



**International Federation**  
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## I.F. INTERVIEW REPORT FOR CHAMPION FLYERS

First Champion Loft. 25-75 lofts 2007 Old Birds

First H.O.F. Young Birds 2007 IF-07-RLPC-471

Kyle Bolton

By Paul Walsh



### ***How did you get involved in pigeons?***

I got started when I was 14 with a couple birds from my uncle, Tim Bolton. Carroll Hoover gave me a pair of racers, and 1 pair turned into a hobby. I became a competitive pigeon racer. Also, when I was 18 I bought my first house in Red Lion, a 3 unit apartment building. A local fancier, Lew Burns, helped me build my first flying loft on this property. Today in 2007, I still fly old birds from this loft Lew help me build. I have a wife Laura and 2 young sons, Braden and Bryce, ages 4 and a year and a half. My wife and I also raise and show English Mastiffs dogs. This past year I started the Pa. Dutch Classic one loft race, my wife is a huge help to me and the one reason for my loft success.

### ***Do you fly in a club?***

I fly in the Red Lion pigeon club in the United Pigeon Combine which is situated in south Eastern Pennsylvania with clubs extending to Md. We have many very well known and respected fanciers in the combine and some are considered "professional" flyers as well. So, the competition is at a high level and only the best of the best stay at the top of the race sheet. We fly from the southwest down interstate 81, which is a disadvantage for my loft, but with harder work we can still win.

### ***Tell us a little about yourself? When do you pair your breeders?***

I pair up around the beginning of December.

### ***How many pairs of breeders do you keep?***

I usually keep 20-30 pair

***How do you choose your breeding pairs?***

Since I am very busy, I usually let them pick their own mates the first year. If a mating does not work out I change them the 2nd year, and if still no luck, they are culled.

As far as what strains I have, well, the blood of my loft is a little everything. I just breed for performance. My base is down from a seagull cock from Hoover to which I crossed all my best flyers that I stocked over the years.

If my birds aren't clocking, then my breeding isn't working. I usually stock my two best flyers after each season. I believe this gives me a colony of birds that fly for me.

***Do you use eye sign to help select your pairs?***

No I do not have a clue about eye sign and do not pretend to know anything.

***Do you breed in individual cages?***

It would be better if I did, but since I do not sell many pigeons, my open loft way of breeding is working so why fix it.

***In looking for pigeons to breed do you look for a particular family?***

I mainly want consistency in body type, and flying ability.

***What type of birds do you now fly? Big, med., small?***

As for what of type birds I fly, it is a mixture. I usually will try almost anything and have tried many, many different ideas in the breeding loft. Some of my birds are big and some are small. One thing I hate is a wild bird in the loft.

**OLD BIRDS:**

***What type of system do you use – widowhood, natural, etc.?***

For old birds I have to fly natural because of running the one loft race, which I do on the same property. This was our first year for the Pa. Dutch classic and had close to 200 birds to start. I personally built the loft myself and run it with my wife Laura. This year at the Pa. Dutch classic we are doing an early and a late race. Look for our advertisement in this 'sky Talk 2008. If I flew widowhood, the cocks would see the one loft race birds. I usually fly 40 old birds. In old birds I send the same birds each week if they are ready. For me to know if the birds are right for the race, I let them show me their condition on shipping day. This is what I look for: while in the loft the birds must be shining and clean. I usually want them to be flying 1 hr or more at the loft, have their flights right, and the birds are motivated and blowing out in the body at the end of the week, then they get shipped.

The team must loft fly daily, the longer the better. Birds not staying in the air are not considered for the next week race. We usually train 2 times a week. I rely on my wife to do the loft flying while I'm at work and my good friends Carroll Hoover and John Price help with the road work. I will race all the birds any distance 100-600 miles

**YOUNG BIRDS:**

***How many young birds do you start with every year on your race team?***

I normally like to start with 60 birds. But each year, the number of birds is different. I fly the dark system for the first bred round of young birds, and then natural light for the rest of the year's bred birds.

***If you get a sick bird do you try to cure it?***

Yes, but I shouldn't, because usually if they are weak, it's always a problem. This year with doing the one loft race, I found out that even some of the ones I thought were my best pairs, there youngsters that did not have the immune system that others did. It was hard for me to call lofts who had birds in the Pa. Dutch Classic and tell them their bird was sick and they would tell me it was out of their best but this showed me personally even in my own loft some proven birds just do not cut it when it comes to immunity. This is something we all need to learn it would save us a lot of money on antibiotics.

***Do you feed them once a day or twice a day?***

I usually feed 2 times a day light to heavy, and quality feed.

After the young bird races have started we usually train 2 times a week 40 miles.

***Do you cut flights, pull tail feathers, do you have your birds finished with body molt when races start, or are you a natural flyer if so when do you start to breed?***

I would prefer to have them not molting but usually that isn't the case.

**What championships have you won, in the club, combine or nationally?**

In the club I guess I have won almost all championships and awards at some time or other over the years. This year, 2007, I won combine average speed for old birds 2nd average speed for young birds, and overall old and young bird average speed.

***Do you think your position is a good one as far as combine races is concerned? How big is Combine? Club?***

I have won many combine awards and as far my position in the combine, I would say it stinks! There are certain clubs that for politically changed the course we fly to give them an advantage, which makes us work harder and we still win! That shows hard work and team work pay off! But you need Great pigeons also.

***Do you believe in eye sign?***

I honestly know nothing about eye sign.

***Describe you loft? Here is an example!***

My loft is 32 ft by 12 ft. and is divided into 5 compartments 6x8 with a 4-foot hallway. ***Do you have a separate breeding loft? Is there airflow in loft, fans, etc?***

Yes, my breeding loft is 12 x 20 with three sections, the old bird loft is 8 x 20 and young bird loft is 10 x 10 with two sections. I sometimes separate the young bird sexes. Since I run the one loft race, I have the best trainer, Carroll Hoover. He drives my van and we are willing to train almost anyone's birds. We feel if people do not work together its harder for everyone. We also train the birds with a lot of tosses. The one loft birds and our team they all go to the same spot. They go as often as Mother Nature cooperates with us, and we try to start early so we have plenty of time incase we hit a week of bad weather. So, others who say they didn't get their birds trained because of weather are just using that as a excuse. It's not uncommon to see us crating our birds up the night before because we sometimes leave very early in the morning. Plus, I have taken an occasional vacation day to train the birds.

***Do you recommend others to apply for I.F. awards?***

I think everyone should apply for these awards. This was a special one for me, since I won it while doing a one loft race! How many one loft race directors can say they did that?

***If you could pass on one piece of advice to fanciers young and old what would it be?***

That, we as a sport, need to work together and stop all the bickering that goes on. Isn't it suppose to be fun?

I would like to thank the IF membership and officers for these 2007 awards. Undoubtedly, many hours of effort have been spent compiling the IF Awards on a national basis. Thank You to the IF for the opportunity to participate in this award process.



*Kyle at the door of the PA Dutch Classic Loft*



*Kyle and Carroll Hoover*