



THE HOME OF LONG DISTANCE PIGEON RACING

**Thurso National  
1<sup>st</sup> Open 1<sup>st</sup> Section J  
Micky Sontag & Son from Harlow  
With “Katie”**

The British Barcelona Club's Old Bird season was put to bed with the long trip North to Thurso. Our convoyer Pat said he had never been that far in to Scotland before and what some amazing and beautiful sites to see on the way to the top of Scotland, it is well worth a visit.

From the 576 birds entered by 83 members 273 birds were cross nominated from the CSCFC. Between the two clubs there were 666 birds liberated on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 5am.

*Race Advisors Report: Liberation was at 5am in a light SW wind with the sun up and clear sky.*

*The weather is forecast to be good for the whole of the route with almost unbroken sunshine. The breeze for the first 100 to 150 miles is from the South West starting moderate but lighter as they travel south through Scotland and coming more from the West. It then comes light and at times variable mainly from the North West or North as they travel into and down through England. Temperatures will peak in the upper 20's in late afternoon.*

Thank you to all the marking stations for all your hard work through the old bird season. At least you have a few weeks off now before the young bird races. Thank you to Clive and Jill Rogers and Clive Merrills for very kindly ferrying the Frome and Hungerford birds to Southampton and also thanks to Pete Gretton and Paul Baker for religiously no matter how many birds making the trip from Brighton to Southampton.

Many congratulations to our Thurso winner **Micky Sontag & Son of Harlow 1<sup>st</sup> Open 1<sup>st</sup> Section J**. Congratulations to all those that timed on the day. Firstly, I would like to thank Cecil and Mark Bulled, for giving me the opportunity to race their unique family of pigeons that have been winning from Thurso and other distance events since I started keeping pigeons as a boy. I am now a recently retired 66 year old!! The old Harlow club had such strong characters which have instilled in me the value of racing in the premier events.

I have raced now south for the past 10 years, but with the situation of no channel racing I decided to turn my team North.

My Winning 3 year old hen, now named “Katie” flew Bordeaux as a 2 year old and has always been consistent scoring minor positions. This year she was trained North to Peterborough, but then went back South first race to Blandford when it looked like channel racing might open. She then went on to fly Wadebridge twice before being turned back North back where she had 3 races North to Blaydon 230miles. She was previously raced Widowhood before being paired for Thurso sent sitting 12 days eggs. She had a 40 mile toss north 3 days prior to basketing. Her breeding is 100% Bulled bloodline, being a Grand daughter of Mark's Champion Legacy. I'm lucky to have 5 direct children of Legacy in my stock loft as Mark gives me his last round of eggs at the end of each season. Winning a National, is a life times' ambition and this win will take a while to sink in.

Thank you to all those that have helped me over the years, and to all those that have called/text to congratulate me.



Micky Sontag

Clocking 5 birds in just under 6 minutes, **2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Open 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Open Mark Gilbert of Winkfield.** The first two pigeons from Thurso were Cocks, both are grandchildren of our best breeder Golden Barcelona, the first on the clock was from a son of Golden Barcelona when he was paired to a daughter of Laureate 1<sup>st</sup> International Barcelona and Romee of Jella Jellemas, the mother was from Southfield Melissa and Starlight.

The Second Bird was also a cock the father was from Laureaat Barcelona and Romee and the mother was direct from Golden Barcelona when paired to a daughter of Romee of Jella's and is a full sister to Gold Lady 1<sup>st</sup> National Barcelona.

We really enjoyed the race and would like to thank the Committee and everyone involved for organising a long distance race.





Mark Gilbert and Nigel Langstaff

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section J 4<sup>th</sup> Open Topp & Mann of Rayleigh.** I race with my grandad and this was the first time I've tried at over 500 miles and to get one on the day was brilliant, a nice hot day few mates round to watch them couldn't ask for more. He is a 2 year old widowhood cock sent pure widowhood his bloodlines are, the sire is a Hereman - Ceuster from Premier Stud and the dam is a hen I picked up from Kassel in Germany.



Topp and Mann 4<sup>th</sup> Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Section J

Runner up in **Section D** to Mark and **8<sup>th</sup> Open is Owen Abery of Theale**. I sent 2 birds to Thurso out of a possible 3 candidates to pick from that had raced Ilkeston, Blaydon, and Berwick. The birds had been rested since Berwick just loft exercised and fed appropriately for the job in hand.

