

British International Championship Club

Saint- Philbert- du- Peuple Provisional Race Report

The new race point

This race, the second, in the new race programme was held at Saint- Philbert- du- Peuple, yes a mouthful to pronounce, so let's call it St Philbert. It is situated in-between Tours and Nantes, and is a small village in the north-west of France. The Saint who gave the village its name is also responsible for naming the filbert nut, or hazel nut, as we now call it. The reason for this is that the filbert ripens around the same time as the Saint's feast day, which is on August 20th. But, it was Sunday June 28th that saw the sky above St Philbert fill with a staggering 8,345 birds, which included 505 from the Welsh South Road National. They were liberated at 8.30am, after a one day holdover.

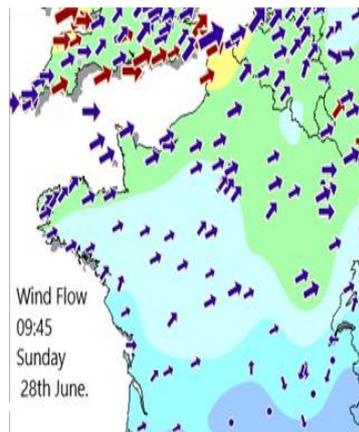
This report is based on member's first bird verifications, the final result may differ.

Weather report by Steve Appleby - race & weather advisor

At first light not the best satellite view to see early on Sunday morning as a large expanse of cloud extended over most of northern France. The flight path from the race point to the channel consisted mainly of cloud but, as the morning progressed the high cloud fragmented resulting in a brighter sky. The channel and southern England were in good weather except for the north-west and northern Wales which was subjected to showery activity. Both Mark and myself agreed that overall conditions were fit for liberation. Trevor our convoyer confirmed he was happy with the weather at the site so liberation was affected at 08:30 hours. The main weather factor to consider for this race was wind speed and direction. Generally winds over France were averaging 12 mph from the W S W but the birds on reaching the channel would encounter wind speeds gusting up to 29 MPH over the open sea. Visibility over the channel was 11 miles and more. Despite the wind factor some excellent performances were achieved.



Saint-Philbert-du-Peuple



Weather map



The beach at Houlgate, just north of Caen on the flight path

The Provisional Open Winner

Chapman & Eastoe of Caister on Sea, near Great Yarmouth, were 1st North East Section, 1st Open 8,345 birds, with a velocity of 1614ypm to take to take their first National win!

The Chapman and Eastoe partnership consists of Nicole and Glen, who have been racing together for 15 years. They both work full time and manage the birds together, working around Glen's shift pattern. Before the race, they were talking to Mrs Chamberlain of Lowesoft, a previous national winner, who predicted that the time was right for someone in the North East to win a national. It was five years ago that Mr and Mrs Chamberlain won and she said that every five years someone will win in the North East. Well, she was correct, and this time it went to what can now be described as the National Winning Loft of Chapman & Eastoe.

They sent their 3 year old chequer hen in preparation for the challenge of Bordeaux (later in the season) but she is now going to stock in the hope of producing more winning pigeons. The bird's sire was bought from Stuart Wilcox and the dam from Eric Higginbottom. Nicole and Glen send their thanks to Stuart and Eric.

They had raced the hen naturally until this season and then switched her to widowhood. Glen said that she is a big hen and he has found that he can get bigger pigeons into condition easier, on widowhood. Well that was true on this occasion. The hen had three club races previously, on three consecutive weekends, flying 110miles, 132 miles and 157miles to bring her into condition. Although they have taken a number of section wins in the past, Glen and Nicole are absolutely delighted and overjoyed to be crowned National winners.



