B.I.C.C.

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British International Championship Club
British Barcelona Club
Central Southern Classic Flying Club

Nort-sur-Erdre Provisional Race Report
Saturday 8th June 2024

The Provisional 1st Open BICC and BBC winners, Brunger & Warner of Wisborough

The Provisional 1st Open CSCFC Peter Rixon of Reading

These three great clubs came together for this race, and it produced a birdage of some 5,300 birds. Many fanciers and officials have talked about clubs coming together for the good of the sport but there is a difference between talking and doing. The BICC, BBC and CSCFC have not only talked the talk, but they have walked the walk. This is the first of four planned joint races.

This race produced two overall winners, Brunger & Warner who won the BICC and BBC and Peter Rixon who won the CSCFC. This race report covers the Open and Section winners in all three clubs and is a combined report by Clare Norman and Mike Jackson.

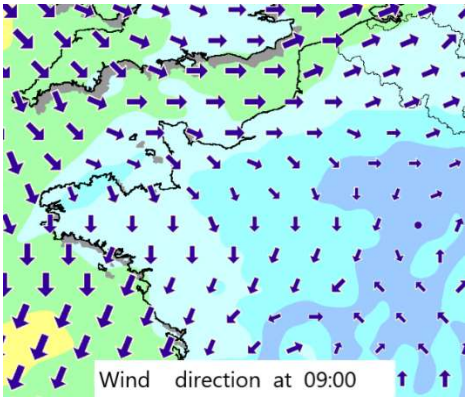
The weather/race report

Steve Appleby, the BICC race and weather advisor, provided the following report:

Overall weather conditions for the combined organisations race from Nort-sur-Erdre were very good, due to the effects of high pressure extending across the flight path from the west. Liberation was effected at 06:30 under broken cloud and blue skies. The convoyers reported the birds cleared well into a mainly light northerly wind. The flight path through northern France was one of generally clear blue skies until the birds reached the channel where various cloud formations were identified over the open sea. Here the wind direction changed to a moderate west north westerly picking up in strength averaging speeds of 15 mph and more. Visibility recorded by the met buoys was 5 to 10 miles. Viewing the early times some excellent performances were achieved as the leading birds as expected were timed mainly into the east and central sections.



View near Nantes



Wind flow

This report is based on member's first bird verifications and the final result may differ.

The Provisional BICC and BBC Open winners, winning a BENZING - Gantner Pigeon Systems GmbH system were Brunger & Warner of Wisborough over 252 miles on 1375. Delighted with their double National win, the partnership said, 'We would like to start by saying a big thank you to the BICC marking and convoying team, the birds returned in absolutely immaculate condition, a true credit to all involved. We are also made up with the Benzing clocking system as we were thinking of buying one a few weeks ago. This will be a great asset for us going forward.

Moving on to the race we entered 10 hopefuls for the BICC Nort-sur-Erdre then nominating over to the BBC and the 100 Club. The birds were liberated at 6.30am. While waiting for the birds we predicted a steady race with the northerly winds in France turning westly in the Channel. At 11.53am Number 40, a blue roundabout hen, appeared like a dot in the sky, spot on her racing line from France and finished in one fast dive into the loft and straight into her partner still looking completely fresh. She is a 2-year-old roundabout hen from a family of Maurice Matthews pigeons that were first acquired from one of Richard's lifelong friends, Roger Dawbarn some 25 years ago. He kindly gifted them from his directs that he had spent a considerable amount of money on. These pigeons have put up some very good performances over the years winning many club, fed, combine and now National level winning 1st Open BICC and 1st BBC.

Number 40, as she's currently known, has been a good pigeon over the water but saved her big performance for this weekend. Her mother and father are both very good pigeons. Her mother being a very consistent pigeon on land and water, winning various top prizes and scoring well up into the open and section from Sigogne last year in the NFC, on a very hard racing day. Her father was also a very good pigeon being a previous fed winner from Bordeaux and was then sent for his first ever north road race straight to Perth. Again, he didn't disappoint, finishing 2nd with only 12 pigeons making it on the day. The weekend was one we will never forget as we also took the first 4 in the federation for the

fifth time this season! Once again, we thank the whole team behind the BICC and BBC as it's no easy task. We would also like to say a big well done to all on the result and all the section winners.'