I fancied the little blue hen, her breeding is a Mark Gilbert distance pigeon. The sire was gifted to Roger Lowe from Mark Gilbert, after a year of him owning it I was offered the cock by Roger as he knew all my birds were distances pigeons gifted to me by Mark. I paired him to a hen bred down from Southfield Supreme. As a baby my hen only had 4 club races then as yearling had 4 races furthest being Truro taking 3<sup>rd</sup> club being beaten by loft mates. This year she had 2 club races north followed by 2 club races south. She was my 5<sup>th</sup> bird back CSCFC Ilkeston then Blaydon was 200<sup>th</sup> open BBC, and Berwick CSCFC was 9<sup>th</sup> sec 73<sup>rd</sup> open, and BBC was 14<sup>th</sup> sec 89<sup>th</sup> open. This Little hen really handled well when she went to the race, I hoped I had her and my other entry in the right condition to fly just over 500 mile. She was in brilliant condition when she returned and virtually the same as how I sent her, she had flown 12 hrs 21 min and I was on cloud 9 that I had clocked from Thurso.



Owen Abery

**1<sup>st</sup> Section B 10<sup>th</sup> Open James Fulford of Salisbury**. Wow!!! This is what dreams are made of. I still can't believe the result. Since the day I started racing I always talked about what I would do if I ever reached this position in a National race.

My 10<sup>th</sup> Open 1<sup>st</sup> Section B pigeon was bred down from John Halstead's Nyland Ashley Southwell lines. A great breeder and racer achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Barcelona National.

I would like thank my good friends Andy Parsons for all your support, Dave Day who has been with me racing for many years and Rob Poole who is always so supportive and encouraging.

Well done to everyone who managed to get their birds home.





James Fulford



Mark and Julie Gower

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section B Mark and Julie Gower of Fordingbridge.** Congratulations to the race winner Mr Sontag & Son and my club mate Jim Fulford.

I made a decision early this year to gently race my distance yearlings and 2 year olds on the north route up to Berwick for the 2 year olds and Leicester with the yearlings. This left 14x 3 & 4 year olds that had flown Pau last season, they were prepared with 3 short north races and then to Blaydon with the Classic. After Blaydon I had two that were injured through attacks and 2 were lost so the 12 were left to rest and grow new feathers.

They were exercised around home for the following 4 weeks and given a 60 mile race from Honiton 2 weeks before Thurso, they were only exercised once a day as I have an issue with a Goshawk around home and this has made the birds very jumpy and often they would become loft shy and difficult to get them back in the loft.

My first bird is a 3 year old hen that took 4 days to come back from Pau last year but this year she did not put a foot wrong, she is bred from my good friend Andy Parsons stock being from birds that have been to Tarbes 8 times and a daughter of his great stock cock "Dancer".

My second bird is 3 year old hen bred from Nick Adshead stock and she was my first bird last year from Pau finishing 63<sup>rd</sup> open and was my fancied pigeon this year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> was a 4 year old hen was a from Frieldenhoffen stock and she was my 3<sup>rd</sup> pigeon from Pau last year.

My final pigeon clocked on the day was a 4 year old hen from the same blood as my first pigeon.

All my birds remained un-paired this year although they did start to pair together lately and were fed on Countrywide corn.

I would like to finish by saying a big thank you to good friends Nick Smith & Andy Parsons for always helping me by taking the birds to marking when they can, and to Julie my wife with help with the birds.

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Section A Kevin and John Zerafa of Portsmouth.** Firstly can we congratulate the overall winner Micky Sontag and all of the Section winners. Also congratulations to everyone that timed on the day, as it's never easy at the distance. We are still beaming with how well our birds performed and it was the first time my father has been able to get out in the garden since he was discharged from hospital following a bad chest and lung infection, so just what the doctor ordered for him! We were both buzzing when we timed on the day and to take the first 5 positions in the Section was just magical!

Our first bird, which was the only bird timed on the day into Section A, is provisionally 1<sup>st</sup> Section, 14<sup>th</sup> Open flying 547 miles. He is bred out of a son of The House of Aarden's "Padfield's Blue Badge" who is also a G/Son of New Laureaat & Kleine Jade (both 1<sup>st</sup> International Barcelona). The dam of our first bird was bred by Dean Childs of Wickford and is a daughter of "Chalice Olive" 6<sup>th</sup> BICC National Agen. He was sent sitting a 4 day old youngster and was 1st Fed from Wetherby (217 miles) a few weeks previous.