1st Sect, 1st Open Winner



Nicole Chapman & Glen Eastoe

Provisional North East Section Winners

Taking 2nd Section, 3rd Open was Mr & Mrs Strowger of Leiston on 1545ypm. Roger Strowger firstly wanted to thank Carol Francis, the BICC Secretary, for her patience and promised that, "The meal is still on whenever you want it, as you've done a wonderful job considering all the work you had to do on race day". Roger also explained that his pigeon is a little blue hen, which is very tame. She was bred from a cock he bought at the DISS late bred sale from Jeremy Nichols, of Van den Bulck x

Cooremans breeding. The dam came from his (sometimes!) good friend Tony Calver, being a pure Van den Bulck. Roger wanted to thank Tony for breeding him some outstanding birds over the years. This yearling hen had six races as a young bird, taking three cards and winning £100 in the Ipswich gold ring race from Chale, taking 6th Open. Roger is now going to name her after his much missed dad, Eddie.

Taking 3rd Section, 4th Open, was Jeremy Nicholson of Ipswich on 1573ypr. Jeremy would like to congratulate Chapman and Eastoe and all the other section winners. Jeremy said, "When marking on Thursday we thought it could be won in East Anglia, and it certainly turned out to be a good race in this part of the World". Jeremy also explained, "My bird, a blue 2017 cock, has the breeding from four influential fanciers for me. Firstly the late Mick Rodgers from Bromsgrove who bred the grand-sire, a De Klack bird, that came into my garage being flown out in 2012. I duly reported it and when I told Mick I used to fly as a lad, he offered to breed me 6 youngsters if I ever decided to give it another go. True to his word, that's exactly what he did. The breeder of the grand- dam is Tony Calver, from his family of Wal Zoontjens. Tony has been a great source of advice and help to me. The grand-sire on the dam's side is Denis Sapin's blood, bred by Steve Fench. This cock has flown the Channel over 10 times in the BICC and NSSRCC, always being in the clock and taking many inland cards. Steve is also always on the end of the phone with advice and guidance. Last but not least, Owen Jones the breeder of the grand-dam, from his Louis Cooremans birds. This bird is bred down from his number one pair, who are responsible for over 50 first prize winners. Finally, I'd like to thank all the club members and especially J&T for keeping us all in line when marking in these strange times".



Jeremy Nicholson



Roger Strowger

Provisional North Centre Section Winners

Winning 1st Section, 34th Open was Dominic Gruzelier of Houghton Conquest on 1507ypr. This was Dom's fourth Section win in the last 12 months, which is an impressive record. This race was his first Channel race of the season and his little blue hen came home in style. Dom said, "The blue hen that came first was a home bred yearling racing to the perch. Her mother is a full sister to my pied hen that won 2 x 3rd Section and 15th Open in the BICC last year. Her father is a Channel prize winner himself and the son of my best cock, Willow, who scored several top 10 national positions. This has been one of the best team performances I have ever had, with 10 pigeons in just over an hour and 16 out of 21 on the night. Very impressive returns, to go along with another impressive Section win. However, Dom couldn't do any of this if it wasn't for the help for his loft manager, Josh, pictured with the Section winner.

Taking 2nd Section, 81st Open was Paul Loom of Wyboston on 1470ypm. Paul clocked a 2 year old chequer cock that was bred out of his own stock. Paul said that he has been coming on very well this year and also flew well as a youngster. As a yearling he has been training well, and given the heavy winds on Sunday, he was very pleased with his performance. Of course Paul, like Dom, couldn't do all the work without the help of his loft manager, Harry Loom, his young grandson.

The 3rd Section, 99th Open winner was Gavin Cole of Gedney Hill on 1445ypm. Gavin's blue widowhood hen was a gift from Shaun Bowles and is of Janseen/Soontjen bloodlines. This bird has had 3 races this year and has made home in the top each time. Gavin likes to train the birds from 50 miles at least 2 or 3 times a week, and this hen flew a 140 mile club race the week before St Philbert's. Gavin, a pig stock farmer, became interested in pigeons in 1998 after a friend of his Steve Buckley, told him that he had been talking to a pigeon fancier at a local game show. Up until then, neither Gavin nor Steve had even heard of racing pigeons. Gavin believes in racing the birds consistently and this hen will go to the club race next week in preparation for another national.



