

### **BICC Poitiers (flown from Cholet) OB National 2019 – Section Winners Report**

Held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, the Poitiers race for the British International Championship Club attracted an additional 1000 pigeons more than the same race last season. This no doubt reflected the hard work put in by the club officials and the race controllers decisions for the races earlier in the season. Great efforts are made to ensure a safe return of your pigeons when racing from France, and we have to applaud the decision makers. The race actually took place from Cholet due to inclement weather conditions in Poitiers which turned out to be the right decision to make. No doubt many will have used the race in preparation for the International program beginning with Pau which will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

In the sections there were some outstanding performances beginning with the race winners, D & J Staddon in the West section, who won first, second and third in both the section and the open. The winning birds have been reported on in the race winners' article with them being of G & C Coopers bloodlines, Mark Gilberts and their own combined, so when Geoff and Catherine came fourth Section and Open, it is apparent these birds are something really special. Their first bird on the day was a widowhood cock called "Farm Fab Four" as he has four fabulous grandparents, Farmer George, Wollongong, New Laureaat and Kliene Jade, all first International winners.



**John and David Staddon – West Section Winners**

In the North West section Gwyn and Joy Lloyd were first with a four year old blue Jan Aarden x Gaby Vandenabelle cock which arrived during the pouring rain, as did their second and third birds.



**Joy & Gwyn Lloyd – North West Section Winners**

Their second bird was a yearling hen, also Jan Aarden x Gaby to take second section. They clocked 6 out of 10 birds on the day with the rest arriving the next morning in good condition. They would like to thank the Gwent marking station and all concerned with the race. John Rodway, who has not been out of the section prizes this season, came in third with a light blue chequer hen bred in 2015 from Johns own birds. She has always been raced to the perch unpaired and has previously won the NW section and runner up positions with the BICC in previous years. The race for the Rodway loft was very erratic and difficult, mostly due to the very heavy rain storms sweeping across country from early afternoon but his returns were good with seven birds out of nine sent. Once again, he conveyed his thanks to the conveying team who always do their best for the birds, and Gavin with his team at the Evesham marking station.

In the North East section Kelvin Sharman was first with a widowhood cock whose sire is from Mark Gilberts "Southfield Supreme" and the dam Hugo Battenburg. Second was Philip Harold of Lowestoft with a three year old chequer cock followed by Ron Sidney of Norwich who also timed a three year old which is one of his old East Anglian Pieds, a strain going back 50 years and based around the old late fanciers, Albert Lee, George Buck, A. Harris, Harold Gibbs and George Buckenham and these pigeons have stood the test of time.



**Ron Sidney – 3<sup>rd</sup> North East Section**

The sire is a blue East Anglian Pied strain and the dam is a blue chequer GB12Z19666 also East Anglian pied. Both raced well in club and Federation over the years.

The North Centre section was won by Dom Gruzelier in Houghton Conquest.



**Dom Gruzelier with Loft manager Josh – North Centre Section Winners**

He timed a blue chequer widowhood hen which has scored in the club and was previously fourth the section from Alencon with the BICC so this was her second channel race of the season. His second bird arrived just 14 minutes later to take third section and is his good pied hen. This is her second third section Cholet in two weeks. Both hens are home bred, being down from Peiter Oberholster pigeons. Josh the loft manager is in the photo with Dom.

Slawomir Chabrowski from Wellingborough filled in the top places being second section with a granddaughter of his best distance pigeon GB10Z64710. She has been raced on the roundabout system during this year, and her previous results in the BICC include 8th Section Falaise, 23rd Section Alencon and 6th Section Cholet 1.



**Slawomir Chabrowski – 2<sup>nd</sup> North Central Section**

In the East section Tom Williams from Orpington was first with a blue two year old widowhood cock which was not raced as a young bird but as with all his others, he had 14 training tosses from a different place each time up to 35 miles, then left to grow on. As a yearling he had the first four races with the BICC and scored 8th section 87th open from a very hard Poitiers 14 hours 6 minutes on the wing. He was then stopped for the year as a Tarbes pigeon for 2019. This year he has had all four races with the BICC but he made a mistake in the first one, taking 10 hours to get home. In the next three he scored each time with 33rd being his lowest place and now a 1st section 20th open from Cholet. His next race this year will be the Tarbes Grand National with the NFC where his pigeons go at two years of age. Our weather man for the BICC Steve Appleby who really rates this pigeon has named him "Invincible". The sire of "Invincible" is a pigeon called "Mr Reliable" who scored three times second section in the London & South East Classic Club from Tours, Bergerac & Tarbes. A top class pigeon who never had a night out in his life, right out to Tarbes 562 miles. The dam of "Invincible" is a double granddaughter of "The Machine" he bought at Epsom Show from James Parker, and he said "Thanks for this great hen James, you told me she was something special". He would like to thank Tommy Firminger and Harry Kennet and the workers of Bromley Marking Station who all do a great job for the BICC which is a fantastic club to be a member off. Kenny Burt won second place with a blue yearling widowhood cock which was also his first bird from the first Cholet race. He is G/Grandson of 38, winner of 5 1st feds & 8 Wins. The dam is a gift bird from his good friend Micky Sheedy from his "Village Lad" lines. T Sparkes and P Dallas from Gravesend were third.



**Kenny Burt – 2<sup>nd</sup> East Section**

In the Centre section, Life Vice President Mick Bunney took the top spot and sixth Open with his yearling chequer hen raced on the sliding door system/widowhood, keeping the sexes separated until allowing them to run together for a few minutes before basketing. Her sire was bred for stock out of his excellent dark cock GB 97 N 47024 which won a total of 14 national diploma's with the best being 9th open 2nd sect Dax NFC. Bred by Mick from his Jim Biss "Matrex" lines. The G/Grand dam was 1st open and only bird on the day from Dax international BICC and is a Dordin Jan Aarden cross. Second was Jimmy Cross from Carshalton in London with a yearling chequer cock sitting 6 days. This is his first race of the season as he has taken time to come in to form.



**Jimmy Cross – 2<sup>nd</sup> Centre Section**

Bred from his own stock and as he only flies in the BICC and NFC, this was his third race of the season, having also won second section from Alencon. Third was Paul Basham in Burlesdon who would like to congratulate John and Dave Staddon for taking the first three in the open result! His first pigeon in the clock is yearling widowhood cock which is a grandson of Geoff and Catherine Coopers "Farmer George" 1st International Bordeaux and "Farm Ivy" 1st International Hens St Vincent.



**Paul Basham – 3rd Centre Section**

**2018 - Longest flying bird and fastest velocity above 750 miles from Barcelona.**

**Here are two pictures of Trevor Robinson (on left) who lives in Patrington Haven Nr. Hull, with the Trophies won in 2018 for his remarkable achievement of longest flying bird and fastest velocity above 750 miles from Barcelona. (on Right) is Jim Emerton who has donated some three and a half thousand pounds worth of Trophies to be won in the BICC at Barcelona.**

