



BICC POITIERS[2] RACE REPORT.

The fourth race in the BICC Old Bird programme took place once again from the French city of Poitiers on Saturday 10th June, when 2,871 birds were liberated at 6.30 am into blue skies and sunshine to race the 350+ miles home to their lofts throughout England and Wales. The above entry showed an increase of nearly 800 pigeons on the corresponding race of 2016.



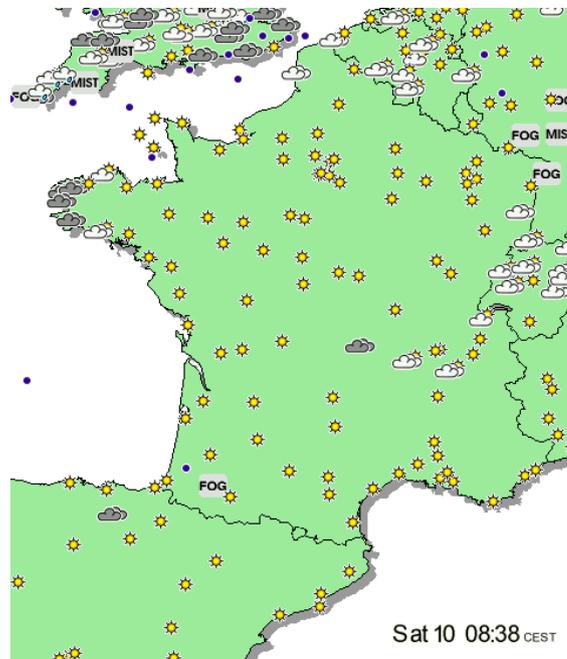
Caen on the northern French coast at 10.06 am on day of Poitiers 2

Here's the Race Advisors' report on preparations for the liberation.

RACE ADVISORS' REPORT.

For our 2nd Poitiers National we had an entry of 2,871 birds which was excellent considering losses in channel racing over the past two weeks.

On the Wednesday our Weather Advisor Steve Appleby rang to say he had looked at the predicted weather for Saturday and conditions looked favourable for an early liberation from Poitiers. He was however watching the progress of a low pressure system moving in from the Atlantic that might affect the west side of the UK on race day.

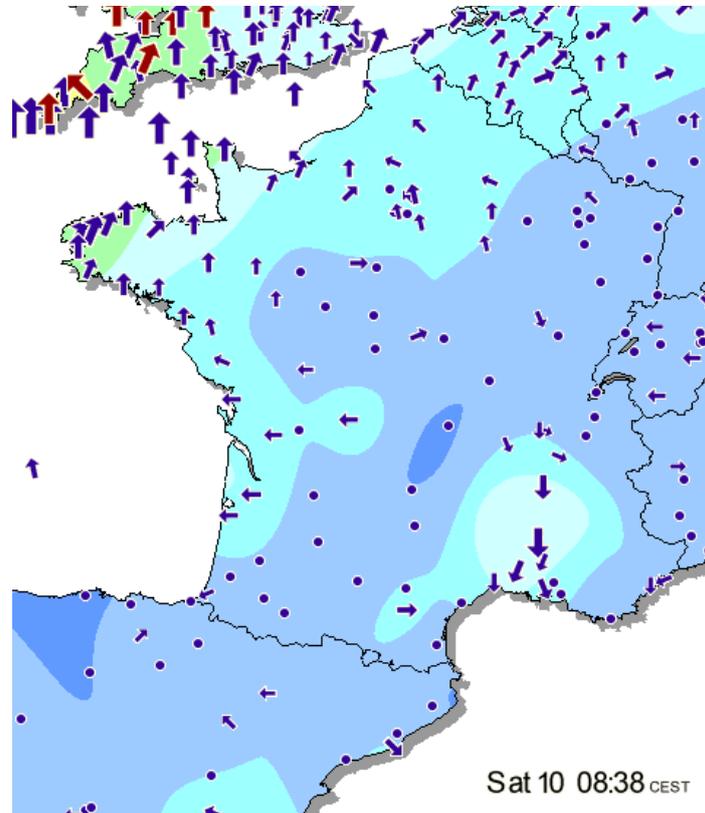


The collection of the birds on Wednesday and Thursday went without any problems and both transporters arrived at Horndean around 7-30pm on Thursday evening. A decision was made to move all the pigeons on to the large Volvo lorry as this would save the Club a large amount on ferry charges and diesel, by taking only one vehicle. In heavy rain Paul O' Leary and his team did an excellent job in transferring the birds over and we are very grateful to them. The overnight ferry crossing from Portsmouth to Caen was very smooth and by early afternoon the transporter was on site at Poitiers, where the birds were properly fed and watered.

