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THE HOME OF LONG DISTANCE PIGEON RACING

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The British Barcelona Club celebrating '50' years 2014

Barcelona International 1st Open 1st Section B Tony Stephens from Poole With "Blue Roy"

Well, it's come round again. The biggest race in the Club's calendar, Barcelona the "Blue Riband". A real marathon for only the fittest pigeons to excel and as always it has shown up some exceptional performances. This year 91 members entered 250 birds with 39 of these being duplicated from the BICC and an overall total being entered in to the International of 21,143 pigeons. It was great for the BBC and BICC to work together in collection and conveying of the birds to Belgium. I would like to thank Carol Francis for her advice and John Tyerman and Albie Deacon for their help in making this possible.

These are the reports received up to being sent to the magazines. More reports will follow next week.

Winner of the "Blue Riband" Race is Tony Stephens from Poole 1st Open 1st Section B.

Tony is no stranger to timing from Barcelona being 1st Section B 8th Open in 2013, 5th Section B 22nd Open in 2012. So he's been knocking on the door.

He also flies a good bird at all distances, 2014: he was 7th & 8th Section 15th & 17th Open CSCFC Messac, 56th & 61st Open BBC Niort, 61st Open being his Barcelona winner. 2013, 40th Open Messac CSCFC, 23rd Open CSCFC Bergerac. 2012, 52nd Open NFC Saintes. 27th Open CSCFC Messac. His Barcelona winner was 3rd Section 5th Open NFC Fougères. 2011, 26th Open BBC Messac, 50th Open BBC Carentan. 2009, 27th Open NFC Alençon. 2008, 37th Open NFC Tarbes and 19th Open CSCFC Messac.

"Blue Roy" is a 2009 late bred, bred by Scott Storie. He is from a 1995 supercrack cock from Roy Seaton of Annan, which was twice bird of the year. With 7 x 1st the dam is from Mr & Mrs Brian Long's blue GB08N00731. She is from Elan GB98N441. Sire of Glazer 1st 3rd Open NFC Pau. Highest priced bird at Jim Biss' sale and went for £9,000.

Recent performance is 3 x Tarbes in race time, 30th Section B 164th Open 3,290 birds, 12th Section B 113th Open Saintes NFC 4,131 birds, 3rd Section 5th Open NFC Fougères 7,064 birds and 61st Open Niort National a few weeks ago.

Thanks to Scott Storie not only for giving me the bird but for taking the bird to the marking station. Well done to everybody who clocked in a pigeon.



Tony Stephens.



Blue Roy.

Keith Gosling & Mick Jarvis of Mountnessing who are 2nd Open 1st Section J are a partnership of all rounders 29th & 51st BICC Tours, 9th, 38th, 58th & 95th NFC Carentan, 7th Open BBC Barcelona 2013, 25th & 37th BBC Messac, 88th NFC Cholet, 69th Open BICC Alencon, 69th Open NFC Carentan 2012. 11th BBC Barcelona, 59th BICC Agen, 33rd BBC Fougères, 42nd BICC Pau, 46th, 61st, 71st & 90th BICC Tours, 46th BICC Falaise 2012. 30th BBC Fougères, 10th & 33rd LSECC Bergerac, 55th & 56th LSECC Tarbes, 1st & 2nd Section 4th & 6th Open BBC Poitiers, 26th Open BICC Falaise 2011. 7th Open & 24th Open NFC St Malo, 5th & 6th Open BICC Falaise YB, 1st Section 4th Open LSECC Tarbes, 2nd Open LSECC Pau 2007. So as you can see excellent flyers at all distances.

The partnership timed a 3 year old widowhood cock. The sire of the winning pigeon is Kiro bred by Jim Biss and is grandson of Vend 1st NFC Pau and Salve the sire of Turban 2nd NFC Pau. The dam is 57 bred by Ponderosa UK Stud and is a Muller Aarden Mona Lisa x Cartier lines. The winning pigeon has always been very reliable but often beaten by loft mates he was 135th Section NFC as a yearling and last year he was 12th Section 87th BBC Niort which was a very testing race.

Prior to Barcelona he had 3 inland races, Messac, Tours and Poitiers. He is exercised twice daily for 1 hour and was fed on Verse Laga super widowhood and Liege mixed with plenty of peanuts. After the Poitiers race he was just exercised on the Friday prior to basketing, all the other cocks were removed from his section and he was given his hen until the morning of basketing.

