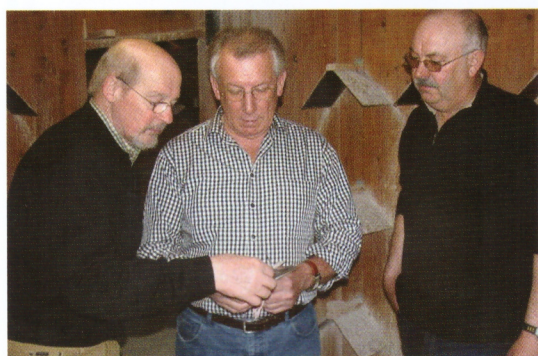


An interview with an Ace Brunner Breeder - Sabastian Gumplinger

Nick Dawyd

The Recessive colour gene expressed in any breed of pigeon is one of the undisputed gems in the pigeon world. My own experience with the beautiful Recessive Yellow Brunner commenced back in 1997 and very early on I soon realised that this variable Pandora's box of a gene comes with a lots of unwanted baggage. Many of you in the pigeon world will know that birds which express this recessive colour gene code are not the most virile or strong in comparison to the traditional standard colours, subsequently the fundamental principles of correct pigeon management MUST be set high, i.e. correct loft climate, strict control with any sign of any weakness no matter how good the bird is or was! To the breeder who dedicates their goal in perfecting this, the can of worms gene, should expect a roller coaster ride of highs and many lows. Let me introduce you someone who in many breeders estimation is one of the tops in the Brunner Pouter World, he, in a relatively short time span, has won an incredible two Best In Shows at the main German Brunner Club Show with the Recessive Yellow, his name? Mr. Sebastian Gumplinger. My first encounter with Sebastian was back in 2003 at Reichertschofen, near Munich, when I had the pleasure of judging the yellow self Brunners, one fantastic young yellow cock bred by Sebastian was awarded 97pts, later this Brunner went on to win overall Champion Best In Show. In 2006, Sebastian repeated another Best in Show, again with another young yellow cock! An outstanding achievement, subsequently several serious breeders in the U.K. hold the bloodlines of Sebastian's Yellows in the highest regard, and whenever I am in the Munich area it's always a priority to visit Sebastian. I myself restarted afresh with yellows in 2005 with the introduction of a single pair of yellows from Sebastian, which formed the foundation of my Yellow family. Sebastian freely admits that he has no interest or inclination to write a long resume about his hobby, so with the help of his daughter Michaela, I can present a short interview based on questions asked regarding his involvement, methods and wishes for the future of the breed and his hobby.

Sebastian is now 62 years of age and is a land and pig farmer. His spacious pigeon lofts are set in a large barn on the first floor above the animals, no doubt the warmth from the animals in the barn, importantly helps maintain a warm dry floor. He has been breeding pigeons since he was 10 years old, starting with Strassers. In 1978 he changed breeds to the Voorburg Shield Croppers, breeding only reds and yellows. Success was achieved at local Bavarian district shows and a few VDT shows. In 1999 on a visit to his local pigeon club show, he was very impressed by the beautiful type of the Brunner, with long slender legs and small dainty bodies, these quickly replaced the Voorburgs! The Brunner was now going to be his future new breed. Sebs first Brunners were whites from a local breeder Willi Hoffman and Blue Pieds from Erwin Sedlmeier. Later he bought yellows from Helmut Fuhrer and Franzjosef Lutkelhelweg, importantly as a crossing exercise to improve the type and body of the Yellows he crossed in the blue pieds. The impact and outcome was, 2 Best In Shows and 4 German Brunner prizes in the strong competitive Red and Yellow colour group. Preventative health treatments are annual vaccinations, for paratyphus, paramyxo and treatment when the need arises for tricomonosis. Each year Sebastian breeds from 18 to 20 pairs, 3 pairs to 5 pairs in Pieds, the remainder are normally Yellow X Yellow with a few odd reds, 12 pair of Arabian Trumpeters are sometimes mobilized as feeders if he decides to breed one male with 4 partners at the same time. After the first selection of youngsters, Sebastian normally runs about 60 to 80 young birds on until after the moult is completed, providing they are physically strong, a few faults are tolerated until the final selection. The same grain is fed all the year around, which is from a well-known German grain supplier, Betz, vital 6. Throughout the year with lots of greens and vegetables from the garden added as supplements. Sebastian only shows at a maximum of 2 shows a year, with always the main goal being the main Brunner Club Show. Preparation is a common system of cage preparation as for all the cropper breeds so that they present themselves as best as possible. Sebastian like all the serious yellow breeders wishes to see improvement in colour density whilst maintaining white beak colour and smooth feather structure which is one of the greatest problems affecting all Recessive Reds and Yellow group. Since this interview was conducted, Sebastian has since shifted his focus and concentrated more on recreating the Recessive Yellow Pied marking directly from his family of Yellows, crossing into Recessive Red Pieds. In September 2016, I saw, some very promising and useful youngsters in this, one of the most difficult colour combinations to perfect. We wish him much luck in his latest quest and naturally much joy with the hobby and await the future results, lets watch this space. Thank you Michela and Sebastian.



From the left
The late Volker Fugmann
Middle Erwin Sedlmeier
Far right Sebastian Gumplinger
All three Bavarian Brunner breeders who have between them 5 Best in Shows At the main Brunner club Shows

