

President: Nigel Rigiani



Chairman: Mike Shepherd

THE HOME OF LONG DISTANCE PIGEON RACING

Patron: Mark Gilbert

**Palamos “Blue Riband” National
1st & 2nd Open 1st & 2nd Section B
Corey & Roger Owers from Crewkerne
With “Corey Boy” & “Gillie”**

For the British Barcelona Club’s prestigious “Blue Riband” race the Committee listened to the members wishes and returned to Palamos. With a total of 225 birds being entered by 97 members and the winds forecast as North/ North Westerly, this race was not going to be a walk in the park.

Warmest congratulations go to **Corey & Roger Owers from Crewkerne**. Not only our **“Blue Riband” Palamos Winners but also the Runners Up as well**, clocking the only two birds to arrive on the winning day!

Well, I did not think that I would be sat here on Father’s Day waiting to attend my Grandson’s birthday party (Corey pictured with me and my wife Gill) writing about my two winning pigeons...”Corey Boy” who came 1st and his mum “Gillie” who came in 2nd.

I first kept pigeons at my mum and dad’s house (being 1 of 11) since I was around 15 in the back garden, but not racing, just as pets.

When I was 21, I became interested in them further, so when I moved to Bradford Peverell, low and behold, next door lived a pigeon fancier, a very good distance flyer called Colin Foster which rekindled ideas of racing pigeons. So I started to race pigeons in the early 70’s joining Dorchester Pigeon Club.

Once I started racing I had the normal amount of success, good & bad for a few years but after I sat waiting for Colin Foster’s distance pigeons I became very interested but found it very hard getting past Saintes and started to lose good middle distance pigeons trying to fly long distance. At that time the name on everybody’s lips, without a shadow of a doubt was Reg Venner. To my mind still the best distance flyer I have had the pleasure of meeting.

After acquiring some distance pigeons I started to compete. I was flying against the like of Swain Brothers and Harry Watts who were at the time and still are classed as very good flyers.

Because of my work I have moved house more than I would like, Maiden Newton where I managed to win the Nantes Dorset Fed on the same day as the Centenary Nantes which I timed 5 on the day and was 30th Open out of 65,000. Later that year was 4th Open CSCFC Pau. My distance pigeons at the time were Tony Hustler blood lines and Fear Brothers which I later introduced the Cannon pigeons, which are still a big part of my blood lines to this day. When having to move on to Portland because of work everything became much harder with the constant threats of Peregrines and the position of Portland. Pigeons could fly well but not be noticed, although I had my moments namely being 6th Open in the Dax International (only 6 birds home in England on the day, ours being one of them). The same pigeon went on to win Pau 1st Section and 3rd Section the following year, taking first 4 positions in the Weydor Club and becoming their top money and prize winner, which is no mean feat as the Weydor Club is very hard to win. I was helped immensely by a good friend Jon Bayliss from Solihull who looked after my pigeons while I had work commitments. Jon gave me a lot of help and valued friendship before he moved back to the Midlands. Jon still has some of my old blood stock and we regularly swap pigeons. The same can be said for Kevin White and Tony Porter.

When the works contract was drawn to an end at Portland, we decided to move close to the A303 so we could get to Devon and Cornwall easier for holidays. When we moved to Crewkerne we saw an advert in the pigeon magazine by Jan and Albie Deacon trying to raise funding for Cancer Research because of a close friend being ill. Jan and Albie were asking people for donations for blocks of six young birds which we replied to and willingly donated money knowing Jan and Albie were not only very good pigeon flyers but as trustworthy as they come. The moral of this

information is how I ended up with a very good Southwell hen from them which has been blended with my own blood lines.

In recent years the pigeons I have timed now ("Gillie") is the mother she has taken 28th, 30th & 60th positions from Bordeaux with the ever helpful westerly wind (which is of no use at all). For two of those races was timed from Tarbes before the Bordeaux race and in the result all 3 times the same year.

On timing the 30th Open Bordeaux I received a phone call from the One Loft Race informing me I had just won the yearling race and "Gillie" was 28th Open winning £750 meaning mother and daughter were timed within half an hour of each other in the same race. "Gillie" (the hen we are talking about) is the hen that is 2nd Open today with her son "Corey Boy" being timed in front of her.

