

“PALAMOS WON AT 861 MILES”

“Woodsider”

Winner of the British Barcelona Club Palamos Race 1971 Bred & raced by Jack & Jack G. Paley from Silsden.

The amazing story of “Woodsider” as told to me by Jack G. Paley

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Silsden. A village in the North West corner of Yorkshire has come to the front with the sensational win from Palamos with the British Barcelona Club, by the experienced father and son partnership of J & J.G. Paley, whose seven year old cock “Woodsider” was timed to make 788 ypm. A record for 861 miles. (from *The Racing Pigeon* 3rd July 1971)

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OPINION

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOURS OF DARKNESS INQUIRY
We have received a good response, compared to the earlier results, to our appeal for people to help with our hours of darkness inquiry, but even so, there are nowhere enough people who have replied. We are therefore making a desperate attempt to get a greater response by publishing our instructions in this issue, and we urge every one of our readers to read these instructions and to pass them through. Their help could be invaluable. This scheme is of vital importance. It is the first attempt ever made to do this survey on a national scale and it is most important that it should succeed. The details appear elsewhere. Please turn to page 514 immediately.

ROYAL MESSAGE CARRIERS
Centre secretaries Ray Lindy and Dick Holles were among those who participated in getting a message from Prince Philip to the opening of 'The Spirit of Suffolk Festival'. A full report will appear as soon as space permits but in the meantime congratulations to them and George Fyson who supplied the messengers.

PALAMOS WON AT 861 MILES
Silsden, in the NW corner of Yorkshire, has come to the front with the sensational win from Palamos by the experienced father and son partnership of J and J G Paley, whose seven-year-old cock 'Woodsider' was timed in at their allotment loft to make 788 ypm, a record for the distance, 861 miles. More details on this partnership next issue from an interview by Colin Canham, too long for this issue.

The Mealy Cock, NU64L450003 'Woodsider', is an individual. He does like the bath and in 1970 and early 1971 had shown little enthusiasm for racing. Six weeks before the race he lost his hen and three weeks later was given his choice of hens. This transformed him so that by appearance and eye he was ready to fulfill the prophecy.

If you conceived that in a few years this race will be won by a bird flying over 800 miles. These words were spoken by Ray Canham, President of the British Barcelona Club, at its annual dinner in October 1970. The entries for the event this year totalled 620, of which 612 actually went to the race. Owing to the unfortunate illness of Doug Harwood, the first two years were completed by Monty Morris, who assisted by the great experience of NFG (nowover) Jack Davenport.

The marking progressed smoothly at 8.30 on Saturday. A unfortunate journey had a full day's rest at Silsden before the winning bird was timed at 9 pm on Saturday.

