

Dave Hazelwood QRPF Champion 2019.

Dave sat in his favourite chair looking to the north. There was nothing unusual about him sitting in that chair, he always sat in his favourite chair when waiting for his racing pigeons to return from a race. What was unusual, was that his pigeons were returning from a race out west and he was looking to the North, in fact, they were coming from a long way out west. Quilpie in the far west of Queensland, some 871 kilometres from Dave's back yard. He was feeling good, the race season was coming to an end, he was leading the averages in his club, section and the Queensland Racing Pigeon Federation Open Championship and he was looking North. All his best winners had come out of the North this year. Five of them in fact, five times he had topped the Federation in the one season, outstanding, his best race season ever, and now there was just this one race to go.

It was after 6pm on Saturday 12th October 2019 and getting very near to sundown, time was fast running out for the pigeons to reach home on the day, at least it had been a nice day, the rain from the previous day had cleared off the coast during the morning and with variable winds along the way and a 6.15am release, he was thinking there was a chance they could make it on the day.

Suddenly, like they always do, there was a pigeon, straight out of the North once again. The Blue Bar Cock alighted on the landing board with Dave up and behind him almost in the one motion. The reassuring beep of the Benzing M1 electronic timing system confirming his arrival at 18:10:14 after 11 hours 55 minutes and 11 seconds on the wing Dave had a clocked in.

The following afternoon, Sunday, it was confirmed that Dave had topped the Fed yet again, what a climax to a great season. Only 5 other birds made it to their home lofts on the clock day and Dave had the only one before sundown, what an end to a fantastic race season, six times best in Fed and champion flyer in the Murrumba Club, the North Section and the Queensland Racing Pigeon Federation. Outstanding!

The above was going to be the start of a story on Dave Hazelwood and his fantastic year, but sadly Dave was diagnosed with cancer and passed away quickly on the 10th February 2020.

All of his pigeons were given away, Dave insisted that they are given away and not sold, he donated his body to the University of Qld and requested that no funeral was to be held, typical of the man, no fuss.

I had spoken with him prior to his untimely death and he told me how he had been racing for 50 years and had enjoyed every minute of it and was looking forward to the North route in 2021, but he knew that was not going to happen and was resigned to the fact!

At least he went out after his best year of racing as far as results were concerned.

His top results for 2019 were:

1st Fed Chinchilla 1st June 240 klms @ 1074mpm with Blue Bar Cock MURR 17 668 against 1,097 birds

1st Fed Roma 422 klms 29th June @ 1070mpm with Blue Bar Hen QPF 17 11784 against 770 birds.

1st Fed Dalby 8th July 172 klms @ 1164mpm Blue Bar WF Cock MORT 18 180 against 1,785 birds.

1st Fed Roma 24th Aug July 422 klms @ 1210mpm with Blue Cheq Cock QPF 18 6501 against 1,377 birds

1st Fed Morven 5 bird All Age Derby 14th Sept 594 klms @ 1251 mpm with Blue bar Hen QPF 17 11717 against 167 birds

1st Fed Quilpie 12th Oct 871 klms @ 1218mpm with Blue Bar Cock QPF 18 6526 against 494 birds.

Dave Hazelwood, you were a true champion, rest in peace!