Many thanks to all the friends sending congratulations messages by phone and by pigeon chat. I am not the most technical so apologise if I have not got back to everyone but managed to put a thank you on one message. Needless to say a big thank you to Chris and Jack Frost for all the work they do in the Crewkerne Club which without them there would be no Crewkerne Club.

In regards to the pigeons there are some quite respectable North of England Combine results not mentioned plus what I really treasured was winning the Dorchester single bird Guernsey Open which has always meant a lot.

Once again many thanks to all my friends.



3rd Open 1st Section J – Mark Bulled from Harlow. I timed a 7 year old Widowhood cock from my old distance family responsible for 1st NFC Tarbes, 1st LSECC Tarbes, 5 x 1st LNRC Lerwick, 1st LNRC Thurso, etc, etc.

The Old Slate has been a good performer over the years – his best performances include 10th BICC Marseille and 17th LSECC Tarbes. He scored on the day at Bergerac as a yearling and has scored every season since.

When I heard the BBC was going to Palamos he was the ideal candidate. He was prepared this year with a couple of inland races and then Falaise 198 miles and Fougères 242 miles.

Apart from a little hungry and skinny he was very well on return.

I would like to congratulate Corey and Roger Owers on their amazing performance of timing the only two pigeons on the winning day and thank the BBC committee to listening to the wishes of the membership in putting this race on, probably the ultimate test there is.

Also a special thank you to Michael Shepherd in transporting the birds down to Salisbury.



4th Open 3rd Section B – Tony Cottrell, Ollie & Martyn Richmond from Wimborne. We timed a 7 year old blue chequer hen “Solstice Surprise”. She was bred by Nigel Rigiani from his birds crossed with some we gave him. She has flown in many races including Bordeaux, Pau, Bergerac etc. A very consistent pigeon for us. The sire GB 06 N 60918 from “Mr Alicante” son of “Comanchi” Spanish Diploma winner & Golden Salver award winner (Willy Clerebaut/Ken Hine) Flown Palamos 4 times for Nigel Rigiani. When paired tp “Lady Jane” 6 times Palamos and Barcelona again for Nigel.

The dam is from a son of our “Northern Lights” GB 00 X 54597 2nd Club Cholet, Nantes NFC, 3rd Cholet, 4th Bergerac then Bordeaux with the BBC. Turned North to win 1st Section 1st Open BICC, 18th Open 7,224b Pau International. Being the only bird on the day 525 miles.



5th Open 1st Section A – Walter Castledine from Farnham. My pigeon “Hurlands Castle” arrived home today looking as fresh as the day he went to the race though a little bit lighter.

In preparation for Palamos he had three build up races from Falaise BICC, Messac BBC and then Tours with the BICC. He was then left sitting 12-15 day old eggs until this race.

Hurlands Castle was breed by Pat O Sullivan from Enfield out of a son of Limerick Lady when paired to my Vander Espt hen which was breed by Nigel Llewellyn out of his old number 1 cock when paired to his dam.

Over the past few years he scored from Tarbes 3 times NFC, Bordeaux 60th Open BBC plus others.

After his huge effort today at six years old I've decided to give him a happy retirement.



6th Open 1st Section C – Bill Stribling from Weston Super Mare. This bird was bred by myself from Venner lines obtained from Dave Vowles of Street, Somerset.

The main stay of my loft now are the Venners from Dave and the “Van Newtons” from my nearest pigeon neighbour Phil Newton. This bird won for me last year 77th Open Carentan BBC and 14th Section 70th Open Cholet NFC.

In preparation for this race he was sent to Palamos sitting 12 day eggs, with 4 inland Club races up to 110 miles and 3 channel races Tours BICC, Messac BBC and Carentan BBC. I was elated to see him turn up in good time and win the Section from the longest race, which I have now won 3 times. I was also 2nd Section C in 2009.

The extreme distance races are my first love in pigeon racing.