Other leading birds clocked on Saturday were 2nd Open 1st Sect B, 2nd Open 2nd Sect B, 2nd Open 3rd Sect B, 2nd Open 4th Sect B, 2nd Open 5th Sect B, 2nd Open 6th Sect B, 2nd Open 7th Sect B, 2nd Open 8th Sect B, 2nd Open 9th Sect B, 2nd Open 10th Sect B, 2nd Open 11th Sect B, 2nd Open 12th Sect B, 2nd Open 13th Sect B, 2nd Open 14th Sect B, 2nd Open 15th Sect B, 2nd Open 16th Sect B, 2nd Open 17th Sect B, 2nd Open 18th Sect B, 2nd Open 19th Sect B, 2nd Open 20th Sect B, 2nd Open 21st Sect B, 2nd Open 22nd Sect B, 2nd Open 23rd Sect B, 2nd Open 24th Sect B, 2nd Open 25th Sect B, 2nd Open 26th Sect B, 2nd Open 27th Sect B, 2nd Open 28th Sect B, 2nd Open 29th Sect B, 2nd Open 30th Sect B, 2nd Open 31st Sect B, 2nd Open 32nd Sect B, 2nd Open 33rd Sect B, 2nd Open 34th Sect B, 2nd Open 35th Sect B, 2nd Open 36th Sect B, 2nd Open 37th Sect B, 2nd Open 38th Sect B, 2nd Open 39th Sect B, 2nd Open 40th Sect B, 2nd Open 41st Sect B, 2nd Open 42nd Sect B, 2nd Open 43rd Sect B, 2nd Open 44th Sect B, 2nd Open 45th Sect B, 2nd Open 46th Sect B, 2nd Open 47th Sect B, 2nd Open 48th Sect B, 2nd Open 49th Sect B, 2nd Open 50th Sect B, 2nd Open 51st Sect B, 2nd Open 52nd Sect B, 2nd Open 53rd Sect B, 2nd Open 54th Sect B, 2nd Open 55th Sect B, 2nd Open 56th Sect B, 2nd Open 57th Sect B, 2nd Open 58th Sect B, 2nd Open 59th Sect B, 2nd Open 60th Sect B, 2nd Open 61st Sect B, 2nd Open 62nd Sect B, 2nd Open 63rd Sect B, 2nd Open 64th Sect B, 2nd Open 65th Sect B, 2nd Open 66th Sect B, 2nd Open 67th Sect B, 2nd Open 68th Sect B, 2nd Open 69th Sect B, 2nd Open 70th Sect B, 2nd Open 71st Sect B, 2nd Open 72nd Sect B, 2nd Open 73rd Sect B, 2nd Open 74th Sect B, 2nd Open 75th Sect B, 2nd Open 76th Sect B, 2nd Open 77th Sect B, 2nd Open 78th Sect B, 2nd Open 79th Sect B, 2nd Open 80th Sect B, 2nd Open 81st Sect B, 2nd Open 82nd Sect B, 2nd Open 83rd Sect B, 2nd Open 84th Sect B, 2nd Open 85th Sect B, 2nd Open 86th Sect B, 2nd Open 87th Sect B, 2nd Open 88th Sect B, 2nd Open 89th Sect B, 2nd 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The following article is a reminiscence of the partnership of J & J.G. Paley the breeders and racers of "Woodsider". Together with photo's and extracts from the press at the time.

It is solely written in the hope it will inspire you the fancier of today to take up the challenge and join a long distance club such as the British Barcelona Club, so you too may experience the absolute thrill of timing a long distance Champion which has flown more than 650 miles.

We must go back to 1958 when I, Jack Graham Paley, a 16 year old schoolboy began racing young birds with Silsden and District Flying Club, the local Club situated some 30 miles North of Leeds in the Aire Valley deep in the Pennines.

Pigeon racing was against the wishes of my parents who had experienced the sport up to the beginning of the war in 1939. So alone, I rented a Council allotment and built a 12 feet by 9 feet loft all with hard earned money working as a Butchers boy after school.

From stock I begged from local fanciers, I bred a young bird team of 8 youngsters all rung NURP58SDN---

Training the 8 youngsters, I had to carry them in a basket to the local railway station, 2 miles away and send them to Rotherham for a 35 mile fly, the cost about one shilling or 5p in today's money. If I caught the 07.15 train I could expect a 10.30 release with the team home before lunch.

From the first race I was 1st Club and from the second race I was 1st Club. After the 7 races I had won 2 x 1st, 2 x 2nd, 2 x 3rd and a 4th winning the Novice Average Trophy and the Young Bird Average Trophy.



16 year old Jack G Paley after the 1958 Young Bird Season

Obviously by the third race Dad, Jack, could not keep away on a Saturday. As the saying goes "Pigeons are in the blood". And so it was agreed at the end of the 1958 season, a partnership would be formed known as J & J.G. Paley. Not Paley and Son as many scribes would write in their reports over the years to follow. The reason for the name as it was to be was because Father Jack said "Father and Son partnerships tended to infer a senior and junior working where this was 50/50".

The agreed fee for Jack joining the set up was for him to purchase "Clifton Pride" the 1958 News of the World St Malo 1st Open Winner together with her sire, together with a stock loft to house them. "Clifton Pride" proved to be a fantastic stock hen producing Long Distance Winners at all generations.

The racing partnership had much success from 1959 to 1970 in Local Clubs, Open Races, the most prestigious Pennine 2 Bird Club and the National Flying Club. Many notable performances were achieved during the sixties including 1st Section News of the World St Malo, 1st Pennine 2 Bird Club, 1st Fed Avaranches, 1st Fed Rennes, 1st Fed Niort and 2nd Section National Flying Club.

