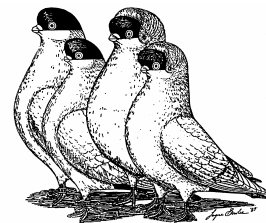


# Helmet Happenings



**Mar/April Issue**

**April 25, 2005**

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## **Short Face Gleanings**

by Phil DeCarlo

It's my pleasure to submit articles to our clubs "Helmet Happenings" regarding breeding and management I use with my Short-face Helmets. It's now fifteen years that I have been working with short-face Helmets, and I'm fortunate that some of my birds found their way into the winners circle. So again, it's my sincere pleasure to share with you some methods I've learned over the 15 years working with the birds. My first article:

### **Selecting birds for breeding**

Back in 1990 I purchased the entire breeding stock from Walter Boroznoff, a top short-face breeder and former member of the A.H.A. The background of the birds was Tony Presco strain. I added a bird or two from Bob Powell and a blue hen from Roger Garvel. By the way I also purchased the breeders of Tom Rimmer (that were also of the Presco strain), when Tom got out of Helmets. I use individual breeding pens so I could switch hens and cocks around. Once I hit on a pair (meaning 80% of off-spring were show quality), that pair remain together for life. If I felt I needed a bird, price was not the object. I never paid less than \$200.00 for a bird. I did feel I knew where I would go with that bird and once I hit the target I usually sold it off. So getting started, number one, you must be able to obtain the best breeding stock available. Mate and re-mate the birds until you hit the pair that can produce. Then start your family around their off-spring and add a bird or two if needed. Somewhere down the line you'll need a cross for hybrid vigor or else your breeding program will cut way back in numbers due to inbreeding. Be dedicated to the short face, don't get discouraged and in time the champs will come around. Pumpers have to do the job or else—so selection there is very important also.

In summary:

1. Spend the money for the very best.
2. Selectively breed. Meaning don't keep everything, just the best.
3. Add a bird or two when you feel it's needed.
4. Stay focused, don't have twenty breeds, you'll spread your self too thin.

Lets stop here, and I'll see you all in my next column.

## **News from DISTRICT 7**

by **Bob Bollinger**

What a great National. It was good to see old friends and enjoy good competition. I think everyone should be commended. The judges did a great job and everything went along smoothly. It was also good to see lots of nice birds from all parts of the country. The depth and breadth of the classes was striking. All in all it was a great show!

I would also like to thank the club for nominating me for an NPA service award. It is greatly appreciated! Thanks!

I was really really impressed by our last bulletin. It was good to see lots of articles from all areas of the country. Good work everyone! Participation helps keep up everyone's energy level and generates excitement for the upcoming season. Lets try to keep it up!

I have sent Chuck my money for this year's futurity. I hope everyone considers joining in the event. It is always fun to have more events to compete in at the national.

Good luck in the breeding pen this spring!

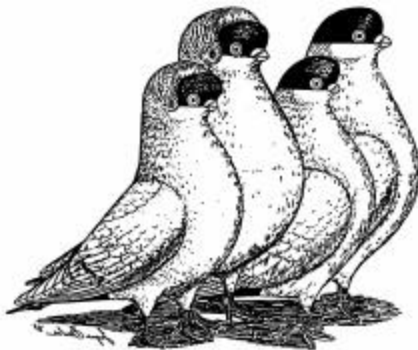
## **News from DISTRICT 14**

by **Victor Cline**

It was nice to see everyone in Lancaster. I am sorry that I missed a lot of the show. It sounds like it was exciting.

I was very pleased to see our District 14 members participating and showing respectably in the various classes. Good work Steve, Brandon and Don!

I have several pairs together and I am hoping for a good breeding season!





## **I Support Fixed Location Shows**

by **Bob Bollinger**

I enjoyed reading Curtis' ideas regarding the Western Sectional in our last bulletin. I don't feel that it's appropriate for me, being from the East, to give an opinion specific to a Western event. However, I will heartily agree with most of his points regarding holding shows at fixed locations. I have long felt that holding events at the same location year after year had many benefits. I think the most important benefit of this concept is knowing the logistics. As Curtis pointed out, here in the East we all know everything there is to know about going to the NYBS in Louisville. We know how long it takes to get there, where we prefer to stay, where we prefer to eat, what to expect from the show, etc. This makes the decision to go to the show much easier. It also helps us convince others to join us. Many people can provide recommendations and suggestions to new fanciers or those who have never been there. Let's face it, many pigeon folks are resistant to new things. Having things that are known and highly regarded will generate larger events and more attendance.



