

BICC Fougères YB + AA National 07/09/2019

The British International Championship Club held their final two races of the year from Fougères on September the 7th with a combined young bird and old bird liberation. A total 2567 pigeons were released into a northerly wind with blue skies developing and visibility around twenty miles in the channel.

Before I begin my section report I have **some important news from club Treasurer Russell Bradford** who said “The club is fast approaching the end of our financial year and for those members who have won money, October is a month to look forward to. It is worth mentioning however that at the last AGM in January 2019 a new rule was introduced – General rule 16 – stating that this year only bank-to-bank payments will be made. This has partly arisen as Barclays Bank are nowadays charging some fairly hefty amounts for processing cheques through our account, but also that nearly six weeks after the cheques were sent out, October last year, there were still around £2,500.00’s worth of cheques that hadn’t been presented, and at the six month stage six cheques that were never ever presented, and presumed lost. A bank-to-bank payment (BACS) is quite normal in this day and age; totally transparent and completely secure, with the added bonus that the money will be in your bank account without the necessity to visit your branch, or for the cheque to be lost in the post – or anywhere else. If necessary please will you update your details with either Carol Francis or myself Russell Bradford in complete confidence and in the knowledge that absolutely nobody else in the BICC either sees or has access to this file, and clearly prize and pool winnings cannot be sent without knowing your sort code; name and account number.”

In the Centre Section first place in the young bird race went to Mr & Mrs Kevin and Vera Cooper who would like to congratulate all the section winners. Their bird was bred from a gift pigeon via Jim Etherington and the sire was also gifted to them by Jack Fisher, no fancy names just great pigeons. All their birds are flown on open hole, raced natural although their winner was raced unpaired and fed on Four Seasons Mixture. Second was Roman Zorena with Damien Szpak in third place.



Damien Szpak 3rd CS Fougères YB National 2019

His first arrival was a young hen raced natural and was one of his last bred for racing this year. She had only three training spins from 40, 50 and 80 miles before going to her first race with the BICC from Guernsey and came in good time. She is bred via the line of De Figo 16 times first for A.H Reynaert. Her sire is 1 provincial Ace pigeon young bird from 5000 birds in 2016 and a great-grandson De Figo and is his best breeding 14th, 63rd, 79th, 80th, 82nd, 88th open BICC in 2 years breeding. The Dam is a DV 2017 also a granddaughter of De Figo. Last year in 2018 she bred in Poland 1st, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 9th and twelve prizes in Federation averaging 3500 birds when Damien bought her and hopes she will breed more great pigeons for him. He would like to congratulate Vic Belcher & Son for winning 2nd open as three years ago Vic commented that 6th club was a great result for Damien which motivated him to be better every race and he is grateful for that encouragement.



Terry Haley 1st & 3rd ES Fougères AA 2019

In the Any Age race sending only two birds, Terry Haley won first and third places with Blue Bar Yearling Hen "Dutch Courage" Bred by Lelieveld & Locht of Holland. His second bird called "On Her Jack" was bred by Terry and had won the section in the BBC from Fougères the previous week. Second was Peter English with a blue hen from Silver Shadow Van Loon bloodlines bred down from Terry Pay's stock in Sussex. This was her first race as she injured earlier in the year and couldn't send her to any other race.



Peter English 2nd CS Fougères AA 2019

As mentioned above Belcher & Son Loft 1 won the east section and also 2nd open BICC.



Belcher & Son (Loft1) 2nd Open 1st ES Fougères YB National 2019

Son Tony sent me the following information, the cock was bred from Big Smithy crossed with Muckin Fagic and his Dad would not race the young cock as he had a flight that always stuck out but is a really nice handling pigeon. The dam has been really special as she won Bordeaux one year and was second the following year, so they were really looking forward to sending her to Tarbes this season but sadly she was captured by a Fox. She was a gift from James Parker and was Machine crossed Pennine Heights. Second section was David Coward Talbot who had purchased a kit of young birds from David Zerk 'Roadhog Lofts' earlier this year, and put them straight on the dark as it was his intention to race them in the Young Bird programme this year.



