

**Bordeaux National
1st Open 1st Section G
Alan Still from Felpham
With “Champion Wing on a Prayer”**

Considering the very hard old bird season we have encountered, it was great to see the support we had for our final race of the old bird season with 168 members sending 980 birds which was an increase on last season by 150 birds. Out of the 8 Sections that had competing birds, 6 Section Winners appear in the top ten and 5 Winners in the top 5. The forecast given for the day was ideal and Nigel managed to get the birds on their way at 6.30am with no wind to speak of on site and a light westerly up through France.

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the marking stations, especially Nev Charlton and Eric Ilsley who covered for Clive at Hungerford whilst he was on holiday.

Bill Travers would like to thank Roger Hurst for his help at Salisbury filling the water tanks up as he would have struggled without him.

It's not very often that the first member to verify goes on to take the top spot especially when there is nearly 170 miles between them and the longest flyer but in Alan's case he stayed there right from the word go. Warmest congratulations to **Alan Still from Felpham 1st Open 1st Section G.**

I have been a pigeon fancier for 56 years, living in London, Surrey and for the last 15 years Felpham in West Sussex. The local Club I am a member of is the Littlehampton Trade and Labour Club where I compete mostly in the sprint races from down the coast using widowhood. Earlier in the season I decided to try some channel racing and my gamble seems to have paid off also switching to natural.

My winning 2 year old red chequer is a Nauwelaerts cross Janssen and she was sent sitting chipping eggs. Her previous performances are 1st Club, 4th Fed and taking some other cards as a young bird.



Alan Still

1st Section C 2nd Open is Wullie Young from Gloucester with a great performance timing at 19.18 flying 487 miles against the wind into Churchdown, Gloucester.

Can I just thank everyone who made the race a success, especially the team at Woodlands St. Mary, who made us feel most welcome, and the two Pete's from Charlton Kings F.C. for giving up their time to do the clock. Also, to all the people who got in touch to congratulate us.

Regarding the race, it is the first time that my son Brodie joined me "Pigeon Spotting!" and after a few false alarms, he shouted there's one! I was doing the dishes at the time, and when the second arrived I missed it too, as I was making us a cuppa!

Brodie thinks it's only fair we split any winnings 50/50 from now on, as he is now a 4th generation pigeon man, following on as I did from my father Davie Young in Scotland.

The hen is yet another one of Bob Orton's family, which Bob gave to me along with the loft etc. when he retired from the Sport.



Wullie Young and son Brodie

1st & 2nd Section B 3rd & 11th Open is Mark & Julie Gower from Fordingbridge. Thank goodness Mark! I was thinking that poor Julie was going to miss her annual trip to Bournemouth.

My first pigeon is a hen that is bred for the job being a Daughter of my 4th Open CSCFC Pau who in turn was a daughter of 1st Open CSCFC Dax, the dam was paired to a Andy Parsons pigeon that is a full brother to many good Tarbes pigeons.

She has been flown on the round about system this year and was re-paired to a cock bird that went to Tarbes when she was sitting early eggs however he never came back ! I took her away from the cocks section and back in with the hens and she then flew with the young birds including 3 x 20 mile tosses with them. She was then put back in with the cocks just before she went to Bordeaux.

She has had 4 x channel races this year, Carentan, Classic Fougères (came late 10 hours fly), Carentan & BBC Fougères then a rest before Bordeaux.

My second pigeon is a round about cock and he is 100% Andy Parsons blood being from a son of Dancer, 3rd Open Palomas and sire & G sire of many good Tarbes & Pau pigeons when paired with a daughter of The Nethercott cock also Sire & g Sire of good Tarbes pigeons. His preparation was Coutances, NFC Fougères, NFC Messac but he made a mistake here and came home early the next day. He was rested for 4 weeks and then went to BBC Fougères and then Bordeaux

Congratulations to Mr Still and his pigeon and many thanks to buddies Andy Parsons and Nick Smith for all their help in getting my birds to the marking,



Mark & Julie Gower

1st Section D 4th Open is Dave & June Newman from Aylesbury. We are now thinking Dave of calling the Trevor Cox Trophy the “Dave Newman” trophy as it spends the majority of the time with you.

Blue Chequer yearling Cock, bred from 2 French birds bought at a "Barcelona Challenge Sale" from McGee Lofts. The birds are raced on Willsbridge and Gerry Plus corn. This cock bird flew 4 races as a young bird and 7 races this year, 3 from Fougères and then Bordeaux, getting a surprise toss from Salisbury last Tuesday as "someone" muddled the basketing date!! Still alls well that ends well (Someone else got an extra shopping trip)!!



