding pairs by what I see in them. I can't explain it. It's just something I feel.

10. What do you feed your breeders?

I feed the breeders a good grain mix of 16% protein.

11. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

I've been flying Tiplers since I was 10 years old. I'm now 56.

12. What's your favorite Tippler strain and why?

My birds basically came from Bob Kennedy, Earl Grollman & Ben Garberman (Lovatts). I had these same birds now for over 20 years. I call them Pace birds.

I'm married with one daughter who is in college. I'll send some pictures in the future.

Enclosed are my dues & bands money.

Davey Warrener Silksworth, England

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Folks, we've got another good profile for ya, you know the drill, our questions are arranged in three categories, Flying, Breeding, & Personal thoughts Davey has on the sport and himself. I met Davey on the internet, Michael Beat's chat site on Yahoo, and Davey has provided a wealth of Tippler information from England as you will read throughout this newsletter.

Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?

DW: Once the young birds are used to being fed with the droppers present I release them out with the droppers, making sure both the Tiplers and the droppers are hungry. The young birds will be around 4 and a half weeks old at this stage and ready to start flying. If any young bird takes off I move the droppers around by throwing a little wheat until they come down. When they are ready to fly properly, I release a kit of old hens a few hours before the young birds, they will often get kitted with these hens. When they have been up flying once or twice for 10 or 20 minutes I release them with the old hens. They should fly 3-4 hours after only a couple of times off the loft. Two or 3 times like this and I consider them settled enough to put them out on their own.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

DW: Flying ability and style, meaning tight kitting and good height. I start with 6 young birds and whittle them down



to the best 3. If I can not fault any of the 6, I will make a personal choice of 3 and keep the others spare.

3. When do you begin training?

DW: When the young birds are only 10-14 days old I will make a point of touching them in the nest bowls several times a day until they are used to me. I think this is very important, a nervous Tippler is no good for flying and it will soon upset all the others.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

DW: They dance in the box, flapping their wings, and hopping from one foot to the other. They are lean and tight feathered, with clean wattles and feet, and clear eyes. There is no mistaking a fit bird, it just looks right.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition; hens, cocks or a mix; young or old birds?

DW: I have no preference, I will fly anything, but try not to fly mixed sex old bird kits.

6. What's your system of dropping?

DW: I release my droppers which are small rollers and tumblers. These will fly up to the kit and bring them down.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

DW: Flying birds are fed wheat, 3 teaspoons per bird per day. Only after a training flight, approximately every 3 days a small amount of seed and small peas are fed to provide protein. Grit and minerals are always present and the birds are fed and watered once a day, close to dusk.

8. How are the birds cared for after a competition?

DW: After they are boxed they are given water. One hour later they are fed the same as after a training fly and rested for at least 6 days.

9. Do you train to or into the dark?

DW: As close to dark as possible, being a shift worker I find it impossible to keep a kit trained into dark.

10. Got any advice for a novice?

DW: Obtain birds from a Tippler flyer rather than a breeder. Get them local if you can so you know they fly well in your area. If you can go to watch them flying, if not ask for copies of diplomas or pictures of trophies. They should be proud to show them. Don't be afraid to ask his advice on flying and feeding, he has the knowledge of his own birds. Purchase what you can afford, don't forget a few good birds are better than a loft full of mediocre birds. Spend as much time as you can with them. Use only good quality feed and keep them clean, especially their water. Pull out any sickly looking birds as soon as possible and have it checked out.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain.

How many pigeons?

DW: My breeding loft is 7 foot and my flying loft is 6 foot, with a 6 foot aviary which can be opened to either loft. I breed from 6-8 pairs, but not at the same time. I usually have no more than 3 kits training at any one time.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing or best to best?

DW: Family pairing.

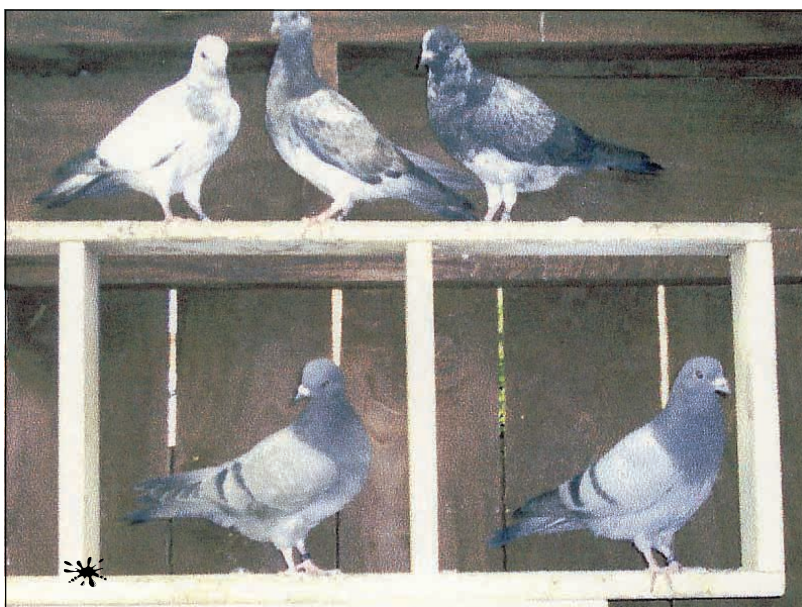
13: What do you feed your breeders?

DW: Commercial breeding mixed with a little conditioning seed.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

DW: All down to my grandfather who



introduced me to them when I was 8 or 9 years old. In those days they were all prints and colored mottles. The local name for Tipplers was "farmers." I've never found out where this name originated, but do know it was only used in the Sunderland area and is still in use today.

15. What is your favorite Tippler (farmer) strain?

DW: Without doubt the Hughes type Tippler. They are so versatile, good young bird and old bird flyers. They will fly in any weather, in good style. I have tried many strains in my time and the only birds I have found that come close are the Jack Heaton strain of blacks and mottles. Of course this is only my personal opinion.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport? DW: Yes. Give any help you can to anyone wishing to join the sport. Especially young people, they are the flyers of the future.

I'm 50 years old and I have had Tipplers for over 40 years.

I live in Sunderland in the North East of the United Kingdom with my wife Helen and my 9-year old son, also David. I have flown competition in the TTC (*Tyneside Tippler Club*) the NETF (*North East Tippler Federation; all the Tippler clubs in the north east of the UK were members, 6 clubs at that time this was my baby I started it and was also secretary*) and the NTU (*National Tippler Union of Great Britain*).

My advice would be to keep trying to improve your birds. One day things will come together and you will breed a team of champions, they may be champions only to yourself, but champions none the less, the result of your own hard work.

David Black Sunderland, England

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got some more good reading for ya. You know the drill; our questions are arranged in three categories, flying, breeding & personal thoughts the flyer has on the sport and themselves. Our new found friend, Davey Warrener was kind enough to forward our questionnaire to some of his local Tippler flying friends. Here we go!

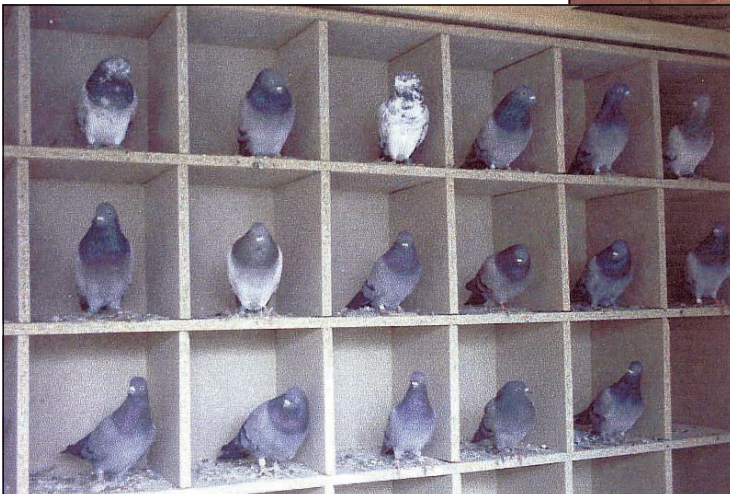
Flying

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

DB: I settle my Tipplers as young birds by placing them in a cage which has access to my flight on the side of the loft. I usually put them on the loft top all day to chase seeds with the droppers working them back and forth from my flying loft to my dropper loft. I have a high rate of settling my Tipplers with only a rare loss.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

DB: I look for pigeons which have no mistakes such as dropping away, touching roofs other than the loft, or pigeons not coming to the lights, bad health, etc. I then fly them in kits of hens and



cocks breaking them into kits of 3s ready for competition where I still look for bad points such as birds pulling away in the dark, under age such as birds under 4-months old with not enough training where they will not be ready for the fly or too old where they are too far into the molt also I prefer all the kit birds to be of the same strain so they fly in the same sort of style.