From experience it seems to calm the cocks down as they are away from the loft so long. This is the partnerships 3rd ever attempt at Barcelona, 2012 11th Open, 2013 7th Open and now 2nd.

The partnership had a great day they were also 4th Open in the BBC Fougères race.

Keith is holding 2nd Open and Mick 4th.



Keith Gosling & Mick Jarvis.

Tony Cowan from Southampton. 3rd Open 1st Section A.

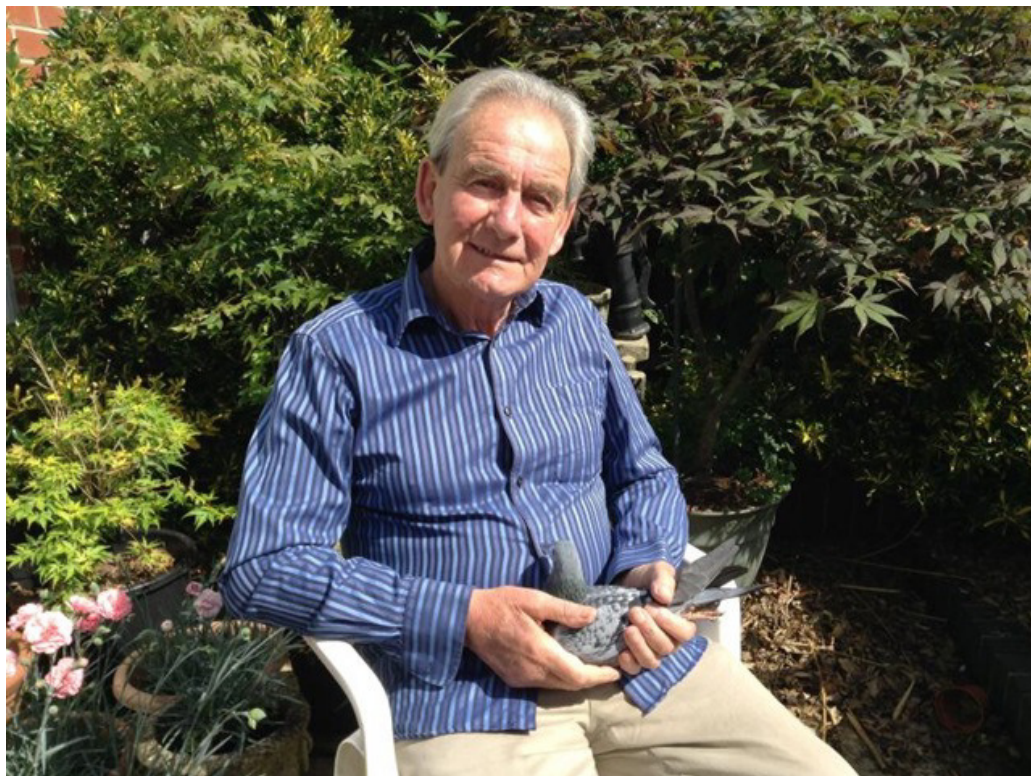
Tony needs no introduction. He has been a top flyer before most of us were born! Recent performances, provisionally 2nd Section 25th Open NFC Messac, 13th Open CSCFC Bergerac 2013, 46th Open CSCFC Tarbes 2013, 69th Open NFC Messac 2013, 30th Open NFC Carentan, 58th Open CSCFC Tarbes 2012, 19th Open CSCFC Bergerac 2011, 5th Open CSCFC Bergerac, 1st & 3rd Open CSCFC Messac 2010, 3rd, 13th, 21st, 47th Open NFC Alencon 2009. 2008 6th Open CSCFC Tarbes, 3rd Open BICC Pau, 10th Open BICC Alencon. Over the years Tony has won several Opens.

My heart always misses a beat when our Clare phones. Usually about sending the wrong race sheet or I've added it up wrong. But this time it's very pleasing to be told that "Sheppard's Delight" was 1st Section, especially when without her or Martin's help I probably would not of sent. They took my entries to the marking station due to the trouble and strife having a stay in hospital and unlike Johnny Attrill of Salisbury's wife, Maria is not pregnant.

The blood lines are the legend Brian Sheppard with Lucas on the sire's side. One race this year and then in to Barcelona, no training, just locked out most of the day, being chased by hawks etc.

The feeding is GEM the best quality and value on the market, still 25 kilos and Brian Wall being my stress councillor often recommends several of his excellent natural products to good effect!