Richard Brunger & Ricky Warner


Number 40 National winner

The Provisional 1st Open 1st NE Section CSCFC Peter Rixon of Reading. Well, what a pleasant surprise to receive the phone call from our hard-working secretary Clare Norman to tell me that I had won the Classic race from Nort Sur Erdre. After an awful race in the NFC race last weekend, I was in two minds whether to send or not but obviously delighted that I did and to win was a real bonus also to beat the local ace and club mate Luke Oglesby was extremely pleasing. My winning bird is a yearling cock raced on the natural system sitting four-day old eggs, Sire is son of Brexit Barcelona of Crammond and Langstaff winner of 1st Open Barcelona in the BBC when he was paired to daughter of New Laureate. The dam is Jan Aarden Louella Unbreakable lines herself winner of 1st Section Messac in the Classic. Well done to all the other Section winners and thanks to Alan Webber and his team at Steventon marking station and Gary Bicknell for all his work sorting out the clocks.



Central Southern Classic Flying Club winner, Peter Rixon

2nd Open 1st SE Section CSCFC, 3rd South Centre Section, 13th Open BICC, 10th Open BBC were Jimmy Wearn & Erik Neilson of Ramsdean. Jimmy and Erik are having a cracking old bird season, winning 3 sections in two weeks. They timed a 2-year-old chequer cock to take provisionally 10th Open 1st Section A.



Jimmy Wearn with Godfrey Kingswood Cox

Central Southern Classic Flying Club Open and Section winners.

3rd Open 2nd SE Section CSCFC and 2nd Section A BBC, were Dave & Lisa Waterhouse of Bedhampton. Firstly, can we congratulate the winners of the BBC and CSCFC and BICC. We are provisionally 3rd CSCFC, 11th BBC, 25th BICC and 3rd Premier 100 club. The pigeon is a blue hen from our Leo Hermann family which gave been consistent for us over the last few years. After the last National I re-paired all my pigeons and she was sitting 5-day old eggs, she is fed on Superstar Plus. Can we also thank Nigel Easton, my loft manager when we go away, as he looked after the birds while we were away in Malta the weekend before. We would also like to thank all the organisations and the marking station for doing a great job.

4th Open CSCFC was Kevin King of Havant. Pictured in the photograph is Jessica King my daughter who timed in for me a nice small to medium blue hen from my old family paired with a Vandenabeele cock from Louella. I am a member of the very strong Premier 100 club and would like to thank Clare Norman for the support and opportunity to race with the CSCFC.

5th Open CSCFC was Buddy Shipp of Bedhampton. The pigeon I timed is a yearling blue cock Vandenabeele on the roundabout system. It is his second race across the water and was bred by my friend Chris Bennett to help restart me at my new home.



Dave Waterhouse



Jessica King



Buddy Ship

6th Open CSCFC were Ken & Sue Francis of Southampton. Our pigeon is a yearling blue cock flown on the roundabout system. He only went North as a baby, completing the Southampton & District North Road Fed programme. This year he was again flown north for the first few races and had the tough one from Fougeres; then into this race. He handles perhaps a bit bigger than we normally like but is well balanced. He is a 100% Billy Lynch Cassaert.



Ken Francis

7th Open CSCFC were Luke & Les Cross Loft 2 of Gosport. Firstly, I'd like to say a big well done to the winners, some great results on another tough day, also compliments to the team behind the scenes, marking & convoying as always, the birds arrived in great condition. Our bird is a yearling cock bred by Cosmin Tallas purchased in a charity auction, he is bred from a daughter of Dinan 1st section NFC Saintes, grandfather to New Dinan 1st Section NFC St. Philbert. He has been raced on roundabout, and has flown the BICC programme, he is fed on a new corn we are trying for this year called, 'Harris special'. He will now be paired up for the CSCFC & BBC race from Messac.