David Coward-Talbot 3rdOpen 2nd ES Fougères YB 2019

After a very difficult season he managed to keep most of David's pigeons in the team and he had every intention to give them a Channel race to test them. The first pigeon from the BICC Fougères race was a Blue Pied hen bred by David Zerk, and she is bred from one of his top stock cocks called "Levi 501" being bred down from the famous Welsh pigeon called "The Giessen Cock" of the Morris and Lucas partnership blended with pigeons from Derek Flowers stemming down from his De Klak family. The Dam of Blue Pied hen is one of David's Gaston Van De Wouwer family. This hen is a nice apple bodied pigeon that should make a good distance pigeon in the future. Third place in the young bird race was Bernie McDermott and Martin Jones with a White grizzle hen bred in the race loft, from a cock gifted to them by Eric Guinchard, when he had to give up due to ill health. Bred by Tim Rodwell of Kent, it is down through Mike Fishlocks national winner "Bernie" when crossed with Tim's "Kannibal" lines, which was paired to a Sapin x Soonjen hen bred for Martin by Tim Rodwell. Their hen is a darkness youngster and has had three inland races after being privately trained down to the coast, and also went to Guernsey with the BICC. Bernie and Martin would like to congratulate the Staddon's on an outstanding performance in this race.



Mr & Mrs A Sparks 1st Open 1st ES Fougères AA 2019

The overall Any Age race winner Andy Sparks and his wife timed one of their old family Busschaert lines, racing to eggs and a big young bird. Second was P Jackson with D Heywood and Son Gary in third place.



D Heywood & Son 3rd Open 3rd ES Fougères AA 2019

They timed a daughter of their National winner “JJ” when paired to “Miss Diane” which was 2nd NFC. She was sent sitting overdue and has scored highly in previous races. They would like to congratulate all the section winners on a testing day.



Dominic Gruzelier 1st & 3rd NC Fougères YB 2019

First and third North Centre section young birds was Dominic Gruzelier who has had a great season with the BICC and his young son Josh is also getting involved with the birds. His winner is a blue hen which was home bred and has raced constantly all season, also being a half sister to his 1st section Alençon winner. She was part of his small darkness team set up for channel racing and was sitting overdue eggs. The third section is a blue cock who has previously flown past with the rest of the federation birds before turning for home and was sent driving to nest. Both are closely related and are bred down from pigeons Damien acquired from Pieter Oberholster some years ago.

Second section was Clive Brown as he also was in the Any Age race.



J & KJ Connor (Loft1) 1st NC Fougères AA 2019

First was J & KJ Connor Loft 1 with a chequer pied yearling hen which was also bred by Pieter Olberholster, and was sent sitting eggs. They are pleased with the result as this is their second year racing and have gone one better than the same race last year when they were 2nd section 9th Open also with a bird bred by Pieter. Great bloodlines indeed. Dominic

Gruzelier followed up in third place with a 2016 home bred hen which had won the club as a young bird last year also scoring in the fed. She was sent to Pointers in the BICC last year she came home via Norwich then Cardiff and she was reported twice in a week so she was kept home as a widowhood hen and did not race until her partner was lost. She then joined the young bird team and showed them the way home most weeks. She is now back in the main race team for next year.

In the North East section Mr & Mrs Strowger were first and second in the young bird race with J Davies third with a chequer pied hen raced on the darkness system. Due to young bird sickness this was only its 4th race of the season and the furthest distance prior to this race it had flown was 92 miles. The parents are from his cousin D & B Price of Dunton Essex., which are Dave Impact bloodlines. A fantastic result was had in the Any Age race for the partnership of Chapman & Eastow by taking the first three positions. Firstly they would like to thank all the many friends who called or texed to congratulate them on their performance.