3. When do you begin training?

DB: I begin training with my old birds usually in February because everything is normally through the molt and can be easy to control on depurative in the cold weather, my young birds are hatched in early march so as soon as they are taken from their parents

they are ready to begin training.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

DB: My Tipplers are put through a slow process slowly building the hours up through the months, I look for my particular strain to be in a raking pattern and in good body flying the hours required in daylight and dark in good and bad weather. The best possible way is to compare your Tipplers in a com to see if they fly out the daylight and on into dark; this tells me if they are in form.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix; young or old birds?

DB: I would prefer hens as old birds and as young birds, although I do fly cocks.

6. What's your system of dropping?

DB: My system is to drop my kits on top of my 18-foot loft top using a spotlight and a team of droppers.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

DB: My flyers are put on a solid depurative all the way up until the night of the feed-up for training consisting of wheat, barley, red and white dary (*millet, sorghum*). My feed-up starts on a Tuesday and continues through till Saturday, e.g.: Tuesday, young bird mix. Wednesday, young bird mix. Thursday, mix of small seeds. Friday, mix of small seeds. Saturday, half mix of small seeds and half canary seeds.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

DB: They are placed back into their own box and given depurative and fresh water if it has been a hard fly, I give them electrolytes in water to replace lost salts.

9. Do you train to or into the dark?

DB: Yes as soon as my birds are settled dark training is started.

10. Got any advice for a novice?

DB: Go to a consistent flyer for stock, keep the same family, visit as many lofts as you can taking in all the plus points which would suit you, don't keep too many, join a good Tippler club and give Davey Warrener a ring (legendary Tippler man).

Breeding

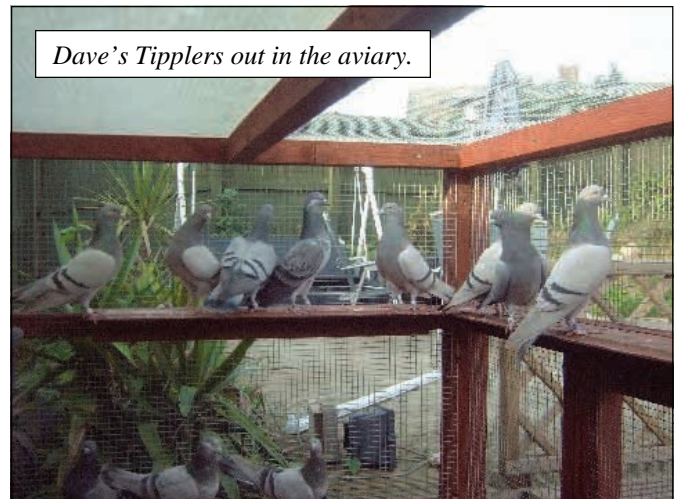
11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?

DB: My breeding loft is 12 ft. by 6 ft. with 36 box perches, 12 breeding boxes, an aviary on the side and a sliding screen door for ventilation. I keep around 40 breeders, selecting 12 pair from these.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing or best to best?

DB: I keep 2 families, Bowdens and Pilots. I fly pure Bowdens as old birds only and I cross the 2 families to fly as young birds and old. My best Pilot cocks go to my best Bowden hens which is an inbred strain, the Pilot going to a line bred family of Bowdens, this gives me an outcross. Most of my Pilots are put together just for stock.

13. What do you feed your breeders?



Dave's Tipplers out in the aviary.



A kit of Dave Black's Tipplers & droppers in the dark.

DB: When I breed them they are on totally a big mix such as young mix breed and wean, they also have grit, minerals and pecking blocks which are always there, I also feed some greens. When not breeding, I feed half depurative and half young bird mix.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers?

DB: I started with a few tumblers as a child, but always took an interest in flying Tipplers. I started refereeing at 16 and have had ever since, on and off with moving, working, etc. for around 10 years and flying about 50 competitions.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain?

DB: I have always kept the large breeds so I'd say Bowden is my favorite, they consist of many colors such as silver, blue, gray, prints and mottles. They have held many local and world competition records mainly because of their ability of kitting in the dark is so good. I also prefer this old strain as they are easy to settle and it's hard to over feed them. They rake well away from home, come down to the droppers very quickly, which enables me to fly them 56-57 minutes after split time, which I have proven in competition. I also like my family of George Piolit's as they are the high flying type, very highly strung and of little build.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

DAVE: More members flying competition; you are lucky if you have 40 entries now compared to a 100 plus entry list less than 10 years ago. Also less hawks and other problems, etc., but mainly it would be better if the NTU (*National Tippler Union of Great Britain*) was presented better in the way of way of write ups, flyer views and more Tippler men getting together and contacting each other.

David Black is 26 years old and flies in the Sunderland Tippler club and NTU competitions. Some of his personal Tippler achievements are as follows: Old Birds

1st National 16 hrs, 2 mns breaking his novice status and winning the section. 2nd National 17 22 winning the section. 3rd National 19 00 flying 5 birds.

Young Birds

Winner of the NTU Young Bird Average in 2002. 1st National 16 44 2nd place NTU. 2nd National 15 44 2nd place NTU. 3rd National 16 00 5th place NTU. 4th National 15 44 2nd place NTU. NTU charity fly 15 03 2nd place & 15 13 2nd place.

Mel Dolan Sunderland, England

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got some more fine reading for ya. Mel is 38 years old, married with 2 children and a member of the Lakeside Club and the NTU. Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

MEL: I put my birds on depurative for a week, then reduce their measure, get them onto the loft top with my droppers until they start to fly about with the rest of the young and then put my droppers away.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

MEL: Height, style and raking away and speed to the droppers.

3. When do you begin training?

MEL: As soon as I turn my young over.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

MEL: I usually miss my birds when they hit form.

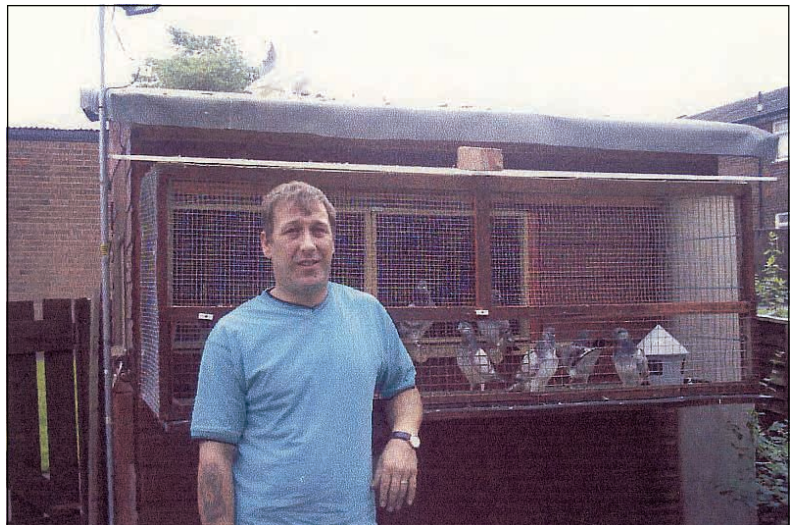
5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix, young or old birds?

MEL: As young anything goes, as old either a full kit of cocks or a full kit of hens.

6. What's your system of dropping?

MEL: I only keep a maximum of 12 droppers, I use all for dropping young, for old birds cocks for cocks and vice versa.

7. What do you feed your flyers?



MEL: Depurative until 5 days before a fly, then it's on to young bird and mixed seeds.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

MEL: After a competition it's onto conditioning seed till they are back to a good weight and condition, then back onto depurative.

9. Do you train to or into the dark?

MEL: I don't dark train young birds; on bringing old birds out I start to dark train almost immediately.