Spoke to Weather Advisor Steve Appleby again on Friday afternoon and he was confident we would be able to liberate early on Saturday morning. He gave a detailed line of flight forecast which included early morning rain in the West Country, Wales and up into parts of the Midlands. This was forecast to clear northwards as the day progressed.

This weather information was passed to our Chief Convoyer Trevor Cracknell on site at Poitiers. Trevor also reported that there was a large convoy of birds on site from the Luxembourg area and it was agreed we would allow them to liberate before the BICC.

Both Trevor and Steve rang just after 5 am on the Saturday morning and as weather conditions were excellent in France and the Channel it was agreed we would liberate as soon as possible after the Luxembourg convoy had gone. BICC pigeons were released at 6-30am some 30 minutes after the Luxembourg convoy.



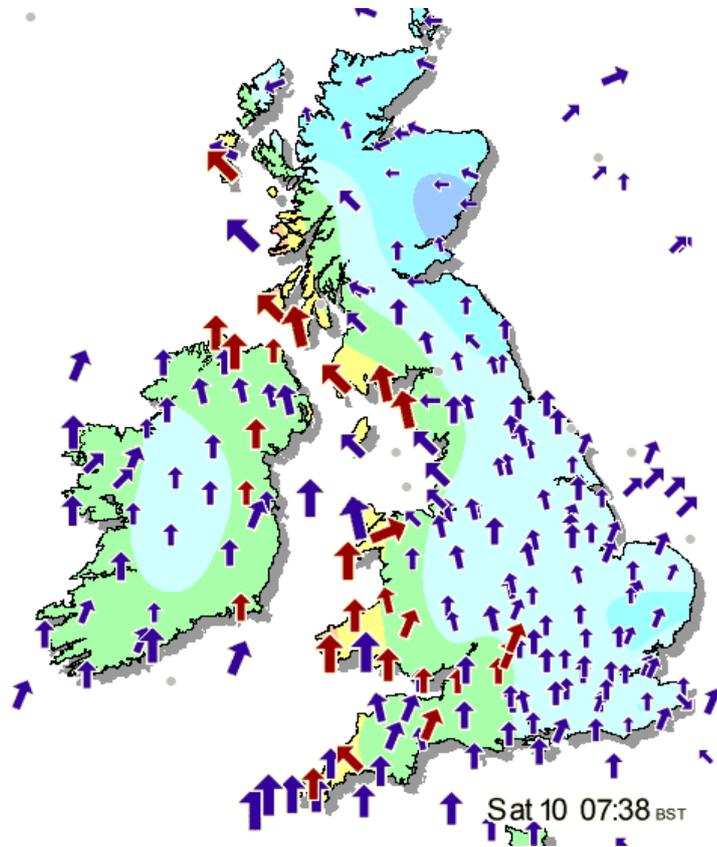
It was a beautiful sunny morning at Poitiers and the birds cleared instantly in a light variable wind. Later in the day it was pleasing to see birds being clocked all over the Country and special mention must be made of our Hull Marking i/c Reg Wright who timed a super pigeon at 15-27 hours flying 502 miles and is provisional 3rd open. Well done to our worthy winners T and J Davies.

*John Tyerman & Mark Gilbert.
BICC Race |Advisors.*

WEATHER REPORT.

For this, our second race from Poitiers the weather conditions were first class. France was under almost clear blue skies which extended across the channel to the English south coast. The channel was clear with very good visibility as seen from the beach camera at Caen. Southern England was under mainly broken cloud and sunshine.

Further north an active weather front carrying rain affected the Midlands and northern England.



This poor weather was forecast to dissipate and move away north eastwards as the day progressed, which is exactly what transpired. Early on winds over central France were light and variable but as the birds raced north they picked up assistance as winds became a light southerly. On reaching the channel the wind speed increased in strength over the open sea reaching 15 mph plus which was sustained for the remainder of their journey into England. This factor is supported by the early velocities recorded. Having assessed the over all weather conditions the race controllers were happy to give the go ahead to liberate. Another good race for the B.I.C.C.

