

BICC Falaise OB 2019 _Sections Report

As you will know, there were a few glitches with the website and verification process for the Falaise race held on the 28th April, which resulted in the provisional result being changed a couple of times. That coupled with the following Monday being a Bank Holiday has meant that this section report has been printed a week later than I would normally expect. Also there has been one or two who have not sent me any details as requested on page 8 of the 2019 handbook which was sent to each member. By far the best option is to email your details and a photo to biccpressofficer@gmail.com and if you do not have that facility available please call me on 01530 242548 within 5 days of the race taking place. I am usually not available the day following the race as I will be out visiting the winner, but as I work from home, I am available if needed most other times.

The outright winners of the race Malik & Khan won centre section with M & J Adcock & Son from Croydon taking second Section and also winning third Open. Third section and fourth Open was Damian Szpak of Deptford in London who clocked a two year old hen called "Armora" raced on the total widowhood system. Damian, who races with a Junior clock and rubbers bred her from Van Lint grandson to champion "Adam" which was 1st from 1414b and 15th from 45684b in the Bourges National. Her mother "Amarilla" was bred from a cock that won Damian 26th Combine from Alencon in 2016 as a yearling.

In the east section first place and second Open was M Connolley & Son who sent me the following details; "First of all we would like to congratulate the winners of the race, Malik and Khan and all the other section winners. We started to race on the South Road last season after a very successful lifetime on the North Road. We took part in five races and won a second section being our best result of the season. But with all the doom and gloom we were told about bad returns, we were very happy to get good returns from those five races and we thoroughly enjoyed racing with the B.I.C.C. This was completely different racing to what we had been used to in the past and we got a terrific buzz every time we timed a pigeon from across the Channel. On the day of Falaise race, to say it was hectic would be an understatement. Our next door neighbor was racing with two North Road Feds at the time and his pigeons were arriving in batches at the same time as our B.I.C.C pigeons were due home! Our winning pigeon is a two year-old Blue Cock raced on widowhood and having his first ever race on the South Road. He was bred by our good friends, Robbie and Andrew Wilton. Thank you Robbie and Andrew for a top pigeon. We were very happy to time him in on such a hard day and considering we do not train our pigeons at all, we think he did very well." Second section and tenth Open were Mr & Mrs Cowper & Son from Cliffe Wood who timed in a four year old widowhood cock which is a Flor Vervoort crossed Vandenabelle. Their Flor Vervoort pigeons were originally acquired from Louella in 1998 and direct from Flor in 2001. They have gone on to breed many club, federation and combine winners for themselves and others. Third East Section and fourteenth Open was Mark Bullied from Harlow. Mark is no stranger to the top positions and year on year he still keeps them coming. He timed a two year old red hen raced on the widowhood system, which also scored last year in the NFC. Her sire is from his Red Bull family and scored 5th BICC Tours and her dam is a SVR from Mark Sands in Kent.

Another fancier who is regularly at the top of his section is David Paine in the North Centre section. He timed a four year old Mealy cock flown on widowhood. This is his best position so far and has been very consistent to the loft this year. Second section was C Crick & Son from Stotfold with their chequer white flight four year old hen raced on widowhood jealousy system. A veteran of many channel races, she has put up consistent good performances in national racing in the past without any significant positions and is a granddaughter of their section H winner (19th open) in the NFC Tarbes National 2013. Third section was Paul Loom in Wyboston.

In the North East section Jacqui & Terry Ivatt in Ipswich took the top spot who said "When the rain started about 10.30 we knew it was going to be a tough race for everyone. Our bird which is bred in house is a pure De Rauw Sabion a grandson of Northern Rock. The mother a direct daughter of Northern Rock was bred by Central Lofts and the father bred by Mr & Mrs Short, Langley Lofts contains the best of De Rauw Sabion lines. It was our first bird from three channel races last year,

