



THE HOME OF LONG DISTANCE PIGEON RACING

Barcelona “Blue Riband” National 1st Open 1st Section G Ian Crammond & Nigel Langstaff from Fontwell

Well this Barcelona race will certainly go down in the history books as one of the toughest. Everyone expected it to be hard due to the westerly winds the birds had to face at the beginning of the race but no one could have foreseen just how difficult with the first arrivals coming on day 3. The entry for this race was 64 members sending 144 birds (65 of these birds duplicated from the BICC).

I would like to thank Carol Francis, Russell Bradford, Gareth Watkins and John Tyerman for all their help and assistance.

The warmest of congratulations to our “Blue Riband” Barcelona National Winners **Ian Crammond and Nigel Langstaff from Fontwell 1st Open 1st Section G**. The partnership of Ian Crammond and Nigel Langstaff are hardly strangers to success in National racing, having become a household name across the UK for their exploits on the English National racing scene at the middle distance events where they can boast some enviable performances, such as taking the first 4 from the NFC Messac and 1st NFC Saintes last year.

However it is perhaps not as commonly known that Ian and Nigel also enjoy success at the distance events, last year they recorded 5th NFC Tarbes and they may just hold a secret desire to succeed at the International races in years to come. What is commonly known is Ian's desire to purchase the best bloodlines available to give the partnership the required tools for the job be it middle distance or long distance racing the Fontwell loft provides a home to some outstanding specimens in the stock loft. This passion for the best possible bloodlines has delivered success across the board and this years Barcelona race shows once again that blood will tell.

Ian and Nigel sent two carefully prepared widowhood cocks to this years BBC Blue Riband Barcelona event and after an extremely gruelling race timed their 5 year old Chequer White Flight cock at 11:46 on the 3rd morning to win the race by just half a yard! Who would have thought a race over three days could end in such a close finish!

The pigeon in question is no stranger to the race basket having flown both Pau and Tarbes in 2015 and as a yearling recorded 64th Open NFC Tarbes. The sire of the cock was bred from two direct Anton and Lucie Van de Wegen and the dam from a direct Wim Muller - as I said earlier Ian has a passion for the best bloodlines available. He had been prepared for Barcelona with a several shorter channel races and a ride around France with the BICC at the weather affected Poitiers race and along with all of the other widowhood cocks fed on Vanrobaeys corn (racing exclusive & Non Stop) from Roger & Greg Sutton with fats added prior to basketing. He arrived home in super condition considering the marathon he had just undertaken and will almost certainly find himself in the basket again for Barcelona in 2017.



Ian Crammond & Nigel Langstaff

2nd Open 2nd Section G is Paul Baker from Newhaven with “Blueboy”. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the winners Ian Crammond and Nigel Langstaff.

My blue cock is bred from J Barnett and daughter's Marriott pigeons, one of six pigeons I obtained from John in 2012. The sire and dam of the blue have all flown for John Barnett from Tarbes and San Sebastian always clocking in on the day of liberation. Blueboy has always been reliable from distance races over the last 3 years. This year Blueboy has flown Messac twice, and Fougères all in preparation for the Barcelona race. He has always been consistent being 2nd or 3rd in these races. The furthest Blueboy has previously flown was to Bordeaux twice in 2015 always clocked in, he has been flown over the channel 18 times in his career.

It has always been my dream to do well in this race from Barcelona and I am over the moon with the result.



Paul Baker

1st Section C 3rd Open is Bill Stribling from Weston Super Mare with his 4 year old blue cock bird. This is the second time this pigeon has scored for Bill from Spain, last year taking 1st Section C 6th Open from the BBC's very hard Palamos race.

He was bred by Bill from his Venner bloodlines obtained from Dave Vowles of Street. In preparation for this years Barcelona he was raced with the West of England South Road Combine and also went to Alencon with the BICC on 28th May where he had 10-12 hours on the wing, BBC Coutances and BBC Messac. He was sent to Barcelona sitting 12 day old eggs.

Previous performances include - 2014 77th Open BBC Carentan, 14th Section 70th Open NFC Cholet, 2015 128th Open 40th Section BBC Carentan, 1st Section 6th Open BBC Palamos.