Our objective was always to go for the longest distance race we could fly from. So we always pushed our team further and further. Young Birds would have to go to the South Coast about 220 miles, with some selected to go to 307 miles or 364 miles. Yearlings had to go to 400 miles and selected yearlings would go to 530 miles where they have won 1st Fed for us, when no birds were home on the day. From two year old onwards the limit was Pau at 732 miles.

Exercising was free and easy at the loft with 30, 40 and 50 mile trips by transporter or as in the early sixties by rail as we thought they required. Individual training was to take 2 or 3 birds to about 20 miles and release them

with only one hour's daylight remaining. This obviously paid off for us on many occasions particularly with "Woodsider".

We both gave much back to the sport. Jack was President of Club and Federation and a Clock Setter. I became Club Secretary when I was 18 years old, then with my wife Shirley became Managing Secretary of the Thoroughbred Racing Pigeon Association, taking over from Wing Commander W.D. Lea-Raynor. Add to this Secretary of the Great Yorkshire Amalgamation which was presided over by none other than Guy C. Barrett. With Guy and many dedicated GYA members we organised and staged the great "Show of the North" at Harrogate for many years. The finest one day event for racing pigeon fanciers attracting over 2,000 entries and giving many thousands of fanciers a great day out each November.

Autumn 1975 saw an advert in the fancy press requesting applications for the position of Secretary for the National Flying Club due to the retirement of that great stalwart Charlie Miller. Much thought was given to my application as I was in a very successful situation. However, I did apply and made a short list of two. I attended an interview in Sheffield before the NFC Committee but was informed that after a very close vote which went to a casting vote, the position was to go to the other applicant who lived very close to Charlie Miller and Jack Shone the NFC Treasurer. I accepted the decision without any disappointment and drove straight from the interview to the Great Yorkshire Amalgamation Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation in Harrogate on the Friday night followed by the Show of the North on the day after, which I must admit Shirley had done virtually all the work for both events.

A month later between Christmas and New Year, a phone call from the NFC President Arthur Bartlett asking if Shirley and I would please take the position of Secretary with an immediate start because they were in great trouble due to the newly appointed Secretary letting them down at the very last minute. They were in a position where the 7,500 members were requiring their rings in early January. Realising the tremendous problem the NFC had, we accepted for a 1 year term as plans were already afoot for the future. We worked non stop and issued over 200,000 rings to the members.

After a year as NFC Secretary the end of 1976 was a complete change for me and my family of Shirley, Ashley and Kirsty, leaving Yorkshire for pastures new. Thus ending a most successful racing partnership which had lasted 18 years, going from nothing to the very top through thick and thin, good and very bad, win and lose, the end of pigeon racing for me.

Jack G's older brother agreed to assist and help Jack after I left. But the most sudden and untimely death in November 1977 of Jack ended racing at Woodside Lofts.



Jack Paley in his favourite position at the loft

"Woodsider" hatched 12th April 1964 and rung NU64L45003. He was always an eyecatcher, he stood out in the young bird team which consisted of about 20 that year. He looked so good, he was the pool bird for the first young bird race but he was away for 17 days from the 70 miles race. He returned in fair condition so was soon back in the team. He ended the season taking a ring prize at the longest race of 220 miles. As a yearling he had three cross channel races, St Malo 364 miles, Rennes 400 miles and Nantes 464 miles being timed from St Malo

and Nantes. That was over 1,200 miles completed in 3 races as a yearling. At two years old, he won 2nd Club Nantes 464 miles with a velocity of 999.9 ypm being beaten by a decimal point.

In 1968 he was timed at 10.10pm close to darkness from Niort 529 miles. In 1969 from Poitiers 525 miles in a very difficult race he arrived at 10.40pm in virtual darkness, but with the loft door closed and three local fanciers stood talking in front of the loft he hit the oak tree behind the loft.

1970 saw him in race time from Pau 732 miles arriving in good condition. He just had not had the incentive to race due to losing his mate prior to the race. By now he had completed 12 cross channel races and was accredited with 5 T.R.P.A Meritorious Award Stars.

“Woodsider”’s preparation for Palamos 1971 - Paired in mid march, his first round eggs were taken away after about 14 days. He reared the next round, these resulted in four fine young cocks very much like “Woodsider” in many ways. Training began with three trips from about 40 miles and several single up trips of about 12 miles. Then four races during May, the first from Cheltenham 138 miles on the 7th May, he was 5th to the loft from 16 entries. Next race was from Mangotsfield 169 miles on the 14th being 7th Club with a velocity of 880 ypm. Then to Christchurch 220 miles flying 5 ½ hours. On the 28th May Christchurch again 2nd to the loft, when loftmate won 1st Club 5th Fed 17th Amal. Then in June he had three training spins and a mainly open loft.