Steve Appleby (weather advisor)

So on to the race itself and with the excellent weather conditions prevailing there was no excuse for the birds not to enjoy their little 350 + mile romp from west central France. The wind didn't seem to favour any one particular area of the country as the southerly influence kept the convoy on line right up the middle of the country. Four of the six section winners can be found in the top ten Open positions.

However, I must say that the rain and poor visibility that was forecast to move out of Wales during the day didn't take heed of this and remained firmly in place in the western Welsh Valleys all day with constant drizzle and poor visibility.

The following report is, as always, based on members' first bird verifications and with pigeons being clocked "thick and fast" throughout the club's radius, the final result may differ considerably.

*Leading the way with a velocity of 1665 ypm and taking **1st North West section and 1st Open** is a three year old hen to the Birtsmorton loft of **T & J Davies**. The active fancier is of course Jeremy Davies who is also manager of the RPRA's one loft race. This is Jeremy's second win with the BICC in recent years and a full loft report on the Davies set up can be found on the BICC web site.*



Jeremy Davies 1st Open BICC Poitiers 2 2017

This is a report that I wrote a couple of years back when Jeremy won his first BICC race. Here's what Jeremy had to tell me about his latest BICC winner:-

“My first pigeon is a three year old hen raced on the split door system with the chaos system mixed in. She has been a consistent hen and flew Tarbes in 2016 with the NFC. I sent 11 to this race in preparation for Tarbes this year with 10 back at present but as this hen won this race she has proved her jobs worth for this season. They were conditioned on Frazers feeds with Jeremy’s pigeon tonics supplements to keep them in condition.”

“The Greek Wrigler”

GB15N49565
1st Sect NW 1st Open British International
Championship Club Poitiers 2 2017
Owned & Raced by
T & J Davies of Birtsmorton



The parents were bred by Mark Gilbert of Winkfield and bought on an online auction. They are both full of top International blood with the lines of Euro Diamond, Champion Ted, Magnus, Ricky 1st International Barcelona, Red Barcelona to name a few.

The sire is producing some of my best racers at present being paired to different hens.

My gratitude again to the marking team at Evesham and to the convoyers and race controllers as the race turned out a great success.

Also my congratulations to all the other section winners.”

*In the R/U spot is yet another top class fancier in the form of **Phil Newton** of Weston Super Mare in Somerset. Phil’s two year old blue pied cock **tops the West section** on 1654 ypm. This is Phil’s second near*

miss in the 2017 campaign as his timer finished at 5th Open in the opening BICC race from Falaise in late April.



Phil Newton 1st West Section 2nd Open Poitiers 2 2017

Here's what Phil had to tell me about his near miss:-

“Firstly I would like to congratulate T & J Davies on their winning performance. My bird has been a consistent racer and last year he was raced mainly in club races winning several good club positions. He was not raced as a young bird but was trained to the coast several times approximately 50 miles. He was sent to this race feeding a fourteen day old youngster. This year he has had several inland races and one channel race from Carentan 159 miles, all with the Bristol south road fed. The cock certainly has good winning lines being bred down from two of my Central Southern Classic winners and my NFC certificate of Merit winner. I would like to thank my wife Tess for her help with the birds and breeding records.”

*Next we have another outstanding performance by one of our most northerly fanciers – none other than **Reg Wright** of Hull who clocked his two year old round about cock on 1643 ypm at 502 miles to finish at **1st North East Section and 3rd Open**. In fact Reg clocked three birds in*

nine minutes at 502 miles which could possibly finish at 1st 2nd & 3rd NE section on the final result plus taking prominent Open positions as well.



Reg Wright 1st NE Section 3rd Open Poitiers 2 2017 outside the lof

The first in the clock is now called “No Fluke” and contains Piet Van der Merwe bloodlines crossed with Van Reets from Reg’s good friends R & K O’Connor of Surrey.