8th Open CSCFC were Ken & Lee Cleife of Portsmouth. My 3-year-old dark chequer cock I timed was a late bred during the Covid period, his bloodlines being a Gaby Vandenabeele cross. I bred 4 late youngsters with consecutive ring numbers 24, 25, 26 and 27 and it was always 26 and 27 that stood out from the four. As a youngster I managed to get him in to the last three young bird races with the Solent Fed and the following year as a yearling he came really well too. There has always been something special about number 27, now I will keep number 26 and number 27 flying South Road.



Luke Cross with Paisley and Reuben



Ken Cleife with his granddaughter Jessica

9th Open 2nd NE Section CSCFC Mr & Mrs Dave Beasley & Luke Oglesby of Reading. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate our good friend Peter Rixon on winning the Classic, all your hard work and dedication pays off, well done mate. Our first pigeon is a four-year-old Van Loon hen bred from the racing team. She has flown six Channel races already this season, and this is the first time she has scored for us, she is raced on the roundabout system. Thank you to all the Classic and BICC team for another great race.

10th Open, 1st SW Section CSCFC was Tony Stephens of Poole. I am very pleased with the pigeon I got first; she is a blue hen who is 2 years old. I sent her to Wakefield last week. It was in the middle of the results. Last year she was second Federation from Worksop. Well done to the winners. Thanks to Clare and the team for all their hard work.

2nd SW Section & 2nd Section B, BBC Tony Cottrell (Cottrell, Richmond & Rogers) of Wimborne. We would like to congratulate the BICC on another good race in conjunction with the CSCFC and BBC. Also thank you to the marking team at Sarisbury Green with all the extra paperwork they have to do.

We are delighted to contribute to the early times article again. Our first bird is a Blue Bar Hen "53" flown on our chaos widowhood system, she came just off line with a stray which mixed her trap up, she had put in a very good shift as she landed with her wings down. "53" was our first bird in the BBC Fougeres race taking 4th, 12th Open 2370 birds, also 4th Sect 3114 birds, 53rd Open 6143 birds Alencon BICC and now provisionally 2nd Sect, 11th Open CSCFC, 2nd Sect 23rd Open BBC and 33rd Sect, 53rd Open 4,534 Nort Sur Edre, hopefully a start in the making. As for her breeding: she was bred by Justin at Bosliven Lofts in Cornwall and bought up to Wimborne in a racing kit. She is from a grandson of Rossi x granddaughter of Den Euro from Euro and Nieuwe Olympiad. Congratulations to all the winners, Open and Section. Remember: motivation and observation.



Dave Beasley and Luke Oglesby



Tony Stephens



Tony Cottrell

1st NW Section Chris & Jane Howse of Devizes. We are pleased to be provisional first North West section Nort sur-Erdre. Our first bird was a hen raced on the chaos system having her fifth Channel race of the season and having her third race on the trot! Having previously been to Messac and St Philbert. As all of the birds we sent had. Our birds are fed a mixture of Vanrobaeys and Versa Laga corn. She is bred down from our best pigeons. Her sire is a son of Stumpy and her dam is a daughter of Jalta, 1st Open Classic Bergerac when he was paired to a daughter of Mark Bulled's Legacy. Our first bird last week from the NFC was also from a daughter of Jalta and daughter of Legacy. We had a good race with 15/17 of our entries back on the day, they will now be prepared for Tarbes. Congratulations to the winner and all the section winners.

2nd NW Section Geoff & Catherine Cooper of Peasedown St John. Geoff and Catherine Cooper clocked a yearling blue cock to win 2nd NW section. He was sent sitting seven days. He is a grandson of Farmer George, Double Ace of Eteinne Meirlaen, also has the blood of Lady of the Night and Farmer Gong. Just after another yearling cock arrived which will most likely be 3rd section. This one also has all our top birds in its pedigree. It was also sent sitting. Well done to all the winners on a testing day.