Dave & June Newman

Fantastic performances by Mark clocking 2 birds within one minute and 4 in less than an hour **1st & 2nd Section J 5th & 6th Open is Mark Bulled from Harlow.** I timed four two year old hens all sitting approximately 10 days eggs. My first hen is a late bred daughter of Legacy 1st NFC Tarbes when paired to Bump 2nd BBC Bordeaux. She was 90th NFC Saintes a few weeks back.

My second hen was my fancy from Agen, returning late next day minus her secondary feathers in one wing. Her sire won the club twice from Tarbes and is from my foundation cock old 60. The dam is from Darran Mcfadden's LSECC Tarbes winner. Steve Oliver's great hen in 7th position is from the same sire.

My third hen is from a full brother to Legacy when paired to a daughter of Sergeant Cecil my 1st LSECC Tarbes classic winner.

My fourth hen is from my Red Bull sprint family. Sire Eastbourne 1st BBC Fougères when paired to a sister of my 7 x 1st M11 Red.

I sent 7 hens and had 6 by 9am next morning, with a yearling hen still missing.



Mark and Hana Bulled

2nd Section D 7th Open is Steve Oliver (G Oliver & Son) from Feltham. A nice start for Steve in the BBC only having joined the Club recently.

GB 13 N 57875 Blue Hen " The Bulled Hen " Bred by Mark Bulled of Harlow.

5 x 1st all from the Channel: 1st Club Falaise, 1st Club Fougères, 1st Club Tours, 1st Club Ancenis, 1st Club Messac, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 12th Fed. She has also had 3 x 2nd Clubs positions plus various others.

She has had 3 x top 100 National positions and has had 7 channel races now this year.

She was sent to Bordeaux sitting a 7 day baby, which is the first time she has ever been sent on this nest condition. Her Sire: down from Mark Bulled's old foundation cock, has flown Tarbes Twice and had 2 x 1st Clubs. Her Dam: " The National Hen " 14 x National/Classic Positions with 15th Open being the best.

Thanks to mark for firstly breeding her and his continued advice, and all the lads up the Bedford SRFC.



Steve Oliver

2nd Section G 8th Open is Tony & Carol Welch from Chichester. Gentleman Tony, a man of few words whose birds do the talking for him.

Yearling blue hen GB15N99360. All the cocks and hens have been flown on the widowhood system this year, but for this race they were paired and raced sitting 11 to 12 days on eggs. She was bred down from my old family of pigeons.



Tony Welch

9th Open is Mick & Tracy Carrick from Chesham. One name that is always up there from Bordeaux. The only time you never see it means Mick hasn't sent.

This 4 year old blue pied cock has been my best channel pigeon for the last 4 seasons. He has won inland as well as the channel and full brother to the pigeon that was 4th Open at Fougères.



Mick Carrick

Clocking up their second BBC section win in two seasons. **1st & 2nd Section A 10th & 13th Open is Lee & Maureen Dyer from Nettlestone, IOW.** (Information kindly supplied by Guy Reed) Lee & Maureen's first bird was bred from a pair of 2014 Reed/DeWeerds, that I bred for him. She was from a Grandson of "Iban" & "Wingdown" when paired to a daughter of "Stan". The Dam is from a daughter of "Andrea" the dam of my first Tarbes pigeon this year and The "Majoli" cock.

The second bird was a reported Scottish pigeon transferred as a yearling from Kevin Sampson.

Lee also timed his other two entries on Sunday morning.

I would like to finish by adding that Lee is also the youngest member of the fast dwindling members of the IOW, so it's great to see him showing interest in the longer events as he has already demonstrated his ability at all other distances. He is very keen and hard working for the remaining members here, and has scored now at all levels.



Lee & Mauren Dyer

3rd Section B 12th Open is John Halstead from Gillingham who never fails to be there no matter what the race. John timed a chequer yearling widowhood cock which has hit form in June and July. On 4th June he was 1st Club 5th Dorset Fed from Hastings and a fortnight ago was 13th Fed and 73rd Open from CSCFC Bergerac flying 13 hours 7 minutes on the day. He landed in fantastic condition after another 11 ¾ hour fly from Bordeaux and could have gone much further. Bred in the purple he is from Big Bucks now the No 1 breeder at Nyland being a son of Nyland Ashley 2nd Open Barcelona in 2008. Big Bucks has previously sired Platinum winner of 2 x 1st Section from Perpignan and Rachel winner of 4 x 1st including 1st Section NFC. He was mated with a hen from Geoff and Catherine Cooper which is a half sister to Wollongong their International Pau winner at 561 miles and contains their DeWeerd bloodlines. The race team have been kept on widowhood throughout the season and recently have exercised for ¾ hour morning and evening up until the night before basketing when all the hens and some nesting material were put into the loft.