Dom & Josh Gruzelier



Paul Loom



Gavin Cole

Provisional North West Section Winners

Winning 1st Section, 243rd Open was Geoff Bebbington of Northwich on 1331ypm. Geoff timed a 3 year old dark chequer cock that was bred from a pair of pigeons gifted to him by John Highley of the Yorkshire Syndicate. The pedigree of this pigeon is full of long distance bloodlines with winners recorded up to 720 miles. John gave Geoff the parents when he re-started in the sport in 2015 and the section winner was in fact a 2016 late bred. After 3 x 50 mile training tosses the bird was sent to the 316 mile Falaise race, then a 120 mile club race and then into St Philberts. Geoff raced the birds on widowhood at the beginning of the season and put them together 3 days before St Philberts in preparation for Bordeaux. Geoff was delighted to take 1st Section having organised the Norwich marking station this year. Geoff said that the marking station has been a real success and he intends to run it next season, in the hope that more northern fanciers will join.

The 2nd Section, 247th Open winners were R & B Smith of Burton Wood on 1323ypm. Brian Smith said that the chequer cock he timed was from a very consistent line of channel birds. His sister was their first bird, taking 4th Section in the BICC Falaise race two weeks ago. This bird, and another sister, also made the same result sheet. A different sister again won the Warrington 2 bird race, so there are many other good performances coming from this line. This cock was well trained in preparation for the Falaise race, before being sent to St Philbert.

In 3rd taking 273rd Open was Team Wicker and Wright of Astley Bridge on 1307ypm. This team is made up of Alan Wicker and Steve Wright - Steve being the owner of the House of Arden. They set up the partnership to test the birds over the extreme distance from Barcelona, which is over 850 miles

to the loft. As you can imagine the bloodlines of this pigeon are Padfield through and through. The 2 year old darkish chequer hen who came on Sunday, is a double granddaughter on the sire's side to Padfield Invincible and a direct granddaughter to Padfield Jack, of three times Pau fame. The Team race on pure widowhood; with the partners of the race birds kept at home and never raced. Although this means they have to keep more pigeons, Alan is convinced that ensuring the race bird's partner is always available is key to this system. They form a firm attachment to their mate and this maintained throughout the racing season. The birds had three 30 mile, one 40 mile training tosses and two 60 mile club races, as preparation for Falaise two weeks ago. They were then exercised around the loft before St Philberts.

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Geoff Bebbington and grand-daughter, Lacie



Brian Smith's chequer cock



Team Wicker and Wright's darkish chequer hen

Provisional South West Section Winners

Winning the Section again and taking 285th Open were D&J Staddon of Ditcheat on 1299ypr. Dave provided the following information on the winning pigeon. "Living in Ditcheat in Somerset, this was always going to be a tough race, with the strength of the WSW wind inland and particularly in the Channel. We basketed 68 birds for the race, our entire team barring a few walking wounded. By Sunday, we had 63 home which was excellent and it will hopefully have done them all good for future targets. We thought that 44 mph would make for a great time to our location and we were thrilled when our 2 year old, *chaos* cock came straight out of the east doing 44.3mph. He was low to the ground and really working for home. Win, lose or draw he had done what we'd asked of him. His preparation was an Exeter inland race, a Purbeck trainer and the BICC Falaise race. We have named him, Meteor Miracle a fusion of his parent's names".

Meteor Miracle is bred from The Real Miracle: a fantastic breeding cock direct from the Miracle pair. 'TRM' has already bred numerous Combine winners from 81 miles to 230 miles including, 1st Gold

Ring Race Messac (230 miles) and 1st RPRA SW Region Ace Young Bird 2019. The mother is Comet, a champion racer and Dave thinks, is an even better breeder. She has bred 1st Section 1st National Flying Club Coutances (153 miles), numerous Combine wins from 41 miles to 230 miles and again 1st Gold Ring Race Messac (230 miles) and 1st RPRA SW Region Ace Young Bird 2019. They are definitely a gold standard breeding pair.