7th Open 2nd Section A – Godfrey Kingswood-Cox from Southampton. GB11S93208 now named “Barcelos” in honour of the BBC is a grandson of my original Blue Thunder 2 1st Open only bird on the day CSCFC Pau. Winner of RPRA medal and is the pigeon that the CSCFC Blue Thunder challenge cup is named after as he would have won such a cup if there had been one because he won the best average Nantes & Pau and Pau & Bergerac cups and timed in from every race that year. Blue Thunder 2's son “Pollycock” is the father and among other things was the best pigeon in Europe over 5 National and Classic races. He also won his father's trophy for me when he was 3rd Open Pau, 6th Open Bergerac, 35th Open Nantes in CSCFC & 84th Open Saintes and 151st Open Pau in the NFC in the same year. The grandmother of “Barcelos” on the other side is “Daphne” who among many successes was the best pigeon in Europe over 4 National and Classic races when she was 9th Open Bergerac, 13th Open Pau in the CSCFC and 35th Open Saintes and 127th Open Pau in the NFC in the same year. The sister of “Barcelos” was supposed to have gone but she came back damaged from Fougères where I had sent her for a trainer so he was a last minute replacement which was slightly annoying as he had already timed in from all the CSCFC races so far and I was hoping to try and win the Blue thunder challenge cup with him by sending him to Pau. However his performance from this race has put

a smile on my face and I'll have to try again next year.

Half brothers and sisters to “Pollycock” such as “Thunder Bird” and “Lady Penelope” etc. have scored well from the big races for me as well including 14th, 38th and 39th Open Palamos, 33rd Open Saintes, 60th Open Nantes, 94th Open Nantes, 114th Open Pau and 125th Open Pau NFC etc. The mother of “Barcelos” is 19803 “Becky” named after my daughter who was 13th Open NFC Messac and was then put to stock because her mother was “Daphne”.

I would just like to congratulate all the other pigeons that have managed to struggle home from this BBC Palamos race and pat their owners on the back especially Corey & Roger Owers with there fantastic double performance



8th Open 1st Section d – Marley Westrop from Sandy. The section D winner is a 3 year old grizzle hen. A direct daughter of his NFC Section H Tarbes winning grizzle hen who is now retired. The section winner has flown nearly every race this year being rested three weeks before Palamos and paired to get her sitting for the task ahead. This is the fifth time Marley has won the section from Palamos and if you traced her bloodlines back some of those past winners would feature in her pedigree. Not that Marley reads pedigrees, as his only yardstick has been the basket and then only pigeons that race from 600 miles plus are kept.

Marley is 94 years young and has raced pigeons all his life winning from Thurso and Lerwick on the North. Pau, Tarbes and Palamos on the South. He also raced the Rome cock. He would like to thank his friends Terry Westwood and Les Jones for there help in assisting him to keep racing.



9th Open – Dave Newman & Chris Sevier from Salisbury. Dave started with pigeons in 1984 Chris (Sticky) Sevier, Dave's nephew joined him 5 years ago. Although they enjoy the Club racing scene, they look forward to the distance races with the BBC or CSCFC, in fact their 7 year old red cock was taken out of retirement because of this years Palamos race. He is a very experienced bird flying the channel some 40 times including Barcelona 2 years ago when he arrived just out of race time. This year he had 2 Carentan's as race preparation then rested until this event, the feeding is farm peas and a general mixture. He was sent sitting 11 day eggs.

The Sire of the bird was a gift from club mate Andy Parsons, from his Cannon/Burgess family, the Dam of the Sire being 68th Open San Sebastian on the day with the NFC in 2001, the Dam of Dave's Barcelona Cock was a gift from Dave's brother Paul, who gave up the pigeons some time ago, this from the best of the Louella Jan Aardens of the 1980's. The above pairing have bred some very good birds over the years including 2nd and 9th CSCFC Tarbes for Dave and Chris, they would like to congratulate every body who clocked from this hard race, the BBC for returning this race to this programme and of course Nigel and Bill caring for the birds so well.





10th Open – Dorin Melinte from Harrow. We clocked our only entry, a 2 year old Cock named “Unique Jr” after his father “Unique” which is the only bird in Romanian racing history to fly the Super Marathon race from Berlin 5 times in 4 seasons! He flew it twice in 2012, the year I had purchased it from Balici Pavel!