1st NE Section 3rd Open Poitiers 2 2017”No Fluke”

The second in the clock is a round about hen of Maris cross Mareetbat bloodlines again from R & K O’Connor. Third bird across the ETS pad

was another round about hen of Van Reet x Van Loon bloodlines which is a half sister to Reg's 2nd Open BICC Falaise of 2015. This hen has been a very consistent racer for Reg with a number of good positions when racing from Channel race points. Congratulations Reg on a terrific performance by your team.

*The Ponthir [Caerleon] partnership of **Ray Strawbridge and John "One punch" Williams** continued their steady progress back to the top of the results sheet when they clocked their two year old cock to finish at **2nd West section 4th Open** on 1638 ypm.*



Strawbridge & Williams 2nd West section 4th Open BICC Poitiers 2

Ray and John have suffered greatly at the hands of the local birds of prey, losing upwards of 30 birds per season at home exercise, since the move to Ponthir [Caerleon] a few seasons ago. Nevertheless, they have soldiered on regardless and here are some details of their Poitiers timer as given to me by Ray:-

“He is a two year old chequer cock FLOWN ON THE ROUNDABOUT. HE WAS PAIRED in the second WEEK OF MARCH, EXERCISED AROUND THE LOFT FOR ONE HOUR TWICE A DAY. GIVEN ONE TOSS FROM FROME 40 MILES THEN SALISBURY 63 MILES, BEDHAMPTON 100miles 29TH APRIL THEN INTO ALENCON 13th MAY followed by POITIERS (1) 27th MAY.

Breeding is as follows:-

**SIRE: CHEQ GB.11.B.20872. BRED BY BRIAN SHEPPARD.
G/SIRE: BLUE. GB.04.F.04210
G/DAM: GB.09.17923. G/DAUGHTER OF "THE EMPEROR", SIRE
OF 1st & 2nd OPEN INTERNATIONAL DAX.**

**DAM: BLUE. GB.11.P.18361
G/SIRE SON OF "TOM THUMB" 1st Barcelona AND "MARIE" 2 x
1sts Perpignan.
G/DAM OUT OF A SON OF THE PADFIELD FAMILY'S "MR
IMPOSSIBLE" AND A DAUGHTER OF WILF REED'S "BELLA".
Bred to do the job then Ray.**

**Next up at 2nd North West section 5th Open on 1635 ypm is a four year
old to the husband and wife partnership of Gwyn and Joy Lloyd.**



Mr & Mrs G Lloyd 2nd Section 5th Open BICC Poitiers 2 2017

This is what they had to say about the race:-

***"Firstly, congratulations to Jeremy on winning 1st open and section.
Also many thanks to the great marking team at Radstock who look after
us and supply tea and biscuits with donations going to charity. Our first
bird was a light chequer 4 year old cock of Busschaert x Jan Aarden
bloodlines. This bird has had great results this year. We have given him
3 channel races - CSCFC Coutances coming 106th open/33rd section;***

NFC Fougères 251st open/74th section and now with BICC Poitiers 2nd section and provisionally 5th open flying 415miles with a very strong WNW wind blowing all the race day. In fact the race was much faster than we thought and we were caught out with no ets set up! We sent 10 birds, clocked 4 on the race day and 2 more early Sunday am. As always with BICC the birds returned in super condition, so all credit to the convoyers.”

*The West Country partnership of **Clive and Jill Rogers and Neil Sales** come in next at **3rd West section 6th Open** with a two year old hen on 1623 ypm.*



Clive & Jill Rogers and Neil Sales 6th Open Poitiers 2 2017

This dark chequer hen is bred from a Ponderosa Van Wan Roy Cock bird purchased from John Scott of Frome paired to a hen purchased from Dave Hawthorne of Tadley which in turn is bred from a Ken Hines cock bird and a sister to Alwyn Hill's Wing Down. The hen had flown all the channel races with the BICC this year, Falaise, Alencon and Poitiers (1) prior to being entered into this race. She is fed on Matador Super Racing and Turbo Energy. All Treetops Loft pigeons are flown on the chaos system. Clive, Jill and Neil would like to thank the BICC for another good race. They entered 28 birds (18 of which were yearlings) and had 22 back on the day and a further 3 early the next morning.