Race conditions for Friday 25th and Saturday 26th June 1971. The liberation at Palamos 6am Friday 25th June 1971 by Convoyers Monty Morse and Jack Donovan. Scattered thunder storms in and around the Pyrenees with showers in most of France on Friday. Heavy rain throughout France on Saturday. England would be fair with light west winds.

A quote from “Bilco” (a prominent scribe of the day). “On occasion of the Palamos Race, Belgium and North France drowned under almost tropical rain. I (Bilco) drove from Mons to Ostend that day (Saturday) and had to work hard at it to see the car 25 yards in front, even with headlights on”.

All organisations in France held over that Saturday due to heavy rain. From the race result it would appear 6 birds made it close to the French side of the English Channel on the Friday flying over 500 miles in most tricky conditions. These would be the only 6 home on the second day. That is 1% of the entry.

On the Friday of the race I phoned Mrs Bryant and was informed that liberation was at 6am in a north wind. I also obtained our own forecast for the route, this coming from other organisations in France that weekend, which gave north winds for the first 200 miles with heavy rain and thunder in places. France was cloudy with showers. From this I hoped the leading birds could make it close to the French coast flying at least 500 miles the first day. Saturday in England was a good flying day but I was soon informed our other birds were held over in Nantes due to heavy rain.

I decided I would be ready at the lofts, which were half a mile from home. So from 10am Shirley and our two daughters enjoyed games and a picnic lunch whilst waiting in anticipation. At about 5pm I was left alone to wait but at 8pm I decided to have an hour away for dinner, so I left the loft unattended. Meanwhile Jack, who had been on holiday in his caravan on the east coast suddenly decided at 6pm on the Saturday to return home. Driving the 90 miles from Hornsea, he arrived just before 9pm and went straight to the loft. There he found “Woodsider” waiting to go in but he could not clock him as three clocks were all set waiting but not knowing which was for Palamos, he ran the half mile to my house to tell me. My car did the half mile of rough track in less time than a minute to clock “Woodsider” at 9.03pm.

Two attempted phone calls to Secretary Bill Stevenson but the line was engaged. Then a call to Bert Bryant. I will attempt to give you details of how this call went. I said “This is Paley of Yorkshire reporting an arrival from Palamos”. Bert must not have taken this in as he said “We have had a very hard race with only 5 birds home” and he began to read off the 5 names when I interrupted and said “I want to report the arrival of our bird”. This must have got through as there seemed to be a long silence and then he said “Who is it?” I repeated “It is Paley of Silsden, Yorkshire timed at 9pm flying 861 miles”. This time a very long silence then Bert said “Congratulations, Fantastic – You can only be beaten by a bird flying further.” Within the hour 3 local fanciers verified him and stripped the clock down.

The following morning at 5.15am “Woodsider” went out and flew a few laps of honour, then back to his eggs and his usual loft activities.

He was and still is the longest Race Winner in the British Isles.

Awards won by “Woodsider”

From the British Barcelona Club

Harkers Perpetual Challenge Cup for 1st Open. 615 entries.

Presidents Perpetual Challenge Cup for 1st Open.

Real Colombolfilia Espanola Perpetual Challenge Cup for 1st Open.

Real Colombolfilia Espanola Perpetual Challenge Cup for Ladies Nomination.

W Stephenson Plaque for 1st Open.

Framed photograph given by J Edwards for 1st Open.

A. H Bartlett Plaque for 1st Open.

Gordon Hare Cup for longest distance bird flown in race time.

Harkers Rose Bowl for 1st Section E.

From the Thoroughbred Racing Pigeon Association

The Smart Trophy with a record high score.

From the Yorkshire and Northern Centre R.N.H.U

The Centre Trophy.

From the Royal National Homing Union

The most coveted award of all The Queen's Coronation Trophy.

