

Ken Roberts & Geoffrey Watson - SA10 34885 BBC Ceduna 10BS Winner - 550km - 155 owners - 1298 birds.

Ken and Geoffrey teamed up for the 2012 race season because of Ken's need at the time for assistance around the loft. At the time Ken was working long shifts and his wife Dorie was finding the work (to keep the race team in top condition) very taxing.

In fact the name of the team should really be Roberts, Roberts & Watson!



Ken started in pigeons as junior in Sydney with the Auburn club when he was about 9 or 10. The president of Auburn at the time (Mr Lathlean) assisted Ken for the next 8 to 10 years. Ken then moved to Merrylands and flew with his dad, and then moved to Regents Park and was a competitor with Lindsay Smith (now of the Para Club in the SAHPA). Following a move to Adelaide with his company (Marrickville Holdings) and moving into Salisbury Park, he started with the ParaHills Club and has been there ever since. In his early to Adelaide he was helped by Dennis Shaw, Graham and Ron Eitzen, Barry Salter and Jim Marafiote.

During this time at ParaHills he has gained three 2nd places in SAHPA races and become ParaHills aggregate points winner for 10 years in a row. In addition Ken won the 1994 SAHPA trophy for best average (of last three races), and won 2010 SAHPA Average points (Marla and

Holbrook) trophy. This year the team gained 1st Ceduna 10BS with **SA10 34885 BBC**.

The sire is a Holfkins from Tasmania and the dam a vanLoon (the original vanLoons were from Ian Edwards and Ken has interbred these for many years). The vanLoons have been very successful and do very well at Coober Pedy distances.



SA10 34885 BBC was not raced as a baby but was tossed weekly with all the race birds. In 2012 he raced Wudinna (2nd loft) and Ceduna 10BS - 1st SAHPA.

Ken breeds from 40 pairs and breeds around 200 birds.

The breeders are based around the Edwards vanLoons, Goodgers (bill Walford) and Eitzens (one of which gained 2nd SAHPA Little Topar).

Ken buys his peas and wheat off farm and feeds 70 % peas and 30% wheat to his race birds. This base mix is adjusted according to weather & need. and

maize and small seeds are generally added later in the week pre hampering. Multi vitamins (from Colin Walker) are provided twice a week. Turbosole and Doxy-T are provided to race birds during the moult, and Turbosole monthly during racing - but otherwise birds are medicated as required. Ken trains his babies on their own until they are ranging well then adds the remainder of last years team once toss training is to begin. Hens and cocks are raced together until 2 weeks before the derbies. He generally aims for about fifty 2 or 3 year olds to be added to the babies, and this includes some 10 cocks. Toss training starts at 30kms on Anzac day and he aims for around 12 tosses to a maximum of 100/150kms by first race day.

The race loft is cleaned 3 times a week - twice by Geoff and once by Dorie.

Breeding birds are hopper fed 100% peas, and this is supplemented with some small seeds hand fed daily by Ken.

Ken generally uses his breeders to breed his race birds, then puts his best race birds together to supplement the breeders and try out new breeding pairs.

Ken has purchased the best he can (from sales and catalogues) and also been gifted good Janssen breeders from friends in Canberra. In addition he has a mate in Hay that he swaps pigeons with - Ken sends him his line of pigeons and in return he gets Vandenabeeles which he crosses into his base pigeons with good effect. This year his mate in hay won 8 races with Ken's birds!

He enjoys the ParaHills club - he reckons their members are a good lot, with few arguments and all members pitch in to help.