Chris & Jane Howse



Geoff and Catherine Coopers 2nd Section blue and 3rd Section chequer

The Provisional BICC & BBC Section Winners

2nd South Centre Section, 8th Open BICC and 7th Open BBC was Derek Reid of Weybridge. Derek said, 'Hi Mike, here are brief details of my pigeon, GB 21N 15019. Flown on the conventional widowhood system, this was his eight race of the season, with his previous best position being in the BBC Fougeres, where he was my second bird. Last year he was very consistent with 6 positions to the loft. His sire was bred by M&D Evans, a Vandebele. The grandsire on the dam's side was one of my best ever racing pigeons with 7 x firsts. A pigeon bred by Peter Sabba, a Fran Zwols when paired to a direct daughter of my NFC St Nazaire winner of 2005. She bred the mother of GB21N15019 and this was only his second Channel race in his career so far.'

1st South East Section, 2nd Open BICC and 2nd Open 1st Section BBC were J Topp & Mann of Rayleigh. The consistent loft report, 'First we would like to say a very well-done to all the section winners and big well-done to the Open winner on an outstanding pigeon. We are very happy with our performance, sending 3 widowhood cocks and the first one to come was a yearling cock bird. He was sent on pure widowhood and come like a bullet to take 2nd Open. What makes it even better, is that he is a mix of all the best race pigeons that I have retired to stock. Mainly Gaby based. The other 2 cocks were home not long after. The last one being at 14.33 so it turned out a good day's racing for us. Lastly, we would like to thank all involved, as the birds come home in excellent condition. Also, all my club mates who were on the result, it was a good performance by the Hullbridge members. There were a good few that featured in the Top 20 of the Open, so well-done all.'

2nd South East Section, 3rd Open and 4th Open 2nd Section J BBC Mark Bulled of Harlow. Following on from his good performance form St Philbert, Mark said, 'Congratulations to the winners in what was a good testing race. My winning bird was a 2-year-old widowhood hen having her first Channel race. She is my best hen, and as a young bird she raced north and should have won the fed twice, but for poor trapping. She was turned north as a yearling and she won twice, including Wadebridge 234 miles. I thought a good time would be by 1.30 and was pleased to see her screaming in at 1.26 although from the wrong direction! Straight from the west. Her breeding is from my old Red Bull Soontjens. Her sire won 4 x 1st and the dam was bred by GWP Macaloney. Herself a winner of 5 x 1st for me. I sent 29 and had 24 on the day and 4 more Sunday morning.'


Derek Reid


Topp & Mann


Mark Bulled

3rd South East Section, 4th Open BICC were Mr & Mrs R Hume of Rochford over 304 miles on 1288. Rob said, 'This bird has been a very consistent hen for me, she is a Herman hen, and this was her third race of the season. The other two races being from 118 miles and then into her first race across the Channel. She was racing back to the perch and come home in very good condition. In fact, it was her sister who was my second pigeon who will also feature quite high up in the result being a year younger than her. Also, well-done Mitch, on a very good bird it won't be long mate. '

4th South East Section, 5th Open BICC and 5th Open 3rd Sec G BBC were L & K Buddle of Dover. Lee reported, 'Our provisional 5th Open BICC, 4th ES is a yearling cock flown on our chaos widowhood

system. He has had prior to the Nort-Sur-Erdre race, a BICC St Philbert, 265 miles where he was the 5th bird to the loft and most weeks inland with Wingham flying club from either Stoney Cross, 129 miles, or Blandford, 149 miles. His sire was bred by Mark Sparey and is an inbred G-Son of Mark Gilbert's Golden Barcelona with some, Kleine Jade 1st Int Barcelona of Jelle Jellema in the pedigree also. His dam was bred by Andrew Macmillan from a son of, Southfield Dream when she was paired to daughter of Perpignan-06, from Mark Gilbert. The dam of this hen is a direct Etienne Meirlaen hen. A granddaughter of Monar and Odilon Barcelona. This year has been our first season on the Cest Pharma products and both dad and I can really see a difference in the overall condition and fitness of the race team on these products. Congratulations to Brunger & Warner on their win and all in the result.'