10. Got any advice for a novice?

MEL: Always seek other Tippler men for advice.



Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?

MEL: Flying loft is 7 ft by 5 ft with pens and a big cage; stock loft is 8 ft by 8 ft with 8 breeding cages.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing or best to best?

MEL: At the moment I am trying to start a family of Tipplers on my own.

13. What do you feed your breeders?

MEL: My breeders are always fed on breeders feed and wean.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

MEL: I've had birds since the age of 11 and had almost every pigeon going, but always liked the Tippler for flying that little bit longer. I started keeping Tipplers full-time in 1992 when I met Tony Veater (*see Our News #102 page 8*) and watched what he did.

15. What is your favorite strain?

MEL: Bowden type, mainly for the color and a nice big bird to cross with most other strains.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

MEL: Try to convince the young ones to get involved.

Tony Veater Sunderland, England

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You know the drill, our questions are arranged in three categories, flying, breeding, & personal thoughts the flyer has about the sport and themselves. Our friend Davey Warrener was kind enough to forward our questionnaire to some of his local Tippler flying friends. Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

TONY: One week after taking the young from their parents they will be put into the aviary to see the droppers as much as possible and always fed with the droppers around them, once you start to take food away from the young they are released out of the aviary to mix with the droppers on the shed top. If there is a method to getting all young settled I would like to know how.

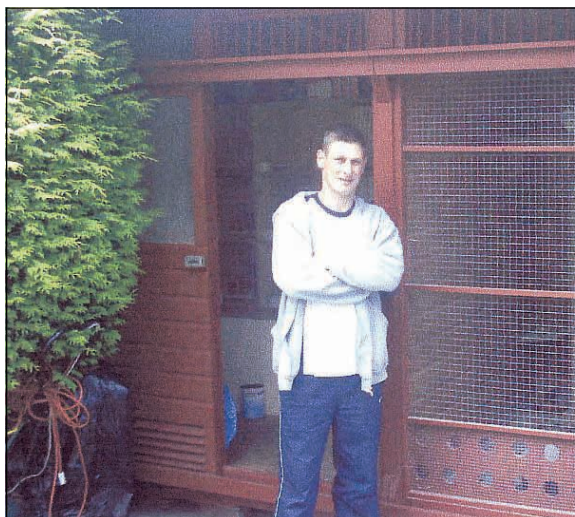
2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

TONY: Unspoilt pigeons. (*Pigeons that haven't made any mistakes.*)

3. When do you begin training?

TONY: Most times in January.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?



Just a quick note to Tony Veater's profile: In 2003 NTU competition, Tony's kits went 18 52 May 25, 19 16 Long Day, 18 21 July 6 and in 2004 NTU competition they went 18 13 May 23, 18 26 July 18, 17 02 Aug 1, 16 36 Aug 15. That's flying credentials.

This kit of Tony Veater's 2004 Plester-Pilot young birds flew 18 hours, 26 minutes in the NTU National, July 18th.



TONY: When they are flying well in their training sessions.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix; young or old birds?

TONY: Not bothered, young birds going into dark is quite interesting.

6. What's your system of dropping?

TONY: White feathered leg tumblers and a halogen lamp.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

TONY: Depurative in training, and a mixed seed feed-up.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

TONY: Rest.

9. Do you train to or into dark?

TONY: Always into dark or don't bother if not dark trained.

10. Got any advice for a novice?

TONY: Select a breed of pigeons you like. Go to a consistent flyer to get them. If you live near club members or other flyers, try and visit regularly to pick up their training and feeding methods.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?

TONY: 12 by 6 flying loft which has 24 kit boxes. 9 by 7 and 8 by 6 breeding lofts, and I lost count on how many Tipplers.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing or best to best?

TONY: Mainly family pairings, but also best to best.

13. What do you feed your breeders?

TONY: Breed and wean mix.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

TONY: I became associated with Tipplers through watching a past member, Kevin Patterson's birds flying in training 23 years ago.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain?

TONY: Eddie Plester and George Pilot pigeons because since I acquired these two breeds they have not let me down.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

TONY: A suggestion that has often been mentioned in the past, but never seems to come off; always help your novices.

Tony is 38, not married, has 3 children, (3 hens) a member of the Lakeside Club and advises, if it's not happening at the minute, keep it up because everybody gets theirs in the end. Tony's best with old birds was 20 hours twice and with young birds 18 hours plus 5 times... Thanks Tony, best of luck in the future!

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Steve Hammond Sunderland, England

Continuing with our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got some good reading for ya. Steve is 38 and single; best old bird time is 14 hours 10 minutes and best young bird time is 17 33 in the Ford and Hylton Club, 16 47 in NTU. Sorry, no pictures of Steve or his loft and pigeons. Here we go!

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?

STEVE: Keep young birds hungry for 3 days on about half a measure each bird, let them play on top of shed with droppers.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

STEVE: The best young birds are the ones that kit and fly as a team not splitting off all the time.

3. When do you begin training?

STEVE: January if weather is okay.

4. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

STEVE: Keep your birds on depurative when not flying competition feed-up for a fly from Tuesday to Saturday on a mix of all small seeds you can get, this way they should come into good form and only then, water with a good tonic (vitamin-mineral mix).

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix; young or old birds?

STEVE: Hens - young birds, hens - old birds.

6. What's your system of dropping?

STEVE: When birds look tired, I put white droppers out and work them from shed to shed making them fly in-between sheds.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

STEVE: Depurative on normal days; on a feed-up for a fly small seeds, peanuts, maples.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

STEVE: Back to normal feed and rest.

9. Do you train into the dark?

STEVE: Yes I dark train old and young birds.

10. Got any advice for a novice?

STEVE: Don't over feed.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?

STEVE: 16 feet by 8 feet, L shaped.

12. Do you breed your Tiplers by family pairing or best to best?

STEVE: Best to best.

13. What do you feed your breeders?

STEVE: Good breeding mix.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

STEVE: I have had birds since the age of 7 and Tiplers since 1983 on and off only flew competition 1993 to 1994. I packed it in through drunken members loosing me a good time.

15. What is your favorite Tipler strain?

STEVE: The best Tiplers to fly are crosses, Plester and Pilot.

Thanks Steve, and when we get some pictures, we'll publish them. And thanks again to Davey Warrener for the great collection of English Flyer Profiles.

Ian Elstob Sunderland, England

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got more good reading. Our questions are arranged in three categories, flying breeding, personal thoughts the flyer has about the sport and themselves. Our friend Davey Warrener forwarded our questionnaire to his local Tippler flying friends. He writes: "... have enclosed the profile and pics for Ian Elstob and I am chasing some more, they're shy guys, need to show off these farmers, mate." Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?

IAN: I settle my Tipplers with white droppers making sure Tipplers and droppers are hungry, then let out of the aviary to chase corn. Once the young Tipplers are in the sky, I put out the droppers to chase corn when the young Tipplers come down they are fed and watered. I do the same the next day, etc., etc., adding time each day they are out.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

IAN: Tight kiting and coming straight to the loft top when the droppers are put out.

3. When do you begin training?

IAN: Old birds February, young birds when they are ready.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

IAN: When they are flying 6 hours consecutively each time they are put out in training and not looking for the droppers.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix, young or old birds?

IAN: Hens both young and old.

6. What's your system of dropping?

IAN: I would release my droppers who would then fly left to right on top of my loft attracting the Tipplers down; and me calling them in.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

IAN: In training, good wheat and barley, half and half. Feed up for competition young birds and mixed seeds.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

IAN: After competition, Tipplers back in their kit boxes and given good corn and a drink, 3 days rest, then out again training.

9. Do you train to or into the dark?

IAN: Yes once the birds are settled, gradually I take them to dusk with lights on top of the loft then into dark.

10. Got any advice for the novice?

IAN: Go to your local club ask the lads in the club about birds, decide what birds suit you best, see the birds in training before obtaining them. It will be difficult at first, but gets better.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?

IAN: Breeding loft is 6 ft by 6 ft with breeding boxes holding 12 pair. Flying loft is 12 ft by 6 ft holding approximately 30 Tipplers.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing or best to best.

IAN: I do both.

