



BICC POITIERS [1] RACE REPORT.

The third race in the 2017 BICC race program took place from Poitiers on Saturday 27th May when 3,680 pigeons were liberated at 6.45 am into blue skies to race the 350 + miles home to lofts located throughout England and Wales.

Before I report on the prize winners of the race I think it might be of interest to fanciers if I give them some idea of the location of the race point.

The city of Poitiers is strategically situated on the Seuil du Poitou, a shallow gap between the Armorican and the Central Massif. The Seuil du Poitou connects the Aquitaine Basin to the South to the Paris Basin to the North. This area is an important geographic crossroads in France and Western Europe.



Aerial view of Poitiers

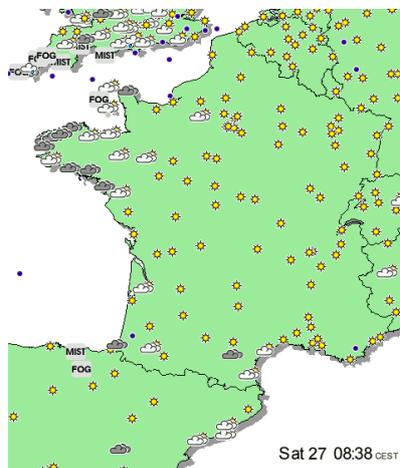
Poitiers's primary site sits on a vast promontory between the valleys of the Boivre and the Clain. The old town occupies the slopes and the summit of a plateau which rises 130 feet (40 m) above the streams which surround it on three sides. Thus Poitiers benefits from a very strong tactical situation. This was an especially important factor before and throughout the Middle Ages.



There you go then a brief description of the location of the town from where the BICC pigeons were asked to race.

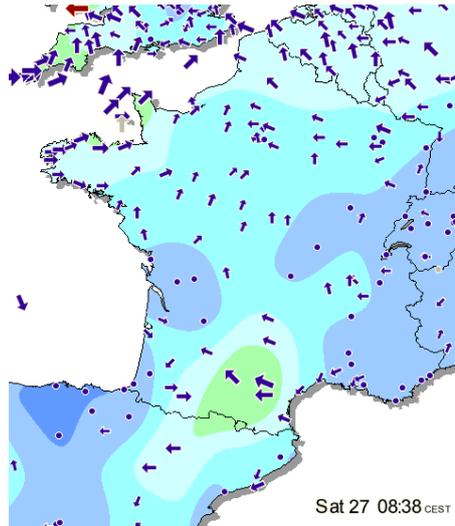
Race Advisors' Report.

Despite the predicted unfavourable weather forecast we had a good entry of 3,680 birds for the Poitiers National. Convoyer's Trevor and Steve started the collection process on the Wednesday evening at Evesham, Hull and Spalding and all was going well until Trevor got badly held up due to an accident on the motorway, which unfortunately caused us to miss the Thursday night ferry to Caen. They eventually boarded the early morning ferry on Friday and after a long drive down to Poitiers were able to properly feed and water the birds on site.



Weather Map France

With severe storms forecast for race day in France and the Channel, our Weather Advisor, Steve Appleby had been monitoring the situation for several days and he kept in regular contact with his weather concerns. This information was passed to the Convoyers at Poitiers. Steve again phoned with a weather update on Friday evening and was more positive that we would get a race, but birds would have to go early to avoid the rain and storms that were lying in Northern France, mainly in the Paris area.



Wind Map

Spoke with Chief Convoyer Trevor Cracknell around 5 am on Saturday and he stated the weather on site was good. A further check with Steve and he was happy that we would be able to liberate as the overnight storms in the channel were moving east giving a clear flight path. After relaying this information to the Convoyers the birds were liberated into sunshine and a light south east wind at 6- 45 am. Winds were predicted to be light and variable in France with a south westerly influence in the channel. A good race ensued with birds being clocked all over the country. Well done to race winner John Chipperfield, who works hard in running our BICC marking station at Chestfield, in Kent, also to Bauress and Murray who clocked a very good bird at 16-55 hours flying 503 miles.

John Tyerman & Mark Gilbert. BICC Race Controllers.

Weather Report from Steve Appleby.

Early complications with thunderstorms affecting the channel and southern England were soon over come as this weather front moved away northwards leaving a clear flight path behind. The weather over France was mainly of clear blue skies and the channel was clear with

good visibility. Overall flying conditions were excellent. With this information to hand race controllers John and Mark instructed our convoyers to liberate the B.I.C.C. convoy at Poitiers. Winds over France were light generally from the south west. Over the channel again the main influence was from the south west but as the day progressed they gained in strength reaching speeds up to 21 mph. This one factor decided how the race would unfold with many of the leading pigeons being timed in the east. Steve Appleby weather advisor.