John Halstead

Another partnership whose name always comes to light on the longer races. **3rd Section J is Keith Gosling & Mick Jarvis from Mountnessing.**

3rd Section J for the third year running Gosling and Jarvis previously 3rd section 27th National, 3rd section 63rd National, now probable 15th National, the winning pigeon was a two year old blue hen Robbie's Girl sent to the race on chipping eggs she is multiple prize winner and flew Bordeaux last season as a yearling. She was bred by good friends Robbie and Andrew Wilton, her father is a Classic Merit Award winner his performances are 7th, 35th and 37th Classic Tarbes 49th Classic Guernsey and 78th BICC St Vincent. Her dam is a daughter of a 12th, 38th and 79th Classic Tarbes winner. She raced widowhood earlier in the season and was specifically paired up for this race.



Keith Gosling & Mick Jarvis

Topping off a fantastic old bird season and winning a probable second BBC Section E in a row flying 570 miles and clocking at 6.35am **1st Section E is Mr & Mrs Nigel Shaw from Basford.** The blue hen I timed from Bordeaux was a Gaby Vandenabeele hen bred by David Sara she is always reliable having scored well at Bordeaux MNFC.



Nigel Shaw and Granddaughter Lillie Grace

One man who could charm the birds from a tree and is having a cracking season **2nd Section C is Frank Quinn from Devizes.** First off congratulations to all the winners and the convoyers for the condition of the birds. My red hen is 100% Andy Parsons blood, the man is on fire in breeding good birds for others. (Many thanks Bonny Lad). This hen has been a consistent bird this year but ducked at Saintes NFC having a night out. So speaking with Andy made this race her target, and miss Tarbes NFC also like the section winner this year her sire went to the hawk. She was raced on my separated system (if you call it a system). At this present time I have 3 home from 7 sent. I hope the rest will make it back later.



Frank Quinn

3rd Section A is Rod Berry (Berry & Matthews) from New Milton who is enjoying a successful season.

I had a great days racing yesterday. In the morning I sent 2 young birds to the first young bird race and won 1st & 2nd Club, 6th & 7th Fed 1,150 pigeons.

In the afternoon I had 4 pigeons in the Bordeaux race & won 3rd Section with my good 3 year old hen sitting 10 days eggs, she was approx. 5th Section at this race last year.

On the Sires side she is Matt Rakes (Indy) on the dams side Vandebeele.

I would like to congratulate all the other winners.



Rod & Angela Berry

2nd Section E is Gordon Rigg from Congleton who clocks from the distance like a sprint race. My Blue Chequer 2013 cock is one of a batch of young birds given to me by Cameron Stansfield to establish a team to fly Pau/Tarbes, and then on to Barcelona as a proven cross into my Dusardyns. This cock has now booked its ticket for Barcelona 2017 (Predators willing). My second bird is from Steven Holmes, being from his late Dick Baldwin strain. The same test will apply to this 2012 cock.



Gordon Rigg

Another nice win for Willy. **1st Section H is Willy Healy from St Helier, Jersey.** I named my blue hen “Blue Bell”, after her 2013 Old Hens National win from Fougères. She is a Geoff Kirkland cross the late Joe Lewzio from Alloa. She was sent sitting overdue eggs.

In 2014 she flew Palamos but out of race time. She is a medium size hen and is always there or there about on race days.

Congratulations to the winner and all those who timed their birds. Also congratulations to Evan Jones and his grandson Andrew who are from my home town of Kilsyth on their 5th Open National win. Finally a big thank you to Clare Norman, Happy days Willie Healy.



Willie Healy

Convoyers Report

With the 980 birds loaded we made our way to the docks arriving at 8 pm and once booked in the birds were fed and watered before loading onto the ferry at 10.30 pm.

Friday 29th July

Arriving at Questreham docks at 05.30 British time we got straight underway to our first watering stop at Bain de Bretagne, we were there for one hour and getting underway at 10am. At Niort we hit heavy traffic and only travelled 5 miles in two hours due to a lorry fire at the Saintes exit slip road, once past that we made good time arriving in Bordeaux at 6.30 pm, all the way down and at Bordeaux the skies were clear and the temperature reached a maximum of 24 degrees with no wind to speak of at all.

I then made a call to Steve Appleby telling me that the forecast for Saturday was good.

