



Rebecca at her small roller loft.

garden fantails and my favourite pigeon, Chocolate. Although I have never raced Chocolate, he did win 2nd prize in a show a few years ago.

When I was about 10 years of age Grandad would pick me up from school on Fridays and take me back to his house to help him basket the birds and during the school holidays I was allowed to help Grandad train the birds, but I didn't like this because I got car sick!

A few years ago my Grandad was diagnosed with severe pigeon fancier's lung. This meant he was allergic to the dust and feathers from the birds and so he depended on me more for cleaning the birds out. As a result we decided to go into partnership and race as J. Trim & Granddaughter. I'm glad to say we've had some success since as we've won the Federation and Amalgamation (which I think was down to me being lucky and having an amazing trainer). I love going down to Gravesend Rugby South Road Club but unfortunately I don't usually make it there as I am studying hard to become a veterinary surgeon.



Rebecca outside her racing lofts.

To conclude I think pigeon racing is a great hobby for children as not only does it teach them the geography of the racepoints but the maths of working out the velocities. I wish all fanciers every success for the rest of the season and I hope you enjoy your birds as much as I do.'

REBECCA
of J. Trim & Granddaughter

What a beautifully written account Rebecca, thank you. We all wish you and Grandad all the best for the rest of the season, and keep up your studies as it will be well worth all the effort.

Squeakers

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SONS

As a boy growing up in my native Portugal I was always interested in wildlife, spending much of my time in the fields near my home. It was when I was 10 years old that I was given my first racing pigeons and soon became interested in breeding and racing. I wanted to be the best and with the help of my father went on to have champion stock and was consistently at the top of the racing table.

Now at the ages of 9 and 7 my sons, Raphael and Diego, are following in my footsteps and hopefully I can guide them to success.

We bought champion breeding stock from one of the top fanciers from Portugal, David Mestre, and from Malta. We keep the stock birds at our friend Carmello Vella's farm and the racing birds in our back garden. I registered



Raphael & Diego at the stock loft.

them with the SRFC from Taunton. Although the majority of the decision making is theirs I obviously have to help with the cleaning out of the higher boxes and driving them to the release sites for training. The boys decide which birds to race and which birds to pair up for selective breeding. They also like to watch the birds arriving home from the races.

2013 was the first year of racing but we only entered the young birds competition. 2014 was very promising with several races giving them high placings including some wins.

This year they have already improved on their standing with a win in the first race of the season both in the Club and also in the South West Combine. A great achievement and this week saw them win with the first 5 positions and have a total of 9 birds in the first 12 from an entry of 110 birds.

My sons and I hope very much that more young boys and girls will join this exciting sport.

VASCO SILVA



Our thanks to Vasco and very best wishes to Raphael and Diego - your sport needs you!

West of England South Road Combine winner from Lyndhurst, bred and raced by R. & D. Silva.



Raphael, Diego and Simba the dog at the racing loft.