



THE HOME OF LONG DISTANCE PIGEON RACING

**Cholet National  
1st Open 1<sup>st</sup> Section B  
George Owers from Bere Regis  
With “Purbeck Dream”**

After a one day holdover and trying to avoid the inclement weather coming from the west, the 1,700 birds at Cholet were liberated on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 6.15am in what was a very testing race for the birds.

Thank you to all the helpers at the marking stations for your continued support.

**Warmest congratulations to our Cholet Winner & 1<sup>st</sup> Section B George Owers of Bere Regis.**

George was in his garden thinking that six hours would be a good bird from Cholet, at six hours six minutes his yearling chequer cock now named “Purbeck Dream” flew past his head straight onto the trap and in quickly followed by George. This lovely handling bird is raced on widowhood and was having his third trip across the channel and his fifth race.

George flies a small team of twelve widowhood cocks and breeds twenty four young birds from these as no stock birds are kept. George is no stranger to the winners enclosure having won many top National prizes and hitting the post a couple of times. Purbeck Dream is from a combination of birds from Clive Harrison and Wyatt and Gray where George has been friends with these fanciers for many years.

The feeding is Mervyn Grays magic mix with Gerry plus mixed in a tonic is added to the water now and again. It is no secret that the Channel racing so far this year has been some what erratic with heavy losses at times but George's team are still there ready to do battle against the elements and the channel I must say his widowers looked and handled superb. Purbeck Dream will now be prepared for BBC fougères.

George would like to congratulate all the winners and thank the convoyers for looking after the birds. To conclude George is one of life's gentlemen an excellent stock man and a brilliant pigeon fancier.



George Owers

**1<sup>st</sup> Section E 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Glyn & Christine Machin from Telford.** Glyn timed a three year old widowhood cock. Its breeding is a 50% Luc Van Coppenolle x Jos Joosen and his own old base bred. The cock has other minor club prizes and brothers have been six times in the first 30 Open placings in the Midlands National against large birdages.

Glyn is finding that the Van Coppenolle pigeons which he has acquired directly from Luc are flying excellently for him either crossed or pure. One of these similarly bred cocks won for the partners 2<sup>nd</sup> Ace Long distance pigeon in 2018.



Glyn & Christine Machin cock bird

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Open 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Section E Mal Hope from Telford.** My Cholet bird named “The Maine Man” after the area of France is a son of "Piaf" my Bordeaux/Tarbes hen. The Sire is Alwyn Hill/Chris Gordon bloodlines. My second bird is his daughter. Both were sent sitting about 10 days.



Mal Hope with grandsons James & Joey



**4<sup>th</sup> Open 3<sup>rd</sup> Section E Keith Rhodes from Telford. GB16N67677.** The pigeon I timed in is a 3 year old widowhood cock. His parents were bought off Marshall Marshall Marshall & Smith down from there 1<sup>st</sup> UNC Bourges winners Mucking Magic and Big Smithy.

He's been a very consistent pigeon on the channel, he had 1 channel race as a yearling where he was 3<sup>rd</sup> Club and was then left to mature. As a 2 year old he had a knock early in the season but he won 1<sup>st</sup> Club Messac in St. George's Flying Club and was my 2<sup>nd</sup> pigeon home from NFC Sigogne where he was 17<sup>th</sup> Section J 179<sup>th</sup> Open. He was 4<sup>th</sup> Club Carentan a fortnight ago beaten by a loft mate, then had a week off to be got ready for this race where he was my fancied pigeon.

I had 5 out of 6 on the night with the 6<sup>th</sup> there next morning.



Keith Rhodes cock bird

**1<sup>st</sup> Section H 5<sup>th</sup> Open Daniel Pazdyk from Jersey.** This 3 year old light chequer hen is a Koopman/Jan Aarden hen that has raced well in the club and now has proven itself in the National race from Cholet. I would like to thank the members of the Jersey Flying Society for making me welcome, but in particular I would like to thank Paul Davies for his assistance when joining the British Barcelona Club, and Keith Duffin for guiding me through my first National race.