I stated in an article last week that I was going back to long distance racing, so after many years of not competing, within a week up pops "Sheppard's delight".



Tony Cowan.

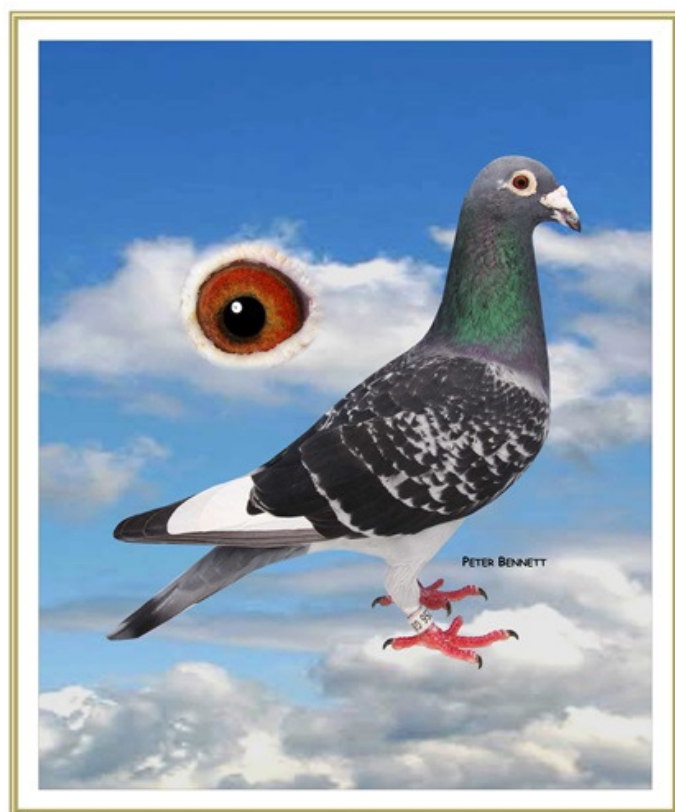
Bert Shepherd of Woodmancote. 4th Open 2nd Section A.

Bert is a Barcelona specialist. He has a beautiful family of pigeons. His 4th Open winner now being awarded a Spanish Diploma. In 2012 Bert was 16th Open NFC Tarbes, 2011 8th Open NFC Tarbes, 15th Open BBC Palamos, 2010 4th, 17th & 30th Open NFC Tarbes, 1st Open BBC Barcelona, 2009 15th Open BBC Lamballe YB, 6th & 7th BBC Barcelona, 34th Open NFC Tarbes, 2005 2nd & 4th Open NFC Pau. As you can see an outstanding distance man and family of pigeons.

I would like to start by thanking our secretary Clare & Martin for doing a great job for the BBC club, and my thanks go to the liberators.

My bird is called SHERGAR and some performances to date are 2nd Club Guernsey beaten by a loft mate, 58th Section A Fougères NFC, 27th Section A Saintes NFC, 35th Section A, 293rd Open Tarbes NFC, 20th Section A 131st Open Tarbes NFC, 18th Section 216th Open Tarbes NFC, 1st Section A 4th Open BBC Barcelona, 2nd Section A 6th Open Barcelona and if this result does not change he will be 2nd Section A and 4th Open Barcelona and winning a Spanish Diploma.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the fanciers that phoned me with congratulations, many thanks to all.



SHERGAR
GRB 07/15/204
2nd Club, Guernsey (beaten by Loftmate)
58th Section 'A', National Flying Club, Fougères (2nd Section 'A', National Flying Club, Saintes)
20th Sect. 'A', 293rd Open National Flying Club, Tarbes, 20th Sect. 'A', 21st Open National Flying Club, Tarbes
18th Sect. 'A', 216th Open National Flying Club, Tarbes
1st Sect. 'A', 4th Open, British Barcelona Club, Barcelona.
Bred & raised by
A.R. Shepherd (Fougères)

Bert Shepherd's "Shergar"

Jim & Hazel Hooper from Cardiff. 5th Open 1st Section C.

Jim and Hazel have been great Ambassadors for the BBC and also tireless servants. Since retiring from his BBC commitments Jim has been able to concentrate his efforts on his long distance team being very successful. 16th Open BICC Pau 2013, 22nd BICC Agen 2012, 18th Open CSCFC Tarbes 2009, 10th Open BICC Pau 2008 and 22nd Open CSCFC Messac 2008.

