

British International Championship Club

Pau International Provisional Race Report

Pau is one race that almost needs no introduction, as it is an iconic race point that fanciers have tried to win for generations. On Monday 13th July, 99 BICC members sent 394 birds to join the UK total of 480 birds, to compete against the best in Europe. They were joined by 4,287 from France, 2,797 from Belgium, 4,266 from the Netherlands, 1,326 from Germany and 20 from Luxembourg. A total of 13,176 pigeons were basketed, 1,057 more than in 2019. The birds were liberated at 6.15 BST on Saturday 18th July and the International season kicked off.

The majority of the birds sent were from the southern sections, but some members in the north competed. Three members in the North Centre sending 9, five in the North East sending 14 and one member in the North West Section sending 6.

This report is based on member's first bird verifications, the final result may differ.

The Provisional Open Winner

1st Section, 1st Open, were Mr and Mrs Mick Bunny of Portsmouth on 1029ypm. Mick timed the only bird in the UK on the day, a 3 year old hen. This is what he had to say, "I clocked the chequer hen at 21.07pm on the day of liberation and my second bird at 09.29am the following morning, it was fantastic to see her come so well and she will go into my stock loft. As we look out over the Solent from our front window, it seems appropriate to call her, Solent Lady. Her grand-sire is a cock I purchased from Mark Gilbert, that comes down from his international winner. Her dam is from my original family of Dordin's that date back 40 years. She had been lightly raced this year and flown on the roundabout system. Her last race was from St.Philbert, with the BICC, from where she had a six hour fly."

It was 20 years ago that Mick timed his Dax winner, from 492 miles, who also made home on the day. He described the feeling of winning such a big race as being as 'thrilling' now as it was then. Since the win, Mick has been congratulated by many fanciers and friends and he wanted to return those thanks and especially thank the BICC committee members.



Mick's impressive loft



Solent Lady



Open Winner-Mick Bunny

Provisional South Centre Section Winners

2nd Section, 2nd Open, was Dave Goodard of Reading on 959ypr. Dave said this about the race and his pigeon, "Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mick Bunney on an outstanding performance - well done. Can I also thank Carol and the committee for getting us racing and especially Mark Gilbert for all the work he has put in. I must also thank Colin and Sheila King for setting and reading my clock. Once again, thank you all. My pigeon, a 2 year old chequer cock, now named Harry, was unraced as a baby, he had four short races as a yearling and this year had just one race from Carentan from 140 miles. He then had a few short tosses, one toss north to Warwick (60 miles) and was then jumped into Pau. Because I didn't think we would be racing, I paired the birds at the end of January, reared and fed with no racing in mind. As a result, I was sweating on the moult, but in this case it did not stop him! "

Harry is bred from Stop Cock 09C06577 who is a direct son from Stop Cock Geoff, a super breeder when paired to the granddaughter of the Spanish diploma winner and silver Salver winner, Sophie, when she was paired to the 3rd Open Palamos winner, Toenails. In Dave's opinion, there is no better 700 mile blood anywhere as the dam of Harry is from a dark chequer hen, 99, bred by Neil Bush of Amcotts. She contains all the best of this outstanding family. Dave continued "As you can see, she was bred for the job." Finally Dave offered this advice, "Well done to all who clocked and to those who have not, there is always next time. Those who didn't keep the faith, most of my best pigeon's time out in early life."

3rd Section, 3rd Open, was Paul Kelly, of South Norwood on 946ypr. Paul races from a modest back garden set up. Firstly, he wanted to congratulate Mr and Mrs Bunney on their great win having clocked the only bird on the day. Paul then explained, "I sent two pigeons to Pau and timed in at 6.06am on Sunday with a 4 year old blue pied hen, who was sent sitting 5 day old eggs before basketing. This pigeon has done really well for us, having taken 11th Section, 13th Open Pau in 2019 and 3rd Section, 4th Open Narbonne five weeks later. She also won the greater distance single bird from Narbonne and picked up the Greater Distance nomination in this race. We've called her Kelly's Little Suzi, after my sister in law Susan, who has been battling breast cancer for the past year. She had raced the programme this year, except for one club race before Pau, when she was rested. I'm hoping to get her ready for Narbonne again this year."