6th South East Section, 9th Open BICC were P Jackson & Son of Bromley over 284 on 1261. Lee said, 'GB20N37961 is a blue pied hen provisionally 9th Open Nort Sure Erdre. Again, this day proved more difficult than anticipated with this hen being a great campaigner for us previously. Having been 20th Open NFC Coutances, 17th Open BICC Guernsey A/A, 18th Open BICC Guernsey A/A, 65th Open BICC Alencon, 1st club, 1st Thames North & Eastern Counties Weymouth, 1st club, 26th TNEC Weymouth. She is a cracking hen, a granddaughter of, The Outlaw Cock, 1st NFC Fougeres 6,726 birds when paired to Silent Lady, 1st BICC Guernsey OH. On the dam's side, she is a direct granddaughter of the super couple of ours, 192 X 928 Bartels. These lines are responsible for our 1st Open NFC Coutances. She will now be retired to the stock loft.'


Mr & Mrs Hume


Lee & Kevin Buddle


Lee Jackson

<u>The BICC Provisional South West Section Winners</u>

1st South West Section, 50th Open Mark Sparey of Abertillery over 305 miles on 1195. Mark told me, 'I timed a blue yearling cock that has raced the Channel three times this season with the BICC. His sire is Rhiwparc Tomos, who won the GGDC from Agen twice, over 550 miles. His dam is a daughter of Rhiwparc Relentless, who scored three times from NFC Tarbes, winning the WSRN along the way. He was paired with a sister of Mark Gilbert's Marseille cock. Rhiwparc Tomos and Relentless are half-brothers and both grandchildren of Southfield supreme.'

2nd South West Section, 52nd Open was G Treharne & Son of Nantyglo over 309 miles on 1193.3. Stuart said, 'My bird is a 3-year-old blue, white flight hen flown on the roundabout system. She is bred from a grandson of Topstar and a daughter of Alan's Lad when he was paired to Lady Kain, 1st National Messac, and is the nestmate to the father of the NFC Ace Pigeon 2023. She has been a consistent bird and among other prizes she scored 3rd Section, 70th Open NFC Sigogne in 2023. This season, she has flown well and was 1st Open Welsh South Road National, 7th Open BICC Alencon 6,196 birds. She was a bit off the place in St Philbert being 223rd Open 5,037 birds, but as you can see a real consistent top performer.'

3rd South West Section, 53rd Open was Simon Smith of Pontypool over 304 miles on 1193.0. Simon Smith of Pontypool took third spot to complete the 1,2 and 3 for the Welsh fanciers in the section. Simon timed a Vandenabeele blue hen of shadow bloodlines, flown on the roundabout system. Simon took 1st and 2nd Open in the Welsh Continental Classic Club from Fougeres on 19th May and this good section position in the BICC, adds to his impressive season so far.


Mark Sparey's yearling cock


G Treharne & son's hen


Simon Smith

British Barcelona Club Open & Section winners

3rd Open 2nd Section G Neil Jones of Sandwich. Firstly, congratulations to Brunger and Warner on winning the race. On to my first arrival, he is a very consistent bird, more often than not he's my first bird home from most Channel races, one of those rare birds you expect to see, more so than hope to see. His breeding on the sire's side is, Les Green Hardy Kruger, and the dam's Mark Gilbert, daughter of Golden Barcelona. My returns were 22 out of 22, although two had been hawked! Not a bad race.

6th Open Don Harvey of Dover. First, I would like to congratulate Brunger and Warner on a fine win. My blue hen was sent sitting eggs, this was her third channel race of the season, she was my second pigeon from St Just with the East of England Continental Club, then she went to Fougeres with this club where she was my first bird. Then into this race, she was well fancied as she was my only all pool bird. I sent 21 and had 15 at the end of the day. She is bred from my Luc Herbots pigeons, being a granddaughter of Iron Barca Lady, 1st provincial, 1st local, 16th National and 23rd International Barcelona and 8th International hens. She is a half-sister to Lady Narbonne and half-sister to New Mimi. Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to Clare our fantastic secretary and Kevin Foster for the wonderful job he does at the marking station, and his crew.