Our second bird which was timed early next morning was spotted by myself on the camera walking round the garden whilst I was indoors making my father some breakfast. When we checked the playback he'd been walking around the garden for 13 minutes, but luckily for us his Section (2nd) or Open (22nd) position wasn't affected! He isn't really bred for long distance racing, but was tried at Pau NFC last season and finished 90<sup>th</sup> Open, being timed early on the second day. For this race he was sent sitting 5 day eggs. His sire was 1<sup>st</sup> Open NFC Saintes and is owned by our good friend Bill Edwards of Gosport and his dam is our NFC winner from Fougères "Eastern Angel" who is starting to breed a few useful birds for us.

Our third bird which is provisionally 3<sup>rd</sup> Section, 27<sup>th</sup> Open was bred by Wearn & Neilson from a cock that we bought jointly from a Dutch fancier called Tim Hage and her dam is one of their own being bred down from "New Laureaat" & "Special One" lines. This hen has been a great racer for us in the BBC this year already being 5<sup>th</sup> Section 35<sup>th</sup> Open from Blaydon (288 miles) and 4<sup>th</sup> Section 19<sup>th</sup> Open from Berwick (345 miles). She was sent sitting 5 day old eggs.

Our fourth bird which is provisionally 4<sup>th</sup> Section 37<sup>th</sup> Open was bred out of a son of Mark Gilbert's "Southfield Supreme Junior" and was sent to the race celibate as his hen was lost at Elgin. His Dam is a daughter of Dean Childs's "Chalice King" (who has sired two BICC winners), when he was paired to his own daughter "Chalice Darcy" 1<sup>st</sup> BICC Mont de Marsan (Pau).

Our fifth bird which is provisionally 5<sup>th</sup> Section 44<sup>th</sup> Open was bred out of a son of our good hen "Chich" who won for us 7<sup>th</sup> Open Pau CSCFC, 1<sup>st</sup> Section 11<sup>th</sup> Open Narbonne BICC & 23<sup>rd</sup> Open St Vincent BICC when she was paired to Steve Harris' Bergerac CSCFC winner. The dam of our fifth bird was bred out of two BICC winners "Chalice Sidney" 1<sup>st</sup> BICC St Vincent and "Chalice Darcy" 1<sup>st</sup> BICC Mont de Marsan both owned by Dean Childs of Wickford.





John and Kevin Zerafa



1<sup>st</sup> Section A

**1<sup>st</sup> Section C Pete Barlow of Coombe Hill.** Congratulations to all fanciers who clocked birds on a very hot and testing race. My 3 year old cock is a Deweert × Mark Gilbert both parents being gifted to me by Graham Clift (Lord Tirley). He is a half brother to 2<sup>nd</sup> Section 10<sup>th</sup> Open BBC Messac.



Pete Barlow

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section C Stuart Wilcox of Bristol.** We timed a 6 year old cock who we call "39" just before dark, in fact I had to turn the lights on to get him into the loft. "39" has been a great servant previously being 62<sup>nd</sup> Open NFC Pau and 150<sup>th</sup> Open NFC Tarbes plus numerous other prizes including 3<sup>rd</sup> West Section BICC Cholet National. We only decided to send our 4 old cocks at the last minute and they have never been raced or trained north in their lives, "39" last race was from Guernsey two weeks previous. He is 100% Chris Hebberecht and is a 1/2 brother to many good pigeons including 5<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Nat Falaise 8,200 birds and 27<sup>th</sup> Nat BICC St Vincent, he is bred from a direct son of Talis 1<sup>st</sup> National La Soutteriane and his dam is Cathy, our top breeding daughter of Champion 2<sup>nd</sup> National Ace Pigeon KBDB Long Distance 2005 4<sup>th</sup> National Souillac 35517<sup>th</sup> National Cahors 9,275 birds, 50<sup>th</sup> National Souillac 5,985 birds 60<sup>th</sup> National Limoges 12,266 birds 80<sup>th</sup> National Brive 7,446 birds. "39" was flown on traditional widowhood and is fed of feeds and supplements from Beyers and Country Wide. It was a lovely moment when he landed, I was on the phone to my partner and friend Rob Brooks from High Littleton who has been a great help in improving our long distance results as well as managing the team at High Littleton under the name Brooks Brothers & Wilcox.