Paul bred Kelly's Little Suzi himself and her grandparents on the dam side are from a Lee Jackson's bird when paired to a pigeon from Terry Peart. On the sire's side is Jeff Greenaway and Sheldon Leonard bloodlines. Paul wanted to pass on his thanks to the Bromley marking station for the great work they do.



Dave Goodard



Paul Kelly

Provisional South East Section Winners

1st Section, 4th Open was John Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 908ypm. John, who is no stranger to timing birds from the distance, said, "I've named the pigeon Ann,. she is a 2 year old chequer hen who was raced on widowhood. She is a granddaughter of Mark Gilbert's, Super 48 and Lady Teresa. Her preparation for the race was one inland race from 120 miles, Falaise from 180 miles and St Philbert, at 279 miles. I am now preparing her for Perpignan. I would like to thank all of the organisers and say a really well done to Mick Bunny on winning the National."

2nd Section, 6th Open were Lee & Kevin Buddle of Dover on 894ypm. Lee provided the following information, "Our bird is a 2 year old cock flow on our widowhood system, all season long. In preparation for Pau he had Salisbury 135 miles, Falaise 168 miles and St Philbert 265 miles, with the BICC. His sire is a son of Tom and Elsa. Tom won – 5th BICC St Vincent 531m 2013, 6th BICC Perpignan 598m 2016, 10th BICC Pau 545m 2016, 15th BICC Pau 545m 2014, 22nd BICC St Vincent 531m 2014, 27th BICC St Vincent 531m 2015, 30th BICC Pau 545m 2013 and the BICC Certificate of Merit Award winner. Elsa won – 1st BICC Narbonne 557miles 2014, 29th BICC Perpignan 2015, 39th BICC Agen 2013 and 47th BICC Pau 2015. His dam was bred by Tumley Lofts Stud and is a granddaughter of Mark Bulled's 'Legacy' – 1st NFC Tarbes and D Bullen & Son 'IRDB' 1st International Pau. Our feeding is simple, with the same mix given at every feed - a mix made up of Versele-Laga Superstar plus and Verselle-Laga Best Allrounder. Also, well done to Mr & Mrs Bunney, with a super pigeon on the day and thanks to all those involved in helping to make this 2020 season happen, considering all the obstacles at the start."

3rd Section, 8th Open was MG Mitchell, also of Dover on 845ypm. Mike timed a 3 year old blue w/f hen of his Herman van Helmond stock. Mike was delighted and slightly surprised because she took 12 days to return from Pau last year.



John Chipperfield



Lee & Kevin Buddle



Mike Mitchell

Provisional South West Section Winners

1st Section, 13th Open were Brooks Bros & Wilcox of High Littleton on 779ypm. Stuart explained, "Our Section winner is a 2 year old widowhood hen called "Mendip Joy". This hen has always been a consistent pigeon, winning as a young bird and taking some prizes along the way. She went to the Agen International as a yearling, taking a week to return. We always had faith that she would improve on her next international fly and she proved us right. She is classically bred. Her sire is a product of shared breeding with Dave Staddon and ourselves, being from a direct son of Farm Boy who has bred numerous good pigeons and Wintergem, one of our main stock hens. She is a direct daughter of Barry & Pete Winters', Little Gem, who took 1st and 14th Open NFC Tarbes flying 728

miles. We were so happy with the products of this pairing that we managed to purchase the son of Farm Boy for our own breeding loft. The is Bulled's Blue, she was bred by Mark Bulled being inbred to Sergeant Cecil, 1st Open LSECC Tarbes and Legacy 1st Open NFC Tarbes. Bulled's Blue is fast become a top hen, breeding: 5th Open BICC Falaise 8000b, 27th Nat BICC St Vincent and now 13th Open Pau. We hold great value in the lines of Mark Bulled and Barry Winter and want to thank them for their friendship and help. We would like congratulate everyone who timed on what was a tuff race day, especially Mr 7 Mrs Bunny who timed an excellent day pigeon.”

2nd Section, 15th Open were D&J Staddon, of Ditcheat on 762ypm. After a very busy weekend, Dave had this to say about the race, “Firstly a massive congratulations to Mr & Mrs Mick Bunney on their win. A fantastic day pigeon and what a thrill for you! We are delighted to be 2nd, 4th and 5th South West Section from this very hard Pau International race. After sending six pigeons, all three birds that returned were in great condition - if a little tired. This 2nd position breaks our run of five straight first sections in the BICC. We are really chuffed that our run was brought to an end by our great pal Rob Brooks who I speak to most days. Well done Rob and his breeding partner Stuart Wilcox, on their fine win. Thanks again to Clive & Jill Rogers and their team of markers. They are working unbelievably hard for the sport in our area and it is much appreciated by dad and me.

