

## Silloth F.C.

Congratulations to John Slack for leading the mens team to the final of the Stan Pape Trophy.

The mens Over 40's team lost their Semi Final to Nottingham going down 2-3 after extra time. A new ten man committee was formed at the AGM, the new Secretary is Malc Wise, Chairman Steve Hart and Treasurer David Halpin.

The U-12 team held a trial for next years team on Saturday 24th May, the U-9's six-a sides are being held on Sat. 21st June at 1pm on the green.

A three day Sport & Music Festival will be held August Bank Holiday weekend at Eden Street laying Fields, featuring Ladies & Girls soccer, Junior six-a-sides and training sessions, mini tennis, cricket and Live Bands.

## Stars in their Eyes

Abbeytown Carnival Committee held a 'Stars in Their Eyes' competition at The Whiteheather on Saturday 3 May 2003.

Eight entrants were entered into the childrens section & eight into the adults section. A total of approx. £1400.00 was raised on the night and the Committee would like to thank everybody who supported the evening. The winners were:

Childrens Section: Ashley Little, Jake Vailionis & Luke Stockdale as Busted.

Adults Section: Terence Marshall as Freddy Mercury.

Dood Buzz  
by Megan K  
aged 10  
from  
Silloth Primary School



## Silloth Flying Club

Report by: Old Grizzle

There are six Old Bird races left. Two from Fareham on the south coast a distance of almost 300 miles to Silloth, and four from France, two from Falaise 435 mls, one from Fourgeres 470 mls and the other from Nantes 535 mls. The channel birds are taken to Flimby on Wednesday, when they are raced marked. They then travel down to Blackpool and are transferred to a specialist Transporter and are taken to France ready for an early Saturday Liberation (weather permitting). Our pigeons have approximately 100 miles of water to cross before they reach the British coast. They then have to fly the full length of England, before they reach their lofts in Silloth. Depending on the wind an average channel race from Falaise takes 10-11 hours of none stop flying. They can encounter various

hazards on their journey home, electricity pylons, wires of all descriptions, traffic, predators if they stop for water. They finally reach the Cumbrian coast tired and desperate to get home. They then encounter the worst predator of all the 'Peregrine Falcon'. These birds of prey do untold damage to old birds and pigeon is their favourite meal. The Cumbrian coast has the highest density of Falcons in N.W. Europe and yes there are Peregrines in Silloth, and they regularly attack our pigeons when they are out on exercise. A few years ago many thousands of Scottish pigeons would fly over Silloth each Saturday, not now that they have switched to the east coast routes, as repeated Peregrine attacks decimated the flocks.

Good luck to our birds racing from Falaise this Saturday, I hope they all return home safely and undamaged.

On a lighter note the photograph shows Silloth Flying Club members some thirty years ago at our annual prize giving at the Solway Lido. It was one of the highlights of the year, when 200 guests and friends used to attend our dinner dance. The old hens will remember getting their hair done and wearing long dresses, what a good night.



Left to Right: R. Pattinson, B. Reeves, P. Reeves, S. Crelin, J. Morton, Jim Kerr, B. Wise, Ted Kerr, W. Minnican, C. McKay, R. Donald, G. Lawson, D. Crighton, G. Lawson, Joe Robertshaw Jun, Joe Robertshaw Sen, Dennis Winter, Norman Marr, Ted Robinson

Race results to date.

Stafford (1) 135 birds competing 150 miles.

1st 2nd & 3rd Reeves Bros. & grandson

4th & 6th W. Minnican & son

5th Reeves Bros. & grandson

The winning pigeon flew 2hrs 45mins 20secs

Stafford (2) 137 birds

1st J. Morton

2nd 3rd 4th & 5th Reeves Bros. & grandson

6th W. Minnican

The winning pigeon flew 2hrs 40mins 50secs.

Woolaston 139 birds 174 miles.

Due to inclement weather conditions the birds were liberated from Garstang on Sunday, for a 70 mile sprint.

1st & 2nd Reeves Bros. & grandson

3rd & 5th W. Minnican

4th & 6th J. Morton

The winning pigeon flew 1hr 19mins 03secs.

Cheltenham 119 birds 212 miles.

1st 2nd 3rd & 5th Reeves Bros. & grandson

4th & 6th J. Morton

The winning pigeon flew 4hrs 46mins 53secs this was the first

race when the pigeons had to really work to get home as there was no helping wind.

Newbury 104 birds 255 miles.

1st J. Morton

2nd & 5th Reeves Bros. & Grandson

3rd D. Creighton

4th & 6th W. Minnican

The winning pigeon flew 4hrs 39mins 45secs.

This was the first Cumbrian Combine race of the season. Another

fast race, the leading birds rating excellent

times, unfortunately approximately 50% of the

pigeons had not returned to their lofts by Saturday

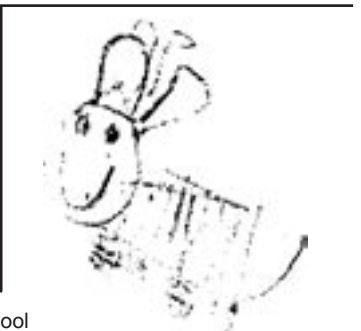
night. Some arrived Sunday morning, many are

still missing. Why! no one knows, this Saturday was

particularly hot, there was also a lunar eclipse on the

Friday night, was this the cause?

Until next month keep them flying.



Smiley by Abbie Williamson aged 5 from Holm Cultram Abbey School