Stuart Wilcox 2<sup>nd</sup> Section C



**3<sup>rd</sup> Section C Geoff and Catherine Cooper of Peasedown St John.** Geoff and Catherine Cooper clocked a yearling hen, sitting eggs 8 days, flying 505 miles. She is now called Dawn as she arrived just after the race opened and was the first bird clocked in the morning and also the first yearling on the result. Her sire is a son of Wollongong when she was paired to a son of Euro Diamond and her dam is a daughter of the Special One when he was paired to a daughter of New Laureaat x Kliene Jade. Congratulations to the winners and well done to Clare for sorting out two races at the same time.



Catherine Cooper



Steve Howard

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Section G Steve and Tessa Howard of Guildford.** I would like to congratulate all the section winners especially Mr Sontag & Son for first open. Our first bird was a gift from my old friends Peter Taylor sent to the race driving to nest and our second bird is one of our old family from Ray Hammond & Keith Mott, sitting 12 days on eggs .

I would like to say thank you to Clare and all the Committee ,job well done .

**1<sup>st</sup> Section E Nigel and Wendy Shaw of Crewe.** The pigeon that we clocked on the day from Thurso to be 1<sup>st</sup> Section and the only pigeon in our section on the day was a yearling chequer pied cock flown on widowhood. He claimed 2<sup>nd</sup> Section E from Elgin two weeks previous. He is a son of the Bat when paired to a Grand daughter of New Laureaat.



Nigel Shaw

Runners up in **Section A John and Matt Drain of Portchester.** He's been a very steady pigeon for us over the last couple of years. His preparation for this year's Thurso has been plenty of training and racing down the coast, he was then switched north to Hexham and Berwick being a good day bird from a very tough Berwick 13 plus hours on the wing. The sire of him is a pigeon brought in from LPW Roland Jansen lines in 2013. The Dam was brought in from Premier lofts in 2014 and comes from the Hardy Kruger lines.

Well done to all who clocked from another tough North road Race.





John and Matt Drain's cock bird

Next up in **Section G** to take **3<sup>rd</sup> Section Daniel & Kelsie Sallis (M Sallis & Son) of Brighton.**

Firstly, congratulations to the winners.

This yearling hen is bred from Mark Gilbert x Alwyn Hill stock she is a very consistent pigeon and since the start of the season she has been bang on being 12<sup>th</sup> Section G 243<sup>rd</sup> Open BBC Wadebridge 212 miles, 30<sup>th</sup> SCF 1,525 birds Truro 229 miles, then 113<sup>th</sup> Open BICC Hexham 298 miles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section 31<sup>st</sup> Open BBC Blaydon 293 miles. Then went to Guernsey NFC 142 miles but she was a bit behind and now BBC Thurso provisionally 51<sup>st</sup> Open 3<sup>rd</sup> Section 554 miles.



Liberty and Macie Sallis

**2<sup>nd</sup> Section E Nathan Foulkes of Stoke on Trent.** My first pigeon is a 2 year old blue hen sitting 12 days, she was bred by my good friend Terry Hall and she has been a consistent pigeon, getting 2<sup>nd</sup> club as a baby then scored as a yearling and this year also 9<sup>th</sup> Section 32<sup>nd</sup> Open in the MCC from Sennon Cove. This was her first ever race at north so pleased with the result.