Once again, right at the beginning of this report I must emphasize that the following positions are based purely on members' first bird verifications, the final result may well differ.

With the westerly influence in the wind it was expected that the leading birds would be found in the East of the club's radius and yet four different section winners can be found in the leading ten pigeons clocked on the Open result.

Leading the way yet again was one to the Herne Bay, Kent loft of multiple BICC winner, John Chipperfield. John has enjoyed great success with the BICC in recent years, especially when competing in the International long distance races. This Poitiers win shows that John's distance pigeons not only do they have a full set of gears, but they also possess a nifty turn of speed, as the yearling cock was doing 1656 ypm over the course!!



John Chipperfield 1st BICC Open Poitiers 2017

The winner is a yearling flown on widowhood containing all the best of John's Jan Aarden based bloodlines on the sire's side, as the sire is in fact a full brother to John's BICC Pau International winner. The dam is a hen on loan from Jutla Brothers and contains the Battenburg Van der Merwe lines in her breeding. The Poitiers winner flew the full programme as a youngster including the young bird Falaise BICC National, winning as a young bird in club racing. This year, as a yearling, he has had two inland races, the first was at 124 miles and the second 140 miles. He was then set up for his first channel crossing of the season at Alencon at 207 miles then on to Poitiers at 344 miles. As with all the racers he is fed on Marimans Vari-mix. John was using the Poitiers race for preparation for his International pigeons and the only reason he sent this yearling cock was because he was, as John put it, "winding me up". The cock refused to enter the loft when called in with the other birds as he would only go in when he wanted to and on his terms, hence John's decision to send him. As John said "Luckily enough he did the job!!!"



A comprehensive loft report on John, his pigeons and methods that have brought him such great success, can be found on the BICC website as well as in a recent edition of the Racing Pigeon Pictorial. Congratulations on yet another excellent performance John.

*In the runner up position is yet another yearling racing to the Billericay loft of **Pat Newell** winning **2nd Open** and recording 1614 ypm. Pat had a good pigeon in the recent Alencon National which finished at **7th Open** and here he clocked not just one, but two birds close together and both will finish well up in the Open prizes once again.*

Pat's first bird, a yearling blue pied hen, is bred from a good Pau bird for him and is bred off a half brother/sister pairing. His second bird that (maybe 3rd open) is a 3 year old blue hen whose sire was 1st section L S East Classic from San Sebastian and also 23rd BICC Pau.

Both hens were sent rearing small youngsters.

The dams of both Pat's first bird from Alencon (7th BICC) two weeks ago and this first bird from Poitiers are both on loan to Nigel Lane. Pat would like to say well done to John Chipperfield on his win and that Pat went to school with John's Mum and said jokingly that maybe he gave her too much information! Pat would also like to thank Terry Bentham for his training services. Job done Pat .



***Third Open** goes to a four year old on 1571 ypm to **top the North East section** for **Richard Andrew Beaumont**. Richard clocked a mealy cock flown on widowhood, his breeding is Luc-Van-Coppenolle from Dave Hazel Lezah Lofts x Staf Van Ret which was bought at a breeder buyer sale from good local flyer Terry Snell of Reedham. Richard would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Ness Point marking Station as they always make you feel welcome and to Bobby Hodger for helping out. Also, congratulations to the winner John Chipperfield.*



Khan Brothers come in next at **1st Centre section 4th Open** with a bird recording 1550 ypm. Here's what the brothers had to tell me about their timer:-

"Firstly we would like to send our congratulations to John Chipperfield on a great win. Also we would like to thank the convoyers on a great job they did in looking after the birds. The birds arrived home in great condition and we had 16/18 birds home on the day. Our pigeon was a 2 year old chequer cock, raced on the widowhood system.

He was bred by ourselves being a grandchild of our champion hen "L ring hen" This was his 3rd race of the year. Good luck to all for the rest of the season."



In at **5th Open** and taking **3rd East section velocity 1541 ypm** is a bird to the multi National winning lofts of **Dave and Gary Heywood**.

This is what Gary had to tell me about their latest top ten finisher in a National race:-

"Our first bird from Poitiers is a 3 year old cock a grandson off John Joe the father of the shed when paired to a daughter of our BICC Tours winner Tours Lad. The dam is Celebration, bred from our NFC Fougères National winner. The cock has been the most consistent channel bird over the last couple of years. He comes through all our best lines bred from proven National winners. We sent six and had five on the day."