Daniel Pazdyk with son Michael

**1<sup>st</sup> Section C 7<sup>th</sup> Open Martin Williams from Hereford.** My Section Winner is an 8 year old blue hen on my roundabout system. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> Section win, last winning in 2015 with the CSCFC from Bergerac, coming 14<sup>th</sup> Open.

Last year she was 6<sup>th</sup> Section, 66<sup>th</sup> Open with the NFC from Sigogne. This hen is getting better the older she gets. I prepared her the same this year as last, only having a few inland races, and then I rested her for 3 weeks before her main race. She always exercises well at home.

Her breeding is my old family crossed with a son of Jacob Poortvliet's best pair, "Yildirim" paired to "Magic Wonder". Both these birds were big winners against big birdage.

Thank you to all concerned on a good race.





Martin Williams

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section C 8<sup>th</sup> Open Dave Fox from Stroud.** My winning pigeon is a two year old Grizzle cock, flown on widowhood, he is a Jos Thone bred from a pair of birds purchased from the late Kevin Woolston of Norfolk. He has flown all races in the club and was my first bird from Fougères with the BBC.

My birds are fed a widowhood mix and some small seed, when he came after flying 8 hours he looked a picture, I must thank Nigel for the way he looks after the birds, also Clare and all the markers, and well done to the winner.



Dave Fox

**9<sup>th</sup> Open Graham Baker from Shifnal.** My thanks to Clare Norman for her kind invitation to contribute a short article on myself and the pigeon responsible for gaining 9<sup>th</sup> Open Cholet. Pigeons have been a part of my life since I was four years old, my first race was at the age of 11 years and I'm now 73 so a 69 year apprenticeship with other notable performances and great pigeons along the way.

My 9<sup>th</sup> Open winner is bred for the task being from the last daughter of my great pigeon "Meritman", (more of him in a minute) when paired to a cock on loan from my good friends Geoff and Catherine Cooper this cock is from JW, which needs no introduction and has been a great racer for Geoff and Catherine.

She was also my first bird from the BBC young bird national last year winning 55<sup>th</sup> Open and apart from a training race this was her first outing in 2019. I am no longer a member of any local club and race only with the NFC and BBC.

Her grandsire "Meritman" was a once in a lifetime pigeon and has never really had the credit he deserved so I feel it appropriate to include his part in her breeding. His performances were:- Pau 4<sup>th</sup> Sect 28<sup>th</sup> Open, 5<sup>th</sup> Sect 37<sup>th</sup> Open, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sect 171st Open, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sect 44<sup>th</sup> Open, 10<sup>th</sup> Sect 224<sup>th</sup> Open. Nantes 45<sup>th</sup> Sect 74<sup>th</sup> Open BBC, 16th Sect 76<sup>th</sup> Open NFC. He was a certificate of merit winner with the NFC, won a RPRA award and was sire of 1<sup>st</sup> Sect 7<sup>th</sup> Open Pau, 1<sup>st</sup> Sect 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Bordeaux BBC, 8<sup>th</sup> Sect 11<sup>th</sup> Open MNFC Bergerac, 10<sup>th</sup> Sect 37<sup>th</sup> Open Bergerac, 8<sup>th</sup> Open Bergerac, 6<sup>th</sup> Sect



134<sup>th</sup> Open San Sebastian NFC, 7<sup>th</sup> Sect 84<sup>th</sup> Open Saintes NFC 12<sup>th</sup> Sect 18<sup>th</sup> Open MNFC Nantes and 21<sup>st</sup> Sect 101<sup>st</sup> Open Nantes NFC. He was sire of two RPRA award winners.

I would like at this point to give credit to my daughter Helen and her partner Nick Atkin, without their help this performance would not have been possible. I was diagnosed with Parkinson's some time ago and unfortunately can no longer carry out all the usual tasks a pigeon fancier incurs. Helen and Nick are my saviours in that respect.