and having arrived home in very good condition will be going back in the BICC later in the year.” Dennis & Elaine Ball from Eyke, near Woodbridge, Suffolk won second and third North East section. Their first pigeon was a Slatey white flighted Vandenabeelle Cock flying natural and sitting 14 days at basket. Previously he has won several Club and Fed prizes including 4th Anglian Classic last year from Clermont, 200 miles. He was bred from stock birds obtained from Jimmy Jackson of Widnes, and has the bloodlines of Golden Harry, Young Bandiet, Shady Image and Shadow. A photo of Dennis holding the pigeon who was named Bruno last year due to his fighting prowess in the loft! Their second bird is also a Vandenabeelle from Jimmy Jackson derived Stock and was timed a second behind Bruno! They were happy to get two birds together after 6.5 hours on the wing! This one has Shadow on both sides of his Pedigree and also Young Bandiet, Shady Lady. He was sent sitting 12 days and they sent a team of 6 to their first BICC National, and timed 4 to be in the top 8 of the NE Section, so a very pleasing day, with the other two also making it on the day. They started back in the Sport in 2017 after a seven year break, and my thanks go to Jimmy who set them up with some super Stock to get me going again.

In the North West section Anthony Evans took the top spot with a three year old blue cock flown on the natural which was a gift from Bill Lewis from Kempsey and is of his Rumanian cock line. He had two of his four entries on the day at 312 miles and was very pleased with the condition that they returned in. Previous BICC Open winner John Rodway was second section and would like to offer his congratulations to Anthony with his section win. John's first pigeon was a dark blue chequer cock racing natural and is a late bred of 2017 which was not raced or trained as a young bird. In 2018 it had a few land races but was always late and this year it has had two races from Frome and Blanford but has always been behind. Not this time though John, your faith in him has been rewarded. John said it was a tough start in his channel racing for 2019 and would like to thank the Evesham marking team.

Finally in the West Section Clive and Jill Rogers of Treetops Loft took first and third positions with a four year old hen on a day when the conditions were certainly testing, particularly for pigeons in the West Section and was the bird's first race of the year. A decision was made at the end of last year to discontinue club/combine flying and concentrate on channel flying only, training the pigeons to the coast themselves. The hens had been to Hamworthy, a distance of no more than 50 miles, 3 times in the last 3 weeks. The winning chequer hen was bred by Clive, Jill and Neil. The sire was a bird from Bill Keays pigeon called Ronnie (a great grandson of Emiel) and the dam was from Terry Preddy (a mixture of Vic Preddy's stock birds with Geoff & Catherine Cooper's together with Mark Gilbert birds also in the pedigree. In May 2018 this same pigeon won third West Section from BICC Alencon. The second bird timed in at the loft to be third West Section was a pied hen which has scored for Treetops Lofts in 2018 as well being well in front to win first West Section Le Mans 1. The sire of this pigeon was a Pamber Lofts cock which Dave Hawthorne purchased at the Ken Hines clearance sale and had Jim Biss and Charville Danny on the sire's side and Young Boris and a Mark Gilbert pigeon on the dam's side. The dam of the pied hen was bred down from Chris Gordon's Syndale Express and Etienne Meirlaen's bloodlines. The birds at Treetops Loft are all fed on Matador corn, using a mixture of Super Start and Athletic for these shorter races. Clive & Jill would like to thank Mark Gilbert for making the decision to hold on Saturday therefore allowing the members to have a much better race on Sunday. The birds came back in great condition and thanks must go to the convoyers, who did a great job as usual. A team of 15 older hens went from the loft to this race and 12 were timed in on the day.

Second West section was Geoff and Catherine Cooper who also commented on the cold head wind for the west country birds to contend with. They timed a three year old hen called Farm Mirjam who last year won 7th section Pau. Her sire is Georgeson, a top breeding son of George, who has already bred birds to win 4 x first section in National racing and her dam is Ivana, a top racer and breeder for Sjaak Bulwalda of the Netherlands. They would also like to extend their congratulations to Malik and Khan who are racing superbly at the moment.

On closing I thank all those who have sent me their details for this report and interestingly there are

a lot of the birds raced on natural in this report. Pigeon fanciers of old would say that a cold head wind needed a sitting hen over the channel in the early season, this report proves that point. But we do have the rest of the season and hopefully some warmer weather and kinder winds to look forward to. Any news and views to me Chris Sutton at biccpressofficer@gamil.com or 01530 242548