*Another well known fancier, **Gary Inkley**, takes **1st Centre section 7th Open** with a yearling cock racing celibate and recording 1617 ypm.*



Gary Inkley 1st Centre Section 7th Open Poitiers 2 2017

This one only had three races as a youngster and has been to three channel races so far this season. The cock races to what Gary calls his renegade section. These are unpaired yearlings that only see the opposite sex when they return from the races. Breeding is pure Ko Vandommelen as the sire is a grandson of Paarsborst bred by Ko and the dam is a granddaughter of De Cas again bred by Ko.

Robert Carter and Son
clocked a three year old widowhood cock on 1612.8 ypm to finish at 2nd Centre section 8th Open. This one was bred by Clive Lister of York and is of Marike Vink bloodlines. He has some "previous" with the BICC as he has finished at 16th Open plus a 2nd section in previous BICC races.



Robert Carter 8th Open Poitiers 2 2017 with grandson Bobby

The Kidderminster fancier **Bruce Johnston** follows up his 2nd section Falaise performance by clocking a two year old on 1612.1 to finish at 3rd **North West section 9th Open**. Bruce's timer

contains Jos Thone Witpen Sumo lines on her sire's side crossed with a Jan Aarden hen bred by House of Aarden. The 9th Open winner had just one race as a yearling and only one

race this season before going to Poitiers. In the last month she has been left to rest and relax with just one 50 mile trainer in the week before Poitiers.



David Paine of St Neots comes in once again this season with another good performance clocking a yearling widowhood hen to finish at 1st **North Central section 10th Open** velocity 1598 ypm. David's timer is a Houben that so far in 2017 has had every inland race followed by every channel race.



There's no need to spend much time cleaning her box then David!!!

Well, that's the top ten Open positions covered so we'll move on to the winners in the various sections. The top three in the **West section** have been covered in the Open results.

The **East Section winner** which finishes at 28th Open on the provisional result, was clocked at the Grays, Essex loft of **Packer and Clarke** on 1567 ypm. This is a two year old Vandabeele round about hen of M & D Evans Shadow lines. She is a notorious



bad trapper and lost a few minutes here as well. However, she has won a number of prizes when racing despite her bad habits. Preparation this year has been a few inland club races followed by BICC Alencon and then Poitiers 2.

Mr & Mrs K Turner & Son come in at 2nd East section with a three year old on 1564 ypm to take 29th Open.

Next we have the very Reverend Charles Simmonds of the parish of Basildon in at 3rd East section 30th Open with a two year old on 1562 ypm. Charlie is a previous winner of both the BICC and the BBC in National races.

*The **Centre section winners** were in order, Gary Inkley on 1617 ypm followed by Robert Carter and son on 1612 ypm with Gary Wood coming in at 3rd Centre section 11th Open on 1595 ypm with a Staf Van Reet cock flown on round about. This one has had every race this season including five channel crossings.*



Gary Wood 3rd CS 11th Open

***North Central section winner** was David Paine's Houben widowhood hen on 1598 ypm. In second spot was one to Pieter Oberholster on 1589 ypm which finishes at 15th Open.*

Pieter has clocked pigeons to feature on every BICC section result this season. Marek Krasowski comes in at third North Central section 17th Open with a pigeon recording 1585 ypm.



Pieter Oberholster 2nd NC 15th Open

*Over in the **North East section** we see Reg Wright's two year old put up a magnificent performance to top the section and finish at 3rd Open velocity 1643 ypm over the 502 mile course right up into Hull.*

Brian and Angie Garnham of Boston, former King's Cup winners from Lerwick with the NRCC, come in at 2nd North East section on the provisional result with a three year old doing 1588 ypm. They clocked a



Brian Garnham 2nd NE section Poitiers

three year old Jan Theelen hen sent sitting 10 day eggs. She is certainly bred in the purple as her sire was bred by John Rumney from his champion racing cock Rob Roy when he was paired to a direct daughter of 1st International Perpignan. The dam was a gift bird direct from Jan Theelen. Brian would like to congratulate both Jeremy Davies on his win and also Reg Wright on a terrific performance up into Hull.

James Mills takes third North East section with a five year old recording 1549 ypm.

There endeth the lesson on yet another successful race. Next up, the Pau International race which is scheduled to be flown on Friday 23rd June. Good luck to all who send and let's hope that the weather is kinder to the UK entry this year compared to the 2016 race day weather – which was atrocious. My thanks to Chris Sutton for again providing the photographs of the winning fancier and his pigeon.

Gareth Watkins