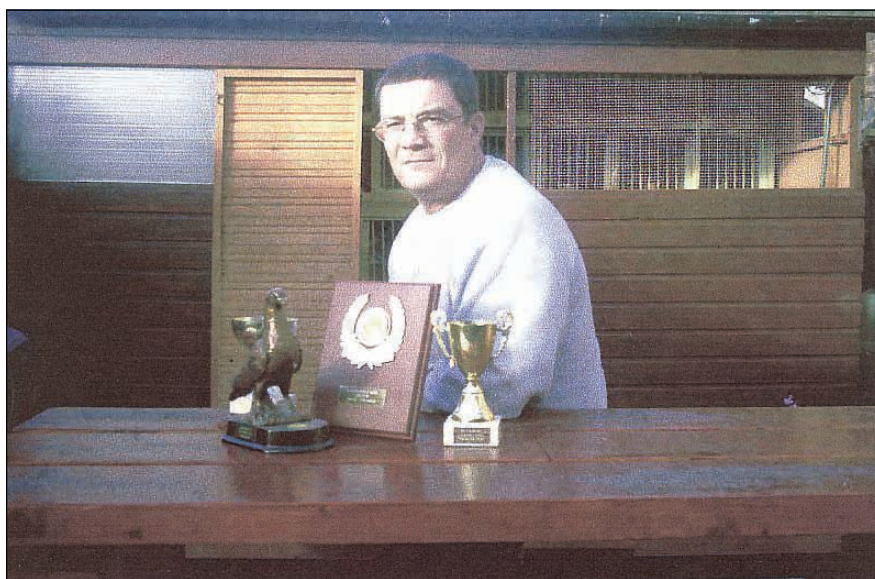
13. What do you feed your breeders?

IAN: Young birds good mix of corn, multi vits in water, grit and minerals.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

IAN: I have always had birds from an early age, but got into Tipplers about 10 years ago. I was introduced to the club (*Ian flies in the Tyne & Ware Club*) by my father-in-law and met the secretary, who at the time was Davey Sutherland, a good Tippler man.



Ian & Tippler.

15. What is your favorite Tippler Strain?

IAN: Hughes type Tiplers which I obtained from a good friend, Davey Warrener, who gave me lots of advice on aspects of all the birds and I'm still learning.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

IAN: Give anyone interested in joining lots of advice and encouragement.

Ian Elstob is married and has one daughter, lives in Sunderland and flies with the National Tippler Union (NTU).

*His best time, old birds is 20 hours 52 minutes on Long Day,
23 June 2002.*

His best time, young birds is 16 hrs, 55 mins.



Paul Green Willenhall, England

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got more good reading. Our questions are arranged in three categories, flying, breeding & personal thoughts the flyer has about the sport and themselves. We owe it all to our friend Davey Warrener, he forwarded our questionnaire to his friends. Here we go!

Flying

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?

PAUL: I settle my Tiplers one at a time using droppers.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

PAUL: The strongest birds; the birds that respond best to the droppers.

3. When do you begin training?

PAUL: February for old birds and young birds as soon as they are settled.

4. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?

PAUL: The way they fly in training plus the way they feel in the hand.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks or a mix; young or old birds?

PAUL: I like flying either kits of cocks or hens as old birds, but will fly mixed as young birds.

6. What's your system of dropping?

PAUL: I use a team of fantails to drop my birds.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

PAUL: Mainly barley in training.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

PAUL: Gradually get them back down onto barley after 4 to 5 days rest depending on how long the hours flown.

9. Do you train to or into dark?

PAUL: I train into the dark.

10. Got any advice for the novice?

PAUL: Watch your birds as much as possible in training, picking your best birds for competition, common sense helps and look after them during the winter with good corn.



Breeding



Paul's Lovatt breeders, and Paul in front of his loft.



11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?
 PAUL: My main loft is 40 feet long with an additional 18 feet section. I usually breed from 8 pairs of Tiplers and also fly Birmingham rollers.
12. Do you breed your Tiplers by family pairings or best to best?
 PAUL: I breed my birds by family pairing.
13. What do you feed your breeders?
 PAUL: My breeders are fed on the best corn.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?
 PAUL: I became interested in Tiplers at an early age, at school age my father flew Tiplers for a long time and I just followed on. I started flying in 1978.
15. What is your favorite Tippler strain?
 PAUL: My strain of Tiplers is my father's that go back to the Wilf Lovatt strain. I like their style of flying plus they are nice on the eye and good for showing.
16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?
 PAUL: The only thing that will improve Tippler flying is to reduce the peregrine falcons.
- Paul Green lives in Willenhall, he's 52, almost married with 2 grown children. He's a member of the Springfield club and the NTU. His best times flown are 19 hrs. 17 mins with old birds and 17 hrs. 6 mins with young birds.*

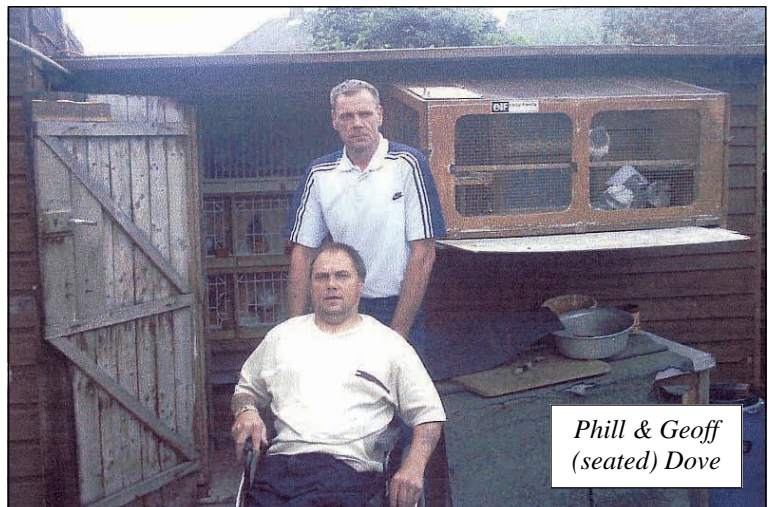
Phill & Geoff Dove Sunderland, England

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got good reading for ya. Our questions are arranged in three categories, flying breeding & personal thoughts the flyers have about the sport and themselves. We owe it all to our friend Davey Warrener, he forwarded our questionnaire to his friends over there. Here we go!

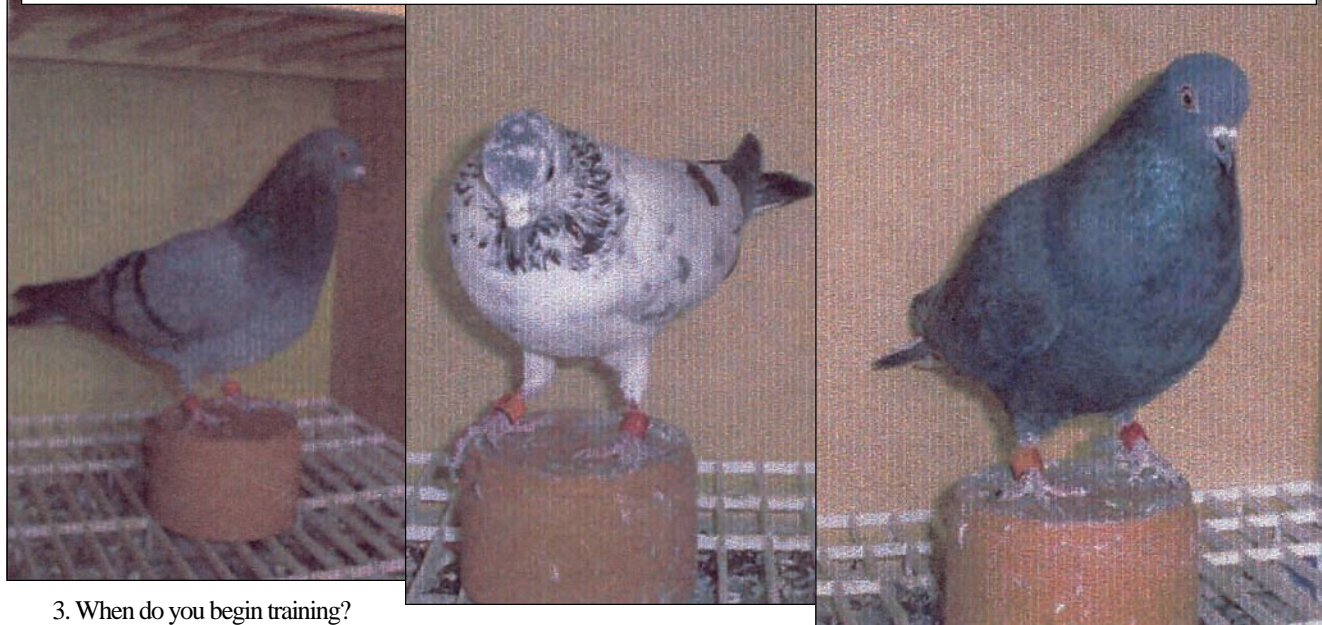
Flying

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?
 Phill & Geoff: We settle them using our tumblers as droppers. We spray the young birds with water or take the cover off the flight pen if it's raining and make sure they are wet the first couple of times they go out.
2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?
 Phill & Geoff: Birds that fly well together and make no mistakes.