Nathan Foulkes Hen



Bovingdon Marking Team



## Telephone & 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>Velocity</i>
1	J302	Sontag & Son	Harlow	GB18V64003	16 40 57 1	1241.605
2	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB19N82051	17 17 25 1	1210.312
3	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB19B06183	17 17 26 1	1210.284
4	J545	Topp & Mann	Rayleigh	GB19H28324	17 26 34 1	1205.486
5	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB19N82029	17 22 23 1	1202.214
6	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB19N82074	17 22 59 1	1201.244
7	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB19B06140	17 23 7 1	1201.028
8	D137	Owen Aberly YF	Reading	GB19L01466	17 21 12 1	1197.605
9	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB17N01587	17 39 44 1	1174.760
10	B1072	J Fulford	Salisbury	GB19N50193	18 8 20 1	1166.947
11	D379	M/M M Dickinson & Sons	Hemel	GB15N35745	17 17 57 1	1166.804
12	B85	Mr & Mrs M Gower	Fordingbridge	GB18N46706	18 31 38 1	1155.824
13	D1211	J & P Parker	Reading	GB15N03821	18 3 51 1	1134.974
14	A260	K & J Zerafa	Portsmouth	GB19N58332	19 21 10 1	1119.789
15	B85	Mr & Mrs M Gower	Fordingbridge	GB18N46779	19 23 1 1	1087.007
16	B85	Mr & Mrs M Gower	Fordingbridge	GB17N22206	19 27 29 1	1081.410
17	D280	G Rowe	Aylesbury	GB18N73343	18 18 31 1	1064.401
18	J302	Sontag & Son	Harlow	GB17V52727	18 39 32 1	1061.949
19	B85	Mr & Mrs M Gower	Fordingbridge	GB17N22298	19 45 40 1	1059.208
20	D1102	M Gilbert	Windsor	GB19B06241	19 32 20 1	1023.123
21	B158	G Owers	Bere Regis	GB16P30166	21 12 9 1	987.388
22	A260	K & J Zerafa	Portsmouth	GB18N14968	5 35 22 2	929.589
23	C223	P Barlow	Coombe Hill	GB18N09227	19 37 19 1	929.225
24	C426	S Wilcox	Bristol	GB15N83839	21 35 56 1	879.298
25	C778	G G & C J Cooper	Peasedown St	GB20C07055	5 13 22 2	876.042
26	C454	G Clift	Tirley	GB19N10430	20 32 54 1	871.642
27	A260	K & J Zerafa	Portsmouth	GB19V37810	6 58 39 2	860.505
28	J292	Gladwin & Jarvis	Leigh on Sea	GB19N61626	5 48 30 2	858.653
29	C195	P Wood	Meriden	GB18N57723	20 9 1 1	837.854
30	B328	A Parsons	Salisbury	GB20N53597	6 40 21 2	835.745
31	B729	Cottrell Richmond &	Wimborne	GB19N86697	8 6 10 2	802.634
32	D1211	J & P Parker	Reading	GB17N26920	6 54 43 2	796.665
33	C38	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	GB18B00705	7 29 7 2	792.386
34	B85	Mr & Mrs M Gower	Fordingbridge	GB18N46693	8 8 27 2	788.026
35	C38	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	GB18B00613	7 40 47 2	784.436
36	G516	M/M S Howard	Guildford	GB19X14318	7 53 1 2	780.569
37	A260	K & J Zerafa	Portsmouth	GB19N58249	9 13 17 2	768.213
38	C778	G G & C J Cooper	Peasedown St	GB19B05509	7 42 0 2	764.179
39	B328	A Parsons	Salisbury	GB19N39332	8 28 27 2	761.108
40	C76	F J Quinn	Devizes	GB18N48032	8 28 49 2	734.451
41	C883	Brooks Brothers & Wilcox	High Littleton	GB19B10641	8 32 36 2	731.336
42	C778	G G & C J Cooper	Peasedown St	GB19B05545	8 41 25 2	727.065
43	C883	Brooks Brothers & Wilcox	High Littleton	GB19B10569	8 43 28 2	724.851
44	A260	K & J Zerafa	Portsmouth	GB19N58290	10 41 3 2	718.011
45	B259	B & D Young	Bournemouth	GB14E14398	10 49 50 2	711.370
46	E781	Mr & Mrs N Shaw	Crewe	GB20A00584	20 54 40 1	709.435
47	D534	N Walker	Uxbridge	GB19X01666	9 14 33 2	702.015
48	G516	M/M S Howard	Guildford	GB19V08280	10 8 43 2	699.755
49	J292	Gladwin & Jarvis	Leigh on Sea	GB19N61675	10 2 47 2	691.314
50	A103	J & M Drain	Portchester	GB19N36918	11 23 27 2	691.039
51	G724	M Sallis & Son	Brighton	GB20N29709	11 53 24 2	689.723