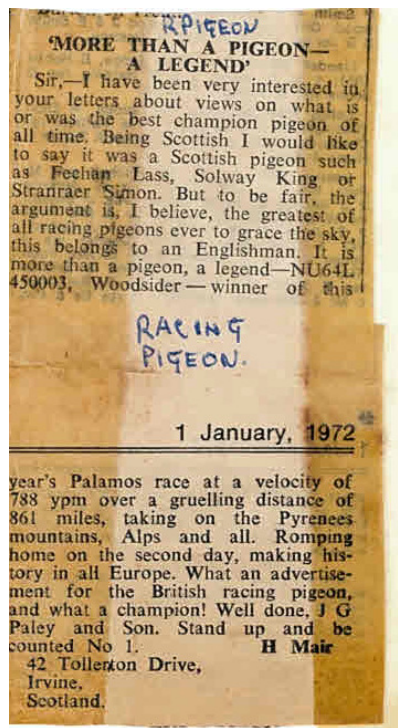


The array of trophies won for Palamos 1971

The Breeding of "Woodsider" - Dam – Red Chequer NU62P7920. No breeding details as she was bought as a new introduction to the loft, selected for what we considered the perfect confirmation. Said to be of the Westcott strain.

Sire – Blue Chequer Pied NU61NWY1755. A most consistent racer with 7 T.R.P.A Merit Awards to his credit. A 1st prize winner from the longest young bird race. A top prize winner particularly from Channel races including the prestigious Pennine 2 Bird Club. Finally going down at his 15th Channel crossing. He was of the Osman strain, bred from a father to daughter mating, being a Grandson and Great Grandson of "Clifton Pride" the 1958 News of the World St Malo Winner.

Following the win, we were interviewed by Colin Osman, the Editor of the Racing Pigeon. Once the full story was in the fancy press we began receiving many letters of congratulations from fanciers, many of which we did not know, particularly them from overseas, all with a similar post address on the envelope – J & J.G. Paley, Pigeon Fanciers, Silsden, Yorkshire, England. Living in a village this was no problem for our local postie. Letters arrived from past friends, associates and many genuine fanciers who just wished to express their thoughts on such a great performance.



Typical letter received from fanciers

I like to think we were already popular fanciers before the win, but suddenly we were in demand to attend Prize Presentations and Shows. From early October to New Year we hardly had a Friday or Saturday night without a pigeon function.



Jack G and Shirley Paley at the Central Southern Classic Flying Club Presentation

Saturday 16th October 1971, a night never to forget. The British Barcelona Club 7th Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation held at The Pavilion, Bournemouth. An amazing night to be in the company of so many great long distance pigeon fanciers, and there to receive the vast haul of trophies and the tremendous applause.



Jack and Jack G Paley at the BBC Presentation

Another very proud occasion was at the City Art Gallery, Leeds to receive from Guy C. Barrett, the Royal National Homing Union (as it was then) Yorkshire and Northern Centre Meritorious Award. A much cherished award for Yorkshire fanciers.

The final Award held at the Royal National Homing Union Headquarters, Cheltenham on Friday 25th February 1972, the ultimate award, The Queen's Trophy. In presenting the trophy Maurice Midgley President of R.N.H.U had great pleasure, as he was presenting to members of his own centre and we the Winners were the Secretary of his own racing organisation, the Great Yorkshire Amalgamation. I continued to attend many functions well in to the 1980's.

Champion Woodsider – Extreme Long Distance Racer.

Mealy Cock NU64L45003 TRPA Reg. 156092***** bred and raced by J & J.G. Paley, hatched 12th April 1964, died 5th September 1981.

It is so easy to say after the event, but “Woodsider” was the perfect pigeon. In the hand he appeared to ooze power and strength both in the hand and when standing. When free flying around the loft he as an individual, never flying for very long with the pack, he usually broke away to fly alone. Never a 1st prize winner until Palamos but always consistent and reliable, always determined to be home on the day of liberation. His direct progeny were not the best at racing but usually excelled at stock with reports of wins up to National level in England, Wales, Ireland, Sweden and in particular Scotland.

Following the win “Woodsider” retained his position in the main racing with the objective of going back to Palamos in 1972.