## **I Like the Point Card Idea**

by **Bob Bollinger**

In our last bulletin Steve Mitchell brought up the concept of using a point card during helmet judging. I have seen this concept used for English Trumpeters at the Pageant many times. I am always impressed with how much people are engaged and in tune with the process during the ET finals. The point card is helpful for experienced and new breeders alike. New people are quickly immersed in the standard. Lining out the exact points for each feature helps new people calibrate their eyes. Experienced fanciers get to objectively critique and discuss the birds. By seeing the exact points that a judge allocates per feature we can focus on the direction of the breed and our own breeding programs.

I'm not too concerned about the uniformity of judging. Here in the east we are lucky to have a number of folks with pretty calibrated eyes. I think the big advantage of the point card is how it helps the judging spectators. (You know it could even help generate interest and understanding among non-helmet breeders.) I think the best place to introduce this concept would be in a judging clinic. There people could learn about the point card and we could all have fun reviewing the birds and our standard.

## The A.H.A. Shortface Helmet Pigeon

Those of you that were at the national in Lancaster, PA saw the short face helmets on display. Some with the A.H.A. and some with the Empire Short face Club.

The birds with the A.H.A. had nice crests, mostly good rosettes, but very poor short faces. Most had too much beak and very little frontal. And right next door in another cage, was a short face with the Empire short face club. First of all very small, very short beaks, and just beautiful frontals. However they had very poor crests, and very poor rosettes. So each variety excels in what the other is lacking. Some how we need to find a balance in the 2 varieties.

Looking through my old bulletins I found 2 articles that I really think has to be brought up again. (following this article)

I feel that Tom Jemty and Phil DeCarlo's proposals had a lot of merit. I felt at that time (1996) it should have been done and feel at this time IT HAS TO BE DONE if we want the true short-face variety to stay around.

I also found an article that Tony Patti wrote in answer to the proposals rejection by the board of directors at that time. Because I was breeding shortface at that time, I thought it should have had a lot more discussion.

The A.H.A. short-face has gone downhill. By trying to get more crest & rosettes for a balanced short-face Helmet we have given up a lot as to beak, frontal (bulge) and size.

What do you short-face breeders out there think?

I think Tony's comment hit the nail on the head and I quote "Until the A.H.A. rethinks the priorities of the short face crested Helmet, it will be a very long time before more than one or two true short faces are exhibited at a A.H.A. meet". This was in the June 1996 bulletin. How true Tony words are still today.

Hank Ebbelaar  
March 19, 2005

## Proposal: Short-Faced Helmet

by Tom Jemty & Phil DeCarlo

We will try to explain why we would like to see a point change in Short-face only. In the past 20 years or so, the Medium-face has made great strides in becoming one of the most appealing show pigeons in the country. It has evolved from a narrow faced, long beak (spindly) flying type to the round head, high full crest, thicker beak, cobby beauty it is today. In this period the AHA expanded its membership more than threefold, and today it is one of the most popular and largest pigeon clubs. Unfortunately, the Short-face has not enjoyed the same improvement. In fact, it has deteriorated to where only 3-4% of the entries are Short-face. C.E. Mann, President during the 1960's, was proud to announce almost 20% entries at top AHA shows (re:1986 Helmet Special, pg. 41).

Studying the written and drawn standards for the head and beak area, we noticed they call for a difference in structure with no difference in points.

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Myron Berger, 40-year enthusiast and past president, wrote (as chairman of the drawing revision of the standard, pg. 4, para. 4, AHA Standard): Everything can be said for the Short-face as the Medium-face except skull and eye. The new standard has more bulge, frontal and less back skull, eye is closer to beak, still no difference in points for these difficult areas.

In the point section, note the difference in points between crest and plain heads, but none between Short-face and Medium-face. Also, notice that tail and tail markings get 9 points, only one less than the head. Finally, 10 go to the body, the same amount as the head.

One of the main reasons the Short-face has not had the same success as the Medium-face is because of the difficulty in raising the Short-face. We feel there should be points rewarded for achieving the difficult features called for in the standard, such as beak "as short as possible." in Short-face compared to 5/8 inch in Medium-face.

We have heard from long-time members that this controversy has been going on for a long time. We hope that, if the point change proposal is approved, it will encourage breeders to take on this difficult task due to the reward in points and, hopefully, reputation of the A.H.A. as having two beautiful varieties. In closing, we ask that members opposed to this proposal please be accurate and honest and aim any criticisms at the bird only.

**ACTUAL PROPOSAL:**

First: Absolutely no change in the written standard.

Second: Drawings to remain exactly as they are, no change.

Third: The point change proposed for short-face only.