The mother is a 100% Wan de Vegen which I got from Ujeniuc Liviu In 2012 also. She flew the Berlin race in 2012 and she's a half sister to 1st Open Berlin Int FCPR Romania 2012 also raced by Ujeniuc. “Unique Jr” was 21st Open last year with the BICC from Agen Int as yearling and also flew Narbone Int out of race time in same season.

I would like to thank you all who is involved in the organisation of such great race and well done to all that clocked!



1st Section H – Keith Young from Guernsey. The pigeon is a 4 year old blue pied hen Jan Aarden blood lines. When I sent to Palamos she was feeding a 15 day old youngster.

In preparation for the Palamos race this year she was sent to Rennes which is 100 miles.

In 2014 the pigeon flew St Malo also Messac taking 2nd Club, then Niort with the BBC and then Bordeaux also with the BBC which she returned on the 3rd day, very hard race with no birds on the day into Guernsey.

In 2012-2013 only light training as we were in the process of moving house and re-homing the birds.

The pigeons breeding on the sire's side is from my BBC Barcelona winner 1st Channel Island Section H, 7th Open which is bred from my late friend Bryan Kett BBC Blue Riband winner in 1999 from Palamos.

On the dam side is bred from Dave Impett of Blackpool's Pau winning hen 1st Section L, 13th Open National Flying Club flying 747 miles. He gave me 2 from his winning hens when I was in Blackpool.

The feeding is natural De Scheemaecker Belgium Mix.

I would like to thank Nigel Legg for getting the pigeon to England, also I would like to thank Clare for picking the C.I pigeons up and taking them to the marking station.



1st Section G – Terry Johnson from Ramsgate. "Vinca" was bred from a son of Frank Perry's Llanover Lady the 1st Open Palamos Winner when he was paired to a daughter of "Spartan" 1st Open BICC Barcelona when paired to the twice "Lerwick hen". Vinca's last recorded performance was 9th Open BICC Pau.



2nd Section C – Raymond Beaconsfield from Marlborough. Raymond timed his single entry a 5 year old blue hen to take 2nd Section C. She is a very consistent pigeon, this being the second time this pigeon has been 2nd Section, also scoring from BBC Niort last season to also win 8th Open and 58th Open 23rd Section BBC Messac. This season she has been raced in both the previous BBC races being 39th Open 12th Section Carentan and 54th Open 17th Section Messac. She will now be put in to the stock loft.

Raymond didn't expect to clock her as her breeding is Janssen bought from Tony and Mary at the Ponderosa UK Stud, the Janssens being mainly Raymond's family of pigeons. They are of the 05 James Bond side of the family. Raymond would like to congratulate Corey & Roger Owers on their win.



Convoyers Report

The Blue Riband Palamos National.

Once the birds were all marked for the clubs main event of the year we made our way to the docks arriving at 3pm where all the birds were watered and fed ready for the 11 o'clock night crossing.

Arriving at Ouistreham docks at 05.30 on Tuesday, the birds were watered before the 750 mile journey to Palamos, first stop was four hours down the road at Tours where they were rested and watered for one hour. Second and final stop for the day was at Clermont Ferrand just short of half way through the journey, having been fed and watered they were left for the night.

Wednesday started at 06.00 having emptied the drinkers we headed off through the range of mountains called the Central Massif where the famous Milau bridge is and a view point where the birds were watered mid-morning, with the driving hours finished the final stop for the day was lorry stop between Perpignan and the Spanish border where the Pyrenees meets the Mediterranean sea.

At 05.00 on Thursday the temperature was an uncomfortable 28 degrees so we decided to get an early start for the lib site, we arrived at the Palamos site at 08.00 and the temperature was already 32 degrees but with a strong southerly wind blowing the inside of the transporter never got above 24 degrees, the birds had a light feed at 11 o'clock and a main feed at 4.30 knowing they would be on the wing for at least 20 hours.

A call to our weather advisor Steve Appleby gave me a clear line of flight all the way to the UK but North winds at the beginning of the flight turning NW up through France, there was a band of rain forecast from Pau to Bordeaux but that should not affect our birds, Steve agreed with me that an early morning start should be cooler with lighter winds, so all being well an early start was on the cards.