On the night of the 23rd/ 24th January 1972 thieves broke into all 5 lofts and stole him. We discovered the theft at 7.30am and immediately informed the Police who also informed C.I.D. Not knowing where he was or who many have him made us most suspicious of almost every pigeon fancier we knew or met. We did everything in our power to find him, this seriously affected our racing, at the time he was a very serious entrant for Palamos. It was not until late 1973 that an anonymous phone call gave us a faint lead which set us off on a trail to locate him. After several undercover trips to different lofts and many persistent phone calls, the thieves released “Woodsider” in late January after being caged for 2 years at 9 years old. He arrived back at the loft to us with his ring intact, it was just as if he had returned from Palamos again and won.

At the time of the theft the fancy press carried stories, reports and letters about the theft. So many most genuine heart felt letters we received decrying the terrible. All expressing their shame that people could do such a thing.

I could not call them fanciers. And so "Woodsider" went to stud where he spent 6 most deserved years at stud and retirement, where I could tend his every need.

"WOODSIDER"

HOMING WORLD 5TH FEBRUARY 72



STOLEN

A break-in at the lofts of J. and J. G. Paley of Silsden, during the night of January 23/24, was discovered at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of the 24th.

The thieves had broken the garden fence to gain admittance to the lofts, then forced an entry into the prisoner loft via the aviary, to find six hens recently purchased for stock purposes. They then moved to the next loft, where they gained entry by breaking in through a wired window.

In this loft were 22 racing cocks, which they did not want, so they forced the lock on the widowhood loft but again left the inmates. They then smashed in the front of the next loft which contained the hens and finally they forced the double locked doors of the last loft and found "Woodsider" the bird which they stole.

The local police were informed immediately and they called in the C.I.D., so that the matter is now in their hands.

Any fancier who has any information is asked to call at his local police station, or phone the Paley's at Steeton 52098 or Steeton 53313, reversing the charges.

AN APPEAL

Sir,—To breed, race and own a long distance champion racing pigeon is the aim of the majority of your readers, this aim we were fortunate enough to achieve in 1971 with Woodsider. We had great satisfaction whilst training him to peak fitness for the Palamos event, followed by the tremendous thrill of him winning the race, followed by months of engagements giving, presenting and receiving trophies, judging shows and attending other pigeon functions.

We have tried to share the success of Woodsider with all fanciers, all have been welcome at our lofts and Woodsider has been on display to the public and has even been to church for a special service, whilst at the same time we have allowed him his home freedom as any bird deserves, he has not been hidden away but been allowed the freedom of the loft he loves so very much.

After the intensive winter season of events we had the time on Sunday, Jan 23, to finalise our breeding arrangements for 1972, so then we looked forward to another breeding season.

On Monday morning, Jan 24, I paid my usual visit to the lofts at 7.30 am (still dark) to find all five lofts broken into and Woodsider no longer with us, he being the only pigeon missing. No doubt you can well imagine my thoughts at this time, also the thoughts of my father, who practically lives for Woodsider and the sport in general. These thoughts, believe me are very grim.

To the people who stole Woodsider, I appeal to you, let him go this weekend, he loves his loft so much. I will then have an answer to my young daughter's daily question of 'Where is my Woodsider?'

If he does come home all will be forgiven. If he does not return I feel at this time, that I must resign from the many administrative positions that I hold, as my feelings towards all fellow fanciers is waning fast. I have always trusted every pigeon fancier, but every man has a breaking point. Mine is very close and so is that of my father. If ever this time arrives I will devote my time to discovering the thieves who will be caught if they retain or kill our Woodsider.

J G Paley

West End,
53 Woodside Road,
Silsden, Keighley,
Yorkshire.

5/2/72

12 2 72 British Homing World

The "Woodsider" theft

Sir,—On receipt of my B.H.W. this morning, I read with dismay that yet another great champion of the sport had been stolen.

It has long been my belief that, while publicity of such birds and their performances is very good, the ring numbers should not be published, as this gives the "sportsmen" in our midst all the information they require to enter other fanciers' lofts and take just what they want. Surely withholding the ring numbers (these have already been checked by officials of races they have won) would help stop this in lofts where many of the birds look alike.

As Mr. Paley says, he feels like giving up all his admin. jobs. Well, who could argue when this is the reward for many hours of work for other people, usually to the detriment of one's own family life and one's own pigeons.

I hope that the thief gets real pleasure out of looking at a bird, locked away from anyone else's eyes in case of its recognition, knowing the feelings that the theft must be causing Mr. Paley.

JOHN FARMERY

York.