When I received a very welcome phone call from Clare the club secretary informing me that our bird was winning the section from Barcelona you can imagine that I was up on cloud nine as it was only our second attempt at this distance since the mid sixties due to being involved in administration which did take up a great deal of our time, leaving not much time to give to the birds, so to be competing at this type of race, long distance racing, it is a bonus when not only getting the bird safely home but doing so well in the actual result.

The cock I timed was our only entry but sent with every confidence as he has been a good and consistent bird having flown Pau 591 miles on the day and then on to Barcelona 743 miles homing just a couple of hours after race closure plus other performances previously, so this year he was earmarked just for Barcelona and how he has done us proud for although being in the pigeon game nigh on most of my life with my dad before me that after clocking him in, it took me quite a while to come back down to earth after seeing him back home being greeted by his hen myself included, the excitement of it all is unbelievable such is the thrill of long distant racing.

I would like to thank all those who have rang/e-mails etc to congratulate Hazel and myself it is really appreciated.

The cock timed was sent sitting on eleven day eggs at basketing and has been bred down from a hen bred by Tony Leggatt when mated to a cock who is a mixture of Ken Hine, Lol Green, Derek Reid, all of which I might add were gifted to me and my own Kirkpatrick family, all full of well known distance bloodlines.

We send our own congratulations to all who gets a bird home from Barcelona as it is a very special race The Blue Riband in any club. Hazel and Jim.



Jim Hooper.

Alan Turner from Dover. 6th Open 1st Section G.

Another fancier who has excelled from long distance racing for almost 20 years. Just some of his most recent performances are: 13th Open BICC Perpignan 2013, 11th Open BICC St Vincent 2013, 17th Open BICC Barcelona 2012, 2nd Open, 7th Open, 15th Open BICC Perpignan 2011, 7th Open BICC Barcelona 2011, 6th Open BICC Pau 2011, 19th Open BBC Palamos 2011, 13th Open BICC Narbonne 2010, 9th Open BICC Tarbes 2010, 3rd Open BICC Barcelona 2010, 3rd Open BICC Saran 2010, 3rd Open BICC Perpignan 2009, 2nd & 4th Open BICC Tarbes 2009, 8th Open BICC Barcelona 2009, 5th Open BICC Pau 2009 also winning the Europa Cup for the best average in all International races competing in the BICC.

Preparation for this race was eight trainers at Bedhampton which is 100 miles to me. Midweek training from Staplefield about 60 miles. My blue cock is from my old Delbar family and was sent to

Barcelona with a big youngster in the nest and sitting five days. He has flown Bergerac, Pau and Perpignan 15th Open 12th ES 585 miles. BICC Barcelona 2013 43rd Open 21st ES, BBC 2013 23rd Open 4th Section G. Feeding consists of Bucktons Irish Mixture, sunflower hearts, peanuts and canary mixture.



Alan Turner.

Tony & Carol Welch from Chichester. 7th Open 2nd Section G.

This partnership has had a brilliant last couple of seasons of which most would be proud of. Recent results include: 1st Section 63rd Open BBC Niort 2014, 1st Section 183rd Open BBC Messac 2014, 26th Open BBC Tours YB 2013, 83rd NFC Carentan YB 2013, 36th, 38th, 50th & 53rd BBC Fougères YB 2013, 39th Open CSCFC Guernsey 2013, 34th Open BBC Bordeaux 2013, 5th Open BBC Messac 2013, 67th Open Tarbes 2013, 31st Open BBC Carentan 2013, 1st Open CSCFC Carentan YB 2012, 7th Open BBC Bordeaux 2012, 18th Open CSCFC Tarbes 2012, 36th Open BBC Barcelona 2012, 18th NFC Messac 2012, 55th Open NFC Tarbes 2008.

The pigeon I clocked is a 5 year old blue hen. I flew her out of Tarbes twice and she performed well. When I sent her to Barcelona she was sent with high hopes. She is bred down from a Martin Mitchell/ Janssen pigeon which he flew out of 500 miles plus. Which was a gift pigeon from my good friend Lou Severe.



Tony Welch.

Bill Knox (SR & WH Knox) of Canterbury. 10th Open 3rd Section G.