Up at 03.45 it was still dark overhead but a glow could be seen on the horizon to the East, having switched the lights on the birds could be seen drinking which was good to see knowing what they had ahead of them.

Unfortunately the wind had changed completely overnight to a brisk Northerly which would not help the convoy at all, there was not a cloud in the sky and the temp at 21 degrees 04.30 and starting to get light a call was made to Steve giving me the OK but northerly winds all the way.

The sun began to rise at 05.15 and with it in full view at 05.30 the birds were liberated, doing a half circle they headed north to a vee in the mountains where they always head in the past but for some reason this year once they reached this gap the whole convoy turned west and circled and climbed over the highest point to the NW and out of site.

The journey back through the mountains from Palamos to Narbonne is one hundred miles of mountains that the birds have to find their way through and the strength of the northerly wind was a real concern, once we reached Narbonne you turn left heading for Toulouse up a valley between the Pyrenees to the south and the Central Massif to the north, the valley stretches for eighty miles and the wind was horrendous blowing the lorry all over the place and my concern was that we would not see any birds until this wind eased. As we reached Toulouse and turned north the wind eased somewhat to a NW as predicted but with 100% cloud cover, we spent the night at Limoges about half way through the journey. Saturday dawned clear a bright with very little wind to speak of so my hopes of some birds making it on the second day were lifted.

The journey to the docks saw clear blue skies with a light NW wind and the channel crossing was the smoothest this year, and arriving home on Sunday morning to find that two gallant birds had been timed in Crewkerne absolutely brilliant, my congratulations go to Corey & Roger Owers two birds up for the job and in the peak of fitness to take on the conditions that we had experienced. These two birds deserve every long distance RPRA award going this year.

My thanks to all concerned with making this race possible, Mike, Bob, Bill, Martin and Clare.

Nigel Rigiani

Weather Advisors report

Friday 19th June.

With the sun in the sky over Palamos the BBC convoy was liberated into light north wind. Nigel on his return journey reported the wind strengthened considerably as it funneled through the Pyrenees mountain range. The convoy on leaving the mountains heading north through southern France encountering cloudy conditions and lighter winds from a north-westerly direction.

