

## Silloth Flying Club

Report by: Old Grizzle

The old bird season is nearly over with only two races left, from Fareham on the south coast of France and Falaise in France. How time flies. We have had three races from France and Jimmy Morton has won all three, well done Jimmy. It takes a good pigeon to get home from France, those extra 100+ miles make all the difference. There's an old saying 'horses for courses' and this certainly applied to pigeon racing, which can be divided into three categories. Sprint Racing up to 150 miles, Middle Distance Racing up to 400 miles and Long Distance Racing over 400 miles.

Pigeons are very much like athletes there are those which are sprinters and so forth. Those pigeons which can excel at all distances are a jewel. There are not many.

The young birds (those birds during 2003) are about to begin their racing careers. Each fancier will be looking at their young bird team and wondering whether or not a champion has been bred this year.

The future of the loft depends on your young birds and if things go wrong you can be set back for two years or more. Before racing winners 'the babies' must receive



Jimmy Morton with a winning Pigeon

comprehensive training, e.g. learning to be in a basket, learning to drink when in the basket, learning to fly out of the basket when liberated. When these tasks are completed the road work begins. We usually start them a few miles from home and gradually increase the distance as the babies confidence increases. The more training the better. This can be a white knuckle ride for the fancier, when you return home

and find the youngsters have not arrived, have they gone the wrong way? Has Percy the Peregrine been through them? I took my young birds to Crosscanonby road ends for their first training toss. When I arrived back not a pigeon to be seen. One hour later one appeared out of 50. Another half hour passed 20 arrived back and so it went on in dribs and drabs 'till all had returned home except one, Percy had a good dinner that day. As I write this training is almost completed and despite a few hiccups our babies are now racing home, beating us back each time.

The next nail biter will be their first race, when they will be liberated with thousands of others, all homing into a five square mile area, except those from Silloth and Aspatria which have to break out of these huge flocks and fly down from Maryport on their own. They are marvellous, I hope all our members have a good season, lets hope our training has paid off.

Race results to date: Falaise 7/6/03 435 miles 18 birds competing

1st J Morton, 2nd & 4th W Minnican & Son, 3rd D Creighton, 5th Reeves Bros & Grandson.

The winning pigeon took 11 hrs 1 min 56 secs. The first three pigeons all arrived on the day of liberation.

Fougeres 16/6/03 465 miles, with 16 birds competing

1st, 4th & 6th J Morton, 2nd & 5th D Creighton, 3rd S Cullin.

The winning pigeon took 13hrs 32mins 56secs. There were two birds home on the day of liberation, which was a Monday because of bad



Old Grizzle at 16 years

weather in the channel.

Fareham 294 miles 62 birds competing

1st, 4th & 5th Reeves Bros & Grandson, 2nd D Creighton, 3rd J Morton, 6th W Minnican.

## Margaret Retires



Left to Right: Grace Murray (Resident), Lizzie Simpson (Resident), Mark Newby (Owner) and Margaret Blake

Mrs Margaret Blake has retired after 21 years loyal and dedicated service as Cook at the Good Companions Residential Care Home. All the residents and staff wish her a long and happy retirement.

The winning pigeon took 5hrs 54mins 7secs.

Nantes 535 miles 3 birds competing. Only two members sent to this race and J Morton got the only pigeon which took 19hrs 15mins 59secs arriving at 07.59 the next morning. Out of a total of 119 birds sent by the Derwent Valley Federation 9 reached home on the day of liberation.

Cool Bee by Jonathon Tallontyre aged 7 from Silloth Primary School



Bee Happy by Ben Satterthwaite aged 10 from Holm Cultram Abbey School



# Silloth Beer Festival

## Over 75 Real Ales & Ciders

Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th September

Thursday 4th ~ 7pm to 11pm

**Nightriders** ~ Sounds of the Sixties ~ tickets £3

Friday 5th ~ 7pm to 11pm

### The Hamsters

Britains Top Rock & Blues Band ~ tickets £8

Saturday 6th ~ 12pm to 3pm

**Dearham Brass Band** ~ tickets £2 ~ Pensioners Free

Saturday 6th ~ 7pm to late

**Sour Mash** ~ the west coasts Top Rock & Pop Band ~ tickets £6

Sunday 7th ~ 1pm to 5pm

**Prize Karaoke** ~ £250 Prize ~ tickets £2

**Beer Festival Ticket covering all four days ~ only £12**

Tickets available over the counter at:

Winters Newsagents, Silloth

Ticket & Credit Card Hotline:

Carnegie Theatre, Workington, tel: 01900 602122

Accommodation Information:

Silloth Tourist Information Centre, tel: 016973 31944

In the Marquee on The Green, Silloth-on-Solway



## Silloth Sports Hall

At long last Silloth is getting a multi-use sports hall, but more input is required from the town before things can proceed. The hall will be sited beside Silloth Community School and will be looked after and maintained by the School. It is also a hall for use by the general community and will be available to all. The needs of the community have to be measured before anything happens, so complete this form. There are also three preferred locations. (1) 'The Dip' is the hollow in front of the school and the most accessible location. (2) "Immediately in front of school", would fill the gap between the school and the boundary, and at eight metres high would block all light from the school. (3) "Behind the school" would require all visitors to the hall to go through or around the school.

Fill in the form and return it to:

Colin Campbell  
Solway Community School  
Liddel Street  
Silloth, CA7 4DD



Outside elevation of the proposed Sports Hall

### Solway Community School Sports Hall

Potential Users Information

Contact Name:

Contact Address:

Contact Telephone:

Group Name:

Type of Activity:

Number of sessions req'd per week:

Number of hours req'd per session:

Number of participants involved per session:

How much would you pay per hour to hire hall:

What other activities would you like to see being available:

Preferred location of the Sports Hall:

The 'Dip'

Immediately in front of school

Behind the school  please tick one option

Specify alternate location:

## Wheelchair Hire



Nationwide Service

Call Free  
**0808 108 5678**

www.fredwalton.co.uk