

Racing Pigeon Post

Hollowed Out

Pigeon racing is being destroyed from the inside. This is not the only thing that has changed. The British sense of fair play and ordinary working class good humour that streamed through the veins of Scottish, Irish, English and Welsh blood for centuries and in no small measure helped us win two world wars has largely been replaced by an uncritical belief in fame at all costs.

Television is now seen as the new mark of achievement. The solid honest working class music hall and club comedians of yesteryear have disappeared and with them a sense that we knew and could see who was funny.

With 'tele' we no longer really know who or what they really are except that they are said to be famous. We are hoodwinked into believing the magic lantern in the corner of the room. We don't even create top international footballers any more we buy 'famous' ones in.

This is also is happening in pigeons. We no longer create our own strains. No longer exist to prove good pigeons by flying from a distance; instead we exist on being able to win from anywhere and the anywhere fame that goes with it. The ability to win prizes with pigeons that may or may not be good birds and often are quite hopeless when flying alone, has now overtaken finding good birds. Winning has now split from quality so the two do not meet anymore but exist only to snipe at each other.

Thus, the real British pigeon sport has been hollowed out from the inside. Although on the surface it looks like pigeon racing and acts like pigeon racing, it is in fact missing its essential quality, that of learning by stages how to breed and train hard pigeons to fly in difficult circumstances over a long distance. A lot now hate long distance racing because it exposes weakness.

The new sport now consists of small clubs. Everyone is looking for fame. The 'Sport' has indeed been hollowed out from the inside.

John Clements