

Australian National Racing Pigeon Board

2023 Ace Bird Award Results

By Paul Gibbs

The inaugural winners of the (ANRPB) National Ace Bird Awards for both the Short to Middle Distance (80 to 550km) and the Middle to Long Distance (551 to 1000 + km) have now been determined.

There were a large number of nominations for the Short to Middle Distance Award, with only three nominations for the Middle to Long Distance Award, with two of these unfortunately being ruled out as they did not meet the requirement as listed on the nomination form.

The Top Ten for the Short to Middle Distance Awards were:



Anthony Agius - Steve Shears

Anthony Agius of the Oatley RSL Club (CCF) with his winning Blue Checker hen rung SUTH-20-401 that was clocked from Moruya a distance of 228km for 6th place competing against 251

fanciers and 4625 birds then clocked from Eden a distance of 354km for 16th place competing against 248 fanciers and 4350 birds. Her third clocking was again from Eden a distance of 354km for 4th place competing against 235 fanciers and 4160 birds.

Using the ANRPB system of the bird with the lowest coefficient over three races being declared the winner, this hen with a coefficient of 0.1978998 was to win by a fair margin.

The other nine place winners in the Short to Middle Distance category were:

Jeff Sheppard of the SCF with a coefficient of 0.3462224

Dreyer Loubser of the PRF with a coefficient of 0.39404205

S&D Gordon of the SMPS (CCF) with a coefficient of 0.6083589



Anthony Agius - Steve Shears - Dave Gordon

Raf Lay of the VHA with a coefficient of 0.833614

Clint Sparrow of the PRF with a coefficient of 0.8970778

Rob Sheehy of the PRF with a coefficient of 0.9569771

Steve & Sue Shears of HD (CCF) with a coefficient of 1.0446152

Joe Farrugia Mt. Druitt (CCF) with a coefficient of 1.148305

With tenth place going to S&D Gordon SMPS (CCF) with a coefficient of 1.2120766

Special mention to the partnership of S&D Gordon for having two award winners in the top ten Short to Middle Distance category.

The only nomination that satisfied the criteria for the Middle to Long was received from Brian Donovan of the SAHPA. His Blue Checker hen rung SA-22-10377 was clocked from Maree a distance of 560km for 15th place competing against 114 fanciers and 1889 birds, then was clocked from The Twins a distance of 608km for 12th place against 105 fanciers and 1430 birds, her third clocking was from Cooper Pedy a distance of 725km for 1st position competing against 82 fanciers and 1363 birds. Her coefficient over these three races was 0.5691664.

The two category winners will each receive a Trophy kindly donated by Pat Arcella of San Remo Lofts along with a framed photograph of their winning pigeon taken by John Debrincat Pigeon Photography along with being presented a special Certificate of Merit that highlights that they are “National Ace Prize Winning Pigeons”. (Refer to attached photos)

The nine other Short to Middle Distance place winners will also receive a framed Merit Award Certificate to recognise their pigeon’s racing achievement.

ANRPB Ace Pigeon Award Update: As this was the ANRPB’s inaugural awards event, it was always envisaged that there may be changes to the original format and that the ANRPB were open to suggestions from fanciers to improve the current way that the requirements for birds to be nominated and/or the distance, along with the number of clocking’s required that enable a pigeon to be considered for the awards should be looked at. As a result of suggestions from fanciers it has been decided that the following changes be implemented for the 2024 season.

The **Short to Middle Distance Award** will change from being 80 to 550km to the shorter distance of 80 to 500km, the other conditions will remain the same as before.

For the **Middle to Long Distance Award** the following changes will take place. The distance will change to 501km to 900+km, with nominated birds having only to be clocked twice from within this distance, **not** three times as previously, the other requirement is that birds nominated for the **“Middle to Long Distance Award”** will have to be clocked **from two** different race points/distances within the specified distance – **501 to 900+km.**

An article along with photos will be submitted to the Australian Racing Pigeon Journal, and to the Racing Pigeon Pictorial International magazine in the UK for publication both here in Australia and Internationally.

New Nominations Forms will be available to download from the ANRPB webpage and/or from your own Federation/Club website in the not too distant future.

The Australian National Racing Pigeon Board would like to congratulate both Anthony Agius and Brian Donovan on their respective National Ace Pigeon Awards as well as all the other

Certificate of Merit Award winners and wish all fanciers nothing but the best of luck for the 2024 season and look forward to receiving your 2024 Nomination Forms at seasons end.



Keep in mind that if you compete in a Federation, Combine or Club that has a racing membership of a minimum 20 fanciers no matter where you live in Australia, you are eligible to nominate in either or both categories as long as ALL 20 members have competed in the races that you have nominated your bird for.

Further information or enquiries can be obtained from the ANRPB representative Paul Gibbs on 0408 003 387.