19 2 72

RHYMNEY VALLEY

I know the Welsh fanciers are appalled at the theft of J G Paley's 'Woodsider' following so closely the thefts from Emrys Jones of Sulby's loft. And as Mr Paley put it when speaking to one of our leading fanciers on the telephone over the weekend, 'To find that pigeon gone was like finding a coffin inside the loft'.

Unlike many previous thefts and burglaries as they now are under the 1968 Theft Act, it would appear that Mr Paley's loss is more sinister as the culprit(s) was/were more discriminating in only stealing the champion. Whereas when several pigeons are stolen it usually transpires that it is the work of juveniles who indiscriminately steal any bird and the more ignorant, for the pretty colours.

This latest outrage must be sending shivers down the spine of fanciers who have champions not housed in close proximity to their homes. Over this weekend Feb 5/6 I spoke to a local expert in burglar alarms who told me that it would not be impossible to have alarms fitted to fanciers homes and an audible alarm fitted inside the loft (what effect that would have on pigeons is another matter) but the installation would be costly and in some instances impracticable.

I know of some lofts after a series of 'breaks' resigned themselves to the best protection of the lot—an Alsatian roaming at night on a long lead. At £3 per week for food—again this is an expensive form of deterrent. I admit I don't know the

answer as such acts often lead to fanciers giving up the sport in despair or taking them several years to recover.

I do not believe it unwise for fanciers with valuable stock acquired through the cheque book or those like Mr Paley's, nurtured into champions, to contact the local Police Crime Prevention Officer—who after examining the layout may through his expert knowledge suggest a means of deterring such lowly acts.

I know nothing can replace a champion once it has been stolen, but if the thief is under the impression that steps are being taken by a fancier to curtail criminal activity then surely it will be worth it.

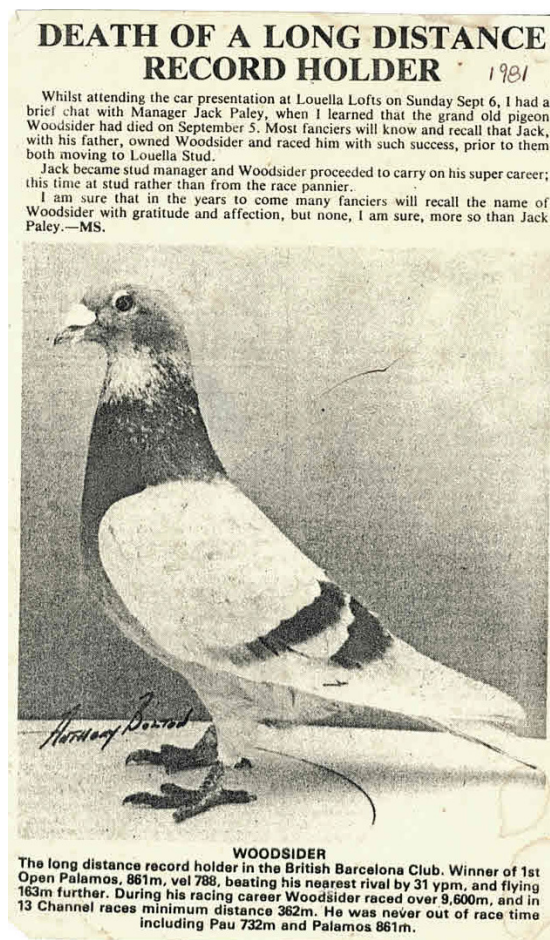
Morgannwg

Saturday 5th September 1981, a day never to forget. I went to the loft to see “Woodsider” and immediately realised he was not at all well although he was standing on his perch. But it was obvious to me that things were not right. I picked him up and held him for over an hour, then his head very, very slowly rested back on me as he passed most peacefully away. How fortunate I was to be with him at the end.

I had never had a pigeon die in my hands before or since and I doubt very much if any fanciers have experienced such a happening. “Woodsider” always the individual right to the end, only he could do that, thanks. He was laid to rest in front of the loft he raced to successfully on so many occasions.

At the end of the 1976 season, I ended my time pigeon racing and began a career with racing pigeons which lasted for 18 years. It was a massive decision in 1976 but the years after “Woodsider” was stolen were not easy, always thinking that the next fanciers face you saw could have been involved with the theft. This swung my decision to give up racing.