This Section win is four in a row for the partnership. Dave and John were reminded of this by their good mate, Rob Brooks, who pointed out that they have now won the South West Section in the last four BICC Nationals: Guernsey YB, Falaise YB, Falaise OB and now St Philbert. All of the details are on the Staddon website and they are aiming for win number five at Poitiers.

Taking 2nd Section, 313th Open was Stuart Wilcox of Bristol on 1272ypm. Stuart provided the following information on his bird, "Our bird was a 2 year old widowhood hen that has a few prizes to her name, including 1st Club 29th WoESR Combine Chale, 2nd Club 25th WoESR Combine Littlehampton, 29th WoESR Combine Brighton, 35th WoESR Combine Eastbourne. She is also a sister to a number of good pigeons with her breeding being Albert Derwa x Frans Zwols. Her sire is called Albi, he is bred by Albert Derwa and was purchased in the Golden Duif Auction, and he is a direct son of De Zoon (9 x 1st and 1st National Ace WENC), when paired to a full sister of Paulien 1st Nat Ace KBDB. The dam is called Beau after my daughter, she was a gift from Frans Zwols and she is my number one breeding hen being direct from the King of Rekkem, 1st NPO Rekkem 19,409b, 2nd Boxtel 11,887b, 7th Duffel 8866b, 22nd Boxtel 9525b, 19th Arras7781b. The Zwols have proved to be great pigeons for us and were brought in back in 2007. The hens are flown on the traditional widowhood system and they are fed on Koopman and Verkerk mixes from Beyers, supplemented with corn from A & E James."

At 3rd Section, 321th Open was the multi-national winning loft of G.G. Cooper & C. J. Cooper of Peasesdown St John on 1268ypm. Geoff and Catherine Cooper clocked a yearling widowhood cock, who had his first channel race from Falaise with the BICC two weeks ago and was only lightly raced as a young bird. His breeding is full of top winning Cooper bloodlines. He has been named Farm Dark Night as he is a son of Farm Darkie who won 1st Section, 3rd National St Vincent, 2nd Section Perpignan and 3rd Section Pau. Farm Darkie is a son of Darkie who is a top breeding son of George. Farm Dark Night's dam is Lady of the Night, who as a yearling, won 1st Section, 3rd National St Vincent and was clocked in the rain just as it got dark – hence her name. Lady of the Night has three grandparents who have won 1st Internationals, as her sire is a son of Farmer George and Wollongong and her dam is a daughter of Forest Junior.



Dave & John Staddon



Stuart Wilcox



G.G. Cooper & C. J. Cooper

Provisional South Centre Section Winners

The winner of 1st Section, 12th Open was Paul Borit of Wembley on 1530yppm. Paul's 3 year old blue w/f cock was the first of four quick entries for him. Paul has been a member of the BICC since 2016 and joined with the intention of racing the distance. He sold his sprint pigeons and introduced a family of long distance birds with German heritage, from one of his trips to Belgium. He says that this family have blended well and he was very happy indeed with his section win. Paul races the hens and cocks on widowhood and he put them together on Wednesday night before basketing Thursday.

Taking 2nd Section, 17th Open was M & J Adcock & Son of Croyden on 1521.5yppm. Mark and Jane took this place with a yearling chequer hen bred by their good friend Ted Robinson. He is bred out of a Vandenebeeke hen which they loaned him to pair to one of his top Janssen cocks. She has taken some minor club and fed cards from inland races but this was her first time crossing the Channel. The chequer hen was raced on widowhood and Mark and Jane said that they had a good race, having 17 of the 19 on the day with the other 2 waiting to get in the next morning.

With 3rd Section, 18th Open were Mr & Mrs Boggins & Son of Watford on 1521.4yppm, with their first pigeon being one of four to hit the landing board together. This 2 year old blue cock was raced on roundabout and is called, The Pest. He got this name because, if there is any trouble in or around the loft, you can guarantee he's in the middle of it! Bryan said that he was a home bred bird from a direct Freddy Vandheede cock x direct Jacob Poortvliet hen. He has consistently picked up cards but this has been his best performance so far.