52	C38	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	GB19B03021	10	28	38	2	685.485
53	D379	M/M M Dickinson & Sons	Hemel	GB17N04901	9	14	49	2	685.098
54	A408	D Ede & Family	Southampton	GB19N43785	11	32	34	2	681.284
55	J754	Mr & Mrs L Hawkins	Bishops	GB20N86696	9	13	14	2	679.079
56	B85	Mr & Mrs M Gower	Fordingbridge	GB18N46767	11	35	54	2	671.082
57	A260	K & J Zerafa	Portsmouth	NWHU17S0541	12	24	49	2	666.515
58	J58	M Bulled	Harlow	GB19B06994	10	5	42	2	665.838
59	C38	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	GB20Z16287	11	29	26	2	655.532
60	A242	P Cullen	Southampton	GB16N94142	12	55	38	2	644.862
61	C610	M Williams	Hereford	GB17N86727	9	3	45	2	642.281
62	B1072	J Fulford	Salisbury	GB19A18835	12	15	45	2	639.849
63	C38	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	GB18B00639	12	37	10	2	625.103
64	C883	Brooks Brothers & Wilcox	High Littleton	GB16N92150	12	10	43	2	619.998
65	J292	Gladwin & Jarvis	Leigh on Sea	GB14N45765	12	58	54	2	609.099
66	D534	N Walker	Uxbridge	GB18B02663	13	3	53	2	593.665
67	J292	Gladwin & Jarvis	Leigh on Sea	GB19N61715	13	44	12	2	591.020
68	E476	N Foulkes	Stoke on Trent	GB19E03628	8	9	56	2	579.414
69	G516	M/M S Howard	Guildford	GB19D02827	15	14	57	2	567.229
70	C725	A Smith & Son	Wotton-Under-	GB17N18988	13	26	0	2	564.838
71	E755	Mr & Mrs P Woolliss	Grimsby	GB19Z41723	8	31	23	2	544.267
72	E36	Talent & Westbury	Corwen	GB19C15020	9	25	5	2	544.022
73	C38	D & J Staddon	Shepton Mallet	GB19B03017	16	35	38	2	537.294
74	E755	Mr & Mrs P Woolliss	Grimsby	GB18Z73242	9	39	6	2	515.498
75	E476	N Foulkes	Stoke on Trent	GB19E03621	12	8	52	2	482.661
76	C278	C Sanders	Atherstone	GB19N23969	17	14	38	2	428.853
77	E184	K Hart	Stoke on Trent	GB16L37313	17	47	25	2	389.984

## **Convoyers Report**

**Tuesday 13 July:** Left Southampton at 2.30pm. Parked up for the night near Stoke-on-Trent, fed and watered birds.

**Wednesday 14 July:** Left Stoke-on-Trent at 5am, stopped 3 times on route to give the birds a rest and water. Each stop was 1 hour. Got into Thurso at 6.15pm, fed and watered birds.

**Thursday 15 July:** Water in front of birds all day, topped up regularly. Gave birds a full feed at 12 noon. Moved into position at tea time ready for an early morning lib. Phoned Clive Merrills (Race Adviser) 7pm to talk about Friday's lib. He said to phone him at 4.30am but to have the transporter ready for a lib.

**Friday 16 July:** Up at 3.30am (daylight in Thurso). Got transporter ready to lib. Phoned Clive at 4.30am, told him sun was popping its head over the horizon. The Old Man of Hoy was visible, as was the rest of the Orkney Islands 5 miles North of us. Told Clive it was OK to lib but we would hold on until 5am.

Birds liberated at 5am in a light SW wind. Birds left the site in one batch but broke in half about 2 miles south of the site. One half headed SSE but the rest went around a few times 2 miles South of us. After about 2 minutes this batch broke into 3 batches with 2 batches heading SSE and the other heading straight South. I looked at my phone to see how long it took all birds to be out of sight - it was 5.05am.

We would like to thank the 3 local fanciers David, Alastair and Terry who kept us company on Thursday evening and the same 3 lads turned out at 4.30am to watch the liberation.

## **Berwick National Award Winners 2021**

**P Barlow (C223)** – The Peter Bennett Framed Photograph, Glass Rosebowl and Section C Medal.

**G Kingswood-Cox (A1085)** – Section A Medal.

**Mr & Mrs M A King (B388)** – Section B Medal.

**R J Lowe (D720)** – Section D Medal.

**Mr & Mrs N Shaw (E781)** - Section E Medal.

**B Young (G245)** – Section G Medal.

**Mr & Mrs L Hawkins (J754)** – Section J Medal.



**Elgin National Award Winners 2021**

**A Jones (C338)** – The Peter Bennett Framed Photograph, Glass Rosebowl and Section C Medal.

**G Reed (A26)** – Section A Medal.

**A Parsons (B328)** – Section B Medal.

**Mr & Mrs B Boggins & Son (D527)** – Section D Medal.

**J & B Oakley (E366)** - Section E Medal.

**C Edmiston (G462)** – Section G Medal.

**M Bulled (J58)** – Section J Medal.

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