8th Open Tony Meader of Benfleet. My good Vandenabeele 2-year-old which is 3rd J section and 8th Open provisionally. A great asset to my small team this was his 3rd National this year and has been my first bird on each occasion, his parents and mate have also raced with him on each race. He will be rested until Messac now which will be his last Channel race of 2024. Well done to all the people in the result and congratulations to Brunger & Warner of Billinghurst.


Neil Jones' cock bird


Don Harvey's hen


Tony Meader's cock bird

9th Open Tommy Sparks & Pauline Dallas of Gravesend. Firstly, well done to all the winners. Our pigeon GB20 R 29132 has been very consistent for us taking 1st Section, 3rd Open Guernsey, 19th Section, 39th Open Guernsey both in the BICC and 11th Section, 79th Open Messac BBC and 8th Section, 36th Open BBC Guernsey. Plus, to top that off, many club positions.

1st Section D Pete Wells of Dunstable. Pete said, **'**I timed a 3-year-old blue hen on widowhood, bred for me by my good friend Simon Schofield of Leeds. She is of sprint to middle distance breeding. I sent 8 pigeons and had 5 on the day and 1 back the following day.'

2nd Section D Garry Inkley of Hillingdon. My first arrival is a 6-year-old widowhood hen. She has previous performances including 1st Minstead, 1st Blandford as a young bird, prior to taking 2 weeks to complete the YB National! Not a good start to her Channel career. Always consistent her moderate Channel performances include: 72nd NFC Tarbes, 96th NFC St Philbert, 46th BICC St Philbert. This was her third channel race in preparation for the Tarbes National. Her father was bred from the sire of Enigma, 1st Open Classic Day mid-day lib, 11th Open NFC Pau on the day 15 ¼ hours on the wing. 17th Open NFC Tarbes 574 miles on the day, 14 hours on the wing. When he was mated to a direct daughter of K Can Dommelens multiple performers, De Mand. Dam of provisional 2nd section is a daughter of Mark Bulled's Legacy, who has bred multiple distance performances for me including 1st Section, 3rd Open BBC Bordeaux, 34th Open NFC Tarbes etc. I had 20 of my 22 entries on the day and as always with the BICC/ BBC they returned in excellent condition. May I offer my congratulations to Brunger & Warner on winning both the BBC and BICC, also to the ever-present Pete Wells on 1st Section D.


Tommy Sparks and Pauline Dallas


Pete Wells


Garry Inkley's Widowhood hen

1st Section B Tony Stephens of Poole. I am very pleased with the pigeon I got home first. She is a blue hen who is 2 years old. I sent her to Wakefield last week. It was in the middle of the results. Last year she was 2nd federation from Worksop. Well done to the winners and thanks to Clare and the team for all their hard work.

1st Section C Wojciech Blachut of Trowbridge. Well done to everyone who won the BBC, CSCFC and BICC. I clocked a small hen, who had already won last year's section and is a very consistent pigeon. She is bred from my best friend Brian Sheppard's birds and my friends from Poland, Robert and Patryk Sulkowski.

2nd Section C Pete Barlow of Coombe Hill. Congratulations to all that clocked on yet another tough Channel race. My provisional 2nd Section C has won a few cards including 177th Open NFC Messac, 44th Open BBC Poitiers and 4th Open WOESRC Brighton. She is a 2020 bird bred off a cock given to me by Lord Tirley (Supreme lines) paired to a Martin Williams hen bred here - replacement hen lines. My returns by Sunday lunchtime were 10/14. Can I say a big thank you to Graham and George for taking the birds to marking station.