Here is yet another top distance partnership. They talk about pigeons with good pedigrees but this partnership has a great pedigree themselves. 4th Open BICC St Vincent 2013, 16th Open BICC Agen 2013, 15th Open BICC Pau 2013, 1st Open EECC Pithiviers 2012, 2nd, 14th & 20th Open BICC Barcelona 2010, 5th Open LSECC Pau 2010, 11th Open BICC Pau 2010, 10th, 13th & 15th Open BICC Marseille 2010, 6th Open BICC Tarbes 2008, 2nd Open BICC Pau 2008, 6th Open BICC Pau 2007, 10th & 11th Open BICC Marseille 2005, 4th Open BICC Biarritz 2005 and 4th Open BICC Barcelona 2005.

The 5 year old chequer cock was sent sitting 10days at basketing. His preparation was 3 EECC races, Cannappeville 140 miles, Saran 234 miles and Pithivers 223 miles. He has previously flown Tarbes 512th Open NFC, Pau 76th Open, St Vincents 51st Open and 34th Open and Perpignan 66th open all with the BICC.

This Barcelona was his 20th time across the channel which was a good result as he arrived with a cut breast. His sire is a Kirkpatrick x Biss and his dam a Kirkpatrick x Chris Gordon.



Bill Knox's pigeon.

Bomber Mellis from Portsmouth. 11th Open 3rd Section A.

Bomber timed hi real superstar from Barcelona. This game pigeon has already achieved in 2012, 29th Open BICC Barcelona, 2011, 20th Open BBC Poitiers and 7th Open BBC Bordeaux, 2010, 89th Open BBC Poitiers, 2009, 89th Open BBC Bordeaux and 31st, NFC Saintes and 53rd Open NFC Tarbes. Bomber has many top performances distance or otherwise.

I will start with the heading "Man gets separated from pigeon and still finds his way home from the pub" as this was the heading on the email I received about Bomber.

Bomber timed a 2008 blue hen which has always been consistent for him this being her second time she has completed the flight back from Spain. Sending only 2 birds to Barcelona he is hoping for 100% returns.



Bomber Mellis.

Telephone and Website verifications which may be subject to change.

<i>Open</i>	<i>Mem No</i>	<i>Flying Name</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Ring Number</i>	<i>A-A-T</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Velocity</i>
1	B181	A Stephens	Poole	GB09J47469	13 51 32	2	835.984
2	J767	Gosling & Jarvis	Mountnessing	GB11N76446	17 58 12	2	752.336
3	A954	A Cowan	Southampton	GB10J353	16 55 31	2	739.666
4	A620	A E Shepherd	Woodmancote	GB07N15256	19 22 3	2	672.621
5	C1	Mr & Mrs J & H Hooper	Cardiff	GB08C74294	7 54 59	3	612.942
6	G772	A J Turner	Dover	GB07P17930	6 35 54	3	580.873
7	G37	Mr T & Mrs C Welch	Chichester	GB09B61524	8 1 8	3	548.145
8	J754	Mr & Mrs L Hawkins	Bishops	GB08J18787	12 44 50	3	531.659
9	D152	Mr & Mrs S Fear	Hayes	GB09N62680	12 38 25	3	516.284
10	G220	SR & WH Knox	Canterbury	GB09J10803	11 35 42	3	512.777
11	A683	E Mellis	Portsmouth	GB08N65478	11 16 13	3	502.738
12	G842	F Knowles & Son	Canterbury	GB10R30886	12 18 57	3	501.620
13	B355	J P Halstead	Gillingham	GB10N34448	14 34 58	3	484.235
14	E756	J G Rigg	Congleton	GB09N61824	7 23 2	4	464.859
15	A620	A E Shepherd	Woodmancote	GB10A612	15 4 1	3	459.870
16	C49	J Ludlam	Nelson	GB09P05032	20 30 42	3	459.261
17	G842	F Knowles & Son	Canterbury	GB10R31185	16 11 54	3	457.221
18	J767	Gosling & Jarvis	Mountnessing	GB09N92055	19 25 34	3	444.441
19	A25	L Kidd	New Milton	GB09N51852	18 15 41	3	429.457
20	B20	D Whitefield	Dorchester	GB07N13273	18 59 14	3	428.031
21	G842	F Knowles & Son	Canterbury	GB11N96486	8 0 34	4	375.046
22	G220	SR & WH Knox	Canterbury	GB10N10237	9 28 52	4	366.393
23	C650	C G Taylor	Bristol	GB10S45425	18 21 52	4	334.290

Thank you also to Karen James who has been a great help.

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