*Phill & Geoff
(seated) Dove*

First pigeon is a George Pilot strain, an Eddie Plester strain in the middle and one of Phill & Geoff's black bombers.



3. When do you begin training?

Phill & Geoff: As early as possible depending on the weather for old birds and as soon as they are settled for young birds.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

Phill & Geoff: When they are flying the training times without looking too tired.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens cocks or a mix; young or old?

Phill & Geoff: We don't mind which we fly as long as they are unspoiled.

6. What's your system of dropping?

Phill & Geoff: Light and droppers.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

Phill & Geoff: Barley in training and mixed seed, during the feed-up I also add carrs and herb (*Ad Herb Supplement, he uses as a tonic, it's a liquid, which is added to the drinking water*) to the feed when I first take over the young birds.

8. How are the birds cared for after competition?

Phill & Geoff: They are fed one measure of breed and wean, then back on to barley and rested for a few days.

9. Do you train to or into dark?

Phill & Geoff: Into dark.

10. Got any advice for the novice?

Phill & Geoff: Join a club and get your birds and advice from the flying members.

Breeding

11. How large a loft do you maintain, how many pigeons?

Phill & Geoff: We have an 18-foot loft for the Tipplers, which is split into a 6-foot breeding section and a 4-foot young bird section. We have a separate loft for the droppers. We breed from up to 9 pairs and have 18 flying boxes.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing, or best to best?

Phill & Geoff: Bit of both.

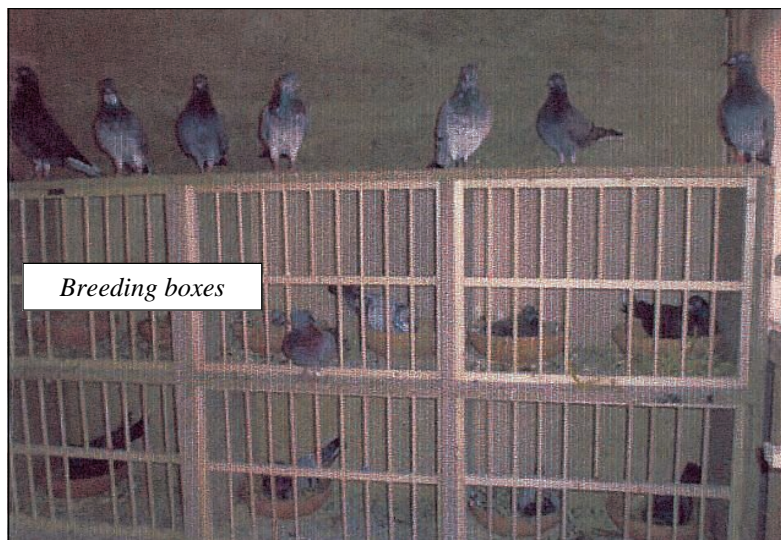
13. What do you feed your breeders?

Phill & Geoff: Breed and wean mixes.

Personal

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

Phill & Geoff: We got interested in Tipplers through meeting some of the local flyers when they were bringing their discarded droppers



to give to Geoff, who just likes pigeons regardless of what they are.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain?

Phill & Geoff: We don't have a favorite, we will try any strain that flies.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

Phill & Geoff: Get a few more people interested. I have been told that there are a lot less flyers than there used to be.

Phill & Geoff Dove were National Tippler Union (NTU) Novice Cup winners last year in 2004 and are members of the local Lakeside Tippler Club and the NTU.

Phill & Geoff Dove's Novice 2004 season with the

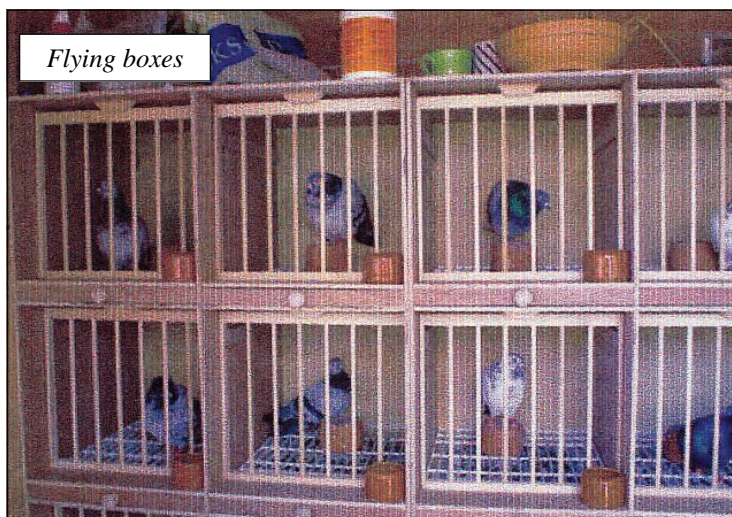
NTU: April 4 14 41

April 25 16 03

May 23 18 06

June 20 18 47 (Long Day)

July 4 DQ(9 32 washed down)



Ken Childs Sunderland, England

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got more good reading for ya. Our questions are arranged in three categories, flying breeding & personal thoughts the flyer has about the sport and themselves. We owe it all to our friend Davey Warrenner, he forwarded our questionnaire to his friends over there. Here we go!

Flying:

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

Ken: With great difficulty; I let them out into my large flight pen with droppers (white fantails) until they are used to being outside, then I release them one by one.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

Ken: Height and time.

3. When do you begin training?

Ken: As soon as the young birds are taken over. With old birds, I do not stop, I train them right through, including during the molt.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

Ken: By feel and performance.

5. Which do you prefer to fly in competition, hens, cocks, mixed, young or old?

Ken: I fly whatever I have ready cocks or hens, but prefer to fly old birds.

6. What is your system of dropping?

Ken: I use a team of white fantails.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

Ken: Barley during training and a small seed conditioning mix for a feed-up.

8. How are your birds cared for after a competition?

Ken: Small amount of mixed corn and a calcium supplement.

9. Do you train into dark?

Ken: Not now, but I have done so in the past.

10. Any advice for the novice?

Ken: Get the best birds you can afford and don't be afraid to cull any birds that don't make the grade.

Ken Childs in front of his "garden Loft," in Sunderland, England



Breeding:

11. How large a loft do you maintain and how many pigeons?

Ken: I have a 20 ft x 6 ft loft split into 3 sections for the Tipplers and another 10 ft x 6 ft loft for the droppers I did keep over 100 Tip-

plers and 30 fantails, but now due to ill health, I have cut down to a little over 20 Tipplers and 6 fantails.

12. How do you breed your Tipplers, by family pairing or best to best?

Ken: I pair best to best from within the same family.

13. What do you feed your breeders?

Ken: No maize, high protein mix with greens.

Personal:

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

Ken: A neighbor of mine saw me watching his Tipplers flying, so he called me over and showed me his birds this started a life long love affair for me with these wonderful birds after he let me have a couple of pairs. This was around 50 years ago.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

Ken: Over the years I have had a few strains, I started with the old fashioned Macclesfield type Tipplers because this was the only type available in those days and I have always kept a few, but my choice would be the Gordon Hughes Tipples. They are a nice compact small faced highflying Tippler.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

Ken: Davey Warrener and myself went down to the NTU annual show in 2004 and I could not help but notice the lack of younger fanciers in attendance. I feel that unless something is done to encourage the kids of today into the hobby, it will eventually die out. It is up to the older more experienced members to help the younger ones with birds and advice rather than trying to make money from the sport.