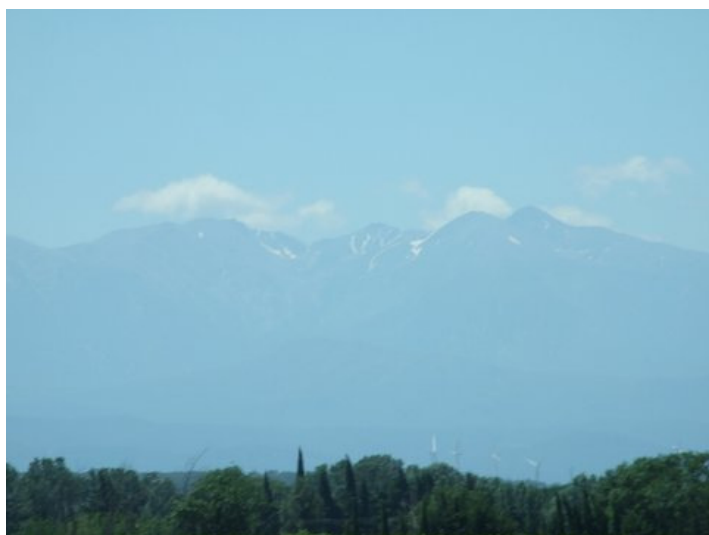
Saturday 20th June

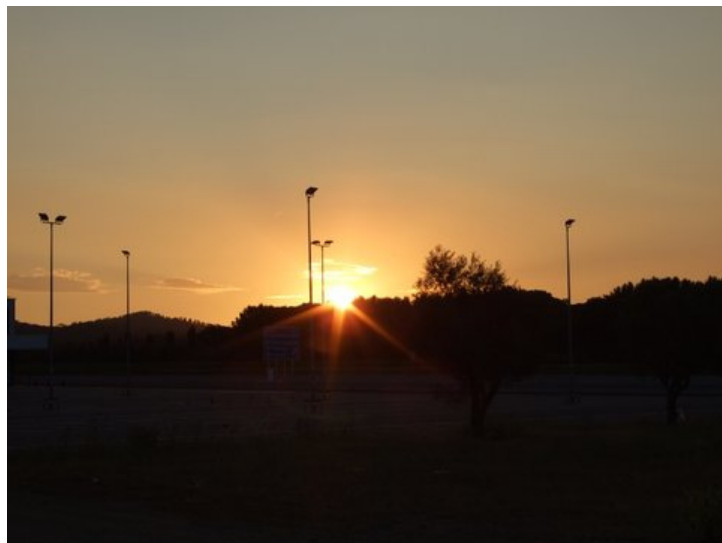
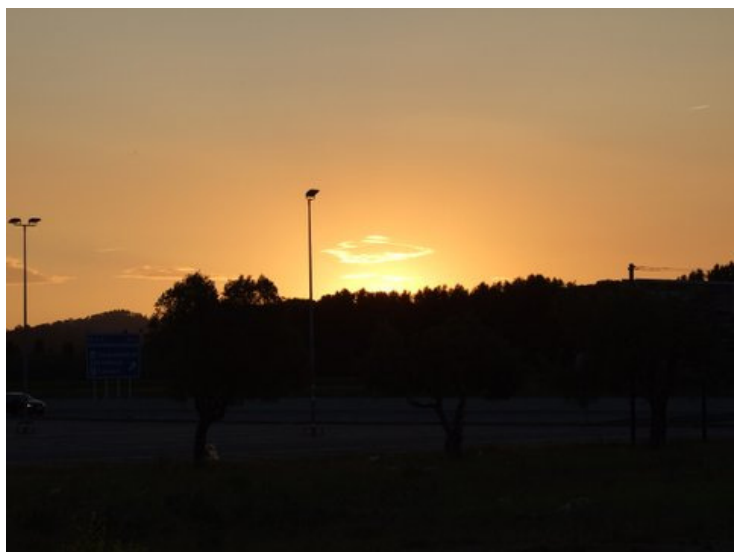
At first light almost all of France was under broken cloud and sunshine affording the pigeons good flying conditions. The wind changed direction to a north north westerly but lighter than previously.

Sunday 21st June

A dry day for southern England and the channel. Early on mainly cloudy but as the morning progressed breaks appeared as some blue sky became available to the pigeons. The wind had changed in direction to a fresh westerly air flow. Well done to those gallant birds homing to their lofts especially taking into consideration the wind factor at the start of the race.

Steve Appleby





Carentan and Messac Prize Winners.

Carentan National flown on Monday 4th May

Garnett, Moore & Withers (E797) – The Norman Fysh Memorial Trophy, The Hyatts Trophy and £150 Ponderosa UK Stud Voucher.

M/M Fairfax & L Meaden (C94) – The Ernie Rivett Memorial Trophy.

Each Section Winner will receive a boxed Medal.

Section Winners are:

A – L & M Dyer (A48), B – M Waters (B129), C – M/M Fairfax & L Meaden (C94), D – P J Wells (D435), E – Garnett, Moore & Withers (E797),

G – J M Armitage (G676), J – B McAllister (J253)

Messac National flown on Sunday 17th May

M Gilbert (D1102) – The British Barcelona Club Trophy, The Everson Sports Champagne Trophy, The Peter Bennett Special Presentation Plate, The Cyril Lowe Memorial Trophy, The Lisa Rigiani Memorial Trophy, The Trevor Perrett Memorial Trophy for first bird in charity nomination, The Ann Wright nee Nancy Harris Memorial Trophy and £150 Ponderosa UK Stud Voucher.

P J Wells (D435) – The Diana “English Rose” Trophy.

Each Section Winner will receive a Medal.

Section Winners are:

A – T Powers (A151), B – M/M L Cowley (B96), C – S Slade (C163),

D – M Gilbert (D1102) E – Mr & Mrs Beckett & Sons (E606),

G – M/M Chaplin (G120), H – W Healy (H361) J – M Bulled (J58)

R S Harbour (A473) – The Clarendon Shield for 1st bird on to the IOW.

M/M L Cowley (B96) – The Dorset Cup for best velocity in to Dorset

P H Doble (B89) – The Pat & Alec Griggs Trophy for best velocity in to Somerset.

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