Paul Borit



Mark and Jane Adcock



Brian Boggins

Provisional South East Section winners

1st Section, 2nd Open was Micky Watts of Southminster on 1595yppm. A 12 times National winner, Micky wasn't able to achieve that, 'unlucky 13' on this occasion. But, he clocked a good 3 year old blue hen who has previously taken 24th Section from Guernsey. Micky only races hens and likes to train them 3 days a week, weather permitting, from 30 and 50 miles. In preparation for this race, the bird had flown three inland races and from Falaise. Micky bred the section winner from two pigeons bred by Mark Evans of M & D. Evans. The father is a direct son from 'Turbo Prince' (son from 1st National Ace Pigeon "Cruise Missile" & 1st National winning hen "Crystal") when paired to "Q-Design" half-sister to "Lady Lucas" winner of 1st NFC Nat. Old Hens Guernsey 2015. She is a direct daughter from "Blue Excellence" & "Wittenbuik Princessje". She is a direct daughter from the "Koen 7 Pair" bred by Koen Minderhoud in the Netherlands, and are direct parents to 3 x 1st Nat. Sect/Zone winners "Koen 7 Cock."



Micky aged 7 or 8 - he was probably holding a winner back then – was it number 13?

Taking 2nd Section, 5th Open was the late David Hales of Hockley on 1561ypm. David's birds are managed by Duncan Goodchild and Duncan sends his congratulations to the Open winner's, Chapman & Eastoe and Micky Watts, this Section winner. Duncan explained that, "Our timer was a 2 year old blue widowhood cock, who showed some potential as a yearling, being 9th East of England Championship Club, Canappeville (170 miles), 17th EECC Fontenay (220 miles) and 96th Open in the BICC Le Mans race (249 miles). He is a grandson our bird named '80', who was 1st and 4th Open BICC Perpignan and a half brother to our 'main man', Tubby. His dam was selected for us by James Parker at JPS Lofts to put some speed into our distance birds; she is a granddaughter of both Topstar and Cor! We ended up with 32 from 35 on the day."

In 3rd and 6th Open was A B Coker of Wickford on 1541ypm. Tony has been a long standing member of the BICC, having run a marking station in the past. He clocked a yearling blue cock on this occasion, flying on the celebrate system. This bird has Ronnie Evans bloodlines, with the sire being a son of, 'Ronnie' and Marshall and Smith's, 'Magic' and 'Big Smithie' breeding, on the dam's side. Tony bought some of the Marshall and Smith birds when they were selling up. This blue cock had a few 60 mile training tosses, a race from Falaise and was then exercised around the loft for St Philbert. Tony intends to continue to exercise the birds around the loft in preparation for Poitiers.



Micky Watts



Duncan Goodchild



Tony Coker

The Provisional Top Ten Open Positions

1st Chapman & Eastoe of Great Yarmouth on 1614ypm, 2nd Micky Watts of Southminster on 1595ypm, , 3rd Mr & Mrs Strowger of Leiston on 1585ypm, 4th J Nicholson of Ipswich on 1573ypm, 5th D Hales of Hockley on 1561ypm, 6th A B Coker of Wickford on 1541.7ypm, 7th Philip Harrod of Lowesoft on 1541.5ypm, 8th Joanne & Alan Hacon of Great Yarmouth on 1541.0ypm, 9th Emberson & Firat of Chatham on 1539ypm, 10th R Hacon & Son of Norfolk on 1537ypm.

The closing race remarks

The birdage was the highest for over a decade and Secretary Carol Francis, was again working from dawn until dusk to record all the entries. It has been a huge task that, as always, has been undertaken competently and professionally by Carol with the support of Sue Watson. The club are indebted to Carol for her hard work and dedication.

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