

Today is Sunday June 18, 2006, I got up at 5.30 am.

Yesterday the birds flew Estaire and Smooth Rock. The birds from Estaire were up at 6 am and the first ones homed between 10 and 10.30 am. Not bad for a hot humid day. An average speed of approx. 70 km.

After Estaire, I thought Smooth Rock should work out fine. These birds went up at 7.30am and would have to deal with the high heat of the day and some rather strong South, South West winds. I was mistaken. The birds from Smooth Rock had a hard time. At about 6 pm I started to worry and called some of our members. Peter Kuo was the only one who had just clocked 2 birds. The other members: Nothing. Later on Pat Kleyn called that he had 2 and myself I had 3 yearlings come through. Peter Kuo ended up with 9 day birds. Excellent Peter. I do not know the returns on the day from the other members.

I have just finished my 2nd cup of coffee. It is now 7 am and I have not seen any birds. (By 9 o'clock 8 birds returned for a total of 11.)

It will be interesting to see if the other combines are doing any better, According to my theory the Ottawa Valley Combine should do O.K. But there is little doubt that this has been one of the toughest National races ever.

Good Luck

Tom Brouwer

P.S. The Dutch will have to play a lot better soccer then they did in the first two games if they want to beat Argentina on Wednesday. But a word to the wise, NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE DUTCH!!