Our first timer was a 3 year old he, raced on our chaos widowhood system. We have tweaked the system again this year with devastating results thus far. She is home bred from our race team and she was 9th Section, 85th Open Pau in 2019. Her sire is a half brother to Portrait Boy, 1st Section, 2nd National Agen, for our pal Dave Young (he is now in our stock loft). Her dam is from a son of Woolongong, 1st International Pau and a daughter of Annie, the first of our 5 BICC winners. All the very best of the original G & C Cooper bloodlines in this one.

Our 2nd timer was a 2 year old Chaos cock, who was previously 14th Section, 64th National Agen, as a yearling. He is bred from, Winters Gemout of Pearler, a full brother of Little Gem who was 1st and 14th NFC Tarbes National. His mother is, Blue Gem, a daughter of the world famous Freelands Gem - double NFC Certificate of Merit winner.

And our third timer is a 2 year old Chaos hen. She was previously 11th Section, 56th National Agen, also as a yearling. She is bred from a son of G & C Cooper's, Farm Boy and a daughter of Mark Gilbert's, Southfiled Pau.”

3rd Section, 17th Open were GG & CJ Cooper of Peasedown St John, on 740ypm. Catherine said this about her bird, “We timed a two year old hen, called Farm 33, bred from Farmer Gong, a son of Farmer George X Wollongong, when paired to a daughter of Forrest Junior, who was 1st Int. Pau.

This pair are exceptional producers, having bred Lady of the Night who won 1st Section, 3rd National St. Vincent arriving as it got dark and, Farmer Forrest (1st Classic Coutances), among many others. We timed our second arrival, a cock, which was also a grandchild of Farmer George and Wollongong, to take 7th Section.”



Brooks Bros and Wilcox



D & J Staddon



Catherine Cooper

Provisional North West Section Winners

1st and 2nd Section, 66th and 68th Open, were Mr and Mrs G Lloyd of Hereford on 376ypm and 364ypm. On Monday 20th July, day three of the race, Gwyn and Joy Lloyd clocked two pigeons at 6.28pm and 8.03pm after flying 618 miles. Gwyn had this to say, "The bird we clocked was a 2 year old chequer cock. He has had 3 inland races and he flew the St. Philbert BICC Channel race. He is 100% Jan Aarden- Leo Pronk. This is the first time we have sent to the International Pau race. It's a shame we were the only member to send in the NW section and hopefully more will try next time. However, it was great to see our birds home, especially flying the distance of just over 618 miles. Thanks to all the BICC organisers and to my wife Joy. Without Joy's help, I would not be able to race my pigeons."



Gwyn & Joy Lloyd

No pigeons were recorded home in the North East and North Centre Sections.

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions

Mr & Mrs M Bunny of Portsmouth on 1029ypm, 2nd RJ Goodard & Son of Reading on 959ypm, 3rd Pual Kelly of South Norwood on 946ypm, 4th John Chipperfield of Herne Bay on 908ypm, 5th C Edmiston of Horley on 901ypm, 6th L & K Buddle of Dover on 894ypm, 7th W Carr & Son of Guilford on 893ypm, 9th Mark Gilbert of Windsor on 841ypm and 10th Sivia Bros of Dover on 837ypm.

Overall International Winner

The overall international winner was Kalter Harry, of Ijsselmuiden, in the Netherlands. Kalter timed the winner on Sunday at 06:14 CEST (05:14am BST) after a race of 1131.28 km, (702.95 miles) achieving an average velocity of 1148 mpm (1255 ypm).



Kalter Harry

Marking Stations Update

The marking station at Herne bay is no longer open and it has been replaced by a new venue at DEAL WELFARE CLUB, Cowdray Square, Mill Hill, Deal, Kent, CT14 9EU.

They will mark there for all internationals from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

The Closing Race Remarks

This weekend is an international double header with races from Agen and Marseilles.

Can I thank members for contacting me with their information and remind them they can send information and photographs via email or Whatsapp. Please contact me as soon as you can.

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