I now only keep 20 birds to race plus some stock birds so trying to keep the work which others are kind enough to carry out to a minimum. I have been lucky enough to have good friends who have helped me and they are many and continue to help whenever called upon to do so. To single anyone out would be a bit of a travesty but I can't not mention Geoff and Catherine Cooper for their friendship and the loan of quality stock and a life long friend Roy Barton who's health hasn't been too good of late either.

In closing I wish everyone an enjoyable racing season and thank the officials of the clubs I compete in for all the hard work they do on our behalf.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section B 10<sup>th</sup> Open John Clapcott from Poole.** I would like to congratulate George Owers one of my club mates on winning the BBC race from Cholet and all who raced. The pigeon is a Jansen based hen raced on widowhood system, she is a very consistent bird scoring in other Classics and BBC racing this year and last year.

I would just like to say a big well done to all the members of the Upton Working Men's Flying Club who have had many Classic, BBC and NFC winners and may it continue.



John Clapcott

**11<sup>th</sup> Open Paul Weems from Chippenham.** First of all I would like to congratulate Mr G Owers on a great win in a hard testing race.

Also congratulations to all the section winners especially Martin Williams who won my Section C who has been up there every week flying out of his skin.



My first bird was a yearling blue chequer hen which is  $\frac{3}{4}$  Willy Thas  $\frac{1}{4}$  van dyke flown on roundabout clocking in at 13:45:55 taking 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Feeding is Versa Laga Gerry and Super Star Plus.

As I write this on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> I had 12 on race day and 1 next morning giving me a total of 13 out of the 21 sent with some very experienced birds still missing.



Paul Weems

**1<sup>st</sup> Section D Roger Lowe from Reading.** Sending 17 birds 6 old widow hood cocks and 11 yearling widowhood hens it was a yearling hen first. This is her first time of showing and is bred from a double grand son of J Hooymans “Harry” named “Orbital Harry” bred by joint breeding by Nigel Langstaff and Mark Gilbert. Dam of my first bird is “My New Diamond” a double grand daughter of “My Little Diamond”. She was my best racing hen now at stock she has over over 14 times been in the top 75 of the Nationals section, best being 3<sup>rd</sup> Sec 5<sup>th</sup> Open NFC National Saintes 3,302 birds.

Having 10 birds home on the day it turned out to be a very trying day but well done to all the winners let’s hope for better next time.



Roger Lowe

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section H Nigel Legg (R Legg & Son) from Guernsey.** I’d like to congratulate Daniel Pazdyk, from Jersey on his first section winner, the race winner and all the other section winners. Furthermore, without the support of Clare Norman it would not have been possible for Channel Island fanciers to even enter the race and achieve such pleasing results, so a massive thank you to Clare, it really is appreciated.

My pigeon was a four year old blue, Patrick van den Abbeele cock of Roger Phillips blood lines. This was his second club win of the year in his third race of a very challenging season where we have seen many good pigeons lost thus far. He has scored three times when with the BBC.



Nigel Legg

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section D Pete Wells from Dunstable.** I timed a 3 year old late bred blue chequer cock bird bred by Terry Robinson (Robbo of Cheshunt). The breeding of the pigeon is Paul Partidge (Wales) and Terry's Motivator blood lines.

Many congratulations to my brother in law Bill. **1<sup>st</sup> Section A Mr & Mrs Bill Norman from Southampton.** My yearling pencil blue cock bird nicknamed "Willygrit" after my late father was bred by Trevor Green from Ashurst. The dam – Frans Maris bred by Mick Betts, half sister to 4<sup>th</sup> N/ Section 8<sup>th</sup> Open Chale Young Bird Midlands Open. The sire – bred from a pair of Crehan & O'Connor Clean Slate lines. I rated this cock bird who was sat his first eggs of the year and was keen to get home as it showed.

This is my first Section win and I am so happy to have won. I enjoy middle to long distance racing and at last it was my turn.

I joined Romsey & District Flying Club this season flying in the Solent Federation and they have made me very welcome. This race was cross nominated with the Solent Federation which meant I also took 1<sup>st</sup> Fed as well.