Tony Stephens


Wojciech Blachut


Pete Barlow

1st & 2nd Section H Paul Mauger of Guernsey. First of all, I would like to congratulate the winner on a great result. I would also like to thank everyone who helped us get the birds to this race, it is all much appreciated. The first bird I clocked to win the section was a blue hen raced on the roundabout system, she is bred from Mark Gilbert's Southfield Supreme lines and was lightly trained up to this race. My second section bird was a chequer cock also raced on the roundabout system and was also lightly trained up to this race, he's bred from two RPRA One Loft pigeons a Vandenabeele cock and a Flor Engels hen. He has been a consistent pigeon also winning 2nd section last year from the BBC Bordeaux race.

1st Section E Richard Chambers of Rugeley. The pigeon that won 1st E Section is a blue cock I call Bob as he has a small bump on his head which you can see in the picture. He was bred very late last season and was only parted off in late July. He had 5 races in 3 as a young bird going Wednesday in the Midweek and then back on Saturday with the longest race being Bath 94 miles. This season we put him on the same race programme going Wednesday, Saturday up to 145 miles then sent him in the federation to Guernsey 225 miles two weeks back. I then to send him to Nort Sur Erdre this week as he was acting different around the home jumping on roofs etc which in the past has been a sign that they are happy, and we have had some good performances that week. This week proved to be the same and he came home doing 10 hrs 15 min which I am over the moon with considering he is only 11 months old. I would like to thank all of the team in the BBC, CSCFC and the BICC for putting on such a good race and the birds have returned in great condition as always. Congratulations to all the prize winners and good luck to everyone for the rest of the season.

2nd Section C Nigel & Wendy Shaw of Crewe. The pigeon we timed to be 2nd Section was a late bred weaned at the beginning of August, so not raced as a baby and only trained to 10 miles. As a yearling she started this season with two club races and then onto the Channel. This race being her third time over, doing a total of around 1,200 miles. She was a gift from Andrew Macmillan.


Paul Mauger


Richard Chambers

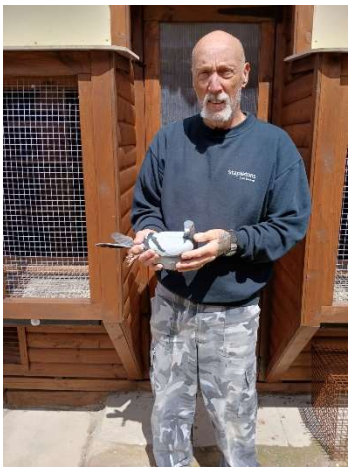

Nigel & Wendy Shaw

The BICC Provisional North Centre Section Winners

1st North Centre Section, 6th Open was Dave George of Letchworth over 321 miles on 1279. Dave timed a pigeon bred by Tumley lofts in 2021 as a kit of 6 Jansen/van Loon. She has flown well in the club, taking a few top 6 positions with the club averaging 200- 300 birds each week. He was 178th Open Guernsey, 88th Open Alencon with the BICC. She was sent was sitting 8 days and will hopefully go to Pau, if all is well. Dave sends congratulations to the winner and section winners.

2nd North Centre Section, 45th Open was Gavin Cole of Gedney Hill over 367 miles on 1205.101. Gavin said, 'My 2021 hen has scored numerous times across the water and is always in my top 3-4 returns. Bred from my Janssen stock, her father scored very well in his day across the Channel. A similar bred cock scored well in MNFC on the same day, with plenty of north wind to make them work hard. But, from a great stock of Janssen birds.'

3rd North Centre Section, 56th Open was Freddie Bannister of Doddington over 356 miles on 1189. Freddie timed GB22Z50617 at 15.17.07 to take third section.



Dave George



Gavin Cole



Freddie Bannister

14th North Centre Section, 259th Open, Mr & Mrs B Hicks of Seaham, County Durham. An excellent 500-mile performance for the longest flying bird. Mr & Mrs Brian Hicks of Seaham, County Durham at 9.32pm on Saturday just before the hours of darkness began had their 3-year-old late bred cock drop in flying 510 miles. This cock bird didn't go on the road as a young bird and only trained as a yearling, last year he went to NFC Nort Sur Erdre where he was 5th Section on the day. This race from Nort Sur Erdre with the BICC being his first channel race of the year, only having a Brighton 280 miles then straight in to 510 miles. The sire bred 1st Section E BBC Bordeaux 2018, this being the half-brother to the section winner. The dam is from Bennie Homma of The Netherlands who was 1st, 3rd & 4th International Perpignan in 2023. Brian has had the best of his pigeons since 2015. Next stop for this 3-year-old cock bird is Bordeaux in July if he is in the right condition.