Saturday 30th July

I got up at 04.00 am to switch on the lights in the back and to top up the troughs, knowing that the sun should appear at roughly 06.00 am this would give the birds at least two hours to have a drink, contrary to popular belief when the temperature at night is in the high teens the birds will drink that early in the morning

At 05:50 I had a call from Steve telling me that the weather could not be better, light cloud cover and light winds forecast. With an orange glow appearing in the east the strings were cut and at 06.30 with full sun on the baskets the

flaps were dropped and all the birds exited at once, by the time we had checked the baskets were clear the birds were out of site.

The journey back saw cloudy skies at Saintes but after that just white fluffy clouds all the way to Averanches where we had 100% cloud all the way to the docks

As always my thanks to all the I/C's, markers, Bill our driver, Martin, Jack and Clare our hardworking secretary, and finally to Steve Appleby who yet again got the forecast spot on giving us a brilliant finish to the old bird season.

Nigel Rigiani

Weather Report

A good day was forecast for this BBC Bordeaux race which proved to be correct. At first light the blue skies over the race point greeted the convoyers. This allowed Nigel and his assistant Bill to liberate the birds as the sun rose above the horizon. The flight path through France was one of cloud banks and clear skies. Winds generally over central France were light and variable. As the morning progressed very light westerly winds developed over northern France. On arrival at the docks Nigel reported flags were stationary the channel calm and visibility excellent. The early times recorded indicate another good race for the BBC members.

Steve Appleby.

Barcelona Trophy Winners

Crammond & Langstaff (G206) – The Harkers Challenge Trophy, Ron Michieson Challenge Trophy, Spanish Challenge Trophy, The Woodsider Trophy, The Doug Horwood Memorial Salver, The Eileen Bunn Memorial Challenge Trophy, The Arthur Bartlett Memorial Trophy, The Albert Padfield “Blue Riband” Memorial Trophy, The Peter Rigiani Memorial Trophy, The Cyril Medway Memorial Trophy, The Mr & Mrs Ken Hine Memorial Trophy, The G H Hall Rose Bowl, The Mr & Mrs G S Maskell Cup, The A Hoare & Son Cup, The L A Bartlett Challenge Trophy and The Peter Bennett Special Presentation Plate.

P Baker (G31) - The Bert Bryant Challenge Cup.

W Stribling (C757) - The Ron Youde Memorial Trophy, The Gordon Hare Challenge Cup, The Bert Wiffen Memorial Shield, The Reg & Myrtle Venner Memorial Rose Bowl, The W Gale Challenge Cup, The Roy Hanney Memorial Trophy, The A G Mullholland & Son Trophy and The Horace Baker Memorial Trophy.

S R & W H Knox (G220) - The Barcelona Olympic Challenge Cup, The Frank Lloyd Memorial Trophy, The Gladys Stephenson Memorial Trophy, The A H Woodward & Son Challenge Cup.

R J Goddard & Son (D428) - The Willcox Trophy, The Spanish Trophy and The Hands & Castree Challenge Trophy.

G Frewin (A508) - The Jack Edwards Memorial Trophy, The Mr & Mrs A Brant Challenge Cup, The G Stubbs Memorial Trophy,

A Cowan (A954) - The Ron Bissett Memorial Trophy,

M Gilbert (D1102) – The BBC Appreciation Trophy,

A J Turner (G772) - The Harkers Trophy,

F Knowles & Son (G842) - The Ken Otton Memorial Trophy.

D Melinte (D260) - The Middlesex Trophy and the Ron Bissett Challenge Cup.

Section Winners are:

Each Section Winner will receive a Medal.

A – G Frewin (A508), C – W Stribling (C757), D – R J Goddard & Son (D428),

G – Crammond & Langstaff (G206).

Fougeres OB Winners

Each Section Winner will receive a Medal.

Section Winners are:

A – M Shipp (A395), B – S Jack (B48), C – M/M M & C Brown (C77), D – R J Lowe (D720)

E – M/M N Shaw (E781), G – J Clarke & Dtr (G8), J – D Wilton & Son (J401).

Dinner and Prize Presentation

For members wishing to attend the dinner on Saturday 19th November, please book or reserve your tickets with me. Ticket prices are £35 per person. Those wishing to stop over can book their accommodation direct with The Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth on 01202 552111. Please mention the Club when booking to ensure special rates. For more details on the dinner please see your Club Handbook. If you are intending to come please book as soon as possible as tickets are selling fast.

2015 Trophy Winners. Please could all 2015 trophy winners make sure any trophies are returned to me by September 10th at the latest. If you wish to take them to the young bird marking, the I/C will make sure I receive them. Thank you.

Clare Norman. Tel: 023 8057 3919 Email: secretary@britishbarcelonaclub.com