Writing this article has dredged up so many memories from the past, very many great ones and a few not so good. But that’s life.



Thank you to the Racing Pigeon and the British Homing World for permitting the use of their Press Clippings.

British Barcelona Club Result Palamos 1971

277 members sent 615 birds.

Sections = A – 265 birds B – 162 birds C – 105 birds D – 25 birds E – 58 birds

Birds liberated on 25th June 1971 at 6am in a light North Wind.

Open	Sect	Name	Town	Ring No	Distance	Vel
1	1E	J & J G Paley	Silsden, W Yorks	NU64L45003	861 m	788
2	1B	T J Perrett	Mere, Wilts	NU66N38890	684 m	757
3	2B	A Short	Swanage	NU67F61174	648 m	753
4	3B	R Trueman-Dicken	Wells, Somerset	NU67C97258	698 m	697
5	4B	A R Phillips	Weymouth	NU67M43848	658 m	695
6	5B	R Churchill	Weymouth	NU66N28449	657 m	627
7	1C	W H Cushley	Kingswood, Bristol	NU67B519	711 m	532

8	2C	E B Rowbotham	Stroud, Glos	NU63N2740	724 m	515
9	1A	C Medway	Southampton	NU67F13801	658 m	507
10	3C	Evans & Sons	Blakeney, Glos	NU67J48304	730 m	505
11	4C	B R Notton	Swindon, Wilts	NU68J38382	704 m	503
12	2A	B G Hall	Hastings	NU67L40613	632 m	502
13	6B	J Edwards	Romsey, Hants	NU67F16117	664 m	496
14	3A	S Cecil & Sons	Ramsgate, Kent	NU63N53939	655 m	484
15	7B	A R Phillips	Weymouth	NU67M43842	658 m	479
16	1D	D Rogers	Abingdon	NU67A27788	703 m	477
17	4A	K Morey	East Cowes IOW	NU66M63314	645 m	470
18	5A	Bowden & Auger	Southampton	NU66N10526	657 m	458
19	6A	W J Challen	Cookham Dean	NU66A68699	691 m	456
20	7A	T Leggatt	Emsworth	NU67B79525	636 m	451
21	8B	R C Jarvis	Coombe Bissett	NU68J167	673 m	439
22	8A	J Flynn	Ramsgate, Kent	NU68D44090	656 m	437
23	9A	G W Ince	Cowes, IOW	NU67N19234	646 m	408
24	9B	R Trueman-Dicken	Wells, Somerset	NU68E99425	698 m	380
25	10A	W J Challen	Cookham Dean	NU65C47198	691 m	380
26	11A	R Fossey	Emsworth	NU66N16360	647 m	359
27	12A	J Derbyshire	Whitchurch	NU67F30518	676 m	327
28	10B	R A J Wickham	Street, Somerset	NU68J36615	695 m	326
29	11B	K S Richardson	Salisbury	NU66N26477	674 m	324
30	13A	M/M A J Tier	Emsworth	NU64E42305	647 m	314
31	2D	M/M W E Davies/Son	Aylesbury	NU68J23661	708 m	
32	14A	K Morey	East Cowes IOW	NU66N50761	645 m	253
33	12B	W Stephenson	Shaftesbury	NU63B31109	677 m	250
34	15A	R Mitcheison & Son	Winchester	NU65N3976	667 m	249
35	13B	A Hustler	Poole, Dorset	NU67K37457	657 m	248
36	16A	F Attrill	Ryde, IOW	NU68S85107	642 m	246
37	17A	C J Edwards	Romsey, Hants	NU67S4550	664 m	201
38	14B	M/M T Trimby	Melksham, Wilts	NU67F10704	699 m	200
39	5C	R H Lester	West Bromwich	NU67C42257	772 m	183
40	6C	W Tossell & Son	Pontyclun, Glam	WHU68K826	731 m	181
41	15B	R A Brown	Salisbury	NU67L90914	694 m	174
42	7C	V Preddy	High Littleton	NU68J51950	703 m	160
43	8C	W Tossell & Son	Pontyclun, Glam	WHU69J1945	731 m	156
44	16B	D Challis	Wimborne, Dorset	NU65N21850	669 m	152
45	18A	J H Peel	Godstone, Surrey	NU63N15119	658 m	148

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