Fourth: A. Take one point from tail

B. Take two points from tail markings

C. Take one from body

D. Take two from head markings

E. Apply four to head

F. Apply two to beak

*Printed in 1996 Bulletin*

## **Bleak Future for the AHA's SF Crested**

by Tony Patti

At the Board of Directors meeting at the Salt Lake City National the SF Crested Standard points revision proposal was rejected. The intent of the revision was to increase the point for the head and beak, bringing these characteristics more in line with their importance in differentiating the short face from the medium face.

Ironically, at that same National some birds were shown as short faces that didn't belong in that class. While being very nice birds, they were grossly lacking in true shortface type.

Compounding this undesirable situation is the fact that these birds placed very, very high in their respective classes. The judge honestly believed that he was interpreting the standard correctly and he may very well have. Hence, my point!!

Until the A.H.A. re-thinks the priorities of the Shortfaced Crested Helmet, it will be a very long time before more than one or two true Shortfaces are exhibited at an A.H.A. meet. Additionally, our goal of seeing large numbers of this beautiful variety at our shows will remain illusive.

*Printed in May/June 1996 bulletin*



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## New Members

Nothing received by printing date

Watch for new members list in the May/June edition.



### Are your dues past due?

Please check your mailing address label on this newsletter—  
If highlighted, your membership is due for renewal.

## Treasurer's Report 2005

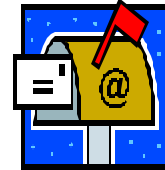
by Charles Dwight

Nothing received by printing date

**January ending  
balance: \$3,465.26**

Please send comments, suggestions or even a joke or two to us at: 528 N. 660 W. West Bountiful, UT 84087 or e-mail us at [loftsoffun@highstream.net](mailto:loftsoffun@highstream.net)

The deadline for articles in the next newsletter is **June 20**.



Thanks,  
Todd & Cathy Farnsworth, Bulletin Editors

Issue	Deadline	Mailing date
Jan/Feb	February 20	February 28
Mar/April	April 20	April 30
May/June	<b>June 20</b>	June 30
July/August	August 20	August 31
Sept/Oct	October 20	October 31
Nov/Dec	December 20	December 31







## EDITORS THOUGHTS

by Todd and Cathy Farnsworth

Cathy and I have talked about a couple of items that have been brought up in the previous news letters. We feel the judging process that Steve Mitchell spoke of in his last article would be a real plus; not only for the consistency of judging but it would also help to enforce and utilize the existing standard. We also feel it would be a great way to better learn and understand the judging and help improve our breeding program. This type of judging would help us to recognize weakness as well as strength in our loft. I know that by talking with several of the pigeon breeders, they as well as myself have their personal favorite color, size, or crest type. I can't help but think the judges may have their favorites as well. I know that with my favorites they seem to catch my attention and I tend to overlook their faults as well as overlooking some great features on some of the other birds. With this type of judging it will help us give credit where credit is due and not penalize more than the points allotted for their faults. This is in NO WAY intended to take anything away from any of the people who have or will judge in the future. Our hat is off to every one of the judges and we feel they do a GREAT job in a tough situation. We also feel this could help with the judging because the people watching would then know why the judge was awarding points or taking points away (less hard feelings). In our opinion all of this can be a real win-win situation.

Another item we discussed is the Western Sectional. We both feel that if the Western Sectional were to be held at the Pageant every year it would limit the people who have no vacation, finances, or transportation. If the sectional continues to travel many of the people otherwise limited would get a chance to show at some point. Although we feel that if it were held at the Pageant every year it would be less hassle and would be a great thing for those who attend the Pageant every year (double show points?). I'm not sure that leaving others less fortunate out is what we, as a club, want to do. Cathy and I will be more than happy to attend the Pageant each year but we also remember the times in our life that, due to the same things listed above, we would have felt left out by such a decision.

We at LOFTS OF FUN are having a good year so far and as of April 15th have 30 helmets banded and several more getting close. We are breeding from 8 pairs of helmets and are using 20 pair of feeders (mookees and old style frills). We just changed the mating on our helmets to increase the bloodlines and see if there is another magic combination waiting to come out. Thanks to the club we also continue to meet new people and have made some great new friends.

Best of luck to all and hope to see you at the shows.

**Classified Ads**

**BIRDS WANTED**

Interested in Helmets for sale near me.  
Please contact Charles W. Nutt  
613 West Walsh  
Vandalia, Missouri 63382-1911  
1-573-594-3819

**BIRDS FOR SALE**

Short-face Helmets 2005 Ready Nov/Dec  
\$200.00/each or 400.00/pair or will trade  
for same quality medium-face.  
Phil DeCarlo 1-800-605-4452

**Helmet Happenings**

**American Helmet Association  
Founded 1958**



**American Helmet Association**

c/o Todd Farnsworth, Bulletin Editor  
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