Bill Stribling

4th Open 3rd Section is Bill Knox (SR & WH Knox) from Canterbury. GB12J06251 Grizzle hen provisionally 3rd Section 4th open has flown the channel thirteen times. In the last two seasons she has been 34th Section 48th Open BICC Perpignan 2014 and 2015 10th Section 18th Open BICC Barcelona.

I felt she should have had more work having just had 2 Boves 120 miles with EECC , but the weather has been against us.

Her sire has flown Barcelona 3 times as well as Pau and Tarbes. He is a direct son of my Barcelona winner .

Her dam has flown the channel 23 times including Pau 3 times, Perpignan and Tarbes and was 2nd section 10th Open Dax LSECC.

No longer laying but is still an excellent feeder.



Bill Knox's hen

1st Section D 5th Open is Dave Goddard (R J Goddard & Son) from Reading.

My blue hen Ruby GB11J43967 was bred by good friend Mick Parish of Great Burstead and contains all Mick's best blood.

The three Grand Parents are Grandchildren of Johns boy 1st Open Palamos containing 30th & 11th Barcelona, 5th Palamos plus a Spanish Diploma Winner.

Ruby flew Pau International as a two year old, Barcelona at 3 years old in 2015 being 12th Section 38th Open and 3 weeks later 4th Section 34th Open Perpignan 640 miles.

In 2016 a few 18 miles tosses, Messac BBC 7.5 hours my second pigeon, 3 x 18 miles tosses a week before Barcelona, being my only entry. Preparation - little is a lot.

I would like to congratulate all who timed super pigeons especially Bill Stribling of Weston Super Mare of a truly outstanding performance.

Ruby adds to my list of Palamos and Barcelona pigeons which I have been lucky enough to have raced. A few Palamos and Barcelona performances Open positions include, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, 5th, 5th, 8th, 8th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 20th and many more. Plus winning won four Spanish Diplomas.



Dave Goddard

1st Section A 6th Open is Gary Frewin from New Milton. Can I congratulate Ian and Nigel and also the other fanciers who got their gallant pigeons home.

Our gay pied “Billy the Kidd” has been a very consistent pigeon for us in marathon races. His previous performances include: 2009 – 17th Section 98th Open BBC Lamballe vel 1150, 2011 – 21st Section 36th Open CSCFC Tarbes vel 779, 2012 – 37th Section 79th Open CSCFC Tarbes vel 841, 2013 – 40th Section 74th Open CSCFC Tarbes vel 783, 2014 – 31st section 50th Open CSCFC Pau vel 494, 2015 – 3rd Section 12th Open BBC Palamos vel 181 and now provisionally 1st Section A 6th Open BBC Barcelona vel 278.

He was awarded the CSCFC Blue Riband Certificate in 2013. I feel very privileged to own such a wonderful pigeon. The sire was bred by W Sando (Bill) and the dam is a mixture of R Hammond of Albury, George Wood From Ventnor IOW, Dennis Dall of Scotland, Les Kidd and Mr & Mrs Ken Hine.

I would like to thank everyone who has contacted me on Billy’s performance, my wife for clocking him in and my good friend Les Kidd for his help in verifying him.



Gary, Mandy & Luke Frewin

7th Open 2nd Section A is Tony Cowan from Southampton. Having raced pigeons for nearly 70 years, there are times when I think I am mad! Well after this years race I now know I must be! Up and down the loft for days, every wood pigeon, seagull, even a blackbird make the heart beat that much faster, kicked the cat and if I could the wife, and the lawn has a 3 foot furrow down the middle with all the walking, but when my little Grizzle cock, "Shepherds Delight" fell from the sky, virtually no tail and the secondaries in one wing missing, it made it all worth while. This is his third time to Barcelona, and now he can have a well earned retirement!

His performances from Barcelona are quite good, in 2014 - he won 1st Section 3rd Open BBC 1st Section 8th Open BICC (Duplicated) 2015 – 5th Section 19th Open BICC, 2016 - 2nd Section 7th Open BBC 1st Section 9th Open BICC (Duplicated) so I think he has earned his perch!