Mark Gilbert of Winkfield near Windsor needs no introduction and in this Poitiers race he clocked a two year old on 1539 ypm to finish at **2nd Centre section 6th Open**. In fact, Mark was telling me that he had two birds drop together.

The first was a cock, whose father is a son of Starlight 2nd International Tarbes when paired to Mellissa 1st International Agen, the mother is from Darkie Mark's double National winner.

The second bird over the ETS pad was a yearling hen, once again the mother was from Starlight/ Melissa and the father was a son of Euro Diamond . Both pigeons were flown on the Widowhood



*In at 7th Open is the excellent Chadwell St Mary partnership of **D Wilton & Son** . This is what Andrew Wilton, holidaying in Spain, had to say about their timer:-*

“Our 7th BICC pigeon is a two year old blue cock his sire has already bred pigeons for us to score 2nd BBC Fougères young bird National in 2013 when were 1st and 2nd National and our cock that was 2nd BICC Le Mans National in 2014. He was bred for stock from a direct Robert Venus cock through the Super Crack Crusson line when paired to a grand daughter of Vale Cahors the Cahors National winner bred by the late Brian Long. Our BICC timer was sent to the Poitiers race to give him a few hours on wing to start getting him ready for Tarbes with the NFC in a few weeks time.”



*The partnership of **D.G. Watson and Son** are yet another team that feature regularly in the results of the BICC and here they clocked a yearling on 1532.5 ypm to finish at 3rd Centre section 8th Open. Dave and son Daniel's timer is a yearling widowhood cock bred down from their own family of birds that they have been cultivating for the past twenty or so years. The partners race mostly widowhood cocks with just a few hens as back up. The yearling was having his*



fourth trip across the channel this season and has been a very consistent pigeon. Feed is farm beans plus maize and 50 % Versele Laga Gerry Plus.

Kevin Foster clocked a two year old to finish at 5th East section **9th Open** with a velocity of 1532.04 ypm. Here's what Kevin had to say about his race:-

“Firstly congratulations to John Chipperfield on a clear win, also to the BICC for the way the race turned out and the condition of the birds on return .

My first bird is a 2year old chequer hen which was my leading pigeon from Le Mans BICC as a yearling. Her sire is from Neville Spracklens Golden pair a grandson of Southfield Supreme. Her dam is from Mark Gilbert a direct daughter of 1st NFC Saintes x a son of Euro diamond. She has looked in fantastic condition all year without getting near the leading pigeons which puzzled me. Her mate was lost and reported near Kettering 3 weeks ago and she refused to pair with anything else, as luck would have it I got the cock back two days before basketing and she was made up when she saw him on basketing day. Thanks to my friends Tim and Graham for arranging transport back as it seems this was all the motivation she needed.”



*Topping the North Central section and finishing at **10th Open** on the provisional result is a yearling hen racing to the loft of **Pieter Oberholster.***

The hen is bred down from Pieter's old family with a new VANDENABEELE cross added to good effect.

As young bird she also won 6th .Section, 21st .Open MNFC 5,311 birds.



Round the sections now and as can be seen from the top ten Open prize winners the first three in both the East and Centre sections have already been covered.

*The **winner in the North East section is Richard Andrew Beaumont's** four year old which also takes 3rd Open.*

***S Kaschner** also clocked a four year old hen to finish at **2nd North East** section velocity 1507 ypm. Stephen's pigeon was bred by Brian Brooks. She was raced north road as a young bird and won 1st Federation from Sleaford.*

Switched to south road racing as a 2yr old, where she has been regularly in prize list when raced on the round about system. The hens are looked after by Stephen's good lady, Bridget so he can't take much credit for the success so he says!!

The hens always beat the cocks over the Channel but the cocks beat the hens inland ... so together they make a good team.

***Third North East section** is one to the Great Yarmouth loft of **Joan and Alan Hacon** recording 1501 ypm. The Hacons clocked a four year old widowhood cock of Busschaert x Southwell bloodlines. He had previously flown both the BICC Falaise and Alencon races this season as well as three inland races.*

***Pieter Oberholster's North Central section winner** has already been covered in the list of Open prize winners.*

*In the R/U spot in this section is a three year old to **David Paine** of St Neots doing 1509 ypm. David's timer is a widowhood hen of Jan Van de Pasch bloodlines originating from Premiere Stud. She has now crossed the channel on eight occasions and has been David's first in the clock in most of these. Preparation for Poitiers was four inland races followed by Carentan.*

*The Boston partnership of **Mr & Mrs A. G Fisher** come in at third North Central section with three year old on 1462 ypm. Having tried to contact the Fishers I'm afraid to say that I failed.*

*The **winner in the North West section**, recording 1450 ypm, was a real battler racing the 503 miles home to its loft in Liverpool and entered by the extremely successful Huyton partnership of **Jimmy Bauress and John Murray**.*



Jimmy and John have now clocked pigeons to finish at 3rd section Falaise; 2nd section Alencon and 1st section Poitiers in the first three races of the old bird program. At Poitiers they clocked another of their roundabout hens which in fact is a full sister to their 2nd section Alencon winner this year. These are both from their new Belgian imports. The partners had 12 home from 17 sent on the day at 503 miles, super flying in the conditions.