I live in the Kenton area of Newcastle upon Tyne. I am a widower with 3 grown children and am currently a private member of the NTU. Due to ill health I no longer fly my Tipplers, but keep them as a hobby. I have flown over 19 hours with old birds and 16 hours with young birds.

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Continuing our series of profiles of English flyers, we've got more good reading for ya. Our questions are arranged in three categories, flying breeding & personal thoughts the flyer has about the sport and themselves. We owe it all to our friend Davey Warrener, he forwarded our questionnaire to his friends over there. Here we go!

Michael Tift Bentley, England

My name is Michael Tift I am a member of the National Tippler Union and Bentley west Tippler club I have been married for 34 years and have 4 grown up children, 3 sons and a daughter. Tippler flying is a great hobby but can take up hours of your time so when you have a family you must find time to share with them as well. I have had pigeons since I was a child I was brought up in the 60s in an area that had lots of big kit flyers.

My brother Ray and myself kept around 100 tumblers and Tipplers between us so we both had a newspaper round to pay for them.

After a few years of being married we got our own house and it was not long before a loft found it's way into the garden. I had a kit of tumblers in those days my brother Ray was flying the competition Tipplers and with me going around with him and seeing the Tipplers I soon got the bug. So it was goodbye tumblers and hello Tipplers. I joined the Walsall Tippler club in 1978 this was a strong club with over 30 members often with as many as 20 plus members flying on competition day. Sadly this once great club has gone. Since then I have flown in both Old Hall and Bentley West Tippler clubs.

Over the years I have flown many strains of Tipplers, some which are now never heard of, such as Bartholomew, Mallow, and Carnue. All great Tipplers, which I flew into double figures many times. I can still remember my first fly as a novice all those years ago 9 hours 53 minutes. I then had some Boden type Tipplers from my brother Ray he had purchased the birds from the late Tommy Higgs. I



inbred these birds and flew some great times winning many places in competition my best times with them were 19 hours 11 minutes old bird and 17 hours 11 minutes with the young birds. In 1985 I was having some personal problems and sold every one of my birds; one of the fanciers who purchased them then sold them on to someone in Iran. When I decided to start up again I had a few Gordon Hughes and a lot of birds from Percy Fields who was a member of the Walsall club for many years. I now have some Hughes and some Lovatts, these I have gotten from some of the top flyers. The Hughes are from Dave Bertenshaw from Tyneside, Dave Black from the Wearside club and my good friend Davey Warrener from Sunderland. My Lovatts came from Cliff Clarke of Walsall.

At my home I now have 2 lofts, one is 15 feet by 7 feet, the other is 6 feet by 4 feet. The larger loft has 2 sections, one 7 feet by 5 feet and is one of my breeding sections in which I have nine 30 inch by 24 inch breeding boxes with 1 pair to each box. In the other section I have six 24 inch square weaning boxes and beneath these I have two 40 inch by 24 inch compartments. In my other loft I have twelve 14 inch square flying boxes, I also have another eight breeding boxes. All my flying and breeding boxes have grid floors so the droppings fall through onto newspaper so the birds never come into contact with the droppings. They are all fed using pots so no food or water can become contaminated. I also have a large flight designed with 2 large doors at the front for easy liberation and a sliding door in the loft top for getting them in. I keep around 50 birds, mostly Tiplers with a few white fantails and clean legged tumblers for droppers.

When breeding I prefer to inbreed, but have had a lot of success pairing best to best. When breeding I feed my birds on breed and wean, a mix supplied by my local corn merchant. I also give grit, minerals, Homaform (a food supplement made by Harkers, it is an oil-base, used in small quantities when breeding I believe it cannot be beaten and my birds love it. the only trouble is it colors the front of my stock red, so it would not be given to birds you want to show.) and tonic in the water once a week.

As for settling I wean my young birds at around 4 weeks and keep a fantail hen in with them for the first week to show them the food and water. I then remove the hen, but put her back during feeding so the young birds will come to associate her with feeding. I then give them a week or so in the flight putting in the hen when feeding, then I will reduce the feed getting them very hungry. Then I give them the run of the loft top and the garden with the droppers. I try to do this for another week then let them out without the droppers until they start going up and flying. I increase the times gradually from 1 hour to 5 or 6 hours in training. When they are flying well and I am looking for a kit to compete with, I look for birds that are kiting well, flying in the same style and have made no mistakes.

With old birds I look to start training around the end of January, weather permitting.

When coming into form it will show in their flying style and handling; I have no preference for flying kits. I have flown same sex and mixed kits and done well with them all. I like to dark train all my birds both young and old they must respond to lights and droppers during training. I feed good malted barley, wheat and a little white dari, (*sorghum, kafir*) I don't mix these together, but feed separately, this way I can feed more of one if I wish to. My feed up consists of mixed seeds and the feeding of either peas or maize depending on the weather. I also use tonic and cod-liver oil pills.


My advice to a novice would be to get your loft ready, look for a consistent flyer then try to get your birds from him. Ask him for suitable pairs and as much information as he is willing to give on them and don't be afraid to ask about anything training, feeding, etc. It's the only way to learn and be prepared for more downs than ups, but know when the ups come it's a great feeling. If you want to succeed you must accept it all.

As for the sport itself, the hawk problem is very bad in my area, the sport is at the lowest level its ever been. I don't believe it's publicized enough, and more shows would be a good idea, it would advertise the Tippler sport and be good for the socializing side of the hobby.

(Wife) Marie and trophies, in front of Mick's loft, "Marie has helped me with my hobby many a time when my health was not too good."



Mick Tift's loft in Bentley, Walsall, West Midlands

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David McAleese Stevenage, England

David is 62 years old, married with 6 children, 2 boys and 4 girls lives in Stevenage, Hertfordshire and is a private member of the NTU.

Flying:

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

Starting at 28 days I take the young Tipplers from the parent birds, I put them in the young bird loft leaving them there for a week. I let them eat as much as they want making food available at all times. The next week I put them out at the front of the loft with some hen droppers. At about 45 days or six and a half weeks old the young Tipplers will start taking to the air and flying for about 15 to 20 minutes. I then work the droppers to lead the young Tipplers to the roof of the loft, I do this for the next few days letting them fly longer each time.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

If you use proven Tipplers as parents a first cross would be suitable.

3. When do you begin training?

Six weeks before the first competition.

4. How do you know when your Tipplers are in form?

They're flying times on the training program would steadily progress, the birds would look like a picture and feel light as a feather.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, hens, cocks, a mix; young or old?

Young birds!

6. What is your system of dropping?

I keep the droppers on half feed they work better that way.

7. What do you feed your Tipplers in training?

I feed 75% barley 25% squeaker mix. I also use Ken Burges' feed up which I got from the internet.

8. How are birds cared for after competition?

Feed, conditioner and rest.

9. Do you train to or into dark?

I train into dark. 10. Got any advice for the novice?

Be strict with your Tipplers.



David McAleese at home in Stevenage.

Breeding:

11. How large a loft do you maintain and how many pigeons?

I have an 18 foot loft which is 6 feet wide using 5 feet for breeding 5 feet for flying and 8 feet for young birds and droppers. In total I keep around 28 Tipplers, 5 or 6 pairs for breeding and 16 for flying plus 10 droppers.

12. Do you breed your Tipplers by family pairing or best to best?

Best to best

13. What do you feed your breeders?

Squeaker mix with added beans about 50/50.

Personal:

14. How did you become associated with Tipplers and how long has it been?

I became interested in Tipplers at the age of 8 that was in 1950. I have kept Tipplers off and on for the last 55 years.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

I have a family of silvers that I favor because I can depend on them.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

My suggestion would be for the NTU to be in attendance at some of the national pigeon shows, the Blackpool or NPA shows for example, with information about the flying Tippler. And making Tiplers and information on Tiplers available. I don't feel there is enough information available for new flyers. The NTU could have an internet web site supplying information to interested fanciers.