Thank you to Martin and Clare for your support as I know they are pleased for me. Likewise Keith Whitfield for taking me each week to the Club and also Rob Jones for his help with my training. Finally I would like to thank my wife Carroll for putting up with me for 25 years this year. We know us pigeon boys must test their patience.





Bill Norman

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section A Keith Davison from Southampton.** The breeding of this yearling blue hen is Braspenning x Bricoux. The Braspenning side was bought from Louella Pigeon World and the Bricoux is a gift bird from my friend Tony Collinwood from Lymstone, Devon. She raced two races as a young bird and in 2019 – 5<sup>th</sup> Holbury RPC Kingsdown, 4<sup>th</sup> Holbury RPC Carentan, Flown BBC Fougères & NFC Fougères and CSCFC Coutances. She was sent to Cholet sitting eggs.



Keith Davison

**1<sup>st</sup> Section J Keith Gosling & Mick Jarvis from Mountnessing.** The partnership timed a yearling grizzle cock flown on the widowhood system this was his third Channel race of the season having previously raced from the BBC Fougères and the BICC Cholet races. His sire was a grizzle cock bred by their good friend Dave Hawthorne of Tadley bred from a son of two LNRC Thurso Hall of Fame winners of Phil Wood (Mr T) and the late Jimmy Richards both from Laindon when paired to a granddaughter of Olympic Ric winner of 1<sup>st</sup> Section 1<sup>st</sup> National 58<sup>th</sup> International Barcelona 6<sup>th</sup> Section 16<sup>th</sup> National Perpignan 6<sup>th</sup> Section 73<sup>rd</sup> National Carentan 20<sup>th</sup> Section 91<sup>st</sup> National Cholet 27<sup>th</sup> Section 223<sup>rd</sup> National Tarbes and 57<sup>th</sup> National Agen. His dam was a grizzle hen from the late great Marley Westrop. The partnership were very disappointed with their returns only 8 home from 18 entered.



Keith Gosling & Mick Jarvis

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section J Mark Bulled from Harlow.** Congratulations to the winner and all section winners in what turned out a difficult race with very poor returns to all I have spoken to. My 2<sup>nd</sup> Section winner is a 2 year old widowhood hen which was 11<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Falaise a few weeks back. Her sire a Red Bull was a winner of 5 x 1<sup>st</sup> Club and 5<sup>th</sup> BICC Tours for me. The dam a Staf Van Reet from Mark Sands in Kent.





Mark Bulled

**1<sup>st</sup> Section G Mr & Mrs Mick Smith & Grandson Ben from Guildford.** What a lovely surprise sitting with my Godalming club members at the clock checking time, a brief glance at the entry times of BBC Cholet to find I had achieved my best result yet 1<sup>st</sup> Section with a 2 year old dark chequer cock. Breeding being on the dam's side Steve Howards stock and on the sire's side Jan Aarden.

On a sticky day I had 3 on the day, the other 2 early next morning full returns. Thanks to the convoying team and especially the hard working basketing committee I look forward to Fougères next.



Mr & Mrs Mick Smith



**2<sup>nd</sup> Section G Tony & Carol Welch from Chichester.** GB17N 056152 was bred out of my Barcelona hen which was 7<sup>th</sup> Open Barcelona in 2014 with the BBC. It's from the Janssen family I have in my loft.

He was one of my most consistent pigeons in my loft last year. He was 1<sup>st</sup> section Fougères with the BBC, 2<sup>nd</sup> bird to the loft from Coutances with the BBC and 3<sup>rd</sup> bird to the loft from Messac with the BBC.



Tony Welch

### **Fougères 1 National Winners**

**P Basham (A662)** – The Norman Fysh Memorial Trophy, The Hyatts Trophy.

**Mr & Mrs Hancock (A241)** – The Ernie Rivett Memorial Trophy.

**Section Winners are:** Each Section Winner will receive a Medal.

**A – P Basham (A662), B – Mr & Mrs N Smith (B685), C – M Williams (C610),**

**D – M Gilbert (D1102), E – J Hughes (E116), G – Khan Bros (G237),**

**J – M Bulled (J58)**

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