***Nigel Matthews of Bridgnorth** in Shropshire clocked a two year old widowhood cock on 1440 ypm to finish at 2nd North West section. The cock has had all three BICC races thus far this season and will now be set up for a crack at Tarbes with the NFC.*

*The ever present Birtsmorton fancier **Jeremy Davies** comes in yet again with a two year old to finish at 3rd North West section. This week's 3rd section is a two year old hen dam being bred by the House of Aarden from Padfield Invincible lines and the sire home bred off the Richard Pugh*



Barcelona cock x a daughter off Barcelona 241. She was sent on the split door system and fed Frazers feed with Jeremy's own conditioning products. Jeremy would like to send his congratulations to Bauress and Murray on winning the NW section - a great performance flying over 500 miles on the day.

*Over in the **West section the winner** was clocked at the Somerset loft of **R & R Wilton** of Street who clocked a three year old on 1442 ypm.. Street is the Somerset town made famous in the pigeon world as the home to the legendary Reg Venner.*

Rob flies as R & R Wilton even though his father Bob passed away some years ago. He is President of the Glastonbury Flying Club and has only this year stepped down as Club Treasurer after 23 years of service. He flies in the Glastonbury club, the WOESRC, NFC



& BICC. He is a member of the Combine committee and he has also served on the RPRA South West region committee - a real worker for the sport in Somerset. Rob's section winner is a cock raced on the

Chaos System. He is a son of the Saint 1st Section G 7th Open Saintes NFC and a grand son of Bob 1st Sec G 2nd Open Saintes NFC. The dam's line contains some Clywd Lofts, Doodles Lamberts & Neville Spracklen blood. The birds are fed on Matador corn. The winner will now be aimed at the next NFC race or perhaps BICC Poitiers 2.

*Runner Up in the West section is a five year old on 1410.6 ypm to Peasedown St John Multi National and International winners **Geoff and Catherine Cooper.***

Geoff and Catherine timed a five year old chequer widowhood cock, named Farmer Sparey, after Mark Sparey of Wales who fancied this bird when he visited the Coopers a couple of years ago. He was paired the beginning of February and reared one young bird. Prior to racing he and the rest of the birds had two training tosses of 20 miles, then just loft exercise twice a day. The cock has won many prizes including 1st Combine Bordeaux.



Farmer Sparey is a grandson son of George 1st NFC Tarbes. George has been a prolific breeder for Geoff and others being G/Sire to 1st International Bordeaux, 2nd International Bordeaux yearlings for Mark Gilbert plus a host of many other top National birds for the Coopers and others. The Dam of Farmer Sparey was bred by Clive Lister and is a grand daughter of Brockamp's George. Geoff and Catherine have asked me to congratulate John Chipperfield and also to Rob Wilton winner of the West section on their birds' performances.

*At third West section just a decimal point behind the Cooper pigeon on 1410.5 ypm is one to **John Halstead** from North Dorset with a lightly raced 2 year old widowhood cock. This one is bred from a Roger Lowe bred Daniel Aarens cock when mated to "Traskia" the Southwell hen which is the mother to 'Nyland Cassius'. Cassius is the winner in 2011 of 2 x 1st West Section from Barcelona and Perpignan and 2nd Open Barcelona 13th Open Perpignan. John's birds are showing some good form, as already in May he has won 1st Central Southern Classic Coutances 2,335 birds and 1st Dorset Federation.*

Finally, I have news regarding the marking date for the forthcoming St Vincent International race. This will now take place on Tuesday 11th July and NOT the original date of Monday 10th July. Marking station times of opening may have to be altered so members are urged to look up the BICC web site for any changes to times of basketting. The pigeons cannot be released in France on the Friday as it is Bastille Day in France, so the Liberation will be, as advertised in the handbook on Saturday 15th, July.

I should also point out that basketting times for the Chestfield marking station for NATIONAL races are now 3 – 5pm.

Next up the Poitiers 2 race on 10th June, good luck to all who enter and let's hope it's as successful as the first Poitiers race.

Gareth Watkins