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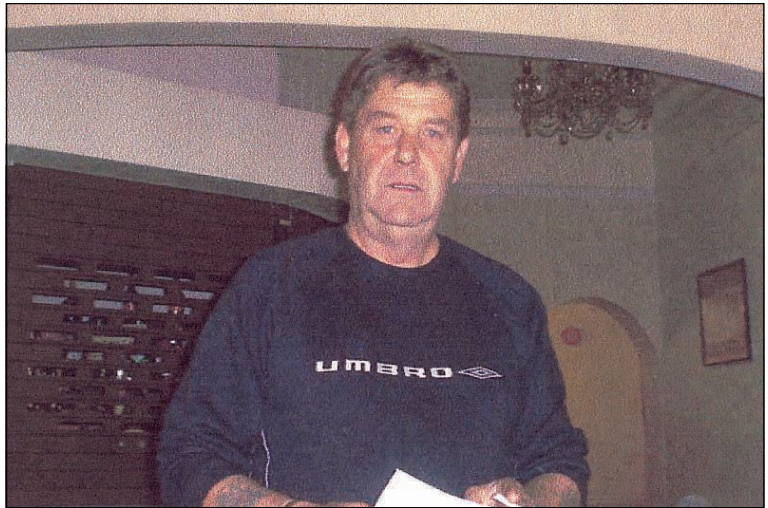
Terry "Tex" Brookes Willenhall, England

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I am 59 years old, married to Maggie with 3 children and 3 grand children. My children are daughter Tracy 31 and 2 sons, Terry 28 and Liam 20. My grand children are Bradley 11, Paige 10 and Ryan 7.

Flying:

1. How do you settle your Tiplers?
TB: I let them out with the droppers and keep them hungry.
2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?
TB: They have to be in good condition and eager.
3. When do you begin training?
TB: February or March depending on the weather.
4. How do you know when your Tiplers are in form?
TB: Hard and firm muscles, light in weight and good solid droppings.
5. Which do you prefer to fly in competition, hens, cocks, mixed, young or old birds?
TB: Hens.
6. What is your system of dropping?
TB: Lights and droppers.
7. What do you feed your flyers?
TB: Depurative when training and seeds as a build up.
8. How are your birds cared for after a competition?
TB: They are rested for 5 days and fed depurative.
9. Do you train into dark?
TB: All the birds are trained to the dark.
10. Got any advice for the Novice?
TB: Go to a top flyer and ask them for advice.



Breeding:

11. How large a loft do you maintain and how many pigeons?
TB: My loft is 55 ft x 9 ft and I have around 70 birds which are stock birds and flyers.
12. How do you breed your Tiplers, by family pairing or best to best?
TB: Both, best to best and family pairing.
13. What do you feed your breeders?
TB: For the first few days after hatching, I feed them small corn and then they are fed with best maple peas.



Personal:

14. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?
TB: As a young man I had tumblers, then an old mate of mine, Tom Grundy, got me interested in them. Sadly Tom has passed away now. That was in 1969. I then left the sport for 15 years while I was working in the Middle East and Bosnia. I got back into the sport in 1996.
15. What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?
TB: Bowden strain, they are a strong bird and seem to fly better in the dark.
16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?



Here are photos of Tex Brookes' lofts in Wolverhampton, Willenhall, England. It is U-shaped with aviaries or fly-pens at each end and vents at the floor all around. The bay-windows are a nice touch on the breeding loft side.

There is a raised deck with stairs near the trap and fly pen on the flying loft side. And there are no trees to get in the way. Nice loft! Don't you think?

TB: It would be a good idea to find a way of encouraging more young flyers into the sport.

17. What are your best times?

TB: My best time is 20 hours, 15 minutes, old birds. And 17 hours, 16 minutes, young birds.

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Darren Kelly Pallion, Sunderland, England

My name is Darren Kelly, I'm 34 years old, married to my lovely wife Fiona; we have 2 children, a girl Melissa, 10 years old and a boy Lee 7 years. I work 40 hours a week, up at 3:30 am as I'm a postman or in your case a mailman. My advice is to be honest, don't tolerate spoilt birds and spoilt people and keep in touch with people that have got time and advice. I fly in the Pallion Club (*Darren writes*: "there is just me in my club, I could not commit to meetings and the rest of it, I keep in touch with all the lads from Lakeside Tippler Club the best club in the north of England. Sunderland is my hometown, I wished to be a private member, but your not allowed if there is a club in a 5 mile radius, so I just started my own.") and the NTU. My best old bird time is 20 hours, 2 minutes. Best young bird time is 18 hours. My highest achievement? 2nd National Old Bird and National Record 19 40.

1. How do you settle your Tipplers?

DK: Run them down, working from shed top to shed top with white droppers on depurative.

2. What do you look for in selecting a kit?

DK: Healthy and unspoiled birds and try to get similar stamp of pigeon in the kit.

3. When do you begin training?

DK: Old birds December to January, young birds May, normally.



Darren Kelly, proudly showing us a big clay Boden type cock (left) and a petite Pilot line blue bared hen (right).

4. How do you know when your Tiplers are on form?

DK: Old birds when they are flying between 7 and 10 hours going into the dark and only dropping because of habit rather than hunger and be patient because they are feeling fit.

Young birds, when they are flying between 6 and 8 hours and are going for big rakes and just say make it back in time for dusk and dark.

5. Which do you rather fly in competition, cocks, hens or mixed; young or old birds?

DK: I would only mix old birds if I had to; young birds I don't mind because they don't chase each other about when dropped.

6. What's your system of dropping?

DK: A halogen lamp and a team of white feather legged tumblers.

7. What do you feed your flyers?

DK: Depurative in training, then seeds and tonic for a competition.

8. How are the birds cared for after a competition?

DK: If there are no more competitions ahead they are given a quality food; if there are comps ahead, depurative.

9. Do you train to or into dark?

DK: I train into Dark.

10. Got any advice for a novice?

DK: Go to a person with a breed you like to look at and who is normally knocking at the door with results.

11. How large a loft do you maintain and how many pigeons?

DK: 6 feet by 4 ft, breeding loft with 6 breeding pairs, 6 ½ ft by 4 ft flying loft with 6 to 8 flyers.

12. Do you breed your Tiplers by family parings or best to best?

DK: Using two different families, pairing Pilot cocks to Boden hens which makes a tough cross.

13. What do you feed your breeders?

DK: Breed and Wean or another brand called Wheatley Hill Young Bird.

14. How did you become associated with Tiplers and how long has it been?

DK: Always had different sorts of pigeons since I was about 7 or 8. In 1999 I was introduced to Tony Veater who flies Tiplers. I flew my first competition in 2001.

15. What is your favorite Tippler strain and why?

DK: I like all the Hughes type, especially the Pilot. My favorite is the Boden because of the feathering and the way they fly.

16. Any suggestions that might improve the Tippler sport?

DK: Availability of referees and encourage honest people into the sport, not just anyone.

Here are some thoughts Darren had when asked about flying in the dark while chatting on Tippler Talk (see www.Tiplers.com).

I have dropped two kits of old birds without splitting after official dark, the reason I compare the 20-hour kit to the national record kit is because they are the only kits of old birds that kitted, where other kits I've had to fly split to get



David Black and Darren Kelly ("in dashy Royal Mail uniform" on right) Dave is holding his National Tippler Union cup for 1st place, 18 00 July 17, 2005 and Darren is holding NTU cups for his 19 40 National win of April 24 and 19 45 win in May 22, 2005



A view of Darren's breeding loft & a pair of his Pilot (smallest Hughes type) Tiplers.



a decent time and compete on the day. I agree with most of what they say but every time I begin to follow any of these theories about birds kitting in dark, the birds will go and change some of these theories, sometimes for better or worse in competitions and training.

The two kits got different skis on there nights; both kits were crosses, the 20 hour 2 minutes kit were 4 cross Plester-Pilots, 1 cock, 3 hens; the 19 hours 40 minutes national record kit were cross Boden-Pilots, 5 hens. The 20-hour night was that type of night where you thought it would never get dark a lovely blue sky. 19 40 night, dark came a lot faster due to the low gray clouds, but what they both had in common was very calm and practically still, so maybe you would settle for this type of night with crosses, I have not flown any kits of pure Boden old birds yet, I think I would be hoping for a breeze at least on competition day more so for cocks, so it's horses for courses at times.