Brian Hicks

The BICC Provisional North East Section Winners

1st North East Section, 143rd Open were D & E Ball of Eyke, Woodbridge over 348 miles on 1112. Dennis timed a 2017, light chequer hen. The sire is from Louis x Golden hen, of Matt Rakes, and the dam Golden Cock x half-sister to Champ Indy. Previously this hen has scored 2nd Section, 6th Open, LeMans 285 miles, 13th Section, 385th Open, Poitiers, 399 miles. She was sent sitting 18 days. Dennis said, 'Well done to all flyers, and a special thank you to all the helpers at the Colchester marking station.'

2nd North East Section, 176th Open, was Jonathan Palmer of Ipswich over 346 miles on 1089. Jonathan told me, 'My first pigeon timed was a 2022 late bred, bred by myself. She had around 5 races inland with the Thames North and Eastern Counties as a yearling and was saved for the following year. This was her third BICC Channel race this year and her best performance to date. Her sire is a son of Mark Bulled's Old 60. The dam being Fred Cornwell's, Gilded hen, who's goes back to A.P Overwater bloodlines. She has bred many pigeons to score well at National and International level. I would like to thank Dennis and David for running the Colchester marking station along with the rest of the team who regularly give up their free time to help out.'

3rd North East Section, 185th Open was Dave Downing of Newmarket over 342 miles on 1085. Dave timed a 5-year-old Hardy Kruger cock flown on traditional widowhood. This cock has always been a steady but consistent performer having been across the Channel many times, and this was his third crossing this year. He is bred from a pair of Dave's direct Krugers, the sire being a direct son of Bacardy x Letizia and the dam a direct daughter of Black Power, Hardy's number one pigeon. Congratulations to Dennis and Jonathan on what was a surprisingly sticky day on this side of the country.



Dennis Ball


Jonathan Palmer


Dave Downing

The BICC Provisional North West Section Winners

1st North West Section, 148th Open was Mr P Hodson of Irlam over 416 miles on 1109.7 Phil sent his team in preparation for the race he loves, Barcelona. However, this hen came so well that he has been persuaded to put her to stock. This section win is just one of her good performances.

2nd North West Section, 162nd Open, was Martin Williams of Hereford over 321 miles on 1099.5. My 2nd Section winner is a three-year-old cock on the roundabout system. His breeding is my old family x Sablon. His mother was my top National racing hen who was lost from Weymouth earlier this year. She has certainly passed something on to this cock. He won some good positions in the CSCFC, and this is his fourth 2nd Section with the BICC, winning three last year. The birds had a hard race over this side with big gaps between returns. I still have a few missing, but overall, a good race.

3rd North West Section, 227th Open were Booth & Roper of Tewkesbury over 317 miles on 1041. The partnership said, 'We clocked the 3-yer-old widowhood blue chequer cock to take provisionally 3rd Section. It was another hard day for Channel racing in a strong north west wind. Our birds are off the pace at the moment, but returns were good for us having sent 24 birds in total in National competitions and getting 22 on the day, and one the following morning. So, this was a pleasing result.

This cock bird is off our brilliant hen who won the Benzing system for us from St Philbert in 2022, 1st Section, 8th Open. He is a pigeon we like a lot and hopefully he can improve on this in the future. We would like to congratulate the open winner and all section winners and thank the team at the Steventon marking station for all their hard work.'



Phil Hodson's red hen


Martin Williams


Booth & Roper

BENZING
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Next Race

The next joint race for the three clubs is the Pau International. All three clubs are hopeful that they will build on the success of this race and are looking forward to another great birdage. After that, the next joint race will be Bordeaux followed by Fougeres YB and OB.

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