Chapman & Eastow 1st 2nd & 3rd NE Fougères AA 2019

Their winning mealy hen was sent to Fougères sitting 7 day old eggs, and last year she also won 1st Section 10th Open from the second Any Age Race. She had been lightly raced all season with these two Any Age Races in mind. Thanks also go to the Lowestoft Marking Station, run by the members of Ness Point F.C., for all their hard work in providing an excellent service together with a very warm welcome and refreshments and the Clock Station at Browston Hall.

In the north west section Talent & Westbury won first and third places with their young birds and the first he clocked also won the GGDC and the Eclipse 650 club. It was the furthest flying pigeon to be clocked on the day along with its loft mate which is a Frans Zwols hen. Both youngsters were racing to chicks and the cock had been feeding the large youngster on his own and was well motivated.



Talent & Westwood 1st & 3rd NW Fougères YB 2019

Ever present in the section results John Rodway won second young bird and first and second in the Any Age race.



John Rodway 2nd NW Fougères YB 2019 & 1st & 2nd Fougères AA 2019

His young bird is a chequer white flight hen flown natural to the perch and had previously flown in the BICC race from Guernsey when she flew eight and a half hours on the wing. He had only sent two young birds and got one at the time of writing. His first old hen was a four year old sitting eggs alone, day and night. She was ultra-keen and would not leave the loft for the previous three weeks. John had a very testing race with good returns. Congratulations on yet another very consistent season John. Ian Barnbrook followed in third place.

Overall young bird race winners David & John Staddon put up a fantastic performance with a cock bred from yearlings in their race in which both parents were bred by their friend and part-time advisor Mark Gilbert, from a batch of 12 youngsters acquired to race, which in turn were bred from some of Mark's own race team.



D & J Staddon 1st Open & 1st WS Fougères YB 2019

The sire was their first bird from the BBC Bordeaux National this season taking 56th Open in a very strong west wind. He is from a full brother to the famous "Ironman" which is from a son of Jelle Jellema's "Orion" when paired to a hen who Mark bought after finishing 15th International Barcelona 21,169b which is also Jellema bloodlines. The mother of the National winner was from a son of Cor De Heijde "Naomi" 6th International Barcelona 20,669b & 72nd International Barcelona 25,224b and a daughter of Jelle Jellama's "Romee". They also timed the next four positions in the section with their first being half an hour clear of the field.



John Halstead 1st WS Fougeres AA 2019

John Halstead was first Any Age timing his single entry. This chequer pied hen was sent with two newly hatched babies in the nest on the morning of basketing. She had been raced during the old bird season twice winning third Club from Carentan and 15th Dorset Fed 584 birds, and had been singled up several times in preparation. She is bred from a son of "Nyland Ashley" who was 2nd Open from Barcelona in 2008 mated with a Mark Gilbert bred granddaughter of "Tuff Nutt". Tony Coombs and Adrian Ware were second with a cock which has quite a BICC National pedigree. His sire is their WSRNFC Norte Sur Edre winner who is a grandson of Adrian Ware's BICC National winner, and his dam is a daughter B Williams and Son, BICC National winner.



Ricky King 3rd WS Fougeres AA 2019

Third was Ricky King with a late bred 2018 hen whose sire is a Gert Heylen bred by Nick Taylor of Wolverhampton. This cock was kindly loaned to Ricky by the partnership of Mr & Mrs M & C Brown of Hungerford. The Dam is via Robert Pugh of South Wales and is a great granddaughter of "Licence To Thrill" and also great granddaughter to Syndicate Lofts "Desperado" which is half brother to "Crow". He was lucky enough to receive this hen by Phil Buckingham.

This brings a very busy season to an end for me and I must say it has been a pleasure meeting all the winners and their families. I hope to see you all again at the presentation evening in February and I recommend you book early if you wish to attend. Any news or views to me Chris Sutton on 01530 242548 or 07792 356330 email biccpressofficer@gmail.com