Young birds; I just dark train and cross my fingers and hope they can get to dark. When a young bird splits in dark you better start thinking about getting your time because they rarely split in training.

And here's a little more Tippler talk: I have just started, I fly young birds this year, old next year, and prove my worth. When I was 7 or 8 I would dream about doing something special with homers, I thought I would tell my father what he was doing wrong in training, with his homers, so he could beat his brother-in-law with side bets. It just takes over me and I would be right further down the line on most occasions, but I need two years off for my family and holidays and stuff...

And in another message: I started with the pure Plester, and the pure Pilots, I started crossing straight away back in '01, first kit of crosses Plester-Pilots a kit of 5 young birds which I bred myself, missed them once in training in dark, anyway being a novice that year I think I maybe went to early breeding, so opted to put them out on the first club fly, rather than the first young bird national. Club record at the time was 16 hrs 13 min broke it got 16 hrs 15 min, that's crosses for you, even a poor trained kit can compete, how much that kit taught me how to prepare a kit of young birds, top flyers have come and asked how you doing this and that meaning things like how have they still got 7 or 8 to go on the wing, I would laugh and say telling you know, young bird crosses of the breeds I state, if it is trained to your asking and the right age, but for me most of all a good wing, and must be the right age. And old birds a lot different, they get stronger as the season moves on, then I begin to start with the Boden-Pilots, flew my first cross cock in '02 he won the Tommy Higgs, mixed with 2 cross Plester-Pilots cocks from Dave Black and Tony Veater, with a time of 15 hrs 37 min.

Good reading huh?

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And last, but not least, and with permission from our friends at the Canadian National Tippler Union we present a flyer profile of the World Champion from the pages of the CNTU Newsletter, April 2004.

Harry Shannon Lisburn, North Ireland

World Champion Harry Shannon (The Tippler World Record Holder 22 05 set on May 22, 1995) answered a questionnaire sent to him by Luka Kapac, the current Canadian National Tippler Union sectary and editor of their Newsletter and here's a look compliments of the CNTU:

1. How long have you had pigeons and in particular Tipplers? Why Tipplers?

HS: I started in my early teens. First competition was August 1950 with young birds in North Ireland. Tipplers flew 3 hours, 30 minutes. I Liked the idea of owning highflying birds. Started serious cycling the following year and disposed of



Harry Shannon and his droppers getting another kit down.

the birds. Started again after getting married in 1958.

2. How did you acquire your Tiplers and from whom?

HS: Birds acquired from top local flyer Victor Arbothnot whose birds came mostly from English top flyer Sam Billingham from Sheffield, England. Victor also bought a few other winning kits from the All England Tippler Society. He was a quite wealthy man (shop owner).

3. How big is your loft and how many pairs do you breed from? What is the method by which you breed?

HS: Two lofts, the first is 12'x 12' and the second 11'x 6.' No strict breeding method except only in family. Three crosses used in the last 40 years came from Jos Davies of Wales, Les Curry of Bristol, and Ken Potts of Willenhall, England. As I feel hens are more important, I do not usually fly any exceptional ones for too long before they go to stock. I may couple some very close related birds because I think it is more important if their genes are compatible.

4. How do you settle your youngsters and method of training once they are settled?

HS: As soon as the young ones can fly to a low perch they are set out with droppers for two days. Third day onwards they are left with droppers on loft top. Each one is set 5 meters (16.4 ft) away on house extension to fly down to droppers; this enables them to get a good look at loft top. At this time they are only fed sparingly, but with a good small seed mix to keep feather condition.

If any strike up too soon I put droppers up and try to drop them or at least hold them. When I select a calm day and throw each one with a dropper for their first real fly. As soon as they are flying together they are fed a depurative mix. I also get them used to kit boxes, but with two or three in each.

Some two weeks later they are kitted separately. At this stage they are fed sparingly on the above, but with a little oil seed, (canary mix) but only flown twice weekly, 3 to 7 hours. Common sense is important here, as birds like all living things need vegetables, minerals, etc., but just enough for good health.

Approximately three weeks before each fly day I train every day. I like to have my youngsters 14 to 18 weeks old for competition; this gives me enough time to get them into dark. This I do slowly. If they are flying too strongly I do not consider droppers too late, instead I choose an evening they may be looking for the loft and let them go as long as possible. At dusk I drop them and let them sit with droppers until dark with lights on. This I continue until they are accustomed to lights. Eventually I fly one at a time with my old kit in training to finish their dark training.

5. Do you fly in competition or do you fly for personal pleasure? Explain reason for either answer.

HS: Competition is my pleasure.

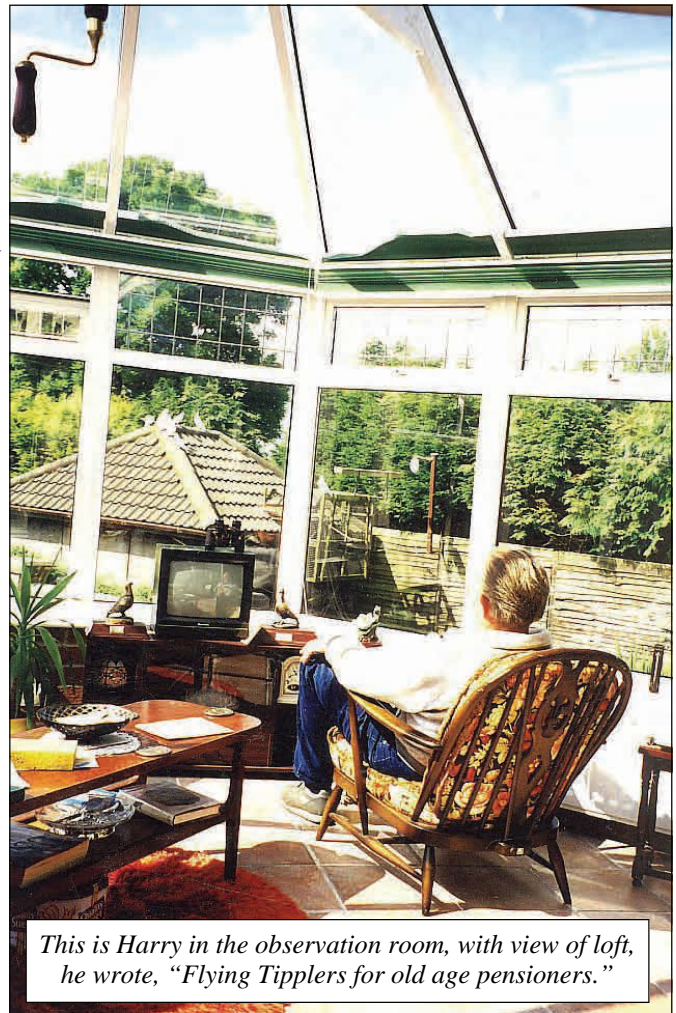
6. What grains do you use in training and in feed-up? What determines your selection?

HS: I prefer mix of all grains, maize, (corn) 75% Legumes (peas, beans) and 25% small seeds. No maple peas, just mainly carbohydrates after Thursday for a Sunday fly. If we follow a marathon runner's training program when carbohydrates are reduced until the body wants to store this energy before the race.

7. Top three tips from your experience with Tiplers?

HS: Use all printed or verbal advice as your guide only, even mine.

Your 4 to 6 week management will decide your success or otherwise. It is equal to common sense and not the secret of some magic or black bottle in the last four day build-up.



This is Harry in the observation room, with view of loft, he wrote, "Flying Tiplers for old age pensioners."



This was Harry's 2004 old bird kit minus one, they went 20 hours, 10 minutes on Long Day.

Do not fly too long training hours. Regulate your feed to suit time flown, especially with your best birds. Good birds will want to fly too long, but they must be controlled.

Patience, understanding, good husbandry, and avoid letting common sense go out the window.



Here's a view of Harry's loft from around back, with the observation room in the background.



A pigeon's eye view of Harry's loft from above the house.

Thanks from the FTS to all the fanciers, flyers who participated by taking the time to send in their profile questionnaires. And thanks too, to the photographers who helped with the pictures, it is appreciated. These flyer profiles started in the early 90s and we're hoping they don't stop coming, ever.

Keep 'em flying!