His preparation has been the same every year, no training, one race 180 miles, and then entered. Fed on a high Fat diet, supplied by 'Gem' on the recomendation of the Waterlooville Wizard Brian Wall. He is a gentleman in the loft, very friendly and tame, and now I am thinking being a pigeon that

would be useful at forming a family of distance pigeons, but now I am of an age where the tunnel is now getting narrower and darker, time is getting shorter, so I will have to take each day as it comes! His bloodlines are from my good friend Brian Sheppard of Trowbridge, full of his old blood, ie the Legend etc, and Brian in my opinion is one of the best long distance fanciers ever, his results over very many years are fantastic, small loft, few pigeons and his bloodlines are winning in many parts of the UK.



Tony Cowan

8th Open is Alan Turner from Dover. Alan's name is as always ever present from the long distance races. He admits he has never known a Barcelona race like this one before. He timed his five year old light chequer cock whose bloodlines are Brian Denney x Jimmy Roy. This cock bird was sent feeding two 10 day old squeakers, he has been to Barcelona once before but this was his first channel race of the season. Up until now he was prepared for the race with six X 100 mile races with the Wingham Club and the same number of 60 mile mid week tosses.



Alan Turner

9th Open is Alan Annis & Son from Canterbury. I was 56th Open Pau 2015 with this pigeon. It is off Jos Thorne x Cyril Wells bloodlines, flown natural and fed on Buctons VIP and was prepared with a Boves and a Pirhiviers with the East of England Continental Club.



Alan Annis

10th Open 2nd Section D is Dorin Melinte from Harrow. The bird we clocked from Barcelona is Unique Jnr named after his father Unique! Unique is the only bird in Romanian racing history that scored the most famous marathon race from Berlin 5 times and he does it in 4 seasons as Romania flew Berlin National and 3 weeks later International in 2012 seasons where unique scored 9th/3,900b Open in the National race and 37th/350b Open in the International race and myself noticing that with the help of my good friend Cornea Constantin we managed to contact Balici Pavel the man that own it and race it and I got my hands on what seems to me a diamond in the stock loft!!! Flew over 15 marathon races in his 6 years carrier (His blood is a mix of lines like Rijckaerd, Bricoux, Stichelbout and Van Bruanne. In the process of acquiring Unique, I noticed another top Romania fancier, Ujeniuc Liviu and looking through his results I noticed a hen (dam Jnr) that flew and scored Berlin 2 times as well in 2012 so I decided to get that too and it turned out to be the sister of the International winner that season from Berlin Interantional and 100% Wan De Wegen blood!

I would like to thank Cornea for the help he offered in the find of these 2 great birds! Jnr flew the Barcelona race on widowhood and had 2 inland races and 1 Channel with BICC before being sent to the Epic Barcelona 16 race. Previously Jnr as a yearling scored from Agen Int on the day 21st Open and flew Narbonne the same season with BICC and last season as 2 years old scored 3 races over 600miles, the first and hardest was 10th Open Palamos BBC then 16th Open Marseille BICC and 41st Open Perpignan. A true marathon pigeon what I have faith on any 600miles plus race !!!!

I would like also to congratulate the Winner and well done to everyone clocking in what proved to be Very hard Blue Riband race this season!!!



Dorin Melinte

11th Open 3rd Section D is Stuart & Janet Guy from Tadley. On day seven of the Barcelona Race 2016 I was thrilled to see my Dark Chequer Cock GB14X36241 return. The breeding of this pigeon is as follows:

In 2006 I purchased two young birds at the BBC young bird sale which I paired together. These were both bred from the BBC Stud from outstanding birds donated from previous winners.

These birds produced a Blue chequer white flight cock GB10N 83926 which flew Barcelona in 2014 and returned just out of race time.

The birds dam was a dark chequer pigeon bred from John Puddephatt and Neil Williams it was an un-rung bird off their best stock. I paired these two pigeons together for several season and in 2014 bred the above pigeon.

In 2016 it was sent to the BBC Coutances race in April and then on the 22nd May the NFC Fougères followed by a CSCFC Fougères on the 28th May. This pigeon was then sent to Barcelona on the natural system with two 12 day old young birds in the nest.

On its arrival home although tired it went straight back to its nest as can be seen in the photograph.



Stuart & Janet Guy's cock bird

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